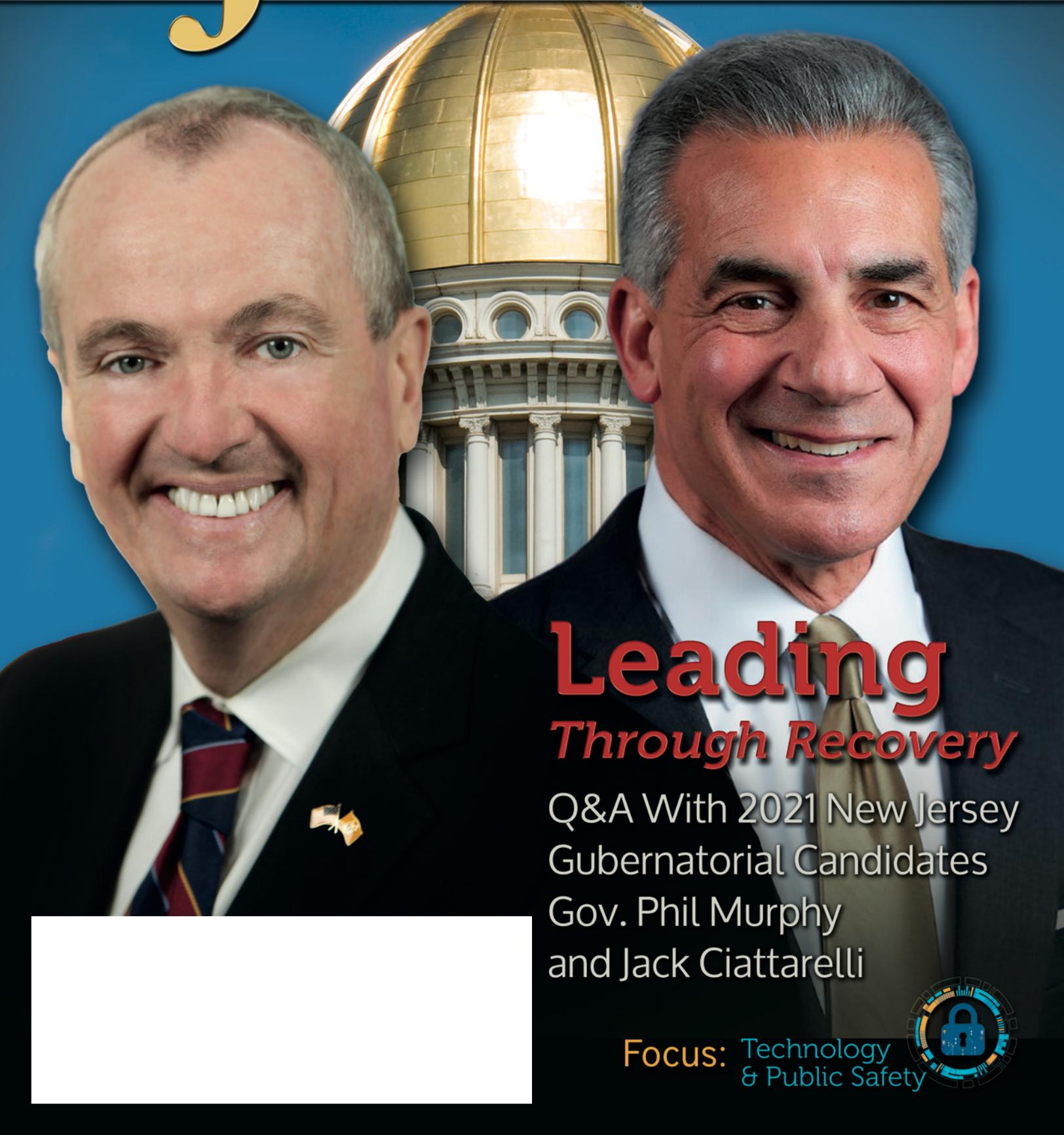


nj

October 2021

municipalities

Official Publication of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities



Leading Through Recovery

Q&A With 2021 New Jersey
Gubernatorial Candidates
Gov. Phil Murphy
and Jack Ciattarelli

Focus: Technology
& Public Safety



Creating Your Legacy

NJLM Conference • 106th Annual

November 16-18 • Atlantic City

#njleague



Back in AC!

Join us in person once again this year for the 106th Annual League Conference

16-18
NOVEMBER
2021

Atlantic City
Convention Center

REGISTRATION & HOUSING

Visit www.njlm.org/registration to attend the Conference.

Visit www.njlm.org/housing to reserve your room today.

The theme for this year's League Conference is **Creating Your Legacy**. As municipalities throughout the country have adapted to the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic, elected and appointed officials have been faced with tough decisions and unique opportunities to create programs that best meet the needs of residents.

From distance work and health department strain to philanthropic efforts and emotional support for those struggling, the new normal of local government will be discussed in sessions and with exhibitors in the exhibit hall. With the 106th League Conference, we will continue a long tradition within the safest and most effective parameters.

- EXHIBITS • NETWORKING EVENTS • SESSIONS
- LEAGUE BUSINESS MEETINGS

WELCOME BACK

This year the League is striving to create a diverse and expansive educational and exhibit program while maintaining high health and safety standards. The means increased time built into the schedule for room cleaning and setups. As a result, League and Affiliate sessions will be 75 minutes long broken up into four time blocks, leaving time to visit the 400+ exhibitors in the Exhibit Hall and safely experience the entire conference. The time blocks are:

- 9-10:15 a.m.
- 10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- 1:30-2:45 p.m.
- 3:30-4:45 p.m.

HEALTH & SAFETY

In accordance with the CDC, NJ Department of Health, and the Atlantic City Convention Center GBAC STAR certification protocols, the League is creating a plan to keep all conference participants healthy, safe, and comfortable. Each attendee plays a critical role in the success of this plan and we depend upon everyone to create a safe environment. The details will be posted online at www.njlm.org/conference and sent to each attendee.

The plan is subject to change depending on current recommendations and requirements in November.



New Jersey Municipalities Magazine

Volume 98 | Issue 7

EDITOR

Michael F. Cerra

MANAGING EDITOR

Amy Spiezio aspiezio@njlm.org

DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS, MARKETING, AND TECHNOLOGY

Taran B. Samhammer tsamhammer@njlm.org

ADVERTISING COORDINATOR

Tasneem Kapadia tkapadia@njlm.org

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Lori Buckelew

Benjamin Dworkin, Ph.D.

Andrew LaFevre

Frank Marshall, Esq.

Paul A. Penna

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Dawn Becan, White Eagle Printing Company

SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER

Thomas Fratticcioli tfratticcioli@njlm.org

Have an idea, project or opinion to share?

NJ Municipalities welcomes member articles, information, and op-eds. Contact Managing Editor Amy Spiezio or go to www.njlm.org/magazine.

Want to reach local decision makers?

NJ Municipalities can help you get your message out to New Jersey's 6,000+ municipal officials. Contact Advertising Coordinator Tasneem Kapadia or go to www.njlm.org/advertise.



@njleague



@nj_league



@New Jersey League of Municipalities



www.njlm.org/youtube

NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITIES (ISSN 0028-5846) is published monthly (except July, August and September) by the **New Jersey State League of Municipalities, 222 West State St., Trenton, NJ 08608. PHONE: 609-695-3481, FAX: 609-695-0151, WEBSITE: www.njlm.org, EMAIL: njm@njlm.org.** Periodicals postage paid at Trenton, NJ 08608. Postmaster send address changes to NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITIES, 222 West State St., Trenton, NJ 08608. Print subscription rates (nine months) \$30.00; League members \$25.00; foreign \$46.00. Single copies: League member officials, \$6.00; others, \$8.00; foreign, \$27.00. For additional subscription information visit njlm.org/subscriptions. Publication No. 380460.

NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITIES serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on municipal affairs for the public officials of New Jersey. The views expressed and the data presented by contributors and advertisers are theirs and are not shared by the League, unless specifically stated.

The New Jersey State League of Municipalities is dedicated to environmentally and socially responsible operations. We are proud to print this magazine on Sappi McCoy Gloss 100lb Text (cover) and Sappi Flo Gloss 70lb Text, industry leading environmentally responsible papers. The wood fiber used to make this paper is independently certified to come from responsibly managed forests. Proudly printed in the state of New Jersey, USA.



Officers



Janice Kovach
President
Mayor, Clinton Town



William J. Chegwidan
1st Vice President
Mayor, Wharton



Raymond S. Heck
2nd Vice President
Mayor, Millstone Borough



William Pikolycky
3rd Vice President
Mayor, Woodbine

Executive Board

Ras Baraka Mayor, Newark
Tom Bianco Mayor, Clayton
Gayle Brill Mittler Mayor, Highland Park
William Curtis Mayor, Bay Head
Sean Elwell Mayor, Elsinboro
Anthony Fanucci Mayor, Vineland
Steven Fulop Mayor, Jersey City
John C. Glidden, Jr. Mayor, Closter
Jeffrey Martin Mayor, Hamilton (Mercer)
John Pallone Mayor, Long Branch
Gary Passanante Mayor, Somerdale
Guy Pischerchia Mayor, Long Hill
Christine Quinn Mayor, Sparta
Marty Small, Sr. Mayor, Atlantic City
Sara Todisco Mayor, Garwood
Paul H. Tomasko Mayor, Alpine
Janet W. Tucci Mayor, West Long Branch
Michael Venezia Mayor, Bloomfield
Craig Wilkie Mayor, Florence

Executive Staff

Michael F. Cerra Executive Director
Lori Buckelew Assistant Executive Director
William J. Kearns, Jr., Esq. League General Counsel
Trishka Waterbury Cecil, Esq. League Deputy Counsel

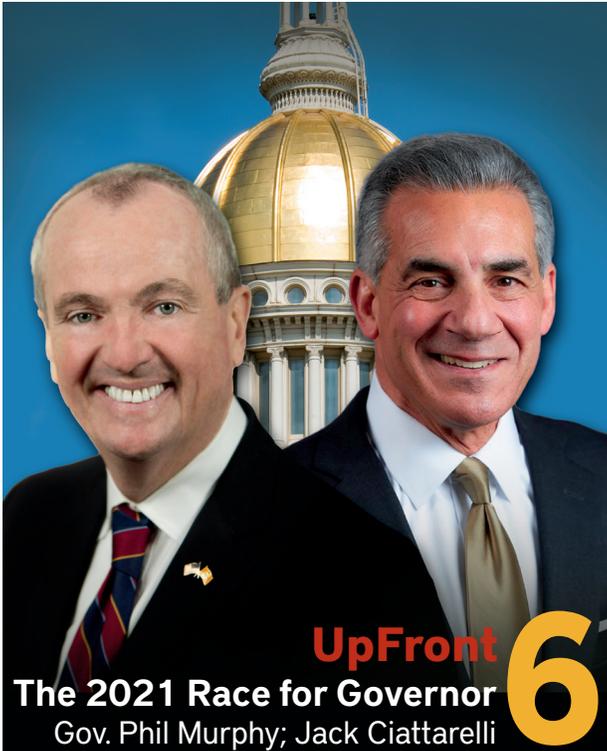
Focus:

Technology & Public Safety



njcontents

Volume 98 | Issue 7 October 2021



UpFront 6

The 2021 Race for Governor

Gov. Phil Murphy; Jack Ciattarelli

IN THIS ISSUE

- 4/** 222 West State
Michael F. Cerra
- 14/** NJ Now
- 18/** Washington Op-Ed
Donald Norcross
- 20/** Op-Ed
Donald Norcross
- 78/** Business Card Directory
- 80/** Local Governing / Supporters

DEPARTMENTS

- 70/** Legal Q&A
Frank Marshall, Esq.
- 72/** Labor Negotiations
Matthew U. Watkins
- 74/** Gold Dome
Ben Dworkin, Ph.D.
- 76/** Legislative Update
Lori Buckelew,
Frank Marshall, Esq.,
Paul A. Penna,
Andrew LaFevre

About the Cover

NEED COPY FOR THIS... A race for the 2021 Gubernatorial election is about to take center stage. Candidates Governor Phil Murphy (Democrat) and former Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli (Republican).

Features

22 Focus: Cyber Security Challenges

The considerations behind virtual work, law enforcement, ransomware, and insurance

Edward Cooney, MBA, Vice President and Account Executive, Conner Strong & Buckelew, and Underwriting Manager for the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund (MEL) and MEL Cyber Task Force

28 Focus: Leadership At Risk

Is your municipal technology under control?

Marc Pfeiffer, Assistant Director, Bloustein Local Government Research Center, Rutgers University

32 A Tribute to New Jersey and Clinton

The State and Town that Raised Me...

Janice Kovach, Mayor, Clinton Town; President, NJLM

36 15 Years

Mayors Wellness Campaign celebrates helping communities get healthy

Julie DeSimone, Program Officer - Mayors Wellness Campaign, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute

38 Mount Laurel

The 50-year success story on affordable housing

Linda A. Galella, Esq.

46 New Municipal Pathway for Community Health Engagement

Sustainable Jersey Health Gold Star Standard provides a roadmap

Randall Solomon, Executive Director, Sustainable Jersey

50 Meadowlands Comeback

Rebirth of NJ Travel and Tourism

Jim Kirkos, President and CEO, Meadowlands Chamber and MLCVB

54 How Local Government Played a Role During the Ongoing Pandemic

NJLM's 27th Annual Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders

Scholarship Competition Honorees Named

NJLM

22 NJLM Officers & Executive Board 2020-21

22 NJLM Education Foundation Officers & Trustees 2020-21

22 Conference Connections: Resolutions Update

22 106th Annual Conference Preview

Professionally Managed Rooftops for the Telecommunications Industry

Wireless mobility has never been more critical for businesses and consumers alike. As technology continues to advance the demand for rooftop infrastructure will continue to grow. For over three decades, Subcarrier has developed a distinguished and reliable reputation with building owners and managers creating a personalized representation with ownership. Subcarrier services building owners with engineering personnel, real estate and leasing specialists, along with construction managers, to achieve comprehensive solutions for the continued growth of wireless facilities.



The financial opportunities are significant, but so are your rooftop responsibilities. Subcarrier manages and mitigates those daily challenges. We are committed to maximizing the benefits our clients derive from a national platform powered by the innovative use of technology, turning our industry passion into highly effective rooftop solutions.

Our services include:

- Marketing
- Security Access Control
- Liability Mitigation
- OSHA Compliance
- Rooftop Equipment Audits
- Fair Market Lease Analysis
- Accounting
- Lease Agreement and Amendment Reviews



PRECISION · RELIABILITY · EFFICIENCY

Corporate Office: 139 White Oak Lane, Old Bridge, NJ 08857 Telephone: 732.607.2828

www.subcarrier.com
Subcom1@subcarrier.com



The Original Shared Services

When Tropical Storm Ida hit New Jersey, municipalities received the unwelcome visitors of flood and tornado. As the cleanup began, we mourned more than 27 New Jersey residents who lost their lives as a result of the brutal weather events. All of this happened while communities continued their struggles to get schools open, secure business operations, and fight resurgences of COVID-19.

Times like these beg the question: how much can we endure? And municipalities continually answer: whatever we must. Municipalities work together coordinating public works and public safety efforts through the very worst of times. Not only in their own towns, but sharing the burden and lending help in other towns when the need is present.

These original shared services have been ongoing, unspoken commitments of people, time, and resources between neighbors in need. From end to end of the state, police, fire, and emergency response departments along with other local government officials worked around the clock in their towns and beyond. DPWs removed fallen branches and managed bulk clean up pickups and dumpsters while fire departments helped pump out flooded basements. These heroes worked around the clock to get their own and other communities back on their feet.

Federal and state aid will be critical to recover from Ida's wrath. But we need to take a moment to acknowledge that it's the work of communities quietly and

powerfully banding together in the face of emergencies that makes getting through storms possible—not only in their own towns and cities, but also in neighboring communities or where most needed. Whether its sharing heavy equipment or recovery advice, the cooperation between municipalities helps keep us Jersey Strong.

In the face of all of these challenges, the campaign trail may be the furthest thing from the minds of most people in New Jersey. But it's a critical year as a gubernatorial race and full legislative election are on the horizon and drawing close. We spoke with both candidates for governor, incumbent Gov. Phil Murphy and former Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli about their thoughts on the issues that most impact local governments (see page 6). From emergency recovery to local funding, municipalities will continue doing their best in every situation, while hoping for the best from the Gold Dome.

This fall, we'll also have more information about the results of the 2020 Census. We look forward to hosting a session at the 106th Annual League Conference on the topic and you can expect to read more about it both in the pages of *NJ Municipalities* as well as the League website and legislative team communications. For more details on the NJLM Conference, please check out our preview on page 61 and if you haven't registered yet, please visit www.njlm.org/registration. 

Times like these beg the question: how much can we endure? And municipalities continually answer: whatever we must.

Michael Cerra

Linc-On 457(b) Power of Group Pricing*

No
HIDDEN
FEES

Linc-On

Linc-On

AVAILABLE
In NJ

Linc-On

ENHANCED
PRICING THRU
BUNDLING



*Call today.
Let's give you the power!*

By linking together with fellow municipalities, you can receive the benefit of an *enhanced pricing arrangement through our Linc-On Lincoln Alliance® Program.

Bruce Linger • Scott Davis • George Mouded
Lincoln Financial Advisors Corp.
201-556-4564 / Bruce.Linger@LFG.com



Mutual funds in the Lincoln Alliance® program are sold by prospectus. An investor should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses of the investment company before investing. The prospectus and, if available, the summary prospectus contain this and other important information and should be read carefully before investing or sending money. Investment values will fluctuate with changes in market conditions, so that upon withdrawal, your investment may be worth more or less than the amount originally invested. Prospectuses for any of the mutual funds in the Lincoln Alliance® program are available at 800-234-3500. Linc-On is the conversational name used for the Lincoln Alliance® Program. *The program is designed to offer competitive fees and broad selection of investment options.

