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Official Publication of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities

March 2018

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Public Safety
Department

Conference Connections:
2018 Theme Revealed

Millennials on the Move



Focus:
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Volume 95 | Issue 3

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“Governor Murphy’s budget will also demonstrate how he views local government, and what you as a local official have to look out for, or look forward to, during his term of office.”

Campaigns are One Thing. A Budget is Another.

Later this month, Governor Murphy will propose his first State Budget to the Legislature and the people of New Jersey. It will be much more than a list of programs and long columns of numbers.

A Governor’s first budget reveals how he or she perceives and prioritizes New Jersey’s problems. It demonstrates how she or he plans to approach solutions over the next four years. The budget conveys the political philosophy that will inform the Administration’s policies. And it discloses the psychological predisposition—whether optimistic or pessimistic—that the Governor brings to the job.

Governor Murphy’s budget will also demonstrate how he views local government, and what you as a local official have to look out for, or look forward to, during his term of office.

Unlike most other Governors, this one is new to government in our Garden State. He may, or may not, appreciate the fact that municipal government in New Jersey is not only the most responsive level of government but also the most responsible.

Municipal officials have no choice but to be the most responsible.

The Federal government can, and does, get through much of a fiscal year with a series of temporary continuing resolutions. State government, when facing a budget crunch, can decide to defer payments that the statutes would, otherwise, require. And State policy makers can divert funding from municipal property tax relief programs whenever the need arises. County governments and school districts do need to balance their budgets with limited resources. But, they can count on municipalities to provide them with 100% of the property tax dollars they need to operate, whether or not the municipality is able to collect 100% of the property taxes that it bills.

Our citizens are always best served when all of their public servants, at all levels of government, work together to serve the common good.

We look forward to working, responsibly, with Governor Murphy to do just that, this year and throughout his tenure in Trenton. 🍷

Michael Darcy

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UpFront: Public Safety

A Lane of Protection

Expanding the Move Over Law and public safety effort

By Cathleen Lewis, Councilwoman, Lawrence Township (Mercer)

New Jersey's roadways are often congested and always busy. That can make for a deadly mix if you have to pull over to the side of the road to address an emergent issue—a flat tire, overheated battery, or any other situation. That's why in 2009 New Jersey passed a "Slow Down or Move Over" law when it came to emergency vehicles.

Too often law enforcement officers are left in the vulnerable situation of conducting a traffic stop or assisting someone stranded at the roadside, requiring the officer to stand between a stopped vehicle and speeding traffic. There have been several instances of lives lost when an oncoming vehicle crashes into emergency workers and law enforcement in situations just like this.

Move Over laws are designed to protect emergency workers, including tow truck operators and highway maintenance employees, while they are working in high-traffic areas. These workers can be injured or killed by motorists who don't slow down when passing them. As written, the law requires motor vehicle operators to reduce their speed and change lanes when approaching authorized vehicles displaying emergency lights. Such vehicles include police, fire, and medical services vehicles, as well as highway maintenance, tow trucks, and official motorist aid vehicles displaying amber emergency lights.

Where possible, drivers are required to move over to create an empty lane next to the emergency vehicle. When safely changing lanes is not possible, drivers must slow down below the

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– Mike, 2013 graduate



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Move Over Law

posted speed limit prior to passing emergency vehicles. Drivers should also be prepared to stop, if necessary.

Motorists who fail to move over are subject to fines of up to \$500. While this law has been on the books for eight years, compliance continues to be a concern.

Perception vs. reality

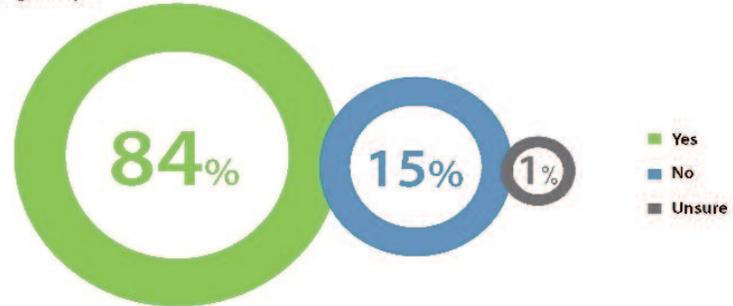
In two recent polls, the AAA Clubs of New Jersey surveyed New Jersey motorists and New Jersey law enforcement officers and AAA roadside assistance technicians to highlight the perception verses the reality of the New Jersey Move Over law (see box, right).

In the survey of New Jersey motorists, 84% of those surveyed said they are aware that in New Jersey it is the law to slow down or move over for emergency vehicles on the side of the road, 15% said they were not aware of the law, and only 1% of respondents were unsure.

Additionally, 61% of New Jersey motorists said that they both slow down and move over when approaching an emergency vehicle or tow truck on the side of the road. Some motorists (25%) said they only move over one lane and

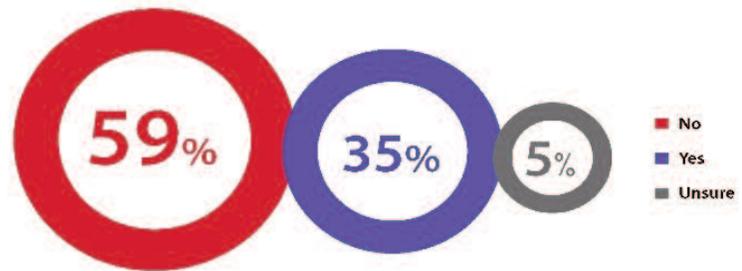
MOTORISTS:

Are you aware that New Jersey has a **Slow Down/Move Over** law requiring motorists to move over one travel lane or slow down below posted speeds when passing an emergency vehicle, tow truck or highway maintenance displaying flashing lights on the side of the highway?



EMERGENCY RESPONDERS (including tow truck operators):

Do you feel that New Jersey motorists are aware of the **Slow Down/Move Over** law?



Flashing lights on the side of the road should immediately alert drivers to safely merge away from emergency workers in the shoulder, providing an empty lane of protection while they work. Slowing down below the posted speed limit is the next best option if a merge is not possible.

12% said they slow down below the posted speed limit.

Taken at face value, those results paint a very positive picture of both knowledge and compliance with the Move Over law which has been on the books in New Jersey nearly 10 years. However, New Jersey emergency responders have a different point of view.

When New Jersey law enforcement officers and AAA tow truck operators were asked if they feel that New Jersey motorists are aware of the Move Over law, 59% said No, 35% said Yes, and 5% said that they were unsure. More alarming is that 61% of those surveyed do not feel safer on the side of the road because of the Move Over law.

These results reinforce the support for recently signed law which requires the DOT Commissioner to develop public awareness programs and use variable message signs to inform motorists about the state's Move Over law.

Expanding the law

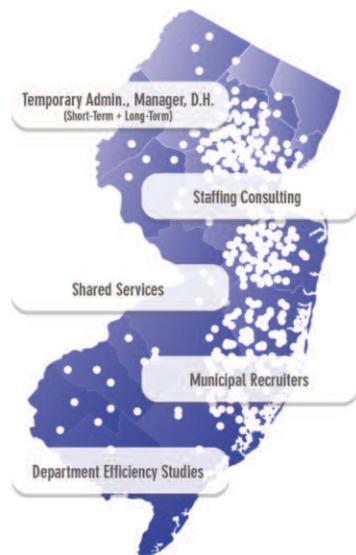
The law was originally designed to protect emergency workers on the side of the road, but there is also a move to expand the law to include all vulnerable users on the side of the road. This expansion of the Move Over law would protect motorists on the side of the road who are changing their own tire, attending to their own vehicle, or just waiting for help. These motorists are no less vulnerable than emergency workers and should be protected.

Expanding the Move Over law should also include other vulnerable users who may be using the shoulder or side of the roadway—including bicyclists and pedestrians. Bicyclists and pedestrians are consistently some of our most vulnerable road users, accounting for 32% of all traffic fatalities in 2017. Providing space for those using the shoulder or side of the road is important to making the roads safer for all users, but if that's not possible, slowing down will greatly reduce crash and injury risk.

Sadly, as many bicyclists will tell you, drivers often have the exact opposite reaction and will often speed up as they drive around a bike. This has several impacts—it increases the injury risks, as the faster a vehicle is going the more deadly a crash can be, it increases the likelihood of a crash as the bicyclist is often unsteady when the vehicle speeds by them and it encourages dangerous driving behavior to other drivers on the roadway.

Making the Move Over law apply to all vulnerable users on the side of the roadway will not only protect those users but will provide for a consistent safety message: if you see someone on the side of the road, try to move over to give them a free lane of traffic and if you cannot do so safely, you must slow down. Having one message will lead to less confusion on motorists' part and will hopefully lead to better compliance. It will certainly lead to safer roadways.

New Jersey has some of the busiest roadways in the nation. Providing a lane of protection to emergency workers, disabled motorists and vulnerable users is a small, but critical, step in reducing fatalities on New Jersey's heavily traveled roads. 🚦



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Township of Aberdeen

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JPM provided an outstanding Temporary DPW Director, and completed an outstanding Efficiency Study of our DPW.



Mayor Beth Holtzman
City of Ventnor

★★★★★
Best decision we made; Maria Mento and Joe Verruni are very knowledgeable and always accessible.



Mayor Colleen Mahr
Borough of Fanwood

★★★★★
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NOW & THEN



Law and Order and More and More



Amy Spiezio
Managing Editor

Public safety is far more than the friendly neighborhood cop having a moment with a schoolboy runaway at the local soda shop as portrayed in Norman Rockwell paintings. But the portrait of public safety officials as friends to the community as depicted by the American artist is the very core of their work.

Their efforts through the years have encompassed new and expanded considerations, as notes Sayreville Police Department Chief John Zabrowski in his feature “Fighting the Opioid Epidemic” in this month’s issue (see page 30). “Police are shepherding a fundamental shift in philosophy and practice,” he wrote. Drugs have been an issue in many incarnations over many years, demanding increasingly cooperative responses from law enforcement, local government, and citizens.

And other public safety issues are ongoing as well, offering a

road littered with challenges.

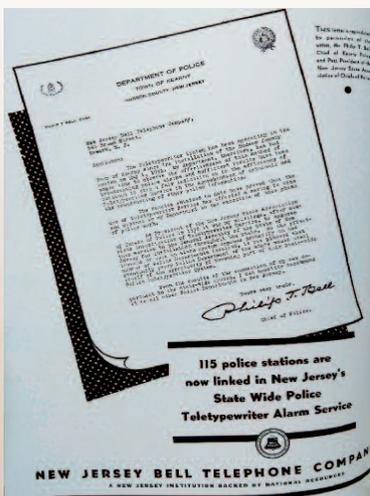
Programs such as the Move Over law discussed in

Lawrence (Mercer) Committeewoman Cathleen Lewis’ article “A Lane of Protection”

(see page 6) are to safeguard those on the roads, especially those risking their lives to help members of the community in situations from everyday road maintenance to disabled vehicle recovery. In years past, road safety was spotlighted time and time again in the Garden State as it transitioned from horses to automobiles and country lanes to superhighways. These public safety issues have been approached thoughtfully, and, again, cooperatively.

In March issue, we’re also considering topics including where millennials are settling, in and out of New Jersey, and we’re unveiling the inspirational theme for the 2018 League Conference: “Municipalities Leading the Way.”

Time Capsule: Public Safety



1932 In February 1932, a New Jersey Bell Telephone Company advertisement shared a letter from Philip T. Bell, Chief of Kearny Police and Past President of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police regarding its success as one of 115 police stations linked into State Wide Police Teletypewriter Alarm Service.



Members of Newark's C.I.S. team discuss project activities. They are (l to r) Sgt. Barbara George, Project Coordinator Rhona Kaslow Fischer, Detective John Colasanti, Sgt. Ed Abeiman and Capt. Vinnie Peszynski.

1991 The November 1991 issue of NJ Municipality covered the toll that public safety work takes on uniformed services and how Newark’s Critical Incident Stress Program taught these departments to help their own. Noted Capt. Joseph DeMasi of the Newark Fire Department, “I had a serious injury and would like to help other firefighters who are injured with their problems in coping with their job related injuries.”



1966 In June 1966, the magazine delved into the benefits to firefighters and residents alike in regards to the Bergen County Fire Training Center in Mahwah, discussing how the center, “inaugurated in 1956-57, started its first classes in May of 1965, and has since become one of the most modern and thorough schools of its kind in the nation.”

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Groundbreaking Affordable Housing Projects in New Jersey



McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC has long been a thought-leader in the housing sector, representing both public and private clients. Glenn F. Scotland recently assisted with the formulation of the State's housing policy priorities as a member of the Housing Committee of the Governor's Transition Team.

