

March 2022

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Please consult the League [Web Calendar](#)

March 10

[Budget, Ethics, and Procurement Update-Your Computer](#)

March 12

[Budgeting for Elected Officials-Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor](#)

March 28

[Personnel Policies and FMLA Update Webinar-Your Computer](#)

April 5

[Cannabis in the Workplace Webinar-Your Computer](#)

- ✓ Lunch and Learn Webinar
- ✓ Energy Tax Receipts
- ✓ 2022 Municipal Directory
- ✓ NJ Local Government Week
- ✓ Budgeting for Elected Officials
- ✓ Local Government Leadership Program
- ✓ NJ Municipalities Magazine

FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Mayor William Pikolycky
Mayor, Borough of Woodbine*

Building a Better Future

This month the logo and theme for the 107th Annual League Conference are up and we are moving forward with planning for the annual event. The theme, Building For Tomorrow, speaks to what is happening right now in municipalities all over the state. We are all working through what we hope is the end of the COVID pandemic and striving to improve our communities for the future. When we gather in person in Atlantic City November 15 to 17, we bring lessons learned to share and can plan to add more skills to our toolkits to take back to our towns. Please visit the Conference website at www.njlm.org/conference.

Right now Building For Tomorrow is critically important, and we have plenty opportunities to do so in the coming month. Our Lunch and Learn [webinar](#) on March 4 is free and focuses on informing our members about the American Rescue Plan Act Final Rule. Mike Gleeson, Legislative Manager for Finance, Administration, and Intergovernmental Relations for the National League of Cities will discuss the American Rescue Plan Act's State and Local Recovery Fund Final Rule as it relates to the specific needs of municipalities.

Mayors can make a lasting difference in their communities, building for tomorrow, I look forward to working with you and the League toward a better future.

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Free Lunch and Learn Webinar: American Rescue Plan Final Rule

Contact Paul Penna, at ext. 110 or ppenna@njlm.org

The League will host a free webinar with Mike Gleeson, Legislative Manager for Finance, Administration, and Intergovernmental Relations for the National League of Cities, on Friday, March 4, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. as part of the League's Lunch and Learn webinar series. He will discuss the American Rescue Plan Act's State and Local Recovery Fund Final Rule.

Please [register in](#) advance for the webinar.

Act Now: Impact of Diversion of Energy Tax Receipts

Contact Lori Buckelew at ext. 112 or lbuckelew@njslom.org

As the State begins to consider its FY 22-23 budget, it is critical for municipalities to advocate for [S-330](#), which will increase distribution to municipalities from the Energy Tax Receipts Property Tax Relief Fund over five years, restore municipal aid reductions, and require the additional aid to be subtracted from the municipal property tax levy. Since 2002, \$14 billion in funds have been diverted from municipalities to the State's general fund.

To see how much revenue has been diverted from your municipalities, please use [the 2021 ETR Impact Calculation individual sheet](#). Simply insert the annual amount of aid your municipality received and the sheet will update to reflect the shortfall over time. We suggest you share this information with your residents, Assembly and Senate representatives, and Governor.

If you have not done so already, please considering adopting the [sample resolution](#) calling for the swift passage and signing of S-330. The time has come to restore to local budgets the millions in property tax relief that have been annually diverted to meet State needs.

2022 Municipal Directory

Contact Dee Kotch at ext. 115 or dkotch@njlm.org

The annual Municipal Directory will be mailed to all mayors in March. There is no cost for the first copy. Additional print and PDF copies are \$35 each for public officials and \$45 each for non-public officials. Use it to keep in touch with your colleagues around the state.

Planning for NJ Local Government Week: Showcase your Municipality!

Contact Taran Samhammer, ext. 124 or tsamhammer@njlm.org

Have you started planning events for NJ Local Government week, April 3-9, 2022? Need tips on how to celebrate? Visit the League's website for a "how to" packet with ideas ranging from basic, no cost activities to some that are more complex.

Be sure to tag your social media posts with #njlocalgovt, and utilize the NJ Local Government Week logo that the League has provided by downloading from the League website.

Visit the [League website](#) for tips, suggestions and a logo created to help promote your events.

Don't Miss "Budgeting for the Elected Official: Everything You Need to Know to Create, Balance, and Approve Your Municipality's Budget" Webinar

Contact Danielle Holland-Htut, ext. 118 or dholland@njlm.org

Creating and approving a feasible budget is one of the most important tasks on an elected official's long list of responsibilities. It is also one of the most complex and time-consuming tasks.

To aid in this endeavor, the League has created a special half-day program geared toward Elected Officials to help them in the municipal budgeting process.

The program will take place on Saturday, March 12, at the Conference Center at Mercer. Additional program details and registration fees are available on the [Budgeting for Elected Officials Calendar Announcement](#).

Become a Municipal Pioneer! Be a Part of the Local Government Leadership Program

The League is proud to offer a voluntary recognition program that recognizes Elected Governing Body Members who complete additional training and advocacy. The program has three tiers: Municipal Leader, Municipal Innovator, and Municipal Pioneer. Each tier has an assigned number of points. Once an Elected Governing Body Member has earned the required points, they are awarded one of these tiers. The award is a certificate of completion mailed to them and recognition at the Orientation Session at the Annual Conference.

Elected Governing Body Members can achieve each level by attending trainings, seminars, writing articles for the magazine, and advocating for municipal interests. When an Elected Governing Body Member has completed an eligible activity, they will receive confirmation indicating the points earned. Once an Elected Governing Body Member has acquired the necessary number of points, they complete an online application form and receive a Local Government Leader certificate in the mail.

At the Orientation session at the Annual League Conference in November, they will be recognized (Officials who submit application forms after September 1 will be recognized at the next year's Conference).

More information on this program is available on the [Local Government Leadership Program webpage](#).

Be a Part of NJ Municipalities Magazine

Contact Amy Spiezio at aspiezio@njlm.org or Tasneem Kapadia at tkapadia@njlm.org

We invite you to pitch your op-ed columns, COVID recovery stories, news items, and feature-length pieces that celebrate and inspire local officials for inclusion in upcoming editions of the League's official publication, *NJ Municipalities* magazine.

In each issue, the magazine provides insights on a variety of topics of interest to local governments and also puts a spotlight on particular topics that are currently trending. Please visit the League's website for author guidelines or a full rundown of issue spotlights. Or reach out to Managing Editor Amy Spiezio at aspiezio@njlm.org.

If you and other officials within your municipality don't subscribe to *NJ Municipalities*, please visit the magazine bookshelf to check out the useful information included in each issue and consider adding this publication to your municipal government toolkit.

Do you work with vendors that you would recommend to other municipalities? Let these vendors know about the League's magazine, *NJ Municipalities*. Placing advertisements in the magazine helps to increase the reach of their marketing messages and supports the League as an organization in the process. Reach out to Tasneem Kapadia at tkapadia@njlm.org with your vendors' mailing address and we will send them a sample issue.