Associates are registered representatives of Lincoln Financial Advisors. Securities and advisory services offered through Lincoln Financial Advisors Corp., a broker/dealer (Member SIPC) and registered investment advisor. Insurance offered through Lincoln affiliates and other fine companies. Lincoln Financial Group is the marketing name for Lincoln National Corporation and its affiliates. Lincoln Financial Advisors 61 South Paramus Road, Suite 425, Paramus, NJ 07652 201-556-4564. The Lincoln Alliance® program includes certain services provided by Lincoln Financial Advisors Corp. (LFA), a broker-dealer (member FINRA) and an affiliate of Lincoln Financial Group, 1300 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Unaffiliated broker-dealers also may provide services to customers. Lincoln Investment Advisors Corporation (LIAC) is the investment management organization of Lincoln Financial Group. CRN-3423590-012621

Leading Through Recovery

Q&A With 2021 New Jersey Gubernatorial Candidates Gov. Phil Murphy and Jack Ciattarelli

Pushing through the intense challenges of COVID-19 and Tropical Storm Ida recovery, a race for the 2021 Gubernatorial election is still about to take center stage. As the state works through a number of traditional concerns in tandem with the rigorous work demanded in ongoing emergency situations, local officials are looking to the leadership of the state for support. Candidates Governor Phil Murphy (Democrat) and former Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli (Republican) have provided their insights on prominent issues for municipalities in a series of questions from the NJLM Legislative team.



NJLM: The third round of regulation from the Council of Affordable Housing (COAH) will expire in 2025. As Governor your administration will be responsible for shaping the next round of affordable housing obligation. What is your plan for affordable housing? How will your Administration work with local governments to comply with the current court-imposed affordable housing obligations? What tools do you support that can be reinstated or created to help municipalities comply with their affordable housing obligations? Will you appoint individuals to COAH prior to the end of the current round?

Jack Ciattarelli: To address the affordable housing crisis and support, in particular, the needs of seniors, veterans, disabled persons, and young people, we need to enact a specific and reasonable approach to constructing low- and moderate-income housing consistent with smart growth, land preservation and other environmental initiatives. My administration will:

- Eliminate “builder’s remedy” lawsuits to protect towns from overdevelopment.
- Re-establish Regional Contribution Agreements (RCAs) to provide towns with more flexibility.
- Change the economics of low-income housing by eliminating or decreasing corresponding new market-rate housing construction.

- Identify specific and ideal location criteria, including local labor market, mass transit, and commercial needs to encourage smart growth.
- Reduce the demand for affordable housing by significantly increasing the supply, and thus provide families with safe and affordable places to live while moving away from the absurd and costly policy of town-by-town litigation.
- Appoint members to COAH who will work with municipalities to make realistic affordable housing decisions in their communities, and work to end the court-centered free-for-all in affordable housing determinations.

Gov. Phil Murphy: My administration is committed to strengthening New Jersey’s place in America as the best place to raise a family, and I believe that expanding access to safe and affordable housing is a critical part of building a stronger and fairer New Jersey that works for everyone. With the massive influx of people into New Jersey over the last few years, as evidenced by the recent Census count, I will continue to fight to ensure that New Jersey has the affordable housing infrastructure to support our growing population.

Over the past three-plus years, my administration has confronted the issue of affordable housing head-on, taking critical steps toward making housing more affordable and accessible for all New Jerseyans. We ended the previous administration’s diversion of funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund,

restoring \$60 million in annual funding to create stronger, fairer communities in which people can afford to live. We pursued a comprehensive strategy to invest resources to develop new affordable units and promote greater affordability.

I've also signed numerous pieces of legislation to address New Jersey's foreclosure crisis, including a sweeping bipartisan package and the landmark New Jersey Foreclosure Prevention Act. This legislation directed the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA) to provide pre-foreclosure counseling to help homeowners avoid potential foreclosure, and established public-private partnerships with nonprofits to undertake foreclosure interventions.

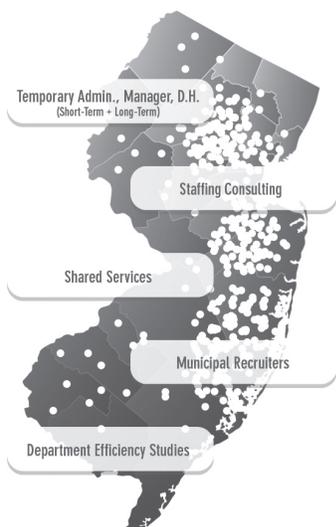
While the COVID-19 crisis created unprecedented challenges for families struggling to pay rent or mortgages, my administration took decisive action to protect New Jerseyans from losing their homes. I signed a sweeping executive order preventing the removal of individuals from their homes due to an eviction or a foreclosure proceeding during the COVID-19 crisis. We allocated \$91 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund and \$350 million in federal funds to provide relief for hundreds of thousands of New Jerseyans falling behind on rent.

Going forward, my administration will continue to make affordable and accessible housing a centerpiece of our agenda. In the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, we committed over \$200 million in new and expanded state investments to implement our comprehensive housing affordability strategy. This funding

will allow for the financing and construction of new affordable housing units; provide housing assistance for low-income New Jerseyans; work toward ending homelessness; expand mortgage and down payment assistance for low-income families and essential workers; and speed approval of new affordable housing units. In addition, New Jersey has received over \$2 billion in federal funds dedicated to assisting with our housing recovery during the COVID-19 crisis. As we continue our recovery from COVID-19, my administration will continue to invest in housing stability and affordability over the long term across New Jersey.

NJLM: Over the last century, many taxes that had been collected by local governments were either abolished or were collected by the State. In most cases, when these changes were made the State promised to reimburse municipalities either the amount they had been collecting or the amount that the State would collect. But historically that commitment was not always honored. Today, Energy Tax Receipts and Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief generally represent the largest non-property tax source of revenues for New Jersey municipalities. Do you support the restoration of funding to local governments diverted from the Energy Tax Receipts?

JC: I support restoration of energy tax receipts funding, but in the context of the reality of the situation. The state "skim"



Jersey Professional Management

5.0 ★★★★★ 8 reviews

Mayor John McCormac
Township of Woodbridge
★★★★★
JPM helped us hire two members of our Senior Management Team and handled everything tremendously.

Mayor Thomas Andes
Township of Denville
★★★★★
Dan and his team at JPM were instrumental in recruiting exactly the right person as our first Executive Director of our newly created Business Improvement District.

Mayor Fred Tagliarini
Township of Aberdeen
★★★★★
JPM provided an outstanding Temporary DPW Director, and completed an outstanding Efficiency Study of our DPW.

Mayor Beth Holtzman
City of Ventnor
★★★★★
Best decision we made; Maria Mento and Joe Verruni are very knowledgeable and always accessible.

Stephen Mountain
Manager, Township of Randolph
★★★★★
JPM was very responsive to our needs and utilized a process that was fair and organized. They helped us select the best professional for the position.

Mayor Richard Onderko
Borough of Manville
★★★★★
Best Municipal Government Advisors I've met in 10 years in elected office. Helped us recruit a fantastic Administrator. Thanks Dan and JPM.

George Jackson
Administrator, Borough of Eatontown
★★★★★
JPM's thorough recruitment and selection process led us to just the experienced professional we were looking for.

Mayor Dina Long
Borough of Sea Bright
★★★★★
One of the best decisions we made after Sandy was bringing experienced professionals from JPM onto our team. Joe Verruni and Debbie Smith provided the expertise and guidance we needed to navigate the recovery and rebuilding.

For more testimonials, visit jerseyprofessionalmgt.com/testimonials • 908-276-2777 • jpm@jerseyprofessionalmgt.com

Q&A with 2021 Gubernatorial Candidates

of energy tax receipts has persisted for years because governors and legislatures did not want to do the hard work of weaning the state budget off of “easy money.”

I will manage the huge surplus in the state budget, provided by federal aid and unnecessary state borrowing, over the years so that we can both pay our pension and other debts while returning energy tax receipts to local governments for property tax relief.

PM: We are committed to reducing diversions and gimmicks across the board. New Jersey has consistently been one of the leading states in calling for robust state and local aid as part of COVID relief, and that we were proud to see our efforts pay dividends under both the Trump administration with CARES Act and the Biden administration with American Rescue Plan.

NJLM: Recent policy decisions have resulted in a slew of laws and regulations being adopted that mandate municipalities take a bigger role in the planning, implementation, and enforcement of climate resiliency efforts. What will your administration do to assist local governments to comply with the state mandated resiliency planning and implementation requirements?

JC: As we all know, the state constitution requires state mandates upon local governments to be paid for by the state except in certain specific circumstances. In addition to any required state funding, my administration will provide any technical advice or assistance necessary to ensure that mandated state policy is implemented effectively and efficiently.

PM: Environmental and climate issues present an imminent threat to our state. Rising sea levels threaten the state’s coast, and across the state, communities of color suffer higher-than-average asthma rates due to a decades-old imposition of pollutants.

Over the last three-plus years, my administration has put forth one of the most aggressive environmental plans in the nation and has proudly taken steps to combat climate change for a stronger, fairer, and more sustainable future. We are making the fight against climate change a critical part of New Jersey’s economy by investing in people and communities, ensuring environmental justice for all, creating good-paying jobs, and leading the way in the global clean energy transition.

During my first term, we have laid the foundation for a greener New Jersey—propelling our state as a national leader in environmental issues after eight years of inaction. We will continue to build upon those achievements and work to ensure New Jersey is handling this critical and pressing issue with the urgency it requires.

To accomplish these goals, we will work closely with local governments as trusted partners. I was proud to create the State of New Jersey’s first Chief Resilience Officer to lead our Climate and Flood Resilience Program and work with the Interagency Council on Climate Resilience to develop a

Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy. A major component of the Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy will be to provide guidance and strategies for State agencies, municipalities, and regional planning agencies to implement resiliency measures in their own communities.

NJLM: Municipal governments are working closely with their respective business communities to rebound from the COVID pandemic. In particular, medium and smaller Main Streets are especially challenged. What is your economic development plan for main street businesses post pandemic?

JC: Having started and run two successful main street businesses, I understand firsthand what policies will revive our economy and make us more competitive with our regional neighbors, especially for our small businesses that were so badly impacted by the pandemic and government shutdowns. I will provide relief for businesses that pay either the income tax or the corporation business tax. I will provide tax relief for all businesses—small, medium, and large. As Governor, I will also create an open economy that will promote jobs, economic growth, and prosperity for our state.

- Reduce taxes for all income brackets by implementing a 0% rate for taxable income up to \$20,000, simplifying brackets to provide relief to the middle class, and lowering the uncompetitive top rate from the nation’s second-highest to out of the top 10.
- Index income tax rates and exemptions to account for inflation, which currently pushes many taxpayers into a higher bracket, imposing “hidden tax hikes” that disproportionately hurt the middle class.
- Create income tax credits or relocation bonuses for New Jersey residents who transfer their employment from New York to New Jersey, incentivizing workers, not companies.
- Provide a tax deduction for personally paid-for health insurance premiums and charitable contributions.
- Eliminate the capital gains tax on the sale of small “mom and pop” shops.
- Promote entrepreneurship and smarter redevelopment in urban areas through expansion of federal Opportunity Zones and other private investment.
- Make our state’s corporate tax, currently the highest in the nation, more competitive by substantially lowering the corporation business tax over five years.
- Offer businesses more flexible corporate governance rules by adopting Delaware’s business-friendly by-laws.
- Allow an earlier tax benefit through carrying forward capital losses to future tax years and accelerating depreciation of assets, with a 50% reduction over five years in 10% increments.

PM: Small businesses have always been the backbone of New Jersey's economy and the heartbeat of our communities. Jersey shops and restaurants—and the Main Streets many of them call home—were slammed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through my administration, we were able to deploy relief to help hard-hit small businesses get back on their feet and encourage new ones to grow. Starting in June 2020, my administration consistently promoted and supported the expansion of outdoor dining, and we expect that the demand for outdoor dining will be a permanent fixture in our communities, reshaping our downtowns.

Through the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, 63,000 small businesses received a lifesaving grant or loan as of June 2021. My administration's efforts helped launch several other initiatives during the pandemic, including the Small Business Lease Emergency Assistance Grant program that helped 1,000 businesses and commercial property owners stay afloat and the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Access program that supported some 9,000 businesses. My administration also made sure that small businesses didn't have to pay taxes on the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) assistance, and that the expenses paid with PPP funds are tax-deductible. These steps have helped businesses keep employees on the payroll, pay their bills, and keep their taxes down during this trying time.

My administration has also changed how New Jersey provides economic incentives to companies that want to call the Garden State home. Instead of a system that favors the biggest and wealthiest corporations, New Jersey now has a program that supports homegrown small businesses and creates good jobs in their communities. These reforms also guarantee that state funds only go to companies actually creating jobs—not ones that try to scam taxpayers.

I have proposed nearly \$759 million in grants, loans, and other tools over the next two years to help Main Street small businesses, especially as they recover from the pandemic, as well as a series of initiatives to expand access to capital for underserved communities across the state.

NJLM: As municipalities utilize COVID-19 pandemic federal relief funds over the next few years, please explain what resources you plan to make available to help municipalities spend these funds responsibly within the allowable parameters in a spirit of non-punitive partnership.

JC: The Department of Community Affairs, and in particular the Division of Local Government Services, should be providing the appropriate guidance and support to municipalities to ensure local officials understand the parameters placed on how the relief funds may be spent. If that is not

CGI powers innovation in New Jersey

As a government organization in New Jersey striving to innovate – doing more with less and delivering vital services – there's no better time to transform your business. CGI provides the expertise and insight to drive innovation and create value for all your stakeholders.

Leading government organizations turn to CGI because of our:

- Actionable insights
- Scalable ERP for the public sector
- Unparalleled track record of success
- Client community like no other

Learn more at cgi.com/advantage



Q&A with 2021 Gubernatorial Candidates

happening, it would be yet another failure of Governor Murphy in managing government effectively in addition to his handling of unemployment insurance, the Motor Vehicle Commission, state nursing homes for veterans, the Schools Development Authority, the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility, and more. As Governor, I will ensure local governments can rely on the state agencies tasked to assist them, in a partnership that helps local officials do their jobs well and protects the taxpayers. These one-time funds should not be used to create ongoing programs, but rather for one-time investments that will help local economies recover from Governor Murphy's job-killing policies.

PM: The COVID-19 pandemic federal relief funds is a once-in-a-generation investment in our state and local governments. It is of the utmost importance that municipalities spend these funds in ways that are not only responsible, but bring us closer to a stronger and fairer New Jersey for all. My administration will be there with them every step of the way as partners to spend these funds wisely and to complete the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, our Division of Local Government Services within the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs stands ready to work with municipalities to get this funding out the door.

NJLM: In anticipation that the additional federal funds due to the pandemic that were available to states and municipalities will likely cease in the next few years, what is your long term infrastructure funding plan that addresses local roads, transit, as well as sewer and water pipes?

JC: Investment in infrastructure is an investment in good-paying jobs and our quality of life in New Jersey. As Governor, I will reform the way we maintain and improve infrastructure by working with legislators on both sides of the aisle in New Jersey, Washington, D.C., and our neighboring states to make New Jersey work again.

- Support the Gateway Project and work with our congressional delegation and the Biden Administration to ensure its funding in any new, federal infrastructure deal.
- Reduce costs by increasing "alternative delivery," such as public-private partnerships (P3s) and design-build programs, for big projects to better leverage private sector funding.
- Reform the state Department of Transportation so that it completes projects more quickly and efficiently, keeping our roads and bridges safe.
- Increase the amount of annual state aid to localities for road and bridge construction and repair.



WEST NEW YORK GOES SOLAR, TOUCHLESS



- 40 TOUCHLESS SOLAR POWERED BINS INSTALLED BY PCS
- COMPACTION RATIO 10:1 & FITS STANDARD 32G/64G WHEELIE BINS
- SMART TECHNOLOGY ALERT SYSTEM NOTIFIES TOWNSHIP WHEN BINS ARE FULL
- LESS PLASTIC BAGS, REDUCED TRAFFIC & CARBON FOOTPRINT, CLEANER STREETS, COLLECTION ON DEMAND
- MORE DURABLE THAN COMPETITOR BRANDS



PREMIER
Compaction Systems, LLC
264 Lackawanna Avenue
Woodland Park, NJ 07424
800-877-7475
WWW.PCS-GREEN.COM

GEM

POLARIS | COMMERCIAL



PRO XD

POLARIS | COMMERCIAL



SAFE



Get the job done in a street-legal LSV, with lower speeds than a truck and more safety features than a cart

SUSTAINABLE



Meet your organization's environmental goals without compromising productivity

COST-EFFICIENT



Optimize costs with less downtime and less vehicle maintenance, including no oil changes or costly gas refills

DURABILITY



Ensure your vehicle is designed to meet the demands of your jobsite

SERVICEABILITY



Simplifying maintenance allows you to keep your machine running longer and working hard for you

SAFETY



Work smarter with a vehicle designed with safety features required for the jobsite



EASTERN LIFT TRUCK CO. AND POLARIS

PROVIDING VEHICLE SOLUTIONS TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY, SUSTAINABILITY & YOUR BOTTOM LINE

- Multiple locations available to support your business
- Dedicated sales and service teams
- Mobile service capabilities
- GSA, Sourcwell and state contracting available

(800) 273-1307

- Work with bi-state agencies like the PANY/NJ to ensure we get our fair share of funding for projects like the Newark Airport terminal and additional trans-Hudson capacity.
- Secure long-overdue federal and state investment, combined with private sector investment where applicable, to finally relieve the traffic congestion on major roads, like the Garden State Parkway between exits 142 and 153, and Route 55.
- Dedicate every penny possible of NJ Transit's Transportation Trust Fund renewal monies to address emergent track repairs, which later may require reimbursement from Amtrak.
- End the practice of raiding NJ Transit's capital budget to cover daily operating expenses.

PM: Infrastructure investment is critical to New Jersey's future to ensure its reliability, resiliency, and sustainability. That's why we've worked on a bipartisan basis with the Biden Administration and GOP governors like Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson through the National Governors Association to advance the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021—to make a historic investment in our nation's bridges, roads, tunnels, broadband capabilities, and clean energy, among other priorities. We look forward to this legislation passing Congress and being signed into law by President Biden.

