



Mayor Bill Chegwidden,
League President

President's Note:

Summer is here, and the work of local government continues—we're all navigating elements and issues to keep residents safe and programs moving forward. This month, filled with summer recreation programs, 4th of July Celebrations, and more, gives us time to get out and meet our neighbors and appreciate the beauty of our municipalities.

In Trenton, we send out our appreciation for all of your responses and outreach to your state representatives to ensure municipalities received their due in the SFY2024 Budget, which was signed by Governor Phil Murphy on June 28. While the results weren't perfect, our efforts were acknowledged and reflected in some portions of the funding plan.

The League continues to prepare for the Annual Conference. The exhibit space is nearly sold out, session plans are in the works, and hotel blocks are open. Book soon to ensure you get the space you prefer. Add a reminder to your calendar that Conference Registration opens on August 1 with Early Bird Pricing.

The Annual Conference is an ideal way to connect with your peers, get and share great ideas, and inspire yourself and your team for the year to come.

I hope you enjoy a beautiful New Jersey summer from the mountains to the shore and everywhere in between!

Action List: July

1. **[Review MuniQal Health Benefit Plans](#)**. At the July 10 Rate Renewal meeting, the State Health Benefits Commission announced it is considering a 17.2% increase for the local government State Health Benefits Program, which is higher than the local

education School Education Health Benefits Plan (14.9%) and the state employee group State Health Benefits Program (11%). For more information on the proposed rate increases, see our recent [Daily Journal: SHBC Reviews Plan Year 2025 Rates](#).

2. [Register for Webinar Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness](#). DHCR's Office of Homelessness Prevention, in partnership with the Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) and the Department of Human Services (OHS), is planning a free webinar for municipalities on addressing unsheltered homelessness on July 23 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Advance registration is required.
3. [Lead Remediation and Abatement Program](#). As of July 22, 2024, any New Jersey 1-4-unit residential property built prior to December 31, 1977, must be tested for lead paint. If lead paint is found, landlords/owners are required to abate/remediate the unit for lead paint BEFORE it is rented or occupied by future tenants. The New Jersey Lead Remediation and Abatement Program (LRAP), administered by the NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA), is backed by a \$180 million federal government grant. Residents/tenants must meet low-to-moderate income qualifications for their county to apply for LRAP and landlords not living in a program-eligible 1-4-unit residential property may only complete the LRAP application on behalf of household income-qualified tenants. [Learn more about LRAP](#).
4. [Book your rooms](#) for the 2024 Annual League Conference. The League's blocks are open with rooms in 11 hotels available, including Harrah's this year!
5. [Plan to Collect](#). Attendees are invited to donate non-perishable food items to the Community Foodbank of New Jersey again during the Annual Conference. A donation area will be located near the Conference registration area at the Atlantic City Convention Center. Most-needed items include canned protein, canned fruits and vegetables, and beans and rice. This is an opportunity to help the 650,000 people in New Jersey who are struggling with hunger by filling the empty plates of our neighbors.

League News: Annual Mini-Conference a Success, Legislative Committee Gathers, Chegwidden & DEP Meet



NJLM President
Chegwidden met with DEP

Assemblyman. Joseph
Danielsen and GRC
Executive Director Frank
Caruso spoke at Mini-
Conference sessions on
OPRA reforms

NJLM President Mayor Bill
Chegwidden of Wharton
addressed attendees at the
June League Legislative
Committee meeting,
providing legislative and
League-related updates.

Asst. Commissioner Dragon
and Commissioner
LaTourette.

Legislative Update

1. **SFY2025 Budget Signed.** The SFY2025 Budget Appropriations Bills, [A-4700/S-2025](#), were favorably released from both the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Assembly Budget Committee, respectively, on the evening of Wednesday, June 26, approved by both chambers on June 28, and signed by Governor Murphy the same day.
2. **Bills on Governor's Desk.** In addition to sending the Governor the SFY2025 budget, the legislature passed and sent to the Governor nearly 60 bills for his consideration.
3. **SCOTUS UP-holds Local Regulation of Camp-ing on Public Prop-erty.** The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) issued a decision (*Grants Pass v. Johnson*) in favor of preserving local control and upholding local ordinances regulating camping on public property.

Grant Center Spotlight

Federal EV Grant Program

The [Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program](#), designed to deploy electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and alternative fueling infrastructure, has opened.

Due Date

August 28, 2024.

Details

Offered by [the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration \(FHWA\)](#), the program includes \$1.32 billion in funding for the current year and a total of \$2.5 billion over five years, the program aims to enhance EV and alternative fuel accessibility in underserved communities. Eligible applicants include state and local governments. The grant opportunity offers up to 80% federal cost-sharing,

Applications

[CFI - Environment- FHWA Application](#)

Additional Information

[Federal Highway Administration's grant Program Page.](#)

Contact Information

CFIGrants@dot.gov

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

Get to Know Your Executive Board



Mayor Brad Cohen, East
Brunswick

Mayor Brad Cohen

East Brunswick Mayor Brad Cohen was elected to office in November of 2016 and joined the League's Executive Board in 2023. Mayor Cohen began his public career in 2010 when he was elected to the East Brunswick Board of Education. Working with his fellow Board members, he helped to navigate the schools through difficult economic times in the wake of the Great Recession and the draconian cuts in state aid. He was named Board President in 2014 and helped to select the new Superintendent of Schools. In 2016, Cohen was elected East Brunswick Mayor.

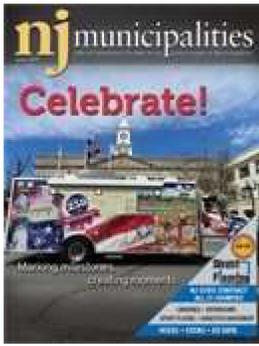
The Mayor established a Redevelopment Agency, helping stabilize municipal taxes, and has built community engagement. This has helped to fuel a record rise in recreation programs in the arts, athletics, and educational sectors.

A 30-year resident of East Brunswick, Mayor Cohen is a practicing gynecologist and is part of St. Peter's Physician Associates with an office in East Brunswick and Somerset. He lives with his wife, Penny--herself a Dermatologist in Somerset. He has two children, Rachel and Daniel, who are both graduates of the East Brunswick Public School System.

As a graduate of Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA, UMDNJ (now Rutgers) New Jersey Medical School and Rutgers Business School, the Mayor holds an MD and MBA degree. The mayor is an active member of Congregation B'nai Tikvah, North Brunswick, and East Brunswick Jewish Center in East Brunswick.

Magazine Moment

[The new NJ Municipalities Editorial Calendar \(PDF\)](#) is set. Haven't written for the magazine before? This is the perfect time to start. And if you've written for the magazine previously, welcome back. 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. Submit your queries, news items, op-eds, or articles for *NJ Municipalities* magazine to asRiezio@njlm.org.



NJ Municipalities magazine
June 2024 cover

We're now seeking submissions for our special digital Affordable Housing issue (due August 1), as well as the October (due August 12) and November (due September 15) issues. Please consider writing an article for the magazine.

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 KaRadia](mailto:Tasneem.KaRadia@njmlm.org), 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.

Subscribe today

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. [View a sample of the magazine.](#)

 Share on Facebook

 Share on Twitter

 Share via Email

Copyright 2024 NJLM. All Rights Reserved.
222 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

Powered by
 GMAIL SEND

If you no longer wish to receive emails from us, you may [Unsubscribe](#).

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in Your browser.](#)