2023 Legislative Guide
An Overview of Municipal Advocacy in Trenton
Throughout the Garden State, urban and rural, industrial, residential, and agricultural regions have been tried and tested with challenges to individuals, communities, and businesses. And local governments have worked with State and Federal officials to help ensure that the proper share of recovery funds are distributed to municipalities to do what those funds were intended to do.

The widespread and varied decisions of the State Legislature and by the Governor’s Administration continue to impact our local problem-solving ability. The emergent issues associated with the pandemic, as well as the ongoing challenges for municipalities including property taxes, labor force issues, and crisis management, keep your League Officers and Legislative Team targeting their efforts to continue to meet the expectations of their residents for safe places to live, work, and raise their families.

Likewise, the League of Municipalities helps local elected officials to share the challenges and successes in their own communities, and to speak with one powerful voice to our State representatives for the benefit of our constituents. The board and staff help to promote and achieve open, robust dialogue between local officials, the Legislature, and the Governor. When new laws and initiatives are crafted, we help ensure legislators are balancing the needs of the state with those of municipalities in a manner reflective of the unique conditions of the communities they impact.

The League’s work helps us ensure safe and healthy communities, maximize funding opportunities, and coordinate the delivery of needed services, regardless of partisan considerations. Progress, however, will grind to a halt, and may even lose ground, without the organized and cooperative participation of local officials with those in our Statehouse.

Please carefully consider the information included in this Legislative Guide. Let it be a building block in ensuring that you continuously earn the special trust your constituents give you to work on their behalf.

Make your voice heard by sharing with the League and your state-level representatives your specific policy-related needs. Take the opportunity to volunteer for any League committees or task forces studying issues important to you.
During each two-year term of the Legislature, more than 11,000 bills and resolutions are introduced. Of those bills, approximately 3,000 impact the Garden State’s 564 municipalities. Here’s how the League helps you.

1. **Member Interaction**
   Each year, we interact with you at the League’s Annual meeting. Throughout the rest of the year, we visit your county league meetings and year-round events to keep our finger on the pulse of municipal concerns.

   We encourage you to send in resolutions, respond to surveys, or reach out. Because we’ve been listening, we are prepared to respond to proposed legislation.

2. **Legislative Committee Meetings**
   The League Legislative Team reviews lists of bills recently introduced or amended, thoroughly analyzing bills most likely to affect local governments. Based on those analyses, we prepare an agenda of bills to take before the League Legislative Committee.

   That Committee is composed of over 100 local officials (see page 7), just like you. We encourage you to bring your insights to the General Legislation; Land Use, Environment, and Community Development; Intra-Municipal Affairs; or Taxation and Finance subcommittees.

   Each Subcommittee has an agenda of 10 to 15 bills that are studied, debated, and voted upon. Then we convene as a Committee of the Whole to take final action on the recommendations of the Subcommittees.

3. **Legislative Action**
   After the meetings, your League Legislative Team returns to Trenton to draft position letters on the various bills based on the Committee’s debates and actions.

   These are sent to sponsors and to any Legislators who could be asked to vote on the proposals. Committee actions are also summarized and analyzed in League publications.

   When your help is needed on a deadline, the members of the League Legislative Team rely on “Legislative Alert” emails. If aware of your interest in a particular matter, personal emails and phone calls are sometimes placed as well. We use these tools when a good bill needs a push or when a bad bill seems ripe for passage.

4. **Key Policy Maker Contacts**
   Your League Legislative Team—a veteran staff of duly registered Governmental Affairs Agents—keeps you informed about proposals put forward by all our State’s 40 Senators and 80 Assembly Members, as well as by the Governor’s Administration.

   We reinforce with key policy makers exactly how you feel about the major issues impacting the community.

   The Legislative Team monitors the weekly meetings of Assembly and Senate Committees and provides the Committee Members with background on the League’s position on the bills under their consideration.

5. **State-Level Committee Meetings**
   The Senate and Assembly committees consider bills and resolutions in forums that represent the best of representative democracy in our Garden State.

   Legislators listen to arguments for and against passage of scores of proposals over the two-year session. Whenever they consider a bill on which the League has a position, we will let them know what your position is and why.

