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Official Publication of the State League of Municipalities

January 2020

Plan of Action

“We need to have more mayors and town councils taking a proactive stance on issues and working together as one instead of 565 individual municipalities in Trenton.”

James J. Perry Sr.
NJLM, President
Committeeman, Hardwick



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New Jersey Municipalities Magazine

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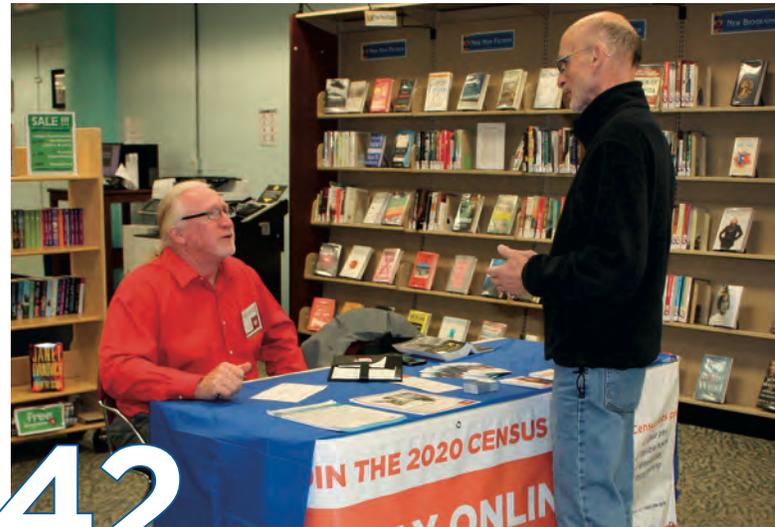
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Your Municipal New Year's Resolutions

Each November at the annual League business meeting municipal officials pass policy resolutions to guide the League in the coming year. You can view those at the League website, www.njlm.org. Resolutions are succinct statements that reflect and guide the League's policy position on important topics of concern. Just as the League adopts resolutions for the coming year, you should take time to consider your municipality's concerns and resolve to advance the best solutions to benefit your community.

For your consideration, in no specific order, I offer some resolutions you may want to adopt yourself for the New Year.

Resolve to celebrate the greatness of your municipality. You can do this through activities and conversations during Local Government Week April 19-25. Use this time to encourage civic education, community collaboration, volunteerism, and local pride.

Resolve to make a complete count of your residents for the 2020 Census. Census day is April 1 and a full count for your community impacts your access to resources and funding. The League offers action items to assist you at www.njlm.org/384/2020-Census-Information

Resolve to encourage and mentor at least one next-generation leader. Guiding your next generation of elected leaders is made easier by enrolling them in the Local Government Leader program. The program makes it easy

for them, or you, to track and be recognized for ongoing development as an elected leader.

Resolve to take time to refuel your knowledge and excitement.

Commit now to attending an in-person event, outside your community, that will expose you to new people and new thought to help you find new perspective on your issues. See the League web calendar for events available throughout the year.

Resolve to communicate with your State legislative delegation early and often on your most pressing issues.

Take a moment to update yourself on legislative topics at the League Advocacy page, then use the link to visit the State Legislature website and connect with your representatives. Copy the League on your communications. www.njlm.org/342/Legislative-Advocacy

Resolve to learn about and mark the centennial of Woman's Suffrage.

The League wants to promote municipal activities surrounding this important history and how its impact continues today. See the NJ Women Vote site for resources and ideas you can use. <https://discovernjhistory.org/njwomenvote2020/>

Resolve to Show Off Your City through the League photo contest!

Act right away and submit photos of your municipality by February 3. Winning could land you on the cover of this magazine and gain national exposure for the community you love. 📷

Michael Darcy

“
Take time to consider your municipality's concerns and resolve to advance the best solutions to benefit your community.
”

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Q&A with the New League President

Committeeman
James J. Perry Sr.
shares his plans for
his term as president
of the League

Q What led you to get involved in local government in Hardwick?

A **My upbringing.** My father ran for Mayor of East Rutherford in 1963 and was always active in organizations such as the Board of Education, and my mother was a county committee person. Also my childhood best friend Bob Ever's father was on the Town Council in East Rutherford and my Little League coach was long time East Rutherford Mayor Jim Plosia.

I always was involved in school activities and was even the president of the inter-fraternal Counsel at Farleigh Dickinson University. My late brother, George, who passed away in 2018 was also a longtime council member in East Rutherford, and my sister Barbara was president of the Board of Education in Wallington for many years. So I guess you can say it is in my blood to get involved.





Q How would you describe your leadership style?

A I like to get advice from those around me.

I plan on leaning on many of the past presidents and working with the League's great vice presidents as a team. I do not like to micromanage, this way more mayors can get involved and show Trenton it truly is a statewide organization.

Q What are the greatest strengths of local government in New Jersey? What are the most problematic weaknesses?

A The greatest strengths are all the diverse municipalities we have across the state,

with most of the mayors I know all out for the common goals we all share even though we are so diverse.

The weaknesses is our voice in Trenton isn't being heard. We need to get out in Trenton on the issues in full force. We need to have more mayors and town councils taking a proactive stance on issues and working together as one instead of 565 individual municipalities in Trenton and make sure the legislators and the Governor's office are hearing what we have to say.

Our local elected officials need to sign up and read our magazine, get our newsletters, and sign up for the alerts



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- Personnel Policies & Training
- Prerogative Writ Litigation
- Sewer/Water/CATV Utilities
- Tax Appeals
- UCC Regulation/Litigation
- Wildlife Management

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that we send out when important issues pop up. This way they stay informed on the issues and what they can do to help themselves and their fellow officials around the state.

We need to have more mayors and town councils taking a proactive stance on issues and working together as one...

Q What do citizens expect from their municipal officials, and has that changed at all over the years?

A They expect most of all HONESTY. Good or bad, I always speak my mind and say what I think. That has gotten me in trouble every once in a while because no matter what you say, you will always have someone who thinks different than you, who does or doesn't believe you and thinks you have an agenda. I don't think it has changed much over the years. When it comes down to it, the people in town want low taxes, the right to do what they want with their property, and to feel safe. That will never change.



President Perry and his daughter, Alyssa, with Past President Mayor Tim McDonough

Q What are your goals as League President?

A My primary goal is to find solutions to many of the problems that face New Jersey year after year that are always talked about but no action is ever taken. To start off, I will do this by taking the top 5 issues and forming committees with mayors from around the state and legislators from Trenton who are experts on each topic. My goal is that they will work together to draft real legislation to once and for all take these issues off our list of problems.

I also want to get out to as many local county League meetings to find out what it is they want to see us doing.

Q What advice would you give to someone just elected to local office for the first time?

A First, have a strong backbone.

You will be attacked. Don't take things personally, although some people will attack you personally. Do what you know is right, and remember you were elected by the people so vote the way the majority of the people want you to vote, not the way you personally want to vote. After all, you are the spokesperson for them, not their ruler.

Also, get involved around the state, not just in your community. I have met many elected officials from all around the state and have learned a great deal from them. Do not let political parties stand in your way of speaking with and getting to know any of them. You might not always agree on every issue, but you will make many great contacts and get many different ideas on how things are handled in other communities.

And I will say it again, our local elected officials need to sign up and read our magazine, get our newsletters and sign up for the alerts that we sometimes send out. This way they stay informed on the issues and what they can do to help. 🇺🇸

Mayor Perry's Acceptance Remarks

The first thing I want to do as the new President of the League of Municipalities is thank the Immediate Past President [Colleen Mahr] for all the services she has done for us over the last year. She has been a great representative of the League of Municipalities, she's been a great leader of the League of Municipalities, she's been a great mentor, she's been helpful to all of us, and she's done such a service for us and also for the women throughout the state of New Jersey.

I'm going to keep this quick, I have about 40 pages here, but I'm sure you're all anxious to get out of here and head back home. I want to thank you all for being here, it is an honor to serve as your President. I know that I wouldn't be here without the help I've been blessed with—many of the people up here, my colleagues on the League's Executive Board. Together, we've worked to make municipal government in New Jersey stronger, and better able to meet our citizens' needs. I want to thank the League's Officers past and present.



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Mayor John McCormac
Township of Woodbridge
★★★★★
JPM helped us hire two members of our Senior Management Team and handled everything tremendously.

Mayor Thomas Andes
Township of Denville
★★★★★
Dan and his team at JPM were instrumental in recruiting exactly the right person as our first Executive Director of our newly created Business Improvement District.

Mayor Fred Tagliarini
Township of Aberdeen
★★★★★
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.

Stephen Mountain
Manager, Township of Randolph
★★★★★
JPM was very responsive to our needs and utilized a process that was fair and organized. They helped us select the best professional for the position.

Mayor Richard Onderko
Borough of Manville
★★★★★
Best Municipal Government Advisors I've met in 10 years in elected office. Helped us recruit a fantastic Administrator. Thanks Dan and JPM.

George Jackson
Administrator, Borough of Eatontown
★★★★★
JPM's thorough recruitment and selection process led us to just the experienced professional we were looking for.

Mayor Dina Long
Borough of Sea Bright
★★★★★
One of the best decisions we made after Sandy was bringing experienced professionals from JPM onto our team. Joe Verruni and Debbie Smith provided the expertise and guidance we needed to navigate the recovery and rebuilding.

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Over many years, you have worked to make this association more responsive to local problems, and more respected by those who shape public policy in New Jersey. I want to thank all the Mayors and local governing body members, who continue to serve their friends and neighbors—ethically, energetically, and effectively. For putting the needs of others ahead of your own, you deserve the respect and gratitude—not only of the people who live in and work in and visit your towns today—but of those who will come to your towns in the future and you will serve in the future.

I want to also thank the outstanding staff at the League of Municipalities, without them none of this would happen and I can tell you the work, especially the conference—this is only a small part of what they do—but the work they do on this Conference is tremendous.

I intend to use the strong foundation that has been left to me by my predecessors to raise this League of Municipalities to greater heights.

Today, especially, I want to thank the League's Past Presidents—three of whom I've had the honor to serve with on the board. Mayor Albert Kelly, who I see as one of the hardest-working mayors in New Jersey, who unfortunately had to head back home because he had something going on in town. Our great outgoing friend, Jim Cassella, who after 40 years of service has decided not to run for re-election and will be stepping down as Mayor of East Rutherford after 24 years of great service to the town of East Rutherford.

I have to tell you, I'm especially proud of him. I was born and raised in East Rutherford, and my brother, who passed away last year, was also on the town council and worked with him for many years and was a great friend of Jim and Jim was a great friend of his. I want to thank you for all your service.

Also again, I want to thank our new Immediate Past President [Colleen Mahr] especially for all the work she's done for the League of Municipalities. I know I've said it all a minute ago, but I want to make sure that I thank her and let her know that I will be looking to her and to you and to all the rest of the past presidents and working with you for guidance and suggestions as well as all the other mayors here.

I also want to express my continuing gratitude to my hometown and my hometown's Township Committee, the professional staff that do so much faithfully in my town of Hardwick, and the rest of the people in Hardwick, the people who showed up here. I also want to especially thank our Mayor Kevin Duffy, who is here today. My town attorney Mike Lavery who's always done a great job for us, and the rest of the staff at Hardwick who for such a small town do such a great job day after day.

We are proud of our town for its unique, natural beauty. But the township which was once home to Lou Reed who took a walk on the wild side has also made a major contribution to

American pop culture and slasher cinema. Though Blairstown likes to brag about its role, and Hope has a few cameos, most of the action in the original *Friday the 13th* was filmed in Hardwick Township.

I'm looking forward to telling you all a lot more about Hardwick over the next 12 months; however I'm also looking forward to making my term in this office the best that it can be for the people who serve the people in local government in our Garden State.

I want to build on the work of predecessors to make our collective voices a strong force for better policies in the State Capital. And I want to encourage and engage more of you to become more involved by regularly letting your legislators and the Governor know about our priorities.

I plan on listening to your thoughts and your visions, and your concerns about the state of our local affairs today, and about how we build a better future for our state and for our League of Municipalities. And I hope you know that I am open to all your suggestions.

I intend to use the strong foundation that has been left to me by my predecessors to raise this League of Municipalities to greater heights. And I want you all to join me in that, so that, along with the untiring efforts of the League staff, we can more ably represent and serve your interests by giving you the tools you need to make your home towns the best that they can possibly be.

Now a few personal things, I'd like to thank so many people who came out and that are here today to support me. I have a full table of League people, many of them past presidents, a lot of the Warren County people, but I do especially want to thank first of all Assemblyman John DiMaio, who's been a longtime friend, since parties back in the 1990s, birthday parties for your kids. You and Gina have been great friends. I also want to let you know that they cut their vacation short down in South Carolina to come back here and swear me in and I do really appreciate that.

I also want to thank two other people, they are two mentors of mine over the last 10 years, and longer. One is the late, great Art Ondish. He and I used to work together all the time at the Conference of Mayors and the League. He mentored me so much and gave me so many great ideas and he is very missed at the League. And also Mayor Tim McDonough. I'm going to put you on the spot. Mayor Tim has been a great service to me, teaching me the roles of government, teaching me proper procedures, the ins and outs of government. Tim, I want to thank you for everything you've done to help me out.

But my biggest thanks go to my daughter—I love you very much—and my son up in heaven who is watching over us. I wish he could be here to see this. As many of you know, I lost my son four years ago to opioids and that's why I fight so hard to fight opioid addiction wherever I can with LEAD and however else I can, so thank you for that.

I'm humbled by your trust. I'm grateful for this opportunity. And I'm anxious to get started. And I think I'm the first president to get up here and cry. With that do I have a motion to adjourn?

Thank you. 🦋

SHOW OFF YOUR CITY!

→ Enter to win!

Send us photos of your municipality! Help us showcase our beautiful state by sending photos of your tourist attractions, downtown areas, economic development initiatives, parks, city halls, community groups and new projects.

Entries will be posted on the League's Facebook page, website and some featured in the April issue of *NJ Municipalities*, and possibly other issues. A winner will be chosen and receives a free League publication of their choice!

Photos should be high resolution JPEGs, at least 1MB in size. Please provide photo credit if necessary.

Photos can be submitted to aspiezio@njlm.org, or mailed on CD or flash drive to 222 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608.

Deadline to submit is February 3.

Entry details: Unfortunately stockphotos and images that are too low resolution will not be considered. By submitting a photo you are agreeing that you own the rights to the photo and that NJLM has permission to use the photo in *NJ Municipalities*, on NJLM's social media and website, and on other printed materials. A winner will be chosen on February 14. Please include your Facebook profile name and we will tag your photo on Facebook!



NOW & THEN



AMY SPIEZIO,
Managing Editor

JANUARY

This year we will explore the *NJ Municipalities Magazine* archives one month at a time, contrasting history with current concerns.

1935

Taxes

Those of us who live with the every day problem of local government, know only too well how utterly impossible it is to cut further into budget appropriations and at the same time save essential services.

-Samuel S. Kenworth, Editor,
NJ Municipalities

Professional Advice

"I think the first and most important function of any Governing Body is to obtain professional advice in the preparing and adopting a master plan, and a comprehensive zoning ordinance, to provide for the immediate needs of the community and its prospective needs for the reasonable foreseeable future."

