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Official Publication of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities

December 2018

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New Jersey Municipalities Magazine

Volume 95 | Issue 9

EDITOR

Michael J. Darcy, CAE

MANAGING EDITOR

Amy Spiezio aspiezio@njslom.org

MARKETING & DIGITAL MEDIA MANAGER

Taran B. Samhammer tsamhammer@njslom.org

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Lori Buckelew

Michael F. Cerra

Jon R. Moran

Taran B. Samhammer

Frank Marshall

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Dawn Becan

White Eagle Printing Company

SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER

Thomas Fratticcioli

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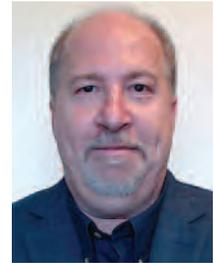
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CONNECTING THE DOTS: CLEANER AND GREENER TRANSIT BREATHES NEW LIFE INTO THE CITY



Features

22 Focus: Municipal Parking

Discovering a catalyst for redevelopment
Leonard T. Bier, CAPP, JD; Director Parking Authority & Redevelopment Agency, City of Rahway; CEO, Bier Associates

26 Op Ed: Stronger Local Parties, Stronger Local Government

Why New Jersey's party system needs a refresher
Jeff Brindle, Executive Director, New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission

6 UpFront: Focus: NRDC Studies NJ Roads

Report envisions Northeast Regional Initiative for modern, clean transportation in NY and NJ
Bruce Ho, Senior Advocate, Natural Resources Defense Council

ABOUT THE COVER

The National Resources Defense Council has rolled out the report "Transportation Reimagined: A Roadmap for Clean and Modern Transportation in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Region," as a blueprint for modernizing congested roads and crumbling infrastructure in New Jersey. See feature on page 6.





contents

Volume 95 | Issue 9, December 2018

28 Local Giving

An Effective Vehicle for Securing Philanthropic Resources for Local Communities

Jordan Glatt, Former Mayor, Summit; New Jersey Shared Services Czar; Director of Strategic Partnerships, Community Foundation of New Jersey; and Michael Inganamort, Councilman, Chester Township; Communications Director, Community Foundation of New Jersey

32 Highland Park's Mandela Fellows

Borough leaders mentor young African change-makers
Harry Glazer, Public Information Officer, Highland Park

34 NJFA Turns 20

Foundation celebrates two decades of senior services
Melissa Chalker, Executive Director, New Jersey Foundation for Aging

NJLM

48 League Officers for 2018-2019 Elected

49 Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr Elected League President

51 2018 Executive Director's Report

60 NJ Municipalities 2018 Editorial Index



Departments

4 222 West State Street

Michael J. Darcy, CAE

10 Now & Then

Amy Spiezio

12 NJ Now

Taran Samhammer & Amy Spiezio

16 Washington Op Ed

Tom MacArthur and Annie Kuster, U.S. Representatives

18 Trenton Op Ed

Louis Greenwald, District 6, Assembly Majority Leader

20 Trenton Op Ed

Gary Schaer, Assemblyman, District 36

36 Gold Dome

Benjamin Dworkin, Ph.D.

38 Labor Relations

Jennifer Roselle, Esq., and Justine L. Abrams, Esq.

42 Finance Center

Matthew D. Jessup

44 Legal Q&A

Frank Marshall, Esq.

46 Legislative Update

Michael Cerra, Lori Buckelew, Frank Marshall & Jon R. Moran

62 Business Card Directory

64 Around the State/Supporters



“Together we will continue to grapple with mega municipal issues in 2019 and beyond. I hope you will continue to share your thoughts and concerns with me so the League can be sure our focus is on the most important of these issues.”

How to Handle Mega Municipal Issues

During a recent event at Rutgers University, I was asked “What is the consuming issue that the League is dealing with at this time?” I was nearly at a loss for words. The year 2018 seems to have been “the year of the mega issue” for New Jersey municipal government.

Was our consuming issue the response to federal changes in SALT deductions? Was it the expiring police contracts with no cap on arbitration awards? Was it the establishment of a new PFRS board of trustees? As if any of those would not be enough, 2018 saw the release of the expansive Path to Progress report; the Supreme Court Report on Municipal Court Operations; the Governor’s Strategic Economic Plan with its ambitious array of programs; and, of course, the cannabis legislation and the Gateway Project funding. Throw in the many issues related to the State budget funding and 2018 was the year of mega issues.

No matter which issue is your mega issue, you can continue to rely on the League to assist with research, analysis,

training, and, perhaps most importantly, leadership. As leaders in your own community, you know sometimes what is needed is to point out the way forward. To help you with that direction the League has adopted a number of resolutions to focus our policy agenda and call attention to issues critical to our municipalities and our state. Those resolutions were proposed by individual municipalities to exemplify the mega issues we all face.

Also, at the Annual Conference the League elected new leadership for 2019 with Colleen Mahr, Mayor, Fanwood, elected president. Take a moment to review the full League leadership on page 1. They will be working hard on your behalf handling the mega issues during 2019.

Together we will continue to grapple with mega municipal issues in 2019 and beyond. I hope you will continue to share your thoughts and concerns with me so the League can be sure our focus is on the most important of these issues. I wish you and your community a Happy New Year. 🍷

Michael Darcy

Post Script Especially for Newly Elected Officials, the League offers full day training programs on Saturday, January 12, in East Rutherford and Saturday, January 26, in Mount Laurel to help you start your year right. To register visit www.njslom.org/seminars

The League also provides a direct link to state leadership each year with a gathering in Trenton. The 2019 Mayors Legislative Day will be held April 5 at the State House Annex and feature opportunities to speak with administration cabinet members and high-ranking state officials. We’ll be sending out more information soon. Please join us for this opportunity to prepare for a year of excellence in local government.

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NRDC Studies NJ Roads

Report envisions Northeast Regional Initiative for modern, clean transportation in NY & NJ

By Bruce Ho, Senior Advocate,
Natural Resources Defense Council

A new research paper from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), “Transportation Reimagined: A Roadmap for Clean and Modern Transportation in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Region,” provides a blueprint for modernizing congested roads and crumbling infrastructure in New York and New Jersey. Transportation Reimagined puts forth detailed policy solutions and public health and transportation facts illustrating how states in both the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic can fix outdated transportation systems.

NRDC’s report focuses on 11 states and D.C.: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. All are members of the state-led Transportation and Climate Initiative, which has worked to address clean transportation solutions since 2010. Virginia recently joined this group of states as well.

Among the findings of Transportation Reimagined: 9 million New Jersey residents currently live in areas that do not meet national air quality standards, putting residents at risk of respiratory illness. Compounding this public health crisis, traffic congestion in the New York City area cost the local economy close to \$34 billion in 2017. To address these growing problems, New Jersey is among eight Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States committed to having 2.4 million zero emissions vehicles on the roadways by 2025.

NRDC’s research on clean transportation is part of an effort to inform state policymakers in New Jersey and other Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States and Washington, D.C., who are exploring the idea of a regional clean transportation policy

with stakeholders and residents. The overarching objective is to cut climate-altering carbon pollution from the nation’s largest source—the transportation sector.

An opportunity to lead

New Jersey has an opportunity to lead in this critical effort, at both the state and local levels, to fix what’s broken and

Specific Community Benefits

NRDC’s report offers specific benefits and opportunities for urban, suburban, and rural communities from transforming the transportation system.

Rural Communities

- Expand public transit—providing flexible route bus service and better rapid transit could ease key rural problems. Rural households spend 7% more of their budgets on transportation compared to their urban counterparts. Rural workers travel 38% more than urban workers, and low-income rural workers travel 59% more.
- Improve mobility options for older Americans in rural communities to keep them independent, decrease isolation, and connect them with medical services.
- Create walkable, bikeable Main Streets to improve quality of life.



Suburban Communities

- Improve pedestrian walkways and bike lanes in suburban communities, and link them to transit corridors.
- Expand intercity rail to help commuters get to their jobs, particularly low-income and service workers. Electrified commuter trains and other infrastructure upgrades could reduce emissions and improve speeds and efficiency.
- Develop more electric vehicle charging stations, which would support transitioning drivers out of gasoline-fueled vehicles to electric vehicles, reducing emissions.



NRDC Studies NJ Roads

transit; and addressing rural and low-income communities whose transportation needs are particularly underserved.

Positive outcomes

Following NRDC's roadmap will yield enormous health and environmental benefits in New Jersey, generate economic

transform the region's transportation system so it's healthier, cleaner, and works better for everyone. The state should aim to make streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists, improve public transit, expand clean electric vehicles powered by homegrown renewable energy, and ensure that the transportation system is more equitable and serves low-income residents.

The report showcases strategies that cities, towns, and states around the country have already piloted that are suitable for New Jersey, such as substantially expanding electric cars, trucks, and buses (EVs); encouraging more walkable and bike-friendly living areas; upgrading public bus, train, and subway

Urban Communities

- Incentivize more compact, multi-use developments with housing and businesses, walkable and bikeable neighborhoods, and improved public transit, all of which could reduce roadway congestion.
- Ensure development of affordable housing near public transit. This can revitalize vacant parcels, while preventing displacement from gentrification.
- Deploy more electric buses and other clean vehicles, reducing emissions, making neighborhoods quieter and improving air quality.



- Switch to electric-powered heavy trucks and other equipment at ports, airports, and truck depots to reduce pollution in surrounding neighborhoods, which often are low-income.



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- Stephen Mountain**
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- Mayor Richard Onderko**
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NRDC Studies NJ Roads

growth, create jobs, improve safety and mobility, reduce respiratory illnesses and asthma, and help create a safer climate.

Benefits from a cleaner transportation system in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region include:

- Reducing gasoline consumption, which costs consumers more than \$50 billion a year at the pump, by improving efficiency,

expanding public transit, switching to EVs powered by cleaner, lower-cost electricity, and easing commutes.

- Creating 125,000 new jobs and adding \$17.7 billion per year to the region's economy by 2030.

- Reducing pedestrian and cyclist deaths, which numbered 970 and 115 people respectively in 2016.



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Additional Resources

NRDC's report: Transportation Reimagined: A Roadmap for Clean and Modern Transportation in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Region, and more is here:

www.nrdc.org/resources/transportation-reimagined-roadmap-clean-and-modern-transportation-northeast-and-mid

A blog on the report by principal author Bruce Ho is here:

www.nrdc.org/experts/bruce-ho/reimagining-transportation-northeast-and-mid-atlantic

A new NRDC video highlighting the report is here:

www.facebook.com/nrdc.org/videos/10156431285649454/

An audio recording of NRDC's press conference on the Transportation Reimagined report is here:

www.hastingsgroupmedia.com/NRDCTransportationReimagined/NYNJ.mp3

- Improving air quality and health. Nearly 60%—37 million people—in the region live in areas that do not meet national air quality standards for fine particulate matter, ozone pollution, or both.

Local, state, and regional leaders have a tremendous opportunity to deliver these benefits by engaging people around a vision for a 21st century transportation system and adopting policies that will drive new investment in the technologies and infrastructure needed to realize it. ↴

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) is an international nonprofit environmental organization with more than 3 million members and online activists. Since 1970, our lawyers, scientists, and other environmental specialists have worked to protect the world's natural resources, public health, and the environment. NRDC has offices in New York City, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Bozeman, MT, and Beijing. Visit us at www.nrdc.org and follow us on Twitter @NRDC.

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Seaside goldenrod in Barnegat Light NJ
Photo by Ben Wurst

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NOW & THEN



Amy Spiezio
Managing Editor

Finding New Routes to Success

The to-do list for local government rolls on, seemingly for miles and miles. And that's never clearer than in the matters of transportation and parking. From road repair to the forward-looking impacts of good planning, the work on this most critical consideration may not be the most glamorous item on that to-do list, but it does make living better now and into the future possible.

In this issue, we look at the very pressing issues within the National Resource Defense Council's (NRDC) report on "Transportation Reimagined: A Roadmap for Clean and Modern Transportation in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Region." NRDC expert Bruce Ho tailored this Mid-Atlantic-focused report for the League to zoom in on the specifics pertaining to New Jersey, looking at strategies for improved public transit and reduced energy consumption, as well as a greener overall impact by the commuters and citizens of the Garden State.

We also share a look at the planning implications of parking on towns' economic development. Walking the fine line making sure that folks can park to enjoy town centers without eating up too much valuable real estate with parking lots can be a critical formula in reinvigorating shopping areas, main streets, and commutation hubs.

NJ Municipalities' December issue also touches on topics like the importance of political parties in the retention of control of local government and the opportunities for local governments to work with philanthropies for ongoing successes.

As we wrap up 2018, we'd like to thank you for reading *NJ Municipalities*. For more than 100 years, it's been our pleasure to share information and ideas with local officials to make daily governing the best it can be. Have an idea? Please let us know...we look forward to spreading the news in 2019! 📌

TIMELINE

1935

Even when there were far fewer cars on the road, streets have been a pressing concern for municipalities. States and towns were directed by the President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, to make their streets safer. In New Jersey, that meant adding street lights to roads such as those running through Camden. According to then-Police Chief, Arthur Colsey, "A well-lighted highway where these directional signs can be noticed and read at adequate distances is indeed a great asset to any community."



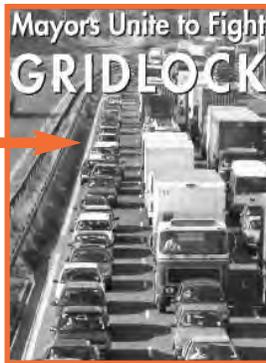
1942

During World War II, shortages meant that car parts were difficult to replace and tires impossible. In addition, budgets were cut, forcing municipalities to turn off streetlights, making night driving dangerous. Arthur Magee, NJ Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, wrote, "unnecessary driving will be curtailed but the automobile remains as much as part of the war effort as the planes and guns and tanks the automobile indirectly helps produce. Fewer weekend trips, shorter vacations tours and fewer cars on the road are all in the offing."



1997

In the 1990s commuters were stacking up on state highways. A group of 10 Middlesex and Mercer County mayors worked together to look at regional solutions with the end result being the formation of Keep Middlesex Moving, Inc., a collaborative addressing congestion and land use planning. Noted Peter A. Cantu, Executive Director of KMM, and the Mayor of Plainsboro (and NJLM Past President), "The combination of ten strong personalities, ten municipalities, and



ten sets of diverse, and sometimes divergent needs, made for some lively discussions. Still, each mayor recognized the benefits of acting collaboratively and made a personal commitment to the success of the Council."

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League Publication Updated! Municipal Parking & Recreation Fees

The League is pleased to announce an update of its License Series: Volume 4. This book lists fees for municipal parking and recreation fees.

More specifically:

- Metered parking
- Train station lots
- Residential areas
- Parking enforcement
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Football
- Bowling
- Tennis
- Swimming
- Lacrosse
- Cricket
- Baseball
- Softball
- Volleyball
- Golf
- Adult exercise programs
- Summer camp
- Street hockey
- Youth ice hockey
- Therapeutic recreation
- Before/after school day care

Data for 259 municipalities are included in this book. Included are Microsoft Excel files of the data, so purchasers can easily sort and search based on their individual criteria and needs.

The League's Bureau of Municipal Information currently maintains a total of 29 publications in its library. The full list available can be found on the League website at www.njslom.org/publications.

Each year the League staff publishes periodic special reports and updates. In recent years, many of the League's publications have been converted from paper to digital formats. The new digital versions include more data, available in a format that can



be sorted and grouped by purchasers to complete comparisons and calculations of their own, promote faster receiving time, and, allow the League to continue providing information while keeping purchase costs down.

Other recent publications include a survey of municipal salaries, an analysis of the Optional Municipal Charter Law, and informational handbooks. ↴

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Most Improved:

NJ Rises on ACEEE 2018 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard

The 12th annual 2018 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), identified New Jersey as a most-improved state.

The scorecard, which ranks states based on 32 metrics in six areas, noted that New Jersey improved the most, moving up five ranks to #18. The Garden State set new annual energy savings targets and took steps to rejoin the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a multistate cap and trade emissions compact.

Massachusetts continued to rank #1 overall. A close second is California. These leaders are followed by Rhode Island, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, Oregon, Minnesota, Washington, and Maryland.

"States are stepping up on energy efficiency, including major new commitments in New Jersey, New York, and Virginia, helping to address the very limited activity from Washington, DC," noted ACEEE Executive Director Steve Nadel. "These efforts contributed to the 2.25 million-plus efficiency jobs last year in the United States."

New Jersey's Governor Phil Murphy said: "The fact that New Jersey has emerged as the most-improved state speaks volumes on the state's commitment to becoming a 100% clean energy state by 2050."