   All of these actions can make a difference when it comes to protecting the interests of local government.
In addition to our policy objectives, the League’s advocacy is focused on enhancing member engagement. The first step in that effort is catching up on the details of the latest legislative issues through the local government lens. The Town Crier blog is focused on legislative and regulatory issues. Using this tool helps you drill a bit deeper into important policy developments. Following The Town Crier at www.njlm.org/blog, gets you the latest analyses on the largest questions facing policy makers in our state and nation’s capitals.

Past postings have dealt with issues like:

- COVID-19 recovery funding
- Liquor license reform
- Regulatory advisories
- Cannabis legalization
- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits.

For the latest legislative developments, please follow the League’s active social media. We have a presence on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

More information about bills and other related information can be viewed and printed free to the public through the Office of Legislative Services’ website, www.njleg.state.nj.us. Digitized bills from the 1996-1997 session through today can be searched by Bill Number, Bill Sponsors, and Bills in Committee, Keyword(s), and Bill Subject.

Check the League’s homepage, www.njlm.org, for the latest information on the League’s legislative activities.

Elected and appointed local officials have a unique opportunity to engage their state and federal representatives independently and with the Legislative Team to ensure your voice is heard loud and clear. As your partner here in Trenton, the League’s Alerts and Calls to Action will help you stay informed and empowered in your efforts for a better Garden State.

Active Options

The League of Municipalities speaks on your behalf, and to be effective, we all need to be actively engaged.

Read All About It

Use Your Voice

Spread the Word


Follow through on special alerts from the League.

Come to Trenton to testify at hearings with our legislative team.
Reach out to your legislators.
Object to bills decreasing local tax revenue sources, including exemptions from local property tax, decreasing property tax relief programs to municipalities, and mandating local policies.

Establish a dialog with your legislators focusing on the bills that will be good or bad for your town.
Voice opposition to bills mandating new/increased local services without State funding.
Enlist the help of citizens in support of league positions—as taxpayers, they will bear the burden of costly mandates.
Inside the Legislative Process

**Idea Developed**
A legislator from either the Senate or General Assembly may sponsor a bill individually or at the suggestion of a constituent, interest group, public official, or the Governor. The legislator may ask other legislators in the same House to join as co-sponsors.

**Bill Drafted**
At the legislator’s direction, the Office of Legislative Services, a non-partisan agency of the Legislature, provides research and drafting assistance, and prepares the bill in proper technical form.

**Committee Reference**
The President of the Senate or Speaker of the General Assembly usually refers the bill to a committee for review but may send the bill directly to second reading to speed its consideration.

**Bill Introduced**
The prime sponsor delivers the bill to the House. Copies of the “proposed” bill are printed. The bill title is read aloud at the next session by the Senate Secretary or General Assembly Clerk. This is the first reading. The bill is made available in electronic form.

**Committee Action**
When scheduled by the chair, the committee considers the bill at an open public meeting. The committee may report the bill to the House as is, with amendments, or by a substitute bill. If not considered or reported, the bill remains in committee.

**Second Reading**
When the bill is reported to the House (or referred directly without committee review), its title is read aloud for the second reading. The bill can also be amended at a voting session of the House.

**Governor’s Action**
After legislative passage, the bill is sent to the Governor. The Governor may sign it, conditionally veto it (returning it for changes), or veto it absolutely. The Governor may also veto single line items of appropriation bills.

**Third Reading**
When scheduled by the President or Speaker, the bill is given a third reading. As it is posted for a vote, members may debate the bill. To ensure thorough consideration, rules prohibit a second and third reading on the same day, except by an emergency vote of three-quarters of the members.

**House Vote**
A bill passes each House when approved by a majority of the authorized members (21 votes in the Senate, 41 votes in the Assembly).

**Law**
A bill becomes law upon the Governor’s signature or after 45 days if no action is taken. If the House of origin is in recess on the 45th day, the time is extended until it reconvenes. (Different rules apply to bills passed during the last 45 days of a two-year session.) If vetoed, a bill can become law if the Legislature overrides the veto by a 2/3 vote. A law takes effect on the day specified in its text or, if unspecified, the next July 4th.

**Second House**
When a bill is delivered to the second House, it will go through the same process from first reading and committee referral through final vote. If the second House amends the bill, it is returned to the first House for a vote on the changes. A bill receives final legislative approval only when it passes both Houses in identical form.
2023 League Legislative Committee

The League would like to thank all the members of the Legislative Committee. Our advocacy efforts would not be possible without their willingness to share their valuable time and expertise.