-Judge Joseph Hapern,
Superior Court,
Middlesex County

1966

"We must prove that we can provide [public employees] the high-quality care they deserve—and which they've earned—at a better price. We can save them, and other taxpayers, money."

-Gov. Phil Murphy, page 20

Leaders Learning

"A host of new township committeemen and borough councilmen have now taken their oaths of office and have begun their terms of service in municipalities all over the country. They will soon find that they have taken on a task, which if tackled conscientiously, is both enlightening and a little awesome."

-Jack Trafford, Editor,
NJ Municipalities

1985

"New Jersey

is ground zero for rising sea levels, increasing storms and flooding, and rising heat levels."

-NJ DEP Deputy Commissioner Debbie Mans, page 30

Homeland Security

"It is vital that municipalities throughout our nation are active participants in the homeland security planning process."

-J. Christian Bollwage,
Mayor, Elizabeth;
NJLM Past President

2004

THIS MONTH

Focusing on leadership, this month the magazine shares insights from State-level and local officials to start 2020 off on the right foot. Don't forget to send in your photos for the Show Off Your City contest, we look forward to sharing the best sights and happenings from around the state. Email your high resolution images to aspiezio@njlm.org. 📷



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A Special Offer for NCPCCI Certificants

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2C Electrical Plan Review	2B+2C = E3 Electrical Plans Examiner
4A Mechanical Inspector One- and Two-Family Dwellings	M1 Residential Mechanical Inspector
4B Mechanical Inspector General	M2 Commercial Mechanical Inspector
4C Mechanical Inspector – Plan Review	4B+4C = M3 Mechanical Plans Examiner
5A Plumbing Inspector One- and Two-Family Dwellings	P1 Residential Plumbing Inspector
5B Plumbing Inspector General	P2 Commercial Plumbing Inspector

*1 B = NCPCCI Building Inspector General, 3 B = NCPCCI Fire Protection General, 3 C = NCPCCI Fire Protection Plan Review

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League of Municipalities Executive Transition

The New Jersey State League of Municipalities Executive Board has announced the retirement of Executive Director Michael J. Darcy, CAE effective July 1, 2020. A transition committee has been formed under the leadership of President James Perry including the current League Vice Presidents and recent past presidents.

League President and Hardwick Committeeman James Perry Sr. commented “On behalf of the Board, we thank Michael Darcy for his three decades of service. His leadership has seen the services offered to the League membership expand and the League’s annual conference continue as the largest municipal conference in the country.”

Executive Director Michael Darcy said “My decades with the League have provided unexpected learning opportunities and a constant variety of experiences. The work of local government and the League never ends but rather it transitions along with society and the evolving needs of municipalities and their residents. I look forward to assisting with the next transition.”

The executive transition will include the NJLM Educational Foundation and the 222 West State Street Corporation which are managed by the League Executive Director. 🇯🇵



League Mourns Chiarello’s Passing



NJLM Past President Francis Charles “Chuck” Chiarello, 64, Mayor of Buena Vista, passed away peacefully on December 5, 2019 in Atlantic City surrounded by his family and friends.

Chiarello began his service in Buena Vista Township as a committeeman 28 years ago and was elected Mayor of the Atlantic County municipality 23 years ago.

Throughout the years he worked on various committees to benefit the community, including the Milmay Volunteer Fire Co., where he had served as firefighter and secretary.

On the state level, Chiarello was a tireless advocate for local government. He served as president of the NJ State League of Municipalities in 2011 and was an active past president, frequently contributing as an author and speaker for the League as well as a member of several of the organization’s committees. He was the Past President of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors

and Chairman of the Atlantic County Democratic Committee from 1998-2004. He was also a member of the Atlantic County Mayors Association serving a 2-year term as President.

Chiarello was born in New York City to the late Francis D. and Blanche (Liebman) Chiarello before moving to Atlantic City. He was predeceased by his younger brother Francis Dominick, in 1965. He attended grammar school at Friends School in Atlantic City, and was a graduate of Holy Spirit High School in Absecon. He went on to earn a B.S. from Richard Stockton College, Pomona. His education continued with the Human Resource Development Institute / Fairleigh Dickenson University, Certified Public Manager, Rutgers University Government Studies, and Atlantic County Fire School. Chiarello was a self-employed sales rep for 28 years.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Cheryl (DeRosa) Chiarello; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Lois and Stanley Kotova; nephew and nieces Stanley M. and Daria, Brandi and Bill Dittus; great nieces and nephews Alexander and Nicholas Kotova, and Zachary and Gabrielle Dittus. Chiarello also leaves behind his beloved animal friends, dog Noah, and cat Jerry.

“Chuck Chiarello was a great friend to the League,” noted NJLM Executive Director Michael J. Darcy, CAE, “we are grateful for his many years of service and deeply mourn his passing. We send our condolences to his family and community, Chuck will be remembered and missed.” 🇯🇵

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ADA Considerations Discussed



Jennifer Roselle, Esq. and Katherine Stuart, Esq., both from Genova Burns, spoke to a full house about the obligations for employers pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act (as amended). The event held in Tinton Falls in December provided information about entitlements afforded to qualified individuals with a disability in the hiring and employment process; the obligation to provide reasonable accommodations and engage in the interactive process; and interaction of the ADA with other state and federal law. It also addressed the intersection between protection under the ADA and routine personnel actions, as well as the implications for medical marijuana and drug-free work place policies. 📌

Sustainable Jersey/PSEG Municipal Grants Program Open

Sustainable Jersey is pleased to announce that the PSEG Foundation is contributing \$200,000 to support the Sustainable Jersey Grants Program for municipalities. With this contribution, the PSEG Foundation has contributed over \$2.2 million dollars in funding to support local sustainability initiatives in municipalities and schools across the state. The PSEG Foundation's ongoing support of the Grants Program is an excellent example of how public/private partnerships can encourage local grass roots efforts to improve the quality of life in New Jersey.

This grant cycle of the 2020 Sustainable Jersey Grants Program for participating municipalities will award:

- Four \$20,000 project grants
- Eight \$10,000 project grants
- Twenty \$2,000 project or green team support grants

To be eligible to apply for a grant in this cycle, the following requirements must be met:

- The applicant must be a New Jersey municipal government.
- The applicant must be registered with the Sustainable Jersey program AND have appointed a green team that meets the Green Team Action Standard.

Online Application Deadline: Friday, February 14, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. Recipients will be announced in early April. 📌

@ For more information and applications, visit www.sustainablejersey.com/grants-resources/sustainable-jersey-grants-program/pseg-cycle/

JANUARY

January 11

Orientation for Newly Elected, Reelected, and Experienced Municipal Officials
Hilton Hotel, East Rutherford

January 25

Orientation for Newly Elected, Reelected, and Experienced Municipal Officials
Westin Hotel, Mount Laurel

FEBRUARY

February 22

Budgeting for Elected Officials
Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor

MARCH

March 27

Prepping for Labor Negotiations
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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. Our annual scholarships, totaling over \$30,000.00, have benefited dozens of worthy college students. As always, we welcome people from many career backgrounds to consider joining our organization, or come to any meeting as our guest.

As we celebrate our 90th Anniversary, **NJBOA** is proud to be the **only** statewide association, inclusive of Code Officials, and members of other 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 over 35 years. **NJBOA** is an organization that remains strong in membership, welcoming new applicants each year. **NJBOA** is a tried and true brotherhood whose success is written in its 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.

<i>Jerome Eger</i>	<i>Charles Lasky</i>	<i>John Fiedler</i>	<i>John Tracy</i>	<i>Lawrence Scorzelli</i>	<i>Pat J. Naticchione</i>	<i>Bob LaCosta</i>
President	1st Vice President	2nd Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	Immed. Past President	NJLM Rep.



A Model for Municipalities: Jersey City's Airbnb Referendum

STEVEN FULOP, *Mayor, Jersey City; Member, NJLM Executive Board*

When Airbnb announced they would spend \$5 million to oppose a referendum in Jersey City, I'm certain they thought we would roll over and do what other cities across the country had done when threatened with huge corporate money. We couldn't compete with this type of campaign spending, and I'm sure Airbnb thought we'd simply back down on our goal of implementing regulations to ensure our community's safety and enhanced quality of life, as many other cities they challenged had already done.

What they didn't know is that when it comes to our residents, when it comes to the overall health of our city, we don't back down here in Jersey City. Despite the scope of intimidation being forced our way, we defended our stance as Election Day approached by simply educating residents on what the basic regulations would do.

It was a monumental task with no bank account to utilize—but we were afforded and armed with the truth. My biggest tools were outreach and education. I set out to make sure our voters were equipped with the knowledge to make an informed decision. So, we worked with the community, and it was our very own community advocates who helped raise awareness and the advantages the regulations would bring to our neighborhood.

With that, we became the first city in the country to beat Airbnb.

Airbnb fought for the measure because the results of our vote meant a ripple effect from coast to coast as Airbnb says it has tax agreements with more than 250 jurisdictions across the country.

My hope now is that we have prevailed to serve as a model for all municipalities, big and small, throughout the nation who may be challenged by big money. I've already received calls from other cities seeking advice, and I'm happy to provide it. Those communities need to know that they too can fight for what's right and prevail. That's the message I believe Jersey City now represents across the state and across the country.

What did we fight against, you might ask? Well, for starters, when short-term rentals are unregulated, they spread rapidly with companies buying homes at a frantic pace to be converted into short-term rental hotels. This creates both higher rents and higher home prices for the rest of us who are looking to be part of a community. Every study indicates the reason for this

**We worked with the community,
and it was our very own
community advocates who
helped raise awareness and
the advantages the regulations
would bring to our neighborhood.**

is basic supply and demand; as fewer homes are available, it creates a situation where prices rise for the rest of us.

Secondly, there is a safety issue. Airbnb changes the fabric of a neighborhood as you no longer know and trust your neighbors, but instead have a different stranger moving in and out every single day, similar to a hotel dynamic.

Thirdly, there is a significant quality of life component for our community, as we have seen in cities across the country, where these short-term rentals are used for parties or huge gatherings, disrupting and interfering with residents' lives time and time again.

Now, Airbnb will also only be allowed in owner-occupied homes. So, the homeowner looking to supplement their mortgage or tax payment can do just that, but the companies rapidly acquiring homes in communities to convert into hotels will no longer be allowed.

The new regulations do five primary things to protect residents and neighborhoods that will be enforced by our Division of Housing Preservation:

- It requires Airbnb rentals to follow basic rules about noise, trash, parking, and safety codes. This is just common sense, and it makes sure that our neighborhoods and everyone living there and visiting them are protected.
- It requires that Airbnb units register with the city just like any other business, so that the city can track and regulate them, and so that there is transparency for the community that lives around them. This is done through the Division of Housing Preservation. We can additionally ensure these homes are safe through this process.
- It requires Airbnb operators to be residents of Jersey City and to operate no more than 1-2 units at a time. This

way people can rent their homes to supplement their income, but we won't allow out-of-town real estate companies to buy 10 homes on a block, only to turn them all into hotels, ultimately increasing housing costs for residents while decreasing affordable housing.

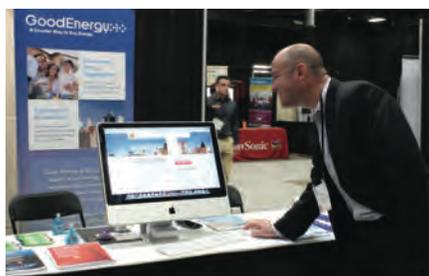
- It puts a 60-day-per-year cap on the total amount of time that a property can be rented without an owner or agent being available on-site. This would allow a teacher, for example, to supplement his/her income while spending the summer at the shore and prevents homes from being turned into fulltime hotels, 365 days per year.
- It restricts rental units from being sublet to Airbnb operators. There are management companies that rent dozens of homes at a time that should instead be available for rent by our residents who need it the most. When these homes are handed over to Airbnb

operators, it increases housing and rental costs for regular residents because it reduces our city's housing supply.

The bottom line is short-term rentals like Airbnb have had a multi-layer impact on many cities and their unsuspecting residents and can impact smaller municipalities just the same.

Not only did we beat Airbnb for the first time anywhere in the country, but we did it with 70% of the vote—sending a strong statement that we are on the right side of this issue. It's my hope that our stance can help other cities across the nation protect our communities and bring back the original intent of home sharing.

We have a responsibility here in Jersey City. As the second largest municipality in the state, we have a platform and therefore a duty to set an example and make it widespread practice for everyone to be able to defend their city for the betterment of their family and neighbors. 🇯🇵



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Governor Murphy at League Conference

State Chief encourages State, Municipalities to act together to get good things done

Governor Phil Murphy was the keynote speaker at this year's League Luncheon held during the 104th Annual League Conference in Atlantic City in November, and shared a message of promise and progress for the middle of his term.

Following are highlights from that speech.

“Acting Together

Everyone in this room shares a common mission. We serve people.

Let's act together. It's the surest way we can get good things done.

This is my third time addressing you at this luncheon as governor-elect, and now twice as governor. One of the things I am most proud of is that, over these past two years, we are who we said we'd be.

We haven't ducked problems because we decided they were too hard or because of who the solutions would offend.

The problems we inherited weren't created overnight, and they won't be solved overnight. Many can't.

But, we have put the needs of New Jersey's communities first and foremost. And, yes, we are making New Jersey stronger and fairer.

And, at no point have I lost my optimism. We are moving New Jersey in the right direction, and we are doing the right things to keep it pointed in that direction. I am extremely proud of our accomplishments thus far, and I am proud of the work we are undertaking—along with Senate President Sweeney, Speaker Coughlin, our partners in the Legislature, and so many of you.

“Eyes on the Bottom Line: Budgets

Over the past year, thanks to the work we put in to pass a fiscally sound state budget, we have made significant strides to rein in one of the largest drivers of municipal property tax increases—health care.