The scorecard assesses state policies and programs in six areas: utilities, buildings, transportation, state government, combined heat and power, and appliance standards. It highlights best practices for promoting energy efficiency, typically the lowest-cost way to meet customers' energy needs. Such efficiency improves air and water quality, strengthens grid resilience, promotes equity, and improves health and comfort. ↴

New Brew Review

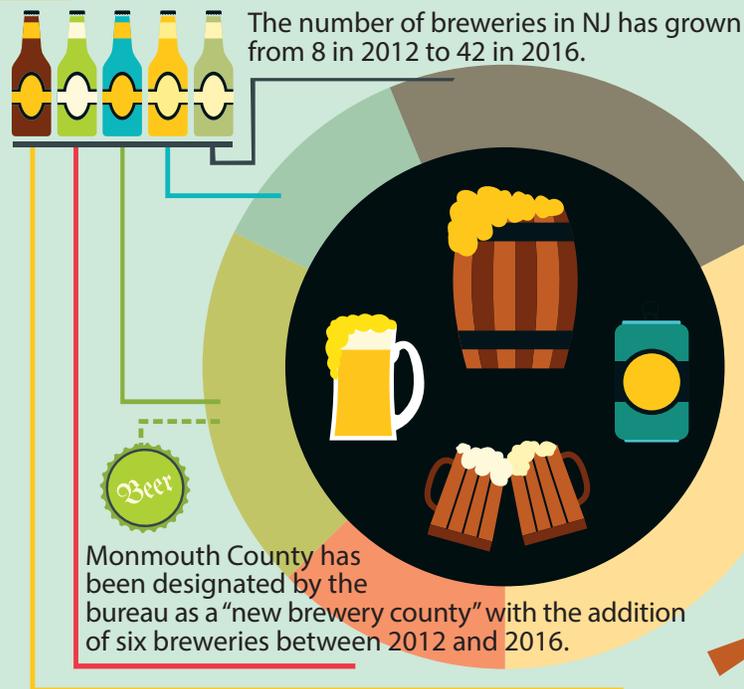
New Jersey Breweries

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, craft breweries, described as “small and independent businesses that combine traditional brew styles with innovative ingredients,” are popping up all over the country.

At the League Conference, the subject was explored in the session “Craft Breweries & Your Municipality.”

Here’s some Garden State-specific data on the topic.

Cheers! 🍻



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U.S. Leagues in Action

Just like in New Jersey, Leagues of Municipalities around the United States strive to help their member towns in a variety of ways, from emergency assistance to long-term planning.

North Carolina Recovery

While helping others recovering from Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael's damages, municipal employees have suffered their own losses. As a result, the North Carolina League of Municipalities has created the Hometown Care Disaster Relief Fund to help those employees of member municipalities who have suffered significant uninsured losses in these storms and other natural disasters. Already, NCLM has donated \$25,000 toward the effort.

Due to legal constraints on the expenditure of public funds, the NC League is not asking for donations by municipalities, but individuals and businesses who would like to contribute to the Hometown Care Disaster Relief Fund, may:

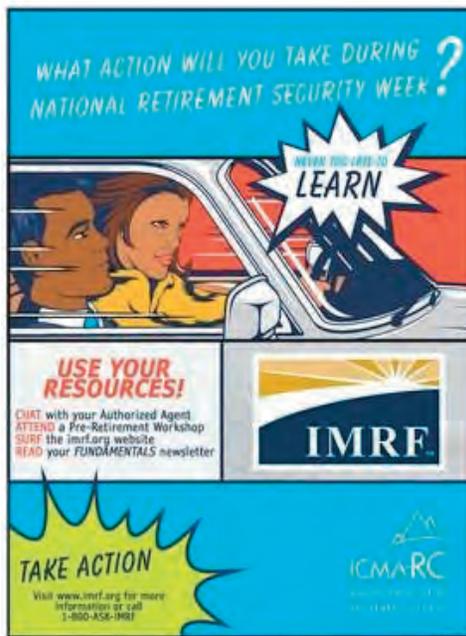
1. Mail your donation to Hometown Care Disaster Relief Fund, 150 Fayetteville St., Suite 300, Raleigh N.C. 27601. Make checks payable to "NCLM Local Leadership Foundation," with notation "Hometown Care." We will provide a letter regarding the deductibility of your contribution, if needed.

2. Make a wire transfer by contacting Dave Welker, Finance Director, at 919-715-8719 or dwelker@nclm.org. We will provide a letter regarding the deductibility of your contribution, if needed.

3. Contribute at our GoFundMe page found at www.gofundme.com/hometown-care-disaster-relief. You will receive a letter regarding the deductibility of your contribution from GoFundMe since we have registered as a valid 501(c)(3) contribution.

Funding Illinoisians

The Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), the state's second-largest



and best-funded statewide public pension plan, is alerting citizens from Metropolis to Wauconda, to be their own heroes during National Retirement Security Week, Oct. 21-27.

This year's theme, Take Action, focuses on ensuring that workers are taking progressive steps towards retirement. Nationally, personal savings numbers are low, as nearly half of working American households have no retirement savings, and the median retirement account balance is only \$2,500 for all working-age households, according to the National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS). Even as the baby boom generation approaches retirement, participation in pension plans has declined since the Financial Crisis of 2008.

Observed annually during the third full week of October, this initiative originally launched in 2006 as National Save for Retirement Week. This period "provides an opportunity for employees to reflect on their personal retirement goals and determine if they are on target to reach those goals," according to the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). 📌

DECEMBER

December 5

**Medical Marijuana-
What Public Employers
Need to Know in New Jersey**
Webinar-Your Computer

December 6

**Strengthening the Bench:
A Discussion of the Municipal
Court Reform Proposals**
DoubleTree Hotel, Tinton Falls

December 14

**P3 Potential:
The New Law
& Your Municipality**
Webinar-Your Computer

JANUARY

January 12

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

January 26

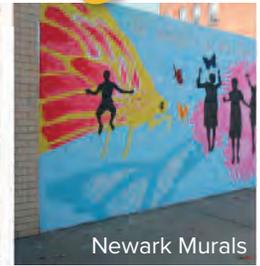
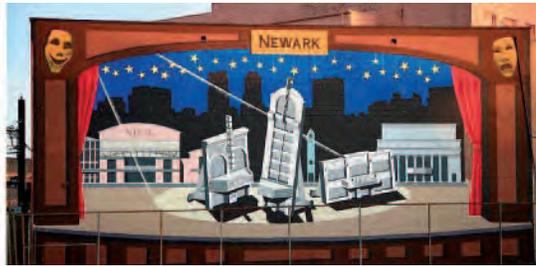
**Orientation for Newly Elected,
Reelected, and Experienced
Municipal Officials**
Westin Hotel, Mt. Laurel

FEBRUARY

February 28

**Everything Elected Officials Should
Know About Immigration Law**
DoubleTree Hotel, Tinton Falls

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Newark Murals Dedicated

The late Newark artist and Lincoln Park icon Rodney M. Gilbert was honored by a crosswalk mural by Yendor Arts' Malcolm A. Rolling, Jay Golding, Yasmee DeJesus, and Elijah Minton. In collaboration with Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District in an effort to enhance the economic impact, foot traffic and community morale, Yendor has designed a set of Crosswalk Murals.

The first crosswalk mural embodies the spirit and life work of the late Rodney M. Gilbert. The Crosswalk Mural design is heavily influenced by West African ancestry of African American communities in the City of Newark and the crosswalks themselves will be highly visible pedestrian walkways. The crosswalk mural was dedicated on Saturday, October 6 during the annual Newark Arts Festival.

Yendor Arts' Newark Murals program, part of the Newark Public Art Program, manifests the spirit and pride of Newark in public spaces by advancing neighborhood improvement agendas of community organizations and residents. To date, over 20 large-scale murals have been created in the city under Yendor's leader Rodney M. Gilbert. Artists make large-scale murals that include collaborations with students and community-based organizations with a strong interest in engaging Newark communities in creating public art.

Pet Memorial Garden

North Brunswick has dedicated the North Brunswick Pet Memorial Garden. Located adjacent to the Dog Park, it includes a stone walk, four benches, and boulders that will have plaques dedicated to pets.

"Most of us or all of us have lost a pet and there is no way to describe how deeply that affects you because we love them so much," said Mayor Francis "Mac" Womack.

The Mayor noted his gratitude toward Parks, Recreations & Community Services Director Lou Ann Benson and members of the Parks Department for their efforts in creating the garden.

Bordentown Upgrades Sports Fields

Bordentown Township is taking great strides in improving its youth recreational facilities. In acquiring the Dix Drive In property on Route 206, as well as funding from a Burlington County Open Space grant totaling in \$250,000, the Township intends to make upgrades to implement new fields and amenities for the youth soccer, softball, baseball, and field hockey organizations.

Township officials met with representatives from several of the Youth Sports Organizations regarding the upgrades needed to the parks and recreational facilities.

"The Township Committee and I are excited about these new improvements and the support we receive from our volunteer Youth Sports Programs," stated Mayor Stephen Benowitz. "We have made a concerted effort to let all of the organizations know that the Township appreciates all that they do for our children, and we make recreation a priority."

The long-term goal is to build a youth soccer facility at the Dix Drive In location, with a total of five soccer fields and recreation amenities. The building of the fields will be phased, with two or three fields hopeful to be available by the end of 2019. 🐾

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WASHINGTON

Combating the Opioid Crisis: No One is Alone in this Fight

By Representatives Tom MacArthur (NJ) and Annie Kuster (NH),
Co-Chairs, Bipartisan Heroin and Opioid Task Force

The opioid crisis is devastating communities across the nation, including in our homes of New Hampshire and New Jersey. In 2016, we lost more people to opioid overdoses than we lost in the Vietnam War. We can and must do better. This epidemic is far too big for us to fight alone—Congress, the Administration, state and local government, and community organizations of all kinds must work together.

At a time of divisiveness in Washington, we've been committed to staying focused on real solutions to take on the challenges our communities face. This epidemic has left no state untouched. Whether in New Hampshire or New Jersey, addressing substance use disorder cannot fall victim to partisan politics. The Bipartisan Heroin and Opioid Task Force, which we chair together, is a productive group of more than 100 members of Congress—both Republican and Democrat—that, time and time again, is able to advance real solutions to this crisis. Together, we have achieved results for our communities and are committed to building on the progress we've made.

Nobody is immune from the suffering, and every community has been impacted. From small rural towns to big cities and across every age, gender, racial, ethnic, and economic group, heroin and fentanyl have altered our neighborhoods and left death and destruction in their path. New Hampshire, sadly is number-three in the country for overdose death rates per capita. New Jersey's opioid overdose death rate is three times the national average, and nationwide, nearly 200 lives are cut short each day due to opioid addiction. This simply cannot continue.

That's why this Congress has taken historic actions to address all aspects of the opioid epidemic. In 2016, the House of Representatives came together during what we called "Opioid Week" and 14 Task Force bills were passed and signed into law.

Earlier in this 115th Congress, the Bipartisan Heroin and Opioid Task Force released a legislative agenda that outlines a comprehensive approach to tackling the opioid epidemic. Our measures bolster support for education and prevention, expand treatment and long-term recovery, as well as law enforcement and interdiction efforts. Already, we've seen action on critical components of our proposal. The INTERDICT Act, signed into law in January, provides enhanced tools to law enforcement to crack down on the flow of synthetic opioids coming into our country from across the border and from overseas. We also

passed and sent to the President's desk the VA Prescription Data Accountability Act, which will improve prescription drug monitoring programs within the VA. And earlier this year, we led over 40 of our colleagues to successfully protect the Office of National Drug Control Policy, which was threatened with budget cuts.

In March, we joined with our colleagues, Reps. Marsha Blackburn (TE) and Tim Ryan (OH) to introduced CARA 2.0, follow-up legislation to the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. CARA 2.0 would authorize an additional \$1 billion for the fight against addiction. This is on top of the \$6 billion in new funding agreed to earlier this year as part of the Bipartisan Budget Agreement.

But money alone isn't going to solve this issue.

“Nobody is immune from the suffering, and every community has been impacted.”

Just this summer, the House took the most significant congressional action against any single drug crisis in history and overwhelmingly passed more than 50 bipartisan bills addressing all aspects of the opioid crisis. The Support for Patients and Communities Act incorporates these bills that bolster efforts to get deadly illicit synthetic drugs, like fentanyl, off of our streets, improve prevention methods, and provide advanced treatment for those suffering from addiction. More than half of these bills were written by members of the Bipartisan Heroin and Opioid Task Force and five were top Task Force priorities. Critical bills like Jessie's Law, which increases doctors' access to medical history related to addiction when making prescribing decisions and the Veterans Treatment Court Improvement Act, which helps our men and women who have served in uniform access treatment rather than go to prison, were both included in our opioid package.

We will continue to educate our colleagues about successful efforts in our own states. Programs like SAFE Stations in New Hampshire and On P.O.I.N.T in New Jersey can serve as models for communities across the country.

No one is alone in this fight. This is an all hands-on deck moment and we will continue leading on this critical issue. We're ready to do whatever is necessary and deliver for families everywhere, and we urge our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us. 🦋

The views expressed and the data presented by contributors are theirs and are not necessarily shared by the League.

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TRENTON



Making Mental and Behavioral Health Care a Priority

By Gary Schaer, Assemblyman, District 36

Not long ago I received a phone call from a constituent who wanted to discuss the cost of her adult son's prescription to treat his bipolar disorder. She framed her concerns with admiration for her child who had confronted his illness with determination to master it. He has a job, a family, and a psychiatrist who helps him manage his illness. He is a functioning and contributing member of society. She also spoke more broadly of an entire community of people affected by mental and behavioral health concerns either through their own experience or the experience of a loved one. I think all of us, whether touched personally or through a greater awareness of current events, have recognized that mental and behavioral health must become a priority.

According to the CDC one in every five Americans experience a mental health issue. More concerning, from 2009 to 2016, the rate of suicide in this country has increased 28%, making suicide the 10th leading cause of death in the United States. Despite its pervasiveness, part of what makes addressing this epidemic so difficult is the taboo that comes with recognizing or admitting to any mental or behavioral health issue.

One way to break that taboo and this escalating pattern is to make mental health screening services more widely available through a package of mental health related bills. Bill A-2389 establishes additional mobile screening services provided by the Department of Health to individuals in crisis and emphasizes outreach and early intervention. Moreover, A-2391 would expand Early Intervention Support Services from a program only available in 11 counties to every county. This expansion would provide rapid access to short-term, recovery-oriented crisis intervention and stabilization services in a non-hospital setting or through outreach in the community.

Emergency rooms remain poorly equipped to address these individuals' needs and lack the ability to provide necessary follow-up care. The reduction in hospital beds and drastic cuts

to funding over the last decade has left families and patients with fewer options and little choice for treatment. Furthermore, treating patients in the emergency room for mental and behavioral health is unnecessarily expensive in terms of costs to taxpayers and often exacts an emotional cost to the patient when they couldn't be more fragile. It is my hope that through

“I think all of us, whether touched personally or through a greater awareness of current events, have recognized that mental and behavioral health must become a priority.”

expanding screening and support services statewide, we can begin to confront and address the mental and behavioral health needs of our community in an effective, responsible, and practical way.

Finally, A-2194, my bill to establish a Behavioral Health Task Force would make recommendations to establish new programs or revise existing ones. Clearly, the consequences of not prioritizing mental and behavioral health are vast and complicated. We are witnessing an opioid epidemic, an increase in self-harm, and an increase in suicide. We need to begin now to identify the gaps in the current behavioral health care system, county by county for acute, short-term and long-term care.

Every generation has faced its own health crisis and this is ours. If we hesitate to address this crisis because we feel shame or because it is often invisible we will only extend and worsen the consequences. Rather, we must expand the support we currently provide, look for new solutions, and prioritize this issue. I share in the pride my constituent expressed for her son and am hopeful that we can rise to the challenge just as he has. 🦋

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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.

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TRENTON



Inclusion a Win at Jake's Place and Beyond

By Louis Greenwald, District 6, Assembly Majority Leader

For eight Saturdays each spring, the Camden County Miracle League hosts baseball games for children and adults of all abilities at Jake's Place in Cherry Hill. Each player gets a hit, and outs are never called. Seeing the joy on the faces of the people who come out each week to play is an unparalleled delight, as they round the bases with their buddies. The scene would bring a smile to anyone's face, watching the crowd cheer for the players and the hundreds of high-fives that are exchanged each game.

The field that the Miracle League plays on was custom-made to ensure that children and adults with disabilities are able to play, just like the rest of Jake's Place. This all-inclusive playground provides opportunities for play that are not available at most playgrounds or ball fields due to a lack of accessibility. Completely inclusive playgrounds, like Jake's Place, allow children and adults of all abilities to play and interact together.

