January 3, 2018

Re: Daily Update

I. 2% Interest Arbitration Cap Update
II. January Grants Posted
III. Register Now for These Upcoming Seminars and Webinars

Dear Mayor:

I. 2% Interest Arbitration Cap Update

As of January 1, 2018, the 2% cap on interest arbitration awards has lapsed, at least temporarily, because the State Legislature has failed to take the necessary action to extend this important tool to contain property tax increases. This is not without precedent, as the cap lapsed at the end of March 2014 and was then extended in June 2014 with a retroactive enactment to ensure continuity.

Please click here for an article from Politico indicating that the “final” report from the Interest Arbitration Task Force will not be issued despite the December 31, 2017 deadline. Legislative leaders and the Governor-elect have all stated they wanted to see the final report before deciding on a course of action.

As you may know, the 217th State Legislature will end at midnight, Monday January 8th. The 218th Legislature will be sworn in on Tuesday, January 9. The League, along with our partners in the New Jersey Association of Counties and the New Jersey Conference of Mayors, will continue to advocate for the extension of the 2% interest arbitration cap until the cap is again extended.

Here’s what you can do in the meanwhile. Tomorrow, Assemblyman Declan O’Scanlon will make a motion to release from the Assembly State and Local Government Committee A-2123, which he sponsors, and bring it to the floor for a vote. This legislation will permanently extend the cap on interest arbitration awards.

This tactic is often used to highlight legislation that is stuck in committee, and it is almost always met with a motion to table and is then defeated, which is likely to happen tomorrow. But to do so, a recorded vote to table the motion will be required.

So, we urge you to contact your Assembly representatives and ask them to support Assemblyman O’Scanlon’s motion on January 4 and support A-2123; Urge your Representatives to bring A-2123 to the floor and vote in favor of the bill. To find your representative and their contact information please click, here.

In doing so, you may want to make the following points.
1) The 2% levy cap is permanent; the 2% levy cap without the 2% interest arbitration cap is not sustainable and will inevitably lead to reductions in other important services (including reductions in force), property tax increases or a combination of both.

2) The existing statute which establishes the 9 points that arbitrators are to consider pre-dates the 2% cap and was ineffective in curtailing property tax increases, which was one of the reasons why the 2% interest arbitration cap was implemented in the first place.

3) The IA cap has worked, and according to the data provided in the September report by the Governor’s appointees to the Interest Arbitration Task Force, has resulted in over $530 million in savings to property taxpayers; the results and data provided in the September report have not been countered nor has there been any attempt to respond from union leadership.

4) Property taxes remain the #1 concern for our taxpayers and the IA cap has proven to be an effective tool to contain property tax increases.

Please continue outreach to your State representatives, the Legislative Leaders, Governor Christie, and Governor-Elect Murphy expressing the urgent need for the extension of the 2% cap on interest arbitration awards.

Resources:
- Please click here for the League’s 2% IA cap page.
- Please click here for the League’s Town Crier blog post on this issue.
- Editorial boards across the State support our call to extend the interest arbitration cap. To read these, please see the League’s 2% IA cap page.

Contacts:

Michael F. Cerra, Assistant Executive Director, mcerra@njslom.org, 609-695-3481 x120.
Lori Buckelew, Senior Legislative Analyst, lbuckelew@njslom.org, 609-695-3481 x112.

II. January Grants Posted

The League’s January grants page has been posted and includes links to several federal funding opportunities. Click here to visit the Grant Resource Center.

The League’s Grant Resource Center features links and resources to assist municipalities in their grant search.
Looking for a database of grants? Through a partnership with GrantStation, League members may sign up for a discounted membership to use their funding databases. Reserve through NJLM for up to 85% off! Click here for more information.

