



Mayor Bill Chegwidden, League President, attending National League of Cities' Fly-In with fellow mayors in Washington on the steps of the Old Executive Building

President's Note:

As we approach the fourth round of affordable housing, the League is working with mayors around the state to ensure that legislation and regulations keep in mind the important considerations of municipalities. We will hold an [Affordable Housing Lunch & Learn](#) on Friday, February 9, which is free, but we ask that you register in advance.

Affordable housing is just one of several hot topics on the table for 2024. We've been through the State of the State and we're heading fast toward the February 27 Budget Address, which we hope will reflect the ongoing need for stable or reduced property taxes, infrastructure support,

and affordable insurance options.

This month I was also in Washington with our federal partner, the National League of Cities, and representatives from 23 other states to push our federal policymakers on priorities including Extending the Affordable Connectivity Program protecting local access to broadband service and providing more PFAS mitigation and remediation support at the local level, including liability protection for municipal drinking water, wastewater and stormwater utilities, landfills and solid waste facilities, airports, and fire departments, so polluters' financial burden isn't shifted to communities and taxpayers.

I'm hopeful that this legislative work will help all of us in local government. It's work we can all be proud of, and I hope you're planning on participating with the League to ensure 2024 is a legislative success for municipalities.

Action List: February

1. **Affordable Housing Lunch & Learn.** Join the League's experts for a summary of the latest on Affordable Housing legislation. The webinar on Friday, February 9 at noon is free; [please fill out a registration form](#) to receive a link.
2. **Opioid Settlement Reports Due March 1.** If you are one of the municipalities participating in the national opioid settlement, the deadline to report any or no activity is March 1, 2024.
3. **Save the date.** Hear Governor Murphy present the Fiscal Year 2025 State Budget on February 27. It can be watched on the [Governor's YouTube channel](#).

4. **Local Government Week Planning:** We invite you to join in [NJ Local Government Week](#), April 7-13, with municipalities across the Garden State to engage citizens while celebrating the work of local government.
5. **Louis Bay 2 Memorial Scholarship Competition 2024:** Have you kicked off your Louis Bay 2 Memorial Scholarship competition yet? Encourage tomorrow's local government officials to reflect on what their municipality means to them. The [full Louis Bay 2 Scholarship Competition packet](#) is available online for review and use.
6. **Show Off Your City:** February 9 is the last chance to send in your municipality's photos to the annual [Show Off Your City](#) contest. The winner will be unveiled on the cover of the April issue of *NJ Municipalities* magazine.



Remembering League Bond
Counsel Ed McManimon

League News

The League mourns the passing of Edward "Ed" J. McManimon III, 77, who died February 2, at his home with his family after a long illness. A longtime friend and supporter of the League, he was a recipient of the New Jersey League of Municipalities' Distinguished Public Service Award in 2022, a longtime Bond Counsel for the organization, as well as a frequent and a valued speaker at events and author for *NJ Municipalities* magazine.

His efforts for the League were just a small portion of his illustrious legal career. He recently retired from McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, where he devoted his professional time advising municipalities, counties, school districts, and governmental authorities in connection with their capital financing and related governmental requirements. He analyzed, developed, and implemented financial plans for redevelopment areas throughout New Jersey, and in the privatization of public water, wastewater and solid waste systems.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Christina; their two children, Maura Fennessy (Conor) and Christopher; and grandchildren, Liam McManimon, and Seamus and Killeen Fennessy. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, 72 Escher Street, Trenton, NJ 08609.

Legislative Highlights

[From the Town Crier Blog](#). Governor Takes Action: Before the end of the Legislative term, Governor Murphy took action on various bills of municipal interest. [Visit the Town Crier Blog](#) for a report on League-Supported Bills, Bills Conditionally Vetoed by Governor Murphy, League Opposed Bills, and No Position from League.

Assembly Committee Advances Affordable Housing Bills: The Assembly Housing Committee advanced a [package of affordable housing bills](#), including one that would overhaul the state's Fair Housing Act and affordable housing policy.

House Passes Tax Reform Bill Without SALT Cap Deduction Change: The House of Representatives [passed H.R. 7024](#), Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024. It did not include any changes to the \$10,000 State and Local Tax (SALT) cap deduction.

