



NJLM President Mayor
Paul Tomasko, Alpine

President's Note:

Happy New Year to all continuing and incoming mayors. The League is a strong resource for you, regardless of whether you are just starting out in your mayoral role or are a long-time veteran.

This year, the League will be moving forward with a new General Counsel, Trishka Waterbury Cecil, who previously served as Deputy General Counsel to now General Counsel Emeritus Bill Kearns. We welcome Trishka to her new role and look forward to continued success with her in the future.

We will also pursue Legislative Priorities on important topics [<https://www.njlm.org/DocumentCenter/View/11495/NJM-Magazine-January-2025-Legislative-Priorities>], including affordable housing reform, restoration of municipal property tax relief, support of home rule, Open Public Records Act reforms, health care costs, Title 59 immunity, public notices, and increased deductibility of State and Local Taxes (SALT).

Are you ready to start 2025? Take advantage of the League's resources, including educational opportunities, such as the revamped Management Workshop Program for your professionals. For another team experience, sign up for the Orientation for Newly Elected, Reelected, and Experienced Municipal Officials [<https://www.njlm.org/calendar.aspx?CID=22>], which is conveniently held in both north and south of the state.

Be sure to keep in touch with the League about issues of concern. We have a powerful opportunity to ensure that our residents' interests are represented on the state level through this organization.

Action List: January

1. [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.
2. [Enter the Show Off Your City Photo Contest](#). Municipalities are invited to send us photos of their tourist attractions, downtown areas, economic development initiatives, parks, city halls, community groups, and new projects. The winning photo will be featured on the cover of the April issue of *NJ Municipalities*, posted on the [League's Facebook page](#), website, and other League materials.
3. [Sign up for Drought Updates](#). Municipalities throughout the state are currently under a drought warning, issued by the DEP Commissioner in November.



4. [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.
5. [Download the free special digital edition of NJ Municipalities Magazine](#) focusing on Affordable Housing, now available.

Legislative Updates

On December 31, 2024, Governor Murphy signed into law legislation addressing public notices (A-5151/S-3957) and rescheduling the June 2025 Primary Election Date (A-5152/S-3965). Both took effect immediately.

[\[https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/A5500/5151_R1.PDF\]](https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/A5500/5151_R1.PDF) **A-5151** [\[https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/A5500/5151_R1.PDF\]](https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/A5500/5151_R1.PDF) **S-3957** allows public bodies to continue using newspapers for required public notices and legal advertisements until March 1, 2025. The new law permits any newspaper used by a public body as the official newspaper from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, to still meet the definition of a newspaper under the law regardless of physical or digital format of the newspaper's publication from January 1, 2025, to March 1, 2025. The publication could be in print or electronic format. This temporary fix applies to all public notices including but not limited to meeting notices, solicitation of bids, and publication of ordinances.

The fee for publishing public notices cannot exceed the existing statutory rates. If electronic, newspapers cannot charge a fee or require registration to view the public or legal advertisements.

We thank the Governor, legislative leaders, and legislators for quickly passing a temporary fix. The NJ League of Municipalities joins the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) and New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) in supporting a permanent fix and looks forward to working with legislators and stakeholders on a long-term solution.

A-5152 [\[https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/A5500/5152_I1.PDF\]](https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/A5500/5152_I1.PDF) **S-3965** moves the June 2025 Primary Election date from June 3 to June 10 due to the observance of the Jewish holiday of Shavuot.

The new law also requires the Secretary of State to make all necessary adjustments to all deadlines required to be met ahead of the Primary Election and publish a calendar with the adjusted dates. The deadlines for nominating petitions, drawing for ballot position, and mail-in ballot mailing will remain as if the Primary Election was to be held on June 3, 2025.

The Secretary of State will also be required to provide all county clerks, county boards of elections, superintendents of elections, municipal clerks, and members of the public with notice of the change no later than January 7, 2025.