At the state level, restoring NJ Transit to its rightful place as a national model for safe, efficient, and customer-driven mass transit is at the core of my administration's vision for a stronger and fairer New Jersey. After eight years of chronic underfunding and mismanagement under the previous administration, the NJ Transit system we inherited was in a state of disrepair, facing significant challenges on every front. Over the course of my first term, we invested nearly \$1 billion into transforming NJ Transit into a 21st-century transportation agency that New Jersey's commuters deserve.

As New Jersey emerges from the pandemic and ridership levels increase, New Jersey commuters will use an NJ Transit that is safer and more reliable than ever before. Deadlines ignored by the previous administration for federally mandated train safety have been met, and we made sure 11 years' worth of work was completed in less than three. Working across the aisle, my administration secured nearly \$900 million in federal funds to replace the century-old Portal Bridge, which had previously caused the single biggest railway bottleneck on the East Coast.

My administration wants to create a transportation network for the next generation that is wholly different from the one we inherited. We proposed the largest infrastructure investment in the history of the state to ensure safer roads and bridges, and he will continue to work with partners on major infrastructure projects, like the expansion of the Port Authority Bus Terminal and the Gateway Program. These transformative investments will reap returns for the economy, improve quality of life, enhance safety, and create good-paying jobs.

Priorities

As Governor what will be the top three priorities for local government?

Jack Ciattarelli

My top three priorities for local government are:

1. Help them contain and lower property taxes;
2. Promote and incentivize shared services and other efficiencies; and
3. Enact a comprehensive urban agenda that unlocks our cities' economic potential and frees them from dependence on unsustainable state subsidies.

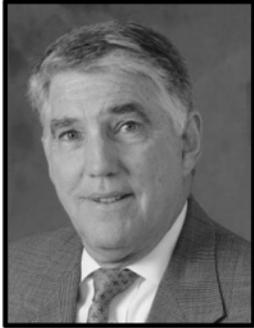
Phil Murphy

My three top priorities for local government are:

1. Recovering from the pandemic to ensure that every family, small business, and community has the opportunity to succeed in New Jersey. I especially want to ensure that the recovery addresses the centuries-old social and racial inequities that COVID-19 laid bare.
2. Building a stronger economic future for all New Jerseyans through investments in infrastructure, small businesses, and workforce development.
3. Working with our 565 municipalities to continue increasing funding for our public schools, decreasing the pressure on municipalities to raise property taxes.

My administration has also led the way in improving our sewer and water infrastructure. In 2019, we proposed a comprehensive, statewide plan to address lead exposure through increased investment, accountability and transparency, early detection and intervention, and workforce development. I am proud that New Jersey will become only the third state in the country to replace all lead service lines within 10 years. This policy is a revolutionary step forward in making New Jersey lead-free, and ensuring that all New Jerseyans have access to safe, clean drinking water. 🇯🇵

**PUT OUR EXTENSIVE MUNICIPAL LAW
AND EMPLOYMENT LAW EXPERIENCE
TO WORK FOR YOU**



Richard P. Cushing



Leslie A. Parikh



Matthew P. Lyons



Tara A. St. Angelo

-
- ❖ Representing public entities and public officials as municipal attorneys and special counsel in civil rights, discrimination, police, tax appeal, labor, land use and other complex municipal matters.
 - ❖ Extensive affordable housing experience, including numerous court-approved settlement agreements involving:
 - Redevelopment plans, rezoning and condemnation.
 - Judgments of compliance and repose.
 - Calculation & implementation of realistic obligations.
 - ❖ Management/employee training seminars & compliance updates covering:
 - Harassment & discrimination laws.
 - Diversity in the workplace.
 - ADA, FMLA and Equal Pay Act compliance.
 - ❖ Investigation of employee complaints & misconduct allegations.
-

Founded 1884

**GEBHARDT
& KIEFER**
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
L A W O F F I C E S

(908) 735-5161

1318 Route 31 North
Annandale, NJ 08801

www.gklegal.com

nj NOW

In Ida's Wake: Local Governments Leader Recovery, Seek Jersey Support



President Biden speaks with state, county, and local officials at the Somerset County Emergency Operations Center about Tropical Storm Ida recovery.

The impacts of Tropical Storm Ida were felt across New Jersey, with particular impacts in of a Tornado in Gloucester County in the south as well as large-scale flooding in counties in the north and western part of the state.



Mayor Lou Manzo, Senate President Steve Sweeney, and Assembly Leader Craig Coughlin join Gov. Murphy in tornado damaged Mullica Hill, part of Harrison.

Photo credits: Edwin J. Torres/NJ Governor's Office

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITIES

2. Publication Number: 3 8 0 4 6 0

3. Filing Date: 8-16-2021

4. Issue Frequency: MONTHLY EXCEPT JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 9

6. Annual Subscription Price: NON-MEMBER \$30.00 MEMBER \$25.00

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®): 222 WEST STATE ST. STE. 1 TRENTON, NJ 08608-1000

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): 222 WEST STATE ST. STE. 1 TRENTON, NJ 08608-1000

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):
 Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES, 222 WEST STATE ST. STE. 1, TRENTON, NJ 08608-1000, MERCER COUNTY
 Editor (Name and complete mailing address): MICHAEL CERRA, 222 WEST STATE ST. STE. 1, TRENTON, NJ 08608-1000, MERCER COUNTY
 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): AMY SPIEZIO, 222 WEST STATE ST. STE. 1, TRENTON, NJ 08608-1000, MERCER COUNTY

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box None

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4 (see instructions page 4)) PSN: 7530-01-000-9931 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

3. Publication Title		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below	
NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITIES		JUNE 2021	
5. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Not press run)		4944	4800
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	3972	3940
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	157	158
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	0	0
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		4129	4098
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	269	267
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	62	61
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	0	0
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))		331	328
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		4460	4426
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		484	374
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		4944	4800
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		92.57	92.58

If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies		
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)		

I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the OCTOBER 2021 issue of this publication. Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

[Signature] EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: 8-16-2021

After managing the worst of the emergencies, local leaders are now focusing on the recovery effort by reaching out to their communities as well as calling for the support of federal and state representatives. This has included showing the worst of the damage to officials from the county, state, and federal levels. 🇺🇸



Governor Murphy and Lambertville Mayor Julia Fahl tour the flooded areas of the borough.

@ For more information on recovery tools, the League has a Tropical Storm Ida page at www.njlm.org.



Senator Corey Booker, Somerset County Commissioner Director Shanel Y. Robinson, Elizabeth Mayor and NJLM Past President J. Christian Bollwage, Passaic Mayor Hector Loras, and other government officials meet with President Biden as part of his tour of the state's storm damage.



Hillsborough Mayor Shawn Lipani evaluates flood waters with Gov. Murphy.



Cleanup begins in Millburn



SAFE LIFE SECURITY CORP

IF YOU CAN IMAGINE IT, WE CAN SEE IT THROUGH FROM DESIGN TO INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE

Safe Life Security Corp has over 25 years of experience. We handle all Burglar & Fire alarms for Business, Apartment Complexes & Residential including Annual NFPA Testing

- Fire Alarms
- Burglar Alarms
- Surveillance
- Access Control
- Monitoring, Service
- Maintenance

High quality installation and service
Competitive pricing
Experience dealing with builders
Licensed and fully insured

Hazlet NJ 07730
License # 34FB00013900

1-800-SLS-CORP
732-845-9982

WWW.SAFELIFESecurity.COM
MAIL@SAFELIFESecurity.COM

League Mourns Passing of Former Executive Directory John E. "Jack" Trafford



John E. "Jack" Trafford, retired Executive Director of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, died at the age of 88 at his home after a long illness.

Trafford started at the League in 1958 and became Executive Director in 1980, taking over for Robert H. Fust. During his tenure, Trafford was active in the legislative analysis program, the Bureau of Municipal Information, and *NJ Municipalities* magazine, where he advanced through the ranks to Editor. Trafford retired in 1995, and was succeeded by Bill Dressel.

Trafford was a statesman and an artist. Experimenting and perfecting his photography work, his photos often graced the pages of the League's magazine and helped advance the design of the publication into the future.

His leadership work at the League in the 1980s and early 1990s tirelessly promoted New Jersey's municipalities, advocating for them with federal and state legislations and offices to ensure local governments got their fair share of revenues and striving to ease the burdens on local property taxpayers.

Under his guidance, the League began offering independent training and education programs to supplement its Annual Conference. He also worked with New Jersey's municipalities as they petitioned the legislature for tort reform and for the

authority to join together to insure against liability claims. Passage of the act opened the door for the Municipal Joint Insurance and Excess Liability Funds, which have provided an affordable option to traditional insurance arrangements.

"Jack's work for the League over the course of his career helped set policy that benefits municipalities to this day. Jack set a standard for his successors and sustained a legacy that continues to this day," said current NJLM Executive Director Michael Cerra. "We honor his memory and thank him for a lifetime's work well done."

Trafford is survived by his daughter Deborah Delutis (Pete) and son Gregory Trafford (Jamie), as well as Kyle and Jacob Delutis; Emma, Rosie, and James Trafford, all residents of Ewing, NJ. 

NJLM Events

October

October 22

Labor Negotiations and Other Issues Update Webinar—Your Computer

October 26

Diversity in Your Municipal Workplace Webinar—Your Computer

November

November 16-18

106th Annual League Conference
Atlantic City Convention Center,
Atlantic City

Visit www.njlm.org/seminars or contact Danielle Holland-Htut at dholland@njlm.org or 609-695-3481, Ext. 118.

timetrak
SYSTEMS
(888) 484-6387

Employee Time & Attendance Software

Booth # 804
NJ Contract # A41264

THERMAL TEMPERATURE DETECTION

FACIAL RECOGNITION - TOUCHLESS PUNCH

102.1°F
WARNING
PUNCH DENIED

10:32 AM
Friday, October 13

NORMAL
PUNCH ACCEPTED



IN STOCK AND READY FOR
IMMEDIATE DELIVERY!

POWER YOU CONTROL.

GENERATOR SALES. WARRANTY. INSTALLATION. MAINTENANCE. SERVICE. PARTS. RENTALS.

State of New Jersey Contract Holder

T2732: Maintenance/Repair and Replacement Services -
Portable Commercial Mobile Generator

T2871: Generac Trailer Mounted Generators
(Sizes 10kw-320kw) and accessories

G4014: Mobile Light Towers

GSA Contract Holder: GS-07F-179CA

Qualified Small Business

WARSHAUER

19  54

Electric Supply

info@warshauer.com • (732) 741-6400
www.warshauer.com

GENERAC

Building Back a Stronger New Jersey: Saving Lives & Livelihoods

Every town, school, community, and family has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March 2020, New Jerseyans have had to adjust their lives, many being put out of work and forced to make difficult decisions. Our municipalities have also faced difficult choices because the long-term economic impacts of the pandemic are unknown.

Throughout the pandemic, Congress has worked to pass legislation that invested billions into our businesses, hospitals, PPE, testing, and support for our families who were out of work. However, we needed to do more to support our local governments who have been on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19.

In March, that help finally came. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) has been the much-needed lifeline to New Jersey. More than just immediate relief, the ARP has set a clear path to build back better for all Americans and life beyond the pandemic.

The ARP has saved lives and livelihoods, providing a comprehensive plan to put shots in arms, money in pockets, children in schools, people in jobs, and support our local governments. As state and local governments were faced with the painful decision of potentially laying off essential workers, support from the ARP provided resources to keep firefighters, police, sanitation workers, and teachers on the job, invest in food banks and other nutrition assistance programs, and send direct payments to hard-working families.

Help also came for our local towns and municipalities in the form of direct, flexible aid to help cover increased costs and lost revenues due to the pandemic. New Jersey received an estimated \$10 billion, broken down to \$6.3 billion for the state, plus \$189 million for broadband, \$1.8 billion for all 21 county governments, and \$1.7 billion split among all 565 cities and municipalities so that all residents of New Jersey would benefit.

The best part for our local towns and municipalities—this is most flexible funding that has come to local governments throughout the pandemic. As we have learned as leaders, with

great opportunity comes great responsibly. These funds can be used by our state and local governments to cover COVID-related expenses; cover lost revenues due to the pandemic to maintain critical services and avoid layoffs of essential workers; provide additional assistance to residents and small businesses; and invest in broadband and our aging sewer and water infrastructure.

The ARP has saved lives and livelihoods, providing a comprehensive plan to put shots in arms, money in pockets, children in schools, people in jobs, and support our local governments.

As we continue to navigate through the pandemic, we have also been working diligently on providing our country and state a much-needed infrastructure bill that keeps New Jersey safe and on the move.

Thanks to the funding from the ARP, we've been able to make strides to turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery. On behalf of all New Jersey's towns and municipalities, I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and the Biden-Harris Administration to advocate for our local communities and working families. 🇯🇵

Congressman Norcross represents New Jersey's First District and is a member of the Committees on Education and Labor, Armed Services, and Science, Space, & Technology.



AT THE INTERSECTION OF LAW, GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS



Founded more than thirty years ago, Genova Burns LLC and our team of exceptional attorneys are rooted in the municipal fabric of New Jersey.

We are committed to providing our clients with representation at the highest standard of excellence. Our proven track record of success is based on our responsiveness and consistent expectation of distinction.

Genova Burns LLC values direct candor with our clients, the highest principles in judgment, and personal business integrity.

Newark, NJ 973.533.0777	Jersey City, NJ 201.469.0100	Tinton Falls, NJ 732.758.6595	Camden, NJ 856.968.0680	New York, NY 212.566.7188	Philadelphia, PA 215.564.0444
----------------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------------	----------------------------------

www.genovaburns.com

Genova Burns LLC • Attorneys-At-Law

Governors "We Value Our Veterans" Award

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has given me the honor and privilege of delivering this incredible initiative to all our New Jersey municipalities, our businesses, as well as Academia. A tremendous way to recognize our Veterans for their service. I thought it would be appropriate to reprint the following article on this prestigious award with permission from author Carl J. Asszony. Thank you to those who serve and to those who served.

New Jersey veterans deserve to know they're valued

There are more than 400,000 veterans residing in the 565 municipalities in New Jersey.

The mainstream media has given little attention to the fact that there is an award given to those municipalities, or corporations within the state, that show a high regard and respect for veterans—it is called the New Jersey Governor's "We Value Our Veterans" award.

A number of communities throughout the state have already been presented with the "We Value Our Veterans" award. Depending upon the number of municipalities receiving the award during a given year, some ceremonies were held at the state Vietnam Veterans Memorial site in Holmdel, while other award ceremonies took place in individual town halls.

To qualify for the award a community must reach a minimum of 145 points out of 190 initiatives or services listed on the award application form. Each action has a numeric value, as part of a point system, of 10, 15 or 20 points.

Some examples:

- Honoring and remembering POW/MIA Day and Gold Star Mother's Day, **10 points**
- List veteran-owned business on municipal websites, **10 points**
- Providing parking spots to Purple Heart recipients and disabled veterans, **15 points**
- Establishing a school speaker series composed of parents who are veterans, **15 points**
- Provide quarterly roundtables and listening sessions with veterans at council meetings or at special events, **15 points**
- Provide discounts for community-based recreational facilities, **15 points**
- Hold veteran service organization meet-and-greets, **15 points**
- Dedicating a memorial to veterans, **20 points**

When 145 points or more are reached, the community leaders can submit an application form for consideration to receive the award. The "We Value Our Veterans" award comes with a certificate from the governor. It can be displayed on community websites, letterhead, flyers and banners.

In addition, New Jersey businesses can also participate in the awards program. The criteria and point system are different than the community program requiring fewer points and a different set of initiatives. The business must reach a total of 55 points based on the initiatives listed on the application form for business.

Businesses can:

- Recognize military employees as well as veterans on company websites, on social media platforms and in company newsletters, **5 points**
- Provide parking spots for Purple Heart recipients, **5 points**
- Host a recognition ceremony on Veterans Day or other related dates thanking the military veterans for their service, **15 points**

Veterans' organizations within the cities, towns and villages should inquire if their elected officials are aware of the existence of such an award, and/or if they have considered seeking the award. Those communities who are not aware of the award should look into their present actions concerning veterans. It is possible they already have accrued enough points to apply for the award, or with a little effort become qualified.

Each citizen within the state should encourage their municipal leaders to make an attempt to gain the award. It might not make the community richer in monetary terms, but it will enrich the community by showing that there is a recognition of the veterans who served and sacrificed for this nation. These men and women have been a very important part of the New Jersey heritage. A community that receives "We Value Our Veterans" award shows a collective civic pride, respect and support for the sacrifice, bravery, and patriotism of veteran's past, present and future. 🇺🇸

Carl J. Asszony is a longtime New Jersey veterans advocate.



@ Make a difference for all our Veterans for their unwavering support to defend America's Freedom. Visit www.nj.gov/military/community/award-grant-charitable-programs/wvov/.

Does This Look Familiar?



We Can Help!

Frustrated with not finding the file or record you need?

NJ DORES requires certain municipal records to be kept permanently unless scanned. AccuScan will get your municipality registered and compliant with all NJ DORES and SRC requirements.

This permits destruction of the paper records. Microfilm is no longer required as a backup to scanning. This will reduce the cost of your project.

Benefits of Using AccuScan

- Instant retrieval, no more lost or misfiled documents
- Access control to all records based on user rights
- Compliance with state and federal regulations
- Cloud based storage available or store on your computer

ACCU SCAN

digital archival solutions

Experts in Scanning & Document Management

Council Minutes • Building Permits • Ordinances • Resolutions • Tax Records
• Tax Maps • Blueprints • Police Records • Payroll • Personnel

609-386-6795 • www.GetAccuScan.com



ESCNJ NJ State Approved Co-op # 65MCESCCPS
RFP# ESCNJ 16/17-48 Bid Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2020 Extended to 6/30/2022

Cyber Security Challenges

The considerations behind virtual work, law enforcement, ransomware, and insurance

Edward Cooney, MBA, Vice President and Account Executive, Conner Strong & Buckelew, and Underwriting Manager for the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund (MEL) and MEL Cyber Task Force



With record-breaking increases of cyber-attacks reported last year, growing concerns about aggressive ransomware threats, and the tightening of the cyber insurance market, determining how to plan for a more cyber secure future can be daunting.

