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**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-01**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A TAX LEVY CAP EXCEPTION FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND CYBER SECURITY COSTS**

**WHEREAS**, local municipalities require specific software and hardware tools to provide services to their residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the licenses required to use the software requires an annual fee which is determined by a third party such as Microsoft, Edmunds, SDL, and other proprietary vendors, and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities do not have the option of negotiating a reduction in annual fees with national and international companies for annual licensing costs; and

**WHEREAS**, on a regular schedule, companies upgrade and/or eliminate older software which forces municipalities to purchase new software and hardware; and

**WHEREAS**, each municipality also invests in firewalls and other forms of cyber security protection to protect its financial records as well as the tax records and other data of its residents, and

**WHEREAS**, insurance carriers are requiring municipalities to conduct significant and extensive reviews of cyber security plans and protections to determine the annual liability premiums that will be charged; and

**WHEREAS**, even with a commitment to invest in technology upgrades, insurance premiums for liability and cyber security coverage will increase by double digits in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on an annual basis the cost of technology upgrades, including software, hardware and licenses, for the use of Microsoft platforms, email, required proprietary software and cyber security requires, an increasingly larger portion of municipal budgets; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey League of Municipalities in conference assembled, urges the State Legislature to grant all municipalities an exception to the expenditure CAP and a waiver from the tax levy CAP equal to the cost of hardware, software, licensing fees, data storage, email, storage including the Cloud and other types, Information Technology costs to install and monitor municipal systems as well as the costs related to technology to prevent hacking and cyber security attacks; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the members of the New Jersey General Assembly, the New Jersey State Senate, the Commissioner of the

Department of Community Affairs, New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

**Sponsors**

The Hon. Stacey Ewald  
Mayor, Township of Chatham

The Hon. Robert H. Conley  
Mayor, Borough of Madison

The Hon. Brad J. Cohen MD  
Mayor, East Brunswick Township

The Hon. John B. Moor  
Mayor, City of Asbury Park

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-02**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDING FOR PURPOSES OF THE STATEWIDE MANDATE ON USAGE OF POLICE BODY-WORN CAMERAS**

**WHEREAS**, P.L. 2020, Chapters 128 and 129, mandates that every uniformed State, county, and municipal patrol law enforcement officer wear a body-worn camera that records audio and video while acting in the performance of their duties; and

**WHEREAS**, a body-worn camera is a device worn by a law enforcement officer that makes an electronic audio and video recording of activities that take place during any law enforcement action; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of body-worn cameras is a great tool for law enforcement to help fulfill the needs of the department and the community by increasing transparency and the safety of law enforcement officers and community members; and

**WHEREAS**, while body-worn cameras provide tremendous benefits, there are significant costs associated with their implementation; and

**WHEREAS**, the November 24, 2020 report released by the Governor's Interagency Working Group of Body Worn Cameras highlighted the costs associated with not only the initial purchase of the body-worn cameras but also the continued maintenance and replacements costs, along with the costs for storage and necessary review and redaction of certain footage; and

**WHEREAS**, municipal law enforcement agencies will need to expend significant financial resources to account for the initial and ongoing costs associated with compliance with the new state mandate; and

**WHEREAS**, grants provided by the NJ Department of Law and Public Safety Office of the Attorney General cover some of the initial costs encountered by local law enforcement agencies in order to purchase necessary body-worn cameras for their police forces, these grants were a one-time appropriation from the state, with no guarantee that additional state funding will be made available to cover the ongoing costs associated with the new body-worn camera mandate; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, calls on the New Jersey State Legislature, the Governor, and New Jersey State Attorney General to provide for a yearly appropriation in an amount sufficient to reimburse municipalities for the costs associated to comply with the State's body-worn camera mandate; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the New Jersey State Attorney General, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

**Sponsor**

Hon. Reed Gusciora  
Mayor, City of Trenton

**Co-Sponsor**

Hon. Paul Medany  
Mayor, Township of Deptford

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-03**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL DIRECT FUNDING FROM THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF LEAD SERVICE LINES**

**WHEREAS**, the presence of lead in drinking water represents a threat to the public health, especially the health and development of New Jersey's children; and

**WHEREAS**, access to clean drinking water free of dangerous contaminants such as lead is fundamental to the health and well-being of America's communities and families; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities across the country are experiencing problems with lead contamination in drinking water; and

**WHEREAS**, pipes containing lead that connect water mains to homes and other buildings, often called lead service lines, are a primary source of lead in drinking water; and

**WHEREAS**, property owners have generally and historically been responsible for the maintenance of the service lines which run from their property to the water mains; and

**WHEREAS**, recently adopted P.L. 2021, c.183, requires all government-owned public community water systems to inventory, assess, and, within 10-years, replace lead service lines, with costs associated with such to be borne by all customers of the water system or in the same manner as provided for the assessment of local improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that the mandates set out within P.L.2021, c.183, will require a large initial investment, not previously anticipated and budgeted for as a capital expense due in part to water systems not having responsibility for service lines; and

