

# The Final Countdown: Insights for Election Night 2025

October 29, 2025





**Brent Johnson**Political Reporter & Author of NJ.com's newsletter,
"What Makes Jersey Run"

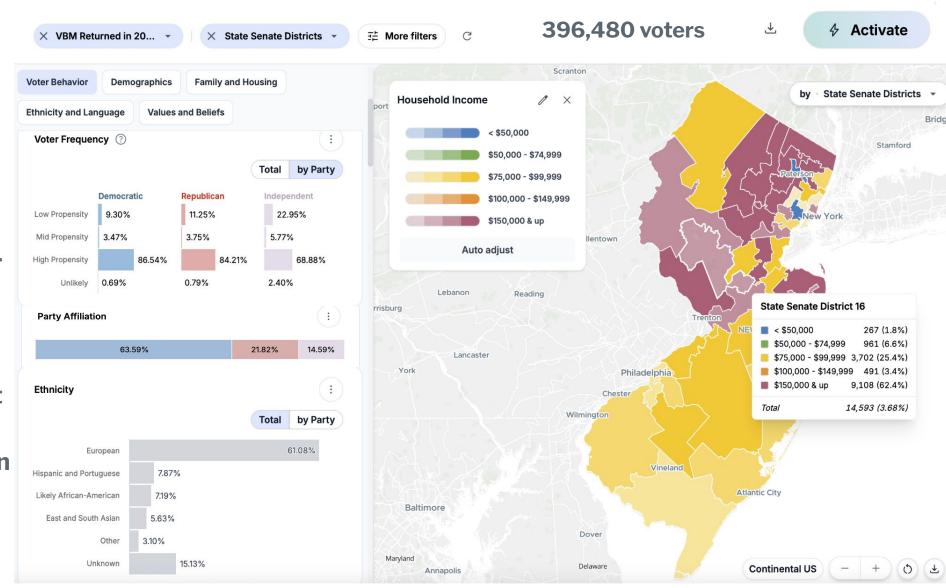


**David Beattie**Head of Strategy, <u>CinqDI</u>
AAPC Pollster of the Year



### Find Your Audience

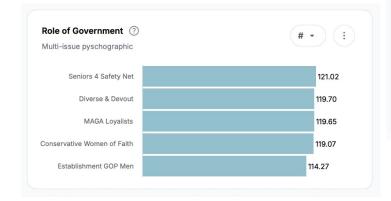
- 120+ Proprietary,First-PartyAudience Segments
- Nationwide Voter File Integration for Deeper Insights
- Audience Modeling Based on Engagement
- Real-time Visualization of Audience Size,
   Demographics and Location

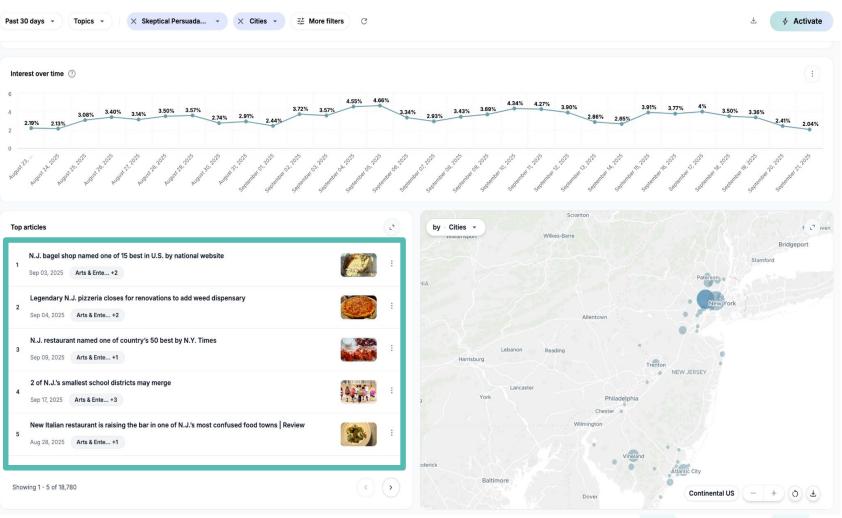




### **Understand Your Audience's Behavior**

- Media Engagement Shows
   Priorities and Interests
- Millions of Interactions Drive Insights
- Relies on behavior, not opinion to guide strategy
- Indexed to control for demographic bias