Complementing our traditional **affordable housing** finance practice representing housing authorities, municipalities and developers, the firm has developed a specific focus on HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program. RAD shifts funding from subject-to-appropriation federal subsidy to housing payment contracts that allow project owners to monetize these funds in order to make much-needed capital repairs or deliver new replacement units. We have led transactions involving the conversion of more than 1,500 public housing units under the RAD program.

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NJLM Recognizes 2017 Municipal Public Information Contest Winners

Recognizing initiatives that increase the public's awareness of local government operations, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in partnership with the Rutgers Center for Government Services (CGS) and the New Jersey Municipal Management Association (NJMMA), recognized the 2017 winners of the Annual Municipal Public Information Contest during the League's annual convention.

In addition to acknowledging innovative programs that heighten public understanding of local government, the annual contest seeks to strengthen community ties and provide useful information and services to citizens. The goal of this contest is to encourage the development and promotion of successful, innovative techniques and best practices that are transferable to other municipalities to increase their ability to meet citizen needs and improve access to services.

Each year, entries three classes of entries—Class A (Under 5,000 residents), Class B (5,000-20,000 residents), and Class C (Over 20,000 residents)—are evaluated. Plaques are awarded for first place entries among an array of categories including Best Overall Public Information Program, Best Print Media (annual reports, newsletters, and special bulletins), Best Digital Media (online forms, websites, social media, or online video), and Best Special/Innovative Media (programs for the disabled, English as a second language, interactive telecommunications, or electronic libraries).

Winners selected in 2017 included:

Perth Amboy City *Best Overall Public Information Program*. Their print and web/social media content impressed the judges for its thoroughness and the quality of information it provided to residents.

Asbury Park City *Best Print Media (Class B)*. Recognized for the detail of its Annual Financial Report.

Franklin Lakes Borough *Best Web/Social Media (Class B)*. Recognized for the unique quality of its Performance Dashboard.



New Providence Borough *Best Special/Innovative Media (Class B)*. Recognized for their “Walk New Providence” signage.

Brick Township *Best Special/Innovative Media (Class C)*. Recognized for their Recreation Program and Outreach Services Guides.

Cherry Hill Township *Best Print Media (Class C)*. Recognized for their new resident packet of information.

Summit City *Best Web/Social Media (Class C)*. Recognized for their official website, Facebook and Twitter pages, and YouTube channel.

Evesham Township *Best Visual Media (Class C)*. Recognized for their solar sign and cable access channel.

Certificates of Honorable Mention were also presented to Aberdeen Township, Cherry Hill Township, Deptford Township, Fair Haven Borough, Jersey City, Millburn Township, and Riverton Borough. Eligible entries were judged based on content, clarity, adaptability (can this be duplicated in other municipalities), and appearance.

@ Information for the 2018 contest is available at cgs.rutgers.edu/mpic. Deadline for submission of entries is Sept. 14, with awards presented during the League's Annual Conference in November.

National Recognition Day Honors Volunteers

On National Service Recognition Day, thousands of local leaders take time to honor AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers by participating in recognition events, issuing official proclamations, and taking to social media in a nationwide show of appreciation. The sixth-annual National Service Recognition Day will take place on April 3. This initiative is led by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, and Cities of Service. 🇺🇸

@Local leaders who would like to register or learn more, please visit NationalService.gov/RecognitionDay or contact RecognitionDay@cns.gov.

BPU Launches New Area Code



To ensure a continuing supply of telephone numbers, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) approved the new area code 640 to be added to the same geographic area currently served by the existing area code 609.

This process is known as an area code overlay, and requires a new dialing procedure. In connection with this overlay, all seven-digit dialed calls between area codes 609 and 856 will be eliminated and will require a new dialing procedure as well.

An overlay does not require customers to change their existing area code, but does require them to dial the area code and the seven-digit telephone number on calls within the same area code. In connection with this overlay, all seven-digit dialed calls between area codes 609 and 856 will be eliminated and callers will be required to dial 1 + area code + seven-digit telephone number instead.

Following is a summary of the new dialing procedures:

Call From	Call To	New Dialing Procedure
609 or 640	609 or 640	Area code + 7-digit telephone number
609 or 640	856 or any area code other than 609 or 640	1 + area code + 7-digit telephone number
856	609 or 640 or any area code other than 856	1 + area code + 7-digit telephone number
856	856	7-digit telephone number



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Successful New Year at Newly Elected, Re-Elected, or Experienced Municipal Officials Seminars

The League held its annual Orientation for Municipal Officials Who Are Newly Elected, Re-Elected, or Experienced full-day seminars on two Saturdays in January attracting hundreds of municipal officials looking to start their first term or their New Year on the right foot. 📅

Shown here clockwise from top: NJLM Senior Legislative Analyst Lori Buckelew discusses pertinent news from Trenton with attendees; a full house was in place and ready to learn at the East Rutherford event; Attorney Jennifer Roselle from Genova Burns discussed legal aspects of municipal officials' work; NJLM President, Mayor James Cassella of East Rutherford, welcomed participants to his hometown and participated in the educational event.

@ For more information on League Seminars, see the box on this page or visit njslom.org/seminars.



MARCH

March 2

A Quick Review of Budget and Audit Updates
Webinar-Your Computer

March 8

Budget, Ethics, and DLGS Updates on Procurement and Best Practices
Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor

March 14

26th Annual Mayors' Legislative Day
State House Annex, Trenton

March 20

Is South Jersey Getting Its Fair Share of Public Goods? A Forum Discussion
Hotel ML, Mount Laurel

March 23

A Review of Electronic Tax Sales
Webinar-Your Computer

March 28

Freedom of Speech and Social Media in the Workplace
DoubleTree Hotel, Tinton Falls

APRIL

April 4

Municipal Options in Opioid Litigation
DoubleTree Hotel, Tinton Falls

April 16

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Is New Jersey Facing a Fitness Crisis?

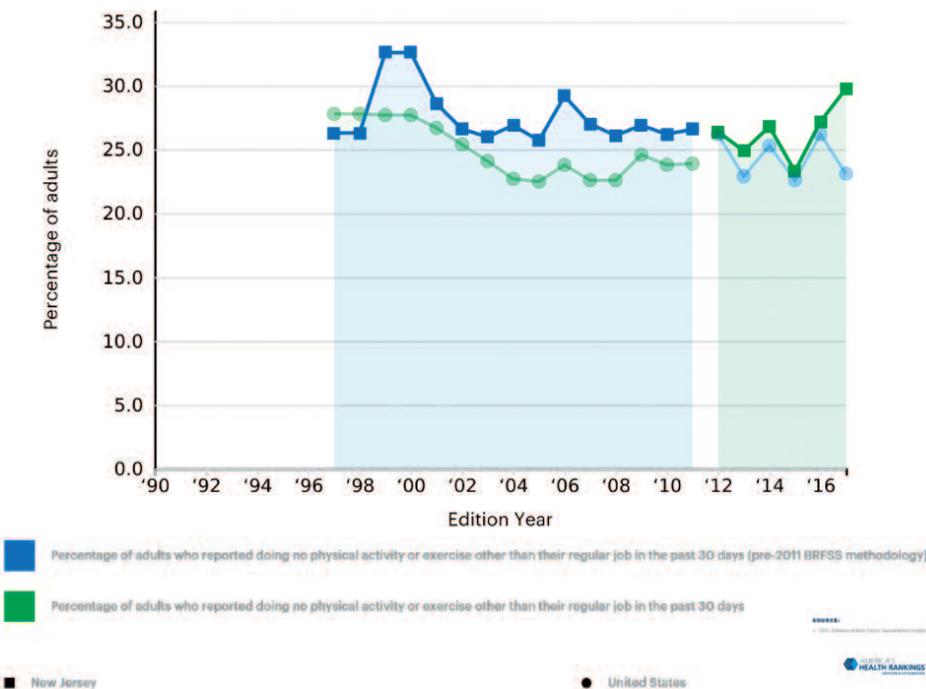
By Adrian Diogo, Community Health Associate,
New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute

“Get up, get out and get moving” is a phrase that hasn’t resonated well with New Jersey adults (or at least 30% of them). New Jersey ranked 12th in this year’s *America’s Health Rankings* Annual Report, a three-step decline from its 9th place in the 2016 Annual Report. In December, United Health Foundation released its 28th annual *America’s Health Rankings* Report, the longest-running assessment of the nation’s health on a state-by-state basis. The 2017 Annual Report reviews 35 measures on health outcomes covering behaviors, community and environment, policy, clinical care, and outcomes data. The report serves as a benchmark to measure progress, identify emerging trends, and drive action for improving public health (AHR, 2017).

Sound the alarm

Although 9th or even 12th place isn’t bad, NJ’s lack of physical activity is alarming. New Jerseyans are moving less and less with nearly 30 percent of adults reporting no physical activity or exercise other than their regular job in the past 30 days, ranking the state as 46th in the nation for physical activity (50th being the worst). Below is a chart comparing the percentage of adults who reported doing no physical activity or exercise other than their regular job in the past 30 days in New Jersey and nationally (squares represent New Jersey and circles represent nationally).

Trend: Physical Inactivity, New Jersey, United States, 2017 Annual Report



As one can see, New Jersey is digressing from the national trend of a decreasing percentage of adults reporting no physical activity or exercise other than their regular job in the past 30 days.

Mayors Wellness Campaign Library

With funding support from the United Health Foundation, the Mayors Wellness Campaign recently unveiled its redesigned virtual library of tools for mayors and their dedicated volunteers. The new MWC virtual tool library now offers easier navigation, improved and added tools, and an instructional video that explains how to navigate the new webpage.

All tools are available online, and in an easy-to-print PDF downloadable format as well. Almost every tool highlights the success story of a municipality that has already successfully held that particular program. Tools are organized into topic-specific categories including: Physical Health and Education, Environment and Health, Education and Health, and Arts and Health to facilitate easy navigation. Tools can also be categorized by season, the portion of the population they address, and whether they apply to Sustainable Jersey, another state-wide initiative focused on environmental wellness.

With the new tool library, mayors from across the state can easily access all the information needed to start creative programming for their entire population, and combat the concerning trend of physical inactivity among New Jerseyans.

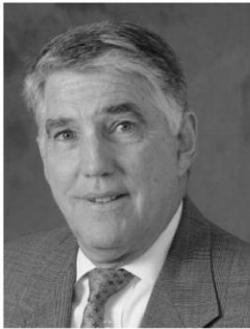
@ Visit njhcqi.org/mwc-tools to view the new MWC tool library, or contact Adrian Diogo at adiogo@njhcqi.org or 609-452-5980.

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Outlook 2018

Partnering with Municipal Officials to Create a More Affordable New Jersey

By Craig Coughlin, Assembly Speaker, District 19

It's an exciting time for New Jersey. We have a new governor in Phil Murphy, and I'm honored to have become the new General Assembly Speaker, a platform I intend to use to work hard to make New Jersey a more affordable state, from the local level on up.

I know what it's like to serve in the trenches of municipal government. I began my public service by serving on the South Amboy school board from 1983 to 1987, and I was then elected to the South Amboy City Council in 1986, serving until 1993. I also had the privilege of serving as an attorney to multiple municipal boards, and was also Municipal Court Judge in Edison from 2005 through 2009, so I've seen local government from all the angles.

I know the late night phone calls and the constituent concerns you receive. I know your frustrations. But I also know the thrill of helping others and taking steps to improve their lives.

That's why working closely with New Jersey's municipal officials and advancing legislation to help local governments will be among the hallmarks of my leadership. We're all working to make New Jersey more affordable for our middle-class, and I look forward to being a partner in that effort.

Affordability is always a top concern of residents here in New Jersey, with worries ranging from property taxes to health care. Both worries also directly impact our local governments, which is why I expect to see progress this year when it comes to controlling out-of-network health care costs.

Controlling such costs has been a top priority of mine for years. Far too many New Jersey families—even those with quality health benefits plans—find themselves fighting over thousands of dollars in out-of-network charges they never even had the opportunity to review, let alone agree to, before receiving medical attention. This legislation is about putting patients first and defending the consumer's right to be able to make an informed decision about how to proceed with his or her health care, but it's also about helping local governments.

The bill—designed to increase transparency in pricing, enhance consumer protections, create an arbitration system to resolve health care billing disputes, contain rising costs associated with out-of-network health care services, and measure success with

regard to these goals—would bring annual cost savings to the health benefits plans offered by local governments due to a decrease in out-of-network bills.

Of course, any savings for local governments means savings for property taxpayers and relief from the constraints felt by our municipal officials.