Everyone deserves a place to play, and inclusive playgrounds are accessible to everyone, but not every family has access to a facility like Jake's Place, and we have the power to change that. Last session, I introduced legislation inspired by Jake's Place, after seeing the joy it brought to children and adults in my district. This legislation, like the park, is named for Jacob Myles Cummings-Nasto, a young boy with a rare cardiac condition. Jake's grandparents were the force behind building Jake's Place, and they were there earlier this year when the Governor signed this bill into law. Jake's Law incentivizes counties to build all-inclusive playgrounds for adults and children with disabilities, so all nine million New Jerseyans can play.

Counties that elect to build these inclusive parks are able to partner with organizations like Jake's Place to complete these projects. To help counties as they push for these playgrounds, their applications for Green Acres will be prioritized, helping to acquire land and funding that can be used for recreational purposes.

Inclusive parks are being built across the state as we speak. Jake's Place has broken ground on a new park in Delran, in



“Everyone deserves a place to play, and inclusive playgrounds are accessible to everyone, but not every family has access to a facility like Jake's Place, and we have the power to change that.”

conjunction with Burlington County, and countless playgrounds exist in many parts of the state, including Challenger Place in Colts Neck, Votee Park in Teaneck, and Veteran's Park Playground in Hamilton. By continuing to expand these offerings we can offer opportunities for play to all of New Jersey children and adults, regardless of ability. ♣

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Municipal Parking

Discovering a catalyst for redevelopment

By Leonard T. Bier, CAPP, JD; Director, Parking Authority & Redevelopment Agency, City of Rahway; CEO, Bier Associates



Parking is an essential element of urban redevelopment and, when properly located, can act as a catalyst for redevelopment. The highest and best use of land located within a city's Central Business District (CBD) or adjacent to a mass transportation facility is not a parking lot. Too often this is where government-owned real estate is located. Consequently, municipal parking lots can present an opportunity for government to repurpose its parking lots and support revitalization by putting these real estate assets into play as redevelopment sites.

Structured parking

Structured parking is a necessary and expensive resource to build for both the public and private sector as part of a development project. In most New Jersey urban environments, structured parking cannot generate a profit for a private developer and must be subsidized by rents from other components of the developer's project: retail, office, entertainment venues, and residential units.

A local government's decision to replace a parking lot with a structured parking facility to free up other municipal parking lots for a redevelopment project is an element of government participation in urban planning.

Unlocking the redevelopment potential and value of well-placed public parking lots can be done in a number of ways.

1. A standalone garage financed by the government with tax exempt or taxable bonds acts as a redevelopment catalyst to encourage private sector new development and rehabilitation of existing area commercial and residential real estate within

the garage's area of influence.

2. Mixed use garages financed by a government entity as the designated redeveloper, including commercial retail or service leaseholds available on the ground floor and office space located on liner floors above grade and/or office, restaurants or residential on the garage roof. This type of government investment demonstrates to the development community the government's commitment to redevelopment.

3. Public Private Partnerships (P3) projects can be two types:

(1) Government entity sells parking lots development rights to a private developer, in support of a redevelopment project that is favored by the government.

(2) Full P3 the government participates in the financing and operation of the mixed use redevelopment project's parking facility.

When repurposing an urban parking lot for structured parking, either standalone or as a component of a redevelopment project,



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Municipal Parking

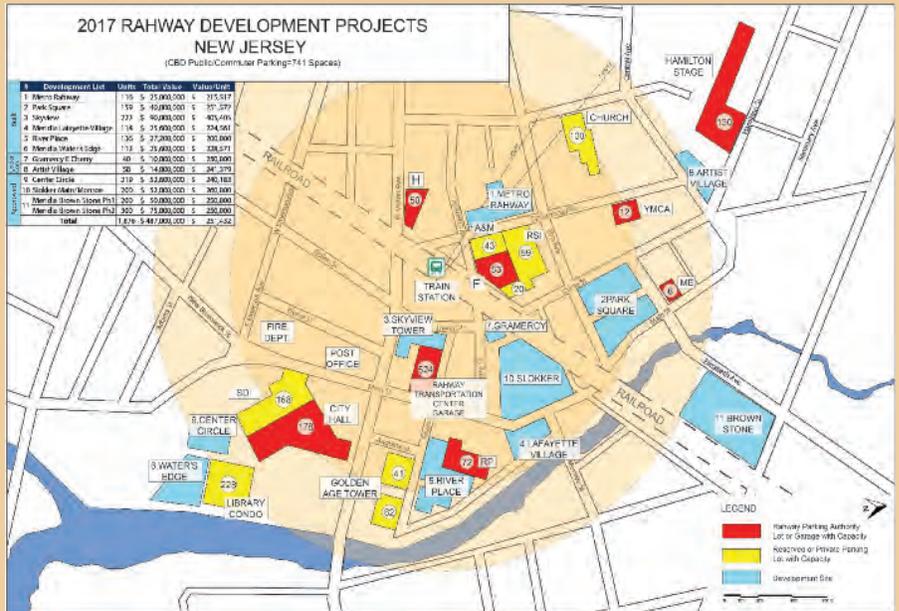
user walkability to a driver’s ultimate destination, the “Parking Generator” is a key consideration. Generally the ease and lack of friction when walking from the parking resource to the final trip destination will increase walking distance.

According to “Walkability Improvements – Strategies to Make Walking Convenient, Safe and Pleasant” from the *TDM Encyclopedia* by the Victoria Transportation Policy Institute, the key factors influencing walking distances are: trip purpose, temperature extremes, shade and rain cover, line of sight to destination, safety of walking route, and crossing barriers such as a railroad track or divided highway. Climate and temperature are considered to be the primary factors, followed by safety.

“Unlocking the redevelopment potential and value of well-placed public parking lots can be done in a number of ways.”

Research related to walkability, also by the Victoria Transportation Policy Institute, has identified 1,200’ as the urban walking outer boundary between a parking resources and parking generator/destination. Municipalities have generally adopted planning and/or zoning ordinances distances ranging from 500’ to 1,200’ from an off-site parking resource to a redevelopment project to satisfy municipal code required parking.

Determining the area of influence for a structured parking facility and locating parking generators within it can be accomplished by drawing a concentric circle from the parking facility to the outer boundary. This exercise assists in identifying the redevelopment potential of other public or private parking lots or commercial properties located in



Case Study: Rahway

City of Rahway Transportation Center Garage is an example of a stand-alone garage constructed for a redevelopment catalyst purpose. The City and Parking Authority collectively owned eight parking lots, containing a total of 576 public parking spaces within a 1,000-foot radius of the New Jersey Transit train station plaza. In 2005, the Parking Authority constructed and opened a centrally located garage with 524 parking space across from the train station.

The City’s plan was to unlock the redevelopment potential of the existing CBD parking lots, create a downtown resident population and attract private developers to construct 2,000 residential units within a walkable distance to the train station.

Rahway adopted a “CBD Redevelopment Plan” and used New Jersey Smart Growth Transit Oriented Development (TOD) planning principals to reduce the City’s required residential parking ratio to 1.25 parking spaces per dwelling unit for redevelopment project approved by the Rahway Redevelopment Agency.

Rahway adopted a “Shared Parking” ordinance to reduce costly redundant parking spaces and authorized a Payment In Lieu Of Parking (PILOP) program. The PILOP program in the discretion of the Parking Authority enables developers unable to provide code required onsite parking to make a voluntary contribution to a dedicated parking replacement fund. Overflow parking from the development project is directed to an Authority-owned or operated parking facility, where the parker pays the going monthly market parking fee.

In all, 12 residential redevelopment projects within a 1,600-foot radius of the train station have been approved for redevelopment since 2005. The 12 projects total: approximately 1,948 residential units, a hotel with 102 rooms, and 25,090 square feet of retail. The economic development value of land purchases, soft development costs, and construction of all 12 projects is over \$500 million. As of year 2018, 976 residential units, 102 hotel rooms, and 19,890 square feet of retail equaling have been constructed. The remaining four redevelopment projects contain a total of 952 residential units in phased development. At the present time 678 units are under construction by the four designated developers.



Rahway parking structure.

proximity to the parking facility.

Other ways to use parking as a catalyst for redevelopment, aside from building a centrally located parking structures, is to reduce and/or unbundle the municipal land use parking requirements and ratios for redevelopment.

Paving the way for Parking

Has your municipality adopted a transit friendly Transit Oriented Development (TOD) parking code requirements? Research conducted by New Jersey Transit and other state, regional, and local transit entities has determined that residential and office development within ¼ mile of a mass transit station or multi-modal transit hub reduces the number of parking spaces needed to satisfy parking for development projects by 15% to 25% for offices and 5% to 60% for residential development.

Has your municipal government recognized Shared Parking? A city can amend municipal land use ordinances/ codes, to include the option for a developer to share on or off-site parking spaces when adopting redevelopment plans and redevelopment overlay districts/ zones. Outdated planning principals should not compel a developer or municipal parking entity participating in a P3 project to construct a parking facility based on the sum of individual parking generators and users.

Depending on a redevelopment project's mixed use components, a parking facility can be shared by different parking generators. Effective shared parking uses include residential and office, office and hotel/movie theatre. The peak parking times for these parking generators occur at different times of day, days of the week and are not in conflict. When a shared parking analysis is prepared using models from nationally recognized

planning organizations such as Urban Land Institute (ULI), American Planning Association (APA), and Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), the size of a parking facility for a mixed use development project can be reduced. A properly sized parking facility reduces financing costs and increase the economic feasibility of the redevelopment project

“Car Sharing” services by Avis and Enterprise, as well as “Car on Demand” services by Uber & Lyft, reduce individual car ownership and lowers the number of parking spaces that a residential project needs. This trend is a factor to be considered in setting parking space ratios for residential and office redevelopment projects. 🚗

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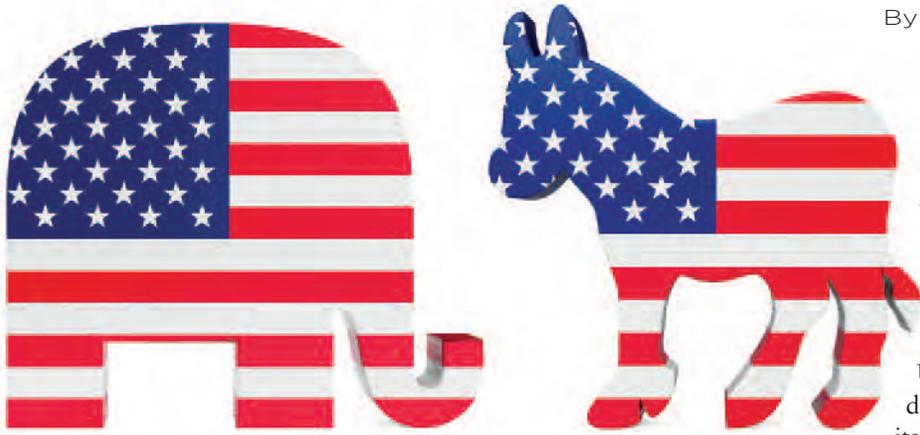
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Op Ed:

Stronger Local Parties, Stronger Local Government

Why New Jersey's party system needs a refresher

By Jeff Brindle, Executive Director, New Jersey
Election Law Enforcement Commission



Strengthening political parties will broaden the influence of municipal officials over policies adopted by State government.

Many good reasons exist for resurrecting New Jersey's weakened party system. None are more important than enhancing the say local officials have over top-down decisions that affect their communities.

To most, "home rule" is a thing of the past. Bringing back the parties may restore a semblance of that tradition.

Having stronger political parties locally will give greater voice to municipal officials as they advocate for their communities.

Legislators and other State officials would come to depend more on municipal and county party leadership for support. With greater accountability to local political parties, officials elected to serve in State government would be more receptive to designing policies that would loosen State mandates and regulatory control over local governments.

Local government first

Thomas Jefferson maintained "local government first, State government second, national government third." Though there is a no returning to the 18th century, strengthening parties may help bring those relationships back into balance.

More say-so by municipal officials over their own affairs will benefit the public in numerous ways, not the least of which is maintaining control of spending and property taxes.

This is not to say that State government does not have a role to play in ensuring that municipalities function properly, particularly financially.

Yet, allowing municipalities to be freed from State mandates and regulations may foster creativity and enhance democracy locally. A stronger political party system that involves local parties can help bring this about.

Unfortunately, recent years have witnessed a serious dismantlement of the State's political party system. In its place has emerged a trend toward independent, outside group involvement that is threatening the very existence of political parties.

The decline of parties

The trend began at the national level following the 2002 enactment of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA), known as McCain-Feingold, and accelerated due to U.S. Supreme Court rulings that ended restrictions on independent spending by corporations, unions and non-profits.

While federal trends have contributed to the demise of parties in New Jersey, the State's maze of Pay-to-Play restrictions has served as the main culprit in the decline of these historic institutions.

Pay-to-Play, while well meaning, directly weakened political parties by ending all but token contributions from what had traditionally been a major source: public contractors.

It also spurred the growth of special interest political action committees (PACs) and independent groups since many of those same public contractors ended up shifting contributions to these less accountable groups.

Independent groups now dominate elections in New Jersey. During the 2017 gubernatorial and legislative elections, outside groups spent more than triple the expenditures of the two state parties and four legislative leadership committees—\$47.5 million compared with \$13.3 million.

Just 10 years earlier, those same "Big Six" committees spent 42 times more than outside groups.

The erosion of political parties and rise of outside groups was not limited to the State party entities, however. County and municipal party organizations have been victimized by the growth of independent groups as well.

Aided by special election-year funding by groups like the Democratic Governor's Association (DGA), county organizations spent \$14.1 million last year. But that sum still was nearly half the \$27 million spent in 2003.

Municipal party committees were not spared either. In 2017, municipal party committees throughout New Jersey spent approximately \$4.4 million—half the spending of 10 years earlier.

Even as local party coffers have declined, outside group spending has filtered down to county and municipal elections, even to school board contests.

For example, in 2013, Committee for Economic Growth and Justice, a Super PAC, spent \$176,116 on the Elizabeth school board race. That same year Better Education for New Jersey Kids expended \$251,629 in Jersey City's mayoralty contest.

In 2014, a total of \$5.5 million was spent by independent groups in the Newark mayoralty race. The largest independent group in that race, Newark First, spent \$4.5 million versus the \$2.2 million expended by the candidate it supported. Outside group activity also occurred in Trenton's mayoral contest that year.

In 2015, a Washington, D.C.-based Super PAC even involved itself in Parsippany's primary election.

Directing the money

Without change, single issue, special interest groups will not only overwhelm State, county, and municipal parties, but the campaigns of candidates themselves. As this is happening, influence by these groups grows over policy decisions made by elected officials statewide and locally.

For years, well-intentioned reformers have been trying to reduce the amount of money in politics. But these efforts are to no avail. Money somehow always finds its way into the political game. What is important is to direct the money toward areas of the most accountability. This can be accomplished through an electoral system that favors parties and candidates, not independent groups.

The importance of parties

To be sure, political parties may not be a panacea for good government. But they are better than the alternative,

which leaves independent, often anonymous groups controlling election outcomes, and therefore government.

Political parties are accountable, highly regulated under New Jersey statutes, disclose all their financial activities, and, importantly, provide a guide to voting.

Throughout the nation's history they have been an integral part of our civil society by serving as a link between families and the government. Critically, they organize government at all levels, including executive, legislative, and judicial functions.

Political parties play a role in organizing City Hall, Governor's offices, and the White House. Borough Councils, Township Committees, State Legislatures, and Congress all are structured on the

basis of party. Even municipal, State, and federal courts are filled with judges directly or indirectly connected with political parties.

Reversing the decline in political parties may have a bonus: boosting voter turnout.

Turnout in 1993 statewide elections was 65%. Political parties spent \$47 million that year, while spending by independent groups was minimal.

Turnout in 2017 elections was just 36%. Was it a coincidence that independent groups outspent parties \$48 million to \$26 million?

Strong municipal governments, directly responsible to local citizens, are essential to the overall well-being of the State. Strong municipal parties are a critical component of that paradigm. 🗳️

The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) has put forth a package of proposals designed to bring commonsense accountability to the electoral process at all levels of New Jersey government.

These proposals would at once strengthen political parties, offset the influence of independent groups, and clear up confusion over Pay-to-Play rules at all levels of government.

The proposals are:

Political Parties

1. Exclude parties from Pay-to-Play limits.
2. Increase contribution limits.
3. Allow State parties to participate in gubernatorial campaigns.
4. Allow county parties to give to each other, even during primaries.

Independent Groups

1. Registration.
2. Disclosure of contributions and expenditures.

Pay-to-Play

1. One State law.
2. All contracts over \$17,500 disclosed.
3. End Fair-and-Open loophole.
4. Increase contractor donation limit from \$300 to \$1,000.
5. Include PACs under the law.
6. Exclude parties from the law.
7. Require contractor donations to independent groups to be disclosed.