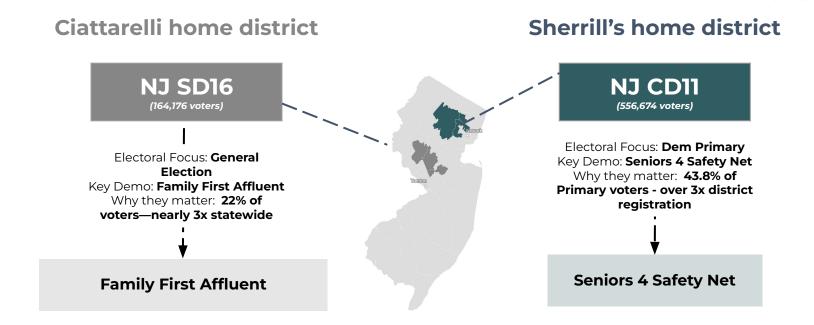


### What We Have Learned

## September 10th 55 DAYS UNTIL ELECTION DAY

Behavior Insights

Two key audiences in home districts (NJ SD16 & NJ CD11) shape campaigns



### AUGUST 13th POST PRIMARY

Behavior Insights

Three Groups STATEWIDE will determine outcome

MAGA Loyalists (427,803 audience size)

High turnout & high GOP support

Working Class
Progressives
(762,395 audience size)

Lowest Turnout, partisan messages do not motivate

Skeptical
Persuadable Women
(809,865 audience size)

Hate Politics
Vote on economic not social issues



## What Swing Voters Are Reading Overall: Skeptical Persuadable Women vs. Family First Affluent

#### **Skeptical Persuadable Women**

Avg. Household Income: \$98k (12% of all likely NJ voters)

| Rank<br>(Share of top 50<br>headlines) | Theme                              |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (28% of top 50<br>headlines)           | Crime & Public<br>Safety           |
| 2<br>(24% of top 50<br>headlines)      | Food, Dining &<br>Local Businesses |
| 3<br>(16% of top 50<br>headlines)      | Education &<br>Youth               |
| 4<br>(12% of top 50<br>headlines)      | Weather &<br>Environment           |
| 5<br>(10% of top 50<br>headlines)      | Politics &<br>Governance           |

- **Tone:** Grave, empathetic, cautionary
- **Focus:** Local tragedies, public safety threats, and police investigations
- **Key Lens:** "Are our communities safe and authorities accountable?"
- Framing: Coverage blends immediacy with moral undertones about justice, prevention, and empathy. Headlines often highlight local familiarity, reinforcing proximity and shared concern rather than distant abstraction.

### Family First Affluent

Avg. Household Income: \$169k (8% of all likely NJ voters)

| (8% OF GITTIKE                           |                                           |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Rank<br>(Share of top 50<br>headlines)   | Theme                                     |  |  |  |
| <b>1</b><br>(30% of top 50<br>headlines) | Food, Dining &<br>Lifestyle               |  |  |  |
| 2<br>(20% of top 50<br>headlines)        | Education &<br>Youth                      |  |  |  |
| 3<br>(16% of top 50<br>headlines)        | Real Estate &<br>Community<br>Development |  |  |  |
| 4<br>(14% of top 50<br>headlines)        | Travel & Leisure                          |  |  |  |
| 5<br>(10% of top 50<br>headlines)        | Local Business &<br>Economy               |  |  |  |

- **Tone:** Inviting, celebratory, aspirational
- Focus: Upscale dining, local favorites, and experience-driven indulgence
- **Key Lens:** "How can we enjoy the good life close to home?"
- Framing: Stories emphasize how New Jersey's culinary scene supports community pride, quality experiences, and family-centered enjoyment. Headlines lean into lifestyle aspiration.