I also expect local governments to be involved in another of my top priorities—invigorating our science and technology industry to help create good, high-paying jobs to boost our middle-class families.

I've established a new standing committee—the Science, Innovation, and Technology Committee—that will create and advance legislation designed to put New Jersey at the forefront of existing and emerging industries. We will utilize our universities, high schools, and business leaders. We will strengthen relationships between industrial and academic research. We will also find ways to transfer academic research to the marketplace, all while encouraging entrepreneurship and new enterprises in science and new technology.

I also expect municipalities to be involved in this effort. After all, they're home to these job-creating industries and stand to benefit from the increased property values and ratables that come with new economic activity. I hope local officials come to our hearings and provide their valuable input and ideas. You're needed and more than welcomed.

We have a lot of work to do to make New Jersey a more affordable state. We need to ensure last year's Transportation Trust Fund fix does what it's supposed to do for local governments, and we need to continue to find new ways to encourage, streamline, and reward shared services between local governments. I look forward to a great partnership with municipal officials on these and all other issues moving forward, including another that is very personal to me.

In this wealthy state, too many people go to bed hungry. As local officials well know, many communities don't have access to a supermarket, and too many of our food banks don't have enough support.

We can, and we will, fix that. 🍷

Craig J. Coughlin is a Democrat who serves as New Jersey General Assembly Speaker and represents the 19th Legislative District in Middlesex County.

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Outlook 2018

There's Room for Bipartisan Agreement

By Thomas Kean, Jr., Senate Republican Leader, District 21

Democrats now control both the Governor's Office and the New Jersey Legislature. That's a significant responsibility to assume, especially after they've been so critical of single-party government in Washington.

They should show how they can do it better in Trenton. A good first step would be to include Republicans in the process. We're up to the task.

Our Senate Republican caucus has offered to work with Gov. Murphy and our colleagues across the aisle. We believe there's room for bipartisan agreement on important issues, and to achieve important priorities of both Republicans and Democrats.

Take, for example, the minimum wage. Immediately following his election in November, I made a public offer to work with the governor on a minimum-wage increase, one of his major campaign promises.

I offered Republican support to raise the minimum wage to a level that's modern and fair—though not the flat \$15 as he has proposed—in exchange for middle-class income tax cuts for New Jersey families. The offer stands.

We should work on a bipartisan solution that benefits employees while minimizing the risk that they'll be replaced by increasingly affordable and dependable technology, like kiosks.

Exemptions for seasonal workers, teens, and for training might make sense. Senate President Sweeney has discussed that possibility for farm workers already. We should explore this further together.

We believe it's possible to help New Jersey workers who earn the least, without putting their very jobs at risk.

When it comes to marijuana legalization, a signature campaign promise of Gov. Murphy, it appears that there may be significant opposition to legalization within the Democratic legislative caucuses.

I'm concerned about the health impacts of increased marijuana use, especially among children who would have increased access should possession be legalized for adults.

A number of other legislators from both parties, including Senators Pennachio, Rice, and Singer, have expressed a variety of well-reasoned concerns about potential impacts on our communities and public safety.

Gov. Murphy would be wise to listen to those in both parties who are ringing the alarm bell, and slow his rush to legalization.

On pay equity, both Republicans and Democrats want to strengthen protections for women. Senate Republicans believe we can do so without imposing untenable burdens on employers.

We supported Gov. Murphy's signing of Executive Order #1, which will help prevent wage discrimination that occurred in a prior job from following an employee into a new position in State government. It's a good first step.

While we were close to reaching a comprehensive agreement on pay equity last session, the clock ran out before we could finish. We're glad to continue working in this new legislative session and with the new administration. Sen. Corrado has introduced legislation that we can use as a starting point.

I also was glad to hear Gov. Murphy focus in his inauguration speech about supporting the needs of an innovation-driven economy, which would complement new legislative committees working toward that common goal.

It's been a legislative priority of mine to ensure that our students are well-trained for the workforce needs of today, and to ensure that New Jersey businesses don't relocate in search of better prepared workers elsewhere.

This bipartisan consensus to support New Jersey's innovation economy is great news for students, workers, and employers. I'm encouraged that supporting innovation seems to be the order of the day in Trenton.

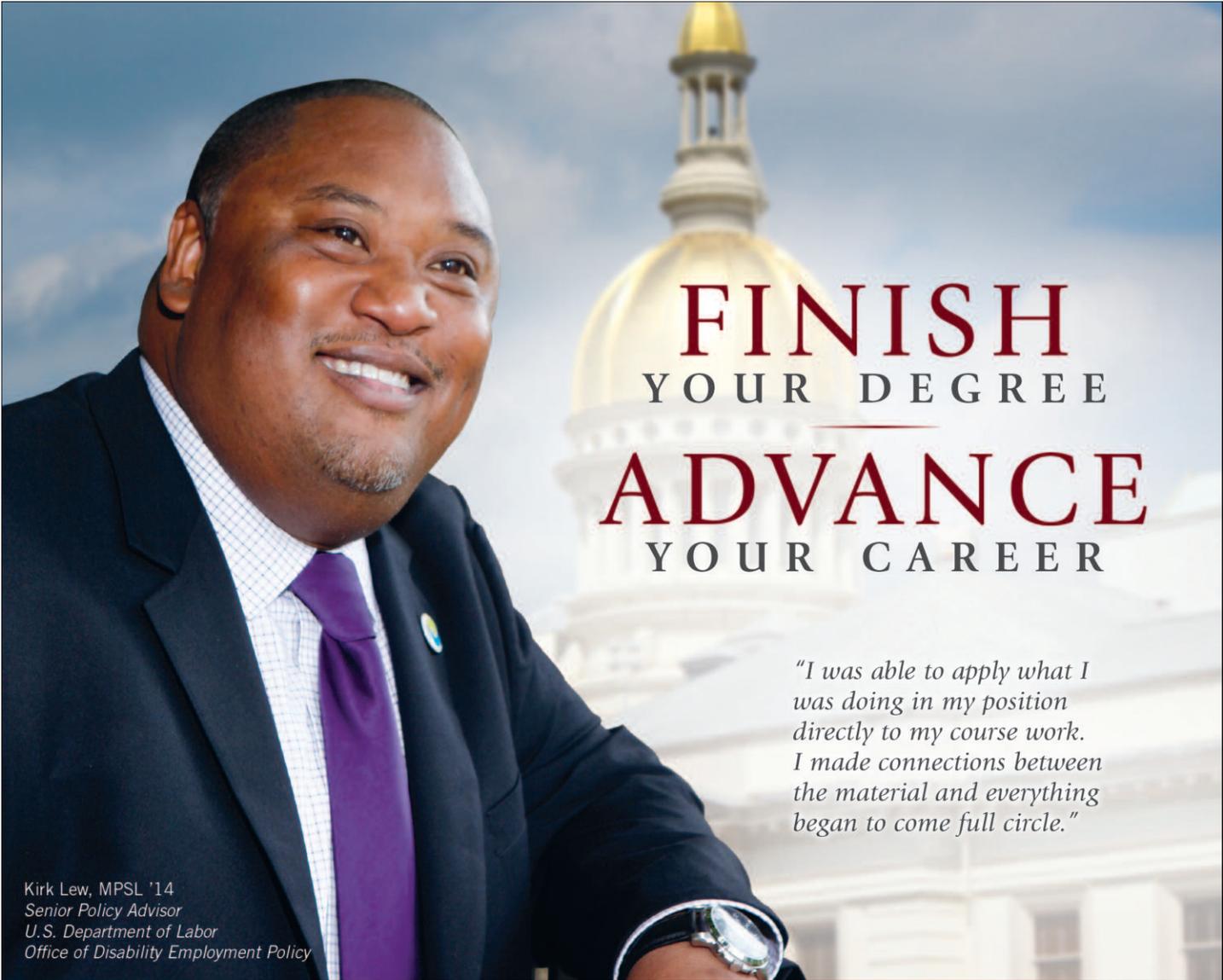
While there are many areas where we may agree, there are sure to be policies where Republicans and Democrats in the Legislature and Gov. Murphy will disagree.

For example, Senate Republicans want to do more to support the efforts of towns and counties to continue complying with our successful 2% property tax cap.

Unfortunately, our legislative efforts to address school funding, interest arbitration, sick leave, and the massive costs of public employee benefits have been blocked at every turn by legislative Democrats.

That doesn't mean that we'll stop trying to encourage our colleagues across the aisle to debate and join us on these efforts to help property taxpayers.

In this new legislative session and with the new administration, I believe we have a real opportunity to achieve results without the partisan rancor that people are tired of seeing. Hopefully Democrats won't choose to go it alone. 🍌



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Focus: Public Safety

Connecting Public Safety

East Orange reflects on combining its police, fire, and emergency management into one department

By Ted R. Green, Mayor, East Orange

In 2015, the East Orange City Council approved merging police, fire, and emergency management into one Department of Public Safety, making the City of East Orange one of the first urban cities in the state to do so. Since then, the consolidation has helped to share resources, talent, and intelligence, as well as connect public safety personnel to the city's overarching goals of creating a safer community for our residents, business owners, and visitors.





Public Safety Director Sheilah Coley and Police Chief Phyllis Bindi at Promotion Ceremony of new East Orange School Resource Officers funded by the Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program.

East Orange has been at the forefront of using proactive strategies, such as our data-driven Real Time Crime Prevention Center and surveillance cameras

strategically placed throughout the city's five wards, as well as an aggressive smoke detector installation campaign to make our neighborhoods safe.

Steady improvements

Over the past 15 years, the crime rate has steadily decreased, resulting in over an 80% drop since 2003. The smoke detector installation campaign, which began in 2015 through a collaboration

“ Among our public safety ranks, every segment of our community is represented.”

with the American Red Cross, has installed more than 1,500 smoke detectors in single and multi-family homes in some of our city's oldest and most

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vulnerable neighborhoods. I am happy to report that there have been no significant fires in those areas since the program began.

In 2017, the city began actively recruiting public safety employees who live in and

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Officers Christopher Kyer and Segundo Marquez were awarded Valor Awards in 2017 for successfully subduing and arresting an armed suspect who fired shots at them during a foot pursuit. The arrest was made without incident.

“ Maintaining a racially and gender diverse public safety department helps us to remain attuned to our community’s needs, a powerful attribute that should never be underestimated.”

reflect the community that they serve. These strategic approaches to prevention have allowed our law enforcement officers and firefighters to appropriately address and de-escalate problems before they become trends.

As we move forward to a new era of progress and opportunity, I believe it is the diversity of our sworn personnel,

key community-based partnerships, and increased resident engagement that will allow us to continue to set national standards in public safety.

Diversity and representation

Police-involved shootings such as those in Baltimore and Ferguson have put a national spotlight on tensions between police and many communities that look like East Orange, but we are proud to be among the few U.S. cities of our demographic makeup and size to accurately reflect the community we serve.

Among our public safety ranks, every segment of our community is represented. The demographics of our police force are 81% black and 12% Hispanic, nearly mirroring the city’s population, which is 88% black and 7% Hispanic. This year, East Orange will bring on 50 new officers, whose racial composition is 95% black and 5% Hispanic.

Female officers also make up nearly 25% of the force, including the two top posts held by Director of Public Safety Sheilah Coley and Police Chief Phyllis Bindi, appointed in 2015 and 2017, respectively.

The East Orange Fire Division (EOFD), led by Fire Chief André Williams, is

another reflection of the community with 85% black, 11% white, 3.5% Hispanic, and .5% other. All 25 of this year's new recruits are East Orange residents with a racial composition of 96% black and 4% white. EOFD currently has 5 females, and Tasha Hayes-Smith was appointed captain in 2015, making her the city's first female promoted to captain and among only a few in New Jersey.

Maintaining a racially and gender diverse public safety department helps us to remain attuned to our community's needs, a powerful attribute that should never be underestimated. A recent example of how representation can make a difference took place in November 2016 when two rookie school resource officers, Christopher Kyer and Segundo Marquez, were able

to successfully subdue a robbery suspect who fired shots at them during an ensuing foot chase. What could have been a front-page, headline-making tragedy was mitigated by both officers who employed a significant amount of restraint, compassion, and control.

Joint Border Patrol

In the summer of 2017, EOPD initiated the East Orange/Bloomfield Border Patrol with a formalized Memorandum of Understanding sponsored by legislation introduced by our Fifth Ward Councilman, Mustafa Brent. By combining resources and policing efforts, Councilman Brent wanted to target key problem areas that had been identified by a rash of criminal activity, including motor vehicle thefts, burglaries, and

larcenies from vehicles on both sides of the border.