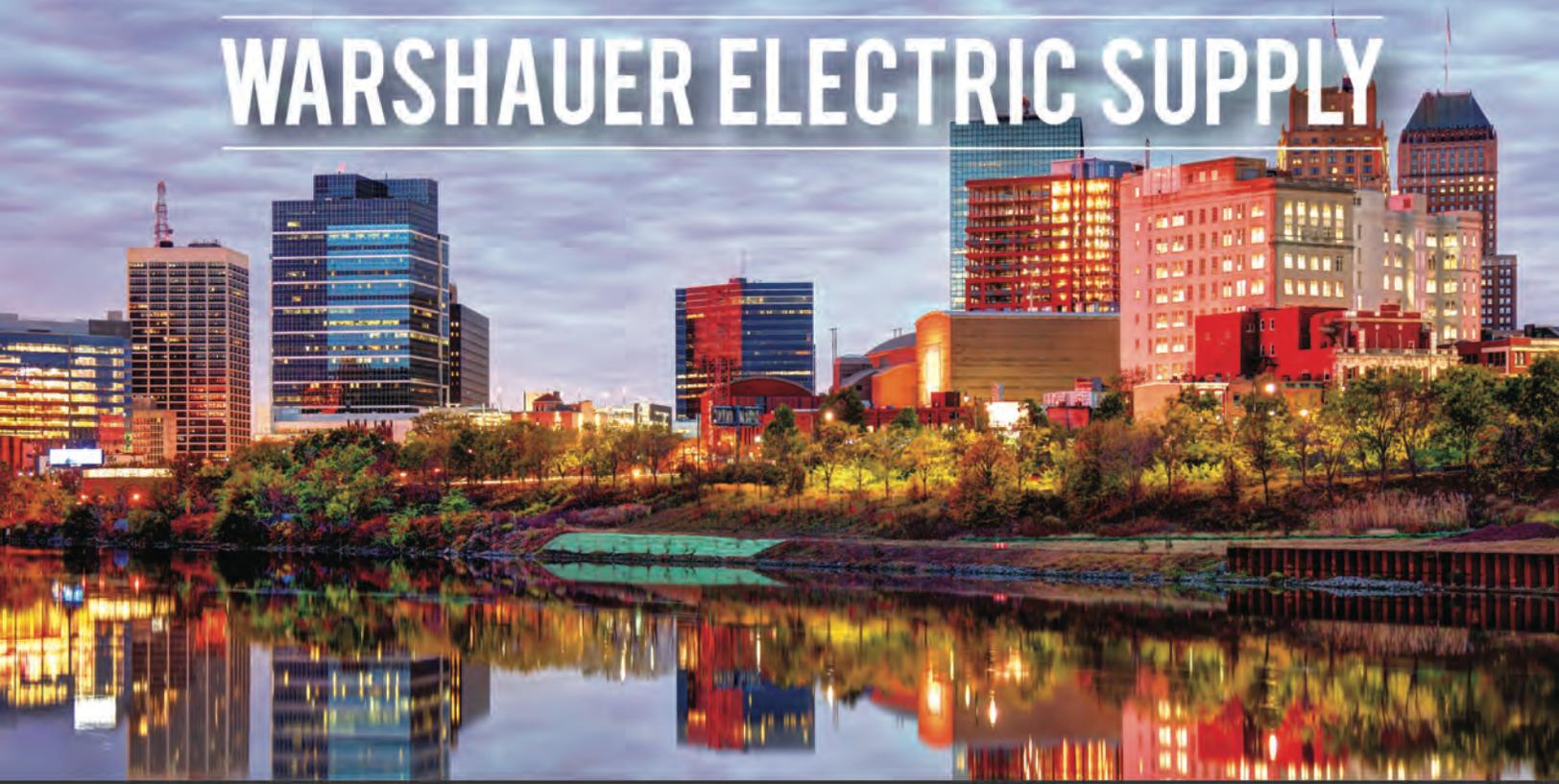


Governor Phil Murphy

We worked alongside our partners in organized labor to put real health care savings into the state budget, and, as a result, premium rates for local government and school employees are going down in the vast majority of your communities.

But, at the same time, we protected the quality of their health care. This is an important point. We can't be part of a race to the bottom. These are the people who keep our communities safe, who plow our streets and clean our parks, who teach our kids, and who, quite frankly, do the yeoman's work of making our communities run.

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We’re going to continue to keep our eyes on New Jersey’s bottom line, so we

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can continue to reduce pressure on yours and those of your residents and taxpayers. In this, we must work together.

“Shared Services

One of the areas ripe for such partnership is shared services, and I thank our Shared Services Czars—[former] mayors Jordan Glatt and Nicholas Platt—for their continued service and hard work.

**We know good things
can happen for
property taxpayers
when communities
come together.**

Over the past year, we built capacity at the Department of Community Affairs to work with you on furthering shared service ideas to bring them to completion. And, DCA’s opened its new Local Assistance Bureau—the LAB—to provide free, on-site, and hands-on technical assistance in a wide variety of areas, like budget, bond, and local public contracts law, risk management, and civil service matters, among others.

The year’s budget provided \$10 million for shared services and school district consolidation study and implementation grants, and, with that, we created the Local Efficiency Achievement Program—LEAP—within the Division of Local Government Services.

Through the LEAP initiative, DLGS will provide up to \$3.8 million in grants for local and county government efforts to help cover the costs associated with shared services implementation.

We also established countywide LEAP Challenge Grants to invite local governments and authorities to compete for a share of \$150,000 in available funds per county. Each county can have up to three winners, and Challenge Grant winners

will automatically be eligible for shared services implementation grants. So, I encourage you to apply.

We also set aside \$50,000 for each county to on-board a young professional—who will receive initial training through the Division of Local Government Services and be paired with an experienced county professional—to work full-time among and between county and municipal administrations to identify shared services opportunities.

We know good things can happen for property taxpayers when communities come together.

“Combating the Foreclosure crisis

This past spring, I was proud to work with our legislative partners to enact nine strong measures to help us more directly combat the foreclosure crisis...to support programs and counseling that we know can keep a family in their home and out of foreclosure...and to give you new options for working with financial institutions to turn a home that is in foreclosure around more quickly, so it can get a second chance, and so it doesn’t become a blight on a recovering neighborhood.

I also take particular pride in ending the raids on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and our Administration looks forward to working with you all to use those funds to strengthen our supply of affordable housing.

This focus is why I’m proud that our administration is doing more to partner with your communities on key local issues.

This protects the quality of life your residents enjoy, and ensures a stable tax base, which is good both for you and for your property taxpayers. So much of our effort has been to protect, if not enhance, the values of our residents’ greatest assets—their homes.

“Transit-oriented developments

This solutions-oriented mindset is also evident not just in our work to turn

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DOT Grants

around NJtransit, but our work with you so you can maximize its benefit.

For example, I am proud that NJtransit and the Middlesex County Improvement Authority came together so North Brunswick can finally get a long-overdue rail station to complete its transit village.

Last month, I also announced that NJtransit is reviewing its real estate portfolio to identify parcels that are ripe for transit-oriented developments. While that review is still underway, I am confident that, ultimately, it will allow us to spur real economic development across the state.

In that same vein, I signed legislation enabling municipal land banks to help more municipalities turn empty and overlooked properties into places where neighborhoods can rise. It's also why we have taken such a strong position on promoting our Opportunity Zones, and why we initiated the Opportunity Zone challenge, to incent communities to engage in smart, forward-looking planning.

Engagement is what leads to better outcomes. Here's another example—on Monday, I met with local officials and state legislators from our lakeside communities at the Lake Hopatcong Foundation headquarters for an in-depth discussion on preventing future harmful algal blooms. And, from the state side, we are stepping up with \$13 million in grant funding and local principal reimbursement to pursue long-term solutions.

“Lead

And, we're going to need cooperation in tackling the danger of lead. It is unconscionable that any child, or any family, in New Jersey—in 2019—should still face lead exposure.

The risk of lead exposure, both water-based and paint-based, is real and it is statewide. In fact, it is America-wide. Two-thirds of our housing stock predates 1980. Lead wasn't prohibited from house paint until 1978. It was not banned in plumbing until 1986.

I was proud to unveil a comprehensive plan to remove and replace every lead service line in New Jersey within 10 years, to ensure our schools are safe, to

I am extremely proud that this administration has not only stepped up with more state DOT grant money than ever before, but changed the way it was distributed. DOT grants are now distributed in alignment with your budget cycles, so you can get money in hand more efficiently and get projects paid for more effectively.

We're now doing things in the way that's best for you—not just what's convenient for us. This has allowed many smart projects to move forward—some of which sat on the drawing board for years.

One such project was in Lambertville, where residents had been asking for more than 15 years for traffic-calming measures on state Route 29, which cuts through the City. Our administration worked with the City to finally get it done.

This is just one success story, and I know there are many other potential successes in the pipeline.

So, I am proud to announce that DOT will soon be announcing another disbursement of municipal transportation aid—\$160 million-plus that will again be synched-up with the construction calendar, so it will hit the streets in time to get shovels in the ground come spring.

do more to certify rental homes as “lead safe,” and to do more to train the workforce we'll need to get the job done.

To make our schools safe, we're using voter-approved funds from last year's Securing our Children's Future Bond Act. To accomplish other parts of our plan I proposed a \$500 million bond referendum for next year.

“Corporate tax incentives

And, there's one more issue where I am confident that we'll end in the right place—implementing a new system of corporate tax incentives. This is just as important to the towns along the Route 24 corridor in Morris County as it is to the City of Camden or anywhere else.

I thank the Senate President and the Speaker for their willingness to engage in thoughtful discussions over the past several months.

It's no secret that there are very strong opinions on this issue.

But, at the end of the day, we all want the same thing—a sustainable system that will allow for the innovation economy to fully take root here, that will grow jobs and economic opportunity, and that will spur inclusive revitalization.

I remain confident that we will be able to move forward with a set of incentives that can receive broad support from the

Legislature and our business and labor communities.

“The next two years

It comes down to this—two years in, this administration has a record of accomplishment that I put up against any previous administration and any other state.

We are taking on the issues with sound policies educated by listening and a desire to simply do the right thing. This mindset is something I promised you when I first spoke to you as governor-elect. I am proud that it has been a promise kept as governor.

New Jersey is a special place—a patchwork quilt of 565 unique municipalities.

Trust me, that doesn't necessarily make governing easy! I'm reminded of the line from former French President Charles de Gaulle, “How can you govern a country which has 246 varieties of cheese?”

But, it also makes our accomplishments all that more noteworthy.

And, for the next two years—at least—I remain committed to continuing to govern as we have. Honestly. Humbly. And in partnership.

I thank each of you for all you do to better your communities—because it betters our entire state. And, I look forward to working alongside you in the year to come! 🇯🇵

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Immigration & Public Safety Highlighted in Speech

AG Grewal addresses League audience to discuss hot-button issues

GURBIR GREWAL, *Attorney General, State of New Jersey*

Attorney General Gurbir Grewal spoke at the League Mayors' Box Luncheon on Nov. 20 during the League Conference. Following is an excerpt of his speech.

One of the most important law enforcement directives in our state, a directive that addresses public safety, affects public trust, and is reflective of our work around our state to improve relationships between law enforcement and community: that is the Immigrant Trust Directive.

I understand that immigration in this moment; and frankly in any moment is one of the most politically charged issues we can discuss in this state and in our nation.

I'm not here to convince you of a particular point of view on this hot button issue, but instead, I'm here to share with you my perspective on this issue when it comes to law enforcement and public safety. That is a viewpoint that is informed from my personal experience having served for 10 years as a federal prosecutor and having served as a county prosecutor in our state's most diverse county and now serving as Attorney General in this state.

My view is this—recent rhetoric over the last number of years, coupled with zealous immigration enforcement, has created a culture of fear around this country.

And it is a culture of fear that has driven most of our most vulnerable residents, our immigrant populations, further into the shadows. And because of that they are afraid to come forward in some cases to report crimes. They are afraid to come forward to testify against an abuser. They are afraid to come forward when they are the victims. That is because they don't understand at some times the difference between a state law enforcement officer on the one hand and a federal civil immigration officer on the other hand.

If we are truly serious about improving public safety, we want the victims of all crimes to have trust and confidence in our law enforcement officers. To know that by coming to a local police department, by coming to state police will not land you in immigration custody. That a simple trip to a courthouse to testify against an abuser will not land them in an ICE detention center.

Because of that, we took steps in this state last year to formulate an Immigrant Trust Directive. This was not a decree from high without input from law enforcement across the state.

We had an eight-month process by which we listened to law enforcement officers from across our state; we listened to chiefs of police, we listened to immigrant rights groups, and we all came together to create and craft a directive that not everyone was happy with but in the end helped promote trust and helped promote public safety.

Despite our best efforts though, we still have not been able to promote that trust. Because it doesn't end with policies alone. It requires us to get into our communities and explain what the role of state law enforcement is and isn't.

We've been doing that, however those efforts have been complicated by political rhetoric....Recently, that political rhetoric took the form of 287(g) agreements which required us to update our directive. 287(g) agreements are agreements by which local law enforcement officers can deputize their officers to do the work of federal civil immigration officers. It blurs the distinction we are trying set in this state and does not promote public safety. Which is why, in a state of more than 500 agencies only two had 287(g) agreements, and in a nation of roughly 18,000 law enforcement agencies less than 90 still maintain them. That's less than half of 1% of all police departments nationwide.

That underscores that these agreements are not necessary to promote Public Safety and the vast majority 99.9% of law enforcement executives around this country recognize that fact. So this September, we revised the Directive to make it clear that New Jersey officers could no longer implement these particular federal-state agreements and undermine the important work of the Immigrant Trust Directive.

Armed with facts

But building trust takes more than issuing new policies. It requires leaders like you in this room. To go back into your communities and lead to be armed with facts and not be swayed by misstatements and misconceptions about what this directive is. So let me clear up a couple of them.

There are those who wrongly claim that the Immigrant Trust Directive provides "sanctuary" to dangerous criminals. That simply couldn't be further from the truth. In New Jersey if you commit a crime; you go to jail, regardless of your immigration status. No one gets a free pass.

There are also those who claim that we are forcing officers to



Attorney General Gurbir Grewal

release dangerous criminals back onto the streets, and that is just flat-out wrong. Those who say otherwise are misinformed or deliberately misleading the public.

The Immigrant Trust Directive explicitly allows county jails and state prisons to identify the most violent and serious offenders and to provide information on those offenders to federal authorities.

Let's be very clear about this. Under the Directive, if an individual has been convicted of a crime, any crime in the past five years, then the jail is allowed to provide notification to ICE. But it goes further than that. Even if an individual hasn't been convicted of a crime, but is merely charged with committing one, then the jail is allowed to notify ICE, so long as it's a violent or serious offense. That includes the more than 100 crimes that state law defines as a first-degree or second-degree offense, including murder, rape, and kidnapping. It also includes a number of third- or fourth-degree offenses including assault, arson, weapons possession, and endangering the welfare of a child; and it includes

any domestic violence crime.

Even if a judge grants bail to anyone charged with these crimes or an inmate finishes serving a sentence, our directive allows jails to hold these criminals on an immigration detainer until the end of the day. That gives ICE sufficient time to pick them up and transfer them to immigration custody.

**In New Jersey if
you commit a crime;
you go to jail,
regardless of your
immigration status.
No one gets a free pass.**

Now, some people question why jails can only hold individuals on a detainer until 11:59 p.m. and not as long as they want? Well, it's because the Constitution requires it. Keep in mind, when a jail is

holding someone on an immigration detainer it's because a judge has already ordered their release on the underlying criminal charge. And so the only basis for holding the individual is a non-binding request from ICE. And, frankly, municipalities that try to hold individuals for any longer face potential liability and significant litigation risk.

Our directive is designed to ensure that law enforcement agencies comply with existing legal requirements while also building public trust.