## What Skeptical Persuadable Women Are Reading Around the Election/Politics

### **Skeptical Persuadable Women**

- Tone: Sharp, sensational, incredulous
- Focus: Trump's statements, conflicts, and cultural fallout
- **Key Lens:** "How does Trump's chaos still shape local politics?"
- Framing: Center Trump as a lightning rod for outrage and spectacle blending humor, disbelief, and fatigue.

|          | Rank<br>(Share of top 50<br>headlines)   | Theme                             |  |  |
|----------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| <u> </u> | <b>1</b><br>(34% of top 50<br>headlines) | Trump & Nat'l<br>Politics         |  |  |
|          | <b>2</b><br>(26% of top 50<br>headlines) | Sherrill vs.<br>Ciattarelli       |  |  |
|          | 3<br>(18% of top 50<br>headlines)        | Party Tensions &<br>Scandals      |  |  |
|          | 4<br>(12% of top 50<br>headlines)        | Media & Culture<br>Crossovers     |  |  |
|          | 5<br>(10% of top 50<br>headlines)        | Infrastructure &<br>Public Policy |  |  |

- **Tone:** Competitive, skeptical, high-stakes
- **Focus:** Personality contrasts, electability, and debate dynamics
- Key Lens: "Who truly represents NJ values and can they win?"
- Framing: Race as a character test rather than a policy debate, emphasizing relatability and authenticity.



## What Family First Affluent Are Reading Around the Election/Politics

### Family First Affluent

- Tone: Analytical, pragmatic, locally focused
- Focus: Competence, electability, and leadership temperament
- Key Lens: "Who can govern effectively and protect NJ's prosperity?"
- Framing: The race is presented as a referendum on management and trust emphasizing leadership style and decision-making under pressure. Leadership > partisanship.

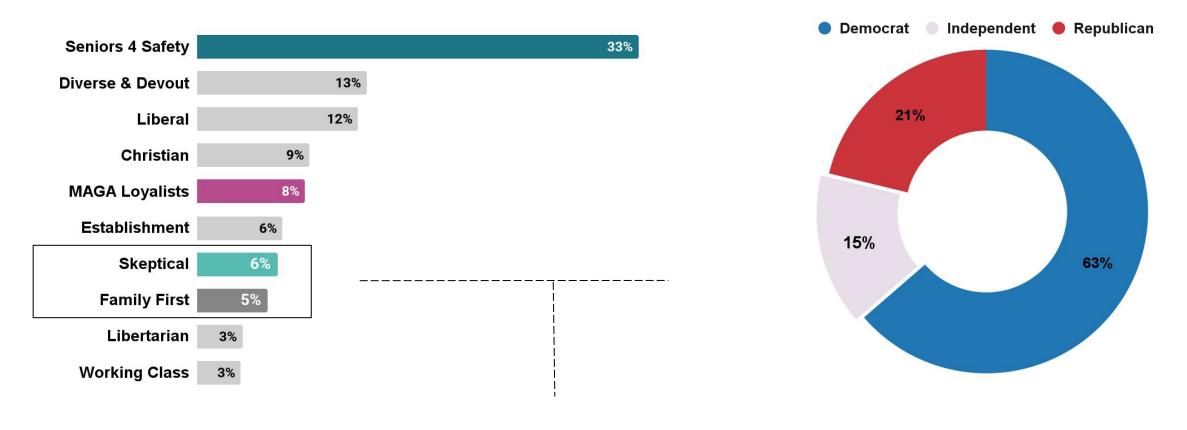
|    | Rank<br>(Share of top 50<br>headlines)   | Theme                                    |
|----|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| \_ | (32% of top 50<br>headlines)             | Sherrill vs.<br>Ciattarelli              |
|    | <b>2</b><br>(26% of top 50<br>headlines) | Trump & Nat'l<br>Politics                |
|    | 3<br>(18% of top 50<br>headlines)        | Party Integrity &<br>Scandal             |
|    | 4<br>(14% of top 50<br>headlines)        | Infrastructure,<br>Economy &<br>Politics |
|    | 5<br>(10% of top 50<br>headlines)        | Pop Culture in<br>Politics               |

- **Tone:** Measured, skeptical, fatigued
- Focus: National controversies' spillover into state politics
- Key Lens: "How much chaos from Washington should NJ tolerate?"
- Framing: Trump as destabilizing backdrop rather than the main act. His presence is contextualized as noise intruding on a state-level election.



### Early Voting Snapshot

465,399 ballots have already been cast through early or absentee voting in the NJ Gubernatorial Race.



Independent audiences and non-partisan voters have been least active in early voting—creating an opportunity to engage and mobilize these groups before Election Day.



## What Independent Voters Who Requested - But Have NOT Returned a Ballot Are Reading Around the Election/Politics

Over 500,000 ballots have been requested, but not returned in the NJ Gubernatorial Race - 28% are from Independents.