Municipalities and public entities continue to be targeted by hackers because they have numerous departments housing sensitive financial information and personal data—not only about the town but also concerning elected officials, law enforcement, employees, volunteers, vendors, and residents.

The MEL Cyber Task Force, which provides education and information to help municipalities and public entities develop strong Cyber Risk Management Plans, suggest starting by

locking down policies and procedures for virtual work, reinforcing security controls, and focusing more on protecting law enforcement departments.

Remote access and work from home

The continued use of remote access for work and virtual meetings has created new opportunities for cybercriminals. Hackers attack through vulnerable employee devices, home networks, and even videoconferencing platforms.

Thank you for all you do to make
our state a desirable place to live.

Federal & State Public Affairs
Marketing & Crisis Communications
Association Management



WSWDC.com | PPAG.com | PrincetonSC.com |  | 



Top Three Cyber Risk Management Practices

These are most critical to protect public entities from remote cyber breaches:

1. Virtual Private Network (VPN). If employees are connecting to the internet in public places or even through home internet, the organization does not have the ability to know if this connection is secure. A VPN essentially wraps your internet connection in a protective cloak to hide and obscure your internet connection and the data being transmitted.

2. Multi-factor Authentication (MFA). The chance of an attacker getting a hold of your password is high. Using additional identification requirements such as a phone number or email address or a special MFA application tool can reduce the chance of a hacker successfully accessing your account, even if they have your password, to less than 0.1%.

3. Secure Videoconference sessions. Many municipalities have experienced videoconference vandals at public meetings as well as a loss of decorum. Fortunately, you can protect against them. Most of the main videoconference services, like ZOOM and Microsoft Teams, have put out instructions on solutions to ensure control of videoconferencing is maintained.

Cyber insurance trends

Cyber insurance is not a luxury anymore, it has become a necessity for municipalities and public entities. When a cyber-attack occurs, your daily operations could be stopped for anywhere from hours to weeks and the cost to fix the problem can range from hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars.

The explosion of cyber claims and rising demand for coverage has made getting cyber policies much more difficult and more expensive. A report released in 2020 by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to Congress recently found the following:

- Total cyber premiums paid were up 47% and are expected to go higher. Included in this are the 100% rate increases that are becoming far too common.
- Lower coverage limits may apply to higher risk sectors such as healthcare, education, and public entities.

Law enforcement

Although there are many municipal departments that warrant extra cyber protection such as accounting, human resources, and taxation, ransomware attacks have been aggressively targeting police departments at an alarming rate. The worst incident on record in the U.S. occurred in April when the District of Columbia's Metropolitan Police Department lost 250 gigabytes of data and sensitive files about officers. Other attacks this year have also been reported in Maine and Florida.

In New Jersey, law enforcement (police/sheriff) departments continue to be the most targeted making up nearly 50% of potential or actual municipal cyber events in the state. It's not clear why these departments have more attempts and successful breaches than others, but newer ransomware attacks give reason to believe it is due to the confidentiality of their data. Another key reason may be the ability to push forward "hacktivist" goals to portray police in a negative light.

Protecting Documents

Many police organizations have started using back-ups to avoid having to pay the ransom to access their own data, but that is being circumvented by attackers via a second ransom to prevent the release of sensitive information to the public, such as:

- Arrest records & police reports
- Crime scene photos/video
- Body camera video
- Criminal surveillance reports
- Officer personnel files & disciplinary reports
- Names, addresses and phone numbers of department employees

Hackers can also put officers and the public in danger if they find a way to disrupt police communications networks used to receive emergency calls and dispatch officers, or block computer networks that enable officers to identify vehicle drivers and flag any potential dangers before pulling them over.



MEL Increases New Jersey Taxpayers Savings to \$3.4 Billion While Responding to the Financial Impact of COVID-19

MEL has saved taxpayers \$3.4 billion dollars including \$322 million in dividends to its members since its inception. On average, each MEL JIF member has saved over \$5.7 million.

MEL also assisted its members by purchasing over \$135 million in debt securities to help stabilize the bond market disrupted by COVID-19.

MEL JOINT INSURANCE FUND MEMBER SAVINGS

Member Joint Insurance Fund	Established	JIF Savings (millions)	JIF Membership	JIF Member Savings (millions)
Bergen	1985	\$278.2	38	\$ 7.3
South Bergen	1986	241.7	23	10.5
Atlantic	1987	387.8	41	9.5
Camden	1987	206.9	37	5.6
Mid-Jersey	1987	177.5	12	14.8
Morris	1987	235.0	45	5.2
Ocean	1987	327.2	31	10.6
PMM	1987	83.9	4	21.0
Monmouth	1988	257.0	41	6.3
Burlco	1991	112.8	28	4.0
Trico	1991	215.6	38	5.7
NJ Utility Authorities	1991	180.7	72	2.5
NJ Self-Insurers	1992	68.2	5	13.6
Suburban Metro	1992	112.5	10	11.3
NJ Housing Authorities	1994	106.3	89	1.2
Suburban Municipal	1994	76.5	12	6.4
PAIC	1997	126.4	21	6.0
Central	1998	170.1	12	14.2
First Responders	2009	30.1	37	0.8
TOTALS		\$3.4 Billion	596	Average \$5.7 million

"MEL has the resources, tools and organizational competencies necessary to support all our member's needs. Our collaborative power has once again proven to be pivotal in addressing the ongoing challenges presented by this crisis as well as those posed by ever changing legislative and judicial impacts on the insurance marketplace."

THOMAS MERCHEL
*MEL Chairperson and
 Manager/CFO Township
 of Moorestown.*



THE POWER OF
 COLLABORATION

njmel.org

Cyber Security Challenges

- Specific low limits are being placed on ransomware coverage, if you are even offered coverage, not to mention deductibles jumping into the hundreds of thousands of dollars even for small towns.

- Cyber risk policies are being offered separately, not as part of regular insurance coverage.

Review your Cyber Risk Plan, make sure the basic security options are in place, and then speak with your risk manager

or contact the MEL to see how you can protect your town and community. 📞

@ For more information and resources about Cyber Risk Management visit <https://NJMEL.org> click on “Resource Center” and “Cyber Risk Control.”



Four Security controls

Current statistics show that organizations will experience a successful cyber event at least once every 5 years with the average cost (usually ransomware or data breach) in the \$4.4 million dollar range. According to Security Intelligence, 33% of attacks on government in 2020 were due to ransomware.

For the past 5 years, the MEL has been promoting the same core security controls as the basis for any municipal cyber security program. These four controls are just as relevant today, and have proven to be extremely effective, particularly for addressing remote work concerns and ransomware problems.

1. Employee cyber training and testing (regularly). This needs to be a priority, particularly for employees working from home. An IBM report found that only around 38% of local and state government employees are trained in ransomware attack prevention.

2. Off-network back-ups. Off-network storage is key so if you lose your system, such as during a ransomware attack, your back-ups are not on the same network. Daily incremental back-ups should be performed, along with weekly back-ups of all data files (especially mission critical). Remember to also store back-ups of applications, operating systems, and network configuration software.

3. Securing remote access with VPNs and MFA. Recently, a cyber hacker forum publicly posted “RockYou2021” the largest ever compilation of breached emails and passwords—some 8.4 billion entries—which can and are being used to hack accounts across multiple platforms. This is staggering considering there are only 4.7 billion internet users in the world.

4. Endpoint Detection and Response. Deploy endpoint detection tools on all endpoints to detect any suspicious activity. The detection database must be continuously monitored by a technology team to quickly respond.

These four items are so critical that many insurance companies are requiring them now to even be considered for cyber insurance policies. But remember, cyber security is truly an “onion” approach— there needs to be multiple layers since just one piece will not protect against all exposures.

XL Fleet™



Fleet Electrification Solutions

- Vehicle electrification solutions for commercial and municipal fleets throughout North America.

- Innovative hybrid and plug-in hybrid electric drive systems that turn standard gas-powered OEM vehicles from Ford, GM, Stellantis and Isuzu into electrified vehicles.

- Meet your sustainability goals quickly and cost effectively, with no impact on OEM warranties or disruption to operations.

- Available on a wide range of fleet vehicles for law enforcement and other demanding applications.

- Since 2009, XL Fleet's customers have driven over 160 million fleet miles on their electrified drive systems.

Major Police Supply is an Authorized Distributor of XL Fleet.



Major Police Supply and XL Fleet are providing electrification installs and sustainability.

800-666-4472

www.majorpolicesupply.com
XLFleet.com

Leadership At Risk

Is your municipal technology under control?

Marc Pfeiffer, Assistant Director, Bloustein Local Government Research Center, Rutgers University

All digital technology users are under attack from cybercriminals who hack networks in order to steal and extort money, steal and resell data, or attack and harass other computer users. There is no magic wand you can wave to make these attacks go away and there's no single solution to manage these threats.



If you don't already know this, you haven't been paying attention.

Technology is deeply embedded in most things that municipalities do. As a result of the pandemic, your citizens, customers, and constituents expect technology-based services from everyone, including their municipality. Local officials are challenged to meet those expectations as technology brings new risks to manage.

Cybersecurity risks present the most immediate, likely, and potentially damaging risk. It requires the resources of time (management), attention (meeting needs), and money (budgetary support). But there are five other inter-related technology risks to be managed: financial, legal, operational, reputational, and societal.

Remember that today's technology is more than the management of information (data). It's also your radio, video, and telephone systems (communication). Operational technologies (aka, the "internet of things") are your connected devices; these are things like remote video cameras, sensors, HVAC systems, and traffic signal controls.

Responsible governing

If your municipality is not proactively managing technology risks, you are effectively negligent in your responsibilities and are putting your government, residents, and businesses in jeopardy. Elected officials are ultimately responsible for their organization's technological proficiency. It's their job to make sure technology risks are identified, managed, and mitigated and that your team has the necessary resources of time, attention and money to meet them.

Technology risks can never be eliminated, but they can be managed and mitigated. At their most basic, this requires two things: 1) having a trusted employee or consultant who advises you on technology management, and 2) regularly tested back-up procedures that restore operating systems and data in the event your technology is compromised (e.g., ransomware). Of course, these approaches presume that you follow the advice you receive and periodically test backup procedures for effectiveness. Listening without acting, or not regularly testing the backups doesn't count.



POWERING PROGRESS

EMPOWERING PEOPLE > POWERING LIFE

We're working hard to provide the energy you need to power through life's challenges.



Leadership At Risk

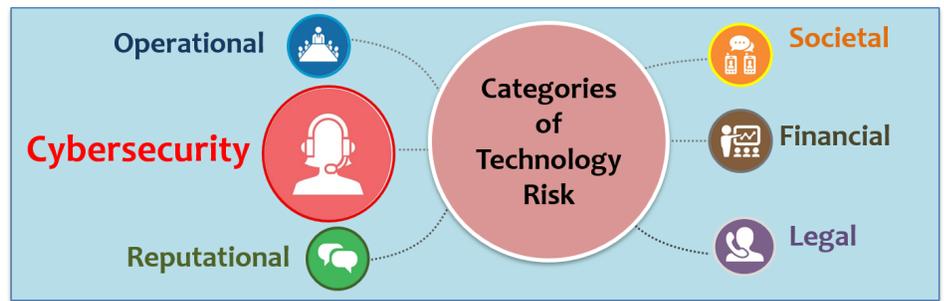
Your advisors can be vendors, staff members, or even knowledgeable citizens who understand technology. They should regularly report to management on your operational security, how often your data backup process is tested, and if there are other steps to take that would ensure adequate system-wide protection.

Your technology advisors also need to be able to successfully answer one key question – what will your town do if its systems get infected by ransomware? If the answer does not give you confidence that recovery time will be reasonable, you need to revise your procedures.

Keys to Technology Proficiency

Moving past the basics, technology proficiency requires three key elements:

- **Leadership:** this requires technology planning, budgeting, and decision-making processes. It also requires



having a sound incident and emergency response plans and technology management policies. Just like any other critical government activity, it needs to be consistent with your organization's size and needs.

- **Cyber Hygiene:** this means ensuring that all employees who use computers have at least one hour of training each year to remind them of the importance of staying alert to phishing attempts and social engineering techniques when using their computer. Cyber hygiene also includes

sound computer use policies, smart password construction, and appropriate data encryption practices.

- **Technical Competence:** the more sophisticated the technology system, the more technical activities there are to do. However, there are some activities that apply to systems of all sizes. They include having sound backup practices, keeping software and hardware current with patches and updates, and using defensive software on all devices. It also means using dual-factor authentication

For more information:

- This report compiles Bloustein Local's various managing technology studies and commentaries: <http://blousteinlocal.rutgers.edu/managing-technology-cybersecurity-risk-proficiency/>
- The Municipal Excess Liability Fund's Cyber Risk Management Program approach to implement sound cybersecurity and technology management practices: <https://njmel.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/MEL-Cyber-Risk-Management-Program-v2.pdf>. The standards and model policies are available to anyone and not limited to MEL members.
- The Multistate Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) is the federally-sponsored cybersecurity technical resource for states and municipalities. It is free to join and every municipality should join. www.msisac.org.
- The NJ Office of Homeland Security and Prevention's point of contact for cybersecurity threats is www.cyber.nj.gov (aka, NJCCIC). Sign up for their (slightly technical) free weekly bulletin.
- Join GMIS the professional association of local government technology leaders. Join as a municipality (low fees) and your staff and contractors can participate in this local government technology management network: www.gmis.org. Joining GMIS automatically enrolls you in the NJ chapter. Anyone can attend their annual Technology Education Conference www.njgmis.org.
- Learn more about technology risks from the original Bloustein Local report, Managing Technology Through Technological Proficiency: <http://blousteinlocal.rutgers.edu/managing-technology-risk/> Released in 2014, it is an overview to help municipalities understand and manage technology risks.
- The OUCH Newsletter from the SANS Institute is a free monthly newsletter covering safe cyber practices, useful for distribution to staff as part of a cyber hygiene training plan: <https://www.sans.org/security-awareness-training/ouch-newsletter>. Also check out their Security Awareness Tip of the Day: <https://www.sans.org/tip-of-the-day>.

when logging into systems, employing procedures to control who has access to your systems, and maintaining a properly trained staff to manage those systems.

Municipal approach

The technology world has many models (aka, frameworks) that help mostly large organizations manage their technology and its risks. However, a group of New Jersey local governments has taken the lead and researched technology risks for smaller organizations. Using that information, they developed a practical approach to meet this challenge.

Five years ago, working with the Bloustein Local Government Research Center at Rutgers, the NJ Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund developed a set of minimum technology standards that are adaptable to smaller, less sophisticated organizations. The technical competency standards address key security issues, most notably, ransomware. These standards also address leadership and cyber hygiene management responsibilities.

The MEL has used the standards to incentivize its members to implement them. They tied compliance to a deep discount on the insurance deductible that members pay if a claim is made on their cyber insurance policy. MEL members that implement these standards provide their organizations with protection to shield them from significant risks.

Now in its second version, the minimum technology standards are available for any municipality to use (see sidebar). Known as the Cyber Risk Management Plan, the MEL's work has percolated out into the rest of the technology world. Today, insurance companies that write cyber insurance policies as well as bond rating agencies use the standards to evaluate an organization's risk exposure based on its technology management practices. In the case of cyber insurance, the industry is evolving to require minimum standards as a requirement for coverage.

Finally, your technology expert needs support to help solve your organization's problems. No one person can know

everything; networking with peers and keeping up-to-date is critical. Here are three recommendations:

- Join the association of local government technology leaders: GMIS. New Jersey has the second largest state chapter and two of its recent national presidents have been from New Jersey. Learn more at www.gmis.org and www.njgmis.org. You can join NJ-GMIS at their annual Technology Education Conference on October 14th.
- Join the MS-ISAC. This is the federally funded group that advises state and local governments on technology security practices. Membership is free. They also provide higher levels of security protection for fees. The person responsible for your technology security should enroll to get their regular and informative emails, whether employee or contractor. Sign up at www.msisac.org.
- Join the state's cybersecurity information center, the NJ CCIC. The "KICK" conducts cybersecurity research and sends out useful emails on what's happening in cybersecurity in NJ. Sign-up at www.cyber.nj.gov.

Management structures

No one expects every elected official or senior manager to be an expert in all things municipal. That is why there are police chiefs, administrators, public works directors, finance officers, health officers and experts in every field. Today, technology managers need to be part of that list. They also need to be part of the senior management team; so much depends on what they do.

Municipal leaders **MUST** lead your town in managing its technology proficiently. If your municipality is already there, kudos for having things under control! You were able to achieve this because you invested in competent, trusted personnel to run your technology and you have supported them with sound decisions.

Although you probably discovered that technology management takes more time, attention, and money than you thought it would, you have also

seen the value in staying proactive instead of reactive. Ultimately, it takes fewer resources to avoid a crisis than to respond to one unprepared.

Share what you've learned with your peers. Staying technologically proficient in all areas is a team effort. 

Call

New Jersey One Call

3 Business Days Before Digging.

It's the Law.