I want to leave you with one other thought: when I said this was a complete partnership when we were crafting this directive, there's no better testament to that than the fact that Rich Buzby, the immediate past president of the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police, is here and the current president Chris Leusner is here. They stand shoulder to shoulder with us supporting this directive because they understand like those 99.9% of law enforcement executives in this country that this directive is good for Public Safety. 🇺🇸

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DCA Assistant Commissioner
Kimberly K. Holmes

Updates from the NJ Department of Community Affairs

Assistant Commissioner Kimberly K. Holmes discusses municipal issues

DCA Assistant Commissioner Kimberly K. Holmes spoke to the attendees at the Mayors' Box Lunch held in November at the 104th Annual League Conference. Following are highlights from her speech.

DCA has been working to build partnerships in New Jersey and innovate by mining data resources within the Department to help all of

New Jersey's 565 municipalities. Examples include:

- **Financial Automation Submission Tracking** system, also known as FAST, is a digital, cloud-based local government financial reporting system that replaces Excel spreadsheets and paper documents allowing for a productivity gain of more than 500%.

- A **Property Tax Record Database** in development with the Bloustein School at Rutgers University. The Database, when completed, will be used to track historical and recent changes in property values and development activity. For the first time, we will be able to provide municipalities, communities, and neighborhood organizations with neighborhood data on property ownership, valuation, and development over the past 30 years.

- The Department developed the formula to fairly allocate **Opportunity Zones** to the communities most in need throughout the state. Those designations are allowing state agencies to focus resources on common geography, offering targeted assistance to municipalities with Opportunity Zones. The State's Technology team has also created one of the premier Opportunity Zone portal websites in the country with detailed information on the rules, guidelines, and best practices. The site also offers maps and resources specifically designed for residents, non-profits, and investors. To visit the site, go to: https://nj.gov/dca/divisions/lps/opp_zones.html

- An interactive **Community Asset Map** of the state that has over 40 layers of data covering every municipality that can be sorted by type of property, like performance venues; by socio-economic data such as median home value or population change; or by special area designations like Opportunity Zones or Redevelopment Areas.

- Three web-based planning tools now support local and regional resiliency planning after Superstorm Sandy. The **Microgrid Planning Academy** (www.microgrids.io) provides an educational resource to assist municipalities with microgrid

planning. The **NJcoast website** (<https://njcoast.us/>) provides mapping tools designed to evaluate wind, wave and surge hazards for both real-time storms and simulated "what if" scenarios. The **NJFloodAlert website** (<https://njfloodalert.com>) provides loss assessment modeling and mapping to determine the vulnerability of critical assets and infrastructure to help communities prepare and plan for extreme storm scenarios.

DCA also works with municipalities and local community organizations throughout the state to advance housing and economic development. We've done this by updating programs.

- The **Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP)** where we've allocated \$125,000 to 20 communities to begin revitalization efforts.

- The **Main Street New Jersey Program (MSNJ)** awarded nearly \$500,000 in grants to Main Street organizations around the state.

- The **Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit Program (NRTC)** funding increased from \$10 million to \$15 million while expanding the eligibility criteria to allow for new neighborhoods to benefit.

- The **Affordable Housing Trust Fund**, otherwise known as Balanced Housing, will have \$60 million for the first time in years to help create more affordable housing opportunities for residents throughout the state.

- The Department is in the process of establishing an **Office of Homelessness Prevention** which will help us to identify and create programs aimed at reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness in New Jersey. The end goal is to promote housing stability, individual wellness and help keep families together.

We are now also offering technical assistance with the newly established **Local Assistance Bureau (LAB)** in the Division of Local Government Services, which provides no-cost management consulting to serve municipalities with data-driven analysis and professional technical assistance advisors. These professionals help to enhance operational efficiency while maintaining effective public services. LAB advisors will evaluate the potential for shared services and consolidation, and facilitate grant funding for local and regional implementation efforts.

Finally, the New Jersey Historic Trust, which is dedicated to preserving New Jersey's historical assets has received an additional \$10 million in funding this fiscal year to advance capital preservation and planning projects throughout the state. 🇺🇸



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State of the Environment

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Address to the League of Municipalities

DEBBIE MANS, *Deputy Commissioner, NJ DEP*

NJ DEP Deputy Commissioner Debbie Mans attended the League Conference to speak at a State of the Environment session as well as the Mayors' Box Lunch. Following are highlights from her session speech.



Events like this are important because we get to reach out to you: the mayors and the municipal officials of towns, each with your own priorities and environmental challenges. Please know that DEP has a significant presence here today and we are here to hear from you.

Climate Change/ DEP Priorities

Climate change is the single biggest environmental challenge that we face here in New Jersey—as well as around the globe. New Jersey is ground zero for rising sea levels, increasing storms and flooding, and rising heat levels. Sea levels and heat levels are rising faster in New Jersey than in most of the country. The effects of climate change present real threats to our economy and our way of life, as well as to our environment and public health.

Reducing and responding to climate change is one of our top priorities at DEP.

The other priorities include:

- Protect NJ's water
- Revitalize our communities and protect public health
- Manage and promote our thriving natural and historic resources
- Strengthen the DEP

We also have the following principles: follow the law; use the best available science; listen to all sides; find the best balance; and be transparent and honest with the public. DEP has been focusing on these priorities for over a year now and I want to report to you on how we're coming along.

Setting goals

Priority one is reducing and responding to climate change. We have officially rejoined RGGI—the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. The first auction is next March, and we are now

working on the Strategic Spending Plan with BPU and EDA. The RGGI strategic funding plan will invest in incentives for reducing greenhouse gasses at small, medium, and large businesses in the state and in Environmental Justice Communities. The reinvestment of RGGI funds will lead to more jobs, cleaner air, and mitigation of the impacts of global warming.

Offshore Wind

The Board of Public Utilities selected Ocean Wind (Orsted) for the first 1100 MW; this is the first step to Governor Murphy's goal of 7,500 MW by 2035, which was just announced yesterday [November 19]. Ocean Wind is pursuing its federal approval, which will include an environmental impacts review, and hopes to be operational by 2024. DEP is working on environmental assessments for the marine environment and shore landing points, permits, and Coastal Zone Management consistency determination.

Electric Vehicles

DEP is also tackling greenhouse gasses by promoting electric vehicle use in New Jersey. As of July, we have about 27,000 EVs registered in New Jersey, an increase of nearly 10,000 from this time last year. We are also seeing an increase in the number of charging stations—now more than 900 public charging outlets at more than 300 locations statewide. However, there is more to be done to get to our goal of 330,000 EVs on the road by 2025.

Executive Order 89

Governor Murphy took the crucial step of signing Executive Order 89 on the 7th Anniversary of Superstorm Sandy in order to provide a more holistic strategy for New Jersey to tackle the impact of climate change. The Chief Resilience Officer will lead the Climate and Flood Resilience Program at DEP and works with the Interagency Council on Climate Resilience to develop a Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy. Assistant Commissioner Dave Rosenblatt is the Chief Resilience Officer and he is here if you need to talk to him.

DEP was directed to develop a scientific report on climate change regarding the current and anticipated effects of climate change in New Jersey, including but not limited to increased temperatures, sea level rise, increased frequency or severity of rainfall, storms, and flooding, at least through 2050.

The Executive Order also creates an Interagency Council on Climate Resilience to develop short- and long-term action plans to develop a Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy that will promote the long-term mitigation, adaptation, and resilience of New Jersey’s economy, communities, infrastructure, and natural resources, consistent with the Scientific Report. This report is due by September 1, 2020.

You can help us reach our goal by applying to the “It Pays to Plug In” grant program. This program offsets the cost of purchasing and installing electric vehicle charging stations for businesses, governments, non-profit organizations,

public places, multi-unit dwellings and educational institutions.

This grant program makes it possible to further expand our electric vehicle infrastructure and helps ease range anxiety for EV users.

Coastal Resilience

Our coast is an important part of our culture, our way of life and our identity as a state all the way from Newark to Trenton. It is important that we address the short and long-term impacts of sea level rise to protect the vitality of the coastal zone. As a state agency, we have a role in supporting our cities and towns. We have heard from several municipalities that consistent and accessible policy direction, technical and financial support is needed to become more resilient.

In order to support our municipalities, DEP established the office of Climate Resilience, which will lead the effort to integrate climate change into DEP’s program areas and activities. The coastal resiliency plan we are developing will include information on what municipalities can do to assess their risk to sea-level rise and coastal flooding, and what actions they can take to improve their resilience. 🌊

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Towns Honored for Innovation

2019 Innovation in Governance Awards announced

The 2019 Honorable Mentions are:

- Borough of Glassboro**
- Township of River Vale**
- Town of Newton**
- Township of Wyckoff**

Middletown, Weehawken, and Westfield have been recognized for their Innovation in Governance. The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities recognized municipalities’ Innovation in Governance through their annual awards program. The awards were presented as part of the Mayors’ Lunch and Executive Briefing Wednesday, November 20, during the Annual League Conference in Atlantic City.

The 2019 judges were: League Past Presidents Paul Maticera and Plainsboro Mayor Peter Cantu; Division of Local Government Services Director Melanie Walter; and, New Jersey State League of Municipalities Executive Director, Michael J. Darcy, CAE.

This award program was established to highlight exemplary local government programs that provide innovative and practical approaches to solving municipal problems and concerns. The program invited applications describing any type of innovation undertaken by municipalities in the past 16 months. The participants responded with a range of submissions that underscore the variety of challenges municipalities solve. Top three innovative approaches are shared with municipal leaders throughout the state at the League’s website, www.njlm.org, through the National League of Cities’ “Best Practices” database, and below.



Westfield: All Skate

As part of the Town of Westfield’s commitment to improve services to residents without using taxpayer dollars, we initiated our first significant public/private partnership with the installation of a temporary outdoor ice rink at Gumbert Park, converting an underutilized town asset into one with broad community benefit paid for by a private operator.

The Westfield Rink’s location is on a portion of the New Jersey Green Acres site at Gumbert Park that serves as a public

basketball court. The flat, spacious area was identified by local hockey rink owner Ken Anderson (Arena Realty Partners, LLC) as an ideal location in terms of space and infrastructure.

In the agreement reached between Arena Realty and the Town, with approval from Green Acres, Anderson is responsible for all site maintenance, utilities, skate rentals, group reservations, and restoration of the site to its prior condition. The Town is responsible for a small set of incidental expenses, including public safety/crossing guard wages and Public Works on an as-needed basis. The agreement details that any resulting profit from the rink will be split 50/50 between Arena Realty and the Town.

Overall, the presence of The Westfield Rink expanded ice time availability in the area, allowed hockey to grow in Westfield, and provided recreational skating opportunities for residents of Westfield and other nearby towns.

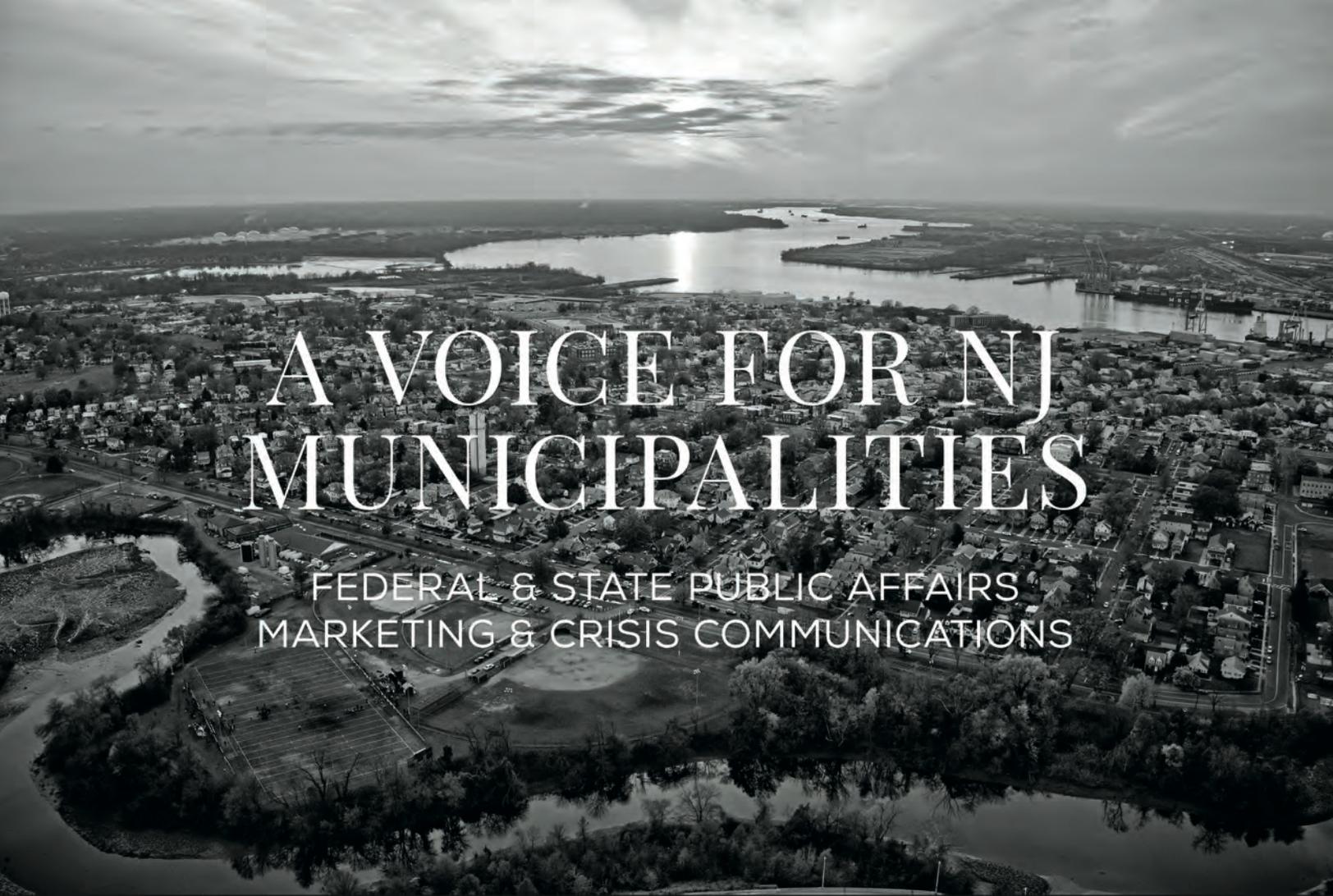


Measured Savings

As part of the contractual agreement, the Town of Westfield received upgrades to sidewalks and picnic areas valued at approximately \$36,500. In addition, upon closure of the rink, approximately \$6,600 worth of concrete blocks and stone dust was donated to the Westfield DPW and \$1,400 of shrubs were planted. These were year-round improvements to the site that outlasted the rink’s seasonal presence.



Westfield’s outdoor ice rink.



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Towns Honored for Innovation

The Westfield Rink hosted approximately 22,000 uses across 675 sessions and 810 hours of usage during the four-month operating season, which ran from November 2018-February 2019. This included high school practice, hockey clinics, youth games and practices, skating clinics, family hockey, adult open hockey, and public skating sessions.

Community concerns

While there was clear support and enthusiasm for the rink in the community, some residents in the site's immediate vicinity expressed concerns regarding traffic flow, parking, noise, lighting, and aesthetics. As a result, a Rink Advisory Committee was established, comprised of local neighbors, Mr. Anderson, a Town Council representative from that ward, Westfield Recreation Commission members, a Westfield Hockey representative, and the Mayor of Garwood.

