

**March 2020****IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS**Please consult the League [Web Calendar](#)

March 4-

[Budget, Ethics, and Procurement Updates-  
Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor](#)

March 11

[Leaves of Absence in NJ: A Look at FMLA and  
NJFLA-DoubleTree Hotel, Tinton Falls](#)

April 3

[28<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayors Legislative Day,  
Statehouse Annex, Trenton](#)

April 15

[Recent OPRA Decisions and "Q & A with  
GRC"-DoubleTree Hotel, Tinton Falls](#)

- ✓ 2020 Municipal Directory
- ✓ Louis Bay Scholarship Award
- ✓ Mayors Legislative Day
- ✓ Local Government Week
- ✓ Access State and Agency Leaders

**FROM THE PRESIDENT***Committeeman James Perry, Hardwick Township*

On February 25, 2020, Governor Murphy proposed a \$40.85 billion budget, to govern state spending through the State's next (FY 2021) Fiscal Year. The proposal promises to reduce the diversion of funding from both the Clean Energy Fund and the 9-1-1 System and Emergency Response Fund. It also offers local employee and retiree health benefits savings.

Combined Energy Tax Receipts Property Tax Relief (ETR) and Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Aid (COMPTRA) will, once again, be level funded at \$1.4 billion. You can anticipate the same amount as you received for your last budget. We will, again, ask the Legislature to begin to restore the over \$320 million, which the State has used, year after year, since the beginning of the Great Recession, to address other priorities. These funds are supposed to be distributed to local budgets, for municipal property tax relief.

As was the case last year, but not the usual practice in prior years, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund will not be raided. This will make \$60 million available to address affordable housing needs, Statewide.

*Continued on next page under Presidents  
Message Continued...*

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## Presidents Message Continued

The Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP), which seeks to encourage shared services, will be level funded at \$10 million. Transitional Aid will be level funded at \$114.6 million. The Highlands Protection Fund will be level funded at \$4.4 million. The Open Space Payments in Lieu of Taxes program, which compensates Pinelands and other municipalities for preserved acreage removed from the tax rolls, will be restored to the level it was at, prior to 2010 – an increase of \$3.5 million, from \$6.5 million to \$10 million.

The State's anti-opioid epidemic programs – 30 programs housed in eight different agencies – will share increased support, which will bring the State's total commitment to \$100 million.

As the State begins to end the diversion of dollars from the dedicated 9-1-1 System and Emergency Response Fund, \$5 million will be made available for Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) upgrades and the consolidation of emergency dispatch services.

State priorities that can look forward to major increased investments include: Education (increases of \$336.5 million for K-12, \$83 million for pre-K, and \$50 million in district stabilization aid); Pension funding (a \$1.1 billion increase, bringing the annual payments up to \$4.6 billion); and NJ Transit (a \$585.5 million subsidy).

The League will continue to analyze and share more details on more items, as they are made available by the Department of Community Affairs and by the Office of Management and Budget, in the Treasury Department.

### **2020 Municipal Directory**

Contact Dee Kotch at ext. 115 or [dkotch@njlm.org](mailto:dkotch@njlm.org)

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

### **Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition**

Contact Ciara Bradley, ext. 128 or [cbradley@njlm.org](mailto:cbradley@njlm.org)

In January, the League mailed information to all mayors concerning the Annual Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition. League 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President William J. Chegwiddden, Mayor of Wharton Borough, chairs the Scholarship Competition. This popular competition is open to all high school juniors and seniors throughout the state. The top three winners each receive \$1,000 scholarships from the League.

Mayors play an integral role in the success of this program because your offices publicize its availability, judge the local entries, and distribute the checks and certificates supplied by the League. If you haven't already, now is the time to publicize the scholarship to your local schools and establish your judging committee. Your local winning entry must be submitted to the League office by April 2. We will announce the three statewide winners by May 6.

### **Attend the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayors' Legislative Day**

Contact Danielle Holland-Htut, ext. 118 or [dholland@njlm.org](mailto:dholland@njlm.org)

Register now for the 28th Annual Mayors' Legislative Day to be held April 3, 2020 at the State House Annex in Trenton. Hearing about the State's legislative agenda from the Governor, Administration officials, and key members of the Senate and Assembly is a great way to kick off your administration. For more information, please visit the [Legislative Day Calendar announcement](#) on the League Website.

**Planning for NJ Local Government Week: Showcase your Municipality!**

Contact Taran Samhammer ext. 124 or [tsamhammer@njlm.org](mailto:tsamhammer@njlm.org)

Have you started planning events for NJ Local Government week, April 19-25, 2020? Need tips on how to celebrate? Visit the League's website for a ["how to" packet with ideas](#) ranging from basic, no cost activities to some that are more complex.

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

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

**NJLM Helps Mayors Access State & Agency Leaders**

Contact Michael Cerra, ext. 120, or [mcerra@njlm.org](mailto:mcerra@njlm.org)

If you need help accessing state leaders and agencies contact the League. Your staff in Trenton interacts daily with all State leaders and agencies and regularly facilitates mayors' communication in our Capital.