

## President's Note

Recently, we've experienced two losses of longtime friends of the League, Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver and Past President and former Hardwick Mayor Jim Perry. Both were taken too soon, and both will be greatly missed. This month, I'll salute our fallen friends.



Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver's loss will be felt in communities throughout New Jersey, and we will remember her with gratitude and respect for her rich legacy. She was a friend to communities large and small around the state, helping to expand the reach of the Neighborhood Preservation and Mainstreet New Jersey Programs. Lt. Governor Oliver was a trusted and valued partner to the League, harkening back from her days as Assembly Speaker. In the pandemic and beyond, she helped communities through the Department of Community Affairs—providing information, support, and aid that will be felt for years to come. Lt. Gov. Oliver was committed to making New Jersey better, stronger, and more inclusive.

We appreciate her lifetime of civic work. I had the honor and privilege to represent and deliver the respects of the League and mayors throughout New Jersey at her memorial service in Trenton.

Jim Perry served as League President from November 2019 through November 2020 with a very ambitious agenda on several policy issues. But the opioid crisis was a personal mission; a determination fueled by the tragic loss of his son Jesse in 2015. He willingly shared his loss and his pain and brought his message to State and federal leaders to help prevent similar losses for other families. Jim's term as President was not a typical year, including an in-house leadership transition from retiring League Executive Director Mike Darcy to current Executive Director Mike Cerra and current Deputy Director Lori Buckelew. Facing the challenges of COVID head-on, Jim embraced virtual advocacy including a vital role in the success of the virtual Conference in 2020.

Shortly after his term as League President ended, Jim left public office and moved to Florida for a fresh start that was hindered by health issues. We lost him far too soon, but the legacy of his work continues. The League continues to prioritize a comprehensive response to the opioid crisis, working with Legislative Leaders and the Administration. The League worked hand-in-hand with the Attorney General's office and helped achieve 100% participation from eligible municipalities in the recent opioid settlements. That funding can help make a difference; the type of difference Jim envisioned when he asked that his son's

loss not be in vain. Services were private but the family plans a celebration of Jim's life at a future date. The League will be sure to share those details.

*Mayor Ray Heck, President, NJ State League of Municipalities*

## Action Links: September

- [Reserve your tickets](#) to can't-miss League Conference Events: Mayors' Briefing Luncheon, Nov. 15; Women in Municipal Government Networking & Award Event, Nov. 15; and League Delegate Luncheon, Nov. 16.
- Submit comments on [DCA proposed rules regulating third-party inspectors](#) by Oct. 6 (send copy to League Associate General Counsel Frank Marshall, [fmarshall@njlm.org](mailto:fmarshall@njlm.org)).
- Take advantage of Early Bird Discount pricing before Sept. 30, [register for the League Conference](#).
- Send in your [Conference Resolution or resolution suggestion](#).
- Propose articles for upcoming [NJ Municipalities magazines](#).
- Plan your participation in the [Local Elected Officials Leadership Program](#).

## League News

### Grant Center

[Reconnecting Communities Pilot \(RCP\) Program](#). The RCP Program aims to advance and support reconnection of communities divided by transportation infrastructure with a priority on helping disadvantaged communities improve access to daily needs (jobs, schools, healthcare, grocery stores, and recreation). Supports planning and capital construction activities that aim to restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation or replacement of highways, roadways, or other infrastructure facilities that create barriers to mobility, access, or economic development.

Closing Date: September 28 (11:59 p.m.)

Contact: Andrew Emanuele, Grantor, [reconnectingcommunities@dot.gov](mailto:reconnectingcommunities@dot.gov)

[Community Center Digital Connect Grant](#). Addresses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on individuals and communities by enabling the construction or improvement of buildings that directly support work, education, and health monitoring.

This grant also covers ancillary costs related to eligible capital projects necessary for full utilization of the asset.

Due Date: September 25.

