



NJLM President Mayor
Paul Tomasko, Alpine

President's Note:

The following are the remarks made by Mayor Paul Tomasko upon his election to League President at the November 22 League Business Meeting in Atlantic City.

Good afternoon and it's a pleasure to stand before you as the next president of the New Jersey League of Municipalities. I'd like to thank, in particular, the people who have hung back or come here, as was the case of Senator Johnson to be a part of this. Our Borough clerk Stephanie Wehmann, the best borough clerk we've ever had, our CFO Judith Curran, and my other friends here who came or stayed in for this purpose.

For those of you that don't know me, this is my 26th year as mayor of Alpine, prior to which I was 6 years on the Alpine Council. I'm also on the planning board and have been on the environmental commission in my town.

Beyond Alpine. I'm a commissioner of the Palisades Interstate Park, Chairman of the MEL-JIF Board, which is the Municipal Excess Liabilities Joint Insurance Fund. They are the ones that handle the big claims statewide.

And for 10 years I have served on the League's Executive Board and on the League's Legislative Committee, which I believe, by the way, is a prerequisite for getting considered to join the Executive Board. It's great to be starting my term as League President at the conclusion of a conference where we exceeded all previous parameters. From attendees and exhibitors to programming, both educational as well as new sessions for collaboration.

I'll take a moment to acknowledge the new programs at this year's conference.

A municipal job fair where we partnered with colleges and universities throughout New Jersey, the DCA, and our affiliate groups so college students can learn from experts to see what career pathways in local government look like and how rewarding they can be.

Round Tables so Mayors and local elected officials can collaborate and discuss best practices about the issues facing our communities.

Free digital headshots—hope you all took advantage of this one for our elected officials and some others as well.

And lastly, because the next year is an important year for us, we heard from many of the **declared candidates for governor**. It was just this morning that we heard from six of the so-far 10 candidates. Of course, that's on top of the



dozens of sessions over three days at the convention center and throughout Atlantic City.

This success would not be possible without the tireless work of League staff, Bill (Mayor Chegwidden) has already acknowledged their efforts. I would like to do it again for emphasis. It's an unbelievable staff that pulls off this fantastic conference. From Mike and Lori to the conference team, the legislative team, bookkeeping, and everyone else, we are awed and thank you for this incredible effort. We are and you should be proud.

Bill, my buddy, mayor, and past president now, I thank you for your leadership and friendship. Let's recognize the outstanding job you've done during your term as president. The new conference programming I just referenced. OPRA reform-talk about accomplishing something major. We've been pressing for many years in this regard, and finally got some movement. Representing us multiple times in DC, Bill traveled there on his own time to do that. And modifications to the new affordable housing law. While we didn't achieve what we wanted with that legislation, the fourth round could have been much, much worse without Bill's constant engagement and coordination with Mayors in this room and around the state. Thank you, Bill.

As municipal officials, we continue to grapple with seemingly endless effects of ideas from Trenton that affect local communities. We need to continue to make our collective voices a strong force for better policies in Trenton and Washington. To convey our priorities to our state legislators, the governor, our members of Congress, and the federal administration, I will seek your advice counsel and suggestions. And I need you involved with us to make that happen. It's truly an honor to serve as the president of this wonderful organization.

And to the members of the League's Executive Committee, thank you for giving so freely of your limited time to participate in this organization, many of you are here today.

Working together, we are stronger, and the state is better for it. On to 2025, which by the way, is this organization's 110th anniversary year. Thank you!

Action List: December

1. [Drought Updates](#). Municipalities throughout the state are currently under a drought warning, issued by the DEP Commissioner in November. [Sign up for Water Supply, Drought State Email Updates at the NJDEP's website](#).
2. [Register for the Newly Elected, Reelected, and Experienced Municipal Officials Orientation](#). Fast paced and designed to quickly bring officials up to date on important municipal issues, these seminars will be held January 25 in Tinton Falls and February 1 in East Rutherford. They will provide a thorough overview of major areas of responsibility, key contacts at the State level, and important sources of information and assistance.
3. [Get to know NJ Code Blue Law](#). As the temperatures drop for the winter months, staying aware of Code Blue Alerts and options for those in need can save lives. To review activations and available centers, visit 211 New Jersey's [Code Blue Alert-NJ Warming Center page](#).
4. [Download the free special digital edition of NJ Municipalities Magazine](#) focusing on Affordable Housing, now available.