Dial 811

or 1-800-272-1000

Online > www.nj1-call.org



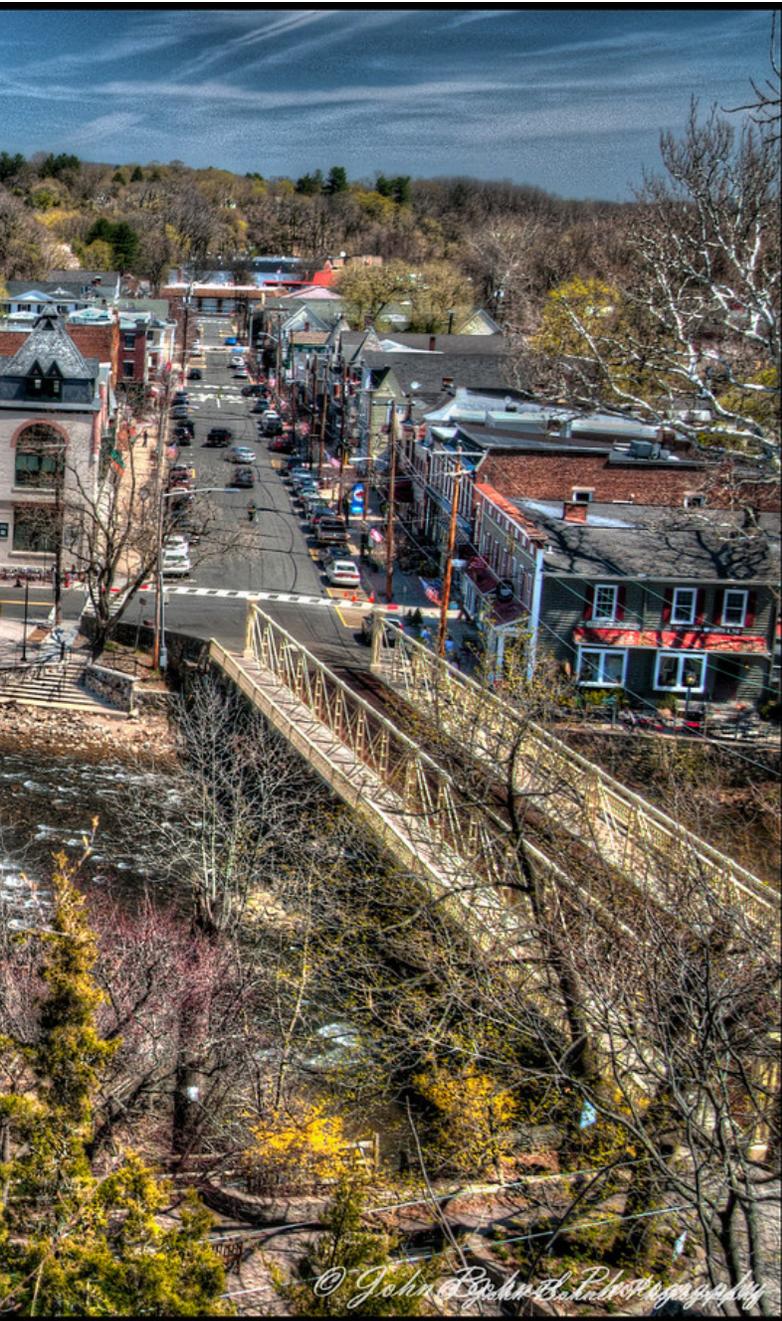
**Know what's below
Call before you dig**



A Tribute to New Jersey and Clinton

The State and Town that Raised Me...

Janice Kovach, Mayor, Clinton Town; President, NJLM



As Mayor Janice Kovach prepares to step into her new role as League Immediate Past President, she shares a look at the hometown that has inspired her career of service.

I was born and raised in Jersey—never lived in any other state. As a kid I thought it was so cool when I met kids from other states and always thought “I wish I lived anywhere but Jersey.” I swore that when I graduated high school, I was leaving Jersey for good.

But guess what? I never left—not even for college. As I look back, I consider myself lucky. Jersey made me who I am today.

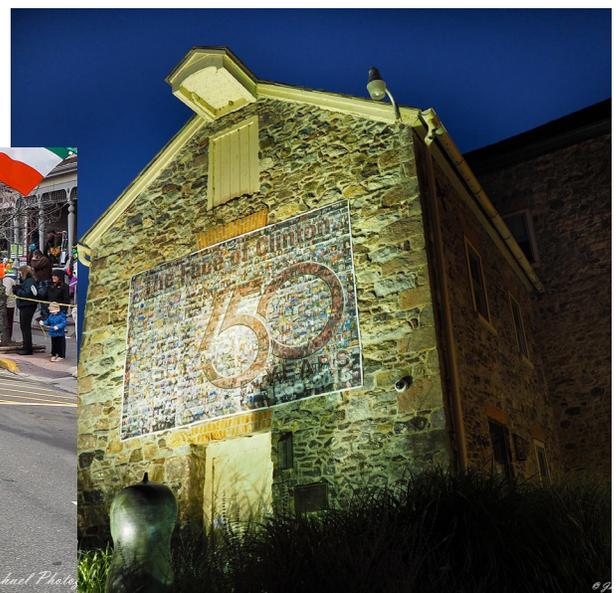
Although I lived in multiple locations while growing up, once we moved to Clinton that became home. So much so that when I had my children, I decided to raise them in Jersey and in Clinton.

More than an exit

Over the years, when I’ve told people I’m from Jersey, they usually ask, “What exit?” And when I tell them I don’t live off the Parkway or the Turnpike, I get, “Well then you can’t be from Jersey.” Jersey is so much more than the airport, refineries, and the Shore.

New Jersey is such an amazing state. You can experience everything from the beach to the mountains, from the rural rolling hill farms to the urban infrastructure of the city. And everything is within a couple of hours. I can drive from High Point in Sussex County to Cape May—the two furthest points in the state—in under 4 hours.

Jersey made me, but Clinton shaped me. It is where I learned about community and public service. And although I didn’t appreciate or understand those lessons as a kid, as an adult they are the reason that giving back to this community is so important to me.



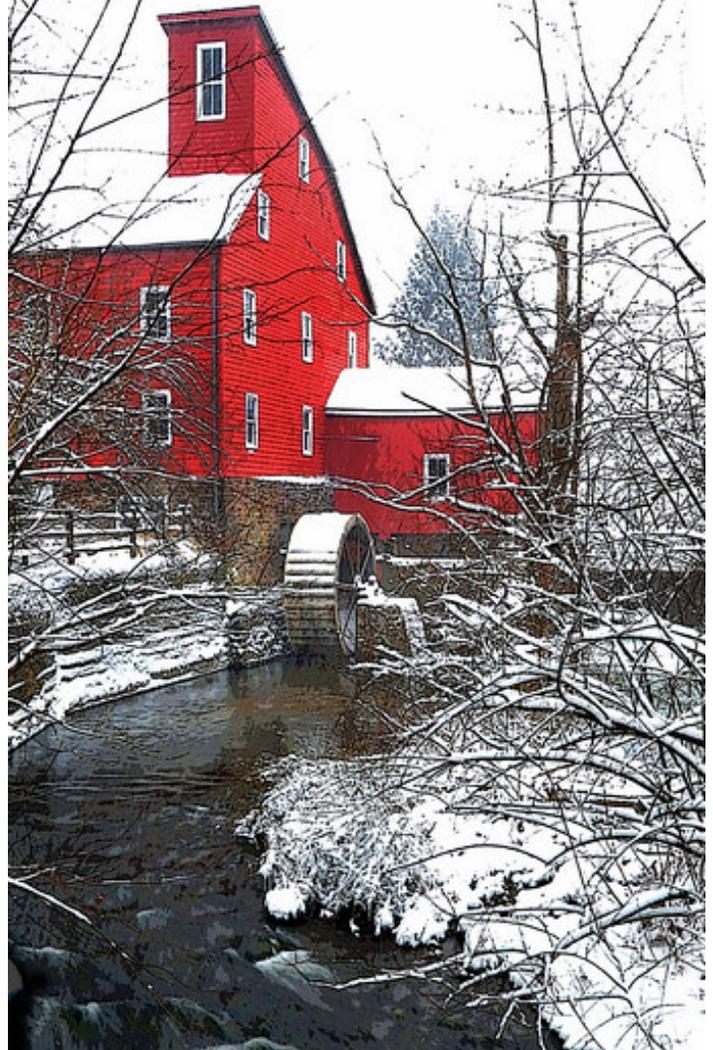
Photos courtesy of John Bohnel

About Clinton

It is a small 1.3 square mile town with a downtown that's a throwback to the mid-19th century. Just 50 miles from New York City, it is nestled in the farmland of Hunterdon County, exit 15 (See, I can get a "What exit? in too!) off Route 78. In fact, when heading west out of Newark Airport, Clinton is listed on the highway sign. What many don't realize is that it is another 40 miles before you get to Clinton!

Our historic district chronicles the growth of a crossroads hamlet on a major turnpike that grew up in the early 1800s and continued into the post-Victorian era. Our Pony Truss Bridge, one of only a handful of iron bridges left in the US, was traveled daily by people moving between New York and Pennsylvania.

Clinton's Historic Red Mill, nestled against the South Branch of the Raritan River, is the most photographed scene in New Jersey. Photos of the Red Mill and falls are found throughout the country, in small off the beaten path diners and gift shops. Our charming downtown is often described as a scene straight from a Norman Rockwell painting. Enduring shops offer unique, eclectic gifts and apparel, and excellent restaurants aren't to be missed, including farm-to-table waterfront dining and New Jersey's finest cheese, and imported olive oil.



Join The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey's

1,400+ MEMBER Co-op Pricing System

SAVE TAX REVENUE!
INCREASE YOUR BUYING POWER!

The ESCNJ's Co-op Pricing System helps more than 1,400 municipalities, county governments and school districts save taxpayer dollars on major purchases including: electricity, natural gas, internet access, telecommunications and other technology products, grounds and maintenance equipment, cars, trucks, furniture, security cameras and card access systems, carpet, flooring and custodial supplies.

Members Also Receive

- Free Tax-exempt Lease Purchase Financing options
- Technology Consulting Services
- Opportunities to earn free state approved Continuing Education Units

To learn more about free lifetime membership, please contact our Co-op Team at: coop@escnj.us, or call 732-777-9848, Ext. 3120

WWW.ESCNJ.US



Family community

Families like mine were attracted to the town by the many downtown activities that pepper the calendar, be it the Great Rubber Ducky Race over the falls in front of the Red Mill or Dickens Days when the downtown is dressed like "A Christmas Carol" to kick off the holiday season with horse drawn carriage rides, carolers and Father Christmas entertain shoppers. The Red Mill Museum Village gives visitors a peek into history, while the Hunterdon Art Museum directly across the South Branch of the Raritan River presents changing exhibitions of contemporary art. Of course, there are plenty of options for outdoor activities, including hiking or biking the Landsdown Trail, kayaking the South

Branch of the Raritan River, fishing at Spruce Run Reservoir, and more. Clinton has always been a family-friendly community, with its parks and playgrounds, an active community center and public library, history and art museums, family centered community events, a top-rated school system, a walkable downtown, and much more. As I describe the beauty that is my hometown and my state, it's funny how as a kid, I didn't appreciate all that Clinton was. I thought it was too rural and too far from the all-important mall (Remember, I grew up in the 1980s!). I was going to bigger and better places to

live. But when it was time to raise my children, I couldn't wait to bring them back to Clinton so they could share in the experience I now cherish: the parades, Fourth of July fireworks, walking the falls, hanging out downtown—once we even had the Budweiser Clydesdales come through town while filming a commercial. Those are the memories that I wouldn't trade for anything. New Jersey and Clinton will always be my home. I love this state and all that it has to offer. I hope that each of you can look at your community and New Jersey and find the beauty that makes us unique. #AllRoadsLeadtoJersey



Staying ahead of the technology curve has never mattered more.

Let our experienced consultants help you deliver critical solutions.



RFP Solutions is an authorized New Jersey State Contract Vendor with over twenty years of experience and 250 K-to-12 school districts and municipalities as clients. We provide design/installation services and 24/7 support for telephone systems, wireless data networks, CCTV surveillance systems, door access control, wireless clocks, and much more.

For a free estimate, contact Mike Cuneo – Vice President, Sales 856.686.0888, Ext. 117 mcuneo@rfpnj.com



15 Years

Mayors Wellness Campaign celebrates helping communities get healthy

*Julie DeSimone, Program Officer - Mayors Wellness Campaign,
New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute*

For 15 years, the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute's Mayors Wellness Campaign (MWC) has supported New Jersey communities in their efforts to improve the health and wellness of their residents.

The MWC is a statewide community health initiative, in partnership with the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, that provides mayors and community leaders with evidence-based tools and strategies to succeed in this important work. The program began with a mission to fight rising obesity rates by promoting physical activity and healthy eating, still a cornerstone of the MWC. Over the years, the program has expanded its mission and today supports far-reaching efforts to improve the health and wellness of New Jersey communities.

Through partnerships with foundations, the Quality Institute has worked on specific issues in communities and populations with the greatest needs. One program, focused on Cumberland County, Jersey City, and Trenton, was developed to increase access to healthy lifestyle activities and improve chronic disease management and health literacy.

In town halls and beyond

A Workplace Wellness Program was created to help municipalities create a culture of health and support employees in their efforts to live a healthy lifestyle. Montclair Township and the City of Plainfield continue to use this model today and offer employees nutrition counseling, biometric screenings, and incentives such as the ability to win a fitness tracker.

In the City of Rahway and the Borough of Highland Park, targeted programs to address chronic disease management were offered in both English and Spanish to ensure all residents could benefit from the vital information. Diabetes management education was available at senior centers to provide easy access for the older adults in those communities.

The MWC's Conversation of Your Life (COYL) initiative launched in 2014 to improve end-of-life care planning from a cultural and community perspective. COYL provides mayors



Caption

and community leaders with tools to develop engaging community conversations around advance care planning.

Throughout the year, towns host workshops, game nights, film festivals, books reads, and other activities in 'community living rooms' such as libraries, parks, and community centers. To meet the needs of New Jersey's diverse population, programming has been introduced in multiple languages and has been adapted for specific groups, such as Veterans and caregivers supporting persons with Alzheimer's or dementia. COYL is currently active in 15 counties and continues to grow statewide.



Emerging issues

The MWC marks its 15th anniversary during a global health crisis and new focus areas have emerged. In response to the real-time needs of New Jersey communities, the MWC, with support from Amerigroup, developed and released a comprehensive guide to addressing social isolation of older adults.

Beginning this year, the MWC will increase its focus on mental health. With generous support from The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, the MWC will launch a comprehensive Mental Health Initiative. Towns will have access to Mental Health First Aid Training, so they are better equipped to respond to the growing mental health needs of residents.

The MWC will also develop a Mental Health Toolkit that will provide basic education about mental health, evidenced-based tools and strategies to address mental health issues at the local level, and resources for residents in need of mental health services. We've already started this work. On August 20, community members were trained to be Mental Health First Aiders, strengthening their communities' ability to respond to mental health issues. Participants included elected officials, law enforcement, social service providers, and MWC volunteers. There was an overwhelming interest in the training and additional sessions will be available to our MWC partners throughout the year.

Over the past 15 years, the MWC has

adapted to the changing needs of New Jersey. By being part of the MWC, mayors, volunteers and other local leaders are improving the health and wellness of residents and working to make New Jersey a healthier place to live, work, and play.

About the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute

At the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute, our mission is to improve the safety, quality, and affordability of health care for everyone. Our vision is to create a world where all people receive safe, equitable, and affordable health care and live their healthiest lives. ↴



Connecting government and elected officials with their citizens

Free Sign-up in 2021
<https://votelight.com/NJLM>



Share information and get feedback
ENGAGE YOUR CITIZENS

Communicate with every voter in your political district
BE MORE EFFECTIVE

info@votelight.com

Grow Your Town's Health

Here are the steps you can take to launch or further your MWC campaign:

- Join the MWC or demonstrate your ongoing commitment to the health and wellness of your residents by signing your Annual Pledge of Participation today.
- Use our MWC Handbook to guide your program start up or enhance current programming.
- Reach out to Quality Institute MWC Program Officer, Julie DeSimone at jdesimone@njhcqi.org for guidance and information on the various MWC topic specific initiatives including COYL, Social Isolation, or Mental Health.
- Visit the MWC at the 2021 League of Municipalities Conference to learn more about bringing the MWC to your community.

Mount Laurel

The 50-year success story on affordable housing

Linda A. Galella, Esq



In 2020, *Money Magazine* ranked Mount Laurel Township one of the best places to live in America considering its schools, transportation, access, and mix of corporate businesses and residential homes. It is the place to be, and today, that includes individuals and families from all socio-economic levels.

The year 2021 holds a unique significance for the municipality. It marks the 50th anniversary of the filing of *Southern Burlington County NAACP v Twp of Mt. Laurel*, 67 NJ 151 (1975). The “Mount Laurel Doctrine” from the case now known as “Mount Laurel I” shaped many cases regarding a municipality’s constitutional obligation to provide its fair share of low and moderate-income affordable housing in its region. The doctrine prohibits discrimination against the poor by requiring that a fair share of the region’s housing development be allocated to low and moderate-income household.

Mount Laurel may be the township where the issue of exclusionary zoning was introduced for legal debate, but today Mount Laurel Township sets an example for affordable housing compliance. Mount Laurel has transformed over the last 50 years into a community that not only satisfies but also exceeds its affordable housing requirements.

Brief History

In the 1960s, Mount Laurel Township planned to turn a region of mostly farmland into a bustling suburb. As it planned development projects for homes and businesses, it focused on creating a community attractive to middle class families to grow and prosper. The planning process appeared to exclude those without financial means. Poor families who lived in Mount Laurel could not afford to stay. Poor families who wanted to move to Mount Laurel could not afford to relocate.

In 1971, community organizers filed a lawsuit against the township, leading to one of the most significant rulings to affect social justice in the country. The New Jersey Supreme Court prohibited the exclusion of the poor through land use, zoning, and community planning and regulations. It concluded that every municipality in New Jersey had a constitutional obligation to provide for its “fair share” of affordable housing opportunities. Following that landmark decision in 1975, decades of legal battles were fought throughout New Jersey to shape the affordable housing requirements New Jersey follows today.

What are affordable housing requirements?

The now defunct agency, Council on Affordable Housing (COAH), determined the rules and procedures for housing requirements for each municipality in New Jersey by establishing a methodology for communities to use and follow in order to satisfy their constitutional obligations to provide a “fair share” of affordable housing. The COAH rules were in effect from 1987-1993. These “First Round” rules, and subsequent models, were designed to last six years before reevaluating and updating the methodology.

The “Second Round” rules and procedures were in effect from 1993-1999. (Those two combined rounds from 1987-1999 are now known as the “Prior Round.”) As COAH struggled to create an agreeable “Third Round” methodology, the issuance of a new methodology stalled and remained undecided for 16 years. Consequently, COAH was eliminated and control was returned to the courts.

“Third Round” duration is from 1999-2025. It generally uses “Prior Round” methodology since only one judge has thus far approved a “Third Round” methodology.

How does Mount Laurel Township meet its obligation?