The new partnership with Bloomfield, which includes putting one officer from each town into one vehicle, has paid off tremendously. Since July 2017, the Border Patrol Unit has stopped over 100 vehicles for violations ranging from broken tail lights to driving under the influence. Suspicious people have been stopped, resulting in arrests of individuals ranging from those with active warrants to those in possession of controlled dangerous substances. The unit also responds to calls for service in both towns, as well as assists citizens and other officers.

Ideally, the city would like to establish similar agreements with our two other neighboring towns—Orange and Newark—in order to dramatically enhance efforts to combat crime at its borders and to create safe corridors throughout eastern Essex County.

Eyes on the street

The city is currently implementing iCAN (Interactive Community Alert Network) to put thousands and thousands of more eyes on the street. iCAN combines web-based technology with video surveillance (CCTV) cameras to allow community residents to draw police attention to suspected criminal activity and quality-of-life issues with the click of a mouse.

If a citizen observes suspicious activity, he or she logs on to the web-based iCAN and fills in a simple form describing the event and pinpointing the precise location. What is so phenomenal about this reporting system is that would-be criminals have no clue who is watching them and from where. iCAN is going to take neighborhood crime watch in East Orange to a whole new level.

As proud as we are of our successes, however, we will never rest on our laurels. Public safety will always be a top priority of my administration and we are continuously searching for new ways to fight crime, increase fire safety, and deliver a better quality of life for the people of East Orange. 🇯🇵



Community engagement

Year-round enrichment programs, such as the East Orange Safe Haven Police Athletic League, the Public Safety Explorers Program, and the Summer Work Experience Program provide police officers and firefighters an opportunity to positively interact with our young people through mentorship, sports, cultural activities, and real-world job training.

Monthly crime watch meetings, fire prevention workshops, free smoke detector installations, and regular attendance at community meetings also allows our public safety employees to stay connected to the community and the residents they serve.



Focus: Public Safety

Fighting the Opioid Epidemic

Law enforcement's evolving role in the war on drugs

By John Zabrowski, Chief, Sayreville Police Department



Forty years have passed since President Richard Nixon signed the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act into law and declared a War on Drugs in 1971, identifying drug abuse as “public enemy number one.” Nixon’s initial address to Congress identified prevention and treatment as key components. However, as policy developed into practice, emphasis turned to eliminating the supply of illegal drugs using various enforcement actions.



Opioid Deaths: Facts

The most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are startling.

4x Overdose deaths involving prescription opioids have quadrupled since 1999.

Annually, more people are dying from opioid overdoses than from motor vehicle crashes or firearms.

91 The CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention, reports that approximately 91 people per day die from a drug overdose.

By and large these practices have remained constant over the years with varying success as the supply of specific illegal drugs ebbed and flowed depending upon enforcement efforts. When the supply of a popular illegal drug became scarce emphasis shifted to meeting demand with another. The decades are illustrative of this with the rise and fall in the use of hallucinogens, cocaine, and crystal meth, to name a few, leading us to our current crisis involving opioids and heroin which has reached epidemic levels.

A call for collaboration

In New Jersey, according to the Regional Operations Intelligence Center, Drug Monitoring Initiative Quarterly Report 2017, the heroin overdose death rate is nearly triple the U.S. heroin overdose rate. Approximately 128,000 New Jersey residents are addicted to heroin or prescription opioids. Despite increased efforts by police an unprece-

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Opioid Epidemic

dent number of Americans, crossing all geographic, racial, gender, and socioeconomic boundaries, continued to die at an alarming rate from opioid overdoses each day.

In response, police are shepherding a fundamental shift in philosophy and practice. No longer is its focus primarily on enforcement actions designed to reduce the “supply side” of the illegal drug trade. Rather, the crisis has shifted focus to an increasingly global perspective with the opioid crisis being viewed more as a public health issue. The result is a balanced approach that increases law enforcement’s role in the demand side of drug abuse through collaborative alliances and community outreach.

This approach has led to a strong network of partners; law enforcement, health care providers and legislators working in concert to advance solutions that are saving lives, emphasizing opportunities for diversion rather than incarceration and strengthening

police/community relations through expanded access to treatment services. Thus far, these alliances have produced strong results.

“When the supply of a popular illegal drug became scarce emphasis shifted to meeting demand with another.”

During the early stages of the opioid crisis, police officers had few tools beyond a simple first aid kit to counteract the effects of an opioid overdose. Naloxone, commonly known by its brand name Narcan, had been carried and administered by paramedics and

other first responders as an antidote to opioid and heroin overdoses. Time is a significant factor to reversing the effects of an opioid overdose and police officers are usually first on the scene. It became imperative to make Narcan available to local police, but there were several major hurdles to overcome.

Narcan is a prescription medication but it is not a controlled substance and, as such, authorization is needed to allow possession and administration by law enforcement. Police departments struggled to find providers holding licenses to write prescriptions. Unanticipated costs related with replenishing Narcan kits utilized in lifesaving efforts also became an issue. To overcome these obstacles, legislators and county prosecutor’s offices working with public health care providers developed programs to expedite the availability of Narcan by executing formal exchange agreements allowing for the rapid replenishment of Narcan at no cost to the police.

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Opioid Epidemic

Unquestionably, Narcan has saved countless lives. Yet, for all of its effectiveness as a medical antidote, its use has had little impact on quelling the crisis. In fact, the administration of Narcan has risen exponentially since it has been made available to law enforcement. In 2014 there were 7,500 reported deployments of Narcan by law enforcement. In 2016, the Regional Operations Intelligence Center, Drug Monitoring Initiative Quarterly Report, 2017, reports that number rose to 10,300, and mid-year numbers for 2017 are indicative of similar results.

Relationship shift

Law enforcement acknowledged that more of its effort must be directed to providing treatment for addiction and expanding community outreach services. To do so also required a shift to the dynamics of the police/community relationship. Interaction with law enforcement particularly with individuals who are struggling with opioid or heroin abuse has traditionally had the appearance of being adversarial, in nature, hampering requests for assistance for substance abuse and addiction.

In an effort to overcome reluctance to report an overdose or seek assistance from drug addiction for fear of arrest and prosecution legislation was passed

in 2013 that provides for immunity in circumstances where a person, acting in good faith, seeks assistance for himself or herself or another. The Opioid Antidote and Overdose Prevention Act provides an opportunity to ease longstanding skepticism and mistrust and offer law enforcement as the primary access point within each community for people seeking treatment for opioids addiction.

“More than 40 years later the battle is being fought with a renewed philosophy and balanced approach.”

Seizing the opportunity, police have entered into agreements with public and private health care providers to offer access to treatment services for individuals suffering from opioid addiction. Several programs effectively tie together the administration of Narcan and emergency room treatment by providing immediate access to treatment resources for drug addiction.

Others expand the role of law enforcement to community outreach where police officers initiate opportunities for direct access to these services.

Programs, such as, Opioid Overdose Recovery Program, funded through a state grant and offered through RWJBarnabas Health offers an opportunity for one-on-one counseling with a peer coach for individuals afflicted with drug addiction who were administered Narcan and transported to one of their emergency rooms. The Township of Woodbridge created a similar program and signed formal agreements with several local hospitals to allow recovery coaches access to individuals who suffered an opioid overdose.

The key to these programs is the opportunity for immediate intervention when an individual suffering from addiction is most vulnerable. And, they also include a follow-up component that provides for additional monitoring and mentoring by a recovery coach and opportunities for transition into treatment or detox programs.

Police have also partnered directly with public health care providers on initiatives designed to spur community engagement, such as the St. Peter's Healthcare System Opioid Task Force. These healthcare specialists, community groups, educational services, and law enforcement provide community outreach through a series of student/parent assemblies, distributing guides for addiction services and offering resources related to non-narcotic alternatives to pain management.

The War on Drugs continues and more is needed to overcome the opioid and heroin epidemic. New collaborations must be fostered. Support and trust in police/community relations must continue to be nurtured.

Police have the tools to save more lives, those experiencing opioid addiction have a better chance getting treatment and more communities are receiving assistance through enhanced outreach efforts. More than 40 years later the battle is being fought with a renewed philosophy and balanced approach. 🇺🇸



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Getting Started with EMMA

Learning about New Jersey's Municipal Bonds made easy with website

By Lynnette Kelly, President & Executive Director, Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board

More than 1,200 New Jersey cities, towns, other government agencies and the state itself use municipal bonds to finance infrastructure and other community projects.

In December, for example, the County of Ocean issued \$24.8 million of general obligation bonds to finance construction of a new Performing Arts Academy Building and the Township of Franklin issued \$24 million of general obligation bonds to finance road improvement and water utility projects. That month, investors and bond dealers bought and sold nearly \$4.8 billion of New Jersey municipal bonds.

This is just a snapshot of the information freely available to New Jersey municipal officials and citizens on the Electronic Municipal Market Access (EMMA®) website, at emma.msrb.org. The EMMA website is operated by the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB), the Congressionally chartered, self-regulatory organization whose mission is to promote a fair and efficient market for municipal bond offerings and other municipal securities that help finance local schools, parks and other public projects. EMMA can be a valuable resource for local government officials who have outstanding debt or may be considering issuing new bonds and want to compare themselves to other bond issuers within New Jersey or around the country.

The EMMA website was created nearly a decade ago as a resource for investors seeking information when buying or selling a bond, and municipalities that issue bonds make information available to investors through EMMA. For example, New Jersey bondholders can use EMMA to see that, recently, the Borough of Essex Fells posted its audited annual financial statements and that there was a notice of partial redemption by the City of Asbury Park. The EMMA website provides free public access to important documents associated with nearly every municipal bond, from the official statement to the most recent annual financial filing from the government backing the bond.



Other uses

Municipal bond issuers and others interested in the \$3.8 trillion U.S. municipal bond market also use EMMA to inform their decision-making about issuing municipal bonds. Among the tools on EMMA that can support local governments when planning the timing of a new bond issue are a calendar listing upcoming bond offerings and another showing expected economic data reports or events.

Additionally, EMMA provides access to several municipal market yield curves and indices. Many municipal issuers and their municipal advisors use yield curves as part of the bond pricing process to provide a benchmark when establishing offering yields on new bond issues.

The MSRB has been integrating new tools and resources on EMMA to enable users to explore and assess trends in the municipal securities market. Newly expanded market statistics allow EMMA users to view aggregate trading activity in each state and territory. State statistics can be filtered by date range to view and compare trends over time. EMMA's market statistics are updated daily and list the top 20 most actively traded municipal bonds and issuers around the country.

EMMA is a service of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, which protects investors, state, and local governments, and the public interest. Portions of EMMA data provided by Standard & Poor's Securities Evaluations, Inc., CUSIP Global Services, and American Bankers Association.

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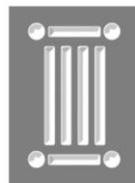
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Health Officers and Boards of Health

Partnerships are vital to advancing health locally

Christopher R. Rinn, Assistant Commissioner, NJ Department of Health



Community leaders are in the unique position to improve health locally. Local boards of health and health officers are a critical resource for municipal leaders in making decisions that can positively impact the health of their communities. Local health officials deal with a broad spectrum of health challenges in communities. On any given day, they can be investigating an infectious disease outbreak, promoting healthy habits like receiving vaccinations, testing children for elevated blood lead levels, and leading their community's response to the opioid epidemic.

Given the breadth of these issues and declining resources, health leaders recognize the need to form partnerships to effectively carry out their mission of protecting and improving the health of residents. Not one entity can solve health challenges, it takes broad-based coalitions to develop efforts to strengthen communities and foster healthy choices.

Population Health Action Team

At the state level we created the Population Health Action Team, which are members of the Governor's cabinet who worked collaboratively on creating and advancing policies that build healthy communities and improve health outcomes. Through this team, we have collaborated on many programs

including No Safe Level of Lead in Children and Making the Healthy Choice the Easy Choice. The team also worked to promote health in all policies to foster a culture of health in our state.

“ Healthier communities are more resilient communities.”

Our goal was to promote prevention, wellness and equity in all environments across the state, so we ensure we are giving residents every opportunity to thrive. Healthier communities are more resilient communities. Whether it is a novel flu, a natural disaster, or a

behavioral health crisis, we are stronger as a state when residents are in their best health.

As the Population Health Action Team recognized, good health is not something that just can be addressed during a visit to the doctor’s office or hospital. We also need environments and social networks that support healthy living.

Local leaders can mirror this effort by bringing together decision makers in the arenas that impact health. The Department is encouraging municipal leaders and local health officials to develop coalitions or join ongoing partnerships that promote a “health in all policies” approach.

Collaborations like this are already making strides locally.

