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# municipalities

Official Publication of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities

March 2020

*Celebrating the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial*

# Votes for Women





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## New Jersey Municipalities Magazine

Volume 97 | Issue 3

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# MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT CENSUS

# 2020

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## My Work with the Women Who Led the League

This issue of *New Jersey Municipalities* includes a special celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment. As part of that we highlight some of the many important women who have been leaders in New Jersey government.

From my perspective, this seems an especially good opportunity to celebrate the women who have led the League of Municipalities. In my 30-year tenure working with the League, I have had the privilege to work with every one of these women, except one. That one was Madeline Frost Freeman, a predecessor of mine in the position of Executive Director.

Imagine what a leader she must have been in the role of Executive Director during the years 1954-1957. That was a very challenging era for women in any professional circumstance, so her achievement is that much more impressive. She was not new to the League at that time. By then she'd had decades of League experience, which must have made everyone recognize the value and importance of her filling that position.

It would not be until 1989 that the League had a woman president. Virginia "Ginny" Hook was the first and anyone fortunate enough to work with her would recognize her leadership ability. In fact, when the League opened its new \$6 million headquarters in 2007 she, as a League Past President and trustee of the building corporation, became president of the building corporation.

In 1993 Phyllis Marchand became the second woman president of the League. Both as President and in her role as a League Past President, she has always advocated for specifically including women in leadership roles, especially on the League Executive Board. She was, perhaps, the original voice from within League leadership to advocate this. Today she is still active as a trustee of the building corporation and a League Past President.

As we began a new millennium, Barbara Hall was League President in 2000. She was a no-nonsense leader of the League's programs and activities who did not put

up with political scapegoating. She was reminiscent of Margaret Thatcher from 10 years earlier.

In 2004, Jo-Anne Schubert became the fourth woman to be a League President. She recognized the challenges of being an effective elected official as evidenced by her offering the quote "the easy part is getting elected; the hard part is getting the work done"

It would be a long nine years before the League saw its next woman president when Janice Mironov was elected to fill the position in 2013. Still the Mayor of East Windsor and an active member of several League Committees, Mayor Mironov is a champion of property tax relief and a defender of municipal home rule. Her leadership continues to make a big difference in politics and policy at the state and local levels.

The next League President was Suzanne Walters, marking the only instance a woman president was succeeded by another woman. Suzanne led the League during efforts to get the 2% interest arbitration cap legislation signed. She remains active with League committees, assisting with the annual conference, and serving as a trustee of the building corporation.

This brings me to our current Immediate Past President, Mayor Colleen Mahr of Fanwood. She is well known for her acumen in combining policy and politics to create new solutions to municipal challenges. For example, her leadership was critical in protecting municipal interests as the state debated legalizing cannabis, and she recognized the value of advocating the creative use of public-private partnerships. At the same time, her work to include women in all leadership roles is reminiscent of Phyllis Marchand and has energized the League's initiatives in this area.

This is a great time to celebrate my fortune of working with seven of the eight women leaders of the League. I cannot foresee a time when we will again wait nine years to benefit from women in the highest League leadership roles. Just take a look at page 1 to get a glimpse into the future. ♣

*Michael Darcy*

“  
From my perspective, this seems an especially good opportunity to celebrate the women who have led the League of Municipalities.  
”

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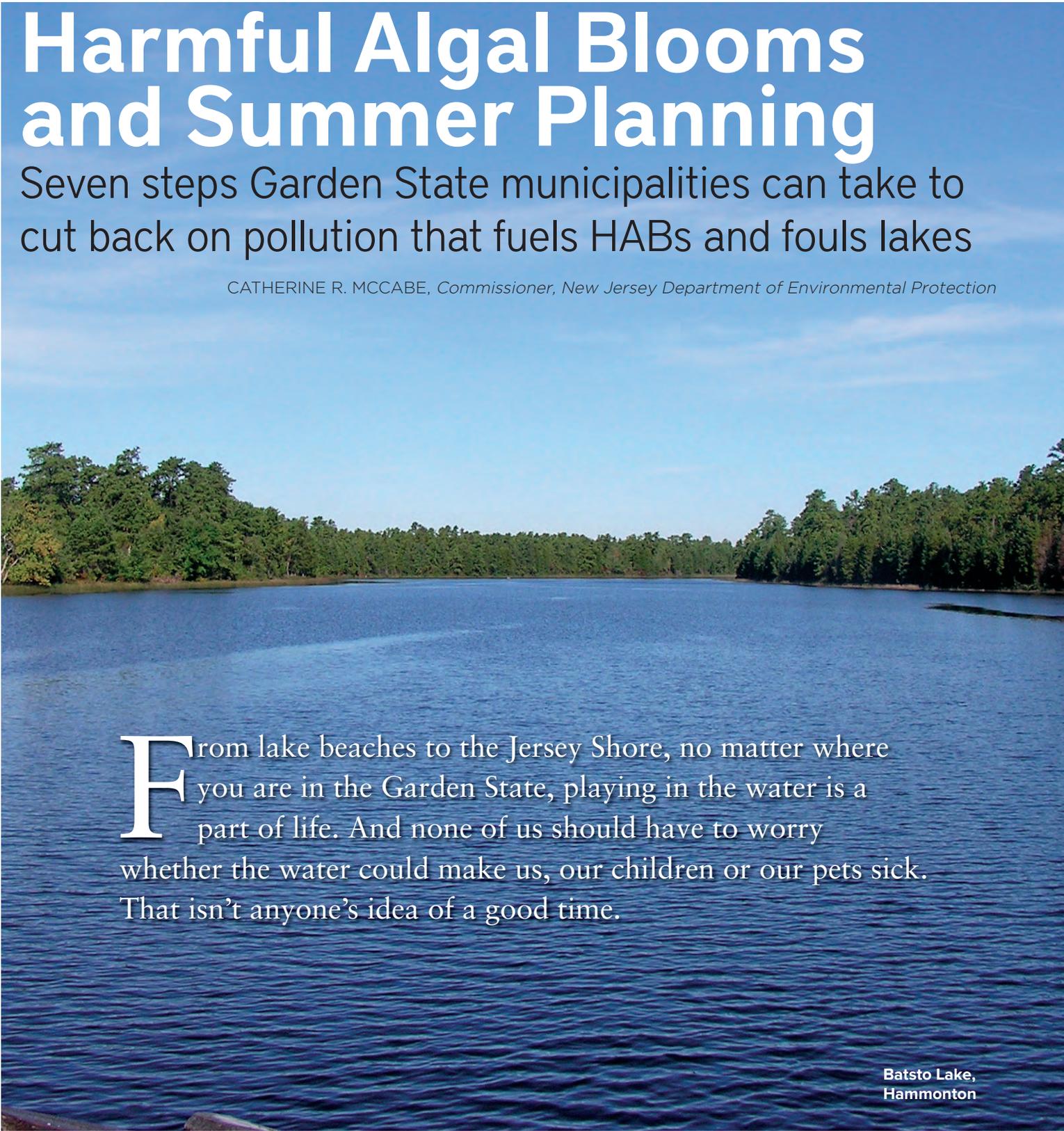
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# Harmful Algal Blooms and Summer Planning

Seven steps Garden State municipalities can take to cut back on pollution that fuels HABs and fouls lakes

CATHERINE R. MCCABE, *Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection*



From lake beaches to the Jersey Shore, no matter where you are in the Garden State, playing in the water is a part of life. And none of us should have to worry whether the water could make us, our children or our pets sick. That isn't anyone's idea of a good time.

Batsto Lake,  
Hammonton



## Upfront: Harmful Algal Blooms



Terrace Pond, West Milford

Unfortunately, we did have to worry about that situation this past summer in too many lakeside communities in New Jersey. And, as a result, lake community businesses suffered a loss of customers

and critical summer revenue.

The culprit was harmful algal blooms, or HABs—excessive growth of naturally occurring cyanobacteria that looks like pea soup or spilled paint spreading

across these bodies of water. As we know, HABs are generally fueled by nutrient-laden stormwater runoff and failing septic systems. The blooms

**Reducing the impacts of HABs requires a concerted effort and, in 2020, the DEP is working to help New Jersey communities on a number of fronts.**

frequently occur during higher temperatures and in calm waters. Climate change, with rising temperatures and greater rainstorm intensity, contributes to an increase in these occurrences.

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**Mayor John McCormac**  
Township of Woodbridge  
★★★★★

JPM helped us hire two members of our Senior Management Team and handled everything tremendously.

**Mayor Thomas Andes**  
Township of Denville  
★★★★★

Dan and his team at JPM were instrumental in recruiting exactly the right person as our first Executive Director of our newly created Business Improvement District.

**Mayor Fred Tagliarini**  
Township of Aberdeen  
★★★★★

JPM provided an outstanding Temporary DPW Director, and completed an outstanding Efficiency Study of our DPW.

**Mayor Beth Holtzman**  
City of Ventnor  
★★★★★

Best decision we made; Maria Mento and Joe Verruni are very knowledgeable and always accessible.

**Stephen Mountain**  
Manager, Township of Randolph  
★★★★★

JPM was very responsive to our needs and utilized a process that was fair and organized. They helped us select the best professional for the position.

**Mayor Richard Onderko**  
Borough of Manville  
★★★★★

Best Municipal Government Advisors I've met in 10 years in elected office. Helped us recruit a fantastic Administrator. Thanks Dan and JPM.

**George Jackson**  
Administrator, Borough of Eatontown  
★★★★★

JPM's thorough recruitment and selection process led us to just the experienced professional we were looking for.

**Mayor Dina Long**  
Borough of Sea Bright  
★★★★★

One of the best decisions we made after Sandy was bringing experienced professionals from JPM onto our team. Joe Verruni and Debbie Smith provided the expertise and guidance we needed to navigate the recovery and rebuilding.

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## Working together to mitigate HABs' effects

In New Jersey, we have advanced monitoring processes and protective standards to identify and lower the risk of HABs to public health.

Last summer, the DEP aggressively monitored Lake Hopatcong and other lake bodies, with daily checks and detailed scientific analysis of several water quality parameters, using equipment ranging from state-of-the-art



Greenwood Lake, West Milford



Lake Hopatcong, Mt. Arlington, Hopatcong, Jefferson Twp., and Roxbury Twp.

## Reducing HABs Impact: What Municipalities Should Do Now

The good news is that there are measures we can take that will make strides toward reducing the conditions that produce HABs. These actions can help reduce stormwater runoff and lessen the amount of excessive nutrients flowing into the lakes.

Municipalities can take the following steps now:

- Ensure that stormwater treatment systems and devices are properly cleaned and maintained.
- Clean out storm sewer lines and catch basins in spring.
- Conduct regular street sweeping.
- Ensure that there are no unpermitted discharges into the lakes, and that commercial and residential septic systems are properly permitted and functioning.
- Inspect septic systems and identify those that may be failing or in need of cleaning or maintenance.
- Ensure homeowners' potable wells are properly cased and not indirectly drawing surface waters, to avoid exposing families unknowingly to toxins in their drinking water.
- Explore the viability of extending sewer service to areas currently served by septic systems.

monitoring buoys to aerial sensor technology. These monitoring efforts were a key element in protecting health and assessing when the lakes were safe for recreation involving direct contact

with the water.

But reducing the impacts of HABs requires a concerted effort and, in 2020, the DEP is working to help New Jersey communities on a number of fronts—including grants, scientific research, and inspections and compliance assistance to identify and address problem areas that may be contributing to HAB formation.

We are working with partner agencies and stakeholders to review 2019 HAB season actions and to ensure that we continue to have a response strategy, based on the best available science and technology, to protect all New Jersey residents and visitors when they swim in or play near water this summer.

Governor Murphy and the Department of Environmental Protection have made available \$13.5 million in funding for local communities that includes lake and HAB management grants for treatment and prevention demonstration projects; Watershed Grant funding to reduce non-point-source pollution; and Clean Water State Revolving Fund grants for sewer and stormwater upgrades.

Information about funding for treatment and prevention demonstration projects, as well as Watershed Grants, can be found at [www.nj.gov/dep/wms/bears/npsrestgrants.html](http://www.nj.gov/dep/wms/bears/npsrestgrants.html); for information on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund grants, visit [www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/cwpl.htm](http://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/cwpl.htm). The DEP also will provide information through its HAB website at [www.nj.gov/dep/hab](http://www.nj.gov/dep/hab).

In addition, the DEP has assembled a team of experts to develop strategies for preventing HABs and for lake management guidance. The DEP will continue to follow the latest science on the prediction and treatment of HABs, and will continue to provide assistance and support to local governments.

We are moving forward on ways to enhance and improve communications and public notification of HAB events. In early 2020, the DEP will host two regional HAB summits to share the latest information before blooms begin to appear.

### **HABs: global phenomenon with local impact**

New Jersey has not been the only state experiencing HABs.

In New York City, residents were warned last summer to avoid the waters in Turtle Pond and Harlem Meer in Central Park, as well as the pond in Morningside Park, all in Manhattan; and the large pond in Prospect Park in Brooklyn. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation also indicated that nearly 900 HABs were reported in Upstate New York last year.

In Mississippi, fresh water pushed into areas along the coast as a flood-control measure led to growth of the blue-green algae and forced that state's Department of Environmental Quality to issue warnings in July for visitors to avoid the water at all 21 beaches on its coastline. Mississippi also saw high rates of oyster deaths, as well as the loss of dolphins and sea turtles.

In August, there were reports of dogs

dying after swimming in ponds and lakes in North Carolina, Georgia, and Texas. In the Great Lakes, harmful algal blooms threatened drinking water supplies; one bloom that started in early July on Lake Erie eventually covered about 700 square miles of the lake.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has called algal blooms a "major environmental problem" in all 50 states. The EPA also says scientists believe the climate change threat will cause HABs to continue to be an issue on U.S. waterways.

To lessen the frequency of HABs, it is important that all of us—especially lakeside municipalities and their residents—do whatever we can to help reduce the flow of nutrients into lakes. Safe, clean water and the protection of our beautiful lakes is vital to New Jersey's health, quality of life, and economy. ♻️

Catherine R. McCabe has served as Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection since January 2018.

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# NOW & THEN



AMY SPIEZIO,  
Managing Editor

## MARCH

Looking back at local government's take on hot topics throughout the history of *NJ Municipalities* magazine.

1935

### Healthy NJ

Eternal vigilance is the price of a healthy New Jersey. Statistics of 1934 indicate an increasing freedom from the preventable diseases among residents, who in a measure are gifted with many of the modern conveniences of life, in the alternating heats and frigidities of the temperate zone.

—“State Conquering Diphtheria and Smallpox”  
by J. Lynn Mahaffey, M.D.,  
Director, State Department of Health

### Better Cities

Correcting the evils of nearly 200 years of erratic planning by the founders of our cities and the conditions which urban dwelling has imposed is no easy task. But by a concerted co-operative effort it can be accomplished.

—“Health Officer’s Prescription for Sick Cities” by Wm. F. Kearney,  
Chief Inspector, Board of Health,  
Paterson

1956

### “Mayor Suarez offers a set of practical steps

that politicians and government officials should take to be prepared to protect their reputation if it is ever falsely attacked. The Mayor’s indictment and eventual complete exoneration should also give pause to us all that when we hear of charges directed against politicians or people in any walk of life.”

—John Weingart,  
Associate Director,  
Eagleton Institute  
of Politics, page 20

### “Women’s History Month is a time to pay respect to the great women

who have contributed so much to our society and helped pave the way for other women. This year is special because we are also celebrating the centennial anniversary of one of the most important milestones in U.S. history—women gaining the right to vote.”

—Lt. Gov.  
Sheila Oliver,  
page 36

1981

### Activities For All

A recreation department that is sensitive to the needs and wishes of its residents and is aware of all the facilities at hand to meet them, does not miss an opportunity to respond.

—“In Wayne Township They Think ‘Ski’”  
by The Recreation Department Staff,  
Wayne Twp.

### Pension Pain

From an employee perspective, the pension benefit structure must be able to attract and retain a high quality workforce. But that goal must be consistent with a benefit structure that is affordable. The consequences of inaction for the state as a whole—from the governor’s office to the mayor’s office—are simply too grave to ignore.