### Independent

- **Tone:** Analytical, competitive, watchful
- Focus: Electability, performance under pressure, and issue clarity
- Key Lens: "Who actually deserves my vote - and will it matter?"
- Framing: Portrays the race as a test of competence and credibility rather than ideology. Top headlines signal that this audience sees both candidates as flawed but potentially capable.

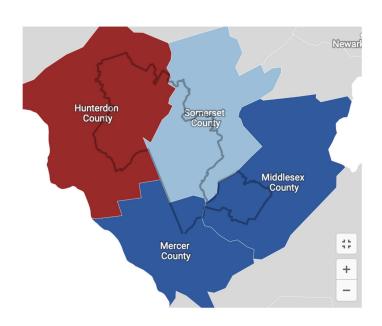
| Rank<br>(Share of top 50<br>headlines)   | Theme                                          |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>(30% of top 50<br>headlines) | Sherrill vs.<br>Ciattarelli                    |
| <b>2</b><br>(28% of top 50<br>headlines) | Trump & Nat'l<br>Politics                      |
| 3<br>(16% of top 50<br>headlines)        | Voter Frustration<br>& System<br>Distrust      |
| 4<br>(14% of top 50<br>headlines)        | Economy, Costs<br>& Everyday<br>Impact         |
| 5<br>(12% of top 50<br>headlines)        | Scandals,<br>Accountability &<br>Truth-Telling |

- **Tone:** Exasperated, skeptical, wary
- Focus: Trump's influence spilling into state races and media noise
- Key Lens: "Why can't politics focus on results instead of drama?"
- Framing: Trump remains omnipresent, but headlines frame his presence as disruptive background static - positioning voters as weary observers seeking stability and substance over spectacle.

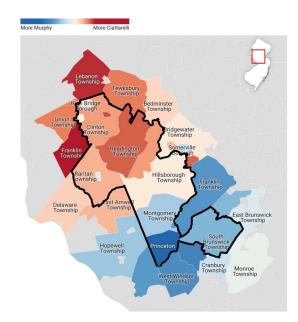


### 2021 New Jersey Gubernatorial Results in Ciattarelli's District (SD16)

| Total votes | Ciattarelli % | Murphy % | Margin |
|-------------|---------------|----------|--------|
| 222,331     | 44.2%         | 55.0%    | -11    |



| County    | Total votes | Murphy % | Ciattarelli % | Margin |
|-----------|-------------|----------|---------------|--------|
| Hunterdon | 56,784      | 40.2%    | 58.9%         | 19     |
| Mercer    | 101,625     | 65.1%    | 34.1%         | -31    |
| Middlesex | 208,758     | 55.7%    | 43.3%         | -12    |
| Somerset  | 113,672     | 51.5%    | 47.7%         | -4     |



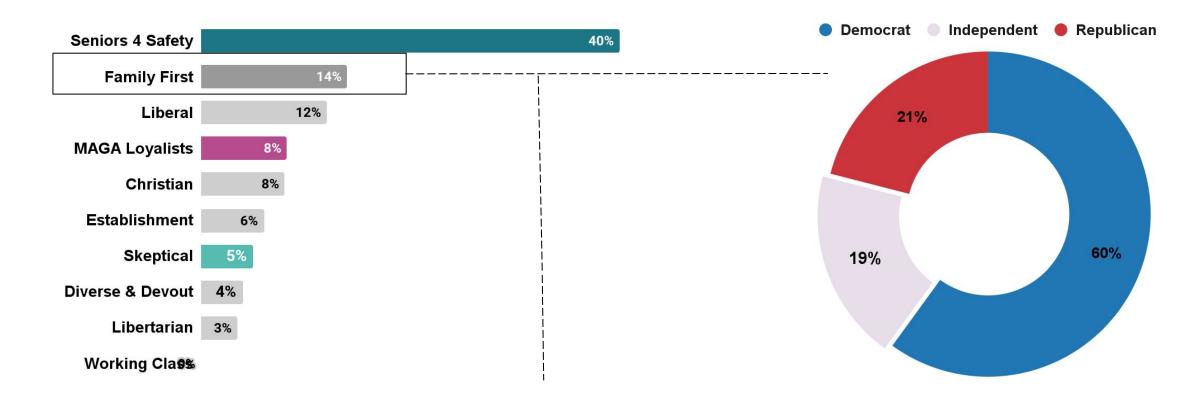
### Quartile Summary of 2021 Gubernatorial Results in NJ's 16th Senate District