**WHEREAS**, effective and affordable replacement of lead service lines can only be completed with resources from the State and Federal government.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, urges State and Federal lawmakers to provide robust funding for replacement of lead service lines in our communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to our representatives in Congress, the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

**Sponsor**

Hon. Richard S. Goldberg  
Mayor, Borough of Hawthorne

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-04**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**CALLING ON STATE LAWMAKERS TO TAKE MEASURES TO ENACT  
COMPREHENSIVE REFORM TO THE STATE'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY**

**WHEREAS**, in 1975, the New Jersey Supreme Court determined that municipalities may not validly employ their zoning powers to prevent the creation of a variety and choice of housing opportunities available to low and moderate-income households; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the Supreme Court decision, the Legislature established the "Fair Housing Act," P.L.1985, c.222, which empowered the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) to assign municipalities affordable housing obligations; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of COAH's failure to carry out its statutory functions, on March 10, 2015, the New Jersey Supreme Court directed that municipalities file Declaratory Judgment Actions in the Superior Court, placing the determination of municipal housing obligations and approval of compliance plans in the hands of judges in each of the 21 counties in New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court also invited the Legislature and the Governor, to devise a new legislative-based approach to affordable housing in our State and promised to show enormous deference to any new legislative pronouncement; and

**WHEREAS**, in its March 2015 ruling, the Supreme Court made clear that its decision did not, *"prevent either COAH or the Legislature from taking steps to restore a viable administrative remedy that towns can use in satisfaction of their constitutional obligation. In enacting the [Fair Housing Act], the Legislature clearly signaled, and we [the Court] recognized, that an administrative remedy that culminates in voluntary municipal compliance with constitutional affordable housing obligations is preferred to litigation that results in compelled rezoning. It is our [the Court's] hope that an administrative remedy will again become an option for those proactive municipalities that wish to use such means to obtain a determination of their housing obligations and the manner in which those obligations can be satisfied"*; and

**WHEREAS**, in the years that have passed since the Supreme Court's decision, both COAH and the Legislature have failed to act, leaving the complicated issues involved in affordable housing entirely to the courts to resolve on a case-by-case, piecemeal fashion, at exorbitant cost to the taxpayers, affordable housing advocates, and development community; and

**WHEREAS**, many municipalities across the State have entered into settlement agreements to avoid prolonged and costly litigation, demonstrating their willingness to voluntarily comply with their affordable housing obligations; however, that desire has been frustrated by the lack of action by COAH and the Legislature as well as the painfully slow progress and inconsistent rulings in the courts to resolve the issues surrounding affordable housing; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of administrative and legislative action over the years, and the prospect of many more years of litigation, overwhelmingly and convincingly demonstrates the urgent need for the New Jersey State Legislature to take immediate measures to enact comprehensive reforms to the Fair Housing Act so as to achieve the goal of providing clear and realistic standards to establish reasonable and achievable municipal affordable housing obligations as well as to guide municipal action to satisfy those obligations; and

**WHEREAS**, the prospect for additional costly and protracted litigation increases as the July 2025 deadline for the “fourth round” of regulations, which will include additional municipal obligations, draws nears; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities and municipalities statewide have long called for comprehensive reforms to the Fair Housing Act to implement a reasonable and grounded state affordable housing policy which promotes rational planning, seeks to achieve results with available housing funding and incentives, encourages partnerships, and protects the interests of taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature and Governor should seize the opportunity to reform the State’s housing laws and implement a statewide housing plan predicated on good planning, providing incentives, directing funding to assist municipalities and protect the interests of taxpayers.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, urges the New Jersey State Legislature and the Governor to accept the continued calls from both the New Jersey Supreme Court and municipalities statewide to adopt and sign into law comprehensive reforms to the Fair Housing Act in order to provide clear and realistic standards to establish reasonable and achievable municipal affordable housing obligations, provide additional tools to satisfy those obligations and effective administrative alternatives to the courts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to the members of the New Jersey General Assembly, the New Jersey State Senate, the Lieutenant Governor and Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, the Council on Affordable Housing, and the Governor of State of New Jersey.

**Sponsors**

Hon. Janice Mironov  
Mayor, East Windsor  
NJLM, Past President

Hon. Janice Kovach  
Mayor, Town of Clinton  
NJLM, President

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-05**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON STATE ACTION TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF  
SODIUM INTRUSION**

**WHEREAS**, excessive road salting practices and rising sea level have caused an increase in sodium and chloride contamination in private well water throughout the state resulting in damaged pipes and appliances in the homes of our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, this contamination has caused private well owners to install costly water treatment systems or rely on bottled water for drinking and cooking purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the areas with contaminated water could see a drastic reduction in property values or worse see families displaced from their homes entirely for lack of potable water; and

**WHEREAS**, residents alone are unable to bear the costs for mitigating the sodium and chloride contamination caused by elements beyond their control.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, calls on State lawmakers to take action to provide needed resources to residents facing sodium and chloride intrusion into their wells; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