Efforts in action

Camden County Faced with unprecedented increases in opioid overdoses, the Camden County Department of Health and Human Services solicited

the help of partners across the community to respond. Leaders in education, substance abuse prevention, healthcare, law enforcement, and community advocates were assembled into the Camden County Addiction Awareness Task Force.

The task force has come together to develop awareness programs to educate residents about programs and resources available to prevent and treat addiction. They have developed a tool box with materials to assist educators in informing residents about addiction, including brochures aimed at talking to young people about the topic. Additionally, they have also hosted a Candlelight Vigil to remember those who lost their lives to addiction and to decrease stigma associated with opioid addiction.

Paterson Recognizing that high immunization rates protect their community’s health, the City of Paterson Health Department partnered with local supermarkets to increase flu vaccination

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Health Partnerships

rates. To ensure low-income residents were aware they could access free flu shots, local supermarkets marketed the flu shot activity in their “weekly specials” flyer. Through this collaboration, the community provided 50 flu shots to residents they would not normally reach.

Local organizations

In addition to promoting these grassroots collaborations, the Department recognizes that sustainable change begins on the local level and has supported communities and organizations working to invest in health. As part of a funding collaborative with the Healthy Communities Network, the Department, with partners such as the YMCA State Alliance, provided support to 42 grant-funded communities to promote healthy eating and active living initiatives.

Healthy Communities Grant

The Healthy Communities Grant Network supports innovative projects. For example, through the Healthy Communities Grant Network the Clifton Health Department has been working with local leaders to increase access to affordable farmers’ markets and make their community more walkable and bikeable.

The City of Clifton partnered with City Green to hold a weekly Veggie

New Jersey’s department of health website, nj.gov/health, provides program information.

Mobile market at the municipal complex that featured a variety of vegetables, fruits, eggs, and honey.

During these markets, the Clifton

Health Department staff conducted educational activities, including food tastings and distributing recipes for featured produce. More than 600 people bought fresh produce at the market. The Clifton Health Department also purchased bike racks and focused on worksite wellness for city employees.

YMCAs As part of the network, we have also funded several YMCAs to foster a culture of health locally. Most recently, grants have been provided to the Cumberland Cape Atlantic YMCA, Hunterdon County YMCA, Metropolitan YMCA of the Oranges, Raritan Bay Area YMCA, Raritan Valley YMCA, and YMCA of Trenton. Work carried out by these groups includes ensuring corner stores have healthier food options, developing farmers’ markets and increasing access to fresh produce and vegetables.

Nutley The Township of Nutley used Healthy Communities Grant Network funds to get their residents more active. To engage more residents in exercise and

the local farmers' market, the township invited community leaders to lead 3-mile walks before each weekly farmers' market. The walks provided an extra draw for residents, since it offered the opportunity to ask questions of community leaders from a wide variety of disciplines, including education, government, law, and art during the walk.

These are just a few examples of how to harness local partners to leverage healthy living initiatives in your community. I encourage all of you to collaborate with organizations in your region to protect and improve the health of New Jersey residents. 📍

@ For more information visit: nj.gov/health and follow the New Jersey Department of Health on Twitter @njdeptofhealth, Facebook /njdeptofhealth, Instagram @njdeptofhealth and Snapchat @njdoh.



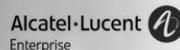
With the leadership of local and county health departments who have a long history of protecting their communities' health, municipalities can drive prevention and wellness efforts that support those at risk for health issues with screenings and lifestyle changes and prevent those with chronic conditions from getting sicker.



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Thank Millennials for Growth

Live-work-play neighborhoods attract today's generation of young adults

By Tim Evans, Director of Research, New Jersey Future



Suburban sprawl is out. Redevelopment and “live-work-play” neighborhoods are in. And it’s all thanks to the Millennial generation, who are opting out of the car-dependent suburban subdivisions where they grew up. New Jersey’s population data now show a clear trend toward redevelopment in New Jersey’s cities, towns, and older suburbs, a trend driven by the locational preferences of today’s generation of young adults.

Growth drivers

Built-out places, where there is little undeveloped land left to build upon and where most new growth is by necessity redevelopment, have recently reversed decades of stagnation or outright population loss and are now the primary drivers of growth in the post-recession era. The 271 out of 565 municipalities in the state that were at least 90% built-out as of 2007 accounted for fully two-thirds (66.8%) of total statewide population growth between 2008 and 2016.

This same group of municipalities collectively made up only 3.6% of statewide growth between 2000 and 2008, so their post-recession turnaround is quite remarkable. In contrast, the 110 municipalities that were less than 50% built-out accounted for just 3.7% of the total statewide population increase between 2008 and 2016, after having represented 27.2% of population growth in the prior eight years.

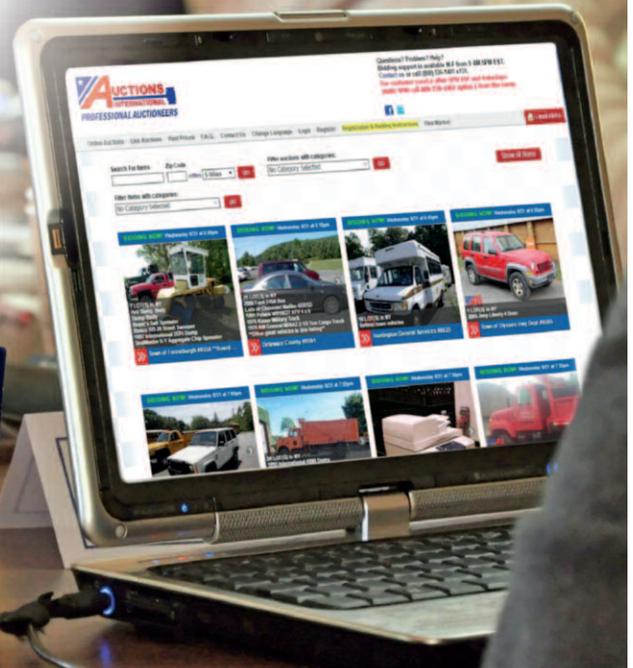
New Jerseyans are also locating closer to transit. Taken as a group, the 138 municipalities hosting rail transit stations

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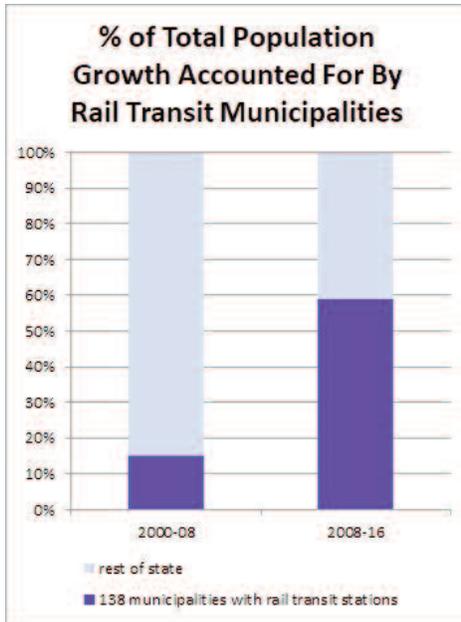
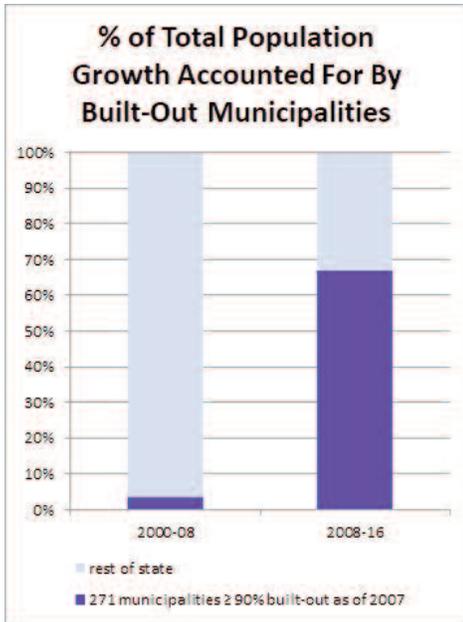
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Millennials



accounted for well above half—58.8%—of the total statewide population increase from 2008 to 2016, after accounting for just 14.9% of the total increase from 2000 to 2008. Transit municipalities’ collective growth rate of 3.5% from 2008 to 2016 was nearly double that of the non-transit municipalities (1.9%) over the same time period.

Car-free citizens

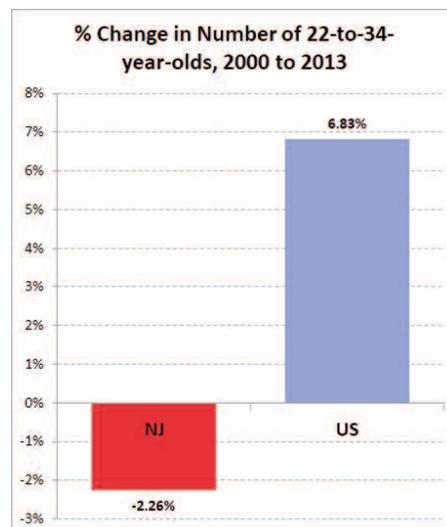
A driving force behind these turn-arounds is the fact that the Millennial generation (roughly those born between 1981 and 2000, most of whom are now in their 20s and early 30s) are rejecting car-dependent suburbs in favor of places where they can live, work, and socialize in the same neighborhood, or within easy reach of public transportation. A recent analysis by New Jersey Future, *Where Are We Going? Implications of Recent Demographic Trends in New Jersey*, that ranked each of the state’s 565 municipalities on three metrics:

- Compactness and walkability
- Activity density (population and employment per developed square mile)
- Presence of a mixed-use downtown, and street network connectivity

It was found that young adults (ages 22 to 34) are disproportionately concentrated in places that score well on all three metrics. In general, the more

metrics on which a place scores well, the higher its concentration of Millennials tends to be. The good news is that New Jersey has more of these compact, walkable places than many other states, since many of its towns and first-generation suburbs predate the rise of the automobile as the dominant mode of transportation, and were built to be walkable and transit-friendly out of necessity.

A secondary discovery of the study points to trouble, however: Unlike what is happening in the rest of the country, New Jersey’s Millennial population is shrinking. Nationwide, the number of 22-to-34-year-olds grew by 6.8% from 2000 to 2013, reflecting the largest



generation in American history aging into this age range over those 13 years. But New Jersey had 2.3% fewer 22-to-34-year-olds in 2013 than in 2000.

Where are New Jersey’s missing Millennials? The fact that the state has the highest rate in the country of young adults still living with their parents points to high housing costs as a likely driver of out-migration. Many young people simply can’t afford to live on their own in New Jersey; moving out of their childhood home often means moving out of the state altogether.

What to do?

What can New Jersey’s municipalities do to attract and retain these young adults? The answer depends on the kind of place a municipality already is.

Places that score well on compactness and walkability and that have a good mix of housing types tend to be the places in which Millennials are already congregating. The challenge for such places is to try to continue doing what they’ve been doing, finding ways to make room for more newcomers by offering a range of housing types at a wide variety of price points. Ideally, new growth will be accommodated by building on vacant parcels or repurposing existing buildings, so as to avoid displacing existing residents at the lower end of the income scale.

Hoboken, Jersey City, and Harrison

are all good examples of how to add new housing supply by building on disused former industrial lands. Indeed, Hoboken is the state’s Millennial capital—45% of its residents are between 22 and 34, compared to 16.4% statewide.

Places that score well, but where Millennials are nonetheless underrepresented, raise the question of what is deterring young adults from moving there.

Englewood Cliffs, Cranford, Kenilworth, and Pennington

whose housing stocks are dominated by large single-family detached homes, the most likely explanation is a shortage of apartments, townhouses, and other smaller, less expensive housing options

that are suitable for early career Millennials looking to live on their own.

Montclair, Fort Lee, and Leonia, which do already offer a variety of housing types, the problem may simply be that the supply of housing of all types is not keeping up with demand, driving prices up and pricing out most young people, whether homebuyers or renters.

In each case, one obvious solution is to follow the lead of Jersey City or Harrison and look for ways to add new housing stock, through infill development on undeveloped land or through the repurposing or replacement of disused buildings. And if a municipality's existing housing stock is mostly single-family detached, it should concentrate on adding other housing types.

“ Millennials are the future of New Jersey, and keeping them in the state should be a major concern for both government and business leaders.”

Metuchen (where Millennials are slightly underrepresented compared to the rest of the state), for example, has been building multifamily housing projects on surface parking lots near its train station (surface parking representing perhaps the most obvious, if underappreciated, reservoir of “new” developable land in built-out places), adding much-needed supply and diversity to its housing stock.