Local Giving

An Effective Vehicle for
Securing Philanthropic
Resources for
Local Communities

By Jordan Glatt, Former Mayor, Summit;
New Jersey Shared Services Czar; Director
of Strategic Partnerships, Community
Foundation of New Jersey; and
Michael Inganamort, Councilman,
Chester Township; Communications Director,
Community Foundation of New Jersey



A century ago, community chests were the beating heart of philanthropy in towns across America. They would collect private support for local projects, while uniting the people and businesses in a community and creating the built infrastructure—from town squares to playgrounds—that gave towns their character and vibrancy.

Today's giving is of another sort. It is increasingly online, instant, and international. The number of nonprofits or projects one can support are infinite. From the comfort of our couches, we can text a donation to an individual selling crafts on a street corner in Peru. Or we can hop online to donate to relief efforts for a natural disaster as it happens half a world away.

This expansion in philanthropy coincides with a boom in its volume, with Americans giving more than \$400 billion to worthy causes in 2017 alone.

I raised my family here and built my business here—I want to give back

Despite the ways in which philanthropy is expanding and growing, the fundamental motivation to give remains the same: to make things better. And for many Americans, that still leads them home. Out of duty, pride, sentimentality, or a combination thereof, we still give most of our philanthropic dollars within our own communities.

Take the example of Genevieve Via Cava, a special education teacher in the Dumont school district. After decades of clipping coupons, Via Cava had saved what she needed to make a \$1 million gift to the district to support scholarships for special education students. The gift was a complete surprise, yet

transformed a key aspect of the school district.

From our view at the Community Foundation of New Jersey, we know that there are remarkably generous people like Genevieve Via Cava up and down our state. Unfortunately, their intended philanthropy often slips through the cracks or is weighed down by bureaucratic wrangling and delays.

Municipalities and school districts are rarely the recipient or central coordinator of philanthropy largely due to the growth in outside nonprofit organizations, but also because of donors' disinterest or distaste for the changing leadership and uneven politics of local government.

Facilitating philanthropy to towns & schools

The Community Foundation of New Jersey, founded in 1979 in the spirit of the original community chest, provides a solution to facilitate more private philanthropy to municipalities and school districts.

For nearly 40 years, the Community Foundation has stewarded giving in line with donors' intent. Through more than 1,000 donor advised funds and legacy funds (better known as bequests), the Community Foundation fosters philanthropy that is more sustained and impactful, concentrating on achieving meaningful, long-term change.

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Local Giving

The Community Foundation is “issue ecumenical” in that it implements philanthropic legacies of all stripes. Its north star is the donor’s intent and it serves as a critical bulwark against the politics of the day. Through the Community Foundation, donors can ensure their philanthropic legacies will last for generations. These attributes provide much-needed comfort and assurance to prospective donors who are motivated to give to their communities but rightfully insistent that the dollars be used wisely.

Avoiding bureaucratic delays

One does not have to be the child of a dictator or a pioneer on Wall Street (see box) to effectively partner with the Community Foundation and establish a local philanthropic legacy. Every town has those who express a devotion to their community, but who are reluctant to bequeath their estate directly to that community. The Community Foundation of New Jersey does most of its work with these everyday New Jerseyans,

Growing Legacies

Hope for a long-term legacy of giving has inspired a wide variety of givers, including Svetlana Stalin—yes, that Stalin—to create funds at the Community Foundation of New Jersey. The daughter of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, Svetlana defected to the United States in 1967, denounced her father’s brutal legacy, and ultimately settled in Princeton. Along the way, she developed a deep and personal concern for new immigrants to the United States, especially those in New Jersey.

Her fund at the Community Foundation is active to this day and focuses squarely on easing immigrants’ transition to a new life. Svetlana Stalin could hardly predict the twists and turns of America’s immigration debate over the decades (which, of course, plays out in towns across our state), but the Community Foundation has faithfully honored her philanthropic intent throughout, using the fund to provide English language education and even expand STEM education for new immigrants.

Similarly motivated was Austin Hooey, a longtime Chatham resident and one of the first female financial analysts on Wall Street. As part of her will, Hooey left \$1.2 million to the Community Foundation for a permanent scholarship endowment for Chatham High School students. The endowment is one of the few in the state dedicated to students of a public school.

helping them turn their philanthropic ideas into reality and thereby unlocking philanthropy that would otherwise be lost. This work has run the gamut from a pedestrian safety program in

Little Falls to an all-access playground in Parsippany.

What each of these projects has in ingenuity and impact they also share in longevity, thanks to the Community

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Foundation ensuring their continued fidelity to the donors' wishes.

This fidelity in fact helps donors and recipients alike avoid the bureaucratic and legal wrangling that can plague even the most well-intentioned gifts.

Take the example of one northern New Jersey town where a resident's last will and testament gifted a large sum to its Recreation Commission. Unfortunately, that town no longer had a Recreation Commission. While all parties knew that the individual's intent was to support recreation programming, the town's attorney had to spend valuable time taking the matter to court to redirect the funds.

“Every town has those who express a devotion to their community, but who are reluctant to bequeath their estate directly to that community.”

Municipalities would be well-served by better understanding the role of the Community Foundation of New Jersey and how it can not only safeguard, but also increase the flow of future philanthropy for our communities' parks, playgrounds, and social services. 📍

@ Visit <http://CFNJ.org>

Jordan Glatt, a former mayor of Summit and one of New Jersey's Shared Services Czars, is the Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Community Foundation of New Jersey. Michael Inganamort, a Councilman in Chester Township, is the Communications Director at the Community Foundation of New Jersey.

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Highland Park's Mandela Fellows

Borough leaders mentor young African change-makers

By Harry Glazer, Public Information Officer, Highland Park

One of the biggest compliments someone can receive is when they're asked to serve as a mentor for a young professional. And one of the biggest compliments a local government can receive is when a federally supported university-based program asks the town to serve as a mentor for a group of visiting up-and-coming influencers from the other side of the world.



Highland Park's Councilwoman Elise Foster-Dublin (left), Borough Administrator Teri Jover (right), and Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler (seated), welcomed Candice M'Baita, Jackson Wenesayo Bambu, and Osasu Paul-Azino, Mandela Fellows.

Mentoring professionals

In late June and through July, the Borough of Highland Park's governing body served as the professional development mentor for three professionals from Africa participating in the Civic Leadership track of the Mandela Washington Fellowship Program. The Mandela Fellowships, now in their fifth year, empower young African entrepreneurs, activists, and community leaders by providing high-level academic presentations and exchanges, practical mentorships with real world training, and ample networking opportunities.

The three Rutgers University based Mandela Fellows the Borough mentored were:

- **Candice M'Baita** from Zimbabwe, the managing director of a mobile sonography company, who provides community-based

medical imaging services such as ultrasound to rural, remote and marginalized areas in various parts of Southern Zimbabwe.

- **Jackson Wenesayo Bambu** from South Sudan, the program manager of ARISE Socio-Cultural Foundation ASAF, who works to foster intergroup understanding and cooperation between members of 64 tribes in his war-torn country.

- **Osasu Paul-Azino** from Nigeria, the curator of THR Media—a platform to share African social impact stories with the world through social media, who is also the manager of a shelter for victims of domestic abuse and a spoken-word poet.

As part of their civic leadership professional development mentorship, Borough leaders arranged for M'Baita, Bambu, and Paul-Azino to attend a Borough Council meeting, take tours of the Highland Park Police Department building and the

Global Feedback

The Fellows were delighted with their experiences in Highland Park and praised the Borough leaders for their efforts in setting up the many activities of the mentorship.

"I learned so much in these few weeks. I love how the Borough Council always has the community's needs at heart and works through relationships to get things done. The mentorship also gave me a few firsts—my first meeting with a mayor, my first tour of a police station, and my first court session. I gained so much in my time in Highland Park." – Candice M'Baita

"I'm so grateful for the time we spent with Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler, Councilwoman Elsie Foster-Dublin, Borough Administrator Teri Jover, and Human Resources Coordinator Leann Cosley-Richardson. I learned a lot from watching them at work and appreciated their warm welcome and their openness."

– Jackson Wenesayo Bambu

Highland Park Public Library, attend a community meeting at the Reformed Church about how to mobilize support for local immigrants, take a driving tour of the Borough with the Mayor, attend a Police Youth Academy program with presentations by prison inmates, a ride along with a Highland Park Police officer to observe his work in community policing, attend a session of the Municipal Court, and attend smaller group government meetings on a variety of topics.

“I often remark that while the global village is big and there’s a broad array of cultures, faiths, and races, the range of human problems that local municipalities address is actually remarkably similar— whether it’s in Mogadishu or Middlesex County.”

—Mayor Brill Mittler

Borough leaders also set up a meeting for the Fellows with retired Judge Barnett Hoffman (a Highland Park resident), a visit and discussion with leaders of the Women Aware shelter in Middlesex County and a visit with the Care Transitions department of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

Mutual learning

Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler observed that the mentorship was a wonderful learning experience for Borough officials as well. “I often remark that while the global village is big and there’s a broad array of cultures, faiths, and races, the range of human problems that local municipalities address is actually remarkably similar—whether it’s in Mogadishu or Middlesex County,” said Mayor Brill Mittler.

“As an example, I learned a whole lot

from Osasu about how the shelter she manages faces the same challenges, and uses many of the same tactics, that a local shelter in Middlesex County employs. I learned from Jackson that the intergroup efforts of his ARISE organization bear striking similarity to the programs of the NAACP and the ADL, yet also offer some new twists we should consider. And my conversations

with Candice reminded me anew of the challenges of bringing high quality health care to underserved populations.”

The Mayor added: “I’d term this professional development mentorship a great success for the Mandela Fellows but also a wonderful ideas exchange and learning occasion for us too. Truly, this was a win-win for the Fellows and for Highland Park.”

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NJFA Turns 20

Foundation celebrates two decades of senior services

By Melissa Chalker, Executive Director,
New Jersey Foundation for Aging



Retired Executive Director Grace Egan, right and new Executive Director Melissa Chalker.

The New Jersey Foundation for Aging (NJFA) is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year. It's been two decades of advocacy, education, and partnerships.

How did it all begin?

The seeds of the idea that eventually became NJFA were planted as early as 1991. NJ4A (the New Jersey Association of Area Agencies on Aging) consisted of a professional group of Executive Directors of the 21 county Offices on Aging. They had the foresight to realize what was on the horizon. The tasks required to produce substantive and positive change needed to be addressed—the sooner the better. It was then that these professionals decided that what was really needed was an organization, created from scratch, to address the issues and take them on. There were talks in meetings, there were discussions prompted by a landscape of resources that were becoming progressively scarce.

The seeds of the idea took root three years later when, in 1994, some of the principle parties went to a convention in Virginia. They were impressed by a group of people who had set up a local/regional organization to help supplement and look at/identify other aging services needed in their area. This was to become the working model for NJFA.

The writing was on the wall. New Jersey faced an increase of aging seniors with changing and diverse needs, from personal care to assistance with housing, to medical assistance, even basic access to resources and facilities. It became clear that meeting the needs of 21st century seniors was going to involve addressing everything from all the aforementioned issues, plus in-home care, financial hardships, and more. Traditional family roles were shifting; the reality of more family members in the work force meant a shortage of caregivers.

What have we done?

In the past 20 years, NJFA has hosted 20 annual conferences for professionals, funded more than 40 senior services programs, produced many issues of *Renaissance* magazine, 84+ episodes of *Aging Insights* and worked on countless policy and advocacy issues facing older adults in New Jersey.

Some of the policy issues that have been priorities for NJFA are economic security, senior hunger, transportation, caregiver support, and much more.

NJFA often works with partners to address these important issues. Sometimes NJFA convenes groups to discuss needed policy and advocacy work, such as our recent affordable housing work, which brought together many partner organizations and led to the release of a Recommendation Report on how to

improve access to affordable housing in NJ for older adults and those with chronic conditions.

What's next?

Part of what's next is a change in leadership at NJFA. After playing an integral role in establishing NJFA, Grace Egan is moving on from her time as Executive Director. After 10 years of working side by side with Ms. Egan at NJFA, the Board has selected, and I'm proud to be named as the new Executive Director. I hope to uphold the legacy of NJFA created by Grace and the founding trustees, while also taking NJFA into the future.

Meeting the needs of seniors in NJ is still important to the foundation; and much like the issues that faced the Founding Trustees in 1998, we are again looking at increase in the older adult population. With the aging of the baby boomers, we can certainly expect a different demand on the aging services network. With advancements in technology, changing needs of a diverse population, and stress on informal caregivers, we know that there will be much needed advocacy now, as well as in the future as the reality of aging continues to shift in America and in New Jersey.

NJFA will continue to pursue its original mission of serving older adults in NJ with a statewide focus on social policy and encouraging high standards of service in the field of aging. With the help of our Board and advisory group and our many partners, we will focus on professional education through our annual conference and other forums, remain committed to giving a voice to New Jersey's older adults on policy issues and continue to promote public awareness of aging issues through *Renaissance* magazine, *Aging Insights* episodes, social media, and more. 📌

@ To learn more about NJFA, visit www.njfoundationforaging.org.



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GOLD DOME



Can New Jersey Become a Startup State, Again?

By Ben Dworkin, Ph.D., Director, Rowan University
Institute for Public Policy & Citizenship

From paid family leave to free college tuition, Governor Phil Murphy has a very activist view of the state's role in making New Jersey "fairer and stronger."

He intends to pay for these and other efforts by revamping the tax code, and critically, growing the economy. The state, currently ranked 49th in the nation in wage growth and economic activity, has lagged behind other states in the region.

Recently, Gov. Murphy unveiled his economic development strategic plan. Considered comprehensive to its supporters, and a hodgepodge to its critics, the proposal identifies four key priorities:

- 1) Invest in people.
- 2) Invest in communities.
- 3) Make government work better.
- 4) Make New Jersey a "State of Innovation."

“Can government policy make a state's economic ecosystem more entrepreneurial?”

A key element in the plan is to recapture what he calls the state's lost position as the cradle of new and emerging industries. In 2007, New Jersey was fifth in the nation (\$1.3 billion) in terms of total venture capital flowing into New Jersey-based startups. Today, the state ranks 15th and, according to the governor, "the amount of capital coming to innovative New Jersey firms has been cut in half."

While Gov. Chris Christie's administration focused on aggressive use of tax subsidies for companies that came here or, more controversially, stayed here rather than moving away, Gov. Murphy's team is poised to put the state much more directly in the venture capital business, with direct investments in selected New Jersey-based startups.

Gov. Murphy wants to create the New Jersey Innovation Evergreen Fund with a \$250 million stake from the state that would be matched by money from private venture capital funds. New Jersey's contribution would come from auctioning state tax credits to existing New Jersey companies.

The investments would focus on Garden State-rooted businesses in life sciences, financial technology, digital media, and cybersecurity.

Putting the state as a direct and knowing investor in an individual startup company seems to be the most out-of-the-box idea and potentially the most controversial. History is replete with examples of poor (i.e., costly to taxpayers) selections by the government when it gets in the business of trying to pick specific winners, rather than providing more general, industry-wide support through tax breaks.

NJ and Startups...perfect together?

More fundamentally, the Murphy administration's plan begs larger questions: Can state policy encourage people to be entrepreneurial? Can government reshape its economic ecosystem to become a "startup state"?

Of course, say some. Simply cut regulations and taxes to make it as easy and cheap as possible to start a new company.

Well, it's actually not so simple, counter others. Deregulation of industries often leads to negative, unintended consequences. The environmental impacts of unfettered fossil fuel exploration is perhaps history's most notable example. Many would even argue that the government's hands-off attitude towards social media companies—previously the poster child for the benefits of the laissez faire attitude—have led to mass miseducation, manipulation by foreign adversaries, and given safe haven for terrorist recruiters.

Leaving aside deregulation, creating a startup state through tax policy also has problems. Competition is fierce to be among the chosen few to receive the benefit. "Why just them? Why not us?" is the common refrain from similar, more established companies.

Gov. Murphy's plan works around this traditional debate by incorporating several additional approaches to making New Jersey a hotbed of innovation.

The Safety Net Approach: Contrary to the popular image, the average entrepreneur isn't a 20-something, it is actually someone in their 40s. This person is more likely to be held back because of middle-age concerns like family health insurance and the education costs for their kids.

The final version of Murphy's "investing in people" plank may well focus beyond workforce development to include the things that mid-career New Jerseyans need to be bold, entrepreneurial risk-takers.

The Start Young Approach:

Murphy's recently announced "computer science for all" initiatives are part of the larger focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education in younger grades. Teach them computer coding by high school, and you will raise the next Bill Gates or Steve Jobs, so the thinking goes.