League Contact: Taran B. Samhammer, tsamhammer@njslom.org, (609) 695-3481 x124

III. Register Now for These Upcoming Seminars and Webinars

a. Orientation for the Newly Elected, Re-elected, or Experienced
Saturday, January 6, 2018  8:30a.m.-3:30p.m.
Hilton Meadowlands Hotel
2 Meadowlands Plaza
East Rutherford, NJ 07073

OR

Saturday, January 20, 2018  8:30a.m.-3:30p.m.
Hotel ML
915 Route 73

b. Budgeting for the Elected Official: Everything You Need to Know to Create, Balance, and Approve Your Municipalities’ Budget

Saturday, February 24, 2018  8:30a.m.-2:00p.m.
The Conference Center at Mercer

c. LEAGUE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Sexual Harassment in the Workplace: What You Need to Know
February 28, 2018
8:30a.m. to 12:30p.m
Doubletree Hotel
700 Hope Road
Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

CEU’s: CMFO/CCFO-4.0 Off Mgmt/Anc; CTC-4.0 Gen/Sec;CPWM-4.0 Govt; RMC-4.0 Prof Devel;QPA-4.0 Off Admin/Gen Duties;CPA-4.0 PD; NJCLE-4.0; PACLE-3.5; RPPO/RPPS-4.0M/S  [http://nj-njslom.civicplus.com/799/Seminar-and-Webinar-Handouts](http://nj-njslom.civicplus.com/799/Seminar-and-Webinar-Handouts)

d. League Professional Development Webinar
“A Quick Review of Budget and Audit Updates”  
**March 2, 2018** 11:00a.m.-11:50a.m.  
Location: Your Computer  
CEU’s: CMFO/CCFO-1.0 Bud;CPWM-1.0 GOVT;RMC-1.0 Fin; QPA-1.0 Off Admin/Gen  
Duties RPPO/RPPS-1.0 M/S; CPA-1.0; NJCLE-1.0  
http://njnjslom.civicplus.com/799/Seminar-and-Webinar-Handouts

e. League Professional Development Seminar

“Budget, Ethics, and DLGS Updates on Best Practices and Procurement”  
**March 8, 2018** 9:00a.m.-12:30p.m.  
Conference Center at Mercer  
1200 Old Trenton Rd  
West Windsor, NJ 08550  
CEU’s: CMFO/CCFO-1.0 Acct,1.0 Bud;1.0 Fin/Debt Mgmt;1.0 Eth;CTC-1.0 Eth,1.0 Gen/Sec;CPWM-2.0 Govt,1.0 Eth; RMC-3.0 Fin, 1.0 Eth; QPA-1.0 P/P, 2.0 Off Admin/Gen  
Duties;1.0 Eth;CRP-3.0; CPA-3.0 FIN, 1.0 ETH; Registrar-1.0;PACLE-3.5*NJCLE-4.0  
including 1.0ETH;RPPO/RPPS- 2.0 M/S, 1.0 Eth, and 1.0 P/P  
http://njnjslom.civicplus.com/799/Seminar-and-Webinar-Handouts

f. 26th Annual Mayors’ Legislative Day

**Wednesday, March 14, 2018**  
The State House Annex  
Committee Room 4  
West State Street Trenton, New Jersey  
http://njnjslom.civicplus.com/542/Mayors-Legislative-Day-Photo-Albums

g. League Professional Development Seminar

Is South Jersey Getting its Fair Share Of Public Goods? A Forum Discussion  
**March 20, 2018**  
9:00a.m.-12:30p.m  
Hotel ML  
915 Rte 73
h. LEAGUE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Freedom Of Speech and Social Media in the Workplace
March 28, 2018
8:30a.m. to 12:30p.m
Doubletree Hotel
700 Hope Road
Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

CEU’s: CMFO/CCFO-4.0 Off Mgmt; RMC-4.0 Prof Devel; CPA-4.0


i. Save the Date!

The One Day Mini Conference
June 15, 2018
Conference Center at Mercer
1200 Old Trenton Road
West Windsor, NJ 08550

More Details to Follow


Sincerely,

Michael J. Darcy, CAE
Executive Director