The Rink Advisory Committee was established to provide a conduit between the rink operator and the neighbors, hockey community, Recreation Commission, and governments of Westfield and neighboring Garwood in order to address issues/concerns that arose during the rink season. Actions included biweekly committee meetings, a listening session at Town Hall, and an ongoing issue tracker throughout the season to log issues raised by neighbors.

The Westfield Rink is a temporary facility. After an initial contract period of one season (November 2018-February 2019), and with the approval of the New Jersey Green Acres Program, the Town of Westfield and Arena Realty Partners, LLC, recently signed a renewal for two additional seasons (through 2021).

By working with a private operator willing to make an investment to expand his own presence governed by the laws of a Green Acres site, the residents of Westfield and neighboring communities benefitted from the end product with minimal taxpayer expenditure.

Weehawken: The North Hudson Partnership: Launch, Impact, and Initial Successes



The North Hudson Partnership began as a

flagship initiative of Weehawken Human Services. Less than a year old, this ongoing platform involves more than 25 regularly participating organizations from across regional public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

Weehawken Human Services was created at the end of 2018 to promote the health and well-being of all residents, facilitating best-in-sector health, housing, and social services. It achieves its mission by developing and sustaining municipal capacities that address Community Health and Wellness; Housing Services; and Special Services for populations confronted by unique health needs, which currently include veterans, immigrants, and disabled residents.

Weehawken is a small, yet rapidly growing municipality on the Hudson River directly across from Manhattan. Like all communities in its area, Weehawken is experiencing a time of intense change. These demographic and socioeconomic transitions manifest, at least in part, with a risk of health disparities across diverse categories. Among Weehawken Human Services' first tasks were to ascertain the extent of these disparities, and then facilitate solutions so that all residents could access positive, sustain-



able health outcomes regardless of background or profile.

As a small municipality, it was neither feasible, nor prudent to position Weehawken Human Services as a direct service provider. It is arguably beyond the sustainable scope of any local government agency to serve as the first-line response to all contemporary health challenges. While municipal government could not itself directly provide comprehensive services, a robust role existed for Weehawken Human Services to serve as an amplifier, enhancer, and facilitator of existing resources.

To provide comparable outcomes for its own families, Weehawken Human Services worked to create the North Hudson Partnership.

From its inception, the North Hudson Partnership has been a collaborative effort cofounded by community stakeholders addressing community health and wellness.

IN YOUR TOWN

This project demonstrates the power of collaboration and innovation to solve for gaps in municipal resources. In this case, The Westfield Rink provided a facility for the underserved local hockey community, as well as additional recreational ice opportunities across many community groups—school events, learn to skate, family hockey, adaptive skating, and even curling lessons—all consistent with Green Acres' mission of enhancing recreational resources for public use and enjoyment.

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IN YOUR TOWN

Consider aligning with the Human Services Value Curve, like the North Bergen Partnership platform, which aspires to be generative in nature, with outcomes focusing on engaging root causes and metrics are sourced from impacted communities.

Initial priorities should be jointly informed by elected leaders' guidance, member organizations' strengths, and data-driven resources like a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA).

Relationships with Hackensack Meridian Health–Palisades Medical Center, the only hospital located in north Hudson, remain central to the North Hudson Partnership's decision-making process. Finally, it is necessary to honor the collegial, resource-intensive collaboration between health and human services professionals in fellow north Hudson municipalities, as well as county government, that was a critical factor in this effort's launch, and North

Towns Honored for Innovation

Bergen Health Department, North Bergen Public Library, Guttenberg Community Affairs Department, and Hudson County Health and Human Services Department all continue to be crucial contributors.

One of the North Hudson Partnership's first priorities was to engage the social determinants of health, especially in response to homelessness and home transition. Most importantly, the initiative created an inaugural volunteer



The **New Jersey Municipal Management Association (NJMMA)** is a statewide professional association made up of municipal managers and administrators. Founded in 1954, the NJMMA has been a valued resource for local government for more than 60 years. The members of this proud association know all about municipal government, and here is what you need to know about them:

- NJMMA's membership currently represents over 250 full-time professional managers statewide.
- Members are responsible for many of the essential services that are delivered daily to more than four million New Jersey residents.
- The Association's primary objective is to ensure members are well prepared to deliver local government services, efficiently and effectively, working in conjunction with the elected officials who serve in local government.
- NJMMA's leadership are the primary advocates and spokespersons for professional local government management across the state.
- The Association is recognized by elected officials throughout the state for its members' expertise, contributions to the enactment of sound public policy, and the delivery of public services.
- NJMMA has been affiliated with Rutgers University for the past nine years, providing members with the assistance, technical training, and support that comes with a partnership with a nationally recognized state university.
- The Association maintains ongoing relationships with other New Jersey professional associations, which collectively represent nearly all licensed officials working in local and state government.

For more information on the NJMMA, or to become a member, please contact Executive Director Alan Zalkind at zalkind@docs.rutgers.edu.

Towns Honored for Innovation

effort to staff the Hudson County 2019 Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless (PIT Count). The PIT Count is an annual, federally-mandated canvass of homeless populations which directly informs related policy decisions at all echelons of government.

With member organizations' feedback positive in after-action assessments of the PIT Count, the North Hudson Partnership next engaged one of north Hudson's leading, CHNA-noted public health concerns: mental health. In the spring of 2019, Weehawken Human Services worked directly with North Hudson Partnership member organizations to lay the groundwork for a broader mental health initiative, providing some of north Hudson's first suicide prevention trainings and hosting Mental Health Day. With these events culminating in 32 stakeholders trained and more than 50 unique households newly connected to resources, the North Hudson Partnership was prepared to launch its Summer Mental Health Initiative.

June 5 through August 28, the North Hudson Partnership hosted a weekly "Mental Health Meet and Greet" series every Wednesday evening at different public libraries throughout all north Hudson municipalities. These events connected residents to local mental health care providers, helping destigmatize mental health issues and expand awareness of available care options among underserved communities.

The North Hudson Partnership's Summer Mental Health Initiative culminated in North Hudson's municipalities passing Stigma-Free resolutions prior to Labor Day.

Heading into its second year, the North Hudson Partnership is positioned to continue transforming how human services are both conceived of and delivered throughout north Hudson. Through its facilitation of efforts across public, private, and nonprofit sectors, relevant public health initiatives are contextualized and informed by municipal expertise and priorities, yet delivered at little to no additional municipal expense. The savings this creates are substantial.

IN YOUR TOWN

Thinking of creating your own Tax Dollar Receipt Calculator? Here's a sample for a Home Assessed at \$400,000

This "Tax Dollar Receipt" calculator was created to help residents gain a greater understanding of where their tax dollars are being spent.

Middletown: New Jersey's First Tax Dollar Receipt Calculator

Like many other towns across New Jersey, taxes have been one of the biggest concerns for our residents. When the Middletown Township Committee announced its 2019 budget this spring, they were proud to highlight that the municipal tax rate decreased by over 2%.

However, local officials were aware that when residents receive their tax bill, it is often difficult to determine how their tax dollars are being spent since they can only see the percentage that goes to the County, School and Municipality. In an effort to help residents gain a greater understanding of where their municipal tax dollars go, the Township launched a Tax Dollar Receipt Calculator that permanently lives on the website.

For the first time, residents could visit the Township's website at www.middletownnj.org/mytaxdollars, click on the calculator, type in their assessed home value, and within seconds see penny for penny where their tax dollars go. Not only does the calculator show the total dollar amount going towards the municipality, but it is broken down to show exactly how much money is being utilized in each department such as Police, Public Works, Recreation, Utilities, etc. (see the example above).

This Tax Dollar Receipt Calculator is the first of its kind in the State of New Jersey. Based on the success of this venture, we recommend other municipalities emulate Middletown's Tax Dollar Receipt Calculator model to help increase understanding and transparency while decreasing misinformation



Middletown Tax Dollar Receipt

This "Tax Dollar Receipt" calculator was created to help residents gain a greater understanding of where their tax dollars are being spent.

Simply type in your 2019 residential assessment to see penny for penny where your tax dollars go. Don't know your assessed value? Click [HERE](#).

ASSESSED VALUE OF PROPERTY *	400000
MUNICIPAL TOTAL	\$2034.16 <small>This amount may differ slightly from that displayed on your tax bill.</small>
POLICE	\$479.48 <small>Includes Patrol, Detectives, K-9 Units, Community Relations, Police Administrators and Police professionals.</small>
DPW	\$410.92 <small>Includes maintenance, street repair, utility line maintenance (including MTFD vehicles), maintaining more than 70 parks across town, Leaf and Branch Collection, snow plowing and Middletown Recycling Center.</small>
INSURANCE	\$298.40 <small>Includes Liability, Medical and Workers Compensation Insurance.</small>

in their own communities.

The Township announced the calculator to the public with the following Tax Dollar Receipt Calculator graphic that was posted on Township's website, in the weekly e-newsletter, Middletown Minutes, and aired on the municipal TV station (with the URL). Additionally, the Township included information about the calculator in the July 2019 tax bill and biannual newspaper, Middletown Matters. 📄



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Tips for public officials governing at public meetings that are video recorded

ROBERT J. SHANNON, *Township Administrator, Wyckoff*



As more local governments enter the social media age and join the swelling ranks of governments conducting business digitally, the need to provide elected officials and employees with “best practice” guidelines are growing exponentially. Maintaining efficient and effective service within the confines of government regulation necessitates constant vigilance and leadership.

Increasing public access

Wyckoff demonstrated such leadership when in 2014 it invited taxpayers to conduct business on-line, from the ability to make tax and sewer payments as well as commuter parking permits, registration for recreation programming and volunteer and employee applications. Information seekers may also submit Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests by simply completing the request form online and clicking send.

In addition to providing online services, our website organizes municipal records in a single prominent location, from budgets to labor agreements to all elements of the municipal master-plan. The strategic use of technology increases public access and improves convenience for residents, allowing the public the opportunity to conduct business with their local government at times they find convenient and not simply during regular business hours.

In 2019, the governing body decided to further increase public access when it allocated funds for the purchase and installation of technology to live-stream and post video recording of governing body meetings on our website, we knew we needed a “best practices” approach. The use of this technology was chosen to invite greater public access when faced with the

demise of a weekly community newspaper and a great reduction in actual reporting by other outlets.

We wanted to ensure the public would have the opportunity to observe the governing body conducting the business of its local government. Among other concerns, we needed best practices to mitigate against a possible Title 59 tort claims of allegation or advocating of a specific action, or vitriolic comments that could invoke reciprocal responses.

The search for best practices

We recognize leadership as a practical skill which includes the ability to guide individuals, teams or an entire organization. Successful leadership requires appropriate planning and preparation. If preparation is the cornerstone of success, developing best practices for achieving success is critical.

In preparing our best practices, we used various resources, including the municipal excess liability/joint insurance fund library and our colleagues in other local governments. When over the course of our research we didn't find best practices, we developed our own.

We first placed written notification at the entrance to the governing body meeting room stating: “notice is provided that

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South Bergen	1986	225.1	23	9.8
Atlantic	1987	366.1	41	8.9
Camden	1987	196.1	34	5.8
Mid-Jersey	1987	168.7	12	14.1
Morris	1987	211.4	43	4.9
Ocean	1987	307.2	31	9.9
PMM	1987	78.5	5	15.7
Monmouth	1988	238.9	39	6.1
Burlco	1991	104.8	27	3.9
Trico	1991	200.1	37	5.4
NJ Utility Authorities	1991	166.5	71	2.3
NJ Self-Insurers	1992	65.2	5	13.0
Suburban Essex	1992	104.2	10	10.4
NJ Housing Authorities	1994	96.9	89	1.1
Suburban Municipal	1994	70.7	10	7.1
PAIC	1997	116.0	22	5.3
Central	1998	148.0	8	18.5
First Responders	2009	23.0	37	0.6
TOTALS		\$3.147 Billion	582	Average \$5.6 million

—”

“The priority we placed on developing extensive workplace safety training programs and keeping non-claim costs low has really paid off for our members.”

*Richard Hirsch
MEL Chairperson*

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MEL

the township committee meetings are video and audio recorded and those recordings will be posted on the municipal website.”

We also modified our Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) annual notice, 48-hour notices and special meeting notices or rescheduled meeting notices to ensure that the agendas posted and mailed for compliance with the OPMA include a statement that township committee meetings are video and audio recorded. We also post the OPMA notices on our municipal website.

Finally, we changed the template for township committee agendas so they include the following notice to the public:

As a visitor attending this public meeting, your presence and attendance may be recorded. By remaining in the meeting room during the meeting, it is assumed your consent is given if your image is broadcasted.

There may be situations where, due to technical difficulties, live streaming or the recording of a meeting may not be available. The township shall not be responsible for and accepts no liability in the event that the recording or live video streaming of the meeting is unavailable.

This is us

Local government operates under significant state and federal regulation not often required of private businesses, or even of the state and federal governments. The responsibility of providing officials and employees with up to date “best practices” and guidelines is increasingly important in delivering the most effective service in a climate of decreasing personal face-to-face interactions with residents.

Is a little bit of a sense of community lost as we move forward? Possibly, however, being able to provide more convenient service and access to municipal government to our increasingly busy and mobile residents is important. 🦋

Bob Shannon has served as the Wyckoff Township Administrator since 1984. He writes and lectures on a variety of municipal issues, including ethics, internal controls, purchasing, and the governing process.



When the Camera's Turned On: Suggested Best Practices



In accordance with P.L. 2002, Chapter 80, approved September 2002, the public has an opportunity to bring matters to the attention of the governing body which the “speakers” believe are of concern to the residents of the Township of Wyckoff. The law states, “for public comment on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the resident of the municipality.”

We provide these guidelines to members of our governing body and to staff in attendance at the council meetings:

1. Always remain civil and professional in demeanor. Do not allow a speaker to bait you into losing your temper.
2. When a speaker alleges a situation which they believe is hazardous, simply let them continue to provide remarks and advise them that their comments will be forwarded to the appropriate department for review. If the intent of the comment is not clear, ask questions to develop a clear understanding.
3. Try to remain expressionless (e.g., do not roll your eyes) even when outrageous statements with broad generalities are stated.
4. Do not rustle papers on the dais, it impacts the quality of the audio recording.
5. Do not verbalize comments to the person sitting next to you or verbalize your opinion to yourself—they will be heard on the audio recording and depicted in the video recording. When in doubt, don't say it!
6. Refrain from creating noise. For example, do not move one's chair, tap one's foot, etc.
7. Do not tap the microphone. It may damage its functionality. Please say “check” or “test” to see if your microphone is working properly.
8. Refrain from eating snacks while seated on the dais, chewing will be depicted in the video recording.
9. The chair shall have the responsibility to recess the discussion to alert or caution members of the public that the following actions will impact the quality of the recording:
 - a. Speaking from their seats
 - b. Rustling papers
 - c. Noise from moving chairs
 - d. Similar audience inappropriate court room demeanor
10. Once a speaker has concluded his/her remarks, the chair would request that the next speaker come forward.
11. Do not text, read or type emails while on the dais. Put your phone away. If you must access your phone to check your availability for a meeting date under discussion, you could simply state, “I am checking my calendar.”
12. Be aware of the potential perceptions of your actions on the dais. If you exit your seat to obtain a drink etc. And/or if you do it numerous times during the meeting you will convey a perception that you are not providing the appropriate attention or commitment to your municipal responsibilities.
13. When a member of the public comes forward, the mayor will ask the member of the public to speak into the microphone and state their name and address. (Note: the municipal clerk cannot complete the meeting minutes in a thorough and complete manner without the name and address of the citizens who choose to speak.) If a citizen refuses to provide a name and address, s/he will be allowed to speak. The municipal attorney states that citizens are asked to provide their name and address so that the governing body may have a chance to reply to comments after the meeting should it deem such replies necessary.
14. When in doubt, don't say it. Video recordings of meetings will be posted online and preserved. For example, your comments in January can be compared to your comments later in the year or in future years: When in doubt, don't say it.
15. The most effective best practice I received was from a respected colleague who suggested videoing a governing body meeting before the official start of the program to provide the governing body the opportunity to critique themselves as a practice session before beginning the program. We utilized a practice session successfully. I recommend it as a best practice.