**Sponsors**

Hon. Paul Anzano  
Mayor, Hopewell Borough

Hon. Ed Bonanno  
Mayor, Avon by the Sea

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-06**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE DEDICATION OF 9-1-1 SURCHARGES FOR THEIR INTENDED PURPOSE**

**WHEREAS**, P.L. 2004, c.48 imposes a fee on mobile telecommunication and telephone exchange customers' periodic billing to serve to replace the current 9-1-1 infrastructure statewide with a state-of-the-art enhanced 9-1-1 system as well as applied to the costs of funding the State's capital equipment, facilities, and operating expenses that arise from emergency preparedness, emergency response training, counter-terrorism measures, security at State facilities including transportation infrastructure, preparation for first responders to chemical or biohazard emergencies, and any expenses of the Office of Emergency Management in the Division of State Police in the Department of Law and Public Safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the fee charged by mobile telecommunications companies is for each voice grade access service number as part of mobile telecommunications service provided to a customer billed by or for the customer's home service provider and provided to a customer with a place of primary use in this State; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey collects annually from consumers approximately \$120 million in telecommunications surcharges as "9-1-1 System Emergency Response Fees" and deposits the money into the 9-1-1 System and Emergency Response Trust Fund Account ; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments handle the vast majority of 9-1-1 service requests through local "Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP)" and have come to inequitably rely on the collection of local property taxpayer dollars to improve, operate, and maintain 9-1-1 systems; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey should comply with federal recommendations and restore critical 9-1-1 System and Emergency Response Trust Fund Account monies to county and municipal 9-1-1 centers to operate, maintain, and construct effective, efficient, and contemporary 9-1-1 systems.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, calls upon the Governor and the Legislature to appropriate the proper funds from the 9-1-1 System and Emergency Response Trust Fund Account to cover the costs incurred by local governments for the provision and maintenance of 9-1-1 emergency services; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the State Treasurer, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

**Sponsor**

Hon. Ray Heck  
Mayor, Millstone Borough

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-07**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INVESTMENT IN LOCAL BROADBAND  
INFRASTRUCTURE TO EQUITABLY AND EFFECTIVELY BRIDGE THE DIGITAL  
DIVIDE**

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore many of the long-standing social, economic, and racial disparities in American society; and

**WHEREAS**, these disparities are especially pronounced in the area of broadband internet access and our nation's enduring digital divide; and

**WHEREAS**, in communities across the nation, the digital divide has been pronounced in the area of education as schools have closed and moved to online instruction and libraries have closed limiting their offerings to their digital collections; and

**WHEREAS**, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the digital divide has also been pronounced in the area of telemedicine, particularly in medically underserved areas that most rely on telemedicine; and

**WHEREAS**, the digital divide is as much an issue of affordability as it is access to infrastructure and the digital divide and its related disparities manifest themselves throughout our nation, in metropolitan areas and rural areas; and

**WHEREAS**, mayors and other local government officials are committed to ensuring the digital infrastructure of tomorrow is safe, reliable, and accessible to all of the residents of their cities; and

**WHEREAS**, mayors and other local government officials have long advocated for universal access to reliable, high-speed broadband service - both wireline and wireless - as crucial for education, employment, economic development, and the provision of a variety of services necessary for success and progress in the 21st Century; and

**WHEREAS**, mayors and other local government officials recognize the increased importance of universal broadband access for education, health and business during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, mayors and local government officials are facing dwindling revenue and increasing demand for municipal services as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, municipal government oversight of 5G broadband deployment is critical to ensure it is safe, equitable, and fiscally prudent, and local government officials have the most direct

understanding of the needs of their communities and understand how best to implement policies that affect their citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, a number of localities have negotiated and entered into agreements with wireless providers to deploy 5G broadband service in their communities, including provisions to bridge the digital divide; and

**WHEREAS**, some members of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Congress, and our state legislatures have wrongly characterized the balancing act among competing interests for the public rights-of-way and maintenance of local authority as a barrier to 5G deployment and, instead, have put the interests of national corporations ahead of the needs of communities by imposing on municipalities a one-size-fits-all policy which preempts existing state and local policies,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, calls on Congress, the FCC, and other federal agencies, along with the New Jersey state legislature, to increase efforts to leverage and otherwise use relief funding to address the digital divide; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities urges Congress, the FCC, and other federal agencies, along with the New Jersey State Legislature, to robustly fund and otherwise bolster state and federal efforts to address the digital divide and lay the groundwork for an equitable, robust, and resilient post-pandemic economy and society; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Congress and the New Jersey State Legislature should recognize that universal access to affordable broadband cannot be achieved through deregulation and preemption of the local authority, but will require partnerships and robust and dedicated federal funding to accelerate universal broadband deployment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities calls on Congress to pass legislation to establish a 100 megabyte symmetry between upload and download speeds, prioritize unserved and underserved communities with clear definitions, and would award resources through competitive bidding for construction costs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities encourage evaluation measures, such as the collection and mapping of data with community-level perspectives, affordability metrics, and adoption rates to be built into any broadband legislation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities urges the flexibility of federal funding to include last mile infrastructure and adoption that would ensure equitable access to and administration of services related to internet connectivity, such as outreach and awareness, digital navigators to support communities facing barriers to connectivity, and digital literacy training to encourage use of internet access; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities supports all efforts that provide flexibility to local governments to increase broadband access not only to those that lack a physical connection but also to those that lack access due to affordability issues; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to our representatives in Congress, the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