The importance of coding skills in the 21st century workforce is without question, but one shouldn't forget that employers are also telling colleges that they need more, not less, liberal arts majors, who are skilled at creativity, critical thinking, and writing.

The Urban Planning Approach:

Another approach to creating a "startup state" in Gov. Murphy's plan involves more urban planning. Basically, the theory is: Bring smart people together in a targeted geographic area and amazing things will happen. One noted economist estimated that, on average, the hiring of a single college graduate in a city eventually creates five additional jobs in the region.

With its emphasis on Opportunity Zones in 169 census tracts and the first "innovation hub" in New Brunswick, the plan is clearly embracing this direction, as well.

Such efforts will be particularly challenging. Currently, only 38% of graduates from New Jersey universities stay in the state afterwards, as compared to 50% for peer states.

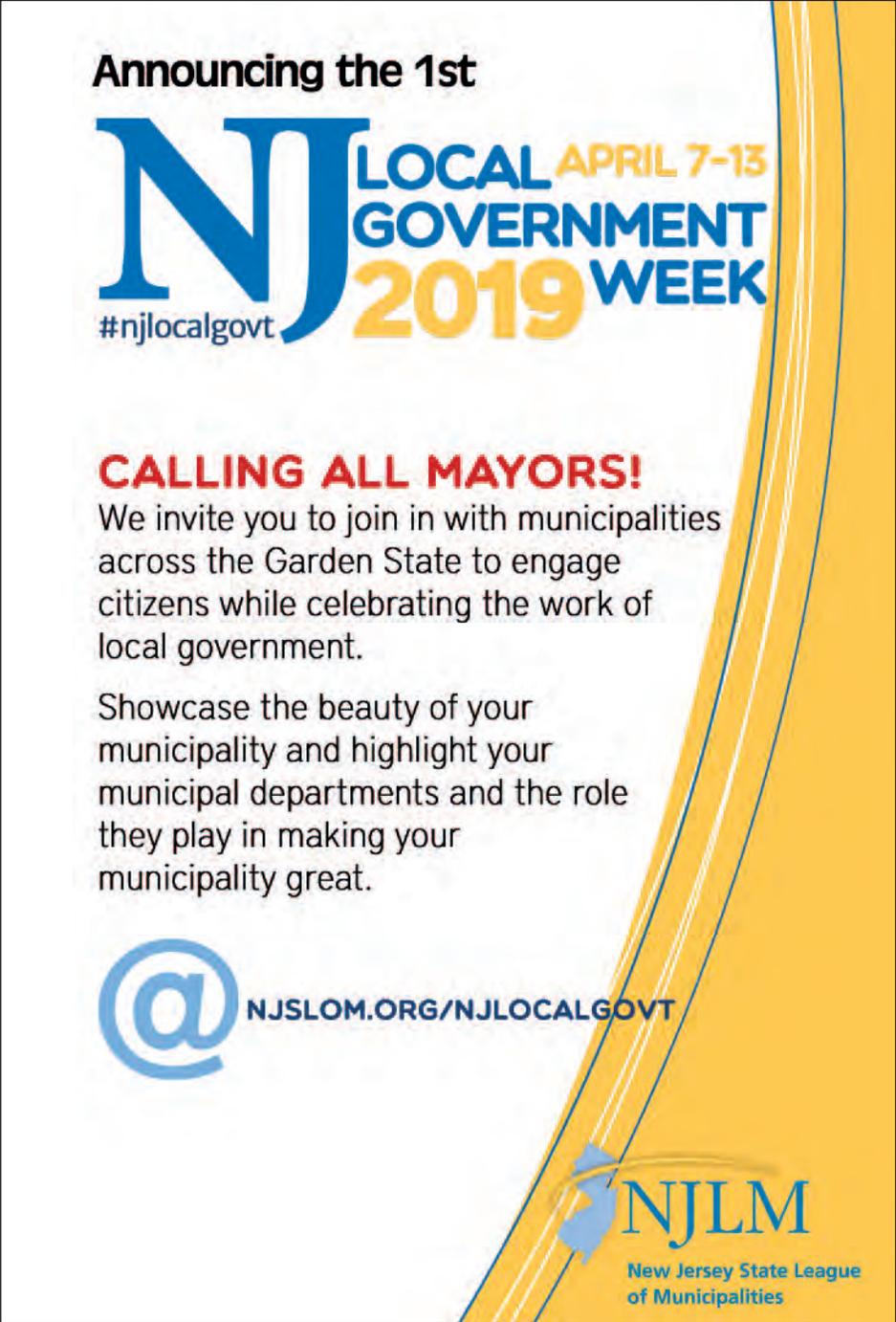
Keeping them here would require addressing some long-simmering "quality of life" challenges like mass transit and property taxes.

A fundamental change

All these approaches are included, on some level, in the Murphy plan because, in the end, the administration's proposal is not just about growing the state economy, but about reshaping New Jersey into a "startup state," a much broader and fundamental change.

Like any entrepreneur, Gov. Murphy seems ready to break free from the

norms and take on heavier risks, including providing direct investment in specific companies and employing multiple approaches to creating a more entrepreneurial economic ecosystem. And, as with any new business, success will not come from the launching of the plan itself, which has excited a great many people, but from the talents of those who organize and implement it. 



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LABOR RELATIONS

The Blunt Truth About Marijuana's Impact on the Workplace

By Jennifer Roselle, Esq., and Justine L. Abrams, Esq., Genova Burns

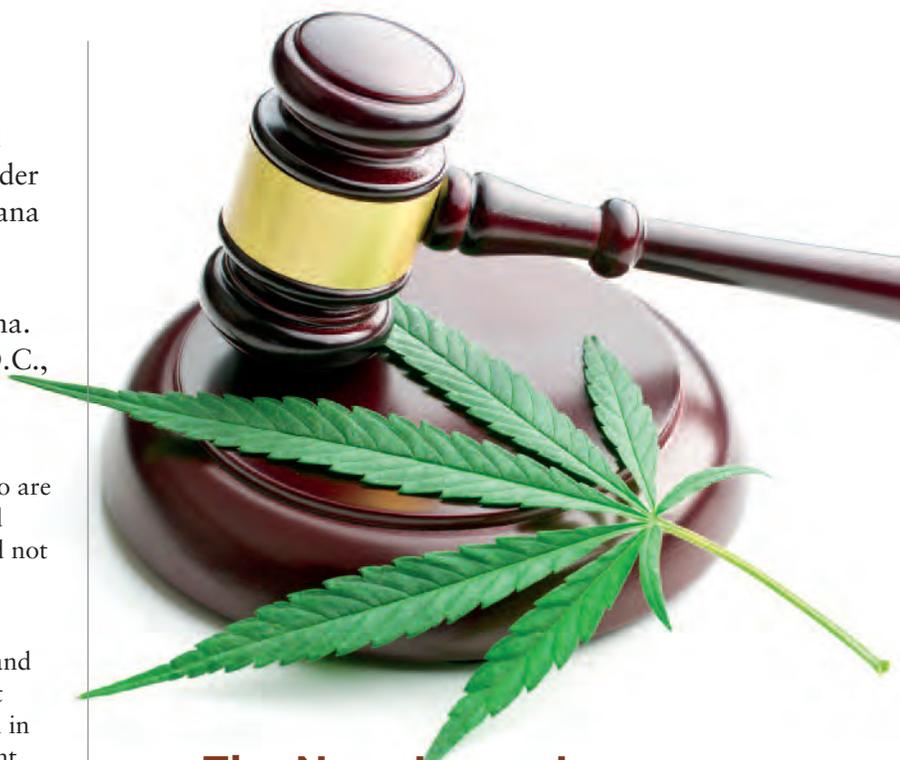
Marijuana remains illegal under federal law for any purpose, as it is deemed a Schedule 1 substance under the federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA). By contrast, under New Jersey's Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act (NJCUMMA), individuals suffering from a "debilitating medical condition" who possess a registration card may legally use medical marijuana. New Jersey is one of 30 states and Washington, D.C., to legalize medical marijuana.

Notwithstanding the fact that marijuana is illegal under federal law, employment applicants and/or employees who are state-registered medical marijuana users may be protected against certain employment decisions, but employers need not permit employees to use the drug at work.

Disability Discrimination Law

The New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (NJLAD) and the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) protect qualified individuals with a disability from discrimination in employment. Employers may not take adverse employment actions against employees by virtue of their being disabled or having a record of being disabled. Individuals suffering from any one of the debilitating medical conditions for which medical marijuana may be prescribed under NJCUMMA—such as seizures, HIV, AIDS, cancer, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, inflammatory bowel diseases, and terminal illnesses—are presumably disabled. Therefore, an employer who knows that an individual uses medical marijuana will be imputed with knowledge that the employee is disabled and therefore entitled to protection from discrimination.

The protection against disability discrimination includes the right of disabled individuals to seek reasonable accommodations from their employer. Reasonable accommodations are adjustments to a workplace that, without causing undue hardship or posing a direct threat of harm, would allow a disabled individual to participate in the job application process, perform the essential functions of a job, or enjoy benefits and privileges of employment equal to those enjoyed by those without disabilities.



“The New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (NJLAD) and the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) protect qualified individuals with a disability from discrimination in employment.”

The employer must engage in an “interactive process” with the applicant/employee to determine whether a reasonable accommodation exists. This begs the question: to what extent must an employer accommodate an applicant's or employee's medical marijuana use?

NJCUMMA explicitly states that a reasonable accommodation would not include allowing an employee to use marijuana at work. In addition, according to a recent federal case in New Jersey, *Cotto v. Ardagh Glass Packing, Inc., et al.*, the NJLAD does not require that employers accommodate a medical marijuana user by waiving the requirement that he/she pass a drug test for federally prohibited narcotics. *Cotto* illustrates that, despite the legalization of marijuana use for medicinal purposes, employers need not permit their employees to come to work high.

However, employers cannot rid themselves of dealing with medical marijuana altogether, as users may be entitled to an accommodation other than onsite use. In the recent Massachusetts Supreme Court case, *Barbuto v. Advantage Sales and Marketing, LLC*, an employee was terminated after testing positive for medical marijuana. She sought a waiver from the drug test requirement as an accommodation, which the employer

“Under New Jersey law, employees in positions that are not safety-sensitive may be drug tested when an employer has a reasonable suspicion that an employee is under the influence of drugs.”

denied. The employer argued that because the only accommodation the employee sought—her continued use of medical marijuana—was a federal crime, it was facially unreasonable. The *Barbuto*

court disagreed, holding that the employer had a duty to engage in the interactive process to explore whether there was an alternative accommodation that would allow her to work, such as allowing her to use the drug offsite during non-working hours. The *Barbuto* court further stated that where no effective alternative exists, the employer bears the burden of proving that the employee’s use of the medication would cause an undue hardship to the employer’s business. It was not enough that marijuana is illegal under federal law.

A recent federal case out of Connecticut, *Noffsinger v. SSC Niantic Operating Co., LLC*, further highlights the fact that employers cannot rely alone on federal law’s classification of medical marijuana as illegal to justify an employment decision, including a decision not to accommodate. In *Noffsinger*, the court expressly held that employers could not refuse to hire someone based purely on his/her medical marijuana use on the grounds that it is illegal under

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Post-Accident Testing

Non-random drug tests of current employees do not always require individualized suspicion. Some employers implement post-accident drug testing, and in New Jersey, an employer does not have to waive a post-accident drug test as an accommodation for a registered medical marijuana user.

However, according to U.S. Department of Labor Regulations, post-accident drug testing policies should be limited to situations in which there is a reasonable suspicion that drug use contributed to the injury or accident, and where the drug test can accurately measure the employee's level of impairment,

not just drug use at some time in the recent past.

DOT-regulated employees are required to undergo post-accident drug testing whenever there is a fatality, and whenever the employee receives a citation within 32 hours of an incident involving serious bodily injury or vehicular damage. As with all forms of testing, employers should consult with labor counsel to ensure compliance with human resource requirements and collective bargaining rights.

Privacy Issues Implicated by Drug Testing

An employer should use the least intrusive testing measures, maintain confidentiality of results, give employees notice of the program, detail employee-selection methods, warn employees of the lingering effect of drug use, explain how samples will be analyzed, and notify employees of the consequences of testing positive or refusing to submit

to a test. The New Jersey Supreme Court insists on express, written notice to employees of any testing program and on the need to balance employee privacy rights with an employer's need for security in the workplace. The DOT Regulations delineate specific content that must be included in a drug testing policy that applies to DOT-regulated employees.

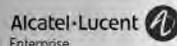
Similarly, medical information must be kept confidential under the ADA. Narrow exceptions exist for disclosing specific, limited information to supervisors and managers, first aid safety personnel, and government officials investigating compliance with the ADA. Employers may also generally disclose medical information to state workers' compensation offices, state second injury funds, or workers' compensation insurance carriers in accordance with state workers' compensation laws and may use the medical information for insurance purposes. 



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SEC Imposes New Secondary Market Disclosure Requirements in Connection with the Issuance of Financial Obligations

By Matthew D. Jessup, Member, McManimon Scotland Baumann

New Jersey issuers of bonds, bond anticipation notes, and other similar debt obligations have long been required to provide certain continuing disclosure in accordance with the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) Rule 15(c)(2)(12) (the Rule). Generally, issuers agree to provide annual financial information, such as audited financial statements, operating data and demographic information, as well as notice of 14 enumerated “material events” to the SEC through the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board’s Electronic Municipal Market Access Dataport (EMMA).

On August 22, 2018, the SEC amended the Rule to add two additional “material events”:

1. Incurrence of a financial obligation of the obligated person, if material, or agreement to covenants, events of default, remedies, priority rights, or other similar terms of a financial obligation of the obligated person, any of which affect security holders, if material.
2. Default, event of acceleration, termination event, modification of terms, or other similar events under the terms of a financial obligation of the obligated person, any of which reflect financial difficulties.

As a result of these two amendments, the occurrence of either event is now considered a “material event” and can no longer simply be reported through a routine annual filing, such as an audited financial statement, on EMMA. Instead, like the existing material events, issuers will have 10 business days to report the occurrence of either of these two new material events on EMMA. Issuers will need to add the new material events to any continuing disclosure certificates or agreements executed in connection with any financial obligations issued on or after February 27, 2019.

What is a Financial Obligation?

The first new material event requires issuers to provide notice on EMMA when it incurs a financial obligation, or agrees to certain terms of a financial obligation. A financial obligation includes (i) a debt obligation, (ii) a derivative instrument providing security to a debt instrument and (iii) a guarantee of (i) or (ii).

Practically speaking, financial obligations include bonds, bond anticipation notes and other notes, lease and loan agreements with county improvement authorities, other debt issuing entities and banks, service contracts with a local or regional utilities authority, and guarantees of the debt of other issuers.

“By posting incurrence of financial obligations by an issuer on EMMA within 10 business days, investors are provided timely information about that issuer that they can use to make a more informed investment decision.”

Financial obligations also include bonds and notes issued to the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank, bonds issued to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and notes sold to a local bank or to another municipality or governmental entity. Financial obligations do not include municipal securities that were sold pursuant to an Official Statement that has been filed on EMMA. Such securities are, of course, financial obligations in the common sense of that term, but the SEC has excluded them here because their issuance is already being reported on EMMA.

Nor does the term financial obligation include operating or financial liabilities incurred in the ordinary course of business of the issuer or obligated person, including true leases.

Why is the SEC Imposing Increased Reporting Requirements on Issuers?

These amendments are intended to provide more timely and current financial information to investors in the primary and secondary markets for the purchase of bonds, notes and other similar financial instruments. Most, if not all, of the financial obligations incurred by issuers or obligors and addressed by this amendment are already reported in an annual audit or a subsequent official statement. However, investors have to wait months (or longer) for this information to become available.

In the meantime, investors are making decisions to buy and sell bonds and other obligations of an issuer in the secondary market without knowledge of the most recent financial obligations incurred by that issuer. By posting incurrence of financial obligations by an issuer on EMMA within 10 business days, investors are provided timely information about that issuer that they can use to make a more informed investment decision.

How Will These Amendments Impact Issuers?

As a result of these amendments, municipalities and other issuers should consult with their municipal advisor, bond counsel, chief finance officer, and other advisors before issuing or incurring any such financial obligations in order to understand the impact of the amendments, so that they can prepare in advance of issuance or incurrence to ensure timely compliance with the new filing requirements.

Issuers will see the impact of the amendments most with the issuance of bond anticipation notes, as these tend to be issued frequently throughout the year. Within 10 business days of the issuance of each bond anticipation note (or any other financial obligation), the issuer will be required to file a material event

notice on EMMA that includes certain material terms of the bond anticipation note, including the principal amount, issuance and maturity dates, interest rate, security for the note, and other terms that may be appropriate.