—“The Employee Benefits Crisis: We All Have a Stake” by Philip D. Murphy,  
Chairman, NJ Benefits  
Review Task Force

2006

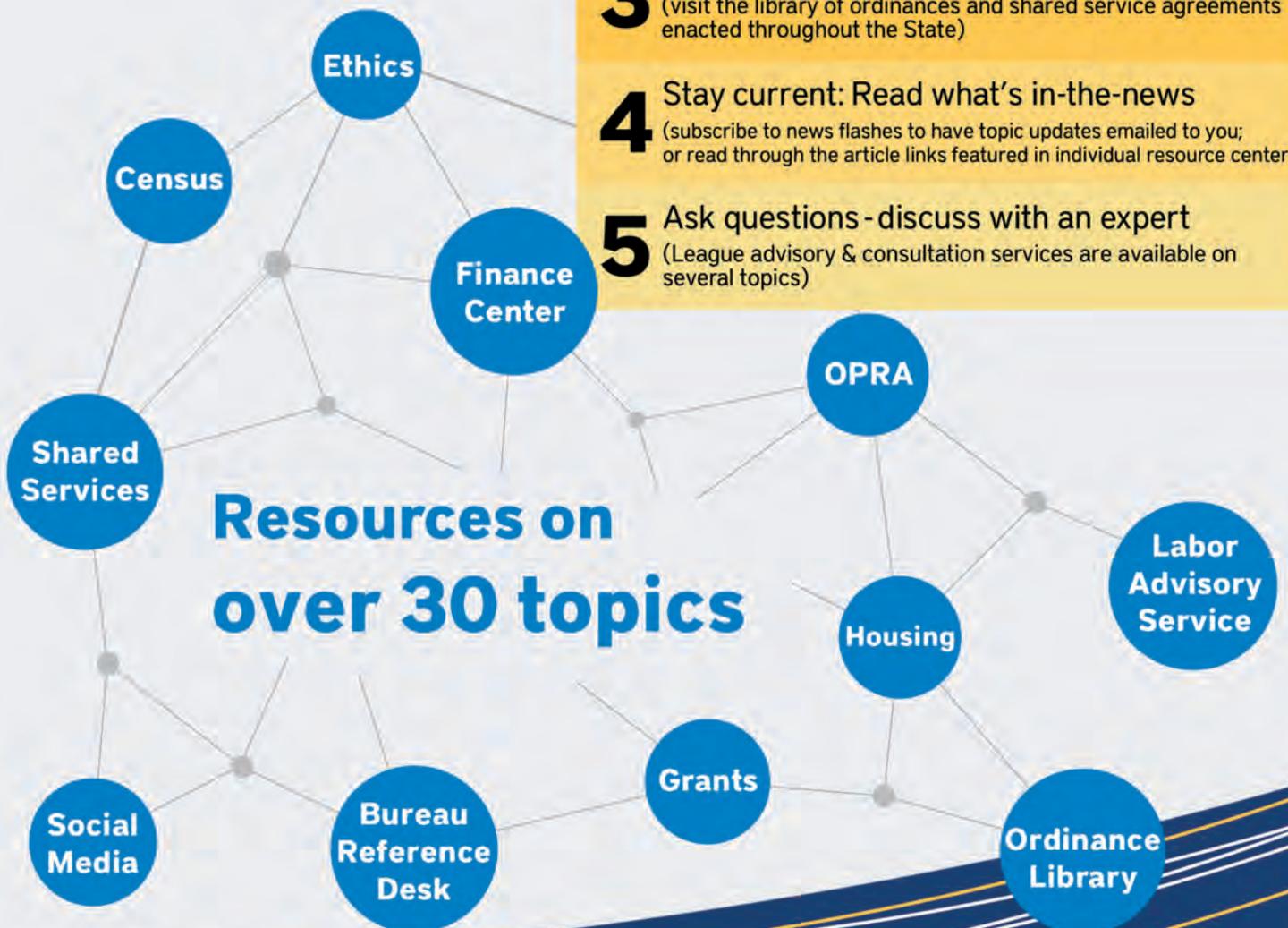
### THIS MONTH

March *NJ Municipalities* focuses on the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote. We are grateful to local and state leaders past and present for their contributions to this special celebration and look forward to women in local government increasing their presence and involvement. We also look at the topic of Harmful Algal Blooms and how the NJ DEP is helping municipalities overcome the issue. We also prepare for NJ Local Government Week and hope your town is getting ready. Please send pictures of your activities to [aspiezio@njlm.org](mailto:aspiezio@njlm.org). 📷

# How can the Bureau of Municipal Information help your municipality?

## Top 5 ways

- 1** Increase efficiency  
(by using the tools available in our online resource centers)
- 2** Increase knowledge on a subject  
(topic summaries: found on resource center webpages; & in-depth bill histories: found on NJLM's blog)
- 3** Learn from other municipalities  
(visit the library of ordinances and shared service agreements enacted throughout the State)
- 4** Stay current: Read what's in-the-news  
(subscribe to news flashes to have topic updates emailed to you; or read through the article links featured in individual resource centers)
- 5** Ask questions - discuss with an expert  
(League advisory & consultation services are available on several topics)



## NJLM Welcomes First “Municipal Leader” to LGL Program

The League would like to welcome Mayor Judith M. Davies-Dunhour of Stone Harbor for achieving the “Municipal Leader” designation in the Local Government Leadership Program. She is the first person to complete courses and submit an application for the program designation.

Mayor Davies-Dunhour will be sent a certificate and will be recognized at the Orientation session at the 105th Annual League Conference this November in Atlantic City.

The voluntary program is open to all elected governing body members. To participate elected officials complete NJLM training and advocacy work.

The program has three tiers based on a points system:

- Municipal Leader
- Municipal Innovator
- Municipal Pioneer.

Once a participant has earned the required points, they are recognized at these tiers.

Elected Governing Body Members can achieve each level by attending trainings, seminars, writing articles for the magazine, and advocating for municipal interests. 📌



@ For more information on the Local Government Leadership program please visit website at [www.njlm.org/lglp](http://www.njlm.org/lglp)



## League Leadership Visits Washington

NJLM President Jim Perry, along with League Executive Director Michael Darcy, Assistant Executive Director Michael Cerra, and Senior Legislative Analyst Jon Moran, visited Washington, DC, in February as part of a National League of Cities program.

The Executive Directors and Presidents Fly-In included in-person meetings with members of Congress to talk about local priorities. Topics under discussion ranged from the opioid epidemic to infrastructure.

The New Jersey delegation met with representatives from New Jersey as well as those on committees involved with important issues for the state.

“This is an opportunity for the League to represent its members directly to the federal level. The visit was a good step in raising awareness and emphasizing the importance of topics that impact those living in the Garden State,” said NJLM Executive Director Michael Darcy. 📌

# 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Municipal Public Information Contest Winners Announced

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## The awards were presented to:

- Best Overall Public Information Program:** Perth Amboy City
- Best Print Media (Class B):** Madison Borough
- Best Print Media (Class C):** Princeton
- Best Web/Social Media (Class B):** Franklin Lakes Borough
- Best Web/Social Media (Class C):** Middletown Township
- Best Special/Innovative Media (Class C):** Clifton City
- Best Special/Innovative Media (Class C):** Jersey City
- Best Visual Media (Class B):** Berkeley Heights Township
- Best Visual Media (Class C):** Fair Lawn Borough

## Certificates of Honorable Mention:

- Asbury Park City
- Deptford Township
- Newton Town
- Oakland Borough
- Ogdensburg Borough
- Wyckoff Township

This year's judges were: Gregory Bonin, Township Administrator, Branchburg Township; Lori Buckelew, MPA, RMC, Senior Legislative Analyst, New Jersey State League of Municipalities; Michael Capabianco, MPA, MSCJ; Matthew Cavallo, Township Manager, Verona Township; Teri Jover, Borough Administrator, Highland Park; and Thomas Kenny, Program Coordinator II, Rutgers Center for Government Services.

Center for Government Services Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey announced this winners of the 58th Annual Municipal Public Information Contest—Fall 2019. The municipalities were presented with awards at the League Conference in November.

The program honors initiatives to increase the public's awareness of government operations, strengthen community ties, and provide useful information and services to citizens. The purpose of this contest is to promote the use of successful and innovative techniques that increase government's ability to meet citizen needs and improve access to government services.

Entries were evaluated by officials from Rutgers, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, and the NJ Municipal Managers Association. Plaques were awarded for first place entries in the following categories:

- Class A:** Under 5,000 (approximately 190 municipalities)
- Class B:** 5,000-20,000 (250 municipalities)
- Class C:** Over 20,000 (130 municipalities)

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# NJLM Welcomes Newly Elected, Re-Elected Officials to Education Event

**N**JLM held its annual north and south orientations for municipal officials who are newly elected, re-elected, or experienced. The fast-paced event quickly brought officials up-to-date on important municipal issues. The newly

elected officials received a thorough overview of their major areas of responsibility, key contacts at the State level, and important sources of information and assistance.

Re-elected and experienced officials received valuable up-to-date reference materials and the latest information on the most important municipal issues—all while meeting their newly elected peers and the League staff. 🇺🇸



1. A full house was on hand and interactive during the full-day session. 2. NJLM General Counsel Bill Kearns and Deputy General Counsel Triska Waterbury Cecil discuss ethics with the participants. 3. Purchasing expert Joe Valenti (ret.) spoke about the ins and outs of purchasing for municipal officials. 4. NJLM Labor Counsel Joe Hannon of Genova Burns spoke about employment issues

## NJLM Events

### MARCH

## March 4

**Budget, Ethics, and Procurement Updates**  
 Conference Center at Mercer,  
 West Windsor

## March 11

**Leaves of Absence in New Jersey-A Look at FMLA and NJFLA**  
 DoubleTree Hotel, Tinton Falls

### APRIL

## April 3

**28th Annual Mayors Legislative Day**  
 Statehouse Annex, Trenton

Visit [www.njlm.org/seminars](http://www.njlm.org/seminars) or contact Danielle Holland-Htut at [dholland@njlm.org](mailto:dholland@njlm.org) or 609-695-3481, Ext. 118.

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## Police & Fire Labor Data Service

This data will be released in two editions. A 1<sup>st</sup> edition (now), & 2<sup>nd</sup> edition expected in spring 2020; anyone that purchases the 1<sup>st</sup> edition will receive the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition when it becomes available.

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The Police and Fire Labor Data Service provides resources tracking the trends in police and fire contract settlements.

Data includes selected contract provisions and department salary scales.

PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER 2019!

@ [www.njlm.org/policeandfire](http://www.njlm.org/policeandfire)

NJLM New Jersey State League of Municipalities

# Garden Statements

## Trenton's App for At Risk Youths



Trenton has launched the Youth WIN App. WIN stands for “What I Need” The App is for youth (ages 16-24) at risk, experiencing homelessness, or resource insecure.

The fundamental goal of the WIN application is to eliminate homelessness within the City of Trenton. The application will serve to connect City youth with essential services for those without adequate forms of transportation, for those who face food insecurity, and for those who need access to medical care.

While the application is designed to help youth (ages 16-24) within the City of Trenton, those within Mercer County can also benefit from information related to job postings, health fairs, and pantry openings. The “Ending Youth Homelessness” initiative is a federal goal of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), which has been endorsed by federal partners, local governments, non-profits, businesses, and philanthropy organizations.

## Montclair Microgrid Study Gets OK

New Jersey BPU has approved Montclair’s microgrid feasibility study.

Montclair’s town center microgrid would include a mass transportation component in New Jersey Transit’s Bay Street Station. The microgrid application was submitted by the township along with the Montclair School District,

United Methodist Communities, New Jersey Transit, and Hackensack UMC –Mountainside Hospital.

“Montclair presented an excellent proposal for a Town Center microgrid that would keep electricity flowing to critical facilities in the community should they

ever face a major power outage in the future,” Former NJBPU President Richard Mroz said at a press conference to announce the approval. “What makes this project particularly interesting is the inclusion of a transit component as part of the proposed microgrid.”

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# NJ Needs to Invest in Secure Voting Machines in Advance of the 2020 Elections

LIZ LEMPERT, *Mayor, Princeton*

As we head into the most consequential election in our lifetime, New Jersey is one of just five states that will still be voting on insecure, paperless, electronic machines. These aging machines have been easily compromised in tests by computer experts and are at the end of their useful lives.

Voting systems using voter-marked paper ballots are the most secure, and guarantee that, in the event of a close race or allegations of manipulation, there can be a meaningful recount. That is why at least 45 states now vote that way. New Jersey needs to catch up.

In an alarming demonstration, Andrew Appel, a computer science professor at Princeton University, and a team of his students were able to use a screwdriver to pop open an AVC Advantage voting machine—the most common touch-screen voting machine in New Jersey—change the votes by replacing the computer chip and put the machine back together, all within seven minutes.

The AVC Advantage is used by 18 of 21 counties in New Jersey. Initially manufactured by Sequoia Voting Systems, it was then acquired by Dominion Voting Systems. Prof. Appel was able to purchase five used AVC Advantage machines online for \$82 from a government surplus website.

Not only are most all of New Jersey's voting machines vulnerable to election hacking, but because the machines are paperless, there would be no way to test if votes had been changed. It is estimated that it will cost between \$40 million and \$63.5 million for the state to upgrade all of its voting machines. The price tag for switching to new machines seems to be the major reason why little action has been taken. But this seems pound wise and penny foolish. Changing to a system of voter-marked paper ballots counted by optical scan machines would cost 1/10 of 1% of the state budget.

While other states have beefed up their election security, New Jersey continues to put off this needed investment. The Legislature has failed to act on numerous bills. And despite campaign promises, Governor Murphy has not taken action to switch the state over to a secure system.

Meanwhile, with the 2020 elections approaching, the need for this investment only grows. Republicans are vowing to take back the House seats they lost in 2018, and there could be a number of very close races. A transition to optical scan and paper systems would take from 3 to 6 months. The window of opportunity to act is rapidly closing.

**It is estimated that it will cost between \$40 million and \$63.5 million for the state to upgrade all of its voting machines.**

The U.S. intelligence community has warned that Russia is devising plans to hack the 2020 election. This makes it imperative that New Jersey immediately move to a more secure voting system in time for the June primary. Voter-marked paper ballot is the most efficient, least expensive, and most secure voting system when coupled with a post-election random audit.

The Municipality of Princeton piloted the more secure technology at one of our polling places in a special school referendum election in December 2018. Voters marked paper ballots and fed them into optical scan machines. The process went smoothly and was well received by voters and poll-workers alike.

Union County has begun the process of replacing its old equipment with new, secure paper ballot and optical scan technology. But New Jersey still lags far behind.

Voting is our most sacred right in a democracy. We must be sure that every vote is cast as intended, and that every vote cast is counted. Every county should transition to hand-marked paper ballots, optical scan machines (either purchased or leased) and ballot-marking devices for the disabled in time for the 2020 elections, starting with the primary in June. 🗳️

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- Preventing child abuse and S-477 – *Fred Semrau, Esq. and Joseph Hrubash*
- Fire Fighter Cancer Presumption in Workers Compensation – *John Geaney, Esq.*
- Controlling Health Care costs – *Greg Grimaldi*
- Ethics in Employment Practices for Governmental Entities – *Heather Steinmiller, Esq.*

## LOCATION

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# Make Your Voice Count

The 2020 Census is ready to roll out

ROBERTO FRUGONE, *Media Specialist, Northeast & Puerto Rico, U.S. Census Bureau*

In early September 2019, Sussex County Community College (SCCC) President Dr. Jon Connolly met with Census Bureau partnership specialist Marvin Joss to discuss ways the college could leverage its talents to help ensure a full and accurate count in the 2020 Census. With the help of Dr. Connolly's leadership team, a brainstorming session ensued to identify opportunities to engage students that could give them a better understanding of the importance of the census while empowering each to connect with their fellow students and the community at large.

A few of the ideas adopted by the college included inviting U.S. Census Bureau employees to host a table at an open house to promote jobs and participation; speaking to individual classes; and providing valuable Census information for its internal monitor system. In addition to promoting the Census, these activities have helped the Census Bureau work towards its goal of recruiting 63,000 qualified applicants in New Jersey.

## Census art

One additional initiative created by the SCCC was a Census poster contest, which provided an opportunity for 60 graphic design students to create visually appealing artwork that would direct the community to additional 2020 Census information, both about the questionnaire and jobs.

Students were excited for the opportunity to showcase their talents and have their work on display throughout the campus and community. An internal review committee met on October 16 to evaluate the 20 excellent entries and choose an eventual winner. The committee was comprised of Dean of Applied Arts and Sciences Sherry Fitzgerald, SCCC Director of Marketing Kathleen Peterson, and Adjunct Instructor for Graphic Design Kristen Elias. Although selecting just one winner was a difficult decision, the ultimate prize was awarded to Emily Hewitt of Stanhope for her creation "Make Your Voice Count."