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the one among
all of us.**

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2020 Census

Understanding the critical role libraries play

ROBERTO FRUGONE, *Media Specialist,*
New York Regional Census Center,
U.S. Census Bureau

In a few short months, residents across the country will be called upon to be counted in the 2020 Census. Eager to ensure a complete and accurate count of their community, Census partners across the country are doing their part to spread the message that participation is safe, easy, and important. Key allies in this effort are local libraries.

Mandated by Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, a headcount of all persons living in the United States is conducted every 10 years. The results are important, as they determine how many seats in the U.S. House of Representatives are allocated to each state. In addition, over \$675 billion dollars in federal funds are distributed to states based on those same figures. These federal funds pay for programs including Medicaid, SNAP, Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, Head Start, and many more.



New For 2020

For the 2020 Census, the Bureau has added additional ways to self-respond. For the first time ever, Census responses will be accepted online and by phone. These options are in addition to past methods that include completing a paper questionnaire or receiving the help of a Census Taker.

Consistent from previous Censuses are the protections afforded to individual responses. Title 13 of U.S. Code restricts access to individual responses and protects your data from ever being shared with another federal department or agency, local government, court, or law enforcement. Census data can only be used for statistical purposes.

safe spaces, centers of learning, and a critical partner to ensure Census information reaches each community. 📍

@ Information about Complete Count Committees formed in your neighborhood and examples of how to get involved can be found at www.2020census.gov.

Enlisting the help of local partners is critical to ensure communities understand this important message. Trusted voices from the community are helping spread the safe, easy, and important message and working to ensure their community receives their fair share of representation in Congress and federal funding.

Checking out Census information

During a recent peak recruiting week, the Atlantic County Library System really stepped up their efforts. For two days in October, all nine branches in the system hosted Census stations where residents could come in, receive information about the census, and even apply online for a Census job.

“Our library system serves a large and diverse population, representing many cultures and languages,” stated Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson. “The Census has a significant impact on our communities in determining the amount of federal funding for critical programs and services. Atlantic County is working with the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure our residents are aware of the importance of their participation well before it is time to be counted in addition to the job opportunities associated with this significant task.”

In coordination with U.S. Census Bureau’s Partnership Specialist Lori Carlin and with the support of the Atlantic County Complete Count Committee, the Atlantic County Library System has held a number of these special events and continues to offer a space at each branch for Census information.

Libraries in municipalities across the state and the nation are valuable resources,

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Fighting the good fight. Making a difference every day. It's what we believe in, and why we're proud to support the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

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Blockchain for Municipalities

KURT M. WATKINS, ESQ., *Partner, MG Miller*

The secure decentralized database management system commonly referred to as “blockchain” rose to prominence with the rising prices and use of Bitcoin. While many still associate “blockchain” with Bitcoin (or “cryptocurrencies” generally), blockchain is just the technology that makes cryptocurrencies possible.

Blockchain is fundamentally a secure, reliable, semi-transparent, database management system.

One of the most prominent and persistent pain points of all government is accurately and seamlessly storing, retrieving, updating, and controlling documents and information. Blockchain addresses these pain points because it provides synchronized and unalterable verification of data and records, transparency as records work through governmental departments, and far better cybersecurity.

How is it different?

Briefly, blockchain is different than other database technologies for a variety of reasons. Current databases are centralized. That is, they have one location where the “correct” version of data is stored. Accessing, creating, modifying, or deleting the data in the database requires that the user verify him or herself to the system as having permission to perform that transaction. However, no matter the security, verification policies, and tools implemented, this system is prone to hacking and errors, both big and small.

A blockchain database is decentralized. While there can be significant differences among kinds of blockchains, they all store the data of a database, or some form of it, on all or most of the computers, commonly called “nodes,” supporting the blockchain. These nodes together form the blockchain network. This design creates two important features: 1) inalterability and 2) cybersecurity.

Inalterability Providing and maintaining correct permissions for users on a computer network is expensive, unreliable, and difficult to manage. Nonetheless, ensuring accurate permissions is vitally important; otherwise, the documents and records generated by governments may be improperly modified in a difficult to trace way.

In blockchain speak, inalterability is known as immutability. By design, a blockchain network does not allow any record stored on it to be modified in a non-traceable way. Once a record is uploaded to the blockchain network, it remains permanently frozen with a record of when it was uploaded and

who uploaded it. If modifications need to be made to the record, then the network stores the new record on top of the old record. This creates a traceable and instantly auditable accounting of all government records. For New Jersey municipalities, this would resolve the current concerns regarding record retention policies.

Cybersecurity Present cybersecurity solutions are all designed as layers on top of preexisting infrastructure. This is because the central server model is an inherently weak cybersecurity model as it creates a single point of failure. Efforts to segment and protect the central server create confusion, expenses, and ultimately so much frustration that users develop even less secure workarounds.

Robust cybersecurity is inherent in any blockchain network. Any user attempting to access the network needs to prove him or herself to the majority of the nodes on the system at the same time. This means, that if a user can compromise or gain access to an otherwise restricted node, it will not be enough to allow the malicious actor to do anything. The malicious actor must simultaneously compromise the network as a whole before being able to perform any action. This means that if an unwitting user clicks on a malicious email, the most damage that could happen is that user has to have their computer wiped.

Because blockchain is cybersecurity by design, it is easier to maintain than current systems and provides comfort to municipal management and citizen alike.

Municipal Uses

Internal Records and Audits. The inalterability of records in a blockchain system means it is also easily auditable. Since a record on a blockchain system can only be created or modified with the consent of the network, the network records each time it gave consent, and to whom it gave consent. Therefore, if a municipality needs to audit its records to find out when or by whom a mistake was made, when an initial request was submitted, or when a payment was made and where it went, it can run a simple computer function on its blockchain system to find out.

The function would quickly return in real-time every single person who created the record, accessed the record, what modifications (if any) were made, and when and for how long the person engaged with the record. Financially, this also means that a municipality can track when payments are made, by whom, for how much, and where they went. In effect, both records and payments can be managed collectively or separately as needed but without risking confusion or disorganization.

Property Taxes and Utilities. The current system of providing a property owner with their tax and utility bills in a transparent way coupled with the receipt of payment for those same bills creates privacy concerns and additional expenses.

By storing and updating tax information on a blockchain through a website accessible to the public, a property owner can simply login and view accurate, real-time, tax and utility information as well as easily authorize a timely payment of their taxes. Each time the property owner updates the record, submits a document, or authorizes a payment, a secure, inalterable record will be generated showing the action the property owner took.

Moreover, since blockchain networks are especially effective at storing and transferring value at low cost, both municipality and resident can be certain when and for how much a payment was made, at minimal expense.

Ease-of-Use and Privacy. If a resident

needs to obtain a right from the municipality, that resident needs to submit both documents and payments as well as assist with the maintenance of that right, whether by providing updates or further payments. Because a blockchain network is inalterable and secure, the municipality can interface with its residents more directly to provide these services and protect private information.

A resident would submit their request along with the necessary documentation and payments. These would then be routed for review to the appropriate department. The department would render its determination and whether any follow up is required. Once the request is approved, proof of that approval can be sent electronically or physically to the resident. If the resident is required to display the approval, the notice would contain a reference to the electronic blockchain record so that any inspector can instantly check the validity of the approval, when it was approved, and who approved it.

Conclusion & current use cases

The above represents easy use cases for blockchain in New Jersey local government, however, there are many more. In the United States, Illinois currently leads the way for government use of blockchain, but there are several other states exploring the opportunities. Recently, New Jersey has begun its exploration with the newly formed Blockchain Initiative Task Force.

Blockchain offers too many distinct and unique advantages to New Jersey municipalities to be ignored. Governments that adopt and successfully deploy blockchain networks will be able to provide greater transparency and automated accessibility to its citizens, increase cybersecurity and privacy, reduce errors, and substantially decrease the amount of money spent on verification services and personnel. 📌

@ For more information about issues, please visit:
www.ncsl.org/research/financial-services-and-commerce/blockchain-2019-legislation.aspx

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GOLD DOME



Liberals, the Left, and the EDA Proxy Fight

The battle over tax credits is part of a bigger Democratic war over political power.

BEN DWORKIN, PH.D., *Director, Rowan University Institute for Public Policy & Citizenship (RIPPAC)*

When asked what still surprised him about New Jersey politics, a veteran player in the Democratic Party shared that it was the deference that so many legislators show to the Senate President and the Assembly Speaker, and to party leaders in their home counties. As the party in control of both houses of the Legislature and the governor's office, it's natural for issue advocates to focus on Democrats when pushing for a new law. But even when you convince a legislator on the merits of a bill, he or she often then says something like, "I'm with you, but I have to clear it with so-and-so legislative or party leader."

The current system in New Jersey is one where legislative decisions are often based on the leverage of political power, rather than the arguments for or against a given bill.

To be sure, this is a similar dynamic to previous periods in the state's political history, and as before, there continue to be attempts to reconfigure the system so that the decision-making power doesn't skew towards just a handful of key individuals.

In 2019, a new reform effort is underway in New Jersey Democratic circles, and it reflects a similar fight taking place at the national level where the party's presidential nomination process is in full swing.

Nationally, this is a fight between Democrats who emphasize compromise, electability, and working through the system, and those who insist on broader, more fundamental and much more immediate changing of the system.

Think Vice President Joe Biden in one corner and Senator Bernie Sanders in the other.

Or to put it more ideological terms: On one side, we have liberals. On the other side we have the left.

This national debate has filtered down into New Jersey's political landscape. Democratic Governor Phil Murphy has a strong sense of the increasing popularity of a "change the system" agenda. He wants to ride the wave of what's coming, and

lead it if he can.

The best example of this dynamic taking place in New Jersey is the debate over corporate tax credits.

In his January 2019 State of the State address, Murphy began a focused attack against the administration of New Jersey's corporate tax incentive programs. The issue has dominated the Governor's agenda for the past year.

The power of legislative leaders has been controversial since the 1993 reforms, but it may face its strongest challenge in the near future.

While, at the surface level, this is a debate about a policy of tax credit programs granted and administered by the state's Economic Development Authority (EDA), it is also—and much more significantly—a debate about political power and whether it will be upended or not in this state.

In that sense, it reflects the larger tension between the liberals and the left that is taking place across the country.

The liberal voices in New Jersey are seeking to work within the current system of legislative caucuses and party organizations—and their leaders—to bring about change.

The voices on the left, who see Murphy as their champion, hold this system itself in contempt, arguing it is undemocratic and corrupt.

Consider: If those who are demanding fundamental change to the current tax credit system were successful in getting all of the reforms they are seeking on this particular issue, would the demand for changes in New Jersey end there?

Probably not, because this fight is really about power—not just a government program and who did or did not benefit from it.

Once the tax incentive battle is over, the fight between the

liberals and the left will move on to even more fundamental parts of the current power infrastructure in New Jersey.

One aspect of the current system that is likely to be attacked is the influence of the top legislative leaders over members of their caucus, a power that was intended to enforce party discipline when the current rules were put in place in 1993.

The logic of the 1993 reforms went like this: Strengthen the top party leaders in the Legislature through their ability to raise and spend money on behalf of their current and potential caucus members, and you incentivize party discipline; that is, members of one party voting largely as the rest of their partisan colleagues do.

This helps democracy, the argument goes, because it allows member of the public who don't follow the day-to-day happenings in Trenton to make a rational choice at the ballot box. Voters simply know how they feel about Democrats or Republicans and the direction of the state at a given time. Since the system is set up to have Democrats vote with other Democrats, and Republicans with other Republicans, voters can still make a "correct" choice when they vote in favor of, or to punish, one party or the other.

The power of legislative leaders has been controversial since the 1993 reforms, but it may face its strongest challenge in the near future.

The other area of the current system that is likely to receive greater scrutiny is the influence of party organizations over who gets nominated for political office, especially through the ability to award "the line."

"The line" is preferred ballot position in a primary election. By being listed in the party organization-favored column, with all the other party-favored candidates running for different offices that year, the odds are much more in favor of winning a primary vote.

In a state where most of the 40 legislative districts strongly favor one party or the other, winning the primary almost guarantees winning the November election. While every county has its own

rules on how to award this valuable designation, the influence of party leaders remains a constant.

Other states, notably California, have passed significant reforms of their primary process recently, and it would not be surprising to see serious efforts in New Jersey to follow suit. The war

between the liberals and the left is not just a battle for the national Democratic Party's presidential nomination or a fight over corporate tax credits in New Jersey. It is a very real struggle over organizational power and how decisions get made. The outcome will shape state and national politics for a generation. 🗳️

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Designating a Municipality's Official Newspaper

FRANK MARSHALL, ESQ., NJLM Staff Attorney



Many residents of our municipality rely on a local weekly free newspaper that is delivered with saturation in our town and the surrounding areas as their only source for information. This free publication is not our municipality's official newspaper, but given the publication's wide distribution we think it would be beneficial to make the change and start publishing official legal notices in the free publication. Can our municipality designate a free weekly publication as a newspaper for publication of our official notices?



Unfortunately current law disqualifies a free publication from consideration as a newspaper for official municipal notices. While N.J.S.A. 40:53-2 generally requires that all notices be published "in at least one newspaper published and circulating in the municipality" there are specific qualifications found elsewhere in the law which limit what newspapers can be used for official notices. These qualifications can be found in N.J.S.A. 35:1-2.2, which provides that whenever, by law, notice is required to be published by printing in a newspaper that such newspaper meet a host a qualifications.

Qualifications include, amongst others, that the newspaper be printed entirely in English, it be printed and published within the State, that the newspaper be of general paid circulation and contains an average news content of not less than 35%. By requiring a newspaper be of a general paid circulation, free

publications such as what you have described are effectively prohibited from being official newspapers.