**Sponsor**

Hon. Janice Kovach  
Mayor, Town of Clinton  
NJLM, President

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-08**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**RESOLUTION CONFRONTING AND COMBATING ANTISEMITISM**

**WHEREAS**, antisemitism, including harassment on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identify, affiliation, or faith, remains a persistent, pervasive, and disturbing problem in American society; and

**WHEREAS**, Jews continue to be a targeted minority in the United States and are consistently the most likely of all religious groups to be victimized by incidents of hate, and such incidents are increasing at an alarming rate; and

**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge that following the attacks on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, the Chabad of Poway in San Diego, a Kosher supermarket in Jersey City and a Chanukah gathering in Monsey, synagogues have felt compelled to re-evaluate their own security measures to keep their congregations safe; and

**WHEREAS**, the recent AJC (American Jewish Committee) State of Antisemitism in America Report found that more than one in three American Jews (37%) say they have been victims of antisemitism over the past five years; and

**WHEREAS**, the attack on a kosher deli in Jersey City in 2019 resulted in the murder of three people and the antisemitic verbal assaults in New Jersey have disturbed our communities and must be taken as an opportunity to teach about this issue and seek paths for healing and eliminating such hate; and

**WHEREAS**, officials and institutions throughout the state have a responsibility to protect citizens from acts of hate and bigotry, including antisemitism, and must be given the tools to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, valid monitoring, informed analysis and investigation, and effective policy-making all benefit from accurate and uniform definitions; and

**WHEREAS**, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), by consensus vote of its member states, adopted a Working Definition of Antisemitism in May 2016, which has become the internationally recognized, authoritative definition of antisemitism for use by governments and international organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Working Definition adopted by the IHRA reads in full:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed

toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”; and

**WHEREAS**, the IHRA Working Definition has proven to be an essential tool used to help determine contemporary manifestations of antisemitism; and

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, the IHRA Working Definition is utilized by various government agencies, including the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education, and can be utilized by law enforcement agencies in monitoring, training, and education.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, denounces antisemitism in all forms and calls for healing and education; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism should be made available as an educational resource for municipalities to address antisemitism and other forms of discrimination; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to our representatives in Congress, the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the New Jersey State Attorney General, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

**Sponsor**

Hon. Janice Kovach  
Mayor, Town of Clinton  
President, NJ League of Municipalities

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-09**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey’s family courts serve an important role in our State’s judicial system through prioritizing child safety and acting in the best interest of children; and

**WHEREAS**, increased awareness on the importance of family courts, and education and training on domestic violence, childhood trauma, and post-separation abuse for all professionals working within the family court system is critical for them to continue to serve their important purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, empirical data and research currently available, such as; The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study (CDC-Kaiser Permanente), Saunder’s Study (US Department of Justice), The Meier Study: Child Custody Outcomes in Cases Involving Abuse Allegations, and the Santa Clara Law Study (Confronting the Challenge of High-Conflict Personality in Family Court), highlight the importance of the continued training for family court professionals, to better serve the critical role family courts play in ensuring child safety.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, calls upon the State Legislature and Governor to recognize November as “Family Court Awareness Month” and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the New Jersey State Attorney General, Commissioner of New Jersey Department of Children and Families, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

**Sponsor**

Hon. Janice Kovach  
Mayor, Town of Clinton  
President, NJ League of Municipalities

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-10**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**Resolution Urging the New Jersey State Legislature to Adopt Legislation that Provides  
Municipally Created Civilian Complaint Review Boards with Subpoena Powers**

**WHEREAS**, local leaders hold a deep commitment to government and police oversight, accountability, and transparency in order to further and advance, effective, accountable government and law enforcement practices; and

**WHEREAS**, the issue of excessive use of police greatly concerns many of the residents and local elected officials of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, Civilian Complaint Review Boards (CCRB) allows a group of local residents to review and investigate complaints lodged against members of the municipal police force; and