With a winning design chosen, the college moved to immediately print various sizes of the poster for display across campus and by Census partners throughout Sussex County. The design soon became a hit. On December 11, the Sussex County Freeholder Board issued a proclamation recognizing Emily for her design, and the college for its work to get the message out

to county residents.

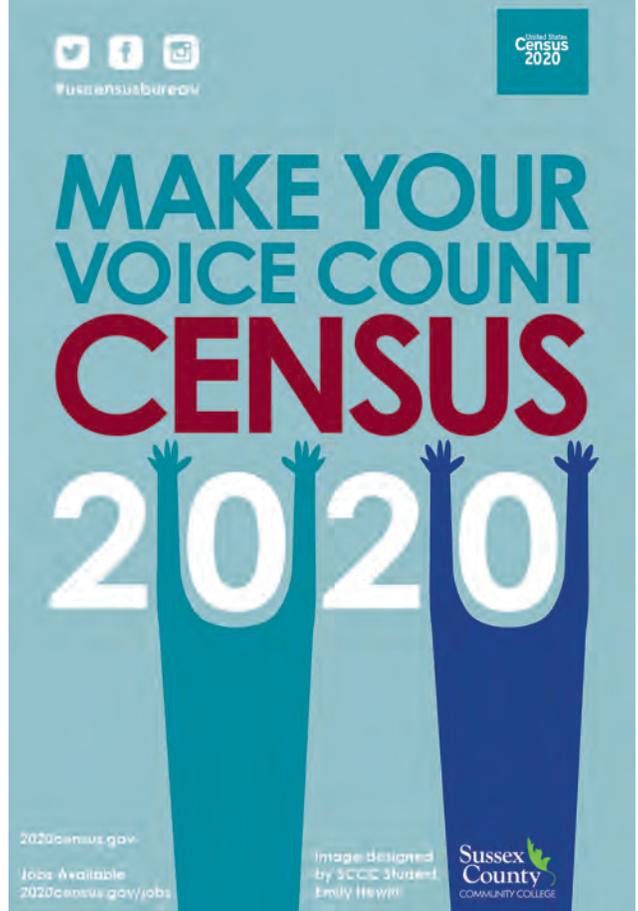
The design was subsequently featured in the 7th edition of the New York Regional Census Center's weekly Ideas That Count publication, which shares best practices with partners throughout the region. Requests to use the design soon came from various partners, including a municipality in Massachusetts.

## Building awareness

Creating community awareness about the 2020 Census is successful when it comes from within each community. Thankfully, each college, town, and state is filled with talented individuals who are often looking for ways to apply their skills, talent, and passion to everyday situations.

The engagement and buzz created by Sussex County Community College can certainly be replicated in other educational institutions, community organizations, or anywhere the desire exists. Not only will Emily's winning design be great for her resume, but it will also help ensure federal resources reach the places they are needed most.

Census data is used to distribute approximately \$675 billion in annual federal funding, and to apportion U.S. House of Representative seats, so getting people involved to achieve a complete and accurate count will be vital to shaping the future of your community. 🇺🇸



## HELP WANTED

Census jobs offer a great opportunity for students and community residents to earn extra income at a job that offers competitive pay, flexible hours, and paid training. In Sussex County, census takers earn \$21/hour. For more information on census jobs, please visit [www.2020Census.gov/jobs](http://www.2020Census.gov/jobs).

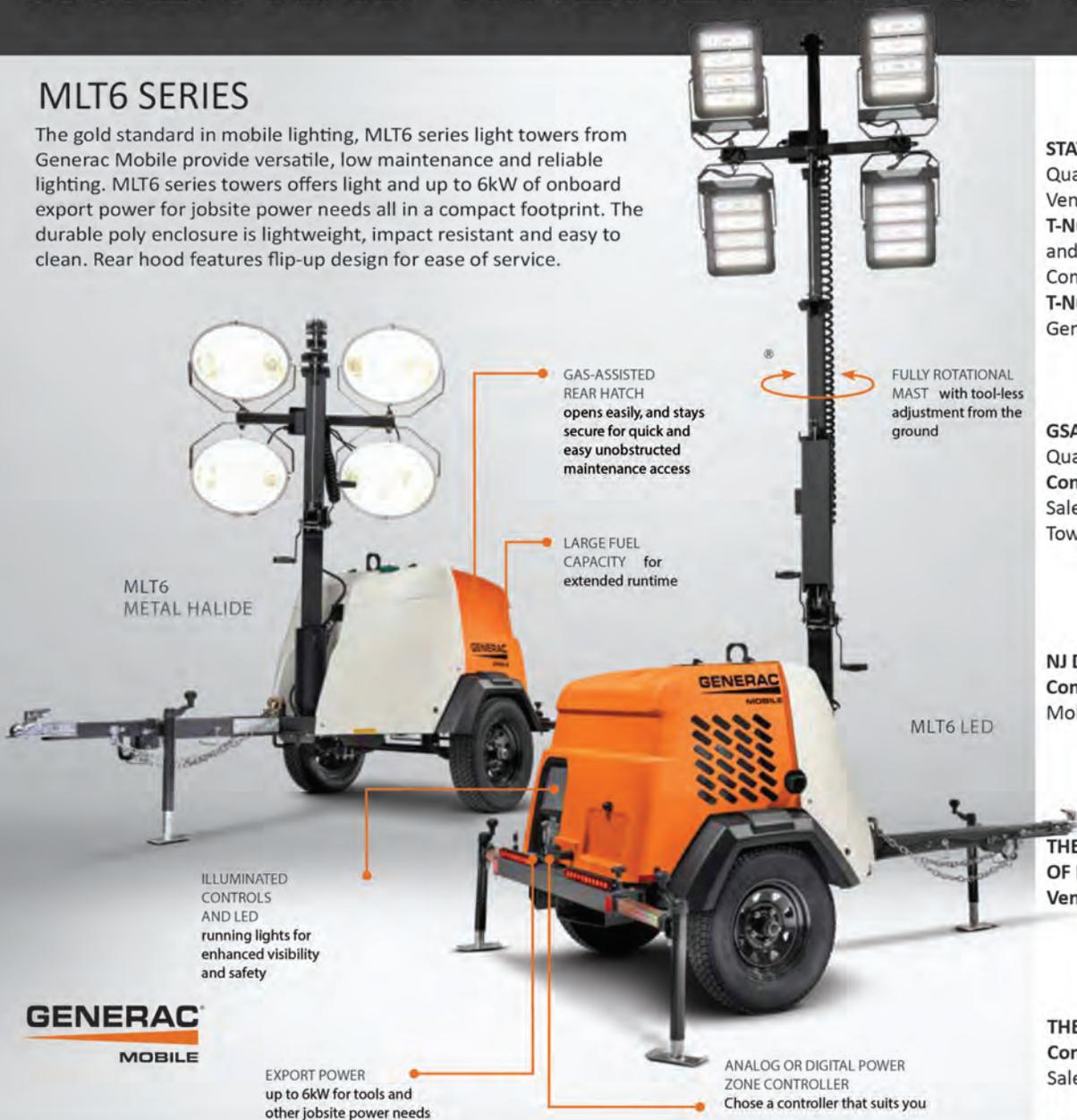
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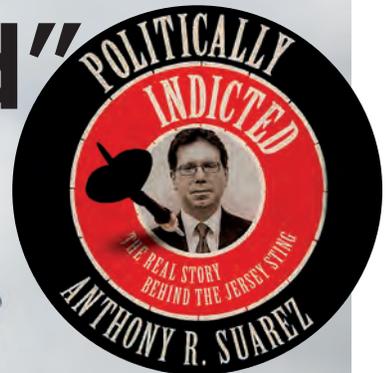
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# Conference *Connections*

## Reflections on “Politically Indicted”

A mayor’s saga of false prosecution

ANTHONY J. SUAREZ, *Mayor Ridgefield Borough;*  
*Introduction by John Weingart, Associate Director,*  
*Eagleton Institute of Politics*



The Arthur J. Holland Ethics in Government Workshop, presented at the League’s annual convention each year and co-hosted by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, honors the memory of the longtime Mayor of Trenton who also served as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Holland, who was Mayor from 1959-1989 with one involuntary four-year gap, was widely admired for the openness and integrity of his administration.

He insisted that “good government is good politics,” adding that “Political virtue is not only its own reward—that being peace of conscience and freedom from fear of exposure—it is the means to freedom of administrative action.”

The saga endured by a modern mayor, Anthony J. Suarez of Ridgefield Borough (Bergen County), is a disturbing and important cautionary tale. It is a reminder that completely honest practices and behavior are essential, but sometimes not sufficient.

Mayor Suarez offers a set of practical steps that politicians

and government officials should take to be prepared to protect their reputation if it is ever falsely attacked. The Mayor’s indictment and eventual complete exoneration should also give pause to us all when we hear of charges directed against politicians or people in any walk of life.

“A presumption of innocence” and “innocent until proven guilty” are not outmoded, perhaps naive clichés, but rather sentiments critical to maintaining a healthy civil society.

—John Weingart, Associate Director, Eagleton Institute of Politics

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As we celebrate our 90th Anniversary, **NJBOA** is proud to be the **only** statewide association, inclusive of Code Officials, and members of other diverse backgrounds, that is recognized by the Department of Community Affairs. **NJBOA** will continue to actively support and participate in the Building Safety Conference of New Jersey, as we have done for over 35 years. **NJBOA** is an organization that remains strong in membership, welcoming new applicants each year. **NJBOA** is a tried and true brotherhood whose success is written in its legacy. The **NJBOA** Executive Board would like thank our members, Past Presidents, and communities, for their unwavering support, which has helped pave the way to its success thus far. **NJBOA** will continue to forge ahead with strong leadership and the proven confidence of its members, through this decade and beyond.

*Jerome Eger* *Charles Lasky* *John Fiedler* *Jeffery Heiss* *Lawrence Scorzelli* *Pat J. Naticchione* *Bob LaCosta*  
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## Politically indicted

On July 23, 2009, I was arrested by the FBI for violation of the Hobbs Act and charged with extortion, acceptance of a corrupt payment, and conspiracy even though I committed no crime.

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If you are charged with a crime by Federal or State officials, even if you are acquitted, you are responsible for your own legal bills.

The Borough Council refused to reimburse me even after I won at trial, and my bills totaled almost \$1 million dollars! I ended up going to arbitration and, thankfully, was able to prevail. My bills were reimbursed through the Borough's insurance.

However, the insurance carrier amended the policies in New Jersey after my case. Many carriers will not permit reimbursement in the future, even when the elected official prevails at trial.

After the conclusion of the arbitration, the Ridgefield Borough Council amended the local ordinance to require reimbursement of legal fees when a party prevails at trial.

This is what I recommend to all elected officials: amend your local ordinance and require reimbursement in these cases.

For a sample ordinance, see: Chapter 23: Defense and Indemnification of Officials and Employees  
<https://ecode360.com/9121776>

In other words, I was completely innocent. However, no one behind the arrest seemed to care.

If convicted, I faced up to 20 years in prison, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines. This was the result of the undercover sting operation known as Bid Rig 3, the investigation that former Governor Chris Christie initiated during his tenure as United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey.

Things started in March 2009. I was asked to meet with David Essenbach, alleged to be a reputable real estate developer. Someone I trusted said Essenbach wanted to develop on a parcel of property owned by an old chemical company that had been vacant and polluted for years.

This was a dream come true for a small town mayor like me who wanted nothing but to have the property cleaned up and turned into a tax ratable that would be enjoyed by my residents for years to come.

Maybe it would become a mixed use development with shopping for the Borough's residents, with some residential units for our seniors to move into when they sold their homes and decided to

downsize. Maybe we would be able to have a waterfront park with walking paths put in as part of the development. The possibilities were endless. I was optimistic about the future of the site after almost 10 years of proposals that never materialized into anything of consequence.

Little did I realize that the developer was really Solomon Dwek, a serial fraudster who cheated his family and friends out of millions of dollars. Previously arrested by the FBI, he had made a deal with Christie to help convict politicians in order to reduce his own potential time behind bars.

Thankfully, after a one month trial by jury in United States Federal District Court in Newark, I was acquitted of all charges. But my life will never be the same. All of the sordid details are contained in my book, *Politically Indicted, the Real Story Behind the Jersey Sting*, published by Mascot Books.

### Looking back

Even though I did not engage in any criminal conduct—despite the efforts of the government's confidential informant to entice me into committing a crime—



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## Conference Connections

there are a number of lessons that I learned throughout the ordeal. My attorney, Michael Critchley, instilled in me certain rules of thumb. They can be of help to any elected official who may be concerned about being charged in a criminal proceeding.

The following are the pearls of wisdom that I learned, and can provide to you

without your having to go through the torture me and my family suffered for more than 15 months.

**1. Never meet alone.** If a developer ever contacts you, never meet with him or her alone. If you do go to a meeting with someone who wants to engage in real estate development in your community, bring the Municipal Attorney and

the Municipal Administrator. Then you can never be accused of making a promise to the developer. You also avoid allegations of a quid pro quo, and even a charge of extortion.

**2. Set a municipal meeting location.** Always meet in your Municipal Building or the office of the Municipal Attorney. I made the mistake of meeting with the developer and another party at a restaurant because I thought it would be convenient. Meeting with a developer in a municipal surrounding will give you control over the situation. If you want to end the meeting, you can tell the other parties that you want them to leave the building. It also looks more official and formal meeting in Borough offices.

**3. Shut down money talk.** If money ever comes up in a conversation you are having with the developer, end the meeting and walk out the door. Or tell the developer to leave. There is no place to be polite here—which I learned the hard way. Be abrupt and state that this is not the way you do business. Tell the developer to leave the meeting and to never contact you again. In my case, Dwek would continue to talk over me when I told him the way I do business, which is “by the book” and “legally.” By not being brash and telling him to get away from me and to never call me again, I wound up being charged with a crime.

**4. Report it and ready your defense.** If you know a member of law enforcement who you can trust, contact them and report the incident. Be prepared to defend yourself if the developer turns around and alleges that you engaged in illegal conduct and asked him or her for a bribe. This is why it is always good to have a witness with you at these meetings.

I hope that what I have said in this article helps other elected officials avoid the potential pitfalls that could ensnare them in a criminal proceeding. Remember that it is better to be safe than sorry. As I tell the students in Ridgefield at their annual LEED graduation, always act as if your mother is watching what you do and you will never go wrong. 🙌

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# NJ LOCAL APRIL 19-25 GOVERNMENT 2020 WEEK

#njlocalgovt

## Celebrate Local Government!

This year, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities invites you to celebrate **NJ Local Government Week**.

We invite you to join in with municipalities across the Garden State **April 19-25, 2020**, to engage citizens while celebrating the work of local government.

**NJ Local Government Week** is a time for municipalities to encourage civic education, community collaboration, volunteerism, and local pride. Municipalities throughout the Garden State are encouraged to participate, and the NJ State League of Municipalities (NJLM) suggests you get the celebration started with the following:

**Showcase.** Highlight the programs and services you offer, showcasing the hard work of local government and the value residents receive on a daily basis.

**Coordinate.** Tap into local resources such as community service and volunteering events in partnership with local organizations to cross-promote NJ Local Government Week.

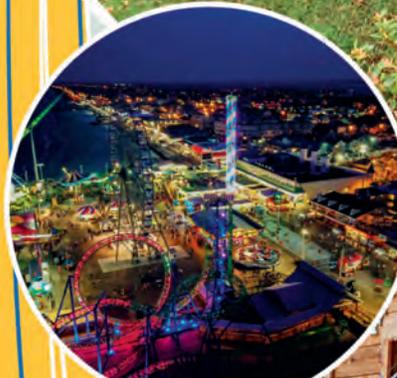
**Exhibit.** Encourage citizens to share their civic pride with an essay, photography, or design showcase/contest. Why not make it a feeder program for your entry for the League's Show Off Your Municipality photo contest?

### Wondering Where to Begin?

The website includes ideas and materials for celebrating **NJ Local Government Week**, publicity tips and strategies, and links to a sample press release and resolution. Information and resources, as well as a downloadable NJ Local Government Week logo, are available at [www.njlm.org/njlocalgovt](http://www.njlm.org/njlocalgovt).