N.J.S.A. 35:1-2.2 has been challenged in the past, most notably in *North Jersey Suburbanite Co., v. State of New Jersey*, 154 N.J. Super. 126. In this case the publisher of a periodical distributed weekly and free of charge contended that three of the eligibility requirements, including the paid subscription requirement, found in the law violated the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

In *Suburbanite* the court noted the legislature's obvious intention for mandating publication was to ensure that official notices come to the attention of as wide and diverse a readership as possible. And, that purpose would be most reliably accomplished by requiring such notices to be published in "actual" and "bona fide" newspapers as distinguished from a "mere advertising medium" or "advertising circulars." The publisher argued that because their distribution rate was much greater than that of any paid publication the legislative intent to ensure official notices were brought to the attention of the citizenry was accomplished. The court was unpersuaded by this however, as while there was no doubt distribution through saturation of a free publication indeed meant a higher distribution rate there was no evidence that there was increased readership of the free publication compared to a paid subscription publication. With this in mind, the court upheld the law mandating newspaper qualifications for official publications.

Although the free publication that is widely distributed within your municipality cannot be used as a newspaper for the publication of official municipal notices, it may still be a good idea to have your notices published in this periodical. One of the most common grievances municipal officials encounter from their constituency is the perception that proper notice was not given for things that are going on within the municipality. This is especially true when it comes to development projects. With this in mind, anything you can do to help get the word out on what is happening in your municipality can be beneficial and help head off future complaints. 🦋

Meet Your New Board Members

Mayor William Curtis, Bay Head



William “Bill” Curtis was elected Mayor of Bay Head in 2008 and joins the NJLM Executive Board this year. His local government experience spans New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He was a Republican Committeeman in East Goshen Township, West Chester, PA, for 10 years through 1991, and since 1999 has been active in Bay Head including as a member of the Planning Board and Borough Council prior to his role as Mayor.

He is the president of the Ocean County Mayors Association and a past president of the Point Pleasant Beach Rotary Club where he is a member of the Board of Directors and a three-time Paul Harris Fellow. He’s a past member of the Bay Head Republican Club Steering Committee and a Past President of The Bay Head Regular Republican Organization, of which he is current trustee.

Mayor Curtis is also active in the NJLM, and has been a member of the Legislative Committee’s Intra Municipal Affairs Committee since 2018.

Starting his career as a high school physical education instructor and assistant varsity football coach in Toms River, Mayor Curtis moved into the business world holding positions at Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Frank B. Hall & Co. of PA, Inc., and Johnson and Higgins, where he was a Vice President and Manager of Employee Benefits Department from 1983 through 1996 in Philadelphia, then California, before heading to Bay Head and serving as President and proprietor at Curtis’ Central Market. Currently, he is a property manager.

Mayor Curtis is a graduate of The Peddie School in Hightstown and has both his BA and M.Ed. from The University of Virginia.

Mayor John Glidden, Closter



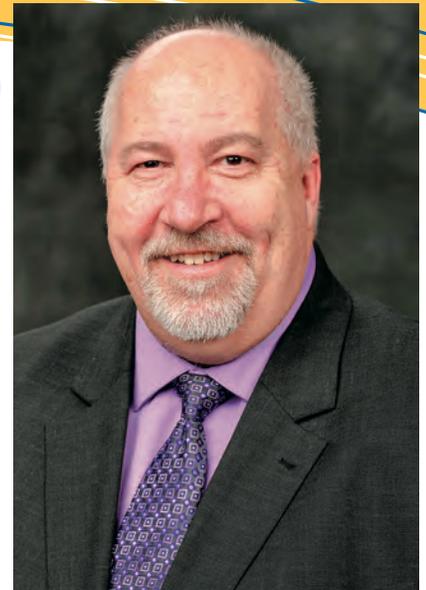
New NJLM Executive Board Member John Glidden was elected Mayor of Closter in 2014. Prior to serving as Mayor, he was a member of the Closter Borough Council for 10 years, serving as Police Commissioner, Finance Committee head, and Council President. Mayor Glidden has a long record of public service in New Jersey. In the 1980s he served on the Board of Trustees of the NJ Health Research and Educational Trust and was appointed by the Governor to the Governor’s Commission on Capital Formation for Health Care Facilities. In the 1990s, he served as a Director of the Bergen Pines Hospital. In 2000, he became Chairman of the Bergen County Utilities Authority and served for six years. In 2019, Glidden was appointed by Gov. Murphy as a Trustee of the NJ Police and Fire Retirement System (PFRS).

Mayor Glidden has had a 30-year career in the field of Public Finance where he managed the underwriting and financial advisory services to states, counties, municipalities and their authorities throughout the U.S. He started in the investment banking division of Paine Webber and moved to Prudential Securities to head the firm’s Public Finance Department. He also was a partner in E.A. Moos & Co. and later was a partner in Gates Capital Corporation. Today, Glidden is Senior Project Advisor of Acacia Financial Group concentrating on New Jersey and the New York metropolitan area with specialties in municipal and county general obligation bonds, health care, industrial revenue, and municipal utility financings.

Mayor Glidden is a graduate of Union College, Schenectady, NY. He served in the Viet Nam War as a USAF C-130 Command Pilot and was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain. He was born and brought up in Englewood and resides in Closter with his wife, Brooke and three children. 📍

2020

League President's Legislative Priorities



L league President Jim Perry, Committeeman in Hardwick Township, will focus attention on a number of League priorities for the upcoming year. Some of the items listed below may sound familiar—municipal property tax relief, the number-one concern for our property taxpayers, remains the League’s top priority.

Seizing upon the intense focus on membership engagement by Mayor Colleen Mahr, the League’s Immediate President, President Perry has directed the League to survey its membership to identify the major issues for municipalities. From there, President Perry will appoint special committees, each priority committee will be chaired by a League Vice President and the committees will reach out to Legislators and Legislative staff to help craft consensus solutions to these issues.

While our survey results were not finalized at press time, we can anticipate the prioritization of several, unaddressed policy matters, all of which are keys to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our municipalities; and all of which will benefit our citizens and taxpayers, including the following.

 **RESTORATION OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF**

Due to rising costs and population growth, municipalities often need to spend more in successive years in order to maintain services and programs at a steady level. New Jersey’s two main formula-driven general municipal property tax relief programs are the Energy Tax Receipts Property Tax Relief program (Energy Tax) and the Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Act program (CMPTRA). Though often referred to as “State Aid” programs, both are actually revenue replacement programs, intended to replace property tax relief funding that was, formerly, generated through taxes assessed and collected, specifically, to fund municipal programs and services.

In 2007, the State distributed \$1.631 billion to New Jersey municipalities. Last year, municipalities shared in only \$1.428 billion. If the 2007 total had been adjusted for inflation (as required by statute), then municipalities, statewide, could

have provided residents with \$1.957 billion of relief.

 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING REFORM**

The Executive and Legislative branches have abdicated their responsibilities on this issue and municipalities are confronted with a dysfunctional, costly and inefficient court process. Many towns have or will settle with litigants, but new tools to help municipalities meet reasonable requirements need to be authorized; and the Executive and Legislative branches must reengage on this issue immediately and ultimately develop a reasonable, rational statewide housing policy.

 **OPIOID EPIDEMIC**

The League will continue to advocate for intergovernmental cooperation on this menace. That will have to involve federal, state, and county governments listening to and working with local officials on strategies and programs designed to prevent the spread of the epidemic, to effectively treat current victims, and to address the burdens that inflict our families and other caregivers.

 **PATH TO PROGRESS**

Senate President Sweeney’s NJ Economic and Fiscal Policy Workgroup issued a report that will begin the discussions on how we can address some of our State’s chronic budgetary problems. Further public employee pension and benefit programs reforms must be pursued. Civil Service laws and regulations, which often hamstring local shared services efforts, need to be reformed. And consolidation of some school district administrative functions should be considered.



RECREATIONAL CANNABIS

Municipal governments must be given the power, the personnel, and the revenues that will be needed to address concerns that will be created by this new industry. We are reasonably confident that State level policy makers will ensure that the new law and regulations will address State level issues. This will continue to be our focus as we anticipate a statewide referendum on legalization in November.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We look forward to advancing initiatives that will assist local development and redevelopment efforts. Policies that give municipalities the ability to allow local Main Street businesses to flourish are essential.

For example, municipalities should be able to permit neighborhood restaurants to provide patrons with alcoholic beverages, on a limited basis. Also, we must guard against State laws, which would inhibit municipalities from encouraging economic development by entering into Payment In Lieu of Taxes agreements, with willing business partners.



FEDERAL LEVEL ACTIONS

We need to focus Congress on America's need for major investments in our aging infrastructure. And we need the people in Washington to see the National significance of our region's needs.

The Gateway Project, which will not happen without Federal cooperation, must be fast-tracked. We also need to focus the Federal Executive Branch on local needs, including local rights to regulate the use of the public's rights-of-way.

Over the course of the next year, your League of Municipalities will continue its robust advocacy for policies that will allow you to better serve your hometowns. We need all local officials to join in these efforts. Our citizens

expect and deserve to have all their elected officials, at all levels of government, working together to address clear and present needs, and to together build a better future for our children, and our children's children. ♪

The Town Crier

Legislative Backgrounder



Recent Topics on the Blog:

- *Stop - Work Order Violations of Prevailing Wage Act*
- *Governor Freezes Most Transitional Aid*
- *Process for Global Settlement of Opioid Cases Proposed*

Stay up-to-date on legislation effecting your municipality

The League's Legislative Blog provides detailed information on bills and in-depth bill histories.





Inductees Named to Mayors' Hall of Fame, Honored for Service

At the 104th Annual New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City, then League First Vice President James J. Perry Sr. and officials from throughout New Jersey, honored the most recent inductees to the Mayors' Hall of Fame.

The League established the Mayors' Hall of Fame to recognize mayors who have served for over 10, 20, or 30 years. "Serving as mayor for decades is a commitment of time and energy over the long haul. These mayors have obviously made a long-term commitment as leaders to better their communities. They have helped their communities grow and change over the years, and have worked to make a positive impact," said League Executive Director Michael J. Darcy, CAE. "We congratulate them on their deserved recognition."

The following members of the 25th induction class of the Mayors' Hall of Fame were honored during a special ceremony during the Mayors' Box Luncheon on Wednesday, November 20 in Atlantic City.

White level (30 or more years)

- Mayor James Anzaldi, Clifton City
- Mayor Timothy McDonough, Hope Township

Gold level (20 or more years)

- Mayor Benedict Romeo, Cresskill Borough
- Mayor Vincent Bellucci Jr., Fairview Borough
- Mayor Alberto G. Santos, Kearny Town
- Mayor Donald C. Asay, Mannington Township
- Mayor Kennedy O'Brien, Sayreville Borough
- Mayor Richard Palombo, Upper Township
- Mayor Joseph Tempesta Jr., West Caldwell Township

Silver level (10 or more years)

- Mayor Fred Tagliarini, Aberdeen Township
- Mayor Deborah Buzby-Cope, Bass River Township
- Mayor Joseph Pannullo, East Hanover Township
- Mayor Richard S. Goldberg, Hawthorne Borough
- Mayor Bruce R. Hankins, Hopewell Township (Cumberland)
- Mayor Richard L. DePamphilis III, Linwood City
- Mayor Jesse L. Tweedle Sr., Pleasantville City
- Mayor Dudley H. Lewis, Washington Township (Burlington) 🍷



Mayor Timothy McDonough and Mayor James Anzaldi inducted to white level of Mayors Hall of Fame for 30+ years of leadership.



Gold-level Hall of Fame inductees included East Rutherford's Mayor Jim Cassella (standing) and (l to r) Mayors Alberto Santos of Kearny, Vincent Bellucci of Fairview, and Donald Asay of Mannington, seated.



Silver-level Hall of Fame induction included Mayor Fred Tagliarini of Aberdeen (right) and AC Acting Mayor Small accepting for Pleasantville Mayor Tweedle.

League Committee Approves 23 Resolutions

On Thursday, November 21, in Atlantic City, 23 resolutions mapping the new policy and legislative priorities for the League of Municipalities were adopted at the Annual Business meeting held during the League’s 104th Annual Conference.

Proposed by current municipal office holders, the resolutions are general in nature, specifically focusing on municipal government interests. Previously, on Tuesday, November 19, the League Resolutions Committee screened these resolutions. The Committee was chaired by then League 1st Vice President and

Hardwick Committeeman, James Perry. Moving into 2020, these newly adopted resolutions will serve as key priorities for the League, and NJLM staff will be communicating with the sponsors of the resolutions to line up legislative support and working throughout the year to see the implementation of these resolutions. 🇺🇸



Hardwick Committeeman James Perry, then NJLM 1st Vice President

Index of Approved Resolutions

No. 2019-01	Supporting Local Governments’ Rights and Efforts to Mitigate Climate Change Damages and Protect Taxpayers from Related Adaptation Costs
No. 2019-02	Resolution for an Amendment to the Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL). Increasing the 10-Day Period for Giving Notice of an Application for Development
No. 2019-03	Resolution Supporting Affordable Housing Preference for First Responders and Public School Teachers
No. 2019-04	Resolution Urging Legislative Action to Clarify the Telecommunications Industry Corporate Tax Responsibilities
No. 2019-05	Resolution Urging the State Department of Health to Adopt Regulations that Would Permit Municipalities to Allow Pet Dogs in Certain Areas of Breweries
No. 2019-06	Resolution Supporting the Adoption of Legislation That Permits Municipalities to Establish Different Opening and Closing Hours for Retail Distribution and Retail Consumption Licenses
No. 2019-07	Renew and Fully Fund the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program
No. 2019-08	Resolution Urging the State of New Jersey to Provide Funding to Municipal Governments for the Enforcement of the “New Jersey Smoke Free Air Act” on Public Beaches and Parks
No. 2019-09	Resolution Supporting Legislation Authorizing the Use of Development Fees To Help Fund Local Alternative Transportation Systems
No. 2019-10	Resolution Urging the Creation of a Study Commission to Examine and Offer Solutions to the Shortage of Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Responders
No. 2019-11	Resolution Supporting Local Cable Franchising Including Non-monetary Obligations
No. 2019-12	Resolution Urging Support for the 2020 Census
No. 2019-13	Resolution Seeking the Restoration of Open Space Payments in Lieu of Taxes Provided to Certain Municipalities Pursuant to the Garden State Preservation Trust Act.
No. 2019-14	Resolution Urging Congress to Restore the Full Deductibility of State and Local Taxes
No. 2019-15	Support for the Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage
No. 2019-16	Preserving Local Public Rights-of-Way and Regulatory Authority to Most Effectively Deploy 5G Broadband Access and Bridge the Digital Divide
No. 2019-17	Resolution Urging Increased Federal Support to Address Water Infrastructure Improvements Necessary to Remove Lead in Drinking Water
No. 2019-18	Calling on State Lawmakers to Take Measures to Enact Comprehensive Reform to the “Fair Housing Act”
No. 2019-19	Resolution Urging State Lawmakers to Adopt Remedial Legislation to Help Facilitate the Completion of Smaller Public Works Projects
No. 2019-20	Resolution Urging the State Legislature to Enact Comprehensive Liquor License Reform
No. 2019-21	Resolution Supporting the Required Revision of Public Utility Tariffs to Incentivize and Increase Usage of LED Street Lights
No. 2019-22	Resolution Urging State Legislature to End the Sale of All Flavored Tobacco Products Including Flavored E-Cigarettes, Cigars and Menthol Cigarettes
No. 2019-24	In Appreciation of League President Colleen Mahr, Mayor of Fanwood Borough

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS



Attendees Ignite Local Engagement at 104th League Conference

This year's League Conference helped forge connections among local leaders around the state as well as build relationships between local, state, and federal officials.