“ Issuers will see the impact of the amendments most with the issuance of bond anticipation notes, as these tend to be issued frequently throughout the year.”

The second new material event described above requires issuers to file a material event notice in the event of default, termination, acceleration, or other modification to any financial

obligations, including those issued or incurred before February 27, 2019. In order to comply, issuers and obligated parties should identify all outstanding debt and other obligations that constitute financial obligations under the amendment. This will allow for better monitoring and increase the likelihood of timely filing of a material event notice, if applicable, in compliance with the amendment.

Finally, issuers who have sold bonds post the SEC’s Municipalities Continuing Disclosure Cooperation initiative have likely participated in multiple conversations and debates with potential purchasers of bonds regarding the status of the issuer’s compliance with prior continuing disclosure undertakings, whether the issuer failed to timely file information it was supposed to file, whether such a failed filing was material, and whether the official statement accurately describes the issuer’s 5-year history of compliance with the Rule. Issuers should expect these conversations to intensify, as these amendments will only increase the due diligence requirement purchasers have to satisfy before they can purchase municipal securities. ♻️

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Sidewalk-Clearing Ordinances & Towing Fees

By Frank Marshall, Esq., NJLM Staff Attorney



With the upcoming winter season, our municipality is looking for ways to ensure pedestrian safety. One of the biggest hazards that pedestrians face in the winter months is snow and ice accumulation on sidewalks. Can our municipality adopt an ordinance that would require residents and businesses to clear snow and ice from the sidewalks in front of their homes and businesses?



New Jersey municipalities have been granted authority by the state legislature allowing them to adopt ordinances requiring property owners and tenants to clear snow and ice from the sidewalks in front of their property. Specifically, *N.J.S.A. 40:65-12* grants municipalities the authority to make and enforce ordinances to, “compel the

owner or tenant of any lands abutting upon the public highways of the municipality, to remove all snow and ice from the abutting sidewalks and gutters of such highways within 12 hours of daylight after the same shall fall or be formed thereon...” The courts have consistently upheld this statute and municipal ordinances adopted under its authority.

Fines can be imposed on those who fail to comply with the requirements of the ordinance. And, should a property owner or tenant fail to remove snow and ice from the sidewalk, the municipality can take action on their own to clear snow and ice. Any costs associated with remedial action taken by the municipal government can be charged against the property and become a lien and tax upon the property, and enforced and collected in the same manner as other taxes.

While contemplating passing your own ordinance requiring snow and ice removal, your municipality may want to consider the impact that this requirement will have on particular residents. *N.J.S.A. 40:65-12.3*, which was passed last year, authorizes a municipality to establish a volunteer program for free removal of snow and ice from the entrance ways, driveways, and abutting sidewalks of certain residential properties. Only certain individuals qualify for the volunteer snow removal service. Generally, those that qualify include: seniors (age 62 or older), disabled persons, and persons living by themselves or with small children.



Our municipality has an ordinance that sets out a fee schedule for non-consensual towing. One of the fees authorizes towing companies to charge an administrative fee. I have been told that a recent court case has determined that municipalities can no longer authorize this sort of fee. Is this correct?



This is correct. The court case you are likely referring to is *Bernice Pisack, et al. v. B&C Towing, Inc., et al.*, (455 N.J. Super. 225), a published decision from the New Jersey Appellate Division that was issued in June 2018. This case examined the 2008 Predatory Towing Prevention Act along with the associated regulations and how they affect municipal authority to adopt towing fee ordinances.

In *Pisack*, the court found that the Predatory Towing Prevention Act (Act) sets limitations on the fees towing companies are able to charge for non-consensual tows. Non-consensual towing is the towing of a vehicle without the owner or operator’s consent and includes towing a motor vehicle when ordered by law enforcement whether or not the owner consents. Prior to the Act, municipalities had the authority to regulate towing practices within their borders including regulating the fees towing companies were permitted to charge for non-consensual tows. The Act changed this and instead vested the exclusive authority to set fees with the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, who is tasked with creating a schedule of permissible fees.

No other fees outside of the schedule of fees listed in *N.J.A.C. 13:45A-31.4(a)* can be charged. And, while the schedule of fees includes an administrative fee, such fee can only be charged when in the case of a motor vehicle towed after an accident, the towing company makes “[m]ore than three trips to the motor vehicle in storage....” The court in *Pisack* determined that this schedule of fees was the exhaustive list of fees which a towing company could charge and that municipalities could not through ordinance expand upon the list of permissible fees. 🚧

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Michael F. Cerra, NJLM Assistant Executive Director;
Jon R. Moran & Lori Buckelew, NJLM Senior Legislative Analysts; Frank Marshall, Esq., NJLM Staff Attorney



S-2958/A-4535 Energy Infrastructure P3 Agreements

Status: Referred to Senate Environment and Energy Committee and Assembly Science, Innovation & Technology Committee

This permissive legislation would allow a government entity to enter into a public-private partnership agreement with a private entity to develop, design, build, operate, or maintain one or more energy-related projects and to assume financial developmental, operational, managerial, and administrative responsibilities in partnership with the government entity. Energy-related projects are defined as “a project developed for a new for a new or existing facility or facilities, owned by a governmental entity, involving the application of energy efficiency, energy conservation, energy optimization, renewable and non-carbon-emitting energy technologies, or demand side management measures...” These include, but are not limited to:

- Energy-efficient appliances, lighting, motors, and other energy or water conservation measures.
- Smart metering and smart grid technologies and demand response.
- Distributed electric generation resources including, but not limited to, cogeneration, combined heat and power, and on-site generation facilities, district energy systems, and microgrids.

Energy-related projects may involve one or more buildings, structures, or facilities owned by the government entity provided that the private entity is responsible for the performance of each energy-related project and the government entity retains an ownership or leasehold interest in the land upon which the project is developed. The land of the energy-related project will be exempt from property taxes.

A government entity may solicit a proposal or consider an unsolicited proposal for a project. However, the private entity must be qualified and tiered by the Energy P3 Unit, which is established by this legislation. For solicited proposals, the government must invite each qualified private entity to submit a proposal. The legislation establishes the parameters of the proposal, the criteria for review of the proposals, solicitation of formal proposals, pricing options, and awarding of the project.

All partnerships will be subject to approval by the Energy P3 Unit, established by this legislation, in the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

S-2958/A-4535 is permissive legislation that provides appropriate safeguards with a public process. It provides municipalities with another mechanism to fund and complete energy related projects. –LB



A-4461 Requirements for DEP sale/lease of land

Status: Referred to the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

The League’s Legislative Committee has voted to approve A-4461, which requires the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to offer municipalities and counties the right-of-first-refusal, before the sale or lease of certain State-owned lands to third-parties. The bill also gives the hosting municipality’s governing body the power of prior approval, before granting concessions to or entering into contracts with any private entity, for the purpose of providing services on State-owned park or forest land.

Under this bill, the State House Commission would be prohibited from approving a conveyance of land to a private entity, unless both the municipality and county in which the lands are located have elected not to exercise the right to acquire the lands, and written documentation of those decisions is provided by the DEP Commissioner to the State House Commission.

In addition, this bill would amend the “State Park and Forestry Resources Act,” which, in part, allows the DEP to enter agreements with private entities for the construction, operation, and maintenance for private profit of any facility, utility, or device in State parks and forests as the DEP finds proper for the use and enjoyment of the lands by the public. This bill would require the DEP obtain the approval of the governing body in which the lands are located before entering into any future such agreements.

The bill would modify “the Ogden-Rooney process.” That process involves, among other things, the preparation and submission of a report identifying the reasons for, and all advantages of, the proposed conveyance, assessing the environmental and recreational impact of that proposed conveyance, and assessing the environmental and economic value of the lands proposed to be conveyed under both their current and proposed uses.

In addition, it requires, for the purpose of determining the amount of consideration to be paid or transferred to the State in exchange for conveying lands acquired or developed by the State with Green Acres funds, or acquired or developed by the

State in any other manner and administered by the DEP, the value of the lands be based upon their intended use upon conveyance or upon their highest and best use, whichever would provide to the State the greatest value in return.

That process would continue to govern sales and leases to private sector individuals and entities.

We commend the sponsor, Assemblyman Chiaravalloti, and look forward to enactment of this bill. –JM



A-4489/S-3026

Municipal responsibilities for water system information

Status: Referred to the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee and referred to the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee.

These companion bills require municipalities to provide the terms and conditions regarding financial responsibilities for the maintenance, repair, and replacement of service lines to property owners served by municipal water systems.

The sponsors state that “The purpose of this bill is to provide transparency for property owners in their dealings with water districts and municipal utilities. In many cases, property owners are presented with substantial bills for repairs to leaky pipes that connect their properties to these water systems and are not aware of their financial responsibility for these repairs. This bill is intended to rectify this problem through the requirement that all property owners be advised of the terms and conditions of receiving services from these municipal entities, and the financial responsibilities attendant to the receipt of these services.”

It requires that written ‘terms and conditions’ be mailed to each property owner annually and whenever a property changes hands, and that they be posted on the municipality’s website, if applicable.

Enactment of the bill would impose an added expense on municipal water systems. It would also constitute the imposition of an unfunded mandate on ratepayers and/or property taxpayers. We oppose both and, therefore, oppose passage of A-4489/S-3026. –JM



S-2899/A-4568

Municipalities and boards of education joint contracts

Status: Referred to Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee and Assembly State and Local Government Committee

S-2899/A-4568 would amend existing statutes to expand the definition of local units under contracts for group insurance to include boards of education. As a result, municipalities and boards of education could jointly contract for group health insurance benefits and certain other types of group insurance benefits for their employees.

This commonsense legislation provides governing bodies and boards of education another tool to lower health benefit costs. –LB

S-796/A-2506

Highway Safety Act Amendments

Status: Referred to the respective Law and Public Safety Committees

The League of Municipalities supports S-796/A-2506, which revises the standards and requirements for volunteer and non-volunteer first aid, rescue, and ambulance squads under the New Jersey Highway Traffic Safety Act of 1987.

The League sees this legislation as advancing two important public policies. First, it will help to ensure citizens and visitors that, should the need arise anywhere in our State, they will be able to count on effective, responsible, and professional care from trained and able EMTs. Second, it will do so without imposing any unnecessary burdens on the time and resources of our highly valued and highly motivated volunteers.

This legislation would require any applicant for EMT-Basic certification to meet requirements promulgated by the Commissioner of Health. Those requirements would, in turn, comply with the uniform standards promulgated by the United States Secretary of Transportation in accordance with the “U.S. Highway Safety Act of 1966,” as amended and supplemented. The bill would require that the officers of a local EMS squad notify the governing body of the training certifications and certification expiration dates for each member, along with proofs of inspection for all equipment. The bill additionally specifies that no first aid, rescue, or ambulance squad may provide basic life support services unless that squad is inspected and certified or otherwise authorized to do so by the Office of Emergency Medical Services in the Department of Health, or is inspected and certified as a member in good standing of the New Jersey State First Aid Council.

Further, the bill would revise the definitions of a “volunteer first aid, rescue, and ambulance squad,” and “non-volunteer first aid, rescue, and ambulance squad,” to bring the meaning of those terms into conformance with current New Jersey practice. And the bill would, for the first time, provide a definition of “basic life support,” which is not currently defined in the New Jersey Highway Traffic Safety Act of 1987, to mean a basic level of pre-hospital care which includes patient stabilization, airway clearance, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, hemorrhage control, initial wound care and fracture stabilization and other techniques and procedures authorized by the Commissioner of Health. The bill provides further requirements regarding the staffing of vehicles transporting patients and regarding the drivers of such vehicles.

Volunteerism and local flexibility have allowed numerous New Jersey municipalities to meet the need for efficient and effective emergency medical services for decades. And they have never been more important than they are now, in the midst of unprecedented fiscal challenges and constraints. We believe that this bill will improve the prospects for the future of local emergency response volunteerism and promote better training for both volunteer and non-volunteer first responders. We salute the sponsors for their leadership on this matter and we strongly support S-796/A-2506. –JM

League Officers for 2018-2019 Elected

On Thursday, November 15, 2018, New Jersey’s mayors elected its new slate of officers and executive board members at the League’s Annual Business Meeting in Atlantic City. These public servants will help represent the interests and needs of New Jersey’s local elected officials from the state’s 565 municipal governments to county, state, and federal governments.

Nominating Committee Chair and Past President Albert Kelly, Mayor, Bridgeton, presented its nominations for the offices of President, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Vice President and 21 positions on the Executive Board, thereby fulfilling its Constitutional responsibility.

The board must include members from municipalities located in each of New Jersey’s 21 counties. Another consideration is that, because of the diversity of population, growth patterns, and other general factors, the nominating committee must ensure the essential balance of municipalities—urban, suburban, and rural.

Another topic in the development of the recommendations

list is balance—even though the League is non-partisan in nature—the committee strives to ensure the maintenance of a balance between the major political parties represented on the Executive Board.

Finally, the nominations factor in whether an individual in consideration for nomination has demonstrated an interest in League affairs through active participation on League committees by support of the League policies and programs.

Taking all of those matters into their determination, the committee presented their selections and the following officers and Executive Board members were elected for service in 2018/2019. 🗳️

2018-2019 LEAGUE OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

Colleen Mahr, President; Mayor, Fanwood

James J. Perry, Sr., 1st Vice President; Committeeman, Hardwick

Janice Kovach, 2nd Vice President; Mayor, Clinton Town

William J. Chegwidzen 3rd Vice President; Mayor, Wharton

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Ras Baraka, Mayor, Newark

Tom Bianco, Mayor, Clayton

Gayle Brill Mittler, Mayor, Highland Park

James L. Cassella, Mayor, Rutherford; Immediate Past President, NJLM

Jonathan Dunleavy, Mayor, Bloomingdale

Sean Elwell, Mayor, Elsinboro Township

Anthony Fanucci, Mayor, Vineland

Daniel Flynn, Deputy Mayor, Newton

Steven Fulop, Mayor, Jersey City

Raymond S. Heck, Mayor, Millstone Borough

Sue Howard, Mayor, Monmouth Beach

Thomas F. Kelaher, Mayor, Toms River

Liz Lempert, Mayor, Princeton

Gary Passanante, Mayor, Somerdale

William Pikolycky, Mayor, Woodbine

Guy Piserchia, Mayor, Long Hill

Paul H. Tomasko, Mayor, Alpine

Janet W. Tucci, Mayor, West Long Branch

Jesse Tweedle, Sr. Mayor, Pleasantville City

Michael Venezia, Mayor, Bloomfield

Craig Wilkie, Mayor, Florence

Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr Elected League President

On Thursday, November 15, 2018, Mayor Colleen Mahr of Fanwood was elected to serve as the new President of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities. Mayor Mahr, who previously served as the League's 1st Vice President, was elected during the Annual Business Meeting at the League's Conference this year in Atlantic City.

As President of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, Mayor Mahr will help guide the association of New Jersey's 565 municipal governments. She will represent the interests and needs of New Jersey's local elected officials to county, state, and federal governments.

Beginning her career in public service as Mayoral Aide in Jersey City, Mayor Mahr rose through the ranks to earn the post of Jersey City's Assistant Director of Housing and Economic Development.

In 2003 Colleen shifted gears and was blessed with the first of her three sons. But her boundless energy moved her to accept the call of the local Democrats, and she ran for and won the seat of Mayor in Fanwood. This would become the first of four consecutive terms (and counting!).

As Mayor, Colleen had the opportunity to apply her development experience to Fanwood's deteriorating downtown. At the time Mayor Mahr took office, blighted conditions and stalled initiatives existed in the Fanwood downtown area. Any former actions for development or investment had not advanced due to site challenges and community opposition. Working closely with the community, a new vision was established for the renewal of Downtown Fanwood.

Obstacles encountered during implementation of the plan were overcome through innovative and unique approaches employed by the Borough. More than a decade later, Fanwood has been transformed and recognized as recipient of the 2014 Smart Growth Award for Redevelopment and was granted featured placement in both editions of the *NJ Handbook on Redevelopment*. Most recently, Fanwood's success was recognized by the NJRA as a Transit Oriented Development best practice case study for its 2017 Redevelopment Training Institute workshop.

A strong voice for her constituents, Mayor Mahr leads a coalition of Raritan Valley Rail Line mayors to secure direct rail service to Manhattan and to advance the Gateway Tunnel Project, which would be a service to the entire state.

For the last several years Mahr has also been a leader on the issue of affordable housing. This is a bi-partisan effort working with local Mayors and the League to propose legislation that will provide affordable housing in an



efficient and effective manner, while allowing Mayors to guide the process for their communities.