**WHEREAS**, CCRBs serve to establish transparency, fairness, and equality in policing practices and policies and cultivate a positive relationship between police and the local communities they serve; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 19, 2020, the New Jersey Supreme Court, in Fraternal Order of Police, Newark Lodge No. 12 v. City of Newark, 224 N.J. 75 (2020), confirmed that a municipality may create a CCRB, but held that the CCRB's investigatory powers cannot conflict with existing state law and therefore, a CCRB does not have any subpoena powers nor could it exercise its investigatory powers when a concurrent investigation is being conducted by Police Internal Affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, the holding in Fraternal Order of Police, Newark Lodge No. 12 v. City of Newark weakens CCRBs by severely hindering their ability to effectively investigate complaints and provide for meaningful police accountability.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, urges the Governor and the Legislature to adopt legislation that would give a municipality the option to provide their Civilian Complaint Review Boards with the power to receive and subpoena documents and witnesses, investigate, hear, make findings and recommend action upon complaints by members of the public against members of the police department that allege misconduct including excessive use of force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, or use of offensive language, including, but not limited to, slurs relating to race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation and disability; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the New Jersey State Attorney General, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

**Sponsor**

Hon. Ras J. Baraka  
Mayor, City of Newark

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-11**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**RESOLUTION URGING THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE TO CREATE  
LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ESTABLISH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AS  
ESSENTIAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, the State designates police, fire, and sanitation as essential government services, affording residents and visitors the right to a timely response by law enforcement, who will address an issue relating to public safety and respond; as well as the right to receive fire prevention and suppression services; and the right to a clean community through sanitation services; and

**WHEREAS**, despite being an integral part of public health and safety, providing education, lifesaving skills, and transportation, when needed, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is not an essential government service in the State of New Jersey; and,

**WHEREAS**, due to this oversight, municipalities are not legally mandated to afford their citizens and visitors with a licensed ambulance with certified Emergency Medical Technicians when a medical emergency arises; and

**WHEREAS**, a review of call volume reports in major municipalities reveals that individuals who live, work and play in New Jersey are significantly more likely to need Emergency Medical Services than Fire Department services due to the rapidly increasing EMS call volumes that have exceeded pace with the fire service in recent years; and

**WHEREAS**, while fire and police agencies receive new fire trucks and patrol cars as well as up-to-date equipment, EMS agencies struggle with funding, dated equipment, and unmet demand for personal protective equipment for their employees; and

**WHEREAS**, these issues have been exacerbated by the escalating levels of infectious disease entering the country; as the State has seen with SARS, Ebola, and, most recently the Coronavirus pandemic, EMS agencies have been forced to adapt to changing circumstances despite being shorthanded; and

**WHEREAS**, when staffing has fallen short, many municipalities have been left scrambling to afford some level of emergency medical service for their citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, a legislative finding that EMS is an essential government service, coupled with the same statutory scheme found for both fire departments under N.J.S.A. 40A:14-7 et. seq. and law enforcement agencies under N.J.S.A. 40A:14-106 et.seq., will correct the present inequities between public safety agencies and otherwise ensure that those who live, work, and play in New Jersey receive equal access to emergency medical care.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, urges Governor Murphy and the Legislature to seek to create legislation that would provide funding for, and establish Emergency Medical Services as Essential Government Services; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the New Jersey Commissioner of Health, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

**Sponsor**

Hon. Gina LaPlaca  
Mayor, Lumberton Twp.

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-12**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
GRANT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq., is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide annual grants on a formula basis to state, cities, and counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDBG Program improves the quality of life for low- and moderate-income citizens by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, communities use CDBG funding to respond to current and emerging community development needs, including the development of affordable housing, improvement of existing housing stock, the delivery of vital services, and the development of important infrastructure improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the program has provided nationwide safe, decent, affordable housing to over 1.63 million low- and moderate-income households since FY2005; and

**WHEREAS**, CDBG-funded public improvements directly benefitted nationwide over 51 million low- and moderate-income people since FY2005; and

**WHEREAS**, CDBG is a jobs generator; creating/retaining over 454,961 economic development jobs between FY2005-FY2020; and

**WHEREAS**, CDBG leverages other investment in local communities and for every \$1.00 of CDBG another \$4.09 in private and public dollars is leveraged; and

**WHEREAS**, the program has been chronically underfunded, receiving \$2.473 billion in 1975 and 46 years later only \$3.450 billion in FY21 despite program need; and

**WHEREAS**, CDBG funding has not kept pace with inflation and program need; and

**WHEREAS**, the program has never been adjusted for inflation, requests for funding consistently outweigh available grant dollars, and the number of program grantees has more than doubled from 594 in 1975 to 1,245 today.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, urges Congress to support investment in low-income

communities and communities of color by reauthorizing and funding the CDBG program at \$12 billion to reflect the inflation-adjusted value of the program, and we believe annual increases should occur with the goal of reaching that level in the future; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities also urges Congress to incorporate an annual inflation factor into the program; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities also urges Congress to continue to waive, or, at a minimum, increase the ongoing, annual CDBG public service cap, similar to what was implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our representatives in Congress, National League of Cities, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and President Joseph Biden.