Though both **Dover and Woodbury** already have higher-than-average percentages of Millennials, they provide examples for smaller cities of how to repurpose moribund non-residential buildings, having both recently undertaken projects to convert prominent

older buildings (a silk mill in Dover's case, an opera house in Woodbury's) into apartments, with retail on the ground floor.

What about towns whose developed areas were mainly built in the post-World War II automobile era and hence lack a traditional downtown and a grid-like street network? If undeveloped land is scarce, car-oriented suburbs can opt for the admittedly more difficult task of retrofitting an existing development to try to make it more “center”-like. They may take a cue from more walkable built-out places like Metuchen and consider allowing new buildings to arise on surface parking lots.

Somerdale has redesigned an outdated shopping center to make it more inviting to pedestrians and has built new housing directly adjacent to it, integrating a residential component into a formerly single-use commercial property.

Or towns can go a step further by

demolishing part of an underperforming car-centric commercial property and allowing housing to be built on the cleared land.

Voorhees Township did this with the Echelon Mall, knocking down part of the old enclosed mall to make way for townhouses and a new outdoor strip of restaurants and bars, then knitting them all together with new pedestrian connections and green spaces and rechristening the whole project as the Voorhees Town Center.

County and country considerations

In some cases, the question of how to retain and attract Millennials is much more wide-ranging, and affects entire counties. The three more rural counties in the northwestern corner of the state—Sussex, Warren, and Hunterdon—all began losing population around the time of the Great Recession in 2008, after



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Millennials

having appeared near the top of the list of fastest-growing counties in the 1990s and in the earlier half of the 2000s. All three have a distinct dearth of live-work-play towns of the kind that today's young people are seeking.

In fact, across all three counties, only Lambertville, Flemington, Sussex Borough, and Phillipsburg score well on all three metrics of compactness and walkability, and beyond these, only Newton, Hackettstown, Washington Borough, and Belvidere score well on even two of them. This amounts to only eight towns with “center”-like characteristics out of a total of 72 municipalities in the three counties. And only half of these—Lambertville, Flemington, Phillipsburg, and Hackettstown—have a higher percentage of 22-to-34-year-olds than the statewide figure.

A similar situation holds in the far southern end of the state, where Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic, and Cape May counties have all been losing population

since 2008. Aside from the Shore towns along the Atlantic coast, many of which function as full-service towns for only four or five months out of the year, the only other municipalities in these four counties that score well on at least two of the metrics are Bridgeton, Pleasantville, and Woodstown. (Bridgeton and Pleasantville have above-average concentrations of Millennials, while Woodstown does not.)

If the Millennial generation has been gravitating toward larger urban centers, inner-ring suburbs, and town centers, what are the ramifications for the state's exurban and rural counties? If a county suffers from a shortage of exciting night life and other urban amenities, a lack of town centers where growth can be targeted, and longer distances to larger centers, a different approach is required.

Millennials are the future of New Jersey, and keeping them in the state should be a major concern for both government and business leaders. We as a state need

to do more to attract and retain this generation by creating more of the kinds of places where Millennials want to live, work, and play.

The easiest place to start is by figuring out how to accommodate new growth in the compact, walkable places we already have. The more long-term—and more challenging—project is to find ways of making car-dependent development more center-like. Reconfiguring 60 years' worth of automobile-centric suburbia is not going to happen overnight; after all, the Somerdale and Voorhees retrofit projects both still attract visitors mainly by car. But it will not happen at all without local leaders with the vision and the will to try something new. And such changes may become an imperative if Millennials' expressed preference for in-town living persists as they age. 📍

Tim Evans is director of research for New Jersey Future, a nonpartisan nonprofit organization that promotes policies for sustainable growth and development in New Jersey.

Exurban and Rural Strategies

Communities without urban centers, inner-ring suburbs, or town centers should engage in a strategic planning process that re-examines a town's assets and aspirations.

FIND THE CHARM There may be opportunities to create small centers that contain authentic charm, a reasonable number of amenities, and a mix of housing types.

MAKE ZONING FLEXIBLE These communities can also make sure that their zoning allows for more flexible land-use configurations like live-work spaces, apartments above stores and offices, and the types of retail and restaurant/bar uses that are likely to appeal to young adults.

ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE It may be possible to attract to these communities' specific market segments that value local assets such as rural landscapes, access to outdoor activities, agricultural tourism and business opportunities, local specialty employers, lower cost housing, or good public services and schools.

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Constituent Reporting Apps

Effectively utilizing mobile technology to enhance community engagement

By Chris Siciliano, Mayor,
Township of Ocean (Monmouth)



I have always believed that efforts to improve the quality of life in our communities are most effective when they involve strong collaboration between town officials and the communities and citizens we serve. A major aspect of this partnership is the ability of citizens to efficiently and effectively communicate their comments, questions, or concerns directly to me, other Town Officials, and Department Managers. In the past, managing input from the community was time consuming and inefficient. If a resident were to call me, it usually turned into a 10- or 15-minute conversation; and, if I needed to get another department involved, it would take even longer. I certainly enjoy and encourage meeting our citizens, and while I am available for one-on-one conversations, it not always convenient for them nor very efficient.

Getting social

Like many other cities and towns across the state, we have adopted social media as a regular part of our communications efforts. In addition to the Town and Police Departments having a presence on Facebook and Twitter, I also have a personal Facebook page where I post information about the happenings in our town. While social media can be very powerful for sending information out to many people at the same time, it is not very efficient to have a one-on-one conversation that may relate to

sensitive or confidential matters. So we still dealt with many matters the old fashioned way—with phone calls, meetings, or email.

I was surprised to learn that over three-quarters of Americans (77%) now own a smartphone, with lower-income Americans and those ages 50 and older exhibiting a sharp uptick in ownership over the past year, according a Pew Research Center survey conducted in November 2016. And as anyone of us with teenagers and older children will tell you, no one like to make phone calls anymore, especially Millennials.

In 2016, the Township of Ocean implemented a new private and confidential smartphone platform from Report It, which is downloadable as Reportit.com from app stores. The app allows our residents, business owners, and visitors to anonymously and confidentially send a report about something they observe in our town. It is the equivalent of crowdsourcing information, but on a smaller scale. The app is free to download, supports many languages, and is simple to use. Users answer a few questions, provide comments, and attach a picture or video. The reports also include a map and GPS data for the location of the incident.

I am notified instantly when a new report is created, and I can view the report on my smartphone.

After I review the report, I can instantly respond and forward the report to the appropriate people for follow up or resolution. I can respond to a report in less than a minute and I try to answer every report within an hour. I believe that this type of technology has made me much more accessible, efficient and productive. Since adopting the app, my level of citizen interaction has increased substantially; it is a very inexpensive subscription service that was easy to implement and has more than paid for itself with increased efficiency.

Staying private

When we first implemented the platform, the concept of anonymity was a concern to me. I thought that since citizens were not readily identified that I would receive a fair amount of junk or spam. Much to my surprise, the reports I have been receiving convey a genuine concern on issues that affect many of our residents.

We initially focused our efforts on three categories:

- Quality of Life
- Public Works
- Code Violations

After becoming comfortable, we added a direct line to our Police Department for Suspicious Activity Reporting. The community can help support our Police by being aware of and reporting suspicious



Apps Around the State

Keeping in touch with constituents has been embraced by municipalities all over the Garden State. Many apps are tailored specifically for the needs of the community, such as parking meter payments in cities or beach badge payments along the shore.

Here are a few success stories:

Access Princeton The idea is to offer superior customer service to its residents as the first stop for “all things Princeton.” The app provides basic municipal information and makes it easy to report non-emergency issues in town. This includes everything from missed trash pickups to storm-water clogs, broken streetlights and signs, downed trees, and unsafe buildings, all non-emergency issues. The town tracks these issues and provides updates as they are acknowledged and resolved.

Viply Shore Towns including Manasquan, Seaside Heights, Sea Isle City, Longport, and Ventnor are selling their beach badges via app these dates. The app Viply is working with municipalities along the New Jersey Shore to remove obstacles from the purchase of their season passes.

Asbury PARK developed by Passport, is mobile payment provider for parking and transit, allowing users to pay for parking, keep track of remaining time, and extend their parking session remotely. The app allows parkers to pay for individual parking sessions with their debit/credit card or load funds onto a digital wallet, which gives the city the ability to add discounts toward parking sessions.

Township of Union's app is a one-stop shop for vital information and connecting with the Township of Union. Featuring a direct link to the Township Calendar, a Form Center for access to the Department of Public Works and UnionTV34 submissions, and a connection to the Staff Directory and Township Facilities, the app also features an Agenda Center where you can find agendas from past and present committee meetings; an Archive Center, and to the Citizen Request Tracker, Township News Flashes, and the ability to sign up for updates.

activity. Since people who live and work in the community are more likely to notice changes in behavior or activity, it is important for them to engage with Police officers who need this community perspective to work more effectively and efficiently.

Personal response

Feedback from our residents has been overwhelmingly positive. They appreciate me taking the time to personally respond to them and feel like they can make a difference. This type of citizen engagement is very valuable to me and the town. The app has also reduced the number of negative social media post that we see.

I believe that a majority of people want to do the right thing, and new technologies like this app make it easier.

Recent advancements in mobile technologies, combined with the significant increase in smartphone ownership, creates an opportunity to substantially enhance community involvement in all aspects of daily life, making community engagement programs more effective and less costly to administer.

I believe it is very important for public officials to be accessible to the citizens that they serve, and new social media and smartphone platforms can accomplish that goal with a minimal investment. 📱



Arts in Highland Park

Inspiring a community to move creatively and physically, too

By Gayle Brill Mittler, Mayor, Highland Park; NJLM Executive Board Member

Highland Park Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler spoke at the 2017 League Conference about several topics important to the community, moderating sessions on wellness, microgrids, and Complete Streets. Highland Park was also recognized as an Honorable Mention in the Annual Innovation in Governance Awards, an annual recognition program from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and announced by the League at the Mayors Luncheon. Following is a report on the Borough's Arts in Highland program.

“The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls.”

—Pablo Picasso

Art has become a vital part of life for people throughout the world. It has transformed communities with an infusion of hope and optimism. It has transcended the divide between cultures and communities with its unifying spirit. And its ability to inspire people has brought a voice to so many who were previously silent.



In Highland Park, art is central to our community, and a part of nearly everything we do in the Borough. We have used art in creative and innovate ways, in order to improve the quality of life for our residents. Our efforts, especially over the past few years, have produced increased participation in events, and a heightened sense of community and tolerance among our diverse residents. Through art workshops, festivals and events, fitness and dance sessions, intergenerational and interfaith singing and acting activities, and more, Highland Park has

brought together our many cultures, ethnicities, and economically diverse residents.

Our residents, many of whom are academics associated with Rutgers University, place a high value on all forms of arts. That creative spirit not only benefits our town aesthetically, but has been shown to benefit communities in the wake of disasters. A recent article in The National Consortium for Creative Placemaking states that “Arts can help hard-hit communities with their local economies and prepare for the

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The New Jersey Building Officials Association was established in 1929. We are a not-for-profit organization recognized as a chapter of the International Code Council, and are devoted to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public, by promoting professionalism, education, and ethics.

NJBOA's Active Membership is comprised of licensed Code Officials and Inspectors of all disciplines, as well as Technical Assistants. We have Associate, Subscribing, and Honorary memberships available to others engaged in the building industry, including housing, planning, zoning, and manufacturers' representatives. As always, we welcome people from many career backgrounds to consider joining our organization, or come to any meeting as our guest.

As we approach our 90th Anniversary, **NJBOA** is proud to be the only statewide association, inclusive of Code Officials and members of diverse backgrounds, that is recognized by the Department of Community Affairs. **NJBOA** will continue to actively support and participate in the Building Safety Conference of New Jersey, as we have done for 35 years. **NJBOA** is an organization that remains strong in membership, and have welcomed an increase of new applicants this year. **NJBOA** is a tried and true brotherhood whose success is written in our legacy. The **NJBOA** Executive Board would like thank our members, Past Presidents, and communities, for their unwavering support, which has helped pave the way to its success thus far. **NJBOA** will continue to forge ahead with strong leadership and the proven confidence of its members, through this decade and beyond.

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Arts in Highland Park

next natural disaster.” (NCCP, 9/13/17). The study points out how artists can produce their work in many places, and are not bound to a large building or office. Art also produces emotional reactions, and during a tragedy, artwork can improve the emotional well-being of those affected.

“ Our many organizations in Highland Park work together to plan and execute art events to benefit our residents of all ages.”