Learning Opportunities

Municipal Management Series

After the successful first series of Essentials of Municipal Management was presented in 2024, attendee feedback led to two major changes: consolidation of the Series into 16 workshops and more frequent presentations. As a result,

throughout 2025 there will be four Series held with four workshops within each series. The program titles are:

Essentials of Municipal Management Series

Provides an overview of the key aspects of managing a NJ municipality.

1. Financial and Personnel Management
2. Organizational Management
3. Council and Community Relations
4. Insurance, Understanding the Audit, Ethics

Department and Workforce Management Series

Provides a continuation of key aspects of management, focused on labor management, the most expensive parts of local government.

1. Negotiating and Contract Construction
2. Health Insurance and Retirement Benefit Programs
3. Arbitration and Grievance Arbitration
4. Disciplinary Action

Human Relations (HR) Management Series

Provides the essential elements of the HR functions of an organization. This series is designed primarily for HR managers and administrators.

1. Health & Disability Management and Personnel Records
2. Payroll Management
3. FLSA and Paid Time Off Management
4. HR Labor Contract Management

Financial Management Series

Provides a unique opportunity for finance officers and administrators to learn together on the practical and technical aspects of managing the financial aspects of your organization. Participants get the perspective from both positions.

1. Developing a budget.
2. Reporting: State documents
3. Understanding the Annual Financial Statement (AFS)
4. Capital Planning and Infrastructure Improvements

Registration

The Essentials of Municipal Management Series starts on January 21 with the first two workshops, Financial and Personnel Management and Organizational Management. [Visit the Management Workshop online for more information and to register. \[http://www.njlm.org/ManagementSeries\].](http://www.njlm.org/ManagementSeries)

Meet Your Executive Board: Mayor Mary Jane Canose

Mayor Mary Jane Canose has been a resident of Bernardsville since 1972. Currently serving in her second term as the Mayor of Bernardsville, she has been instrumental in the Main Street Bernardsville revitalization initiative, serving as a board member.



Mayor Mary Jane
Canose

Mayor Canose was elected to the NJLM Executive Board at the League Business Meeting held November 21 in Atlantic City. She has served as a member of the Somerset County Complete Count Committee, is currently a member of the Somerset County Office on Aging and the Somerset Count Stigma Free Committee, and is a Board Member for the New Jersey Conference of Mayors.

Mayor Canose's professional career was in education administration. She served as the School Business Administrator and Board Secretary in Harding Township, and then for the Chester Board of Education until her retirement in 2015.

Beyond her official roles, Canose co-founded Bernardsville's annual holiday celebration and chaired two community-built playground projects. She founded the Bernardsville Outstanding Community Volunteer Awards Dinner, celebrating the spirit of volunteerism. She also served as a member of the Bernardsville Open Space Committee.

Mayor Canose is a recipient of several awards, including the Millicent Fenwick Civic Award, the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials Distinguished Service Award, Bernardsville Outstanding Community Service Award, the Boy Scouts of America Outstanding Woman Award, the NJLM Municipal Pioneer Award, and the NJLM Outstanding Women in Municipal Government Award.



NJLM President Paul Tomasko shares his thoughts on leading the League in 2025.

Magazine Moment

"Local officials are where the rubber meets the road. We know the problems, the priorities, and how to get things done. The ability to make a difference in an important and immediate way exists more here than at any other level of government." Mayor Paul Tomasko's Q&A ([read the full article \(PDF\)](#)).

[\[https://www.njlm.org/DocumentCenter/View/11489/NJM-January-2025-Sample\]](https://www.njlm.org/DocumentCenter/View/11489/NJM-January-2025-Sample)

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We're now seeking submissions for our February (due January 15) and March (due February 15) issues. Please consider writing an article for the magazine. See the [author's guidelines](https://www.njlm.org/804/Submit-Editorial) [\[https://www.njlm.org/804/Submit-Editorial\]](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) [\[mailto:aspiezio@njlm.org\]](mailto:aspiezio@njlm.org).

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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) [\[mailto:tkapadia@njlm.org\]](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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