**Sponsor**

Hon. Adrian O. Mapp  
Mayor, City of Plainfield

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-13**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CIVIL SERVICE ACT REFORM**

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey was the sixth state to establish a Civil Service Commission in 1908 as part of the progressive political movement to overcome the combination of a governmental appointment spoils system and a government that was not ready to solve specialized problems of the day; and

**WHEREAS**, from the very beginning, the Civil Service law mandated that appointments to and promotions in the civil service be made according to merit and fitness only, to be ascertained, as far as is practicable, by examinations, which as far as is practicable shall be competitive; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1908 law was amended over the years and became extremely difficult to interpret and administer, a new law, which became effective on April 18, 1930, brought its provisions together into a comprehensive act, modified and supplemented to include contemporary principles of personnel management; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the fact that in 1970, several studies were undertaken to improve the civil service system, it was not until 1986 that a revision was made to the Civil Service Law; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 11:9-2, a municipality may join Civil Service through the adoption of a public question by the voters of the municipality, and, to date, 194 municipalities participate in Civil Service; and

**WHEREAS**, once the voters of a municipality choose to place their public employees into the Civil Service System, future generations of citizens are bound by a personnel policy made decades ago and there is no procedure for the municipality to withdraw from the Civil Service System; and

**WHEREAS**, although the intent of the Civil Service law was admirable and necessary, over the decades, the law has evolved into a system where the requirements imposed on local management by civil service rules and by the rights employees enjoy in the civil service system increase local personnel costs; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities could greatly improve the quality of services provided and at the same time lower costs associated with said services by acquiring greater direct control over work rules, employee hiring criteria, promotion standards, and associated authorities if they were permitted to leave Civil Service.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, calls for adoption of an Act permitting municipalities to withdraw from the civil service system by the enactment of an ordinance approved by an extraordinary majority of the governing body; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the New Jersey State Legislature, New Jersey Civil Service Commission, and the Governor and Lt. Governor of the State of New Jersey.

**Sponsor**

Hon. Paul Medany  
Mayor, Township of Deptford

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Resolution No. 2021-14**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT  
COMPREHENSIVE LIQUOR LICENSE REFORM**

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey's current liquor license laws date back to the 1950's, a time when municipalities were dominated by taverns and long before strip malls appeared on State and U.S. highways; and

**WHEREAS**, when crafted, liquor license statutes tied the number of licenses available in a community to the total number of people living there (one license per 3,000 people) and this formula continues today; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities with major highways running through them have seen their licenses transferred from their downtown establishments to strip malls; and

**WHEREAS**, large land area municipalities with relatively low populations, but with multiple business districts struggle to see all areas thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, changing shopping habits have moved consumers from malls back to our downtowns, attracted by the shift from merchandise and retail to services and restaurants in walkable business districts; and

**WHEREAS**, across the state, downtown economic development and revitalization has been hindered by the lack of full-service consumption liquor licenses; and

**WHEREAS**, most other states, including our neighbors, have a more flexible statutory framework that promotes competition and economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, the State's outdated liquor license policies limit opportunities available for New Jersey residents to compete with neighboring states; and

**WHEREAS**, comprehensive reform of the State's liquor license laws, which would include allowing municipalities to set a license limit by ordinance, would expand the scope of opportunities for New Jersey residents to participate in a variety of industries, and drive economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, legislation which may be considered by the State Legislature, to reform Liquor Licenses that would allow for the revisal of NJ Rev Stat § 33:1-12.14 (2018) would substantially expand the revenue and infrastructure of New Jersey.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, urges all members of the New Jersey State Legislature

to support comprehensive liquor license reform that includes, authority to allow municipalities to set by ordinance, a new plenary retail license, seasonal retail consumption, plenary retail distribution license, or combination thereof by adoption of an ordinance, and allowing the municipal governing body to determine the number of licenses available within their community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all members of the State Legislature, the Attorney General; the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, the Lieutenant-Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

**Sponsor**

Hon. Janice Kovach  
Mayor, Town of Clinton  
NJLM, President

Hon. Shelley Brindle  
Mayor, Westfield

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-15**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING ACCESS TO OPIOID TREATMENT PROGRAMS**

**WHEREAS**, the opioid epidemic is one of the most pressing health challenges facing our communities and states and is one of the leading causes of premature death in New Jersey and the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, opioid overdose deaths spiked during the COVID-19 pandemic due to the increase in risk factors resulting from isolation and lack of access to care; and

**WHEREAS**, this jump in opioid fatalities disproportionately impacted Black Americans, who shouldered a heavier burden of social and financial loss from COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, evidence-based public health strategies are the most effective approach for reducing the harm from substance use; and

**WHEREAS**, methadone is a medication for opioid use disorder that has been shown to decrease opioid use and overdose; and

**WHEREAS**, the regulations on methadone opioid treatment programs (OTP) prior to the pandemic had inhibited access to this life-saving treatment by requiring individuals to attend an OTP every day.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that by the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, urge the State Legislature to consider legislation to expand access to take-home doses and telehealth appointments for methadone; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the New Jersey State Attorney General, Commissioner of Health, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

