

A.J. BAYNES

- **Current title:** President and CEO, Amherst Chamber of Commerce
- **2029 position:** President and CEO, Buffalo Niagara Partnership

One year into overseeing the chamber, Baynes has become a leading regional voice on economic development. By 2029 he will lead a new regional development and business advocacy agency created by the merger of the Amherst chamber, Buffalo Niagara Partnership and Invest Buffalo Niagara. Put it this way: When Baynes speaks, he speaks for the private sector, and people not only listen, they respond.



— James Fink

BYRON BROWN

- **Current title:** Buffalo mayor
- **2029 position:** U.S. House of Representatives

Redistricting after the 2020 census will create a free-for-all in subsequent federal elections, enabling Brown – who by then will be well into a fifth term as mayor – to make the leap to Washington, D.C. Buffalo will have regained population by that time, giving him a great deal of credibility in Democratic circles. His work to secure a location for the Buffalo Bills' new stadium downtown, creating the new Entertainment District that becomes the envy of other Rust Belt cities, helps him easily carry the vote even in the few Republican-heavy outposts in his redrawn district.



— Paul Lane

CHRISTOPHER COYNE

- **Current title:** Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Burlington, Vt.
- **2029 position:** Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Buffalo

Change is coming to Buffalo's diocese. Bishops are required to submit their resignations at 75 (though the pope can allow them to serve longer), and Bishop Richard Malone will reach that age in 2021. His successor will be named by Pope Francis. Forecasting that choice is a long shot, though it should be noted that Coyne is younger (now 60) and has run Burlington's diocese for four years. Malone arrived in Buffalo as a New England bishop (Portland, Maine) in his 60s.

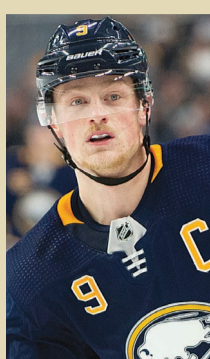


— G. Scott Thomas

JACK EICHEL

- **Current title:** Buffalo Sabres captain
- **2029 position:** Sabres captain, Stanley Cup champion, NHL MVP and successful restaurant franchisee

The Sabres suffered through years of abysmal play to be in this position come the end of the next decade. Eichel, who will turn 33 in October 2029, will have been in Western New York nearly half of his life by that time. He is in the first year of an eight-year contract that will pay him \$80 million



by 2026. Don't expect the Sabres to let him even get close to leaving at that point, though. Signs of improvement centered around Captain Jack began swirling earlier in the 2018-19 season. Expect Eichel to lead the Sabres to at least one Stanley Cup – the city's first title in any major sport – and a league MVP or two. Also look for Captain Jack's Coffee and Donuts to occupy many of the locations vacated by Tim Hortons after the former supplants the latter in popularity post-Stanley Cup.

— Paul Lane

LEECCIA EVE

- **Current title:** Vice president of government affairs, Verizon
- **2029 position:** New York state attorney general

This 54-year-old Buffalo native certainly has the pedigree for political office. She is the daughter of Arthur Eve, who once served as deputy speaker of the Assembly, and she has held prominent staff positions for two high-profile senators (Hillary Clinton and Joseph Biden) and Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Her 2018 bid for the attorney generalship ended in defeat, but a New York Times editorial encouraged her to try again. "We hope we haven't seen the last of her on a campaign trail," it said.



— G. Scott Thomas

PATRICK GALLIVAN

- **Current title:** New York state senator (59th District)
- **2029 position:** Erie County executive

Gallivan brings to the 16th floor of the Rath Building a lengthy law enforcement history with the New York State Police and as Erie County sheriff, making him the second sitting Erie County executive to come from a law



enforcement background. Gallivan, a Republican, has a deep pool of political friends and clout not only in Erie County but in Albany, courtesy of his tenure as a state senator. He will be the first Erie County executive to hail from the southern part of the county – Elma – since Ed Rutkowski left the office after losing the 1987 election.

— James Fink

JEFFREY GUNDLACH

- **Current title:** Founder and CEO of L.A. investment management firm DoubleLine Capital; major benefactor of Albright-Knox Art Gallery
- **2029 position:** Board chairman, Buffalo Albright-Knox-Gundlach Art Museum

Gundlach made headlines in 2016 with his \$42 million challenge gift to Albright-Knox, a gift that spurred seven- and eight-figure commitments from private foundations, corporate groups and the public sector. So it only makes sense that Gundlach – a native of the region who purchased a residence near the museum – will assume a leadership role on the board to keep a close eye on his investment.

— Tracey Drury



VENU GOVINDARAJU

- **Current title:** University at Buffalo vice president for research and economic development
- **2029 position:** UB president

Excuse us for thinking a native Indian who became a renowned computer scientist would be a good fit for the University at Buffalo presidency. That description fits current President Satish Tripathi, the 67-year-old who has led UB since 2011. And it also fits another senior UB leader, Govindaraju, who has served in Tripathi's cabinet as vice president for research and economic development since 2014. Govindaraju has the credentials for the job. University professors almost always come from the academic world – Govindaraju is a SUNY Distinguished Professor and accomplished researcher. They also have to be skilled at networking with various constituencies, a skill that he has doubtlessly honed with his public-facing university leadership position.