In addition to chairing several League committees through the years, Mayor Mahr has also served on the Board of Directors of the Irish Network New Jersey; Member of the Governor's Local Government Ethics Task Force; Member of Mayor's Against Illegal Guns; Past President of the NJ Conference of Mayors

Mayor Mahr currently serves as Director of Business Development for DMR Architects in Hasbrouck Heights

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Annual Report 2018

Michael J. Darcy, CAE; Executive Director,
New Jersey League of Municipalities

The year 2018 was a transitional year for the Murphy Administration in Trenton and created new direction and many new programs requiring municipal responses. Activities in New Jersey were impacted by Federal changes and challenges, as well.

At the Federal level there are ongoing challenges to addressing the partial loss of state and local tax deductions on income tax filing. Funding for Northeast Corridor rail transportation remains an uncertainty and subject to piecemeal approaches to addressing the needs this vital economic infrastructure. Pre-emption of local land use authority seems to be part of the Federal government's approach to easing the roll out of new broadband technologies including smart cities technologies.

At the State level, municipal governments lost an effective property tax control tool—the cap on interest arbitration awards. That tool had proven, helpful impacts on labor negotiations and the arbitration process. At the same time municipalities were stuck without tools to address affordable housing and instead were left in the courts. Throughout the year (and going forward) the League urged the Legislature to act on both these critical issues.

Mid-year, two very important reports were released that may impact municipal operations. The Supreme Court report “Municipal Court Operations, Fines and Fees” for example, suggested limiting local appointment of judges and highlighted the escalating costs to defendants while never suggesting State imposed court fees should be reduced. Another legislative task force published the broad-ranging “Path to Progress Report”

which became an opening to discuss local government efficiency in an effort to find a solutions to, among other things, the State's pension funding problem.

Throughout this year, the League advocated for municipalities throughout New Jersey and made sure the municipal perspective was clearly understood in public policy debate. The League's strength is found in its active vocal leadership, strong administration and ongoing commitment to providing updated resources to you, its members.

A totally new League website and communication process debuted to help you get to those resources quickly and make sure you have access to all the basic League services you use every day.



Throughout this year, the League advocated for municipalities throughout New Jersey and made sure the municipal perspective was clearly understood in public policy debate.

Legal Advocacy



The League has been busy advocating for municipalities in the courts this past year. Our legal department participated in various amicus interventions in 2018 at the New Jersey Appellate and Supreme Court levels. The legal matters at issue were diverse: OPRA and electronic information, OPMA and Rice notices, and Torts Claim Act, just to name a few. The League participates in these cases because they have statewide impact and municipal interests are well served by our involvement.

This year, municipalities enjoyed a bit of a winning streak on cases the League joined as amicus, with the courts siding with the League's position in three of the four decisions issued thus far. This included a major win before the State Supreme Court regarding Rice Notices and the availability of meeting minutes in the *Kean Federation of Teachers* case, and in the *Dunbar Homes* case, the affirmance of the 'time of application' rule found in the MLUL.

In addition to our amicus work, the League's legal department continues to act as a helpful resource to municipal attorneys, a clearinghouse for ideas and practices, and a monitor/reporter on important court decisions at the state and federal level that impact our members. Attorneys must continually adapt to a changing legal landscape and our legal department is a strong resource to help them in this task.

Outside of the court context, our legal department continues to review and update the various publications offered by the League, contribute to the League magazine, and provide analysis for legislative affairs.

In addition to this, the legal department maintains the League's ordinance and resolution library. This library is a valuable tool for municipal attorneys, elected officials, and others as it allows users to see how other municipalities have solved problems helping them to better address their own.

Legislative Activities

This year, League President James Casella, Mayor of East Rutherford, prioritized property tax relief and reform, long-overdue reforms to the Fair Housing Act, and the fiscal integrity of the adequately funded local pension and health benefits systems as the League's major legislative priorities.

The League's Government Affairs team remained active at the Statehouse, strongly advocating on your behalf before the Administration, Legislature, and regulatory bodies. As the Murphy Administration got underway, the League leadership and staff met regularly with the new Administration to articulate municipal concerns. During budget deliberations the focus was on the State's shift of the municipal energy tax receipts reimbursement from off-budget to on-budget. Such a change could put future energy tax receipts at risk of being diverted.



The League was an active voice in Trenton on many issues important to local officials.

The League also pushed for the Administration to reengage on affordable housing and provide guidance to municipalities. Unfortunately, considerable League efforts to renew the interest arbitration cap were unsuccessful as Trenton continued to call for a study analyzing the impact of the expired interest arbitration cap.

The League was an active voice in Trenton many issues important to local officials, including, but certainly not limited to the following:

- The League, with the Association of Counties, opposed legislation advanced to separate PFRS from State control, transferring a \$26 billion dollar fund from state oversight to a labor-controlled board. Ultimately, the Governor conditionally

vetoed (CV) the legislation, adding safeguards and keeping the State Treasurer as the custodian of the funds. We will continue to call on the Legislature to pass corrective legislation to place taxpayers on equal footing.

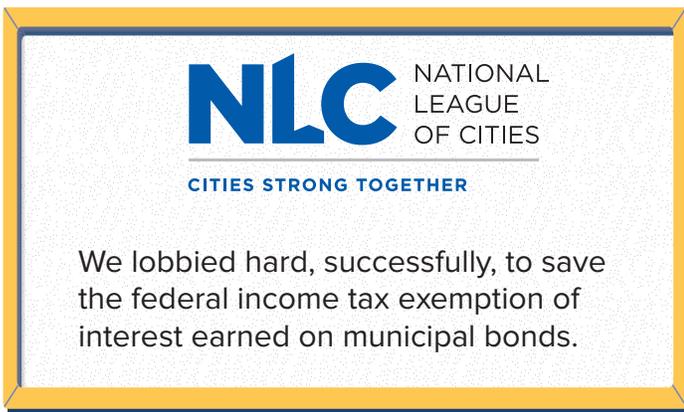
- As noted above, the renewal of the 2% interest arbitration remains a top priority for the League. This cap, has been successful in curbing property tax increases. With several dozen contracts expiring at the end of 2018, the expiration of the cap has already impeded negotiations. Local governments again face the prospect of arbitration awards again exceeding the property tax levy cap. The League will continue to push for this top legislative priority in 2019.

Going forward, the League will also continue efforts to:

- Protect municipal tax relief funding from State diversion.
- Protect municipalities from proposed changes to the Open Public Records Act and the Open Public Meetings Act that single out local government for additional requirement and new mandates.
- Call on the Administration and Legislature to reenter the affordable housing policy discussion and enact a reasonable, rational, and funded program so municipalities can meet their state imposed requirements.

Our Government Affairs staff, Mike Cerra, the League’s Assistant Executive Director/Director of Government Affairs; Senior Legislative Analysts Jon Moran and Lori Buckelew; Associate Legal Counsel Frank Marshall; and Legislative Administrator Ciara Bradley are always eager to hear from you, so they can better serve you and your municipality. Please contact them with your questions, comments, and ideas.

Federal Activities



NLC NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES
CITIES STRONG TOGETHER

We lobbied hard, successfully, to save the federal income tax exemption of interest earned on municipal bonds.

NJLM’s Federal Relations team relies on information, analysis, and insights provided to us by the staff of the National League of Cities (NLC) in Washington, and on the efforts of New Jersey municipal officials who take the time to contact their representatives in Washington on matters that affect their communities and their fellow citizens.

These developments highlight our work in 2018:

- As Congress worked on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, we continued our educational and lobbying efforts to defeat the two provisions under consideration that posed major threats to New Jersey municipalities and taxpayers. We lobbied hard, and successfully, to save the federal income tax exemption of interest earned on municipal bonds. We lobbied just as hard, but not as successfully, to protect the federal income tax deduction for State and Local Taxes (SALT). Despite the efforts of countless New Jersey municipal officials, and of almost all the members of our Congressional delegation, the best we could secure was a partial deduction. The new law caps SALT deductions at \$10,000.
- Our efforts to advance the Amtrak Gateway project continued. The Gateway project involves the improvement and repair of New Jersey’s essential rail link with midtown Manhattan. It has been estimated that 10% of America’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) depends on transit between New York and New Jersey. The two tracks that run from the Meadows through the tunnels to New York are the most heavily used and the most vulnerable links on the Corridor. Our thanks to Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, who, as Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, has done everything humanly possible to advance the Gateway project.
- In March, New Jersey Congressmen Chris Smith, Frank Lobiondo, and Tom MacArthur intervened with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to halt a plan that would open New Jersey’s coastal waters to the threat of off-shore oil exploration. The League, along with many municipal officials, has supported their ongoing efforts.
- The League monitored U.S. Supreme Court cases on issues ranging from internet sales taxes to public employee agency shop requirements and federal regulatory proposals. This included FCC proposals that would supersede local broadband deployment authority and proposals to regulate the usage of personal drones which would eliminate or severely restrict state and local prerogatives.
- The National Flood Insurance Program was kept alive with a series of short-term extensions. We continue to monitor developments and have expressed our support of a long-term reauthorization, as well as our opposition to any amendments that would increase homeowner coverage costs.

Bureau of Municipal Information



Over the last several months, the Bureau of Municipal Information's online presence was given a major overhaul, increasing the ease of navigability and value of information provided online.

One of the League's valuable services continues to be the Bureau of Municipal Information. Many of the League's publications have been converted from paper to digital formats. The new digital versions include more data, valuable Excel spreadsheets that can be manipulated by purchasers, and faster receiving time, while allowing the League to provide information with an affordable pricing structure.

For many years, the League has offered various information resource centers on its website to aid members in finding pertinent information and provide a historical background on changing legislation. Over the last several months, the Bureau of Municipal Information's online presence was given a major overhaul, increasing the ease of navigability and value of information provided online.

While the above is a sampling of what the Bureau of Municipal Information offers, in total the Bureau provides resources and information on over 20 topics.

@ Visit the Bureau website at njslom.org/bureau.

New Jersey Municipalities

Moving into its second century of publishing, *New Jersey Municipalities*, the League's award-winning magazine continues to serve members and provide useful information for municipal officials and those working with municipalities. A highlight this year was the kick off of the Show Off Your City contest. Verona was named the winner of the inaugural competition and other participants, including Brick, Asbury Park, Chatham, Mt. Olive, and Highland Park provided images illustrating the Garden State's many success stories in fostering successful communities. The contest participants were featured in the April issue announcing the Show Off Your City results, as well as in other issues throughout the year. Thanks to its success, the Show Off Your City contest will be run again in 2019.

Monthly issues distributed from October through June continue to educate and inform more than 6,300 readers and an estimated 19,000 pass-along readership as vital source of information and news you need to govern in your local community.

Serving as a platform and information resource, the magazine is fueled by insightful contributions from League members and their operational partners, providing wide range of stories to managers and policymakers. Members of the state and national legislatures also contribute to and read the magazine to maintain the important ties between municipal issues and the state and national arenas. In addition to elected official's articles, *New Jersey Municipalities* includes a mix of pieces by state commissioners and other experts, as well as informative columns, opinion pieces, and advertising by some of the state's leading providers of products and services.

Highlights:

- Easily navigable layout of features, departments.
- Expert-level articles contributed by officials, departments, divisions, and other municipal information providers.
- Features spotlight large, small, rural, and urban communities in all parts of the state to make the magazine useful to busy leaders.
- Accessible and enjoyable publication with expanded use of infographics and improved cover and interior design.



Thanks to its success, the Show Off Your City contest will be run again in 2019.

- Environmentally and socially responsible operations, printing on industry-leading, environmentally responsible papers that use 10% post-consumer waste and FSC chain of custody certification.
- Monthly digital edition, which features the same useful content as well as a growing publication archive in an electronic format based on the League’s website.

As always, we welcome your calls, ideas, and articles for our premier publication.

@ Contact the magazine’s Managing Editor Amy Spiezio at 609-695-3481, Ext. 123, or NJM@njslom.org to contribute an article or to learn more. www.njslom.org/magazine

Training and In-Service Programs



Approved continuing education programs also serve as a cost-effective way for municipal professionals to maintain their respective state licenses.

The League continued to successfully present programs that broaden, deepen, and increase knowledge and skills of municipal personnel in various professions while collaborating with our Affiliate Groups. Approved continuing education programs also serve as a cost-effective way for municipal professionals to maintain their respective state licenses. The League works cohesively with numerous accreditation bodies representing 20 government licenses, including Continuing Legal Education for New Jersey and Pennsylvania Attorneys, Municipal Licensees, Tax Assessors, Recycling Coordinators, Planning and Zoning Board Secretaries, Zoning Officials, Land Use Administrators, and Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

In addition to the Annual Conference, the League offered 25 professional development seminars and webinars, educating more than 2,100 attendees in 2017/2018.

Highlights include:

- Orientation for Newly Elected, Reelected, and Experienced Official

- Budgeting for the Elected Official: Everything you Need to Know to Create, Balance, and Approve Your Municipalities’ Budget
- 26th Annual Mayors Legislative Day
- Budget Audits and Updates
- Equal Pay in New Jersey: What You Need To Know Webinar
- Sexual Harassment in the Workplace: What You Need to Know
- A Review of Electronic Tax Sales Webinar
- Freedom Of Speech and Social Media in the Workplace
- OPRA In Depth: Privacy and Law Enforcement Issues
- The Mini One Day Conference

In addition to the programs above, the League also offers Legislative Update webinars. These periodic webinars keep members abreast of the current legislative action.

@ For more information on the League’s upcoming seminars and webinars, please visit our website at www.njslom.org/seminars or contact Danielle Holland-Htut, Seminar Manager at 609-695-3481, Ext. 118 or dholland@njslom.org

Labor Relations Advisory Service



Joseph Hannon, Esq. is available to respond to a broad range of public employer labor and employment law questions as a telephone or email service of the League.

The League’s Labor Relations Advisory Service is conducted by the League’s Labor Relations Counsel, Joseph M. Hannon, Esq., of Genova Burns, LLC.

Joseph Hannon is available to respond to a broad range of public employer labor and employment law questions as a telephone or email service of the League. Inquiries to the League Labor Advisory Service over the years have included issues like:

- Interest arbitration reforms and the 2% cap on awards under the 45-day “rocket docket”
- Impacts of sunseting Chapter 78
- Furloughs and temporary layoffs
- Health benefit and pension reforms
- Perennial problems municipalities face in police and fire and civilian collective negotiations
- Public Employment Relations Commission unfair practices and representation matters
- Shared Service Issues
- Civil Service issues
- FMLA and NJFLA issues
- FLSA and wage and hour issues
- Americans with Disabilities Act issues
- Equal Employment Opportunity and New Jersey Law Against Discrimination issues.

As part of the Labor Relations Advisory Service, Genova Burns provides expert attorney presentations at several League seminars throughout the year and during the Annual League Conference as well as articles for the Labor Relations Column in the League’s Magazine.

@ You may contact Joe at jhannon@genovaburns.com.

Annual Conference

Municipalities Leading the Way is the theme for the 103rd Annual League Conference. After all, it is municipalities that are the incubator of creative new ideas and solutions to our State’s challenges. The NJLM Annual Conference remains the largest municipal conference in the country and a critical mainstay in the portfolio of services provided by the League. With 17,000 attendees and 1,000 exhibit booths, it provides the raw information that municipal leaders take back to find the way forward for their communities. It also serves the critical role of providing professional development for licensed municipal professionals and exposure to new products and ideas.

Pre-Registration for the three-day event remains just \$55, the most affordable way for municipal officials to gain new solutions to both the perennial issues and evolving challenges. It is also the most cost-effective way for licensed and certified professionals to receive continuing education credits vital to maintaining their licensure. Some of the features of this year’s conference will be:

- 74 League educational sessions and more than 50 additional sessions produced by affiliated municipal professional associations.
- Sessions that highlight creativity in municipal thinking
- Sessions that explore municipalities’ use of new technology.
- Primers for newly elected governing body members.
- Sessions focused on ethics training, personnel and leadership
- Insights on Shared Services
- Information on economic development, planning, management, and understanding initiatives coming from State government
- Insurance training sessions that result in premium reductions for attendees



The NJLM Annual Conference remains the largest municipal conference in the country and a critical mainstay in the portfolio of services provided by the League.

- The largest municipal exhibit hall in the country with a special area for “Smart Cities” highlights.

The conference is also a chance to award special recognition to local officials’ dedication to public service and the work of their colleagues in municipal government across the state.

The 2018 Annual Conference provides all these opportunities while continuing to charge the lowest registration rate of any municipal league in the country.

@ For more information, visit www.njslom.org/conference.

NJLM EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



The Foundation continues to publish a series of white papers on a wide range of issues that impact New Jersey local government. These papers offer a deeper understanding of the specific issues explored. All Foundation publications are available for free download at the foundation website.

