



Represents 36th District in Essex, Bergen, Passaic

Essex County Undersheriff Kevin J. Ryan of Nutley Thursday was sworn-in as a Democratic Assemblyman representing the 36th District, which also includes Carlstadt, East Rutherford, Garfield, Lyndhurst, Moonachie, North Arlington, Passaic, Rutherford, Wallington, and Wood-Ridge.

Ryan, 41, was unanimously selected by the district's Democratic Party in December to fill the seat vacated by retired Assemblyman Frederick Scalera of Nutley.

"Assemblyman Ryan's extensive law enforcement experience is a welcome addition to our talented Democratic caucus." Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver (D-Essex) said.

Ryan is a graduate of Essex County College Police Academy. As an undersheriff, he heads the county Office of Emergency Management. In addition to working as an aide to former Senate President Carmen Orecchio (D-Essex), Ryan has more than 20 years of experience in law enforcement, including serving as a detective and later deputy chief for the sheriff's office.

"I could not be more honored to serve the residents of Bergen, Essex and Passaic counties and I look forward to working with my Assembly colleagues as a strong advocate for my constituents," Ryan said. "We are at a critical juncture for our state, with many pressing issues at hand. I am extremely eager to be a part of the Democratic led effort to create jobs and revitalize our economy."

Ryan joins Assemblyman Gary Schaer (D-Passaic) in representing the 36th District.

"I hope to use my public service experience and knowledge of law enforcement to address the recent spikes in crime that we have seen," Ryan said. "Public safety is also a key component to a healthy economic recovery so I hope to play an active role in helping the state reemerge from this recession on sound footing."

Ryan can hold two government jobs because he was appointed to the Assembly and not elected. If he runs for election in November and wins, he would have to give up the undersheriff position.

— *TOM HESTER SR., NEWJERSEYNEWSROOM.COM*