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# NJLM Honors



# 100 Years of Women's Suffrage





# NJ Women Vote: The 19th Amendment at 100

## New Jersey Women's Suffrage Centennial Initiative

GREER LUCE,  
Chief Communications Officer,  
NJ Historical Commission



The year 2020 marks 100 years of women's suffrage in the United States. In New Jersey, property-owning women were granted the right to vote in the 1776 state constitution. The legislature limited the law to property-owning men in 1807. New Jersey women would wait over 130 years until the passage of the 19th Amendment before legally voting again.

### Celebrating a centennial

On February 9, 1920, New Jersey ratified the amendment granting U.S. women the right to vote. The 19th Amendment was officially adopted to the U.S. Constitution on August 26, 2020.

To commemorate the centennial, the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the New Jersey Department of State, has collaborated with the non-profit Alice Paul Institute and over 70 organizational partners across the state (including NJLM) to develop a multi-faceted programming initiative called *NJ Women Vote: The 19th Amendment at 100*. The partnership is co-chaired by Secretary of State Tahesha Way and First Lady Tammy Murphy.

Not all women found easy access to the polls following the passage of the 19th Amendment, nor were all women represented in the suffrage movement. As such, the vision of *NJ Women Vote* is to mark the centennial of women's suffrage while acknowledging its inequities and the challenges New Jersey women of all backgrounds have faced and continue to confront from 1920 to the present day.



“New Jersey played a vital role in the fight for suffrage,” said New Jersey Historical Commission Executive Director Sara Cureton, “Suffrage marches occurred in many communities and Alice Paul, a native of Mt. Laurel, was a key suffragist leader and co-author of the Equal Rights Amendment. There are also many women in New Jersey who worked tirelessly for suffrage and equal rights and whose stories are too often left untold. We seek to change this in 2020.”

### In your town

*NJ Women Vote* offers a number of opportunities and resources for municipalities interested in commemorating the 19th Amendment centennial. The NJ Council for the Humanities



has developed a special category of their Public Scholars Project called “Women’s Suffrage and Beyond” that provides subsidized lecture programs by humanities scholars focused on women’s history. More information can be found by visiting the NJ Council for the Humanities’ website, [www.njhumanities.org](http://www.njhumanities.org).

Municipalities may also consider reserving a National Archives Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Right to Vote pop-up exhibit from NJ Women Vote. Exhibits are available to reserve for two-week periods on a first-come, first-serve basis. To learn more and sign-up, please visit NJ Women Vote’s website, [www.discovernjhistory.org](http://www.discovernjhistory.org).

Additional resources for municipalities planning for the centennial are available through the NJ Women Vote website including a free, online Public Programs Toolkit and a series of biographies and articles about New Jersey suffragists from the Online Biographical Dictionary of the U.S. Women’s Suffrage.

NJ Women Vote holds quarterly partnership meetings to provide updates on upcoming programs and to allow partners the opportunity to meet, collaborate, and share information about their work. All are welcome to attend. Contact Communications Assistant Erica Meline at [NJWomenVote100@gmail.com](mailto:NJWomenVote100@gmail.com) to sign up for the NJ Women Vote email list and receive the latest news and meeting announcements. Follow the partnership

on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn @NJWomenVote100. We hope you will join us in marking 100 years of women’s suffrage and beyond here in New Jersey! 🇺🇸



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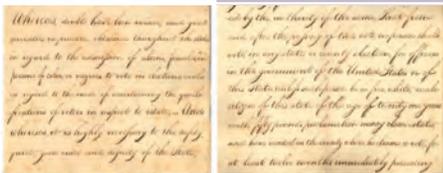


# New Jersey's Suffrage Efforts



1776 New Jersey State Constitution, Article 4  
Image courtesy of the New Jersey State Archives, Department of State.

**1776**  
Under the NJ Constitution, and unique in the nation at that time, the state's women who owned property were allowed to vote.



"A Supplement to the act entitled 'An act to regulate the election of members of the legislative council and general assembly, sheriffs, and coroners in this state,' November 16, 1807."  
Image courtesy of the New Jersey State Archives, Department of State.

**1807**  
That right was rescinded by the NJ Legislature who limited the vote to "free, white, male citizens of this state, of the age of 21 years, worth 50 pounds..."



Lucy Stone, around 1850

**1867**  
Lucy Stone & Harry Blackwell organized the first formal association devoted to gaining full suffrage for women in New Jersey. This early version of the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association (NJWSA) was one of the first state suffrage associations in the nation.



Portia Gage

**1868**  
Portia Gage tries to vote in a municipal election in Vineland.

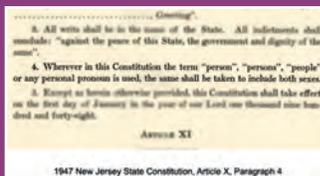


**1885**  
Alice Stokes Paul is born in Mount Laurel, NJ. Paul would become a major leader in the campaign for the 19th Amendment and the Equal Rights Amendment.

1776	1807	1867	1868	1885					
1921	1925	1947	1954	1957	1965	1968	1972	1977	19

**1921**  
Margaret Laird and Jennie Van Ness are the first two women elected to the New Jersey Assembly.

**1925**  
Rebecca Estell Bourgeois Winston of Estell Manor is the first woman to serve as mayor in New Jersey.



**1947**  
NJ's State Constitution's language includes both sexes in its use of personal pronouns.

**1957**  
Madaline A. (Worthy) Williams became the first Black woman elected to the New Jersey Assembly.



**1925**  
Mary Teresa Norton became the first woman to represent New Jersey in Congress, serving in the US House of Representatives from 1925 to 1951.



**1954**  
Madeleine S. Frost Freeman became the League's Executive Director, serving until her retirement in 1957. Freeman joined the League in 1917, one of the organization's first full-time employees.



**1965**  
Marion West Higgins became the first woman speaker of the NJ Assembly, 3rd woman in nation to be the speaker of a state house.



Mildred Barry Hughes became the first woman elected to the NJ Senate.

**1968**  
Wynona Lipman became the first Black woman elected to a county freeholder board in NJ.

**1972**  
Wynona Lipman became the first Black woman to serve in the NJ Senate.

# Women in NJ Government Timeline



Information and images courtesy of the Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University; New Jersey State League of Municipalities Archives; NJ Women Vote; and NJ State Archives, Dept. of State.



**1901**  
Reverend Florence Spearing Randolph (1855-1951) was one of the first women to be ordained as a deacon in the African American Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. In 1915 she founded and became the first president of the New Jersey Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. She served on the executive board of the New Jersey Suffrage Association.

**CIVIC LEAGUE AT MANASQUAN.**  
An interesting address by Miss Harriet May Mills.  
An address on "Woman's Title to Citizenship" was given by Miss Harriet May Mills of Syracuse, organizer of the New York State Woman Suffrage Association in the Methodist Episcopal church on Saturday night. The meeting was under the auspices of the Manasquan Civic League and Mr. H. H. Wainwright presided. Miss Mills, an attractive young woman, in an eloquent address, spoke on the claims of women to the ballot. Their first claim, she said, was that they paid taxes in ever increasing amounts; that they were graduated from our high schools and colleges in great

ESDAY, APRIL 28, 1909.—E  
**WOMEN STRIKERS ASK BALLOT**  
Five Hundred Hat Trimmers in the Oranges Now Join Suffrage Movement.  
—Dr. Emma O. Gantz, President of the Progressive Woman's Suffrage Union of the Oranges, announced yesterday that more than 500 of the striking hat trimmers of the Oranges had joined the suffrage movement.  
The reasons given are alleged to be the general dissatisfaction among the women workers with general trade conditions. Dr. Gantz said the women strikers believe that if they can only get the ballot they will work many reforms and do away with the many abuses and injustices which they say exist against the rights of women, especially working women.



**1911**  
NJWSA opened its first official state headquarters in Newark and printed its first yearly reports. They also joined forces with several other suffrage groups to form a Joint Legislative Committee to work toward achieving a state referendum on woman suffrage.

**1909**  
New Jersey's first open air suffrage rallies were held in Orange & Newark led by Dr. Emma O. Gantz and Martha Klatschhken. NJWSA conducted a successful petition drive and got 5,000 signatures on a petition drive in support of the federal amendment.

**1903**  
NAWSA organizer Harriet May Mills organized Summer Suffrage Meetings at various locations along the Jersey shore.

1898

1901

1903

1909

1911

1981

1982

1983

1989

1993

1994

1996

2000

2004

2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 74  
**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
A Concurrent Resolution relating to a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States guaranteeing equal rights to men and women.  
1. Whereas, by Joint Resolution passed by the several sessions of the Thirty-Seventh Congress of the United States, the following article was proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States:  
"Article 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied to any citizen of the United States on account of sex."  
2. And whereas, the Constitution shall have due regard to reform, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article;  
3. "Article 2. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification."

**1972**  
NJ Senate ratifies the Equal Rights Amendment.



**1977**  
Ruth Carpenter became NJ's first woman elected sheriff, in Hunterdon County.

**1981**  
Jane Burgio is the first woman appointed Secretary of State in NJ.



**1982**  
Marie Garibaldi became the first woman to serve on NJ's Supreme Court.

**1983**  
Nidia Davila-Colon became the first Latina elected to a county freeholder board.



**1989**  
Virginia D. Hook, Deputy Mayor of Delaware Township became the League's first woman president.



**1993**  
Deputy Mayor Phyllis Marchand became League President.



**1994**  
Christine Todd Whitman became the first woman to serve as NJ governor. Deborah Poritz became NJ's first female attorney general.



**2000**  
Mayor Barbara Hall became League President.

**1996**  
Debraoh Poritz became the first woman to serve as chief justice on the NJ State Supreme Court.



**2004**  
Mayor Jo-Anne B. Schubert became League President.



**2008**  
M. Teresa Ruiz became the first Latina to serve in the NJ Senate.



# New Jersey's Suffrage

**Defeat Suffrage Bill.**  
The women of New Jersey were denied the right of suffrage when the senate voted down a concurrent resolution providing for the submission of an amendment to the constitution permitting women 21 years of age and older to vote.  
The debate was featured by a lively tilt between Senators Gebhardt and Nichols, and a demonstration on the part of the women who crowded the gallery. Senate President Prince had to stop the demonstration. But three votes were cast in favor of the resolution, and it was recorded against it. Senator Gebhardt, who introduced the resolution, read the state constitution and showed that those excluded from voting were paupers, idiots, insane persons and criminals. "In a word," said the Hunterdon member, "this resolution is for the purpose of taking women out of the pauper, idiot, insane and criminal classes and place them in the class of respectable citizens."



**1912**  
Hearings for a suffrage referendum were held in the Senate and Assembly. Although the measure was soundly defeated in both houses, it marked a turning point in the tactics of the New Jersey suffrage movement.

**1913**  
An automobile rally led by "General" Rosalie Jones started in New York and traveled through New Jersey on the way to Washington, D.C. The rally participants joined the massive Suffrage Parade that was organized in Washington D.C. by Alice Paul and featured over 8,000 marchers, including many women from New Jersey.



**1915**  
A second suffrage constitutional referendum was waged in NJ, NY, PA, and MA with active campaigns by many suffrage organizations. One of the memorable events staged was the "Passing of The Torch of Liberty" via tug boats on the Hudson River from NY to NJ by Mrs. Havemeyer to Mina Van Windle on August 7, 1915. After a very heated fight, the referendum was defeated in all four states October 1915.

**1919**  
Mary Dubrow (1896-1984), a member of the National Women's Party (NWP), participated in the Watchfire demonstrations and was jailed for 10 days. She also marched in many protests outside the NWP headquarters. Mary was a Russian Jewish immigrant who settled with her family in Passaic.

**1920**  
On February 10, 1920, New Jersey became the 29th state to ratify the 19th Amendment and on August 26, 1920, Alice Paul celebrated the Amendment's victory in front of the ratification banner in Washington, D.C.

1912	1913	1915	1917	1919	1920				
2008	2010	2011	2013	2014	2015	2016	2018	2019	2020



**2010**  
Kim Guadagno took office as NJ's first lieutenant governor.



Barbara Buono became the first woman to be elected majority leader of the NJ State Senate.



**2011**  
Mildred Scott became the first Black woman elected county sheriff in NJ, first woman elected sheriff in Middlesex County.



Sheila Y. Oliver became the first woman of color to serve as speaker of the NJ Assembly. She was the second woman in US to serve as speaker of a lower house.

**2018**  
Sheila Oliver became the first woman of color to serve as NJ's lieutenant governor and the first woman of color to serve in a NJ statewide office.

**2019**  
Mayor Colleen Y. Mahr becomes League President.



**2016**  
Susan Shin-Angulo became the first Asian American woman elected to a county freeholder board in NJ.



**2013**  
Mayor Janice Mironov became League President.



**2015**  
Bonnie Watson Coleman became the first Black woman/woman of color to represent NJ in Congress.



**2020**  
Mayor Janice Kovach is NJLM 1st Vice President. Mayor Sue Howard is NJLM 3rd Vice President.



# Women in NJ Government Timeline

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**Recognizing the ever-increasing challenges** that our local government entities face as the result of extreme climate forces affecting public health, safety and the environment, Maraziti Falcon, LLP has developed a practice area devoted to assisting our clients to increase resiliency and strategically plan for a changing climate.

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# WASHINGTON



## Representation: Washington & Trenton

In the State and Federal legislatures, women continue to strive for equality in representation, taking inspiration from history's suffragist heroes



### Reaching Our Fullest Potential

The right to vote is the fundamental underpinning of our democracy, the right by which we ensure that the leaders in elected office carry our interests and values.

The fight for women's suffrage, and the women who stood up and spoke out, understood that without access to the ballot, they'd never truly be heard, they'd never be considered, they'd never be able to reach their fullest potential.

And although their fight often left out women and people of color, who would wait even longer to truly participate in our democracy, the victory of the suffragettes was an important milestone in the slow march toward a country where the words in our declaration of independence ring true. We're still on that march—we're still fighting for the right to vote, for the right of every American to enjoy equal treatment under this country's laws.

Our celebration of 100 years of women's suffrage is hollow unless we fight back against efforts to disenfranchise communities today. The suffragist rallying cry was that the US could not be a democracy if it denied or restricted the right to vote to only some of its people—and that cry holds true today.

—U.S. Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman (District 12)



### Reaching the End of the Row

As Alice Paul, New Jersey's most influential suffragette, said, "When you put your hand to the plow, you can't put it down until you get to the end of the row!" Women have made significant strides in holding elected office—notably the record-number of women now serving in Congress—but we haven't gotten to the end of the row.

New Jersey has only sent seven women to Congress since we secured the vote. Women comprise just over 30% of the State Assembly and 10% of the State Senate even though we make up more than half of New Jersey's population. We must continue to lift up women and encourage them to bring their diverse experiences and backgrounds to our legislative process.

Our country is stronger when women have a seat at the table and are able to shine a light on critical issues. I see this every day as I work for New Jersey in Washington. Women are leading the charge in national security and in legislation for equal pay, child care, paid family leave, and educational opportunities.

We are committed to making our country safer and to promoting our democratic ideals. I look forward to celebrating the achievements of women in government as we mark 100 years of suffrage in 2020.

—U.S. Representative Mikie Sherrill (District 11)

# TRENTON



## New Jersey's Women Legislators

Hopefully there are too many women in New Jersey's Senate and House of Representatives to include quotes from them all. But it is far from equal representation of women under the gold dome. The following women are fighting the good fight in Trenton this year.

### Senators

Dawn Marie Addiego	Linda R. Greenstein
Kristin M. Corrado	Nellie Pou
Nilsa Cruz-Perez	M. Terea Ruiz
Sandra B. Cunningham	Shirley K. Turner
Nia H. Gill	Loretta D. Weinberg

## Assemblywomen

Linda S. Carter	Carol A. Murphy
Annette Chaparro	Nancy J. Pinkin
BettyLou DeCroce	Eliana Pintor Marin
Serena DiMaso	Annette Quijano
Joann Downey	Verlina Reynolds-Jackson
Aura Dunn	Holly Schepisi
DiAnne C. Gove	Shanique Speight
Mila M. Jasey	Jean Stanfield
Angelica M. Jimenez	Shavonda E. Sumter
Pamela R. Lampitt	Lisa Swain
Yvonne Lopez	Britnee N. Timberlake
Angela V. McKnight	Cleopatra G. Tucker
Gabriela M. Mosquera	Valerie Vainieri Huttle
Nancy F. Munoz	



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# Women's History Month

## Celebrating 100 Years of the Vote

SHEILA OLIVER, Lt. Governor, State of New Jersey

**W**omen's History Month is a time to pay respect to the great women who have contributed so much to our society and helped pave the way for other women. This year is special because we are also celebrating the centennial anniversary of one of the most important milestones in U.S. history—women gaining the right to vote.