On July 7, 2015, Mount Laurel filed a declaratory judgment action to declare that its “Third Round” Housing Element and Fair Share Plan (HEFSP) was constitutionally compliant. Negotiations between the Fair Share Housing Center (a state advocacy group for affordable housing) and the township led to a settlement agreement in January 2017.

The Planning Board adopted the HEFSP in June 2017, and a compliance hearing with the court led to a conditional Judgment of Compliance and Repose in November 2017. This judgment granted the township immunity from “Builder’s Remedy” lawsuits. (A Builder’s Remedy lawsuit is instituted by a builder who wishes to build affordable housing, but is prevented from

doing so because of unfavorable municipal zoning. The builder will bring a lawsuit against the municipality requesting that the municipality be forced to rezone to high-density residential zoning so that affordable housing can be built.)

Affordable Housing is made available to low and moderate-income residents. Low-income households earn less than 50% of regional median income, and moderate-income households earn 50% to 80% of regional median income. Mount Laurel Township’s Present Need (also called Rehabilitation) obligation is 84 units, its “Prior Round” obligation is 815 units; and its “Third Round” obligation is 1,074.

BARK AVENUE • RED BANK, NJ
 FASHIONABLE PETS • PARAMUS, NJ
 FURRYLICIOUS • WHITEHOUSE STATION, NJ



THE PET SHOPPE • MIDDLETOWN, NJ
 SHAKE A PAW • GREEN BROOK, NJ
 SHAKE A PAW • UNION, NJ

New Jersey Pet Stores Provide Happy, Healthy Puppies from Licensed and Inspected Breeders

USDA LICENSED & INSPECTED



Breeder



USDA LICENSED & INSPECTED



Breeder



USDA LICENSED & INSPECTED



Breeder



New Jersey Pet Stores Provide

- Full Breeder Disclosure and Transparency
- Consumer Protection and Extensive Warranties
- Veterinary Certified Health Checks and Records
- Local Business Owners Who Care For Our Puppies, Our Customers and the Communities We Serve
- Great Selection of Puppies in a Friendly Meet and Greet Atmosphere

Visit our website NJResponsiblePetStores.com

DON'T BAN US!! SUPPORT OUR REGULATED, LICENSED AND INSPECTED BUSINESSES!!



Already Banned from New Jersey Pet Stores!!!!

Mount Laurel

The established COAH “Prior Round” rules are followed in Mount Laurel’s HEFSP including:

- Rental housing units must make up a minimum of 25% of the Affordable Housing obligation for new units. Half of that amount must be available to families.
- Age-restricted housing units cannot exceed 25% of the new construction obligation.
- Very low-income housing units must make up a minimum of 13% of all affordable housing units. (Households with very low-income earn less than 30% of the region’s median income.)
- At least half of the units addressing the “Third Round” obligation must be available to families.

The “Third Round” HEFSP for Mount Laurel complies with all of these rules and includes a variety of options available to municipalities to address the obligation. The plan includes: Rehabilitation of existing substandard units; 100% Affordable developments (family or senior); Inclusionary Development; Supportive and Special Needs Housing; Assisted Living Residences; Market to Affordable Program; and Extension of Expiring Affordable Housing Controls.

- The **Present Need – Rehabilitation** component of the HEFSP will be met through the township’s participation with the Burlington County rehabilitation program. The program identifies occupied units that are in poor condition and funds improvements which bring them up to code. The township is responsible for rehabilitating 84 rental or owner-occupied units.
- Mount Laurel has utilized “**100% Affordable**” projects to make affordable housing available to low and moderate-income families and seniors. “100% affordable” developments consist entirely of affordable housing units. No market-rate units are included. These projects are becoming more and more popular, representing

more than 50% of all affordable housing, because in many cases the project financing combines multiple incentives. The township may be able to donate a parcel of land, receive two-for-one rental bonus credits toward the overall obligation, and use municipal housing trust fund money to facilitate the project. Developers usually apply for Low Income Housing Tax Credits through the New Jersey Housing & Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA) to finance the project.

The 50-year-old lawsuit that became the Mount Laurel Doctrine began when activist Ethel R. Lawrence formed a non-profit agency and proposed to build 36 units for poor residents, and Mount Laurel Township denied her request. She filed the suit in 1971, and after decades of litigation, the 100% Affordable Ethel R. Lawrence Homes were built in 2001. The project was a unique success because it included support for tutoring school-aged children as well as other social services.

In Mount Laurel, 100% affordable projects include the Ethel Lawrence community as well as affordable housing rentals for families in Centerton Village Apartments. Fair Share Housing Development (a development firm) is proposing a family and a senior future 100% affordable rental projects on Fostertown Road.

- **Inclusionary Development** projects are also part of Mount Laurel’s HEFSP. These developments include mixed-income units. They combine market-rate units with low to moderate-income units in the same

development. The required minimum set-aside for affordable units is 20% for owner-occupied units and 15% for rental units. Inclusionary projects can be new construction or existing structure conversions. These projects make sense for municipalities because developers can still make a profit while receiving rezoning, which require the inclusion of affordable housing units.

- Mount Laurel has also employed **Assisted Living Residences** to meet its obligations. By state law, this type of affordable housing option is required to be inclusionary with a minimum of 10% of beds reserved for Medicaid patients. These set-aside accommodations are recognized as affordable housing units. The credit unit toward the obligation is the bedroom.
- Group homes represent approximately 100 bedroom units in Mount Laurel. These units qualify as **Supportive and Special Needs Housing**. Mostly operated by non-profit agencies and licensed by the state, these types of residences provide supportive care for individuals with mental illness or with developmental or physical disability, as well as victims of domestic violence, disabled veterans, foster children aging out of the system, or the homeless. A benefit of the supportive and special needs housing option is that the unit of credit toward the obligation is the bedroom itself. These units are also considered rental units and count toward potential two-for-one rental bonus credits.
- The **Market to Affordable Program** has also added three units in satisfaction of the affordable housing obligation. This option involves purchasing market-rate housing, ensuring units are in good condition, deed restricting them, and making them available for sale or rent to low and moderate-income applicants. The township seeks to add more units to this program.

• Affordable housing units generally have deed restrictions lasting 30 years (some older units have 20-year deed restrictions). The **Expiring Controls** option allows municipalities to extend the 30-year deed restriction for an additional 30 years. The township will receive a new unit of credit for each extension. The unit must be inspected and up to code to be extended. Mount Laurel Township has 20 units in its plan for this program.

Mount Laurel’s HEFSP also carefully considers available funding sources, incentives, and bonuses.

• **Funding:** Mount Laurel collects residential and non-residential development fees for its **affordable housing trust fund** and uses those funds to support and promote affordable housing expansion. Mount Laurel has used trust fund money to support the development project of rental units at Ethel Lawrence Homes including a partial subsidy of the sewer connections and

the outdoor recreational area. Mount Laurel has used its trust funds for the two Fostertown Road projects, the Centerton Village Apartments, and the development expenses and roadway improvements at Robinson Estates.

• **Incentives:** Developers can apply for Low Income Housing Tax Credits to help finance Affordable Housing projects. In addition, developers can request tax incentives such as payment in lieu of taxes (PILOTs). Under a PILOT program, municipalities like Mount Laurel can grant developers exemption from traditional taxes for a set period of time (usually 30 years) to encourage them to make improvements to property. Instead of traditional property taxes, developers make an annual PILOT payment to the municipality.

• **Bonuses:** It is important to also maximize opportunities to receive bonus credits. Two-for-one bonus credits apply to family rental units up

to 25% of the overall affordable housing obligation (Prior Round and Third Round combined). Mount Laurel has received these bonus credits for several family rental units.

Conclusion

Mount Laurel’s HEFSP supports the community’s vulnerable population by meeting and exceeding its fair share obligation for affordable housing. Providing these housing opportunities has far-reaching, quality-of-life impacts including improvements in family health and wellness and in educational outcomes for children. Mount Laurel is proud of the progress it has made in the last 50 years and now continues to meet its constitutional obligation to provide low and moderate-income housing. 🇯🇵

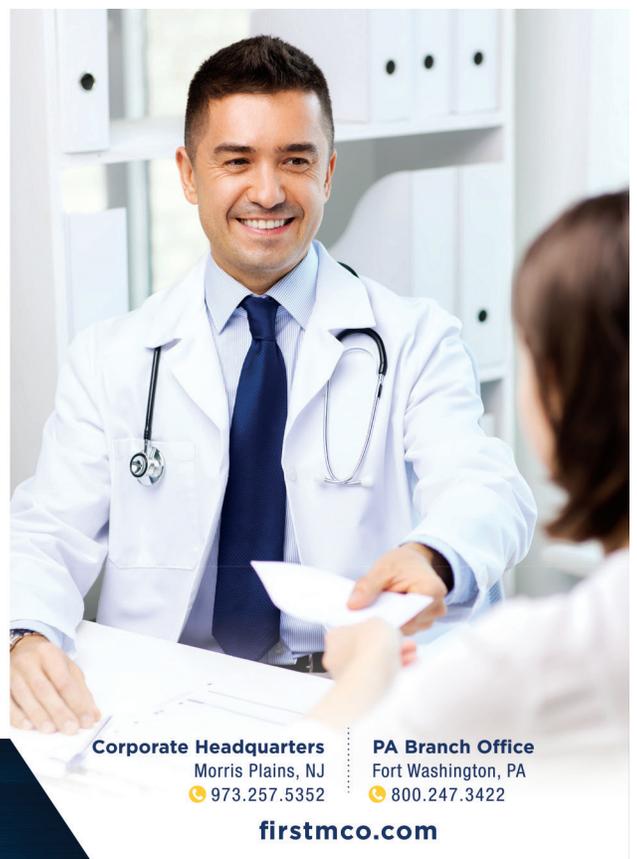
Linda Galella represents local government clients, counseling them on matters involving affordable housing, redevelopment, employment, civil rights, and government liability. She serves as solicitor, redevelopment counsel, special counsel for affordable housing, and land use board solicitor in many townships throughout New Jersey.

LONGEVITY, EXPERTISE & INNOVATION

First Managed Care Option, Inc (First MCO) is a full-service Managed Care Organization that provides comprehensive Medical Cost Containment services for Workers’ Compensation and Auto Injury claims. We are pioneers in the Managed Care industry and have been proudly serving our clients for over 40 years.

We leverage our technology and experience to deliver “White Glove” service and a tailored approach to every client.

BETTER SERVICE
BETTER RESULTS



Corporate Headquarters
Morris Plains, NJ
📞 973.257.5352

PA Branch Office
Fort Washington, PA
📞 800.247.3422

firstmco.com



A Destination to Discover

Middle Township boasts expanded recreation sites, abundant nature, wildlife attractions, dining and more

As New Jersey stayed home last year, Middle Township was hard at work becoming a better place to visit.

The Avalon Manor Fishing Pier was rebuilt. Railroad Avenue Park in Rio Grande added a dog park and pickleball courts as part of an extensive makeover. Restaurants and businesses continued to open.

Now, with many statewide COVID restrictions easing and tourism returning, Middle Township officials hope visitors will discover the town as a destination. A short drive from the Cape May and Wildwood beaches, the Township also can expand the itinerary of a Jersey Shore vacation.

In addition to recreational opportunities, Middle Township hosts year-round special events to make the area more welcoming for families. Officials recently enacted an ordinance to ban marijuana smoking in public places, citing a desire to maintain the Township's family-friendly character.

Middle Township's outdoor facilities complement a variety of county- and privately owned attractions within the Township, including the free-admission Cape May County Park & Zoo.

What to See & Do

Middle Township Bike Path: The Township has built onto the bike path for years, and it now runs from the Lower Township bike path that leads from the Cape May-Lewes Ferry Terminal connection point to Atlantic Cape Community College's Court House campus. The path is set to be completed by the end of this year, with a connection to Dennis Township.

Avalon Manor Fishing Pier: The pier, which originally was part of a bridge connecting to Avalon, was reconstructed and reopened last year. A shade structure, benches and a fish-cleaning station create a comfortable work/leisure space for a day of fishing. End of Old Avalon Boulevard, Avalon Manor

Shellbay Avenue Pier: Expect wildlife sightings—especially of migratory birds—at this scenic park and pier, also known as the Carol Nicoletta Shellbay Fishing Pier. Picnic tables offer the perfect spot to take in the view. Visitors can crab and fish in the summertime, or launch a kayak off the ramp. End of Shellbay Avenue, Cape May Court House.



Avalon Manor fishing pier.



Flamingos at Cape May County Park & Zoo.



Railroad Avenue Park playground.



Ockie Wisting Summer Concert Series.

includes walking trails, a wildlife observation deck, boardwalk and fishing pier at the pond, picnic area and playground. There's also a regulation-size disc golf course and soccer fields. 7 Fulling Mill Road, Rio Grande

@ For more information on Township facilities and events, go to www.middleborough.com



Reeds Beach sunset.

Railroad Avenue Park: The 2-acre space reopened earlier this year with a new name (it was formerly Rio Grande Park), and many new amenities, including a dog park, two playgrounds, eight pickleball courts, an upgraded basketball court and shaded picnic tables. The park is along a stretch of the bike path, and includes bike racks and a bike service station. 11 N. Railroad Ave., Rio Grande (off Route 47)

Goshen Sports Complex: Budding and established athletes will appreciate this facility, which is interchangeably called the Clarence and Georgiana Davies Sports Complex. It includes basketball courts, soccer fields, softball and baseball fields and playgrounds. 626 Goshen Road, Cape May Court House

Ockie Wisting Recreation Complex: At 82 acres, Ockie Wisting is the Township's largest facility, with space for nearly every type of activity. Middle's free summer concert series is held at the park's amphitheater. The complex

It's what New Jersey does today that counts the most.

Every day, in countless ways, you are making this a great place to live, work and play. We are proud to support the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

Contact : Mary Lou Unangst, VP (908-479-1879)
Government Banking Hotline (877-861-6649)



©2021 The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. All rights reserved.
PNC Bank, National Association. Member FDIC

CON PDF 0618-0106



Janice Kovach
President
Mayor, Clinton Town



William J. Chegwidzen
1st Vice President
Mayor, Wharton



Raymond S. Heck
2nd Vice President
Mayor, Millstone Borough



William Pikolycky
3rd Vice President
Mayor, Woodbine

2020-2021 NJLM Executive Board Members

In appreciation for leadership

The League's Executive Board represents the state's 565 Municipal governments as a policy setting body. We thank this year's officers and board members for sharing their time, their efforts, and their shared knowledge as they continually strive to improve municipal government throughout the Garden State.



Michael F. Cerra
Executive Director



Ras Baraka
Mayor, Newark



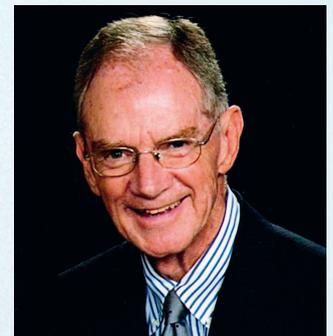
Tom Bianco
Mayor, Clayton



Ruby Cotton
Council Woman, Paterson



Gayle Brill Mittler
Mayor, Highland Park



William Curtis
Mayor, Bay Head



Sean Elwell
Mayor, Elsinboro



Anthony Fanucci
Mayor, Vineland



Steven Fulop
Mayor, Jersey City



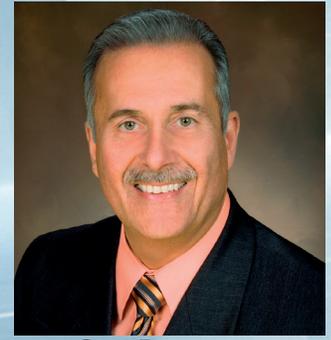
Jeffrey Martin
Mayor, Hamilton



John C. Glidden, Jr.
Mayor, Closter



John Pallone
Mayor, Long Branch



Gary Passanante
Mayor, Somerdale



James J. Perry Sr.
Immediate Past President
Former Committeeman,
Hardwick



Guy Piserchia
Mayor, Long Hill



Christine Quinn
Mayor, Sparta



Marty Small, Sr.
Mayor, Atlantic City



Sara Todisco
Mayor, Garwood



Paul H. Tomasko
Mayor, Alpine



Rosemary Tuohy
Council President, Allamuchy



Janet W. Tucci
Mayor, West Long Branch



Michael Venezia
Mayor, Bloomfield



Craig Wilkie
Mayor, Florence



New Municipal Pathway for Community Health Engagement

Sustainable Jersey Health Gold Star Standard provides a roadmap

Randall Solomon, Executive Director, Sustainable Jersey



As we emerge from the COVID pandemic, we have a renewed appreciation for our public health infrastructure and the important role that government plays in building and supporting good health outcomes.

Much of what determines a person's health and wellness is based on the environmental and social conditions where they live and work. The pandemic revealed striking disparities in health outcomes that are clearly linked to these uneven conditions.

Local governments have a great deal to do with creating and sustaining the conditions that support health and health equity. Municipalities exercise important roles in land-use planning and zoning, public communications, transportation planning, environmental management, housing, infrastructure investments, recreational programming, provision of open and green spaces, police and public safety and economic development. To support municipalities, Sustainable Jersey offers guidance and resources along the way. We provide evidence-based toolkits, technical assistance and nearly \$4 million in funded grants for municipalities to take action today.

Collaborative effort to improve New Jersey's health

Recognizing that municipalities needed direction on health issues, in 2019, Sustainable Jersey organized a cross-sector

task force of more than 80 stakeholders and experts in public health, health care, social service, prevention, mental health, housing and planning.

In July 2021, after a two-year effort of collaborative research, strategy development and program implementation, the Health Gold Task Force developed the Gold Star Standard in Health. Municipalities can aspire to build a culture of health and advance health equity with the standards and levels of performance.

Maplewood Township Health Officer Candice Davenport served on the Health Gold Task Force. She explained, "A healthy environment creates a healthy person and vice versa. If we are engaged and present in our relationship with our environment and surroundings, then we will be moved and take action on its behalf. This is the basis of the Sustainable Jersey Gold Star in Health. It's a first step to help municipalities implement large scale efforts to impact health behavior and make systemic changes." She added, "Towns that are working towards Sustainable Jersey goals are really

ensuring that their communities are resilient and healthier for future generations.”