Questions: [Grants@njstatelib.org](mailto:Grants@njstatelib.org)

## Legislative Highlights

- [New Rules and Amendments Proposed for NJ Historic Trust Grants](#).
- [NJBPU Proposes Rule Amendments Applicable to Municipalities](#).
- [DLGS Emergency Rulemaking for Solid Waste Collection Contracting](#).

- [Update on Special Reemployment List & Temporary Seasonal Workers.](#)
- [U.S. Treasury Releases Interim Final Rule on ARPA Flex](#)

## Learning Opportunities

- **Sept. 20.** [Revitalizing Communities: Healing Together From the Opioid Crisis](#)  
Virtual Opioid Summit 2023, hosted by the State of New Jersey and the Department of Human Services, on how municipalities are utilizing opioid settlement funds. Attendance is free but [requires advanced registration](#).
- **October 10.** [Webinar: Going Out to Bid for Banking Services \(League event\).](#)  
Discussion of how to structure an RFP, interest rates on deposits, costs of different types of accounts and ancillary services such as armored car pickup of deposits, covering payroll servicing costs, management of Procurement Cards, how the “compensating balance” that banks use to calculate how much a town can get in “free services,” and case studies of what individual municipalities did and how it worked out. Presenters: Jason Gabloff, CFO, Administrator, Mendham Township, Past President, GFOA; Joseph Luppino, Kearny Bank, Former CFO, Bergen County; Peter O’Reilly, CFO, Lakewood Township. Registration Fee: \$45 (members)
- **October 18.** [Webinar: Labor Negotiations 2023 \(League event\).](#) The basics involved in collective negotiations with civilian and law enforcement bargaining units. Topics to be discussed include: the process of negotiations, preparation for negotiations, the scope of negotiations, impasse procedures including mediation, fact finding, and interest arbitration for law enforcement bargaining units. Topics include health insurance, wage and hour issues, and representation issues. Presenters: Joseph Hannon, Esq., Partner, Genova Burns, LLC, NJLM Labor Counsel, and Matthew Watkins, NJ Community Solutions; Labor Consultant, NJLM; Retired Administrator. Registration Fee: \$75 (members)

## Get to Know Your Executive Board



### Mayor Craig Wilkie

Craig Wilkie has been Mayor of Florence Township since January 1, 2012, and is actively engaged in economic development, recreation, and projects that will improve the quality of life for all residents of his community. He has chosen not to run for reelection. He is proud of his years of service to his community.

Born and raised in Florence Township, he proudly followed in his father’s footsteps when he became Mayor.

Previously an elected Councilman, he also serves as a member of the Planning Board, and was a member of the Florence Township Housing Authority.

Mayor Wilkie has been a member of the Florence Township Fire Department since 1990 in multiple capacities, including president, vice president, and as a member of the Board of Trustees. Mayor Wilkie has a Bachelor of Science Degree from The College of New

Jersey and a master's degree from Rider University. Mayor Wilkie is very involved in the community, his church, and the Florence Township Civic Association. He is married to Tammy and has two daughters, Abbey and Amy.

He wishes that all those dedicated to improving the quality of life in their communities experience the joy and blessings that result from a life of service.

## Mayor Janet Tucci

Mayor Janet W. Tucci is a life-long resident of West Long Branch and was elected Mayor in 2005. She was first elected to the Borough Council in 1984 and was inducted into the New Jersey Officials Hall of Fame. Mayor Tucci has served as the Chairwoman of the Recreation and Environmental Committee, with a special interest in Franklin Lake redevelopment since 1985, and has spearheaded open space and park development for West Long Branch.



She serves on the League's Executive Board of Directors and is in the League's Elected Officials Hall of Fame and Mayors Hall of Fame.

She is also a Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant in the Long Branch School District. Mayor Tucci and her husband, Lex, have three sons Michael, Jonathan, and Matthew, and four grandchildren.

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