— Dan Miner

JERRY JACOBS JR.

- **Current title:** Co-CEO, Delaware North
- **2029 position:** Chairman, Delaware North

Jeremy Jacobs Jr. is the eldest son of Jeremy Jacobs, longtime chairman of Delaware North. One of the largest family-owned hospitality companies in the world, Buffalo-based Delaware North began to transition leadership responsibilities in 2015 when Jacobs Sr. turned over the CEO title to two sons including Jacobs Jr. A former financial analyst, Jacobs Jr. became executive vice president of Delaware North in 1991.

— Allissa Kline



MAURICE JOHN SR.

- **Current title:** Chief of staff, Seneca Nation of Indians
- **2029 position:** President, Seneca Nation of Indians

The Allegany Territory resident has twice served as Seneca Nation president and will begin his third term in 2029. John has been a Seneca Nation leader since the early 1990s, earning praise for his leadership through such difficult issues as the growth of Seneca Gaming Corp. and providing better health care for residents on the nation's Cattaraugus and Allegany territories. He is closely aligned with current Seneca Nation political leader Barry Snyder Sr.

— James Fink

WILLIAM KRESSE

- **Current title:** Principal at City Honors School
- **2029 position:** Superintendent of Buffalo City School District

Kresse has been the leader of one of the state's highest-performing high schools since 2005, when he was named the principal at City Honors School. He has the academic pedigree to be a high-level administrator, with master's and Ph.D. degrees from Cornell University. And he has experience beyond elite high schools, having served as assistant principal at the former Kensington High School and South Park High School in Buffalo. Superintendent choices in the region's largest school district are a product of the politics and educational trends of the time, but as a longtime and high-performing leader, Kresse stands a chance.



— Dan Miner



WILLIAM MAGGIO

- **Current title:** CEO of the Jacobs Institute; managing partner of Lorraine Capital; vice chairman of Kaleida Health board of directors; immediate past chairman of 43North board of directors
- **2029 position:** Leading investor/startup backer

Maggio is already fulfilling our projection so it isn't the most ambitious choice in the world. However, his stature in Buffalo is poised to continue growing. The startup private equity firm he runs, Lorraine Capital, made nine acquisitions in four years and Maggio takes

an active leadership interest in the startup and health care communities, notably with influential board appointments at Kaleida Health and 43North. He was instrumental in bringing Facebook's Community Boost program to Buffalo – one of many signs Maggio takes a proactive view of his role to boost the local business community. His high-level network puts him in regular contact with municipal, banking, health care, corporate and investment leaders, which means he is in a unique position to get things done.

— Dan Miner



MICHAEL MONTANTE

- **Current title:** Uniland Development Co. vice president
- **2029 position:** President, Uniland Development Co.

Montante along with his brother Carl and sister Laura Zaepfel will be running Uniland Development, taking the Amherst real estate development firm from its local sweet spot to other Upstate communities including Syracuse and Binghamton. He will shepherd development of the 20-acre site at Hertel and Elmwood avenues into a key bridge between the districts.

— James Fink

MICHAEL MCMAHON

- **Current title:** Middle market team leader in Buffalo, KeyBank N.A.
- **2029 position:** Upstate New York regional executive, KeyBank N.A.

When commercial lender McMahon joined KeyBank N.A. in 2015, he knew exactly what he had to do to advance his career. "I was looking for someone to put a certain plan in front of me and show me what I need to do to get certain levels and not be a sales guy for the rest of my life," McMahon told Business First in 2018. Three years later, he was promoted to middle market team leader in Buffalo, overseeing 10 commercial bankers and charged with growing the department's portfolio. A native of Clarence, he worked in banking in Buffalo, Boston and New York City. He also knows Upstate New York as a whole, having led PNC Bank's charge to grow business there.



— Allissa Kline

RENE JONES

- **Current title:** Chairman and CEO, M&T Bank Corp.
- **2029 position:** Chairman and CEO, M&T Bank Corp.

Jones was 53 when he took the helm of Buffalo-based M&T Bank Corp. in 2017. If history is any indication, he will sit at the head of the table for a long time. His predecessor, Robert Wilmers, was the top executive at M&T for more than 30 years before his death in 2017 at age 83. Jones, a Massachusetts native, joined M&T in 1992 as part of the bank's executive associate program. He held several titles over the years, including an 11-year stint as chief financial officer and more than three years as vice chair.



— Allissa Kline



JODY LOMEO

- **Current title:** CEO, Kaleida Health and Great Lakes Health Care
- **2029 position:** CEO, Kaleida Health and Great Lakes Health Care

Five years after taking over the top spot at the region's largest health system, Lomeo continues to look ahead at how best to grow and strengthen Kaleida Health. It takes time to complete hospital consolidations and mergers, and at least two deals will be completed this spring with Upper Allegheny Health System and Eastern Niagara Hospital, with Brooks-TLC Health System to follow. Lomeo is the ideal candidate to remain in place to keep the momentum going.