As we honor this civil rights victory, we owe a debt of gratitude to the trailblazing women who risked their reputations, sacrificed time away from their families, and put their lives on the line in the name of equality. They did this so that women would be afforded the right to vote, which is one of the most fundamental rights in our democracy.

There are many women who helped make this possible, but Susan B. Anthony fueled the suffrage movement with passion and authority and is arguably one of the most consequential heroes in U.S. history.

The roots of her activism, like my own, started at a very young age. She was collecting anti-slavery petitions at 17 years of age and went on to become a passionate and respected abolitionist.

Ms. Anthony's young beginnings and path of resistance reminds me of what inspired me to become a public servant at the age of 13 when I first read Charles Dickens' novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*. That was the point at which I began to measure the injustices I saw in society and yearn to make change.

Not many people are aware that New Jersey played a large role in the suffrage movement, centering around the work of Alice Paul. Paul most notably authored the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which was introduced to Congress in 1923. It was designed to eliminate legal distinctions between men and women as they related to matters of property, employment, divorce, and other critical issues. This amendment was intended to help guarantee equality for all Americans regardless of the sex with which they identify. While Congress passed the ERA in 1972 and the majority of states, including New Jersey, have ratified it, it has not yet been adopted into the Constitution.

Today, the Alice Paul Institute in Paulsdale in Mount Laurel Township educates the public about her life and work and offers heritage and girls' leadership development programs. This year they will be offering many exciting events and programs to celebrate the centennial through their NJ Women Vote 2020 campaign. From a Suffrage Bicycle Slow Roll to a Women's Equality Day celebration, you can find a full list of activities online: [www.discovernjhistory.org/njwomenvote2020/njwomenvoteevents/](http://www.discovernjhistory.org/njwomenvote2020/njwomenvoteevents/)

While progress should be celebrated, it should never be



considered absolute or permanent. We should never forget the fact that even after Congress ratified the 19th amendment and granted women the right to vote, not all women and men had equal access to the ballot. For decades to follow, black women and men continued to face extreme barriers to voting and were left disenfranchised, discriminated against, and excluded.

It wasn't until 1965 when Martin Luther King, Jr. famously wrote a letter proclaiming, "Our battle cry is, 'let my people vote,'" and urged Congress to pass The Voting Rights Act of 1965 that the blatant discriminatory voting practices used at all government levels against African Americans would end.

Today, as Governor Murphy and I fight our own battles for a stronger and fairer New Jersey, we are reminded of the civil rights victories won by the suffragettes. We hope to build on those victories in the name of social justice and equality for women.

We have been working to tackle difficult issues that negatively impact women. Our Administration has signed laws that help ensure equal pay is received for equal work, expand access to early childhood education, mandate one of the nation's strongest family leave policies, restore voting rights to over 80,000 people on probation or parole, restore critical funding for family planning and women's reproductive health, and put us on a path to a fair minimum wage. Also, First Lady Tammy Murphy has championed a health care campaign called Nurture NJ to help protect black mothers and children from mortality during pregnancy and after childbirth.

As the suffragettes learned, while change does not come easily, it can reap great benefits. When women gained the right to vote in the U.S., they made a giant leap for womankind on a global scale. They showed the world that when women worked together to demand a fundamental right, the demand would be met.

This month, as we honor the trailblazing women of the past, let's commit to increasing equality in the new decade by staying engaged and reaffirming that women's issues don't just affect women—they affect men, children, and families of all races, creeds, nationalities, and religions. Women's issues are human issues, and like the suffragettes, we should never cease to fight for them. ♀



# A Victory Generations in the Making

## New Jersey Women Vote 100 celebrates milestone, boosts civic engagement

TAMMY MURPHY, *First Lady, State of New Jersey* and  
TAHESHA WAY, *Secretary of State, State of New Jersey*;  
*Co-Chairs NJ Women Vote 100*



First Lady  
Tammy Murphy

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

On February 9, 1920, New Jersey’s State Legislature voted to approve those words, becoming the 29th state to ratify the 19th Amendment and include women in the American electorate. New Jersey residents of all backgrounds were actively involved

in campaigning for ratification at the state and national level.

A century later, we are proud as women and public servants to co-chair NJ Women Vote 100 and recognize this milestone anniversary. Of course, this victory was generations in the making, as women were advocating for political inclusion since before our founding fathers declared independence.

In the decades leading up to 1920, women like Sojourner Truth, Lucy Stone, Ida B. Wells, Alice Paul, and Mary Church Terrell fought tirelessly for civil rights and women’s rights. Nor did the story of women’s suffrage end in August 1920, when the 19th Amendment became law.

We know that for decades after, some American women were systematically prevented from voting. This year, as we honor this pivotal moment in our nation’s march toward justice and equality, we must remember the full history, from our nation’s earliest days through the civil rights movement and today’s work of voting rights advocates.

The right to vote is the most fundamental right we possess as Americans. Our ability to choose our leaders is the

foundation that supports every other freedom we cherish. Moreover, we have a responsibility to those who came before us and sacrificed much to guarantee our access to the right to vote.

Yet, many Americans who are eligible to vote just don’t. At a time in our history when there are those who would seek to prevent certain American citizens from voting and undermine our nation’s election security, it is more important than ever that we exercise our constitutionally dedicated voting rights.

In the 100 years since women’s suffrage became the law of the land, New Jersey and the United States have been strengthened by the inclusion of women in politics and public service. Together, we celebrate and honor the generations of women and men who fought to secure the vote for women and all Americans.

We hope this year of commemoration inspires New Jerseyans to see voting as an essential aspect of our way of life. Even more, we hope this milestone anniversary enables younger generations to see themselves as essential to our democracy and encourages a lifetime commitment to voting and civic engagement. 🇺🇸



Secretary of State  
Tahesha Way



# All Voices Represented:

## Keeping sight of the importance of having women in the national conversation

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN, *Governor, New Jersey 1994-2001*



**O**n the centennial of women’s suffrage, 2020 is a moment to reflect on how far we’ve come and how far there is left to go for women. For far longer than that century, women have been mobilizing, campaigning, and advocating for equal participation in our country’s leadership. Building on their work, we have the responsibility to fight for equal representation of women in all levels of government.

The first woman elected to represent New Jersey in the U.S. House of Representatives, Mary Teresa Norton, served from 1925-1950. Stepping into a world that often did not respect women as politicians, Norton is reported to have once responded to being called a “lady” in Congress by saying, “I am no lady, I’m a Member of Congress, and I’ll proceed on that basis.” 80 years later, I continue to hear stories from women in our state and across the country that reflect old stereotypes.

There are other continuities between the 1920s and now. First proposed in 1923, it’s long past time to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. On January 15, Virginia voted to ratify the ERA, moving us one step closer to legislation that can help protect women across the country from discrimination. Unfortunately, the deadline for ratification has passed, so the future of the ERA is still very much unknown.

Fulfilling the legacy of women’s suffrage means more than electing one woman representative, governor, or president. Though I am proud to have served as New Jersey’s first woman governor, I am disappointed that I remain the only woman to have occupied that office and that women remain severely underrepresented at all levels of government.

Since my time as governor, New Jersey has made some progress towards equal representation. The portion of women in our state legislature has risen from 15% to 31%. But although this progress is promising, only two women represent New Jersey in Congress, and only 13% of New Jersey’s big cities are led by women mayors. As a country, the proportion of women serving in statewide elected positions has flat-lined at around 25% since the mid-1990s. We still have a long way to go in the battle for achieving equality.

The need for women serving at all levels of government is clear. A recent study found that a majority of women in Congress believe women are more likely to work across party lines, more

likely to seek collaboration, and more results-oriented. In a country facing gridlock and deep distrust, we need more women who can actively seek collaboration and consensus in government. A Gallup poll also showed that, in a corporate setting, gender diversity can improve a company’s financial performance.

Women add value by voicing different perspectives and life experiences. In my time in government and on several corporate boards, I had the honor of serving alongside many smart and talented women. We brought different perspectives to the table, which enabled better problem-solving. We were also able to better serve diverse constituencies by speaking up on what matters most to the women in our state.

Given the stories that we read and the evidence that women are still not taken as seriously as men, there’s no denying we have work to do. New Jersey especially needs to champion representation of women and minorities given how diverse we are as a state. If we want the government to reflect who we are, it’s time to take action.

We should be proud that the premier research institution for women in politics is located here in New Jersey. The Center for Women and Politics at the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers is an incredible organization that continues to produce research on the impact of women in politics and the barriers left blocking equal representation. With research and advocacy, we can take real steps towards true equality.

Across the country, women candidates are demonstrating leadership to the next generation. Despite the challenges of unequal representation and political campaigning, women from all backgrounds and political persuasions owe it to the country to run for office or encourage their friends to do so. On this centennial of the passage of the 19th amendment, let us resolve to not lose sight of the importance of having all voices represented in the national conversation. 🌱



AT THE INTERSECTION OF LAW, GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS



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# Women Presidents of NJLM

## The women leaders of the League provide insights and advice for municipal officials

The New Jersey State League of Municipalities has been pooling information resources and brain power since 1915. Over 560 mayors and 13,000 elected and appointed officials of member municipalities are entitled to all of the services and privileges of the League. From these ranks, leaders throughout the state are nominated and elected to serve as officers and directors of the organization.



After 74 years of solely male top leaders, in 1989 Delaware Township Deputy Mayor Virginia D. Hook was elected the League's first woman president. In the following years another half dozen women have steered the League, and have been supported by women officers and members of the executive board.

Following are thoughts and insights from these women in leadership.



### 1993 Phyllis Marchand Former Mayor, Princeton Twp.

It is both a privilege and an honor for me to sit before you as a representative of our state's 567 local governments; and I hope this meeting is the commencement of a bountiful working relationship between the Local Finance Board and the League

of Municipalities, the fruits of which will be borne by those 567 local government we are all here to serve.

I urge you to avail yourselves of our resources in your efforts to reach out and talk to the people in municipal government responsible for putting together local budgets. Take advantage of the invaluable information networks manifested in our affiliate organizations....Remember: we're all here to help.

*"League President Presents Strong Testimony Calling for CAP Relief"*

*NJ Municipalities, January 1993*



### 1989 Virginia D. Hook Former Deputy Mayor, Delaware Twp.

Good morning Mr. Chairman. And good morning, members of the committee. It is an honor to be able to appear before you today, on behalf of New Jersey's 567 municipalities. I am Deputy Mayor

Virginia D. Hook, of Delaware Township, the president of the League of Municipalities. For history's sake, let the record show that I am the first woman president in the League's 74 years of existence.

As a fellow elected official, I know about the sacrifices that all of you make to service your fellow citizens. I also know about the demands that are placed on you, especially at budget time. And as one who follows developments in Trenton, I know that this year's budget deliberations will place incredible demands on your time, your energy, and your resourcefulness.

*"League President Virginia D. Hook testifies Before the Joint Appropriations Committee"*

*NJ Municipalities, May 1989*



### 2000 Barbara Hall Former Mayor, Chatham Borough

Politics and government remain much more arts than sciences. We've long since learned to expect the unexpected. We live in an age when inconveniences can, with lightning speed, bypass the problem stage, and emerge as full-blown crises. Indeed, it's when our proverbial Legislative radar screen reads clear that we've learned to worry the most.

This year--like last year--promises tremendous challenges.



We know that if enough municipal officials involve themselves in our Legislative program, our interests and the interests of our property taxpaying constituents can again be heard, and be acted upon, by our fellow public servants in the Capital.

*“Open Letter From the League President Barbara Hall ‘For a Better New Jersey’”*  
*NJ Municipalities, February 2000*

You should speak less at the beginning and get acclimated to information, processes and personalities. Do not be afraid to ask questions, seek advice and ask for assistance. Learn all you can and always admit it when you do

not know an answer. Just let people know that you will find our and follow up later.  
*“New League President Janice Mironov A Champion of Consensus”*  
*NJ Municipalities, January 2013*



**2004 Jo-Anne Schubert**  
**Former Mayor, South Bound Brook**

I think that newly elected officials need to be careful not to let it go to their heads.

Understand that the easy part is getting elected; the hard part is getting the work done.

*“New League President: Making a Big Difference in a Small Town”*  
*NJ Municipalities, January 2004*



**2013 Janice S. Mironov**  
**Current Mayor, East Windsor Twp.**

While no one would call me “shy,” and I take an active,

visible role in much of what goes on, I am a big believer in working to create consensus. Getting everyone on board, both within the Township Council and among the public, creates a higher level of satisfaction and enjoyment for everyone in the community. And in the end, more constructive things get accomplished and citizens are more enticed to get involved locally.”

“I would advise newly elected officials to become informed, watch, and learn.

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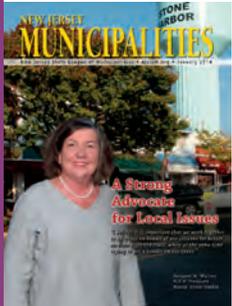
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**2014**  
**Suzanne M. Walters**  
**Former Mayor, Stone Harbor Borough**

I believe citizens want their government to be upfront and honest with them. They obviously also want basic services delivered whether it's trash pick-up, street cleaning, or road repairs. They want to feel proud of the community where they live. Of course, they also want more services and lower taxes. This is a constant challenge, but I believe that by keeping the lines of communication open between the government and the citizens, it can be done.

With the advances in technology in the last several years, I believe the delivery of this information has changed considerably. The citizens expect websites to be updates almost daily to keep them informed.

I would advise newly elected officials to see out as much knowledge on their towns and the various issues that affect them as they can possibly find. There are subjects that will come up that you honestly know nothing about, but someone does. Don't be afraid to ask. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Some municipality has dealt with that situation previously. That is why the League of Municipalities is so important.

*"League President Suzanne M. Walters: A Strong Advocate for Local Issues"*  
NJ Municipalities, January 2014



**2019**  
**Colleen Y. Mahr**  
**Current Mayor, Fanwood; NJLM Immediate Past President**

The best recognition we can give to the courageous women who won us the right to vote is to USE that right. On this 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage, I urge every woman who is qualified to vote to register, to confirm that registration and to vote in every election open to you. To squander this precious right or use it lightly is to do a disservice to those heroines of history.

I have been giving a great deal of thought to the 19th amendment lately, not only because its ratification liberated

## A League of Her Own

**1954 Madeleine S. Frost Freeman**  
**League Executive Director (1954-1957)**

In 1954 Madeleine S. Frost Freeman became the League's Executive Director. She served in this position until her retirement in 1957. Freeman joined the League in 1917, becoming one of the organization's first full-time employees. For many years she was the League's only full-time staff member and served the organization nearly single-handedly under the direction of the Executive Secretaries. Among her many positions over the years, Freeman served as Editor and Advertising Manager of *New Jersey Municipalities* magazine, implementing the concept of financing the magazine through paid advertising and knocking on doors to build up accounts. She is also responsible for adding exhibits to the Annual Conference and developing the Bureau of Municipal Information. Throughout her career, Freeman was actively involved in the League's legislative initiatives.





women to participate in our democracy, but because so much remains undone for women in 2020

While I am delighted to be the fourth woman to serve as Mayor in Fanwood, I am chagrined there are so few of us. Although women represent almost 50% of the US workforce, we are paid 79 cents on each dollar a man makes. There is a dearth of women in leadership positions across government and business, which naturally leads to poor representation in both arenas.

But despite the challenges and despite the “glass ceiling” I am determined to continue to fight for equal rights for women. My focus has been on developing women candidates for office and I couldn’t be more pleased to see a growing number of very qualified women throwing their hats in the ring every year.

“The best honor we can give to the memory of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth and Ida B. Wells is to continue to work to achieve the dreams their work has allowed us to dream.”

Fanwood, March 2020

## Executive Team

The 2020 League’s Officers are an even split of men and women. First Vice President Mayor Janice Kovach of Clinton Town and Third Vice President Mayor Sue Howard of Monmouth Beach work with League President Jim Perry Sr. of Hardwick and Second Vice President Mayor William Chegwiddden of Wharton. Notes President Perry:

*“I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with trailblazing women who bring important ideas, concepts, and methods to the table. Mayors Kovach, Howard, and Chegwiddden and all of the Executive Board members continue to work together to create a unified League and a better state. We salute the spirit of the Suffragettes and encourage women to continue to represent their municipalities.”*

The executive board includes representatives from around the state whose members include: Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler of Highland Park; Mayor Liz Lempert of Princeton; Immediate Past President Mahr; and Mayor Janet Tucci.