**Sponsor**

Hon. Janice Kovach  
Mayor, Town of Clinton  
NJLM, President

**Co-Sponsors**

Hon. Megan Johnson  
Councilwoman, Town of Clinton

Hon. Ward Sanders  
Councilman, Lambertville City

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-16**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021  
Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**RESOLUTION URGING THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT  
LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR PREVENTATIVE UTILITY  
UPGRADES FOR THE HOMEOWNERS OF NEW JERSEY**

**WHEREAS**, over the course of the past ten-years New Jersey has experienced several devastating storms, from Superstorm Sandy to the more recent Hurricane Ida; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) states that floods are the number one disaster in the United States with flood losses in the United States average \$2.4 billion per year in the last decade; and

**WHEREAS**, homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage and 30% of all flood insurance claims are filed in low to moderate risk areas; and

**WHEREAS** currently, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) offers best practices for municipalities to use ordinances to help residents to lower their flood insurance; and

**WHEREAS**, one such practice is if a homeowner has two repetitive losses the NFIP will cover the price to relocate essential utilities to higher ground; and

**WHEREAS**, FEMA on the other hand does not provide homeowners coverage for upgrades in case of a future disaster, leading to high out-of-pocket costs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, urges Governor Murphy and the Legislature to adopt legislation that would provide funding for preventative utility upgrades for the homeowners of New Jersey, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

**Sponsor**

Hon. Julia Fahl  
Mayor, Lambertville

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-17**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**RESOLUTION PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO  
REGULATIONS CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION/PENSION OFFSETS  
FOR ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY CLAIMS**

**WHEREAS**, in 2006, the New Jersey Division of Workers' Compensation and the New Jersey Division on Pensions and Benefits adopted a rule that made the pension plans the primary payer of compensation for accidental disabilities including on-the-job accidents; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this 2006 rule was to prevent duplicate payments by both the pension system and workers' compensation; and

**WHEREAS**, in February of 2021, the NJ Department of Labor adopted a temporary rule that reversed the 2006 rule and made workers' compensation the primary payer of these claims; and

**WHEREAS**, while we accept the logic that workers' compensation should be the primary payer because this promotes safety efforts, unfortunately, the 2021 rule change was applied retroactively to accidents that occurred before the effective date of the change; and

**WHEREAS**, the rule change has already resulted in an estimated 11% increase in workers' compensation rates for local government effective at the beginning of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the change is also causing a substantial, but yet-to-be-determined impact on claim reserves for 2021 and earlier fund years. This retroactive impact will be manifested by either supplemental assessments for earlier fund years or by substantially lower dividends.

**WHEREAS**, this rule change is coming at a time when local government insurance costs are already increasing at a high rate, among these increases are:

- a) COVID claims under recently enacted legislation have increased workers' compensation costs for governmental entities by 15% to 20%,
- b) Fire Fighter's Cancer Presumption claims under recently enacted legislation are also increasing workers' compensation costs,
- c) Municipalities are being sued for sexual molestation claims under the recently enacted increase in the statute of limitations,
- d) Premiums for cyber liability claims are doubling and deductibles are also increasing; and
- e) Premiums for property insurance (fire and flood) are increasing in the range of 20% in 2022 because of the impact of natural disasters.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, urges that the rule change be amended so that it not be retroactive to occurrences prior to the rule change; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the League urges the legislature to adopt amendments to the cap law so that property and casualty insurance costs are outside the cap for the next three years; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution are forwarded to the New Jersey Division of Worker's Compensation, the New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits, the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

**Sponsor**

Hon. Paul Tomasko  
Mayor, Alpine Borough

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-18**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**Resolution in Appreciation of League President Janice Kovach, Mayor, Town of Clinton**

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable Janice Kovach, Mayor of the Town of Clinton is completing her term as the President of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, President Kovach's service to the League has exemplified all that is good about the high-minded goals and objectives of the League and its service programs; and

**WHEREAS**, President Kovach is an articulate voice on a host of issues important to municipal interests, and

**WHEREAS**, President Kovach has resolutely and dutifully served the League's members in navigating through uncharted territory as our state legalized adult-use cannabis, and has been a strong advocate in seeking necessary assistance to combat the Opioid pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, assuming the League Presidency in the midst of the COVID-19 Global Pandemic, President Kovach served as a spokesperson for mayors all over New Jersey, carrying their concerns to State and Federal legislators, and working with all interested parties in formulating reforms and establishing partnerships that will better serve New Jersey citizens and businesses as we all continue to recover from public health crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, in the midst of a global pandemic and economic downturn, President Kovach has prioritized learning the lessons of this period of history to create a legacy of progress to help better serve our citizens going forward; and

**WHEREAS**, the League and the municipal community at large have been well guided and inspired by the leadership of President Kovach.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, do extend to President Kovach sincere appreciation for years of dedicated administration, good counsel, and untiring efforts to improve local government in New Jersey; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that sincere wishes for continued success in all future endeavors be extended to President Kovach and her family, and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted herewith to her.