Co-Chairs:
William J. Kearns Jr. Esq., NJLM General Counsel
Colleen Y. Mahr, Mayor, Fanwood; NJLM Immediate Past President

NJLM Staff:
Michael F. Cerra, Executive Director
Lori Buckelew, Deputy Executive Director & Director of Government Affairs
Frank Marshall, Esq., Associate General Counsel
Paul Penna, Senior Legislative Analyst
Andrew LaFevre, Legislative Analyst
Ciara Bradley, Research Associate

General Committee
Chairperson: Gary J. Passanante, Mayor, Somerdale Borough; Member, NJLM Executive Board
Deputy Chairperson: Trishka Waterbury Cecil, Esq., NJLM Deputy Counsel

James Anzaldi, NJLM Past President
Paul Anzano, Mayor, Hopewell Borough
Christopher Awe, Councilman, East Orange
J. Christian Bollwage, Mayor, Elizabeth City; NJLM Past President
Jamila Odom Bremmer, Mayor, Chesilhurst Borough
Shelley Brindle, Mayor, Westfield Town
Robert Conley, Mayor, Madison Borough
Jimmy Davis, Mayor, Bayonne City
John G. Ducey, Mayor, Brick Township
Tency A. Eason, Council President, Orange City
Sean Elwell, Mayor, Evesboro Township; 3rd Vice President, NJLM Executive Board
Reed Gusciora, Mayor, Trenton
Chris Jacksic, Mayor, Hardwick Township
Barbara George Johnson, Vice President, External Affairs & Urban Policy, Kean University
Paul Kanitra, Mayor, Point Pleasant Beach Borough
Albert Kelly, Mayor, Bridgeton City; NJLM Past President
Kerry Kirk Pfleg, Executive Director, NJ Conference of Mayors,
Phyllis A. Magazzu, Mayor, Berlin Township
Tenisha Malcolm, Executive Director, NJ Urban Mayors Association
Timothy C. McDonough, Mayor, Hope Township; NJLM Past President
Robert McQueen, Director of Information Technology, Franklin Township (Somerset)
Paul Medany, Mayor, Deptford Township

Menashe Miller, Deputy Mayor, Lakewood Township
Greg Myhre, Mayor, Stafford Township
Shoshanna Page, Senior Policy Advisor & Communications, Newark City
John Pallone, Mayor, Long Branch City; Member, NJLM Executive Board
Matthew S. Rogers, Esq., Municipal Attorney, Ridgewood Village
Andre Sayegh, Mayor, Paterson City
Maureen Tansey-Hughes, Management Specialist, Elizabeth City
Robert Uhrik, Mayor, Rocky Hill
Tony Vauss, Mayor, Irvington Township
Suzanne M. Walters, NJLM Past President
Dwayne D. Warren, Esq., Mayor, Orange City

Representatives of:
Jersey Access Group
Municipal Court Administrators Association of New Jersey
Municipal Welfare Directors Association of New Jersey
New Jersey Assoc. of County & City Health Officials

Land Use, Environment & Community Development Committee
Chairperson: Deborah Buzby-Cope, Mayor, Bass River Township
Deputy Chairperson: Brian C. Wahler, Mayor, Piscataway; NJLM Past President

Ed Buzak, Esq., Buzak Law Group, NJLM Assistant Counsel
Robert Campbell, Mayor, Downe Township
Peter Cantu, Mayor, Plainsboro Township; NJLM Past President
Sheena Collum, Village President, South Orange Village Township
Jennifer Credidio, Esq., McManimon Scotland
Jon Drill, Esq., Board of Adjustment Attorney, Raritan Twp./Clinton Twp./Greenwich Twp.
Michael Drulis, Assistant Business Administrator, New Brunswick City
Caroline Ehrlich, Director, Woodbridge Redevelopment Agency
Albert Ellis, Planning Board, Watchung Borough
Joseph Franco Jr., Deputy Mayor, Wildwood Crest Borough
Clifford Gibbons, Esq., NJLM Associate Counsel
Owen Henry, Mayor, Old Bridge Township
Lavonne Johnson, Planning Board Member, Willingboro Township
Thaddeus Kobylarz, Mayor, Chatham Boro
Hector Lora, Mayor, Passaic City
James Maley, Mayor, Collingswood Borough
Alex McDonald, Administrator, Millburn
Anthony Mercantante, Administrator, Director of Public Safety, Middletown Township
Keiona Miller, Office of Local Government Assistance, NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Frank Minor, Mayor, Logan Township
Janice S. Mironov, Mayor, East Windsor Township; NJLM Past President
Carol Sabo, Mayor, West Cape May
Cathy Wilson, Deputy Mayor, Morris Township
Dr. Josephy Youngblood II, Senior Vice President, Exterrnal Affairs, Kean University