To capitalize on years of experience piloting the youth and family literacy program “Mayors’ Book Club,” the Foundation continues to offer the manual “Planning and Participating in a Mayors Book Club” and distributed it to mayors at the Annual League Conference. The manual was written by Dr. Vicki Cohen, Fairleigh Dickenson University and edited by Foundation President Timothy McDonough, Mayor, Hope Township. The manual is also available for free download from the Foundation’s webpage, www.njlmef.org

In 2018 the Foundation continued the administration of the Michael A. Pane Memorial Fund. The Fund awards an honorarium to a local government professional (attorney, engineer, or planner) who personifies outstanding ability, integrity, and ethics in his or her dealings with local governments.

The Educational Foundation will soon complete its work administering small grants in support of Sustainable Jersey. Over the years, more than \$1 million in grants has been administered from such funders as Wal-Mart Corp, BPU, and

the others. A list of Foundation trustees is found in this annual report and on the Foundation website.

@ Visit the NJLM Educational Foundation online at www.njlmef.org

NJLM Educational Foundation Trustees

Timothy McDonough, *President; Mayor, Hope Township (Warren)*

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222 West State Street Urban Renewal Corp. Board of Trustees

The Corporation owns and operates the League's headquarters building.

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Membership and Finance

The League is completing its 103rd year of service to the municipalities of New Jersey. Our membership currently includes 564 municipalities in the State of New Jersey.

The League's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. The budget under which the League currently operates is set forth on this page.

2018/2019 Adopted Budget

INCOME

1	Appropriation of Prior Cash Balance	\$146,928
2	Membership Dues	\$653,098
3	Magazine	\$310,000
4	Annual Conference	\$2,100,000
5	Interest	\$37,256
6	Publications	\$36,000
7	Seminars	\$140,000
8	Miscellaneous Receipts	\$4,500
9	Internet Advertising	\$148,000
10	Sub-Leases Base Rent	\$142,827
11	Sub-Leases Expense Rent	\$97,205
12	Sub-Leases Parking Space Rental	\$33,566
13	Corporate Supporters	\$61,114
14	Grant Station Subscription	\$400
15	Employee Medical Contributions	\$80,000

\$3,990,895

EXPENSE

16	Salaries	\$1,362,327
17	Social Security & Medicare	\$104,218
18	Pension Employer Portion	\$170,000
19	Disability Insurance	\$2,600
20	Medical Benefits	\$472,400
21	Workers Compensation Ins	\$5,300
22	Unemployment Compensation Insurance	\$0
23	Automobile	\$19,743
24	Magazine	\$190,000
25	Office Expense	\$27,000
26	Legislative	\$44,500
27	Conference	\$530,000
28	Meetings/Training	\$39,000
29	Postage	\$35,000
30	Equipment Payments	\$17,000
31	Maintenance on Equip.	\$4,000
32	Printing	\$15,000
33	Books, Subscriptions	\$5,000
34	Grant Station Subscription Expense	\$235
35	Seminars	\$70,000
36	Telephone	\$13,000
37	Audit	\$8,000
38	Legal	\$161,387
39	Insurance & Bond Premium	\$29,000
40	National League of Cities	\$35,000
41	Temporary Help	\$3,000
42	Computer Expense	\$45,000
43	Internet Web Maintenance	\$15,000
44	Photocopying	\$6,000
45	Scholarships	\$3,000
46	222 Base Rent	\$379,052
47	222 Expense Rent	\$173,500
48	Commission Leasing	\$4,533
49	Online Ordinance Shared Services	\$2,100

\$3,990,895

@ njslom.org/annual_report

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.

All 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@njslom.org, or mailed on CD or flash drive to 222 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608.

Deadline to submit is February 1.

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 15. Please include your Facebook profile name and we will tag your photo on Facebook!



nj Editorial Index 2018

Data & Research

NJ Data Book <i>Jim Morris</i>	February, 42
Thank Millennials for Growth <i>Tim Evans</i>	March, 40
Successful Outreach <i>Peter J. Woolley</i>	June, 44

Economic Development

Arts in Highland Park <i>Gayle Brill Mittler</i>	March, 48
Creative Placemaking: Newark <i>Anthony Smith</i>	June, 6
Starting a Farmers Market <i>Jeff Wolfe</i>	June, 26
An Effective Vehicle for Securing Philanthropic Resources for Local Communities <i>Jordan Glatt</i>	December, 28

Emergency Management

NJ's Disaster Debris Tool Kit <i>Jessica L. Palmer</i>	June, 34
Emergency Preparedness & Response <i>Robert J. Falzarano</i>	October, 46

Energy

Powerful Choices <i>Anthony Cancro</i>	January, 38
Town Center Microgrids <i>Richard S. Mroz</i>	February, 44

Environment

Remove or Treat Ash Trees Today <i>Rosa Yoo</i>	January, 28
Major New Jersey 2017 Environmental Legislation/Developments <i>John M. Scagnelli</i>	April, 32
NJ DEP Purchases Recycle Coach <i>Scott Brubaker</i>	May, 6
Truly Evergreen: Brigantine Beach <i>John Doing, Gene Herman</i>	May, 22
Pick It Up, Livingston <i>Shaun R. Klein</i>	May, 26
Green Achievement: Clifton <i>Alfred J. Du Bois</i>	May, 28
What's Left in the Garbage Can <i>Randall Solomon</i>	May, 30
Visual Litter Surveys <i>Morris A. Enyeart</i>	May, 46

Finance

Considering Competitive Contracting <i>Mark Moon, Richard Trenk, Joseph Valenti, Lori Buckelew, Frank Marshall</i>	January, 58
Gearing Up to Finance a Resurgence <i>John Moor</i>	February, 56
Getting Started with EMMA <i>Lynette Kelly</i>	March, 34
Answering 6 Common Questions about Reserve for Uncollected Taxes <i>Sharon Smith</i>	March, 54
Tax Sale: Live Sales vs. Electronic Sales in NJ <i>Carl M. Dileo, Stacy Proebstle</i>	April, 44
Participatory Budgeting Program <i>Ron Griffiths, Kevin Kane</i>	May, 38
Procurement Utilizing New Jersey State Contracts <i>Michelle DeFrancis</i>	May, 56
OSC's Procurement Oversight for Health Insurance & Insurance Brokers <i>Philip James Degnan</i>	June, 52
Receivership for Municipalities <i>Keith A. Bonchi</i>	October, 52
The "Internal" Audit <i>Lori A. Russo</i>	November, 92
SEC Imposes New Secondary Market Disclosure Requirements in Connection with the Issuance of Financial Obligations <i>Matthew D. Jessup</i>	December, 42

Gold Dome

Murphy's Winning Campaign & Its Lingering Effect in Trenton <i>Ben Dworkin</i>	January, 56
---	-------------

Divided Democrats <i>Ben Dworkin</i>	February, 58
The Three Stages of the Marijuana Debate <i>Ben Dworkin</i>	March, 58
NJ Congressional Races in 2018 Have Implications for Nation & State <i>Ben Dworkin</i>	April, 46
The Right Time for Unapologetic Progressivism? <i>Ben Dworkin</i>	May, 54
Democrats Already Thinking 2019 and, More Importantly, 2012 <i>Ben Dworkin</i>	June, 54
In the Race for US Senate, Messaging Matters, But Context is Most Important <i>Ben Dworkin</i>	October, 54
The Old, The New, and The To Do <i>Ben Dworkin</i>	November, 96
Can New Jersey Become a Startup State, Again? <i>Ben Dworkin</i>	December, 36

Health

Health Officers and Boards of Health <i>Christopher R. Rinn</i>	March, 36
Mental Health First Aid Training <i>Andrian Diogo</i>	November, 42

History

Lakewood Historical Museum <i>Stanley Liptzin, Yehuda Abraham</i>	October, 42
Posies for Rosie <i>Sue McCluskey</i>	October, 50

Infrastructure

Sustaining Our Water Infrastructure <i>Albert Kelly</i>	February, 6
Utilities at the Crossroad <i>Daniel J. Van Abs</i>	February, 20
New Report Analyzes the Financial Benefits of Investing in Water Infrastructure <i>David Zimmer</i>	February, 24
Me Too Moments <i>Keiona Miller</i>	April, 36
Infrastructure Improvements <i>Michael Friedberg</i>	June, 40

Labor Relations

The Building Blocks of a Successful Negotiations Strategy <i>Joseph M. Hannon</i>	February, 60
Chapter 78 Does Not Limit Municipalities' Ability to Negotiate High Contributions <i>Joseph M. Hannon</i>	May, 58
AG Requires NJ Police Depts. To Randomly Drug Test Officers <i>Joseph M. Hannon</i>	June, 58
U.S. Supreme Court Says Goodbye to Involuntary Agency Fees <i>Joseph M. Hannon</i>	November, 94
The Blunt Truth About Marijuana's Impact on the Workplace <i>Jennifer Roselle, Justine L. Abrams</i>	December, 38

Leadership

Improving Processes, Making Progress: Innovation in Governance Awards Program 2017 winners named <i>Michael Rogers, Heather A. Mailander</i>	January, 30
Career Builder: The Benefits of Improve for Leaders <i>Joey Novick</i>	October, 62
Stronger Local Parties Means Stronger Local Government <i>Jeff Brindle</i>	December, 26

Legal

Volunteer Emergency Contributions & BYOB Regulation <i>Frank Marshall</i>	January, 60
Closing Streets, Clearing Sidewalks <i>Frank Marshall</i>	February, 58
Post-Council Municipal Employment, Church Members & OPMA <i>Frank Marshall</i>	March, 56
Redevelopment Responsibilities & Local Public Contracts Law <i>Frank Marshall</i>	April, 48
Unregisters Clerks & Voting for Volunteers <i>Frank Marshall</i>	May, 52
OPMA Redaction Rules & OPMA Publication Requirements <i>Frank Marshall</i>	June, 56
Pedestrian Laws & Proprietary Brands in Local Public Contracts Law <i>Frank Marshall</i>	October, 56

Tis the Season: Answering Many Questions on Holiday Displays
Frank Marshall November, 90

Sidewalk Clearing Ordinances & Towing Fees
Frank Marshall December, 44

NJLM
 Q&A with New League President James L. Cassella
James L. Cassella January, 18

2018 Legislative Priorities
James L. Cassella January, 44

Annual Mayors' Hall of Fame
Staff January, 46

Meet Your New Board Member
Staff January, 47

League Approves 13 Resolutions
Staff January, 48

102nd Annual NJLM Conference Wrap Up
Staff January, 49

2018 Legislative Guide
Staff February, 29

League Forms Task Force on Marijuana Legalization
Michael Cerra, Lori Buckelew, Jon Moran March, 60

Show Off Your City
Staff May, 42

Mayors Day 2018
Staff May, 16

Mayors' Hall of Fame
Staff May, 18

NJLM President Cassella Presents Testimony
James Cassella May, 50

Young Leaders: 24th Annual Louis Bay 2nd Winners
Staff October, 36

Annual Report 2018
Michael J. Darcy December, 51

OPRA
 Open Public Records Portal
Michael Venezia April, 40

Op Ed
 Op Ed: New Rules for Tree Experts Adopted
Steve Chisholm January, 26

Keeping Our Children Safe from Gangs
Hector C. Lora January, 24

NJ Needs to Blend Progressive Values, Fiscal Responsibility
Steve Sweeney February, 12

Time to Rally the Rational and Reach Out to the Reasonable
Jon Brannick February, 14

Prioritizing Our Water Supply and Infrastructure
John F. McKean February, 16

The City of Newark Solves a Big Problem
Mildred Krump February, 18

Planning with Municipal Officials to Create a More Affordable New Jersey
Craig Coughlin March, 18

There's Room for Bipartisan Agreement
Thomas Kean, Jr. March, 20

Do Not Jeopardize the NJ Tourism Industry by Allowing Offshore Drilling
Sean T. Kean April, 16

Planning for NJ's Ocean Future
Carmen Amato April, 18

Protecting NJ's Environment & Future through Elimination of Food Waste
Christopher "Kip" Bateman May, 20

Renewing DCA's Commitment to Community Revitalization
Sheila Y. Oliver June, 20

Technology Key to Future NJ Prosperity
Andrew Zwicker May, 18

Let's Figure Out Where Our Education Money is Going, Before Demanding More From Taxpayers
BettyLou DeCroce October, 20

A View from the Municipal CFO's Seat
Joseph P. Monzo October, 22

We Need to Take Tough Steps to Fix Our Fiscal Crisis, Restore Affordability
Steve Sweeney November, 18

Achieving the Structural Reforms That Will Set NJ on a Better Fiscal Path
Tom Kean November, 22

Fighting Hunger by Strengthening Food Security
Craig Coughlin November, 24

Building Police/Community Trust
Ras Baraka November, 26

Combatting the Opioid Crisis: No One is Alone in this Fight
Tom MacArthur, Annie Kuster December, 16

Inclusion a Win at Jake's Place and Beyond
Louis Greenwald December, 18

Making Mental and Behavioral Health Care a Priority
Gary Schaer December, 20

Planning
 Great Places in New Jersey
Sheena Collum January, 36

Seniors
 NJFA Celebrates Two Decades of Senior Services
Melissa Chalker December, 34

Shared Services
 Back Bay Dredging: Ocean City
Doug Bergen November, 6

Salem First for SRN Consortium
Charles Washington, Jr. November, 30

Shared Services Realities
Gregory C. Fehrenbach November, 34

Shared Efforts, Shared Success
Randal Solomon November, 38

Public Safety
 Improving the Odds
Gary M. Lanigan January, 40

A Lane of Protection: Move Over Law
Cathleen Lewis March, 6

Connecting Public Safety
Ted R. Green March, 22

Fighting the Opioid Epidemic
John Zabrowski March, 28

Building Safety Month
Stephen D. Jones May, 34

Benefits of Safe Sidewalks
Charles Brown, Deva Deka, James Sinclair, Susan Blickstein June, 22

Recreation
 Tenafly ADA: Access for All
Peter S. Rustin June, 30

Resilience
 Middletown After Sandy
JoAnne Castagna February, 38

Perth Amboy: Sister Community of Puerto Rico
Wilda Diaz February, 48

Sharing Municipal Knowledge
Kathleen Koch February, 52

Parking & Transportation
 NRDC Studies NJ Roads
Bruce Ho December, 6

Parking as a Catalyst for Redevelopment
Len Bier December, 22

Public Private Partnership
 Sweet Deal: Hackettstown and Mars
Maria DiGiovanni January, 6

Is it Time for a Website Redesign?
Susan Adelizzi-Schmidt November, 44

Technology
 Constituent Reporting Apps
Chris Siciliano March, 46

A Communications Ecosystem: FirstNet
J. Michael Schweder October, 6

Cyber Security Defense
Shawn Hopkins October, 24

How Do You Manage Your Technology?
Marc Pfeiffer October, 26

GoWProNJ: Web Professionals' Resource
Jamie Klenetsky October, 30

Cyber Insurance
Edward J. Cooney October, 32

Tourism
 Touring Elizabeth
Jennifer M. Costa April, 6

South Jersey's Downtown Upswing
Megan York Parker April, 20

Connecting Towns: Ferry Service
Nancy Taggart Davis, Lori A. Pepenella April 28

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Michael J. Neglia, P.E., P.L.S., P.P
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34 Park Avenue
 P.O. Box 426
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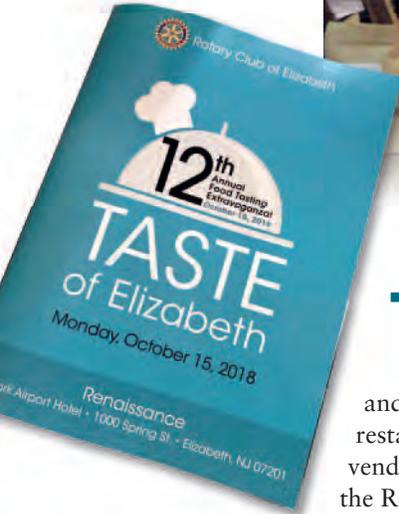
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Around the State



Serving Up a Good Time



The 12th Annual Taste of Elizabeth showcased its diverse, delicious aromas and rich flavors of more than 40 restaurants, bakeries and beverage vendors at a fundraising event held at the Renaissance Hotel.

The Rotary Club of Elizabeth organizes the event and are proud to feature a unique food-tasting fete where they gather under one roof, the lively, multi-cultural community representing Elizabeth's diverse culinary choices.

Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, NJLM Past President, was on hand to sample and praise the savory samples (shown above).

Explained Doug Harris, member of the Taste of Elizabeth committee, "Each year, the Taste combines the Greater Elizabeth area's newest and most exciting restaurants, together with many popular traditional eateries. To have so many tempting selections all in one location, on one night, is truly outstanding." He added, "The best part is the fact that all profits from the event are given to area charities selected by the Rotary Club of Elizabeth." 🍴

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