**Sponsors**

Hon. William J. Chegwiddden  
Mayor, Wharton  
League 1st Vice President

Hon. Raymond Heck  
Mayor, Millstone Borough  
League 2nd Vice President

Hon. William Pikolycky  
Mayor, Woodbine  
League 3rd Vice President

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-19**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOME RULE AND LOCAL AUTONOMY**

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey has long pride itself on maintaining the principles of home rule which has provided our residents with the most meaningful direct access to democratically elected officials through strong local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities represent the form of government which is closest to the people, and the immediacy of governance at the local level brings a distinctive responsiveness and ability to shape policy to respond to the particular needs of communities; and

**WHEREAS**, local control and decision making empowers the residents and taxpayers of each municipality to carefully tailor local policies that reflect its unique geography, economy, beliefs and priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, localized decision making ensures the greatest level of accountability while allowing affected community members the greatest level of input and the platform through a public hearing and easier access to elected officials to provide specific, relevant information on potential impacts that only they would have knowledge of; and

**WHEREAS**, local legal autonomy, through the principles of home rule, has long been understood to foster participation and engagement by giving force to the outcome of local democracy, with the pragmatic give-and-take of local governance being a vital means to instill public spirit and to maximize community buy-in on policy proposals; and

**WHEREAS**, legislative proposals and administrative action have been introduced by state lawmakers with policies contrary to the principles of home rule; and

**WHEREAS**, this erosion of local autonomy threatens to undermine the benefits home rule provides to our residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, re-affirms support for the principles of home rule and the benefits such policies provide for or residents and our government as a whole; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to our representatives in Congress, the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

**Sponsor**

Hon. Janice Kovach  
Mayor, Town of Clinton  
President, NJLM

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-20**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON EFFORT TO ADDRESS THE BACKLOG OF U.S.  
ARMY CORP OF ENGINEER PROJECTS**

**WHEREAS**, the most recent estimated cost to fully address the backlog of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects is \$109 billion according to a report from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and

**WHEREAS**, House Energy and Water Appropriations subcommittee chair U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (OH- District 9) has called for full funding over five years to help the Corps erase that huge backlog; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the Corps' projects are among the largest investments of federal funds needed in municipalities and states to address flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, economic equity, environmental justice, and climate resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, many of these projects have had completed plans and congressional authorization for years but are still awaiting funding in the very limited annual appropriations bills; and

**WHEREAS**, many U.S. Senators and Representatives have filed funding requests for FY2022 appropriations to address portions of Corps projects in their districts that are urgent but awaiting funding;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, calls on the Biden Administration and the Congress to address the growing problem of Corps project implementation in upcoming family assistance and infrastructure funding packages; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to our representatives in Congress, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and President Joseph Biden.

**Sponsor**

Hon. John G. Ducey  
Mayor, Township of Brick

**New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2021-21**

**Adopted at League Annual Business Meeting on November 18, 2021**

**Approved by League Conference Resolution Committee on November 16, 2021**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO CHANGE LOCAL REFERENDUM SIGNATURE REQUIREMENT TO 15% OF LATEST GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40:69A-184 provides that any ordinance proposed by voter initiative must be accompanied by a petition signed by electors equal in number to at least 15% of the votes cast at the last preceding general election at which members of the General Assembly were elected; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40:74-14 provides that any ordinance proposed by voter initiative must be accompanied by a petition signed by electors equal in number to at least 15% of the votes cast at the last preceding general election at which members of the General Assembly were elected; and

**WHEREAS**, elections for members of the General Assembly are held every two years, and every other election for members of the General Assembly also includes the office of Governor on the ballot; and

**WHEREAS**, elections for members of the General Assembly that do not include the Governor on the ballot see very low voter turnout rates; and

**WHEREAS**, to illustrate the differences between voter turn in 2019, where the election was for General Assembly, of the 6,066,079 registered voters, only 1,623,837 registered voters cast a ballot, or just 27% of the electorate; compared to 2017, where the election was for the General Assembly along with Governor, of the 5,703,654 registered voters 2,198,362 registered voters voted or 39% of the electorate;

**WHEREAS**, the disparity in voter turnout between elections for members of the General Assembly that include the Governor on the ballot and those that do not result in a drastically different number of required signatures for ordinance petitions by voter initiative, depending on the election cycle; and

**WHEREAS**, in the name of fairness, petitions for voter initiatives should be held to the same standards and signature requirements, and such petitions should not be advantaged based on the timing of the election cycle.

**NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, calls on the New Jersey State Legislature and the Governor to support legislation that would create parity amongst voter initiatives by making linking the number of signatures required for such petitions to the number of votes cast in the last general election for Governor; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the New Jersey Secretary of State, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

**Sponsor**

Hon. Brian Wahler  
Mayor, Piscataway Township  
Past President NJLM