| Quartile | # of<br>municipalities | Total<br>votes | Avg.<br>Murphy<br>% | Avg.<br>Ciattarelli<br>% | avg_margin |
|----------|------------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 1        | 9                      | 82,160         | 69.3%               | 29.8%                    | -39.6      |
| 2        | 9                      | 85,739         | 52.9%               | 46.2%                    | -6.7       |
| 3        | 8                      | 27,788         | 42.5%               | 55.5%                    | 13.0       |
| 4        | 8                      | 26,644         | 35.1%               | 64.1%                    | 29.0       |



### Early Voting Snapshot: SD16

17,482 ballots have already been cast in SD16 through early or absentee voting in the NJ Gubernatorial Race.



The percentage of Family First Affluent early and absentee voters in SD16 is nearly three times the statewide turnout for this group.



### 2021 New Jersey Gubernatorial Results in Sherrill's District (CD11)



| County   | Total votes | Murphy % | Ciattarelli % | Margin |  |
|----------|-------------|----------|---------------|--------|--|
| Bergen   | 276,350     | 52.5%    | 46.9%         | -5.6   |  |
| Essex    | 179,167     | 74.0%    | 25.4%         | -48.5  |  |
| Hudson   | 119,715     | 73.6%    | 25.4%         | -48.1  |  |
| Morris   | 185,923     | 44.1%    | 55.3%         | 11.2   |  |
| Passaic  | 112,324     | 51.5%    | 47.7%         | -3.8   |  |
| Somerset | 113,672     | 51.5%    | 47.7%         | -3.8   |  |
| Sussex   | 54,319      | 31.9%    | 66.8%         | 34.9   |  |
| Union    | 136,318     | 61.6%    | 37.6%         | -23.9  |  |

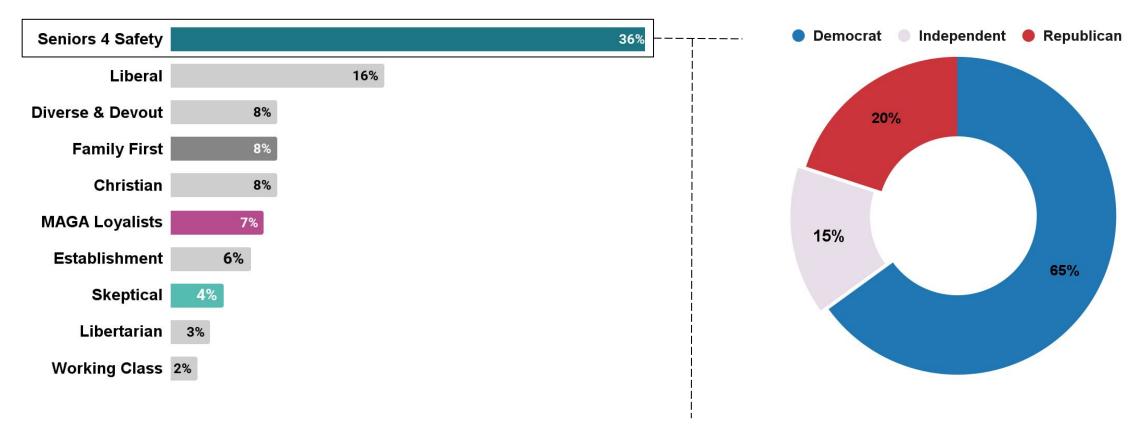
### Quartile Summary of 2021 Gubernatorial Results in NJ's 11th Congressional District

| Quartile | # of<br>municipalities | Total<br>vote | Avg.<br>Murphy<br>% | Avg.<br>Ciattarelli<br>% | Avg.<br>margin |
|----------|------------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1        | 20                     | 187,180       | 76.0%               | 23.3%                    | -52.8          |
| 2        | 20                     | 128,466       | 51.4%               | 47.9%                    | -3.5           |
| 3        | 20                     | 109,097       | 42.9%               | 56.4%                    | 13.5           |
| 4        | 20                     | 92,651        | 34.1%               | 65.3%                    | 31.2           |



### Early Voting Snapshot: CD11

41,127 have already been cast through early or absentee voting in CD11 in the NJ Gubernatorial Race.