Grant Center

Main Street New Jersey (MSNJ) FY24 Transformation Grants are available through the NJ Dept. of Community Affairs (DCA) to designated MSNJ district organizations to improve Storefront and Facades; Streetscaping; Courtyard and Alleyways; Public Art Projects; Placemaking Projects; Operational Assistance; and Marketing Assistance. Funding: Up to \$150,000, additional funding may be available. Applications accepted starting: February 15, 2024. Application period closes: April 15, 2024.

For more grant opportunities, visit the League's [Grant Resource Center](#).

Learning Opportunities

February 10 (NEW DATE). Orientation for Newly Elected, Reelected, and Experienced Municipal Officials-South Jersey. This fast-paced orientation for municipal officials provides up-to-date information on important municipal issues with a thorough overview of their major areas of responsibility, key contacts at the State level, and more. Space still available, [register on the seminar's calendar page](#).

February 23. A Quick Review of Budget and FAST Updates Webinar. Reviews the Financial Automation Submission Tracking Solution (FAST), recent Division of Local Government Local Finance Notices, recent policies and regulations, and more. [Register at the webinar's information page](#).

March 19 (North Jersey) and 20 (South Jersey). Management Workshops: Part 2 Labor Management Series. Contract Construction class in morning, discussing typical provisions of an agreement and how best to interpret and ensure that that agreement is clear, concise, and comprehensive. Negotiations class in afternoon, including a discussion of methods to prepare for negotiations of a collectively bargained agreement. Visit the [Management Workshop Series](#) page for more information.

Get to Know Your Executive Board



Mayor Jeff Martin, Hamilton (Mercer)

Mayor Jeff Martin, Hamilton (Mercer) is the Chief Executive of the ninth-largest municipality in NJ – 90,000 residents and over 730 full-time employees. He presides over a budget of more than \$150 million in annual revenue/appropriations. He has led the effort to consolidate and merge nine separate fire districts into one municipal fire department—saving township residents more than \$1.5 million per year. Martin has directed town

response during COVID-19, civil unrest, and numerous emergency operations.

Previously he was General Counsel at Borden Perlman Insurance and Staff Counsel at Farmers Insurance, and Assistant Staff Judge Advocate and Defense Counsel for the U.S. Air Force’s Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps. He served as a Councilman for Hamilton from 2018-2019.

Martin earned his BA at The College of New Jersey, JD at Rutgers University School of Law-Camden, and LL.M. at University of Connecticut School of Law. He also has professional military training from Squadron Officer School and Commissioned Officer Training

Mayor John Pallone, Long Branch

Mayor John Pallone was born and raised in Long Branch, where he is a proud resident. Public service and the opportunity to serve the community has always been extremely important to Pallone and his family.

Since 2010, Pallone has been a member of the Long Branch City Council and is currently the Mayor of Long Branch. He is on the Library Board of Trustees, Board Member of the Long Branch Urban Enterprise Zone, and a Trustee of the Church of Seven Presidents Museum.



During his term as Mayor, he has most notably: led the groundbreaking for a new Community Pool, opened a new Arts and Cultural Center, started a Mayor’s Opioid Task Force (also known as HEARS), and opened a full accessibility beach in Long Branch. In addition, Pallone is a member of the Long Branch Rotary Club, BPO Elks Lodge #742, and the Long Branch Community Think Tank.

He has been a small business owner of a media production company for over 30 years. Pallone earned a bachelor’s degree from New York University and master’s degree in

Public Administration from the City University of New York, John Jay College. He and his wife Svetlana are the proud parents of their 13-year-old son, John.



NJ Municipalities magazine
February 2024 cover

Magazine Moment

Middletown Township's initiative successfully met the community's needs by investing in our youth so they could receive the educational support they needed and the opportunity to catch up in school. This in turn helped increase students' self-esteem and reminded them that the community has got their backs.

- Mayor Tony Perry, Middletown's Winning Innovation in Governance entry (submitted with Communications Director Tara Berson)

Submit your queries, news items, op-eds, or articles for *NJ Municipalities Magazine* to aspiezio@njlm.org. We're now seeking submissions for April (due February 23) and May (due March 15).

Are you and your team subscribing to *NJ Municipalities*? Make it part of a New Year's resolution to improve your local government knowledge by reading the League's magazine in print or online.

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