Health Gold Star Standard

In order to be eligible to apply for the Gold Star Standard in Health, a municipality must be approved and have received points for designated actions. The foundational Local Health Assessment and Action Plan action is required. This action helps a town assess and prioritize addressing the health needs and contributing conditions existing within the community. To assist municipalities, each action contains a description outlining why the action is important, who should lead and be involved, what to do and how to do it, what to submit and a list of resources that can assist in completing the action.

Engaging public health

Municipalities now have a viable pathway for impacting how to engage in the sphere of public health. The Gold Star Standard in Health provides a roadmap for local health governance capacity, planning and action. Sustainable Jersey Senior Researcher Melanie Hughes McDermott, PhD. said, “Sustainable Jersey has been engaged in supporting the conditions for environmentally and socially healthy—that is, sustainable communities all along.” She added, “The development of Health Gold opened up new and valuable partnerships and action areas that strengthen the program for participating municipalities, such as in housing and public health governance.”

Who’s Who...

The Health Gold Task Force includes members from the Camden County Department of Health and Human Services, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey, New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials, New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey Department of Health, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute, New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association, New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids, New Jersey Prevention Network, New Jersey Public Health Association and more.

Broad experience, custom tailored to your legal needs



Legal representation isn't one size fits all. Your individual situation deserves personalized attention from the attorney best suited to your case. Call us today for your custom fitting.



DiFrancescoBateman
Tailor-made representation

DIFRANCESCO, BATEMAN, KUNZMAN, DAVIS, LEHRER & FLAUM, P.C.

Attorneys at Law | 15 Mountain Boulevard, Warren, New Jersey 07059

Phone: (908) 757-7800 Fax: (908) 757-8039 Web: www.dbnjlaw.com Blog: www.dbnjlawblog.com

Working example: Township of Bloomfield

Understanding how municipal policy and programming decisions affect those living within the community is essential for future planning and goal-setting.

The Township of Bloomfield is providing leadership in community health and health equity and will be well prepared to submit documentation to achieve the Sustainable Jersey Health Gold Star.

The Bloomfield Department of Health and Human Services (BDHHS) was the first health department in New Jersey accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) and is currently in the process to become re-accredited. The PHAB criteria now requires that health equity be included in all planning, internal and external. BDHHS is implementing a Health in All Policies approach and health equity is considered in the Health Department's strategic planning and programs.

BDHHS conducted a Community Health Assessment to identify the most pressing needs and concerns of the township's 47,391 residents. Bloomfield Health Officer Mike Fitzpatrick said, "The purpose of the Community Health Assessment is to better understand the characteristics, assets and needs related to the health and wellbeing of Bloomfield residents. Learning how our residents live, work and play is essential to developing and prioritizing public health initiatives and strategies for improvement." He explained, "The data inform the strengths and areas for improvement in Bloomfield so that we may continue to serve the needs of residents in the municipality."

Based on the Community Health Assessment and community partner meetings, BDHHS developed a Community Health Improvement Plan to address identified needs in the community over five years. The plan describes measurable and actionable goals, objectives and evidence-based strategies for addressing priority areas. Fitzpatrick said, "The plan serves as a blueprint. We monitor progress toward meeting the goals using designed performance measures."

BDHHS conducted a Vulnerable Populations Assessment that focuses on the underserved populations in Bloomfield. Three areas of need were identified: mental health, food insecurity and access to health information. BDHHS Director of Health Education Samantha Bunsu said, "This assessment supports the Community Health Assessment data and reinforced the need for BDHHS to offer more support and services with health equity in mind."

Active living and healthy eating reduce the risks of chronic health problems. For many people, lack of transportation, cost, convenience and time make eating healthy difficult. BDHHS partners with City Green, a Clifton-based nonprofit that brings fresh produce to underserved areas. A mobile farm stand is set up in key locations throughout Bloomfield Township. The veggie truck accepts and doubles federal food benefits to make it easier for low-income families to access quality fresh fruits and vegetables. Recently, BDHHS implemented an initiative to increase sign-ups for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) at the veggie truck every week, from summer through the fall.

In 2020, BDHHS's Health Education Department committed to creating all materials in English and Spanish. When staff conduct outreach in the community, Spanish and English-speaking employees participate to address communication needs.

The data from the community health and vulnerable population assessments has helped inform strategies for COVID-19 vaccine outreach. Transportation, language and physical accessibility were found to be barriers to getting the vaccine for many underserved and low-income residents. BDHHS offers transportation services and in-home vaccinations for those who are home-bound. BDHHS engages community members in face-to-face conversations about COVID-19 human services, education and local resources. The Bloomfield team visits local businesses and signs their employees up for BDHHS to administer vaccines at their place of work.

Reducing tobacco use by Bloomfield residents is a goal in the Community Health Improvement Plan. In April, 2021, Bunsu worked with members of Greener Bloomfield, the Sustainable Jersey green team, to order and install 24 Smoke-Free, Tobacco-Free signs in public spaces and parks in Bloomfield.

Bunsu summarized, "We are continually assessing, implementing and evaluating data to ensure the services we provide are both needed and working. We do this while increasing access and information to vital health services for those who are most often underserved." She added, "While this always has and continues to be a challenge, especially through the pandemic, we are committed to continue "chugging along" to ultimately improve health outcomes for all." Bloomfield Township is Sustainable Jersey certified. 🌿



Health Gold Session at the Annual NJLM Conference

Sustainable Jersey will share information and case studies on the Gold Star Standard in Health and Lead-Safe Communities at conference sessions at the 106th Annual New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference the week of November 16-19, 2021.



NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABLE ENERGY JOINT MEETING

NJSEM Generates \$30 Million in Taxpayer Savings by Working Together to Reduce Energy Costs

During the past ten years, 200 public entities have collaborated as members of the NJ Sustainable Energy Meeting, to secure gas and electric energy at the lowest possible cost.

In addition to generating savings for local taxpayers, NJSEM members receive electric power that includes almost 30% renewable energy content and meets Sustainable Jersey standards.

NJSEM is supported by a team of expert energy consultants that prepare the bid packages and evaluate the proposals received from utilities throughout New Jersey who participate in the program.

The NJSEM is governed by a board of local public administrators and officials elected by its members.

For more information or to become a member visit the NJSEM website.

“By working together, we are able to ensure that our members receive the energy they need at the lowest possible cost in a process that is expertly supported, transparent, and meets State guidelines.”

CHUCK CUCCIA
*NJSEM Chair and CFO,
Borough of Maywood*

NJSEM:
Working Together Today to
Protect the Future...for all of us.

www.njsem.org



Rebirth of NJ Travel and Tourism

Jim Kirkos, President and CEO, Meadowlands Chamber and MLCVB



Liberty State Park

The Meadowlands Region’s travel and tourism entities are poised for economic recovery this fall with vital support from the Meadowlands Live Convention and Visitors Bureau’s (MLCVB) multi-faceted marketing campaign to introduce—or reacquaint—people to the Meadowlands’ robust hospitality, dining, and entertainment options for personal fun or corporate meetings.

We’re naturally positioned to make a post-pandemic recovery because we have nationally recognized permanent activities, a schedule of events to bring people here, and a robust and diverse cache of offerings to enjoy once they are here. This holistic marketing approach will show NYC Metro-area staycationers and automobile vacationers throughout the Northeast that this is a viable place to spend a long weekend or even longer.

The marketing efforts are a holistic effort to highlight the assets of the Meadowlands region that encompasses parts of Bergen and Hudson Counties from the George Washington Bridge to the Statue of Liberty with Entertainment and Retail attractions at American Dream, summer and fall events including concerts and the State Fair at MetLife Stadium, and ecotours on the Hackensack River with birdwatching along



AD dreamworks waterpark

our North American flyway.

The Meadowlands experienced great momentum over the past five years with well-known hotel chains increasing our room count to over 11,000, American Dream opening its theme parks, and internationally-known events like the NFL's Super Bowl XLVIII, WrestleMania, FIFA World Cup, and Army Navy enticing more and more

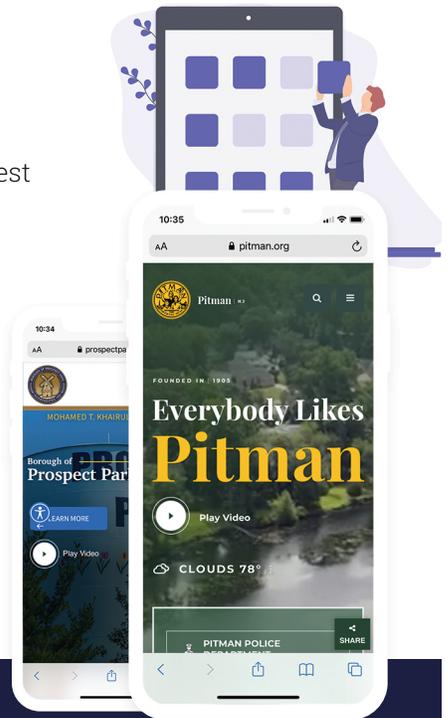
visitors to see that our appeal goes way beyond our proximity to Manhattan.”

Looking back, looking forward

Pre-COVID, Travel and Tourism was consistently one of New Jersey's top four industries, representing \$46.4 billion in state revenue in 2019. Additionally, the Meadowlands region

Everything you need all in one place
Powerful tools that work together

-  **Minutes & Agendas**
Organize With Ease
-  **Public Records Request**
Requests Made Easy
-  **Document Center**
Documents Done Right
-  **E-Notify**
Keep Them Notified
-  **FAQ's App**
Handy & Convenient



Roadtrips!

The Meadowlands is located within a five-hour car ride for nearly 67 million people, and according to a report by Value Penguin, 72% of Americans didn't take a summer vacation in 2020, and of those who did, 71% opted for a road trip rather than flying.

We designed this initiative in response to those yearning for normalcy who might still be gun-shy about venturing too far from home. Marketing the region's diversity will help travelers do that while setting us up for long-term economic sustainability.

We believe in...

Making government beautiful, accessible, and different.

Our goal is to make our client's websites truly beautiful. We have a cabinet full of awards that stand as a testament to our mastery of design. But functionality and navigability are also important components of a beautiful user experience.

As technology continues to evolve, governments must adapt and change the way they reach out to the individuals and companies who rely on them.

This is why we continue to enhance our technology, regularly adding new features that enable our clients to most effectively serve their constituents and manage their website content.

Our innovative web design, cutting edge web content management system, and an ingenious suite of web apps go a long way toward allowing our municipal clients to be different by making a difference in people's lives.

revize.

The Government Website Experts

revize.com • (248) 269-9263 • interested@revize.com

Rebirth of NJ Travel and Tourism

of North Jersey in particular generated \$5.1 billion in direct sales and supported \$8.2 billion in total business sales in 2017 (The Meadowlands Economic Impact of Travel and Tourism Report is distributed every two years with 2017 being the most recent year).

We're naturally positioned to make a post-pandemic recovery because we have nationally recognized permanent activities.



Shore Walk in DeKorte Park

Live & Kicking Communications

Website:

The MLCVB redeveloped its website (www.mlcvb.com) to feature a new Meadowlands Live and Kicking! Splash page, a one-stop shop for hotel rate specials in the Meadowlands highlighting the MLCVB's 31 member-hotels that offer 11,000 hotel rooms ranging from boutique hotels to leading brands at great rates with many receiving the TripAdvisor's Cleanliness certification.

Its LIVE! From the Meadowlands activation campaign can also be found on the revamped site. It includes a five-minute highlight film featuring the voices of regional and state business and elected officials, and eight mini-commercials featuring the region's events, dining, parks, eco-tourism and transportation options. The Live! From the Meadowlands initiative attracted visitors from around the globe and helped the MLCVB secure a \$180,000 New Jersey Travel and Tourism Grant in October 2019.

This website transformation has tremendous potential to convert electronic traffic into physical visits to the region.

Social Media:

As a complement to the website, the MLCVB is increasing its social media presence by cross-promoting its stakeholders'

activities through its Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages and an advertising boosting campaign that will reach people within the 500-mile range depending on the news angle.

Additionally, through a continued partnership with Northstar Travel Media a downloadable destination guide will be distributed through its social media posts, along with email blasts and social media posts to its opt-in subscribers.

Lead Generation:

Meetings and conventions business to the region will be just as important to its post-COVID recover as general consumer visits. The MLCVB has enlisted CIENCE, one of the fastest growing, most recommended lead generation and researching firms to provide custom outbound lead generation to MLCCV/DMO specific audiences to custom-fit a program to connect MLCVB stakeholders with qualified event planners. The CVB will act as a sales-support role and work with CIENCE to adapt the program as the market changes.

Cvent is an additional source to reach event planners through online advertising and upcoming conferences and expos.



MetLife Stadium

We're anticipating growing numbers as COVID restrictions begin to ease. By building onto an extensive travel and tourism campaign that began in 2019, we can ensure the positive momentum for the businesses in North Jersey that was briefly interrupted by the pandemic.

Ongoing advocacy

The Meadowlands Live CVB and its parent organization the Meadowlands Chamber have been advocating for the region since 1973. Leading initiatives to increase travel and tourism funding, improve transportation options to and within North Jersey, the MLCVB plans for its long-term economic sustainability through a Meadowlands Complex Entertainment District that includes a convention center, and most recently providing assistance to hospitality operators through initiatives like its COVID-19 Heroes program, which connected members to resources to help sustain operations through the pandemic.

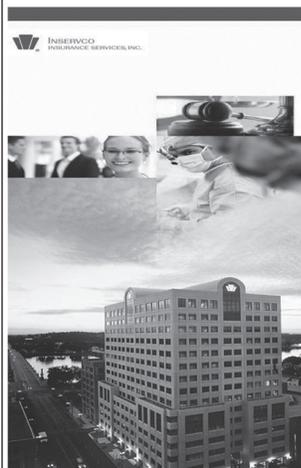
We've weathered natural and man-made disasters before—9/11, the 2008

recession, Super Storm Sandy to name a few—by working together as a tourism unit because nobody in the region is operating in a silo. We don't know

what the next roadblock will be, but our regional culture of inclusion will set us up to address it from a position of strength. 

THE SOLUTION TO YOUR COMPANY'S THIRD PARTY CLAIM CHALLENGES

Inservco Insurance Services, Inc.



- ✓ *Offering Workers' Compensation, General Liability, Auto, Police Professional Liability Claim services, and more.*
- ✓ *A prominent leader in providing highest quality claims administration services throughout New Jersey for nearly 40 years.*
- ✓ *Offers a convenient office location in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.*
- ✓ *A subsidiary company of Penn National Insurance ensuring stability and excellence.*

Join the scores of New Jersey government centers, businesses, schools, and insurance program administrators who already enjoy the rewards of utilizing Inservco's claim services.

Please contact us at 800-356-0438 for more about how your organization can take advantage of Inservco's solutions.

How Local Government Played a Role During the Ongoing Pandemic

NJLM's 27th Annual Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition Honorees Named

A trio of Garden State high school students, Sarah Levin, East Brunswick Township; Navleen Boparai, Hillsborough Township; and Aislyn Lapp, Point Pleasant Borough were presented with awarded by their towns' mayors in recognition of their winning essays for the 2021 Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition.

Each winning student received a \$1,000 check from their mayors, Mayor Brad Cohen of East Brunswick, Mayor Shawn Lipani of Hillsborough, and Mayor Robert Sabosik of Point Pleasant Borough, courtesy of the New Jersey League of Municipalities. High school juniors and seniors from around the state in competition for the scholarship awards reflected on the timely topic: How has local government played a role in your life regarding the ongoing pandemic? Their essays were evaluated and recognized for their insights on local government.

The final judges this year were Jim Anzaldi, Mayor of Clifton City and League Past President; and from the NJ State League of Municipalities Lori Buckelew, Assistant Executive Director, Legislative Analysts Paul Penna and Andrew LaFevre, Legislative Administrator Ciara Bradley, and Managing Editor Amy Spiezio.

The competition is intended to raise awareness of the work of elected officials and instill an interest in future opportunities for young potential municipal leaders. The essay contest is named in honor of Hawthorne Mayor Emeritus Louis Bay 2nd, an active participant in local government and the League of Municipalities for more than 60 years.

Following is a complete listing of winners, finalists, and semi-finalists, as well as the three winning essays in full.

Winners

Sarah Levin, East Brunswick Township
Navleen Boparai, Hillsborough Township
Aislyn Lapp, Point Pleasant Borough

Finalists

Jessica Wilson, Bordentown Township
Aarushi Jain, East Windsor Township
Shannon Cicero, Franklin Lakes Borough
Olivia Parker, Highland Park Borough
Marissa Muñoz, Lafayette Township
Lena Dougherty, Middle Township
Corinne Kessler, North Caldwell Borough
Matthew Oves, Ocean City
Kristina Creary, Palisades Park Borough
Andrew Yansick, Palmyra Borough
Arjun Chaudhry, Piscataway Township
Grace Mazzola, Pitman Borough
Claire Guo, Summit City
Frank Basile, Wildwood Crest Borough
Colleen Meagher, Woodbury City

Semi-Finalists

Samantha Sellman, Brick Township
Chloe Popowich, Clifton City
Logan Hinds, Closter Borough
Frankie Savino, Emerson Borough
Nafees Shaheed, Fair Lawn Borough
Evelyn Aguin, Fairview Borough
Shelby Einwechter, Hamilton Township (Atlantic)
Kylie Sciarra, Hawthorne Borough
Elizabeth Curtin, High Bridge Borough
Cassandra McDermott, Manchester Township
Aidan Hannigan, Middletown Township
Rosaleen Regan, Monroe Township (Middlesex)
Andrew Wallen, Mount Olive Township
Kaitlyn Jauregui, North Bergen Township
Cynthia Rodriguez, Passaic City
Cameron Coyle, Robbinsville Township
Marissa Foley, Saddle River Borough
Jelinda Montes, South Plainfield Borough
Karen Katat, Totowa Borough
Ashley Ramirez, Ventnor City
Olivia Wolodkowicz, Waldwick Borough
Alexis E. Abrego, Weehawken Township
Alexandra Paskhaver, West Windsor Township



A Safer, More Inclusive Community

Sarah Levin, East Brunswick

My uncle was a second father to me. He always sat in the front row of every dance recital, graduation, and concert. He supported me through everything, and I loved him more than I can describe.