Representatives of:
Community Recreation Society of New Jersey
New Jersey Planning Officials
New Jersey Society of Municipal Engineers

Intra Municipal Affairs Committee

Chairperson: Paul Muir, Mayor, Bethlehem Township
Deputy Chairperson: Paul Tomasko, Mayor, Alpine Borough; Member, NJLM Executive Board
Ravinder Bhalla, Mayor, Hoboken City
Brian Chabarek, Municipal Attorney
Barry Conway, Mayor, Burlington City
William Curtis, Mayor, Bay Head Borough; Member, NJLM Executive Board
Kim Duva, Assistant Township Administrator, Bloomfield
Josephine (Jo) Hochman, Councilmember, South Brunswick Township
Shawn Klein, Council Member, Livingston
Erie Knoedler, Administrator, Cherry Hill
Phil Kramer, Mayor, Franklin Township (Somerset)
Veronica Laureigh, Administrator, Lacey Township
Marc Pfeiffer, Former DLGS Deputy Director
William Pikolycky, Mayor, Woodbine Borough; NJLM Immediate Past President
Guy Piserchia, Deputy Mayor, Long Hill Township; Member NJLM Executive Board
Marlena Schmid, Business Administrator, West Windsor Township
Matthew Watkins, NJLM Labor Consultant
Kim-Marie White, Administrator/Clerk, Eastampton Township
Michael Wildes, Mayor, Englewood City

Representatives of:
American Public Works Association
Building Officials Association of New Jersey
Municipal Clerks Association of New Jersey
Municipal Electrical Inspectors Association of New Jersey

New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association
New Jersey Institute of Local Government Attorneys
New Jersey Municipal Management Association
New Jersey State Municipal Prosecutors Association
New Jersey State Plumbing Inspectors Association
Registrars Association of New Jersey

Tax & Finance

Chairperson: Jon Rheinhardt, GFOA Past President; Chief Financial Officer, Bergen County
Deputy Chairperson: Anthony Fanucci, Mayor, Vineland City; Member, NJLM Executive Board
Giovanni D. Ahmad, Manager, Weehawken Township
Mark S. Anderson, Esq., NJLM Associate Counsel
Jillian Barrick, Business Administrator, Morristown Town
Dave Brown, Administrator, Ocean Township (Monmouth)
Michael Capabianco, Administrator, Jamesburg
James Cassella, NJLM Past President
Matthew Cavallo, Administrator, Palisades Wyckoff Twp.
Jason Cilento, Mayor, Dunellen
John Coiro, Mayor, Totowa Borough
Charles Cuccia, Administrator, Little Falls Township
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Gregory Fehrenbach, Government Management Advisors LLC
Jason Gabloff, Administrator, Mendham Township
Mark Gyorf, Mayor, Morris Township
Michael Inganamort, Mayor, Chester Township
Susan Jacobucci, Administrator, Paulsboro Borough
Sam Joshi, Mayor, Edison
Janice Kovach, Mayor, Clinton Town, NJLM Past President
Colleen Lapp, Chief Financial Officer, Middletown Twp.
Michele Lee, Mayor, High Bridge
Mark LoGrigippo, Councilmember, Westfield Town
Stephen Lofaco, Administrator, North Arlington Borough
Adrian Mapp, Mayor, Plainfield City
Jason Martucci, Division of Local Government Services
James J. Pittinger, Mayor, Lebanon Borough
Nicholas Platt, Committeeperson, Harding Township
Jennifer Polidori, Councilmember, Pompton Lakes
Joseph Tempesta Jr., Mayor, West Caldwell Township; NJLM Past President
Brian Thomas, Councilmember, Neptune City
Joseph A. Valenti, Procurement Specialist
Jaclyn Veasy, Mayor, Evesham Township
Michael Venezia, Mayor, Bloomfield Township; Member, NJLM Executive Board
Millard Wilkinson, NJLM Past President

Representatives of:
Association of Municipal Assessors of New Jersey
Government Finance Officers Association of New Jersey
Governmental Purchasing Association of New Jersey
Tax Collectors and Treasurers Association of New Jersey
Meet Your New Legislators

Three new legislators will work under the gold dome this year, considering issues including those impacting municipalities.

