



Mayor Bill Chegwiddden,
League President

President's Note:

We are all proud of our towns, cities, boroughs, and villages, each outstanding and offering points of pride for residents and elected officials alike. This year I'd like to congratulate Long Hill for their Show Off Your City-winning photo of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge by resident Ed Zindel. Congratulations to Mayor and NJLM Executive Board Member Guy Piserchia and the staff of his recreation department who put together some great submissions. And thanks to all of the communities around the state who sent in their pictures for the contest.

The team at League HQ will share those images in the magazine, on the website, and on our social media channels.

I'd also like to thank those of you who are planning activities and promotions for Local Government Week 2024, April 7-13. Sharing the stories of what local government does builds relationships and pride in communities.

We all know that governing is more than highlighting the best parts of local living. It's also doing the hard work to keep property taxes down and ensure that local rights are ensured in Trenton. The League is a partner in these efforts and keeps an eye on the budget and legislation in the works.

This month please be mindful of budget hearings and make sure your voice is heard in Trenton. Reach out to your representatives in Trenton to ensure that municipal relief funding is added to the state budget. Municipalities are due these funds and it's critical to use your voice to ensure we receive what we are entitled to.

Action List: March

1. **Support OPRA Modernization.** Legislation that would modernize the Open Public Records Act ([A-4045/S-2930](#)) may be considered in April. Please continue to reach out to your [Senator and Assembly representatives](#) urging them to vote yes on these commonsense reforms and providing them with examples of how OPRA has impacted your municipality.
2. **Municipal Relief Funding:** Contact your state senator and representatives to demand that municipal relief funding is added to FY2025 budget. The Municipal Relief Fund, which was \$150 million in FY24, has been eliminated. The subtotal

for Municipal Aid decreases by 7.6%, from \$1.765 billion in FY 2024 to \$1.63 billion in FY2025, reflecting a reduction of \$134.3 million.

3. **[Comment on New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan](#)**. The draft 2024 New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan was recently released for public comment with the 60-day comment period ending on April 26, 2024. A virtual meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9. Provide written feedback via to the DEP via the form on [the DEP's comments page](#).
4. **Participate in FY2025 Budget Hearings**. Senate and Assembly budget hearings will be held throughout April. Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee departmental budget meetings will be held in Committee Room 4, 1st Floor, State House Annex, Trenton. The Assembly Budget Committee Meetings will be held in Committee Room 11, 4th Floor, State House Annex. For the full schedule, visit [the legislature's website](#).



5. **[Finalize Your Local Government Week](#)**

[Planning](#): The 2024 NJ Local Government Week will be held April 7-13. We invite you to join in with municipalities across the Garden State to engage citizens while celebrating the work of local government. Be sure to share your municipality's activities on social media, and don't forget to use the hashtag #NJLocalGovt. Visit the [NJ Local Government Week webpage](#).

League News: In Washington

League President, Wharton Mayor Bill Chegwiddden, along with Wharton Councilmember Vasquez and League staff attended the National League of Cities Congressional Cities Conference in Washington DC. Speakers at the conference included [President Joe Biden](#), historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, US Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, US Senator Tina Smith, Nebraska Congressmen Don Bacon, and California Congressman Salud Carbajal. The League delegation attended sessions about economic development, federal funding opportunities, and transportation. The conference ended with meetings on Capitol Hill with [Congressman Tom Kean](#), and the staff of Congresswoman Sherrill and Congressman Payne.



Congressman Tom Kean met with Wharton Councilmember Vasquez and NJLM President and



Executive Board Member and Newark Mayor Ras

US Department of
Transportation Secretary
Pete Buttigieg.

Wharton Mayor Bill
Chegwidden.

Baraka projected on screen
at NLC Meeting.

Legislative Highlights

Governor Murphy Signs TTF Bill. On Tuesday, March 26, Governor Murphy signed A-4011 into law reauthorizing the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) for five years. The TTF was set to expire at the end of this fiscal year.

Health Benefit Costs Likely to Increase. On Monday, March 25, State Treasurer Elizabeth Muoio delivered her testimony to the Assembly Budget Committee regarding the **State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 Budget.** Committee Chair Assemblywoman Pintor Marin raised a question about the rates for the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) in SFY2025, particularly noting the 20% rate increase observed in the SFY2023 Budget. Treasurer Muoio shared insights from the **midyear reports on SHBP,** which were distributed to legislative offices and the League. She emphasized the data's indication of a likely substantial rate hike in state health benefits for SFY2025. Division of Pensions and Benefits Director John Megariotis pointed out that current trends suggest a SHBP rate increase that could reach double digits.

Grant Center Spotlight

New Jersey Historic Trust Grants. For the 2024 grant round, the New Jersey Historic Trust revised each application for Historic Site Management, Heritage Tourism, Municipal, County, and Regional Planning, and Capital grants. For capital, all properties must be listed individually in the New Jersey or National Register of Historic Places or be a contributing resource to a New Jersey or National Register-listed historic district. Be sure to read the application thoroughly and refer to the Grant Guidelines as needed. For this grant round, special consideration will be given to grant proposals that address:

- 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution; (United States Semiquincentennial): Grant proposals that aim to promote New Jersey's role in the Revolutionary War are encouraged.
- Underrepresented Histories proposals: NJHT encourages applications demonstrating efforts and/or initiatives that consider and engage with underrepresented histories including, but not limited to, Black history, civil rights history, women's history, disability history, Indigenous history, Latinx history, LGBTQ+ history, or the history of any marginalized group.

Funding: \$500,000-\$750,000 in 2024 with a commitment to fund subsequent capital phases in the following years.