Dynamic sessions, well-attended events, and an energized exhibit floor were a powerful blend to fuel local officials for the year to come, arming them with new knowledge and relationships to move into the next decade.

With more than 110 sessions from the League and its 21 Affiliates, discussions were lively on topics ranging from the Path to Progress to smart social media approaches for local governments, panelists represented the thought leaders from local and state governments, providing an opportunity to express concerns and reach new understanding of challenging topics.

The sold-out Exhibit Hall was bustling with the returning Smart Cities Pavilion and other presentations of the latest products and services. From heavy machinery to healthy cooking, local officials had the full spectrum of thought-provoking items and initiatives to review.



League business was also conducted as members determined priorities for 2020 and approved a slate of League Resolutions (see page 53) and to vote on the new Officers and Executive Board Members at the League Annual Business Meeting.

The New Jersey State League of Municipalities thanks the 16,000-plus delegates as well as the engaging vendors populating 1,000-plus booths and the hundreds of session speakers. Meeting up with your fellow local government officials not only supports the League, but also your peers around the state.

@ Following are highlights of the annual event, visit www.njlm.org for a full photo album of the Conference.

“The League is your voice, the League is a grassroots organization. Although we are based in Trenton, we are in your communities all over the state. If you’re looking to do something in your town, and you don’t know how to get there, use us as a resource.”

—NJLM President, Mayor Colleen Mahr of Fanwood

Day One of the Conference, Tuesday, Nov. 19, drew attendees to the exhibit floor to discover new vendors and exhibits including a pop-up suffrage centennial display from NJ Women Vote at the League's booth. Sessions included a well-attended Orientation and Future of Local Government League event as well as a lively discussion at the Conference Resolutions Committee meeting (see page 53 for report). Other sessions included reports from the Division of Local Government Services, the Mayors Wellness Campaign, and the always-popular Laughter & Leadership session featuring Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick along with a standing-room-only look at PILOTs.



Left to right from top:

1 Catching up at the charging station in the Smart Cities Pavilion. **2** NJLM President Mayor Colleen Mahr speaks at the Sustainable Jersey Luncheon. **3** Deptford Mayor Paul Medany discusses his proposed resolution at the Resolution Committee meeting. **4** DLGS Director Melanie Walter provides an update on new policies, regulations, and programs. **5** Session attendees engage with panelists for lively interactions. **6** At the Orientation session, NJLM Executive Director Michael J. Darcy, CAE, and NJLM Officers 2nd VP Mayor Janice Kovach of Clinton Town, 1st Vice President Committeeman James J. Perry Sr. of Hardwick, and President Mayor Colleen Mahr of Fanwood, welcome new and returning attendees. **7** At the session Perceptions of Public Employees: Fire Them? Reward Them? Panelists share their insights. Branchburg Administrator Gregory J. Bonin speaks with panelists (l to r) Bloomfield Administrator Matthew Watkins, North Brunswick Business Administrator, Kathryn Monzo, Ivone Roman, Ph.D. student, Rutgers-Camden, and Alan Zalkind, Director, Center for Government Services, Rutgers University.

Day 2 of the Conference, Wednesday, Nov. 20, drew state leaders past and present for discussions at events and sessions alike. Hot topics included the former governor's panel, Murphy's Marks Year 2; marijuana legalization; affordable housing; opportunity zones; Department of Labor outlook; public health; and Legislative Leadership.

The Mayors' Box Lunch recognized the efforts of municipalities to creatively resolve potential trouble spots, awarding 2019 Innovation in Governance Awards to Middletown, Weehawken, and Westfield, presented by then League 1st VP James Perry. In addition, Mayors who have served 30, 20, and 10 years were inducted into the NJLM Mayors' Hall of Fame. Rounding out the event, the NJ Attorney General Gurbir Grewal, NJ DEP Deputy Commissioner Debbie Mans, and DCA Assistant Commissioner Kimberly Holmes addressed attendees and took questions in a lively discussion after their presentations.

The busy day ended with the League's Women in Municipal Government networking and awards event, opened with remarks from Secretary of State Tahesha Way, who noted the centennial of woman suffrage and recognized the efforts of women in local government. Committee Chairs NJLM Executive Board Member Monmouth Beach Mayor Sue Howard and NJLM 2nd VP Mayor Janice Kovach and NJLM President Mahr recognized Outstanding Women in Municipal Government Award Winners Wilda Diaz, Mayor, City of Perth Amboy; Maria DiGiovanni, Mayor, Town of Hackettstown; Kathleen Canestrino, Deputy Mayor, City of Hackensack; Patricia Perkins-Auguste, Councilwoman-At-Large, City of Elizabeth; and Caroline Ehrlich, Chief of Staff; Executive Director, Woodbridge Redevelopment Agency, Township of Woodbridge.



“DCA has been working to build partnerships in New Jersey with innovative resources.”

—Assistant Commissioner Kimberly Holmes, Department of Community Affairs

Left to right from top:

1 Atlantic City Acting Mayor Smalls welcomes attendees to the Mayors' Box Lunch. **2** At the Legislative Leadership Panel (l to r) NJTV Chief Political Correspondent Michael Aron, Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean Jr., Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Senate President Steve Sweeney, Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick, then NJLM 1st VP Committeeman James Perry, and NJLM's Associate Executive Director Michael Cerra and Executive Director Michael J. Darcy. **3** At the Murphy's Marks Session, (l to r) Former Governors Florio, Codey, and Bennett, Professors Ben Dworkin, Director, Rowan University Institute for Public Policy & Citizenship and Bridget Callahan Harrison of Montclair University, former Governor DiFrancesco, Professor John Weingart from Rutgers' Eagleton Institute of Politics, NJLM Past President East Rutherford Mayor James Cassella, and former Governor Corzine. **4** Department of Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo provides the Labor Outlook for 2020. **5** The Path to Progress was discussed in depth by panelists Senator Oroho, Senate President Sweeney, NJLM Executive Board Member Somerdale Mayor Gary Passanante, and Marc Pfeiffer, Assistant Director of the Bloustein Local Government Research Center at Rutgers. **6** WIMG 2019 Outstanding Women in Municipal Government Winners Mayor DiGiovanni, Chief of Staff Ehrlich, Mayor Diaz, NJLM President Mahr, Councilwoman-at-Large Perkins-Auguste, Deputy Mayor Canestrino, and WIMG Committee co-chair Mayor Howard.

Remembered: Monsignor Phillip Lowery

This year, the League Luncheon paused to reflect on Monsignor Phillip Lowery, who provided meaningful invocations there for many years and was unable to attend due to poor health. He died on November 28 and is remembered by the League and many in the state, including Gov. Murphy, a member of his congregation in Red Bank.

Msgr. Lowery was born on Feb. 22, 1949 and ordained to the priesthood in 1976. He served in Toms River and Bayville before his appointment as pastor of St. James Church in Red Bank.

He served as NJ State Police Chief of Chaplains for over 25 years, providing spiritual support and counseling for officers and their families. He was one of the first responders during 9/11 attacks, working tirelessly with New Jersey's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), Task Force 1 at Ground Zero. He traveled to New Orleans to support the recovery efforts following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In the aftermath of the Hurricane Sandy in 2012, he visited the places affected by the disaster.

Donations in his memory can be made to the Monsignor Philip A. Lowery Scholarship Foundation, 94 Broad Street, Red Bank, NJ 07701. [🔗](#)



Monsignor Lowery offering Invocation during the 103rd Annual League Conference.



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Day 3 of the Conference, Thursday, Nov. 21, offered sunny skies and plentiful options on the exhibit floor and in the session rooms. The League Luncheon features a keynote address by Gov. Phil Murphy (see page 20), which looked back on his first two years in office and into his hopes for the remaining years of his term. During the Luncheon, Sustainable Jersey Executive Director Randall Solomon and Anne-Marie Peracchio, Chairperson, Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees, accepted the 2019 Distinguished Public Service Award to honor organizations that have made substantial contributions to the State of New Jersey through distinguished public service.

Joseph Valenti, Chief, Bureau of Local Management Services, Division of Local Government Service (retired) was the recipient of the 2019 Public Sector Career Recognition Award presented by outgoing NJLM President Mayor Colleen Mahr of Fanwood. The NJLM Public Sector Career Recognition Award is presented to individuals who have devoted their professional lives to excellence in Local Government, providing municipal officials with assistance, innovations, and guidance.

The final education sessions of the event covered topics including Building Better Police-Community Relations featuring NJLM Past President Mayor Al Kelly of Bridgeton and NJLM Executive Board Member Newark Mayor Ras Baraka; Shared Services Technical Assistance with DLGS Director Walter and the Shared Services Czars Glatt and Platt as well as Ewing Mayor Steinmann; as well as sessions on Agritourism, Historic Preservation, and the New Police Fire Retirement System Pension Board.

The Conference closed with the League's Business meeting, where the new Officers and Executive Board members were sworn into office for the year and the League's policies were set for 2020 with the vote approving 23 new resolutions.



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“We know good things can happen for property taxpayers when communities come together.”

–Gov. Phil Murphy



1 Mayor Michael Soriano of Parsippany-Troy Hills discusses a resolution at the League’s Business meeting. **2** Gov. Phil Murphy addresses the attendees at the League Luncheon. **3** NJLM welcomes the Governor, l to r, NJLM Executive Director Michael Darcy, then 3rd VP William Chegwidde of Wharton, then 1st VP James J. Perry, then President Colleen Mahr, Gov. Phil Murphy, then 2nd VP Janice Kovach, and NJLM Associate Executive Director Michael Cerra. **4** NJLM Past Presidents East Rutherford Mayor James Cassella, Hope Mayor Tim McDonough, Clifton Mayor James Anzaldi, Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, and East Windsor Mayor Janice Mironov. **5** Gov. Murphy with Sustainable Jersey Executive Director Randall Solomon, then NJLM President Colleen Mahr, and Anne-Marie Peracchio, Chairperson, Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees, recognizing Sustainable Jersey with the 2019 Distinguished Public Service Award. **6** Discussion at the Return of the State Plan session with (l to r) Donna Rendeiro, Executive Director, NJ Office of Planning Advocacy; Vinn White, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor; NJLM Executive Board Member Mayor Liz Lempert of Princeton; Walter Lane, Director of Planning, Somerset County; Leah Furey Bruder, LFB Land Planning.

At the League Business Meeting

from top: NJLM 3rd VP Mayor Sue Howard of Monmouth Beach and 1st VP Mayor Janice Kovach of Clinton Town are sworn in by Assemblyman John DiMaio.

Immediate Past President Colleen Mahr accepts a service plaque with North Plainfield Councilwoman Keiona Miller, NJLM President Committeeman Jim Perry, Mahr, Evesham Mayor Jaclyn Veasy, and Roselle Mayor Christine Dansereau.

New NJLM President James J. Perry Sr. celebrates with (l to r) his daughter, Alyssa, Assemblyman DiMaio, Perry, and Gina DiMaio.

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NJ LOCAL APRIL 19-25 GOVERNMENT 2020 WEEK

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Celebrate Local Government!

This year, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities invites you to celebrate **NJ Local Government Week**.

We invite you to join in with municipalities across the Garden State **April 19-25, 2020**, to engage citizens while celebrating the work of local government.

NJ Local Government Week is a time for municipalities to encourage civic education, community collaboration, volunteerism, and local pride. Municipalities throughout the Garden State are encouraged to participate, and the NJ State League of Municipalities (NJLM) suggests you get the celebration started with the following:

Showcase. Highlight the programs and services you offer, showcasing the hard work of local government and the value residents receive on a daily basis.

Coordinate. Tap into local resources such as community service and volunteering events in partnership with local organizations to cross-promote NJ Local Government Week.

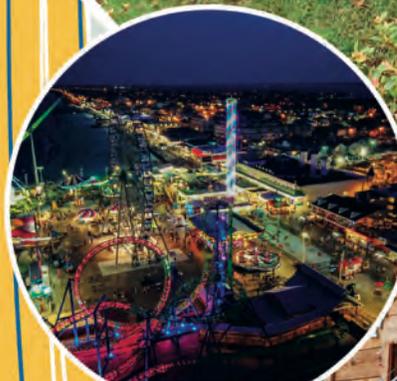
Exhibit. Encourage citizens to share their civic pride with an essay, photography, or design showcase/contest. Why not make it a feeder program for your entry for the League's Show Off Your Municipality photo contest?

Wondering Where to Begin?

The website includes ideas and materials for celebrating **NJ Local Government Week**, publicity tips and strategies, and links to a sample press release and resolution. Information and resources, as well as a downloadable NJ Local Government Week logo, are available at www.njlm.org/njlocalgovt.



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Sailing to Suffrage



Five years before the passage of the 19th Amendment, a statewide referendum put suffrage for women in New Jersey in the hands of its voters. In preparation for the October 1915 vote, suffrage leaders created a symbol intended to ignite support: the suffrage torch.

According to author and genealogist Maureen K. Wlodarczyk's story about the Suffrage Torch featured in her book *Jersey! Then...Again*, the torch journeyed around the state with stops to show support for suffrage.

Wlodarczyk noted that on August 7, 1915, "the suffrage torch, accompanied by members of the New York contingent of the WPU, departed New York on the tugboat Holbrook and headed across the Hudson River. At the same time, representatives of the New Jersey WPU left Jersey City on the tug A.W. Smith, set to meet their New York sisters in the middle of the Hudson precisely at noon. The torch handoff on the Hudson completed, the New Jersey delegation tug returned to the Pennsylvania Railroad pier after which a series of ceremonies and outdoor meetings were scheduled."

Only 42% of the 300,000-plus New Jersey men who voted in the special election said yes to suffrage. The fight would continue for years to come.

A full version of the story can be found in the book *Jersey! Then...Again* by Maureen K. Wlodarczyk, available at www.past-forward.com.

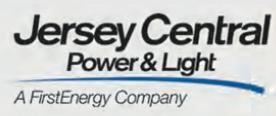
Photograph shows suffragist Mina C. Van Winkle of Newark, New Jersey, holding a torch at front of tug boat. Photo credit: Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, [reproduction number, e.g., LC-B2-1234]

Throughout 2020, this space will feature glimpses of the important and varied contributions made by New Jersey residents to the suffrage movement. From the ratification of U.S. Constitution to the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, the Garden State was a key player in the fight for gender-based voting equality.

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The New Jersey State League of Municipalities would like to thank its supporters, who value their partnership with the 565 municipalities of New Jersey. For information about the League's sponsorship program, please contact Michael J. Darcy, CAE, at 609-695-3481, Ext.116, or mdarcy@njlm.org.



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