— Tracey Drury

WILLIAM PALADINO

- **Current title:** Ellicott Development Co. president and CEO
- **2029 position:** Ellicott Development president and CEO

By 2029, the company will be at or near the top of the region's largest real estate developers. Working with Sinatra & Co. Real Estate, Ellicott will have completed the site transformation of the former Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo in the Elmwood Village into a mixed-use urban community with apartments and condos, a hotel, restaurants and other amenities. Next up: The company will work with Pegula Sports and Entertainment and Delaware North to build a new downtown sports stadium.



— James Fink

KIM PEGULA

- **Current title:** Co-owner of the Buffalo Bills, Sabres, Bandits and Beauts; president of Pegula Sports and Entertainment
- **2029 position:** Sole team owner, PSE president

After her husband's retirement, Pegula will assume sole oversight of her family's holdings by this time. Her tenacity and grace endeared her to Western New York and she will be one of the NFL's and NHL's longest-serving owners. Her holdings top several Business First lists (think hotels, property management and Fast Track, for starters) as the Pegula family continues to acquire and develop properties.



— Paul Lane

DARIUS PRIDGEN

- **Current title:** Buffalo Common Council president; Ellicott District councilman
- **2029 position:** Mayor, city of Buffalo

By 2029, Pridgen will be in his second term as mayor, having replaced Byron Brown. Besides having a strong political and grassroots base from Buffalo's East Side, where Pridgen is senior pastor at True Bethel Baptist Church, he amassed a following of supporters from the city's private sector. Pridgen is regarded for his analytical approach to issues and willingness to negotiate to find a middle ground, a trait that earned him respect throughout the city.



— James Fink

ROBERT RICH III

- **Current title:** Founder and president, ROAR Logistics Inc.
- **2029 position:** Chairman of Rich Products Corp.

Rich, whose grandfather founded Rich Products, is the next likely leader of the global food service company. His father, Robert Rich Jr., is chairman of the Buffalo company, whose revenue in 2017 totaled \$3.8 billion. Rich III is in charge of ROAR Logistics, a subsidiary of Rich Products founded in 2003 as a transportation service provider with two associates and sales of more than \$500,000. Now there are more than 120 associates in eight U.S. offices. Sales in 2018 were expected to surpass \$160 million.



— Allissa Kline

THOMAS SCHWAAB

- **Current title:** Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center chief of strategy, business development and outreach; CEO of Global Biotechnology and Cancer Therapeutics at Roswell Park
- **2029 position:** President/CEO, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Though he trained as a urologic oncology surgeon, Schwaab's career in recent years at the hospital has focused on growing the business across New York and internationally. That included playing a major role in a partnership with Oneida Healthcare in Central New York; opening a site in Nigeria; and launching the first-ever joint venture between U.S. and Cuban partners, Innovative Immunotherapy Alliance S.A. The German native would seem the perfect fit to take over when CEO Candace Johnson leaves the post.



— Tracey Drury

NICK SINATRA

- **Current title:** President and CEO, Sinatra & Co. Real Estate
- **2029 position:** President and CEO, Sinatra & Co. Real Estate

After partnering with Ellicott Development to turn the former Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo into a mixed-use project, Sinatra continues to focus on Buffalo and regional projects and grew his real estate portfolio by 50 percent. After Sinatra & Co. opened Heritage Point residential projects on the South Aud Block, Erie Canal Harbor Development Corp. selected the firm to handle residential development on the North Aud Block.



— James Fink



MARK SULLIVAN

- **Current title:** CEO, Catholic Health
- **2029 position:** CEO, Catholic Health

Though he has less than a year's experience at the helm of Catholic Health, Sullivan brought more than two decades of experience at the system with him to the post. He is well-liked and dedicated to the mission of the \$1.2 billion system. Sullivan is also realistic about exploring partnership opportunities and growing awareness about Catholic Health's high scores for quality and patient outcomes. In 10 years, he'll be a more seasoned executive who will have made some tough decisions.

— Tracey Drury

CATHARINE YOUNG

- **Current title:** (R) 57th State Senate District
- **2029 position:** U.S. House of Representatives

The Olean resident will leap from state politics to the federal level after Western New York's three congressional districts are reduced to two, once redistricting from the 2020 census is complete. By this point, Young will have spent nearly half of her life in politics, with her work on combating the opioid crisis in rural areas gaining her acclaim across conservative circles nationwide. An Air Force veteran, she also will earn praise for working to overhaul the VA.



— Paul Lane

HOWARD ZEMSKY

- **Current title:** President, CEO and commissioner, Empire State Development
- **2029 position:** Larkin Development Group chairman

After spending more than five years in the public sector as Gov. Andrew Cuomo's economic development leader, Zemsky returned to the private sector and put his attention on his company's Larkin District real estate holdings, including several new buildings. He will continue to focus on Larkin's development projects deeper along Seneca Street that serve as a growing bridge between downtown and the city's south side.



— James Fink