Application deadline: All applications and supporting documents must be received (not post-marked) by 4:00 p.m. on April 18, 2024. Applications received after 4:00 p.m. will not

be accepted. Once the application has been processed, the New Jersey Historic Trust will acknowledge its receipt.

Application links and more information: Visit the [New Jersey Historic Trust website](#) for links to the applications. Historic Site Management, Heritage Tourism, Municipal, County, and Regional Planning, and Capital grants each have their own application.

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

Learning Opportunities

[Wage and Hour Law Update](#). April 19, 9:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m. This webinar will examine the basic rules of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act and the New Jersey Wage and Hour Law, and what is compensable time. This includes on-call time, and proper calculation of hours worked. It will further examine what it means to be an exempt employee under these laws.

Attendees will be instructed on some of the most common wage and hour pitfalls that employers must be cognizant of and ways to avoid them.

The webinar will also focus on compensatory time for public employees in New Jersey and its applicability to civilian and public safety employees. How public employees in New Jersey accumulate sick and vacation time and the limits on carryover of time and payouts on retirement will also be discussed.

For more information or to register, visit the League's [education calendar](#).

Get to Know Your Executive Board



Mayor Steven Fulop

Mayor Steven Fulop, Jersey City

Mayor Steven Michael Fulop is the 49th and current Mayor of Jersey City. Under his leadership, Jersey City became the first city in the state, and the 6th city in the country, to ensure paid sick leave. Mayor Fulop has pioneered new ideas for helping prisoners re-enter society; he's passed legislation to protect small businesses and encouraged more to open shop; made Jersey City one of the greenest cities in the nation. He's undertaken sweeping public safety reform. And Mayor Fulop has led the city to record economic development that's benefited families of all income levels. All without raising taxes.

Mayor Fulop graduated from Binghamton University in 1999 and spent time abroad studying at Oxford University in the UK. After college, he joined Goldman Sachs, the

investment banking firm, working in Chicago and later in Manhattan and Jersey City. On the morning of September 11, 2001, Mayor Fulop was working in lower Manhattan when he saw the first plane strike the Twin Towers. A few weeks later, he joined the United States Marine Corps. Mayor Fulop's Reserve Unit deployed to Iraq in January 2003, where he served as part of the 6th Engineer Support Battalion. In 2006, Mayor Fulop completed his service to the Marine Corps Reserve with the rank of Corporal.

In 2005, Mayor Fulop was first elected to public office as the councilman representing downtown Jersey City. He served as a councilman for eight years before becoming Mayor.

Mayor Fulop and his wife, Jaclyn, are parents Jaxon and Stasha. The Mayor is an avid runner and triathlete. He ran the NYC Marathon in 2012, raising money for the Hudson County Child Abuse Prevention Center. He also competed in the Ironman Championship in NYC that year to raise money for veterans.

Mayor Anthony Fanucci, Vineland

Anthony R. Fanucci is serving his second term as Mayor of the City of Vineland, having been re-elected in November of 2020. He previously served one term as City Council President and is also a former two-term member of the Vineland Board of Education. He also serves on the New Jersey Conference of Mayors Board of Directors, and the Executive Board of the New Jersey League of Municipalities.



Mayor Anthony Fanucci

Mayor Fanucci owns and operates A.R. Fanucci Insurance and A.R. Fanucci Real Estate. He is a member of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, the National Association of Realtors, the Cumberland County Board of Realtors, the Greater Vineland Chamber of Commerce, and a former member of the United Way Foundation Board.

Mayor Fanucci has been honored in many capacities throughout his professional career. He is a Cultural Award recipient, a proud member of the St. Augustine Prep Hall Fame, and a winner of the Prep's prestigious Gregor Mendel Award; a recipient of the Spirit of Achievement Award from the Italian Cultural Foundation of South Jersey; a recipient of the Teach Anti-Bullying Community Award; a recipient of the Greater Vineland NAACP Unit 2115 Community Award; and is a Cumberland County Guidance Center Mental Health Distinguished Community Leader Award recipient.

Mayor Fanucci is generous with his time and talents. He volunteers as a mentor and career counselor to local students, supports local athletics through sponsorships and coaching, and is a very active alumnus of St. Augustine Prep.

Magazine Moment



NJ Municipalities magazine
April 2024 cover

The April issue of *NJ Municipalities*' highlights the winner and participants in the Show Off Your City 2024 Contest and features a focus section on the environment with items on flooding, reducing waste, solar power, and more.

Congratulations to Long Hill Township for Ed Zindel's photo of the Great Swamp, winner of this year's Show Off Your City contest! Notes Mayor Guy Piserchia, Long Hill; NJLM Executive Board Member: "It is a privilege and honor to serve as Mayor of Long Hill Township. Our many wonderful recreation programs in town create a foundation of outreach with our residents. Through this,

we are connected with talented residents like Ed Zindel who generously share their gifts with the community. We are blessed to have them adding to the fabric of our Township."

Read the full story by [subscribing to *NJ Municipalities*](#) today.

Want to support the League's official publication?

If your municipality has recently used a vendor and feel that their services would benefit other municipalities, [email Tasneem Kapadia](#), Advertising Manager, with their details so she can send them information about the League's magazine. Advertising in *NJ Municipalities* magazine promotes their services and could benefit other towns.

And please consider writing an article for the magazine. We're committed to sharing your success stories and concerns in the form of articles and op-eds for the publication. See the [author's guidelines](#) for more information, or [email Managing Editor Amy Spiezio](#). We're now seeking submissions for the June issue (due April 15).

Are you and your team [subscribing to *NJ Municipalities*](#)? Inspire your local government work by reading and building a library of the League's magazine in print or online.

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