



Mayor Bill Chegwidan,  
League President

## President's Note:

By the time you read this, there will be a fresh class of mayors considering their new roles, others of you will be planning a transition out of office, and many of you will be continuing to build your legacies as local government leaders.

Congratulations and thank you for your service.

The work of the mayor can be challenging but matched by the satisfaction of knowing you're making life better for your community.

It's been an honor serving as the League's President this year, a mayor amongst mayors, and I appreciate all the good work we've achieved. We've fought the good fight for OPRA reform, for sensible Affordable Housing plans, and so much more. Right now, we are encouraging you to reach out to your [Senator and Assemblymembers \[https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislative-roster\]](https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislative-roster) and urge revisions to Title 35 so local governments remain compliant with Public Notice laws and to meet their statutory obligation to select where public notices are published during the annual government reorganization in January.

I hope you're also looking forward to coming to Atlantic City November 19-21 to take advantage of opportunities to conduct League business, connect with new and current vendors face-to-face, and learn the latest hot topics at the 100+ Conference sessions. These experiences can be beneficial to new and veteran leaders alike.

Looking forward to meeting with you in Atlantic City!

## Action List: November

1. [Make your Annual Conference plans.](#) Start planning now for the 2024 Annual League Conference. This year there will be Roundtable meetings throughout the event offering local government officials an opportunity to discuss topics ranging from EVs and transportation, to pop-up events, local drone usage, and empowering communities. Also head to the Exhibit Hall Thursday morning to catch live tapings of the PBS program "Chat Box" with both parties' declared candidates for governor. Look for the news set next to the Mayors' Information Center
2. [Urge revisions to Title 35.](#) With the announcement of Advance Local, which owns NJ Advance Media and NJ.com, dissolving *The Jersey Journal*; ending daily print publication of *The Star Ledger*, *The Times of Trenton*, and *South Jersey Times*; and ending the *Hunterdon County Democrat's* weekly print edition early next year, there is an immediate crisis for local governments to comply with Title 35 of Revised Statutes at their January reorganization meetings. We encourage you to reach out to your [Senator and Assemblymembers](#) and urge the revision of Title 35 to include: "to

electronically publish legal notices on a newspaper's website or in a newspaper's digital publication.”

3. [Sign on to a letter](#) urging Congress to pass emergency disaster bill. The League's federal partner, the National League of Cities (NLC), in partnership with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Climate Mayors, and C40 Cities, is [inviting local elected officials](#) to join a [sign on letter](#) urging Congress to swiftly pass a comprehensive, clean, emergency disaster supplemental bill. The deadline to participate is November 13 at midnight. If you sign this letter, please send an email to Paul Penna at [ppenna@njlm.org](mailto:ppenna@njlm.org).
4. [Download the 2024 Conference app](#) before arriving in Atlantic City for the best experience and start planning your Annual Conference schedule. You will need to download the latest version, even if you downloaded that app last year. View the session schedule on the go, see a full exhibitor listing, create a personalized schedule, receive last-minute schedule change alerts, log in to message other attendees, or view the Consultants Listing and pre-schedule a meeting. Visit your app store to download.
5. [Download the free special digital edition of NJ Municipalities Magazine](#) focusing on Affordable Housing, now available.

## Legislative Highlights

### [Assembly Select Committee on Ballot Design Holds Organizational Meeting](#)

The Assembly Select Committee on Ballot Design held its organizational meeting and heard from New Jersey county clerks, election officials, and a national expert from the National Conference of State Legislators on ballot design and elections. For more information, please read the League's [Ballot Design Change blog post](#) [<https://www.njlm.org/Blog.aspx?IID=246>] from earlier this year.

### [Governor Signs Legislation to Stem SHBP Cash Flow Issue](#)

The Senate and the Assembly advanced amended identical legislation to manage an imminent Division of Pension cash flow challenges for the State Health Benefits - Local Government Employee Group that removed the interest component of the loan. Governor Murphy [signed the SHBP legislation](#) [<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562024/approved/20241030d.shtml>] on October 31, including a [Signing Statement related to Bill No. 3938 \(PDF\)](#) [<https://d31hzlhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20241030/60/5d/0f/ca/5f65fd520bdba9d85a54eaf8/S3838.pdf>] noting that issues with local government employees' health insurance are of concern finding solutions is necessary.

## Learning Opportunities

### [Records and Information Management for Municipal Clerks](#)

#### **Date & Time**

December 10, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

#### **Webinar Description**

This webinar will review Basic Records management that all New Jersey Clerks should know. The webinar will cover; Destruction of Public Records Act, PL 1953, c. 410/NJSA 47, Public Records Defined, OPRA & Records Management, Litigation Holds, Audits, Records Retention Schedules, Records

Disposal, Artemis - Basic Walk Through, Imaging Certification, Email, Internet and Social Media, Vital Records, Disaster Prevention and Recovery, Damaged Public Records Report Forms. CEUs: CMFO/CCFO-2.0 Off Mgmt; CTC-2.0 Gen/Sec; CPWM-2.0 Mgmt; RMC-2.0 Rec; QPA-2.0 Off Admin; CPA-2.0PD; RPPO/RPPS-2.0 M/S; CRP-2.0 classroom; NJCLE-2.4; PACLE 2.0\*; Planning Officials-2.0 Technical; Land Use-2.0 Technical; Zoning Officials-2.0 Technical.

### Registration

To register, download, fill out, and [return the registration form](#).

<https://www.njlm.org/DocumentCenter/View/11326/Records-Registration-Form?bidId=>

## Grant Spotlight

### Green Acres & Urban parks Grant Applications Now Available

Green Acres grants and loans will be available to local governments and nonprofits in 2025 for developing or updating parks and preserving open spaces. The initiative focuses on inclusive playgrounds and lowers loan interest rates to 0% for eligible projects.

This program aims to improve recreational facilities, support environmental justice, and enhance the quality of life in New Jersey. Those interested can attend the virtual application Q&A sessions on November 25 and December 18 from 10 -11 a.m.

### Details

Due Date: The application deadline is February 5, 2025

Application information: Visit the [Green Acres \[https://dep.nj.gov/greenacres/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery\]](https://dep.nj.gov/greenacres/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) website for more information.

*For more grant news, please visit the [League's Grant Resource Center \[http://www.njlm.org/grants\]](http://www.njlm.org/grants).*



## Magazine Moment

"Murals, sculptures, performances all contribute to civic pride and identity; I encourage every city and township in New Jersey to embrace the arts and artists within your community. We're thrilled to have installed our 100th mural as the Atlantic City

Arts Foundation and invite attendees to the annual League Conference to stop by and see "Always Dreaming, Always Growing" and any of the other spectacular murals around Atlantic City during your visit." *Atlantic City Public Arts Executive Director Michael Atkins from his article on page 6 of the November issue.*

We're now seeking submissions for our January (due November 14), and February (due December 15) issues. Please consider writing an article for the magazine. See the [author's guidelines \[https://www.njlm.org/804/Submit-Editorial\]](https://www.njlm.org/804/Submit-Editorial) for more information. Submit your queries, news items, op-eds, or articles for *NJ Municipalities* magazine [by email to Amy Spiezio \[mailto:aspiezio@njlm.org\]](mailto:aspiezio@njlm.org).

## [Download a free copy of the Affordable Housing issue!](#)



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If your municipality has recently used a vendor and feel that their services would benefit other municipalities, [email Tasneem Kapadia](mailto:tkapadia@njlm.org) [mailto:tkapadia@njlm.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.

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