**NJLM Officers pictured top to bottom:** James J. Perry Sr., President, Committeeman, Hardwick; Janice Kovach, 1st Vice President, Mayor, Clinton Town; William J. Chegwiddden, 2nd Vice President, Mayor, Wharton; Sue Howard, 3rd Vice President, Mayor, Monmouth Beach



## Steps to Equality

Here, Mayor Kovach shares her reflections on suffrage and the fight to ensure women have a seat at the political table.

This year is the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment. This year is the 100th Anniversary of the legacy of a

brave, resilient, determined group of women who strove for the first step in equality. For us, there has never been a time when women did not have the right to vote, and on August 26, 2020, the legacy of The Suffragettes will reach a milestone in history.

In 1976 we celebrated the 200th birthday of the United States—there were events all year long and the Fourth of July parades were second to none. One of my proudest moments was marching as a Suffragette in one of these historic parades. It was then I realized that a young woman 100 years prior would not have had that same liberty as I did. Fast forward a few more years and my eighth-grade

history teacher—who would later become the first female mayor of Clinton—taught us the history of the suffragist movement. Mrs. McGaheran had such a love of history, a pride for those courageous women who walked before her. She instilled that same passion in me.

Later in my own life I had the privilege of working for the State of New Jersey as the Director of the New Jersey Division on Women. Here, amongst other like-minded, driven individuals, I cemented my passion for advocating on behalf of women. Raising awareness about contemporary women’s issues, and getting more women engaged in the civic and political process is what I live for.

As I contemplate what this anniversary means to me, I am reminded of my own grandmother who was born in 1913 without the ability to vote. I am reminded of those before her who fought long and hard to ensure we had an equal voice—to ensure we had a seat at the table.

Janice Kovach, Mayor, Clinton Town; 1st Vice President, NJLM



# Women In Municipal Government Committee



The League's Women in Municipal Government Committee continues suffragists' efforts to advance women. A primary goal of the committee is to encourage the active involvement and full participation of women in municipal government through such venues as professional development, networking, and awards programs.

The League's WIMG committee was launched in 2009 under co-chairs Mayor Lititia "Tish" Colombi of Haddonfield Borough and Council President Mildred Crump of Newark. Council President Crump is also a past president and current Advisory Council member of the National League of Cities' Women in Municipal Government committee. Within the League, former League staff member Helen Yeldell was key to getting the committee up and running.

In the years since its start, the group has grown its events and commitment to fostering the growth of women in municipal government. ♡



2009

**2009:** Top row: Anne Zusy, then Ridgewood Councilwoman; Letitia "Tish" Colombi; seated: NJLM's Lori Buckelew, Past President Suzanne Walters, and WIMG Co-Chair/Newark Council President Mildred Crump.



2011

**2011:** Past President Mayor Janice S. Mironov, Statehouse Reporter Sandy McClure, Past President Mayor Chuck Chiarello.

2013



**1.** Council President Crump, Mayor and Former Department of Women Director Janice Kovach, Past President Walters, Past President Mironov, and Carol Beske, Keynote speaker, President of Act Engineering. **2.** Jacquelyn Love, former Deputy Mayor Deptford, Council President Crump, Former Camden Mayor Gwendolyn Faison. **3.** Mayor Kovach, Past President Walters, Beske, and Council President Crump. **4.** A full house for the annual WIMG breakfast at the League Conference.



2014



Assemblywomen Holly Schepisi and Nancy Pinkin accept their Outstanding Women in Government awards with Past President Suzanne Walters.

## Reflection on the Suffrage Centennial



NJLM 3rd VP and Mayor Sue Howard is Co-Chair of the WIMG Committee and a longtime supporter of women's advancement. Here she shares some of the inspiration for her commitment.

As I reflect on the Women's Suffrage Centennial, I am immediately reminded of two women in my life whom I especially admire...my grandmother and my mother-in-law. While my grandmother would have been only 16 when the 19th Amendment passed, she had already dropped out of school to help support her family as a New Jersey Bell Telephone Company operator. She had spunk and determination. The same can be said of my mother-in-law, who was born in 1920. She was a devoted wife and mother and an inspiring role model to all who knew her as she earned her doctorate in anthropology at age 65. I've no doubt each of them exercised their right to vote as soon as they became eligible to vote. Each was passionate about the issues of their day. They each also treasured their independence as women. They were women of action as were all the women who fought courageously and tirelessly over a century ago for women's suffrage. The best tribute we can give to these women who paved the way before us is to share the story of their amazing accomplishments with today's young girls and women and encourage them too to become "women of action."

*—Mayor Sue Howard, NJLM 3rd Vice President*

Mayor Howard was Monmouth Beach's first female mayor, elected in 2005

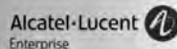


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2015



1



2



3

1. Charlene Brown, Regional VP of External Affairs AT&T; Council President Crump.
2. Outstanding Women in Municipal Government award recipient Dr. Stephanie Bush-Baskette.
3. Lori Grifa, former DCA Commissioner, addresses the audience.

## WIMG Committee Members

- Sue Howard, Co-Chair, Mayor, Monmouth Beach; League 3rd Vice President
- Mildred Crump, Co-Chair, Council President, Newark
- Phyllis L. Marchand, Former Mayor, Princeton Township League Past President
- Janice S. Mironov, Mayor, East Windsor Township; League Past President
- Janice Kovach, Mayor, Clinton Town; League 1st Vice President
- Wilda Diaz, Mayor, Perth Amboy
- Tency Eason, Council President, City of Orange
- Edina Brown, Councilwoman, Old Bridge
- Janet W. Tucci, Mayor West Long Branch; League Executive Board Member
- Judy Ward, Council President, Pleasantville
- Marge Caldwell Wilson, Councilwoman, City of Trenton

2016



1



2

1. Outstanding Women in Municipal Government Award recipients Barbara George Johnson, Executive Director, The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, Thomas Edison State University, and the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute, Mayors Wellness Campaign (Accepted by Linda Schwimmer, President and CEO) with Past President Suzanne Walters.
2. NJLM Executive Board Member Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler of Highland Park applauds at the breakfast event.

1. NJLM VP Mayor Janice Kovach of Clinton Town; Stephanie C. Murray, Deputy Mayor of Middletown and West Long Branch Township Administrator; Stephanie McGowan, Councilwoman, Rutherford; Dean and Assistant Professor at the School of Education at Felician University; Mayor Colleen Mahr of Fanwood, New Jersey State League of Municipalities 1st Vice President, Director of Business Development for DMR Architects; Sharon McCullough, Administrator, Haddonfield; Gabriela V. Simoes Dos Santos, Chief Financial Officer, Harrison Township; WIMG Co-Chair Mayor Sue Howard of Monmouth Beach.

2. Guests enjoying the first evening Networking and Awards event.



1

2017



2

1. Outstanding women in Government Award winners Jillian Barrick, Business Administrator, Morristown; NJLM Past President Janice Mironov, Mayor, East Windsor; Carol Bianchi, Committeewoman, Bernards; Tency A. Eason, Council President, Orange; and Susan Jacobucci, Business Administrator, Paulsboro.

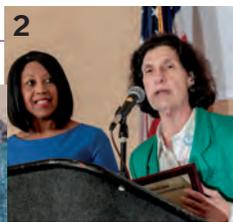
2. Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver presents Past President Mironov with her award.

3. Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver with members of the NJ Association of Municipal Assessors.

2018



1



2

3

1. Outstanding women in Government Award winners Jillian Barrick, Business Administrator, Morristown; NJLM Past President Janice Mironov, Mayor, East Windsor; Carol Bianchi, Committeewoman, Bernards; Tency A. Eason, Council President, Orange; and Susan Jacobucci, Business Administrator, Paulsboro.

2. Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver presents Past President Mironov with her award.

3. Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver with members of the NJ Association of Municipal Assessors.

2019



1



2

1. NJLM 1st VP Mayor Kovach opens the Networking and Awards event.
2. Secretary of State Tahesha Way speaks on suffrage and women in government today.
3. The 2019 Outstanding Women in Government Award recipients with WIMG Committee members, Maria DiGiovanni, Mayor, Hackettstown; Caroline Ehrlich, Chief of Staff, Woodbridge and Executive Director, Woodbridge Redevelopment Agency, Woodbridge; Wilda Diaz, Mayor, Perth Amboy; NJLM Past President Mayor Colleen Mahr; Patricia Perkins-Auguste, Councilwoman-At-Large, Elizabeth; Kathleen Canestrino, Deputy Mayor, Hackensack; WIMG Co-Chair Mayor Howard.



3



4

4. A large group of supporters from the municipality salute Woodbridge's Ehrlich.



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# Women of the Future

## Young leaders take their place as mayors and governing body members around the state

In an already small portion of the political map held by women in government, there is an even smaller, but increasingly powerful, group of young elected officials who are continuing the suffragists' work for equality.

As the baby boomers head into retirement, the next powerhouse generation, the millennials, are ready to take their place on the political field. Following, we hear from the next generation of women in municipal government as they look back and into the future.



### Equality Is Imperative

I am so fortunate to live in a country and at a time in which I can vote, work in a field that encourages voter participation, and serve as the Mayor of my town.

It's undeniable that we have made real progress, but we still have a ways to go.

Equality is not solely a female issue—it's a social and economic imperative. It means equal pay for equal work, paid parental leave policies for all, more equitable shouldering of caregiving responsibilities, and encouraging and supporting people with backgrounds and values that reflect the diverse constituencies in our communities to run for elected office.

We can do better and we must do better, because when we achieve gender parity, everyone wins.

—Mayor Sarah Neibart, Mendham Township



### Giving Back to the Community

Running for office was my way of giving back to my community. I truly believe that public service is community service, and that notion never left me during my campaign. Since being elected, my main priority has been to open up local government to meet residents where they are—more accountability, more

transparency, more accessibility.

A lot of work for my city is done by the hard work of volunteers, reinvigorating that investment was critical to me. The more people are involved—whether it's the commitment to serve on a commission or simply attending council meetings—the better we, as local officials, can represent their interests.

Serving as Mayor has been an incredible journey, one that wouldn't have been possible without the centuries of women fighting to make my political participation possible. I hope my run encourages other young women to jump into the ring and serve their communities.

—Mayor Julia Fahl, Lambertville



## Holistic Governing

As senior staff attorney at a non-profit, and as Deputy Mayor of the City of Asbury Park, I am fortunate to spend the majority of my time surrounded by smart, strong and compassionate women whom I admire.

And, I am proud to say that women in Asbury Park are politically active—making up a majority of

our City Council and Board of Education, as well as serving in the roles of City Manager and Superintendent of Schools.

It's with a vision of equality for women that we created the Asbury Park Women's Convention whose purpose is to get more young women involved in leadership roles. We're hopeful 2020 will bring a fresh wave of women both running for office

and moving the needle behind the scenes. In my experience, women bring a more holistic approach to problem solving—and I am firmly convinced that once we are represented equally in all aspects of public life, everyone will benefit.

—Deputy Mayor Amy Quinn, Asbury Park



## Challenging Peoples' Definitions

I find that people are often surprised to learn that I'm an elected official. For me, it makes holding elected office more meaningful, because I am challenging peoples' definition of what it means to be a politician.

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## There is space for you, and if there isn't, then make a space and be unapologetic about it.

Representation matters, and as a millennial woman of color, it is important that I show that there is a place for us in local government. I am proof that if you're willing to serve, that there is nothing stopping you, not your gender, not your race, or age. Don't let anything be a barrier to accessing and participating in democracy, and don't let anyone convince you otherwise. There is space for you, and if there isn't, then make a space and be unapologetic about it.

There have been generations of strong black and brown women in government before me who have been disrupters and I want to carry on their legacy while encouraging the next generation.

*–Councilwoman Crystal Pruitt,  
Franklin Township (Somerset)*

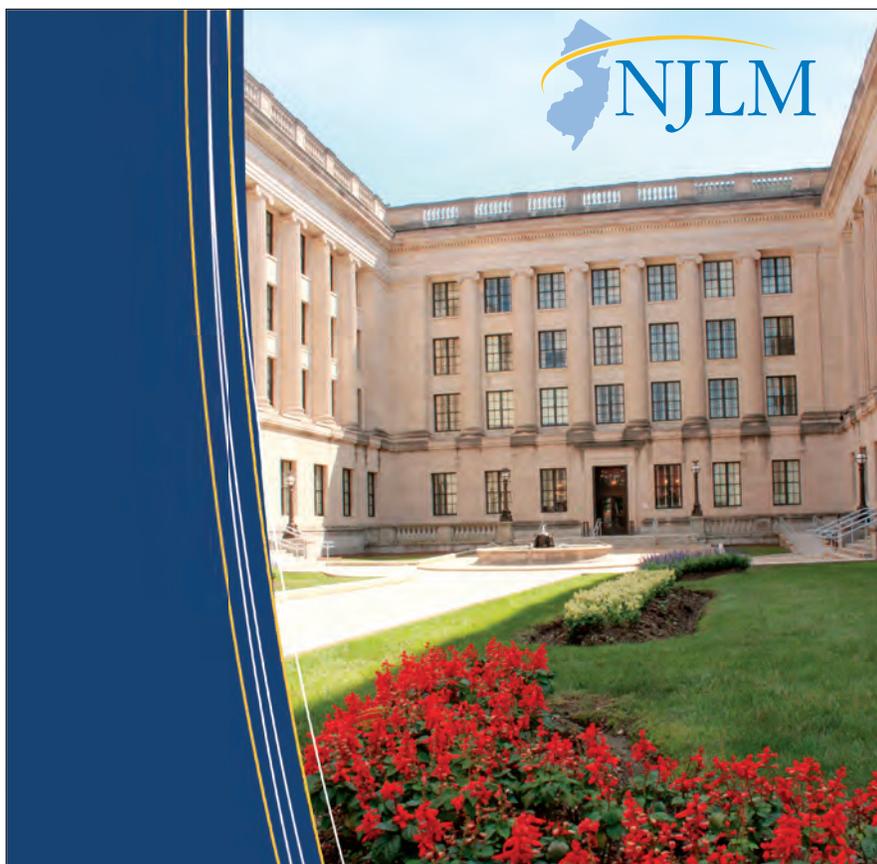


## Respecting the Disenfranchised

Being voted into office is an honor that comes with great responsibility and amazing insights. I've discovered that there is still a massive amount of change needed to make respect for women the norm in this environment.

The Women's Suffrage movement reminds me that organizing to improve rights and increase respect for those who are disenfranchised, will of course take time, but will undeniably happen if we do the necessary work.

*–Councilwoman Edina Brown, Old Bridge*



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## The Time Is Now

To affect change on wage equity, to maintain rights for women's reproductive choice, to propel more women into leadership, we as a community of women must embrace the mentorship and development of one another and cease in the dependency of others to champion our causes.

For those dreaming of service in an elected role, the blueprint is

before you and in America the time is now for girls to set themselves on a pathway to elected leadership. The beauty of local politics is that it will come down to human relationships.

I would ask any woman seeking office the following: Are you willing to put in the work to know your neighbors and to allow

## For those dreaming of service in an elected role, the blueprint is before you and in America the time is now for girls to set themselves on a pathway to elected leadership.

them to know you? Are you willing to share your struggle and embrace the struggle of others? Are you willing to fight the good fight often at the expense of time with your own family?

If so, become a part of the change: start volunteering at your local political office, make phone calls for causes you care for, knock on doors, hold house parties so your community can connect.

As women we must understand that the field is aligned differently based on the role we play. We didn't create the rules, but we can still change the game.

—Councilwoman Felisha Reyes-Morton, Camden City

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STRAIGHT AHEAD



**NJLM** New Jersey State League of Municipalities



Official Publication of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities

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# Plan to Celebrate Suffrage

## A calendar of events and exhibits

In a year of celebrations, New Jersey and its surrounding areas are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in many ways, from exhibits at local libraries (see the NJ Women Vote column page 64) to walks and rides that take the party outdoors.



### March

#### March 1-through 2020

Event: "Seat at the Table," interactive exhibit, part of the Women 100 celebration, presented by Drexel University's Vision 2020, Women 100.  
Location: Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia.