Recognizing the benefits that public art can bring to our economically and ethnically diverse community, a group of young, and some not-so-young, local artistic volunteers, reformed the Borough’s Arts Commission to work with the Mayor and Council members in rebuilding



Art's Incentives

Highland Park recognizes the importance of art in the everyday life of our residents, and understands its impact on people’s emotions and well-being.

In Highland Park, our art incentives:

-  Promote good health, by encouraging residents to get out and walk to view pictures, sculptures, and more.
-  Promote acceptance, as a shared experience among different peoples. They bring members of various economic situations together in appreciation.

our arts program and bringing more art forms to the public. Building on the importance of art in the health and

wellness of all residents, they offered intergenerational workshops at our Senior/Youth Center. Our young residents, along with our active senior citizen residents, developed their speaking and acting skills, under supervision of successful professional artists, by creating spoken word art performances, which they performed for residents.

Our many organizations in Highland Park work together to plan and execute art events to benefit our residents of all ages. A Window Art Walk event is a joint venture between the municipality’s Main Street Highland Park organization and the Arts Commission. It features collections of artwork and photography by local artists on display at more than 40 storefronts in the downtown. Artwork is shown during the month of September.

On a designated day, residents and visitors are invited to join the commission on a walk throughout the downtown to view the art in windows and some shops, and learn about the different forms of art.



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Arts in Highland Park

Following the walk, they can meet participating artists at a reception at a local meet-up wine shop and bar. This past year, dozens of residents of all ages attended the walk and reception. Additionally, the regular “Wednesday Walks with the Mayor” (part of an effort to encourage healthy lifestyles), changed the weekly venue of the walks and treated walkers to a preview of the Window Art Walk through the downtown.

“Art is an inspiration for other communities to unite their own ethnically and economically diverse populations.”

Working with our long-time Highland Park Artists’ Collective organization, the Arts Commission also held an Open Studios program, a day-long event in which artists open their studios or display artwork in a central area, for display and sale throughout town. Even Highland Park’s Councilman Phil George participated by displaying his wood art, and opened his home studio.

Rx for Art

In August 2016, the Borough’s Planning Board initiated a creative solution to a policy issue. Our local Rite-Aid Pharmacy had inadvertently covered up several of their windows during store renovations, which violated our planning code. At the suggestion of the mayor and governing body, the Planning Board collaborated with Rite-Aid and the Rutgers Mason Gross School of the Arts to transform these windows into window box art displays. Now, the boarded windows are alight with a rotating display of artwork from Mason Gross School of the Arts’ students, including graduate students, undergrads, and children from the Mason Gross

2018 League Conference Logo Launched



The New Jersey League of Municipalities has unveiled its new logo and theme for the 103rd League Conference, planned for November 13 through 15 at the Atlantic City Convention Center in Atlantic City.

The theme, Municipalities Leading the Way, inspires the planning efforts behind this year’s conference, which includes sessions on brand new topics as well as fresh insights into ongoing issues along with an exhibit floor filled with goods and services to inspire participants in their efforts to lead their communities through times troubled and easy alike.

“With new administrations in Trenton and Washington, municipalities have the opportunity—and growing responsibility—to steer their communities successfully into the future by utilizing the information and advice gleaned from gathering with their peers. The League Conference is an ideal opportunity for municipal leaders to learn and grow, and we hope you will join us as we anticipate another year of inspirational sessions, exhibitors, and special League events,” said Michael J. Darcy, CAE, NJLM Executive Director.

The Conference website will launch this month, and more information will be featured in upcoming editions of NJ Municipalities.

Extension School in the summer. The window displays are curated by the school and maintained by Rite-Aid. A description of the exhibit is placed in a window at the front of Rite-Aid.

In September 2016, Rutgers Mason Gross School of the Arts approached Highland Park to enter into another collaborative art project, and the idea to build a Sculpture Garden was born. The school was offering a graduate class on outdoor sculptures, and needed a place to display the students’ works. Through this cooperative partnership, Highland Park and Rutgers Mason Gross School

of the Arts installed six works of art at our Environmental Center and entrance park on Raritan Avenue. Highland Park held an outdoor gala opening of the sculpture walk. We plan to continue this partnership on an annual basis. This art installation has not only produced a visually appealing play area for families, but it inspired a special Sculpture Walk With the Mayor in the summer.

As a health-conscious community, combining our art with health and fitness has been the perfect fit for Highland Park. In addition to art-inspired walks, the mayor has led events such as Dance



creating magnificent street drawings. Several street blocks dedicated to child artists were filled with children of all ages drawing bold and fun images on the street with chalk. Each block was sponsored by individuals or companies, and all of the money raised was donated to ASAP (Adult Substance Abuse Program), a substance abuse program for inmates at the Middlesex County Correctional Facility.

Throughout Middlesex County and beyond, Highland Park has gained a reputation as an art-friendly community. Artwork adorns the gateways to Highland Park, with murals at our Environmental Center and a HP logo-inspired wall painting on a retaining wall greeting visitors entering from one end of the downtown, and bold, vibrant murals decorating our downtown buildings for visitors entering from the other side of town.

Art is a symbol of our vibrant and welcoming community, through the work of our numerous musicians, spoken word artists, dramatic presenters, dance performers, painters, sculptors, and more. And, art is an inspiration for other communities to unite their own ethnically and economically diverse populations. 🇯🇵

With the Mayor at a local dance studio, and Fitness With the Mayor, a weekly activity held throughout the winter. These physical types of art expression combine two of the priorities—art and health—that our residents value.

Festival success

Our enthusiasm for the arts has incentivized outside organizations and individuals to work with Highland Park on creative projects. Local resident and former New Jersey Superior Court Judge Barnett Hoffman brought the idea of a Chalk Art Festival to Highland Park. Our inaugural Chalk Art Festival was held in August 2017, in conjunction with the Police Department’s National Night Out Celebration. The festival provided colored chalk for artists of all ages to use on our streets.

It was a huge success, with nearly a dozen professional and amateur artists

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FINANCE

Answering Six Common Questions about Reserve for Uncollected Taxes

By Sharon Smith, CPA, RMA, CMFO, QPA, Deputy CFO, Toms River Township; Government Finance Officers (GFOA) of NJ Treasurer

“Reserve for Uncollected Taxes”—I’m sure you’re familiar with the concept. You hear it mentioned a lot during budget season. Your Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or auditor may have explained it to you before, but I’m guessing there are still remnants of confusion or lack of clarity associated with this term.

If so, you are certainly not alone. I find that the concept/calculation/application of Reserve for Uncollected Taxes (RUT) is one of the most difficult to grasp for new and upcoming CFO’s and also for governing body members.

My goal with this article is not to hash out the nitty gritty components of this calculation—that’s what your CFO is for! I will, however, do my best to convert this highly important concept/calculation into layman’s terms by answering some common questions without getting too technical.

1 What’s the point of Reserve for Uncollected Taxes? What does it accomplish?

Have you ever been to the emergency room and afterwards discovered that you were charged \$120 for Motrin? I think we all understand why they do that—because the hospital knows that your insurance company may only reimburse, say, 30% of the bill. Therefore, the hospital must increase the price of the Motrin so the money that does come in from the insurance company meets the hospital’s cash flow needs.

That is, essentially, what we do at the municipal level to the tax levy, on a less drastic scale than the medical industry, through Reserve for Uncollected Taxes. We slightly increase the entire tax levy because we know our payers will not pay 100% of the bill. Then, the money that does come in from taxpayers meets our (and the schools’ and the county’s) cash flow needs.

Again, we can formulate a great budget and come up with a solid tax levy that we need in order support our appropriations, but without that upwards “bump” in the tax levy, we may not collect the cash needed to support those appropriations.

SIMPLE example: If we require a \$1,000,000 tax levy to meet all of our needs but we have a 98% collection rate, guess what—we’re only going to bring in \$980,000 of the \$1,000,000 we need. So we must bump our levy up to, say, \$1,020,000 so that our 98% collection rate will bring in the \$1,000,000 we need. RUT is the \$20,000 bump.

2 Wait—if RUT pertains to an increase in the tax levy, why/how is it an appropriation?

Because budgets must balance: revenues must equal expenses. If we have a balanced budget prior to RUT and then bump up anticipated property tax revenue by \$20,000, using the above example, we need to keep the budget balanced by also adding a \$20,000 appropriation to the expense side. That \$20,000 appropriation is called Reserve for Uncollected Taxes.

3 May we spend our Reserve for Uncollected Taxes appropriation?

No. If you look at a budget status report and see that your RUT appropriation has no expenditures charged against it and it appears to have an available balance, don’t make any grandiose plans for that money. That seemingly available balance will soon disappear via a journal entry made by your CFO.

4 How do we know how much to bump up the levy in a given year?

This column is for informational purposes only, and is not intended as legal or financial advice. Please consult your professional staff on issues of interest.

That’s a great question—after all, how are you supposed to know now, during budget season, how much of your taxes will be uncollected on Dec. 31? The answer is through estimation.

The calculation to determine Reserve for Uncollected Taxes involves a very key, important estimation—your estimated property tax collection rate for the budget year at hand. The general mandate, with some exceptions, is that you cannot estimate a collection rate greater than prior year’s collection rate. For example, if your 2017 collection rate was 97.5%, the collection rate you utilize to calculate RUT in the 2018 budget cannot EXCEED 97.5%. I recommend involving your Tax Collector in this estimation.

5 What effect does this estimation have on our budget/taxpayers?

You may be cringing at the thought of “bumping up the tax levy” when your goal is to keep it as low as possible. The answer to this question can get very technical and long-winded, but in a nutshell, the lower the estimated collection rate, the larger the RUT appropriation, or the larger the bump, and vice versa.

However, there are serious risks involved in estimating too high/aggressively just to achieve a smaller RUT figure, i.e., a smaller hike in the levy. If, continuing with the previous example, you calculate 2018’s RUT using exactly 97.5% from the previous year (the maximum allowed by law), it is important to understand that if your actual 2018 collection rate ends up being less than the estimated 97.5%, your fund balance could take a hit in the form of a deficit in revenues, depending on how far below 97.5% you ended up.

On the flip side, if you estimate conservatively, and are able to swing a lower estimated collection percent, and thus a higher RUT appropriation, you could experience benefits to Fund balance if

your actual rate ends up being higher than the rate used to calculate RUT.

6 Do counties and schools have to suffer through this as well?

No. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes is unique to municipalities. The Reserve for Uncollected Taxes calculation covers the tax levy needs of the other taxing entities as well. However, the entire bump must be applied to the municipal levy. May you estimate wisely this budget season. 🍀

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Post-Council Municipal Employment; Church Members and OPMA

By Frank Marshall, Esq., NJLM Staff Attorney



A former member of our municipal council, who recently left after failing to be reelected, is now being considered for employment within the municipality. Is this former council member legally allowed to be employed by the municipality so soon after serving on the municipal council?



Yes. A former member of a municipal council may be employed by the municipality immediately after serving on the council. Confusion on this topic can likely be attributed to certain portions of the Local Government Ethics law, in particular, *N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(b)* which states,

“No independent local authority shall, for a period of one year subsequent to the termination of office of a member of that authority:

- (1) Award any contract which is not publicly bid to a former member of that authority;
- (2) Allow a former member of that authority to represent, appear for or negotiate on behalf of any other party before that authority; or
- (3) Employ for compensation, except pursuant to open competitive examination in accordance with Title 11A of the New Jersey Statutes and the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, any former member of that authority.”

As you can see, while there is (with some exceptions) a one-year waiting period before a former member of an independent local authority can be employed by that authority, no such limitation exists on former municipal council members. Therefore, under the circumstances you have described, this is not something you have to worry about.

Another law that may cause confusion on this topic is *N.J.S.A. 40A:9-155*. This law limits members of a governing body from being eligible for certain offices. This law states,

“A member of a governing body of a municipality who resigns his office as such may be appointed to an office or position required to be filled by the governing body unless the office or position was created by ordinance adopted during the term of office of the member so resigning. In cases of any such appointment the salary of the holder of said office or position shall not be increased during the term of office of the member so resigning.”

This law applies under limited circumstances, coming into play only when dealing with resigning members of the municipal governing body. This law doesn't apply to your circumstances for two reasons.

First, it applies only to resigning municipal council members and not those who leave because their term has expired.

Second, this law deals only with appointed positions that are required to be filled by the municipal governing body. Because of these reasons this law limiting employment of former municipal council members does not apply to your circumstances.



I sit on a City Council with seven members. Recently, a new councilmember was elected who also happens to be a member of the same church as me and two other councilmembers. In the past, the four of us would meet and attend church functions together. However, now that we are all also councilmembers and because there are four of us, which represents a quorum for

Municipal Council purposes, we worry that continuing to attend church meetings together will violate the Open Public Meetings Act. Would it be a violation of the Act for the four of us to continue to meet without first providing proper public notice?