Senator Renee C. Burgess

A lifelong resident of Irvington, Senator Burgess has served the community as a member of the Irvington Township Municipal Council since 2014. Her path to elected office began in 2000 when she became the District Leader for Irvington’s South Ward 2. Burgess later was elected to the Irvington School Board, serving 2003-2014, including terms as Vice President and President.

Burgess founded and is the president of the Thurgood Marshall Area Block Association and is the Committee Chair of the Irvington South Ward Democratic Committee. In 2014 she was elected to the Irvington Municipal Council as Council Member-At-Large and was appointed President in 2019.

She was employed over 10 years in Customer Service and payroll at Merck Pharmaceutical Company; six years at CA One Services, Newark Airport; and, more than 11 years as an Asset Manager for CIT Capital in Livingston. Burgess received numerous awards and acknowledgments for her performance and leadership skills in these roles.

The new Senator was also previously employed by the Township of Irvington as the Purchasing Clerk before assuming the position of Payroll and Purchasing Specialist and then the Supervisor of Accounts and Human Resource Administrator for the Irvington Housing Authority.

Her awards and honors include: Community Worker of the Year Award; International Women's Day Award; Tony Vauss Civic Association Community Award; Children Stand Higher Award; and, IBOE and the District Leader Service Award for 10 years of service.

She was a student of St. Leo’s, Essex Catholic Girls High School and Irvington High School. Burgess earned her Associates Degree in Business at Essex County College, her Bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership from Pillar College and her Master's in Public Affairs and Administration from Metropolitan College of New York.

Her daughter, Giovana, is a college graduate and current teacher at a charter school in Newark.

Senator Douglas J. Steinhardt

Douglas J. Steinhardt was the first five-term Mayor in Lopatcong Township history, serving from 2000 to 2014. He was elected Chairman of the Warren County Republican Committee in 2004 and Chairman of the New Jersey Republican State Committee in November 2017.

Steinhardt’s New Jersey roots run deep. He grew up on the same Warren County farm where his parents still live.

He is a graduate of Belvidere High School (1987), Gettysburg College (1991), and Widener University School of Law (1994) and is a proud Eagle Scout (1983). After law school, Steinhardt returned to Warren County to practice law with his father, who retired in 2005. That same year, the Senator opened a law firm around the corner from his home, where he still works today.

He is the founder and co-chairman of the Warren County Addiction Awareness Task Force. He also helped found and co-chairs the County Mental Health Task Force, which works to end the stigma associated with mental illness and helps connect County residents to needed services. He has served as general counsel to Law Enforcement Against Drugs (L.E.A.D.), on the campaign committee for Abilities of Northwest Jersey, the Board of Overseers of Widener Commonwealth Law School, and is a Certified, Red Cross Volunteer.

He is married to wife, Trudy, and they are the proud parents of Tia and Douglas Jr. Tia is a graduate of Moravian College and Villanova and the Vice President of Development for a national advertising and communications company. Douglas Jr. is a sophomore at Jacksonville University.

Representative Alex Sauickie, District 12

A lifelong resident of Jackson Township, Alex Sauickie was sworn in as assemblyman in September 2022. Previously, he was a Jackson Township councilman from 2019 to 2022, serving as vice president and later president in 2020.

He is a veteran advisor in the global financial technology market and heads wealth management services for Fidelity Information Services Inc., a multinational payment services provider based in Jacksonville, FL.

He began his career with Merrill Lynch in 1994, where he helped develop the electronic trading platform Merrill Edge, and went on to become chief executive and operating officer of multiple financial software companies. He earned a Bachelor of Science in business administration and marketing in 1993 from Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey).

He also served seven years as a board member of the Kimball Medical Center Foundation (now Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus), with two years as chairman.

An avid marathoner and Ironman triathlete, he is a father of five and resides in Jackson Township with his wife, Maggie.