Contact: [www.women100.org](http://www.women100.org)

#### Through March 28

Event: Threading the Needle: Honoring Women's Activism with an Exhibit of Quilts that Celebrate the Suffrage Centennial.

Location: Lebanon Township Museum

Contact: [www.lebanontownship.net/services/museum.aspx](http://www.lebanontownship.net/services/museum.aspx)

#### March 11, 6-8 p.m.

Event: The Battle Over Women's Suffrage in Newark, Noelle Lorraine Williams and George Robb speak about the battle over women's suffrage in Newark. Sponsored by the Newark History Society and Newark Public Library.

Location: Newark Public Library

Contact: [www.newarkhistorysociety.org/news-events/](http://www.newarkhistorysociety.org/news-events/)

#### March 12 at 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Event: Lecture: Memory and the Woman Suffragists of New Jersey Dr. Ann D. Gordon will present "Memory and the Woman Suffragists of New Jersey" for the Historical Society of Princeton's Annual Meeting and Lecture.

Location: Nassau Club, Princeton

Contact: [www.princetonhistory.org/events/annual-meeting-and-lecture/](http://www.princetonhistory.org/events/annual-meeting-and-lecture/)

#### March 30, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Event: Historic Heroines and Trailblazers of Montclair. Stories and facts about notable women from the Montclair area. Free to members of the Montclair History Center; all others \$5.

Location: Montclair Public Library

Contact: [www.discovernjhistory.org/event/historic-heroines-and-trailblazers-of-montclair/](http://www.discovernjhistory.org/event/historic-heroines-and-trailblazers-of-montclair/)

### April

#### April 6, 4-5 p.m.

Event: Hear My Voice: Fighting for Women's Right to Vote, a multi-media program from Living Voices tells the story of the women's suffrage movement and suffragist Alice Paul through the eyes of a young activist.

Location: History Society of Princeton at Updike Farmstead.

Contact: [www.princetonhistory.org/events/hear-my-voice-fighting-for-womens-right-to-vote/](http://www.princetonhistory.org/events/hear-my-voice-fighting-for-womens-right-to-vote/)

### May

#### May 10, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Event: Women on Wheels: How Women Found Freedom Through Bicycling. Professor Ellen Gruber Garvey, New Jersey City University, discusses how when women and girls first rode bicycles in large numbers, they celebrated their new freedom to move around in the world.

Location: Hoboken Historical Museum

Contact: [www.hobokenmuseum.org](http://www.hobokenmuseum.org)

#### May 15

Event: Suffrage Bicycle Slow Roll sponsored by the NJ Historic Trust

Location: Historic Smithville Park in Burlington County

Contact: [www.discovernjhistory.org](http://www.discovernjhistory.org)

#### May 16, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Event: In Her Footsteps: How Women Shaped Princeton Walking Tour. Wiebke Martens and Jennifer Jang, authors of Discovering Princeton, lead a tour dedicated to the contributions of women in the community. \$15

Location: Art@Bainbridge

Contact: [www.princetonhistory.org/events/in-her-footsteps-how-women-shaped-princeton-tour-4/](http://www.princetonhistory.org/events/in-her-footsteps-how-women-shaped-princeton-tour-4/)

For more information, visit:

<https://discovernjhistory.org/> and

[www.njwomensvote2020/njwomensvoteevents](http://www.njwomensvote2020/njwomensvoteevents)

### June

#### June 19-20

Event: SHE Leads Road Rally Trip from America's Birthplace to the Birthplace of Women's Rights  
Location: Overnight round trip from Philadelphia to Seneca Falls, NY, site of the first Women's Rights Convention. Drive or ride the bus.

Contact: [www.women100.org](http://www.women100.org)

### August

#### August 24, 6-8 p.m.

Event: A Night in Suffrage White. Pop-up fundraising dinner at Alice Paul Institute. \$20 per person

Location: Paulsdale, the Alice Paul Institute

Contact: [www.one.bidpal.net/nightinsuffragewhite/welcome](http://www.one.bidpal.net/nightinsuffragewhite/welcome)

#### August 26, 12 noon-1 p.m.

Event: Toast to Tenacity™ Join a tribute to Women's Equality Day with inspiring speakers, music and a salute to the suffragists whose tenacious efforts resulted in passage of the 19th Amendment.

Location: Independence Mall

Contact: [www.women100.org](http://www.women100.org)

#### August 27

Event: Women's Equality Day celebration co-organized by NJ Historical Commission with the NJ Division on Women.

Location: Trenton

Contact: [www.DiscoverNJHistory.org](http://www.DiscoverNJHistory.org)

### September

#### September 16

Event: Celebrating Women: Honoring Trailblazing Women Past and Present Event recognizing women who broke down barriers for themselves and others.

Location: Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Contact: [www.women100.org](http://www.women100.org)

#### September 26

Event: Recreated women's suffrage march supported by the Middlesex County Office of Arts and History and NJ Historical Commission

Location: New Brunswick

Contact: [www.DiscoverNJHistory.org](http://www.DiscoverNJHistory.org)



# Ratification Celebrations

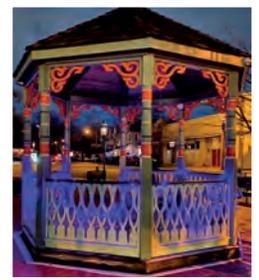
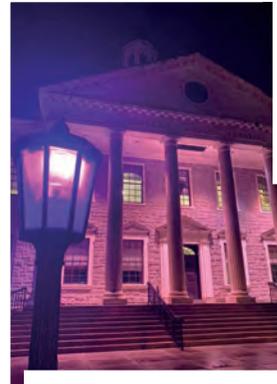
**A**round New Jersey, municipalities celebrated the day New Jersey ratified the 19th Amendment, February 9, 1920. From parties to re-enactments to purple and white suffrage colors lighting up municipal buildings around the state, women’s suffrage received civic salutes.

NJLM’s WIMG committee invited municipalities to light up their public spaces for at least the week of Feb. 10 in purple to celebrate the suffrage centennial.

In addition, NJLM’s WIMG committee requested that municipalities consider adopting a resolution celebrating the centennial. New Jersey was the 29th of the original 36 states to ratify the 19th Amendment, ensuring it became a law. New Jersey was also home to suffragists including Alice Paul, who founded the National Woman’s Party in 1916. Her Mt. Laurel home, Paulsdale, is a National Historic Landmark. 🍀



**1.** U.S. Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman spoke at a breakfast in Union County celebrating the centennial. **2.** NJ Secretary of State Tahesha Way addressed the 200-plus attendees to the centennial event. **3.** Attendees in front of the WIMG step and repeat. **4.** The breakfast, hosted by NJLM Past President Mayor Colleen Mahr of Fanwood and Elizabeth Councilwoman Patricia Perkins-August was held at Galloping Hill Golf Course on Feb. 8.



A sampling of the municipal buildings lit up for the celebration. Shown: East Windsor, Monmouth Beach, Township of Morris, Clinton Town, Mt. Olive, Madison, Middletown, Riverton, and Corbin City.



## What are the Conditions for Accepting Conditional Gifts?

FRANK MARSHALL, ESQ., NJLM Associate General Counsel



**A lifelong resident of our municipality and dog-lover wishes to give our town a sum of money to build a dog park, which we have been trying to fund for years. The bequest, however, is conditioned on using a specific contractor to perform certain work. Can we accept such a gift and if so must we follow the condition to use the specific contractor?**



**W**hat you have described is known as a “conditional gift”—meaning you are receiving the gift but there are strings attached. Conditional gifts are permitted and are actually pretty common in public and private business. Generally speaking, the conditions attached must be followed regardless of the entity or individual receiving the gift. Failure to follow the conditions of the gift can result in a revocation by the gift-giver.

As a threshold issue, yes, municipalities can accept bequests, legacies, and in this case, gifts. The authority for this can be found in the Local Fiscal Affairs Law (LFAL) at *N.J.S.A. 40A:5-29*. Further, the LFAL allows municipalities to utilize conditional gifts, however, such gifts or conditions may not be put to any use which is inconsistent with the laws of the State and of the United States.

In your municipality’s case there are two conditions placed on the funds. The first is that your municipality must use the funds to build a dog park. The second is that when building the dog park the municipality must use a specified contractor to perform certain work. The first condition does not raise as many questions or concerns as the second. Chief among those concerns is how the condition to hire a specific contractor would fair against the requirements of the Local Public Contract Law (LPCL).

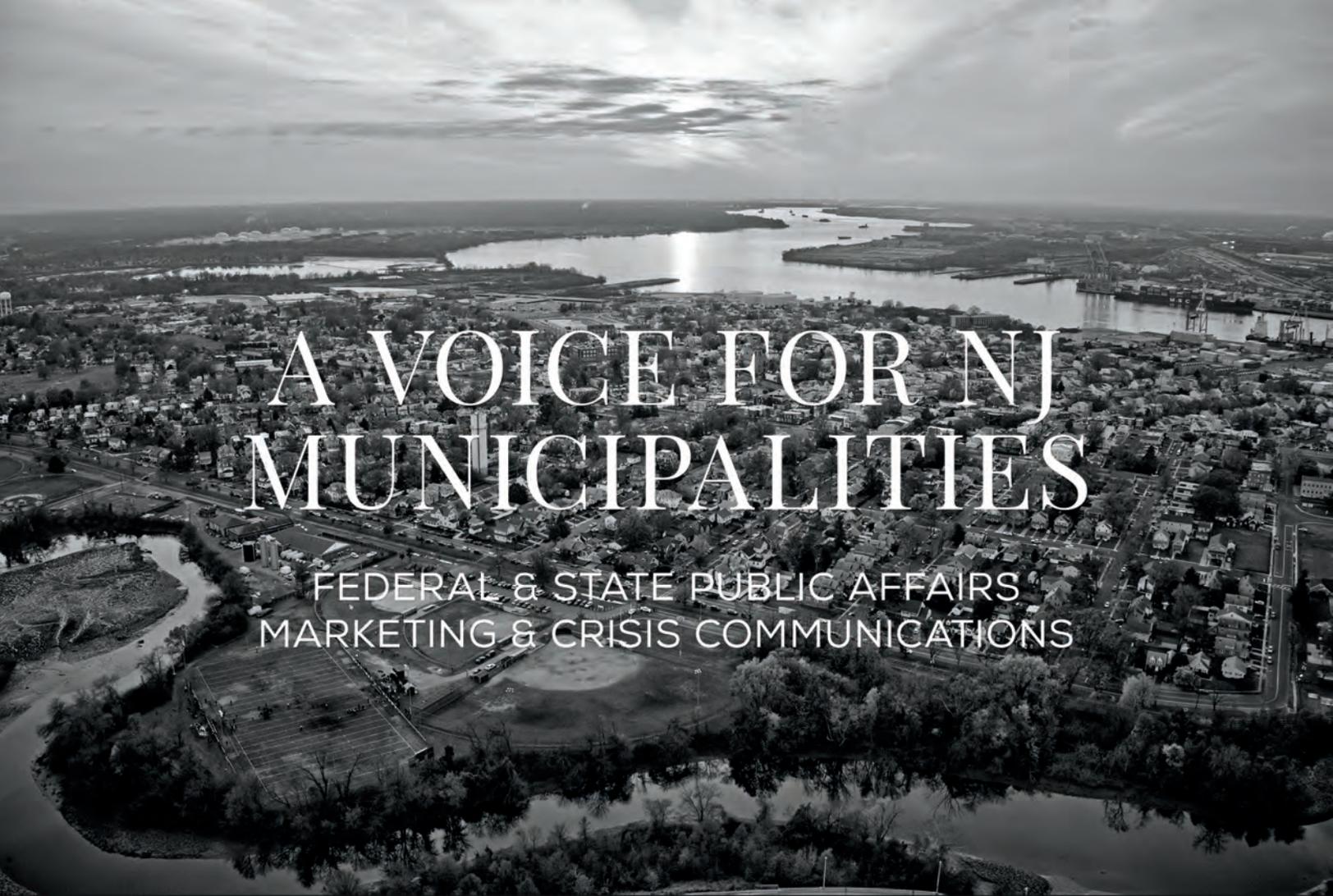
As you probably know, the LPCL governs all contracts for goods and services and requires public bidding take place. This would seemingly prohibit you from selecting a specific contractor to perform work to construct the dog park, despite the condition to do just that. Fortunately, however, you do not have to turn this generous gift down. This is because within the LPCL is a provision that specifically authorizes the payment for goods and services which utilize funds received by a municipality from a bequest, legacy or gift. *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-13.1* states that:

*Goods or services, the payment for which utilizes only funds received by a contracting unit from a bequest, legacy or gift, shall be subject to the provisions of [the LPCL], except that if such bequest, legacy or gift contains written instructions as to the specifications, manufacturer or vendor, or source of supply of the goods or services to be provided or performed, such instructions shall be honored, provided that the bequest, legacy or gift is used in a manner consistent with [the LFAL].*

Translated to English, this means that you can accept the conditional gift and you are permitted to avoid going out to bid as would otherwise be required under the LPCL if the gift’s condition requires a specific vendor or service provider. Unfortunately, however, our analysis does not stop there—as the LFAL only permits the condition to be followed so long as it is not inconsistent with other laws of the State or the U.S. This caveat requires careful consideration, and review of the contractor specified in the conditional gift.

For example, New Jersey law requires all contractors and subcontractors who bid on or engage in the performance of any construction related public works projects in New Jersey to register with the NJ Department of Labor. Additionally, only those who meet a host of other requirements can register. All contractors performing work for public entities must adhere to these, and a host of other laws. So, if the contractor that is to be used as conditioned by the gift does not meet these other requirements, then your municipality may not be able to accept this gift.

You will need to review the qualifications and the gift bequest carefully with your own municipal attorney. But, simply stated, if a gift is conditioned on the use of a specific contractor or supplier, and that contractor or supplier would not otherwise be eligible to act in this capacity had you gone out to bid, than it is likely you cannot accept the conditional gift. 🦋



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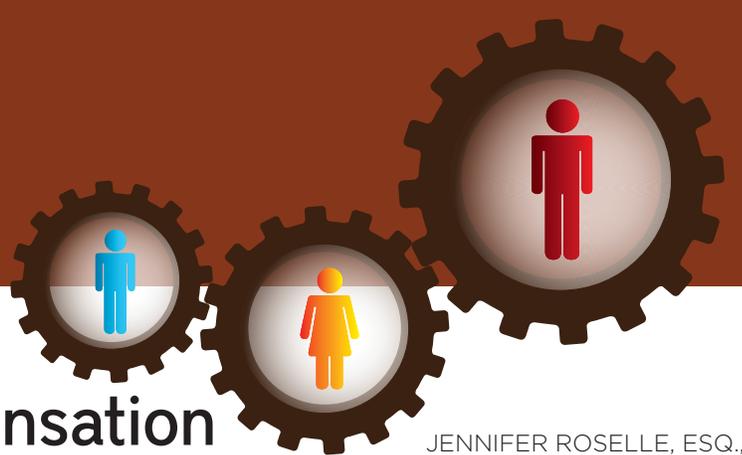
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# LABOR RELATIONS



## Court Clears Haze About Workers' Compensation Prescribed Medical Marijuana

JENNIFER ROSELLE, ESQ.,  
Genova Burns, LLC,

On January 13, 2020, the Appellate Division ruled that medical marijuana may provide a reasonable and necessary form of treatment in workers' compensation cases. In *Hager v. M&K Construction*, the Appellate Division affirmed a workers' compensation judge's order requiring M&K Construction Company (M&K) to reimburse the cost of medical marijuana prescribed to treat chronic pain stemming from a workplace accident.

### Facts

In 2001, the petitioner was injured when a delivery truck dumped its load of on concrete on him. The immediate effects of the injury were "shooting and stabbing pain," which led to diagnoses of disc herniation, stenosis, and disc bulging.

Over the next 15 years, the petitioner underwent multiple surgeries, physical therapy, and was prescribed various forms of pain management medication therapies, including Oxycontin, Oxycodone, Valium, and Lyrica. Seeking an alternative to opioids for pain management, the petitioner was finally referred to and accepted to the New Jersey Medical Marijuana program.

During trial before the workers' compensation judge, the petitioner detailed his suffering, including chronic pain that radiated throughout his legs and lower back. He also testified that his pain impacted his daily activities, including the inability to stand for more than 30 minutes. Moreover, the pain prevented him from working.