The percentage of Seniors 4 Safety Net early and absentee voters in CD11 is three percentage points higher than the statewide turnout for this group.



### Appendix





### **About CinqDI**

CinqDI transforms how advertisers, marketers, and public affairs professionals understand and engage their most valuable audiences. Powered by proprietary first-party readership data, behavioral insights, polling research, and comprehensive voter files, we create unique, detailed audience profiles revealing exactly what motivates audience actions and decisions. With advanced analytics and immediate activation capabilities built into our intuitive platform, CinqDI enables clients to swiftly identify, reach, and resonate with target groups more effectively than ever before. Our insights don't just inform—they empower you to strategically shape messaging, differentiate from competitors, and drive impactful outcomes through deep, authentic audience connections.



### 90+ Turnkey Audiences to Analyze and Engage



#### **EDUCATION**

Likely to Pursue Professional Training Likely Career Changer Likely Donor (College or University) Likely Recent University Donor



#### **TRAVEL**

Frequent Travelers



#### **CORPORATE ATTITUDES**

Corporate Free Speech Advocates Corporate Spokesperson Allies



#### **EDUCATION POLICY**

Support Student Loan Forgiveness
Oppose Student Loan Forgiveness
Support Book Banning
Oppose Book Banning
Support Arming Teachers
Oppose Arming Teachers
Support Parents Involvement in
Curriculum



#### **MEDIA CONSUMPTION**

Cable Connectors YouTubers National News Enthusiasts Entertainment Enthusiasts Political Buffs



#### **BEHAVIOR**

**LGBTQ** 

Financially Stable
Activists
Motivated Donors
Immigration
Reproductive Rights
Cat Owner
Dog Owner



#### **VOTER MOTIVATIONS**

Motivated to vote pro-choice
Motivated to vote pro-life
Motivated to vote pro-gun control
Motivated to vote to support gun rights
Pragmatic Conservatives
Crime-Conscious Citizens



#### **ENERGY**

Natural Gas Proponents
Natural Gas - Most Reliable
Oppose Natural Gas
Solar Farm Proponents
Oppose Solar Energy
Solar - Most Reliable
Offshore Wind Proponents
Oppose Offshore Wind Energy
Likely to Consider Electric Vehicle



#### **READERSHIP INSIGHTS**

High School Students
Interest in Online Education
Interested in Graduate School
Interested in Vocational / Tech Schools
Interested in Higher Education
Education Sector Professionals

#### **Coming Soon**

Healthcare Government Spending Travel



### **CinqDI Audiences**

The electorate is divided into 10 district voters based on underlying attitudes rather than party affiliation, race or gender. These groups behave similarly regardless of their party, race or

gender.



Persuadable

**Link to model documentation** 



### CinqDI Audiences

Education, income and family attitudes, this allows targeting of likely parents of

#### **Education Psychographic Audiences**





### Unlimited CinqDI Platform Access includes:

- ✔ Proprietary Reader Behavior: Track how target audiences engage with news content
- ✓ Demographic Precision: Segment audience insights by age, income, location, voter likelihood and additional attitudes
- ✓ Campaign-Ready Insights: Instantly activate insights with turnkey audience segments built for media deployment
- ✓ Audience Profiles: Detailed analysis of demographic, geographic, and psychographic characteristics of target audiences.

- ✓ Competitive Benchmarking: Monitor how news content and your messaging performs against competitors or peers with side-by-side engagement metrics
- ✓ Issue Prioritization: Identify which policy topics drive the most engagement among your target constituencies.
- ✓ **Geographic Heat Mapping:** Visualize reader engagement by town, city, or county to optimize local outreach.
- ✓ Landscape Intelligence: Go beyond audience data to position your strategy within the broader competitive and content ecosystem.



### CinqDI Elevates Your Strategic Approach

#### See More of What's Coming

#### **Proactive Storytelling**

Track real-time sentiment to shape messaging, avoid missteps, and stay ahead of public reaction.

#### **Audience-Driven Content**

Craft stories your audience actively seeks out—not just reads—amplifying reach and resonance.

#### **Real Engagement Data**

Understand actual user behaviors and preferences, not inferred models or third-party assumptions.

#### **Persona-Based Targeting**

Reach unexpected, high-value audience segments through behavioral personas—not just demographics.



For more information, contact us at sales@CinqDI.com.