It is always important to be mindful of the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) as a violation of its requirements could yield negative conse-

quences for your municipality. However, the meetings, as you have described, would not trigger the notice requirements under OPMA, even now with four councilmembers in attendance. This is because the church

meetings do not match the definition of meeting found in OPMA.

OPMA defines a meeting as, “any gathering whether corporeal or by means of communication equipment, which is attended by or open to all of the members of a public body, held with the intent, on the part of the members of the body present, to discuss or act as a unit upon the specific public business of that body. Meeting does not mean or include any such gathering (1) attended by less than an effective majority of the members of a public body, or (2) attended by or open to all the members of three or more similar public bodies at a convention or similar gathering.”

I should point out that your instincts are correct regarding the increased concern for a meeting between four out of seven councilmembers as this would amount to a quorum. Or, as OPMA states, “an effective majority of the members of a public body.” Only

meetings open to and attended by a quorum would trigger the public notice requirements under OPMA.

Meeting for church purposes lacks the intent requirement necessary under OPMA, even though you have met the quorum requirement which would otherwise trigger OPMA. As you can see from the definition of meeting found in the OPMA law, for a meeting to be subject to the public notice requirements, such meeting must be held with the, “intent...to discuss or act as a unit upon specific public business.”

So long as church meetings attended by the four councilmembers do not evolve into a discussion on matters of public business, then these meetings need not be publicly noticed. With that said, it is very important that all four council members be certain to avoid discussing matters of public business at church meetings, lest they run the risk of violating OPMA. 

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GOLD DOME



New Jersey Congressional Races in 2018 Have Implications for Nation and State

By Benjamin Dworkin, Ph.D., Director of the Rowan Institute for Public Policy & Citizenship, Rowan University

Following his loss for Bergen County Executive in 1986, the late state Senator Matthew Feldman told disappointed supporters, “Relax, this is New Jersey. We’ve got one of these every year!”

This unique feature of Garden State politics remains true, and thus, no sooner had the polls closed in 2017 than Trenton observers were talking about the 2018 congressional elections.

On a host of issues critical to New Jersey, such as transportation infrastructure, Medicaid funding, and offshore drilling, federal lawmakers hold considerable sway over the state’s future.

The New Jersey electorate’s general distaste for President Donald Trump—he had a 31% approval recently—is contributing to one of the most turbulent congressional landscapes in recent memory. Five of New Jersey’s 12 congressional districts are going to be very competitive this November. Given that Democrats only need 24 GOP seats to turn in order to gain control of the House, New Jersey is sure to expect a great deal of national attention (money and press coverage) as these congressional races heat up.

Here is a snapshot of some of the dynamics in each of these five districts:

District 2 With 24-year Republican incumbent Rep. Frank LoBiondo’s decision to not run again, this district instantly became state Democrats’ best chance to flip a seat. State Senator Jeff Van Drew is widely considered the front runner for the Democratic Party’s nomination. He represents a significant portion of the district, is almost universally known, and has effectively become his own dominating political brand. He will also have the strong backing of the powerful south Jersey Democratic organization.

Though this congressional district gave Trump a 4-point advantage in 2016, most of that vote came from Van Drew’s legislative base. The assumption is that the state Senator will carry many of these Trump voters back to the Democratic column, as he has done repeatedly in the past.

With prominent GOPers declining to run, Robert Turkavage, a former FBI agent, looks to be the likely Republican nominee.

District 3 The irony here is that incumbent Republican Tom MacArthur has worked closely with the unpopular president and House leadership and yet is probably in the safest position of any of the GOPers in competitive districts. In part, this is because the Ocean County portion of the district remains strong “Trump Country,” and voters there typically overwhelm the more moderate population in Burlington County, the other half of the district. In 2017, Governor Phil Murphy won the Burlington part of the district by 15%, but was destroyed in Ocean by 29%, losing the district overall by 5%.

“New Jersey is sure to expect a great deal of national attention (money and press coverage) as these congressional races heat up.”

New Jersey’s third congressional district is the most expensive House seat in the nation because it includes both the New York and Philadelphia TV markets. The likely Democratic candidate, former National Security Council staffer Andy Kim, has raised over \$600,000, but will require millions more to move this race from “competitive” to “winnable,” especially when running against the independently wealthy and tireless MacArthur.

District 5 This district stretches across the northern edge of New Jersey and had been reliably Republican until Democrat Josh Gottheimer pulled off a stunning upset in 2016. Right now, the freshman faces what amounts to a “perfect storm” in re-election politics.

To begin, with the unpopular Trump and not Hillary Clinton in the White House, he has a much better chance of retaining his seat. His effort is further helped by a brewing bitter Republican primary between perennial candidate Steve Lonegan and former Cresskill Councilman John McCann. Finally, Gottheimer has staked out a niche as a moderate northeastern Democrat in the House and has raised \$2.2 million, well on his

way to the \$5 million he will need by November.

District 7 As one of 23 GOP-held districts won by Clinton in 2016, excitement among Democrats has produced several serious candidates, including former US State Department official Tom Malinowski, lawyer Lisa Mandelblatt, businesswoman Linda Weber, and David Pringle, chief strategist for NJ Clean Water Action.

Democratic enthusiasm, however, will be squandered by what may be a brutal primary fight in June. Much will depend on which candidate(s) can secure the all-important county lines, preferred ballot position in the primary, in the four counties (Union, Somerset, Morris, and Hunterdon) that make up the district. With low turnout expected in the primary, party leaders will have a very big role to play in determining the eventual winner.

A divisive and expensive primary will weaken the Democratic nominee. Lance's

soft-spoken nature often makes his opponents underestimate him, but he has faced grueling races in the past and enters 2018 as a serious, battle-tested incumbent.

District 11 Republican Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen is the powerful chairman of the Appropriations Committee, a post typically seen as the highlight of a congressional career. But between the new-found anti-Trump activism in his district and his obligations to GOP House leadership, Frelinghuysen's seat has become ground zero for Democratic efforts to win a majority. Mikie Sherrill, a former federal prosecutor, Navy pilot, and mother of four, has largely solidified Democratic support for the nomination. She's raised over \$700,000 and millions more in outside spending is expected for both sides.

In this affluent and well-educated district, a key question will be how voters see the direction of the country on Election Day. There is certainly an anti-Trump sentiment, but with the Dow

hitting record highs, voters may well be torn between sending a message and their own economic interests. How each candidate walks that tightrope will be pivotal to victory.

The national Democratic Party will, in the end, probably focus on 40 seats around the country in which to pour its heaviest resources. Four of those seats may be in New Jersey, and then of course, money will be needed to try and protect its most vulnerable incumbent in the state, Gottheimer. Republicans will be sure to match, and probably exceed, the money spent by Democrats, but, historically, any party of the president during the first midterm election will lose seats, so the GOP can expect a tough uphill battle so long as Trump remains unpopular.

The outcomes of these races will have a dramatic effect on the nation as a whole and New Jersey policymaking as Murphy and the state legislature seek federal support for key initiatives. **✚**

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

League Forms Task Force on Marijuana Legalization

Michael F. Cerra, NJLM Assistant Executive Director;
Lori Buckelew & Jon R. Moran, NJLM Senior Legislative Analysts

Throughout his campaign, Governor Murphy prioritized the legalization of recreational marijuana for adults and has indicated that he wants to advance enabling legislation as soon as is possible. Legislators such as State Senator Nicholas Scutari (D-22) and Assemblyman Reed Gusciora (D-15) have each introduced legislation to legalize recreational marijuana for adults. These bills have been described as discussion starters and both are very much viewed as works in progress.

While it appears more likely than not that such legislation will advance to the Governor's desk, it is not a foregone conclusion and there is public opposition to, as well as support for, the initiative on both sides of the aisle.

The issue poses a number of questions and concerns for municipal officials. As a result, League President Jim Cassella, Mayor of East Rutherford, is chairing the League's Task Force on this issue. Clinton Town Mayor Janice Kovach, League 3rd Vice President, is the co-chair. Mayor Cassella has directed the creation of four subcommittees to examine discrete issues, including:

1. Land Use and Zoning, chaired by Somerdale Mayor Gary Passanante, League Executive Board Member.

2. Public Safety and Law Enforcement, chaired by Bloomfield Mayor Michael Venezia, League Executive Board Member, with Lawrence Councilwoman Cathleen Lewis serving as Vice Chair.

3. Quality of Life and Public Health, chaired by Mayor Wilda Diaz of Perth Amboy, Past President of the Urban Mayors Association, with Vice Chair James Perry, Committeeman in Hardwick and League 2nd Vice President.

4. Budget and Financial Impact, chaired by League Past President Tim McDonough, Mayor of Hope, and Vice Chair Matt Watkins, Manager in Bloomfield.

Each of the subcommittees, with membership drawn largely

from the League's Legislative Committee, are meeting via conference calls with the objective of reporting back to the Task Force with its own series of comments and recommendations.

In turn, the League staff has been in regular contact with our sister Leagues in states that have legalized recreational marijuana to learn how their approaches impacted local governments. Likewise, numerous interested stakeholders on both sides of the issue have reached out to the League.

Facing issues

The issues faced by local governments are numerous and substantive. It's been well established that any enabling legislation will allow municipalities to opt out, that is pass a local ordinance prohibiting any such retail establishments within their borders. It's also been well established that municipalities that choose to opt-in will garner a certain percentage of revenues for local purposes. However, one consistent concern we have heard from our sister leagues is that the revenues were usually insufficient and that implementation costs were highest at the outset.

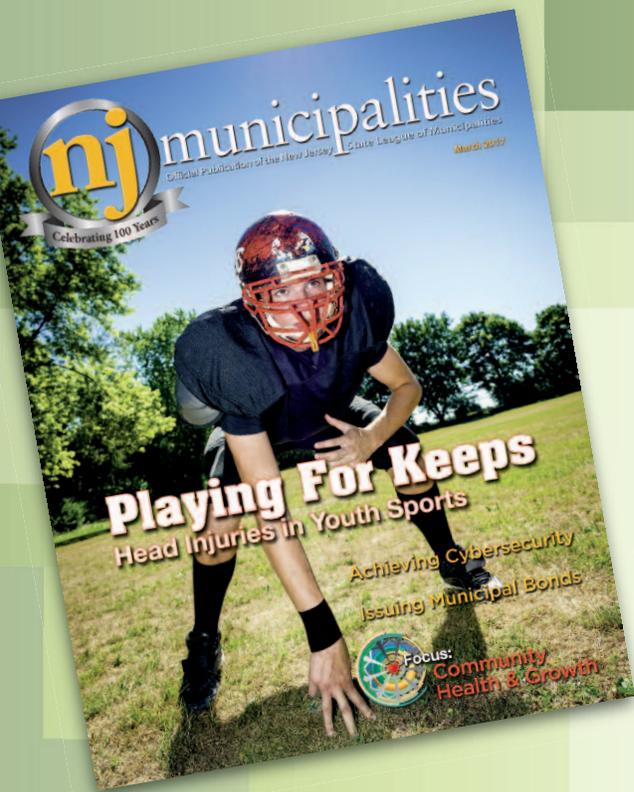
Public safety questions will need to be adequately addressed in any legislation. Local law enforcement will need training and one consistent question is how will testing be done to determine if a driver is under the influence of marijuana. Further questions arise about the impact on a black market, which may attempt to continue even under legalization.

There are a number of criminal justice issues to be explored. The legislation allows for expungement in certain circumstances, but a number of stakeholders would prefer to see decriminalization instead of legalization or, in the alternative, as a first step toward legalization.

Likewise, there are a number of public health questions and issues that need to be addressed, not the least of which is potential impacts on youth and the ongoing question of whether marijuana is a gateway drug.

And all this is before the overarching public policy question of whether legalization is in the best interests of the citizens of New Jersey, an issue which brings strong feelings on both sides of the discussion.

We will report back to you in a timely fashion on the Task Force's recommendations. ♣



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Around the State



Spreading Community Warmth

Camden Mayor Frank Moran, his wife Ivette Moran, along with family members were joined by City Councilman Brian Coleman, City Councilwoman Shelia Davis, City of Camden staff, and members of the Camden Fire Department on January 27 as they delivered winter coats and children's toys donated by an anonymous organization to individuals at the Anna M. Sample House. Dedicated in honor of Anna M. Sample, a woman who devoted her life to fighting poverty in the City of Camden, this transitional housing program serves homeless families and single women with children. For more information about Anna M. Sample House, call 856-963-0430. 📞

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