He explained that while the pain was not fully abated, use of medical marijuana "took the edge off the pain," relaxed muscles when they spasmed, allowed him to stop use of Oxycodone, and allowed him to sleep.

The workers' compensation judge ordered his former employer to pay for his medical marijuana and related costs. M&K appealed the ruling, claiming that the workers' compensation judges' order was unenforceable because:

1. Compliance with the New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act and the federal Controlled Substances Act is impossible.
2. Compliance with the order requires M&K to "aid and abet" the petitioner's possession of a controlled substance.
3. M&K should be treated "like a private insurer, which is not required...to cover the costs of medical marijuana.
4. The judge failed to consider whether medical marijuana is a "reasonable and necessary" treatment for the purposes of workers' compensation law.

### Appellate Division Analysis

In this first case involving New Jersey's medical marijuana law and its intersection with workers' compensation law, the

Appellate Division rejected each and every argument made by M&K relating to the appropriateness of medical marijuana as a valid treatment under workers' compensation law.

First, the Court found no "conflict preemption" based on impossibility of following state and federal law. The Court recognized that the federal prohibitions are for the possession, manufacture or distribution of marijuana.

However, it reasoned that compliance with federal and state law was not impossible because M&K was required only to pay for medical marijuana acquired by the petitioner, not acquire the drug itself. The court similarly rejected the contention that reimbursement after the petitioner's purchase required M&K to aid and abet a crime.

The court determined M&K "cannot aid and abet a completed crime" and it proffered no evidence to support its claimed concern over prosecution. The court further rejected M&K's argument that it should be treated as a private health provider and exempt from providing medical marijuana benefits.

Finally, the court wholly rejected M&K's arguments that medical marijuana was not reasonable and necessary treatment under the workers compensation law. In emphasizing the appropriateness of this treatment, the court cited:

- The petitioner's testimony about the extent of his pain.
- The medical evidence provided to reinforce his need for long term pain management.
- The medical evidence that opioids were more addictive than medical marijuana and carry a risk of death.
- The medical evidence that all prior treatments failed.
- His cessation of opioid reliance.

Ultimately, the court concluded that depriving the plaintiff of "the only relief from the constant pain he has experienced for almost 20 years would eviscerate the principles and goals" of the workers compensation laws and the New Jersey Medical Marijuana law.

### Bottom Line

The Court's decision highlights that "reasonable and necessary," for workers' compensation purposes is not just an injured individual's preferred method of treatment. Instead, "reasonable and necessary" assesses whether the treatment may "cure and relieve" the injured worker. In this case, the court reviewed the petitioner's nearly 20 years of chronic pain against all the other treatments (including surgery, physical therapy, and opioid treatment).

Each failed to deliver a cure or relief, but-for medical marijuana prescribed in accord with the New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act. To meet the goals of workers' compensation laws and the New Jersey Compassion Use Medical Marijuana Act, employer-reimbursed medical marijuana may be a "reasonable and necessary" treatment available under workers' compensation law. 

*The views expressed and the data presented by contributors are theirs and are not necessarily shared by the League.*

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# GOLD DOME

## On Legislative Redistricting and Democratic Infighting That Won't End



BEN DWORKIN, PH.D., *Director, Rowan University Institute for Public Policy & Citizenship (RIPPAC)*

In New Jersey, the state party organizations largely serve as holding companies for the much more powerful county parties. So it's not surprising that the Republican and Democratic state party chairs rarely make the top of various "Trenton power" lists.

However, that changes every 10 years when these two individuals get to select the members of New Jersey's redistricting commission that will draw the legislative map for the next decade.

The redistricting process works like this: The state's 40 legislative districts must be largely equal in population. Once the new decennial census numbers are in, New Jersey has to redraw the district lines to ensure that standard is met.

Unlike other states that allow the governor or legislative majorities to redraw the lines, New Jersey imposes a commission system under which each party is allowed five members. Thus, the process begins with the selection of the five Democratic and five Republican commissioners, and these all-important selections are done exclusively by each party's state chair.

When the two sides (inevitably) cannot agree, the chief justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court selects an independent 11th member to break the tie or broker a compromise.

The new boundaries for legislative districts can have massive implications both for individual political ambitions and state party control of the legislature.

Currently, the state's dominant party—the Democrats—is in the midst of a family feud between Governor Phil Murphy and his union and grassroots allies situated firmly in the party's left wing, and Senate President Steve Sweeney, who carries strong support in the Senate and within the South Jersey Democratic organization based in the state's seven southern-most counties.

In the recent fight for the state Democratic Party chairmanship, Gov. Murphy proposed re-electing incumbent Chairman John Currie, who also serves as Passaic County's Democratic chair.

Intra-party tensions, however, led many to question whether Currie would fairly serve the interests of southern New Jersey Democrats when making his selections to the redistricting commission.

This is why, in part, some Democrats pursued legislation that would expand the redistricting commission's membership, along with legislative leader influence on the selection of those new members. When it failed to find enough support, a number of party leaders from the south rallied around former Assemblyman and current Essex County Democratic Chair LeRoy Jones Jr. as an alternative candidate to Currie.

Such a challenge contrasted sharply with the traditional deference given to the Governor to select the state party chair, who, in effect, runs the political operation of the front office.

For a year, the two sides battled behind the scenes over the votes of 98 members of the Democratic State Committee who would make the final decision. Most of these voters deferred to the party leadership in their respective counties. Press reports kept a running total of which side was ahead.

With the surprise endorsement of Ocean County Chair Wyatt Earp in November, the Jones forces seemed to have the election in hand.

But in an even more surprising and sudden twist, Currie and Jones announced a compromise a few weeks later. Currie would be reelected chair for another term with Jones to succeed him in June 2021. The five Democratic spots on the redistricting commission would be divided: two seats to be selected by the Governor, one to be selected by the Governor with the advice of Jones and Essex County party leaders, and then one seat each chosen by Senate President Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin.

For the South Jersey forces who had backed Jones, the loss was offset somewhat by the seat dedicated to Sen. Sweeney's appointee. With one seat, any severe displeasure would allow a deal to be brokered with the five Republicans. The mere threat of such an action should encourage the Democratic team to find a unified position during their work within the larger commission.

But significantly, the final deal was cut without anyone from the South Jersey Democratic camp in the room. Indeed, in Jones's letter to supporters announcing the compromise, he refers to the establishment of "*a northern alliance.*" [Emphasis added.]

Sen. Sweeney's response was only that he was "really disappointed that LeRoy didn't sit down with people that all were working together before he decided to do this on his own."

For Gov. Murphy's team, it was one final victory in a year of successful political maneuvering. The Governor avoided losing face by keeping his choice as chair through the critical Democratic primary in 2021, when he will be seeking reelection. By having his wingman as head of the party, the Governor helps ensure that he has the upper hand in any primary challenge.

Further, just before the deal was announced, Jones endorsed Gov. Murphy's re-election. Shortly thereafter, Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo did as well. Given Newark Mayor Ras Baraka's already strong relationship with the Governor, these moves effectively block a primary battle from the south, either by Sen. Sweeney or someone else. There are so many Democratic voters in Essex that it's hard for anyone rallying the numerically inferior southern part of the state to win a statewide primary without it.

It's been a rough year for the vaunted South Jersey Democratic organization. George Norcross III, the businessman, philanthropist, and undisputed leader of the organization, along with allies like Sweeney, spent much of 2019 on their heels, facing a relentless attack of state investigations and grassroots pressure focused on their work in Camden with the Economic Development Authority's tax incentive program.

Then, in the November election, despite superior resources and favorable demographic shifts, South Jersey Democrats lost one senator and two members of the Assembly from their voting block, and were unable to expand their footprint in Legislative District 8, located in Burlington County, where incumbent GOP Assemblyman Ryan Peters and running-mate Jean Stanfield, the county sheriff, beat back a major Democratic push.

Piling on to these disappointments was the party-switch of Congressman Jeff Van Drew, whose campaign had

received millions of dollars in support from South Jersey Democrats but has now embraced the GOP, President Trump, and Trumpism completely.

We haven't seen cracks in the South Jersey Democratic organization's armor like this since it began to emerge in 1991.

For Gov. Murphy, now heading into the back half of his first term, the

resolution of the party chair fight, and especially the clandestine way it was done, was a significant win.

But it was also a skirmish within a larger war. And one should never count out Norcross, Sweeney, and their team. They are due for a big victory over the Governor, and 2020 may be the year it happens. 🦋

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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## State Government Must Restore Municipal Property Tax Relief

LORI BUCKELEW & JON R. MORAN, *NJLM Senior Legislative Analysts*; FRANK MARSHALL, *NJLM Associate General Counsel*

**F**or many reasons, local officials have been forced into a growing overreliance on regressive property taxes. New Jersey local officials make difficult choices to keep the lid on property taxes every year. But the underlying demand for local public services continues to increase, and the costs continue to rise with inflation and population growth. Without commensurate increases in relief funding, increases in property taxes are inevitable.

In addition to exercising exclusive power over tax policy, State-level legislators and administrators now control the flow of municipal property tax relief funding.

Over the last century, many taxes previously collected by municipal governments were either abolished or became state taxes. In most cases, when these changes were made, the state promised to reimburse municipalities either the amount they had been collecting or the amount that the state would collect. But that commitment has rarely been scrupulously honored.

Energy Tax and Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Aid (CMPTRA) represent “municipal property tax relief,” and not “State aid.” The Energy Tax Receipts Property Tax Relief program was created in 1997 to replace Public Utility Gross Receipts and Franchise Taxes. For decades that was the single-largest source of municipal property tax relief funding.

The Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief was created by the enactment of the State’s 1996 Fiscal Year Budget. The State decided to consolidate a number of previously discrete municipal property tax relief programs. Many of those parts were, like energy taxes, the descendants of taxes once assessed and collected at the municipal level.

The Energy Tax and CMPTRA are, or were, municipal revenue replacement programs. They are not, properly speaking, State aid. They were not meant to make things better for municipal property taxpayers. They were only intended to keep things from getting worse.

And things did get worse when the State slashed funding in the years after the 2008 financial collapse.

About \$331 million has been diverted annually since 2010. Instead of benefitting local property taxpayers, that money has addressed State-level needs. Slight funding increases in recent years is largely attributable to the State’s shifting some municipal funding from the Extraordinary Aid program to CMPTRA.

It isn’t additional relief. It’s the same funding in a different State budget line-item. And for the vast majority of municipalities, it isn’t relief at all.

Local governments do whatever they can to keep down the costs of public services. No municipal official wants to raise taxes. They pay property taxes, too! They also want to remain in the public’s service beyond the next election. They are accessible and responsive to their fellow citizens.

**Over the last century, many taxes previously collected by municipal governments were either abolished or became state taxes.**

Voters are well aware of that fact. Local budgets are subject to intense public scrutiny. Inflation alone can force municipalities to spend more just to maintain current service levels.

The state needs to recognize these facts and begin to do what it can to reduce the property tax burden in New Jersey, while allowing local governments to continue to provide the first-class services that New Jerseyans deserve.

Policymakers in Trenton need to recognize the fact that there is a connection between property tax relief funding and property tax relief. New Jersey local governments need significant, dependable, sustainable sources of revenue, other than property taxes.

We need to move away from our overreliance on excessive, regressive property taxes. Only action at the policy-making State level can make that a reality. The time has come for State policy makers to recognize how funding cuts and inflation and population growth impact New Jersey’s overreliance on property taxes.

New Jersey State government needs to restore municipal property tax relief. 🦋

**Sources:** DCA DLGS (for property tax and ETR/CMPTRA figures); US Census Bureau (for population figures); US Department of Labor Inflation calculator (for inflationary adjustments).



## The Prevailing Wage Act and Your Public Works Projects

LORI BUCKELEW, *Senior Legislative Analyst*

**T**he Prevailing Wage Act requires that laborers, craftsmen, and apprentices employed on public works projects earn minimum rates of pay. When the Prevailing Wage Act was enacted in 1963, the Legislature declared that New Jersey's public policy was to:

“Establish a prevailing wage level for workmen engaged in public works in order to safeguard their efficiency and general wellbeing and to protect them as well as their employers from the effects of serious and unfair competition resulting from wage levels detrimental to efficiency and well-being.”

The prevailing wage rates are determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development based on craft or trade collective bargaining agreements. These rates vary by county and the type of work performed. They are conclusive for two years from the date issued unless superseded.

The Prevailing Wage Act impacts your public works projects. The law requires that contractors on a public work/construction projects above a certain threshold, that is lower than your bid threshold, pay prevailing wage rates.

The current prevailing wage threshold is \$16,263 for municipalities and \$2,000 for all other government entities. Once your public works project exceeds this threshold, your specifications for public works projects must include a request for prevailing wage determinations.

The threshold for municipalities adjusts on July 1 every five years while the \$2,000 threshold for all other government entities remains flat.

### What is Public Work?

The law defines “public work” to mean construction, reconstruction, demolition, alteration, or repair work, or maintenance work. This includes painting and decorating done under a contract and paid for in whole or in part out of the funds of a public body, except work performed under a rehabilitation program.

It also includes off-site workers who custom fabricate plumbing, heating, cooling, ventilation, or exhaust duct systems and mechanical insulation as part of a public works project. “Public work” is categorized as such, whether or not the work is paid for from public funds, if, at the time of the entering of the contract:

- Not less than 55% of the property or premises is leased by a public body or is subject to an agreement to be subsequently leased by the public body; and
- The portion of the property or premises that is leased or subject to an agreement to be subsequently leased by the public body measures more than 20,000 square feet.

Every contract in excess of the prevailing wage threshold must include the following:

1. A provision stating that the prevailing wage rate which can be paid to the workers employed in the performance of the contract.
2. A stipulation that such workers must be paid not less than the prevailing wage rate.
3. A provision permitting the public body to terminate the right to proceed with contract work if any of the contractor or any subcontractor's employees are found to have been paid a rate less than the required prevailing wage.

Please note that the contractor and their sureties are liable for any excess costs incurred by the public.

Public bodies can find out the prevailing wage rate from the Department of Labor for their location and the craft or trade needed. These amounts must be specified in project contracts. A contractor is not precluded from paying their workers more than the prevailing wage rate.

A public body cannot award a public works project contract to contractors or subcontractors currently listed on the prevailing wage debarment list for failure to pay prevailing wages. That list is available at [www.nj.gov/labor](http://www.nj.gov/labor).

Contractors on these jobs must keep accurate records showing the name, craft or trade, and actual hourly rate of wages paid to each worker employed on the project. These records must be preserved for two years from date of payment and be available for the inspection of the public body that awarded the contract.

They must also post the prevailing wage rates for each craft and classification, including the effective date, in a prominent and easily accessible place at the work site or at a place used by them to pay the workers their wages.

Before the public body makes a final payment on a public works project subject to prevailing wages, the Chief Financial Officer must receive a written statement from the contractor and subcontractor. The statement certifies the amounts due and owing to any and all workers for wages due on account of the public work and lists the employees' names and amount due.

Please note that a general contractor can still receive final payment even if the subcontractor failed to comply with the written statement. ❖

@ For more information, call the Department of Labor, Division of Wage and Hour Compliance at 609-292-2305 or visit [www.nj.gov/labor/wagehour/wagehour\\_index.html](http://www.nj.gov/labor/wagehour/wagehour_index.html).

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# Newark Library Celebrates Centennial with Radical Exhibit

NOELLE L. WILLIAMS, *Exhibit Curator, Newark Public Library*



All photos by Maxim Ryazansky. Exhibit Curators artist Noelle L. Williams gives NJ Secretary of State Tahesha Way a tour of the exhibit. Highlights from suffrage efforts and newer feminist pieces were on display.

**R**adical Women, an exhibit at Newark Public Library, commemorates the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which legally granted American women the right to vote. It illuminates the courage of New Jersey women who decided to challenge the social and legal restrictions on their lives. These women worked and fought for their rights and demanded visibility and justice for themselves and their communities.

Though not seen as radical today, the 19th and early 20th century women's rights movement exploded deeply held beliefs about women's proper roles within the home and in the wider community.

This exhibition shares more than 100 historical photos, ephemera and newspaper articles and artwork from five New Jersey based women artists. We hope that visitors will appreciate and

be inspired by the ways that women have spoken against censure, and demanded their rights despite discrimination and violence.

Newark Public Library has received a project grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State. 🇺🇸

@ For more information, visit <https://npl.org/radical-women-exhibition>

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