Left to right: 2nd VP Mayor Shelley Brindle; President Mayor Paul Tomasko, Immediate Past President Mayor William Chegwidden, and 1st Vice President Sean Elwell

League News: New Officers, Executive Board

On Thursday, November 21, 2024, New Jersey's mayors elected new officers and executive board members for the New Jersey State League of Municipalities. These public servants will help lead the Association that represents New Jersey's 564 municipal governments. They will represent the interests and needs of New Jersey's local elected officials to county, state and federal governments, the courts, and the media.

Mayor Paul Tomasko of Alpine was elected President of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities. Mayor Sean Elwell of Elsinboro was elected to the position of First Vice President, Mayor Shelley Brindle of Westfield and Mayor Guy Piserchia serve as Second and Third Vice Presidents, respectively.

Learn [more about these officers](http://www.njlm.org/ExecutiveBoard) [<http://www.njlm.org/ExecutiveBoard>] at the League's website.

In addition, this year the League has added four at-large Executive Board members, an option that was added to the bylaws at the 2023 business meeting to expand the board and ensure that it was representative of the state as a whole. The new officers and executive board members are:

2024-2025 League Officers

PAUL TOMASKO, President, Mayor, Alpine

SEAN ELWELL, 1st Vice President, Mayor, Elsinboro

SHELLEY BRINDLE, 2nd Vice President, Mayor, Westfield

GUY PISERCHIA, 3rd Vice President, Mayor, Long Hill

Executive Board

RAS BARAKA, Mayor, Newark

TOM BIANCO, Mayor, Clayton

MARY JANE CANOSE, Mayor, Bernardsville

WILLIAM CHEGWIDDEN, Mayor, Wharton; Immediate Past President, NJLM

BRAD COHEN, Mayor, East Brunswick

SHEENA COLLUM, Village President, South Orange

RUBY COTTON, Council Member, Paterson

WILLIAM CURTIS, Mayor, Bay Head

DAVID DeGIRALAMO, Mayor, Union Township (Hunterdon)

ANTHONY FANUCCI, Mayor, Vineland

ELSIE FOSTER, Mayor, Highland Park

STEVEN FULOP, Mayor, Jersey City

JOHN C. GLIDDEN JR., Mayor, Closter

DINA GRILO, Mayor, East Newark

BARBARA JUZAITIS, Councilwoman, Avalon

NICK KAPPATOS, Mayor, Runnemede

M. JAMES MALEY JR., Mayor, Collingswood

ADRIAN O. MAPP, Mayor, Plainfield

JEFFREY MARTIN, Mayor, Hamilton

JOHN PALLONE, Mayor, Long Branch

JANET W. TUCCI, Mayor, West Long Branch

ROSEMARY TUOHY, Mayor, Allamuchy Township

JACLYN VEASY, Mayor, Evesham

Learning Opportunities

Records and Information Management for Municipal Clerks

Date & Time

December 10, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Webinar Description

This webinar will review the 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 Records and Information Management for Municipal Clerks webinar registration form](#).

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

Grant Spotlight

Local Recreation Improvement Grant Program

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) is accepting applications for the competitive [Local Recreation Improvement Grant \(LRIG\) Program](#) [<https://www.nj.gov/dca/dlgs/programs/lriggrants.shtml>]. The FY 2025 state budget included a \$20 million allocation for the LRIG Program. The maximum award under the LRIG is \$100,000, however, awards can exceed the cap if warranted and depending upon program demand

Funds will assist with costs associated with improving and updating community centers, playgrounds, pools, fields, walking and bicycle trails, rail trails, multi-sport courts, and recreational facilities. The grant can also be used for project and equipment costs, as well as environmental remediation necessary to prepare recreation sites for use.

Grant Details

Due Date

New Jersey counties, municipalities, and school districts are eligible to apply and can submit their application through the [DCA SAGE](#) [<https://dcasage.intelligrants.com/portal.asp>] Portal by 5:00 p.m. on January 31, 2025.

Application Information

Applicants may email LRIG@dca.nj.gov [<mailto:LRIG@dca.nj.gov>] to discuss the program and project needs up to the submission of the application.

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



NJLM 1st VP Mayor Sean Elwell of Elsinboro writes about how his community is planting the seeds for the next generation of EMS workers.

Magazine Moment

Are you and your team [subscribing to NJ Municipalities](#)

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[<https://www.njlm.org/714/Magazine-Sample-Bookshelf>]

We're now seeking submissions for our February (due December 23), and February (due January 15) issues. Please consider writing an article for the magazine. See the [author's guidelines](#) [<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 \[mailto:amy.spiezio@njlm.org\]](mailto:amy.spiezio@njlm.org).

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

 **NJ
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2024 special
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