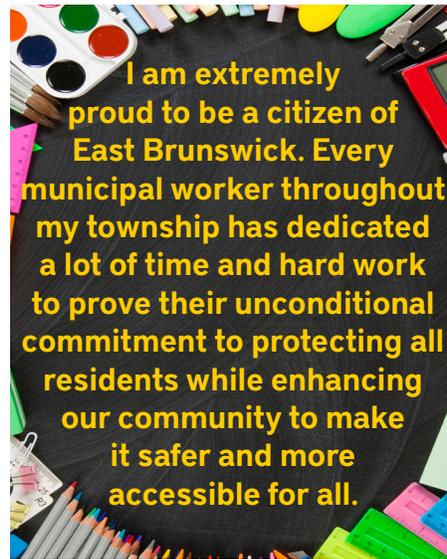
However, in early April of 2020, he became a victim of COVID-19. He spent nine days in the hospital paralyzed and strapped to a ventilator. After multiple organ failures, three rounds of CPR, and many broken ribs, my uncle's heart refused to restart. That was it. It was over. COVID-19 had taken his life.

Throughout this ongoing pandemic, my family has struggled more than we could ever imagine was possible. As a result of my uncle's tragic death, my grandmother suffered through both a heart attack and stroke. For months, we lived in constant fear of COVID-19, afraid to lose any more people from our family.

My grandma, who had just lost her son, was too vulnerable, too high risk to simply leave her house. However, the East Brunswick Police Department started a service to bring groceries to senior citizens and it kept my grandma alive. I am immensely grateful that although the police officers were risking their lives. They offered this service that tremendously helped my grandmother and other senior citizens in our community.

Furthermore, my local government went above and beyond to help my grandmother, and many other high-risk citizens, get a COVID-19 vaccine. After being on hold and sitting on my computer for many hours, seeking vaccine opportunities for my grandma, I reached out to the East Brunswick Senior Center, where they provided me with direct

instructions on how to get my grandma an appointment. Because of the Senior Center, my grandma was able to receive her first COVID-19 vaccine. The day she was vaccinated, my family also received a phone call from Mayor Brad Cohen who heard about the struggle we had



with registering my grandma for a vaccine and offered his personal assistance. Although my grandma was already vaccinated, Mayor Cohen's phone call showed the wholehearted dedication my local government has for every individual resident in our community.

This pandemic has made this past year extremely difficult for everyone. However, the East Brunswick Township continued to focus on the future of our community as well. As the only high schooler in the Redevelopment Advisory Committee, I was given the opportunity to virtually meet with Mayor Cohen, Economic Development representatives, and East Brunswick citizens to discuss these projects and learn about their progression.

I am extremely proud to be a citizen of East Brunswick. Every municipal worker throughout my township has dedicated a lot of time and hard work to prove their unconditional commitment to protecting all residents while enhancing our community to make it safer and more accessible for all.



MASON, GRIFFIN & PIERSON, P.C.

Counsellors at Law | Since 1955

Municipal Experience. Knowledge. Professionalism.

- Affordable Housing
- Civil Rights Defense
- Consolidation & Shared Services Agreements
- Defense of Tort Claims
- Eminent Domain Litigation
- Employment Discrimination
- Historic Preservation
- Land Use
- Local Public Contracts Law
- Open Public Records Act Compliance
- Open Space/Farmland Preservation
- Personnel Policies & Training
- Prerogative Writ Litigation
- Sewer/Water/CATV Utilities
- Tax Appeals
- UCC Regulation/Litigation
- Wildlife Management

101 Poor Farm Road, Princeton, NJ 08540 609.921.6543 www.mgplaw.com



Fighting Fear with Information & Togetherness

Aislyn Lapp, Point Pleasant Borough

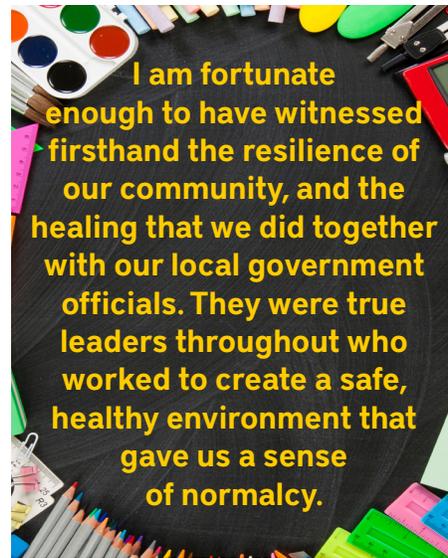
Living through the past year as a high school student has not been easy, to say the least. I never expected my junior year to take the turn that it did. We were all so naive, and even a bit amused by the thought of an “extended spring break” that we were blindsided by the harsh reality of these unprecedented times.

Hope wavered, and people became anxious and terrified. There was a time where I was even frightened to leave my home. No one knew what was going on and it felt like the world was ending around us.

However, looking back on it now, I have to note how grateful I am to have been able to experience this pandemic in the town of Point Pleasant Borough. Since the beginning of lockdown, our Mayor Robert A. Sabosik put out multiple regular updates, nearly every day. This helped to establish a sense of normalcy and routine within our tight knit community. It made things a bit less terrifying, and helped us to be informed and hopeful. Information is one of our greatest tools in life and having someone with the ability to filter information that was so new to all of us, was quite a comfort. Mayor Sabosik sent out information regarding COVID 19 safety guidelines and updated us about the case count in our town. He and our Borough council members assisted us in understanding how we could wisely obtain necessary goods and services. This further rooted my great sense of togetherness and community, offering hope when it felt like there was none to be had.

Alongside being a high school student, I am also an employee at a local business. I was beyond thrilled when the Mayor and the Chamber of Commerce instituted the virtual ribbon cutting ceremony to signify the reopening of our town. I am fortunate enough to have witnessed firsthand the resilience of our community, and the healing that we did together with our local government officials. They were true leaders throughout who worked to create a safe, healthy environment that gave us a sense of normalcy.

In addition to their leadership and comfort, they also did not forget that we had people in need due to many circumstances. However, the negative economic impact of the pandemic restrictions on families and other residents of our town was a concern for all of us. Our local leaders have spearheaded a number of food drives, school supply drives and toy drives. My employer was active in these events, which afforded me the opportunity to witness the outpouring of caring and generosity, first hand. This too created a greater atmosphere of togetherness and an example of how to do such things safely.



As I approach a new chapter in my life and I plan to move on to college, I do so knowing that coming home means more to me than my family and my house. It means home to my community of Point Pleasant Borough. Mayor Sabosik and our council members will always be my hometown leaders, because they helped to teach me how to survive and overcome the most dire of circumstances by doing simple, caring, logical things.



Meals For Heroes & A Pillar Amidst Uncertainty

Navleen Boparai, Hillsborough Township

In a singular year, the lives of every individual across the globe has changed dramatically—and while the walls of the world came crashing down around us, our local government has remained a strong standing pillar amidst the uncertainty. This past year, the government officials of Hillsborough Township have played a crucial role in my life in many ways; in addition to becoming an assurance blanket for my family and I, the local government both motivated and supported me in launching a program to bring about real change during the pandemic.

Prior to the Coronavirus, a pandemic was another history class topic. When NJ began to see a pattern of COVID-19 cases amongst its population, people, including myself, began to panic. There were hundreds of questions, unknowns, and what-ifs. Life as we knew it came to halt, and restrictions and requirements were changing on a day-to-day basis. Despite the trepidation and immense responsibility, members of the local government used social media to their advantage, and as a result, assuaged our cloaks of apprehension. During the peak of the pandemic, I looked forward to watching previous Mayor Doug Tomson's daily COVID-19 updates on Facebook and to analyzing the graphs he posted with the newest trends and patterns.

Throughout the entirety of each update, the mayor remained hopeful and continuously assured people that precautions were being enforced and that the community was working together to help do their part, ultimately giving families like mine confidence that our town was working beyond their fullest potential to provide us with a hopeful future.

This sense of certitude established by the local government was incredibly influential in my life because I could physically see our local government members going out of their way to give the community a peace of mind, while remaining both informative and truthful. In addition, the Hillsborough Township government members played a significant role in my life by urging young members of the community to build upon their values and bring about change.



At the start of the pandemic, my brother and I launched a program called Meals for Heroes, which aimed to provide frontline heroes with meals, support local businesses, and unite the community. Members of the local government were incredibly supportive of our initiative—in addition to helping spread the word in one of Mayor Doug Tomson's daily morning briefings, then-Mayor Tomson and then-Deputy Mayor Lipani even attended several of our deliveries made to nursing homes.

By physically being there and commending our efforts in launching this initiative, the local government truly conveyed that running our town was much more than just being involved in politics—they genuinely cared for members of the community and wanted to go out of their way to give back to frontline workers during the unprecedented pandemic.

Obviously, I knew that Hillsborough's government was working around the clock to keep our families safe to the best of their ability, however by forming personal bonds with highly esteemed officials, I was able to absorb the human in them—not only was I comforted in knowing that the mayor and deputy mayor were compassionate and hard-working, but I was also inspired to contribute to the ongoing efforts in a variety of ways to help do my part in reversing the pandemic—following my

Meals for Heroes initiative, I also donated over 1,000 items to the local food bank with the help of my friends.

Ultimately, the local government has been a prominent source of comfort and motivation throughout the pandemic. You never expect your life as you know it to change within a day, and when something as catastrophic as a pandemic strikes, government officials can either make or break your experience. And while I empathize with the hundreds of

families who have lost members during the pandemic, I am incredibly grateful to have discovered just how inspiring and dedicated Hillsborough Township's local government members are- they undoubtedly worked diligently and used social media effectively.

I cannot wait for the ongoing pandemic to come to an end, however, in the meanwhile, I am certain that our local government will continue to positively impact the lives of many! 🇺🇸



Earn Points Towards Being a Municipal Pioneer!



Attend the Annual Conference and earn points for the Local Government Leadership Program!

The Local Government Leadership program is a voluntary recognition program that recognizes Elected Governing Body Members who complete additional training and advocacy.

For more information on the Local Government Leadership Program, visit www.njlm.org/lglp

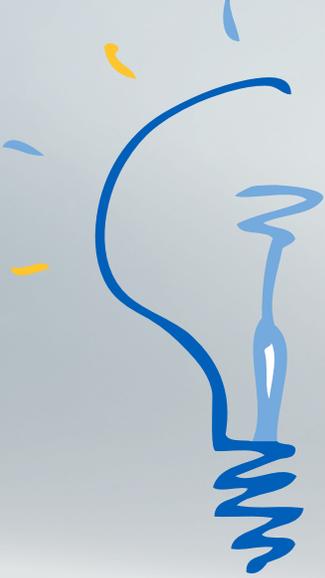
Here's a list of Elected Governing Body Members and their level of achievement:

- Mary Jane Canose**, Mayor, Bernardsville Borough Municipal Leader
- Michael Inganamort**, Council President, Chester Township Municipal Leader
- Christopher J. Chung**, Mayor, Palisades Park Borough Municipal Leader
- Brandon Bernier**, Councilman, Roselle Borough Municipal Leader
- Elizabeth Rossell**, Committeewoman, Southampton Township ... Municipal Leader,
..... Municipal Innovator & Municipal Pioneer
- Judith Davies-Dunhour**, Mayor, Stone Harbor Borough Municipal Leader,
..... Municipal Innovator

Please visit the Local Government Leadership website at www.njlm.org/lglp

NJLM Educational Foundation

Providing resources for Local Government



Building on a foundation of work dedicated to fostering research and resolving the complex issues impacting local governments and their constituents, the NJLM Educational Foundation continues to provide a forum where municipal officials, academics, government officials, business leaders, and other stakeholders can share their hopes for New Jersey's future. We thank this year's Foundation Officers and Trustees for their service and guidance.

This year, Walmart provided a grant of \$100,000 to the League Foundation to help address educational connectivity issues. In an effort to reach this objective, the foundation requested joint proposals from municipalities and school districts.

After careful review, the NJLM Foundation awarded first-round grants to:

- The Cumberland Regional School District, Upper Deerfield Township School District, and Upper Deerfield Township
- The City of East Orange and the East Orange Public Schools
- Farmingdale Borough and Farmingdale School District
- The City of Jersey City and the Jersey City Public School District
- Morris Township and the Morris School District
- Town of Newton and Newton Public Schools
- Oxford Township and the Oxford Township School District
- South Toms Rivers Borough and the Toms Rivers Regional Schools
- City of Wildwood, NJ and Wildwood Public Schools
- Winfield Township and the Winfield Township School District

@ Visit the NJLM Educational Foundation online at www.njlmef.org

Officers



Timothy C. McDonough
President
Mayor, Hope Twp.;
NJLM Past President



Paul Anzano
Vice President
Mayor, Hopewell Borough
(Mercer)



Michael F. Cerra
Treasurer
NJLM Executive Director



Lori Buckelew
Secretary
NJLM Assistant
Executive Director

Trustees



John Anderson
Trustee
VP External Affairs,
JCP&L



Robert L. Bowser
Trustee
Former Mayor, East Orange;
NJLM Past President



Danielle Capozzoli
Trustee
Corporate Attorney,
United Water



Susan M. Coan
Trustee
Region Vice President,
Atlantic City Electric



Ken Gardner
Trustee
Vice President,
Government Banking,
Wells Fargo



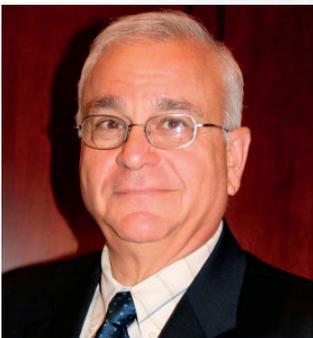
Cheryl L. Griffith
Trustee
SVP - Government Banking
Group Manager, NJ/NY/PA,
TD Bank, N.A.



Jeanne Herb
Trustee
Exec. Dir., Env. Analysis & Com.
Group, Edward J. Bloustein
School of Planning & Public Policy
Rutgers, The State University of NJ



Calvin Ledford
Trustee
President, PSEG Foundation,
Director of Corporate
Social Responsibility



Paul Maticera
Trustee
Partner Emeritus,
MBI GluckShaw;
NJLM Past President



Brian Turano
Trustee
Senior Vice President,
Government Banking,
Investors Bank



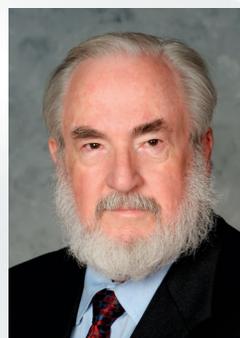
Suzanne Walters
Trustee
Former Mayor, Stone Harbor;
NJLM Past President



Louise C. Wilson
Trustee
Past President,
NJLM Educational
Foundation



Althea R. Yancy
Trustee
Regional VP,
AT&T External Affairs



William J. Kearns Jr., Esq.
Legal Advisor
Helmer, Conley
& Kasselmann

Staff



2021 Conference Resolutions

Have your voice heard, help direct League advocacy

Frank Marshall, Associate General Counsel

Each year, the League Conference offers a new opportunity for local leaders to have municipal challenges placed at the forefront of League advocacy efforts. This is done through Conference Resolutions. Any advocacy by the League starts with the feedback we receive from our members, and there is no stronger mandate for our advocacy efforts than the Conference Resolution.

The Conference Resolution Process

Throughout the year, municipal officials submit or suggest to League staff possible Conference Resolutions. The proposed resolutions are usually inspired by municipal matters encountered by specific municipalities but have statewide implications. Proposed resolutions are then reviewed by League staff to ensure proper drafting and clarity.

Once prepared, the proposed resolutions are then forwarded to the League Resolution Committee to be reviewed and selected for recommendation of adoption at the League Business Meeting. On average, the Resolution Committee typically considers 20 resolutions submitted from across the Garden State each year.

How Conference Resolutions Help

Submitting a resolution for consideration allows you to help shape League policy on issues in which we are not yet involved and can help identify unaddressed municipal challenges. If you have encountered a specific local issue that has statewide implication that you think should receive attention, we encourage you to submit your ideas for Conference Resolutions.

Conference Resolution Results

Some of the most important municipal reforms gained traction as Conference Resolutions. The following are just a few examples of how advocacy efforts initiated by Conference Resolutions have helped municipal governments and taxpayers.

Resolution No. 2021-01 "Resolution Supporting Federal Funding for Investment in Bridges and other Critical Transportation Infrastructure." New Jersey's transportation infrastructure is aging and is in need of repair and upgrade that can only be completed with federal assistance. Resolution No.2021-01 supports League efforts as we partner with the National League of Cities to lobby federal lawmakers for the

funding necessary to ensure our roadways and bridges remain safe. This Resolution has also helped in the state's efforts to obtain the funding and approvals necessary to complete the Gateway Tunnel Project.

Resolution No. 2020-03 "Preserving Local Public Rights-of-Way and Regulatory Authority to Most Effectively Deploy 5G Broadband Access and Bridge the Digital Divide."

Broadband internet access has become a necessity in today's world. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted this need as aspects of everyday life transitioned from in-person to virtual, including doctor visits, public meetings, and even social events.

This shift to a virtual world illustrated the need for affordable access to reliable broadband internet, and while with the next wave of 5G technology promising increased speeds we must ensure deployment occurs in an equitable fashion, as to not further increase the digital divide.

With Resolution No. 2020-03 in hand the League was able to fight off legislation that would have given broadband carriers access to local rights-of-way without proper local review or oversight necessary for the health and safety of our communities. The legislation would also, in essence, have local property taxpayers subsidize private companies, all without any assurances from the carriers to provide equitable broadband access.

While this issue has not gone away, Resolution No. 2020-03 was, and will continue to be, a critical tool in helping the League continue our efforts to voice of municipal leaders in Trenton. ↴

@ To review the procedures and a complete list of 2020 Conference Resolutions, visit www.njlm.org/conferenceresolutions.

To submit a Conference Resolution for 2021, please email Frank Marshall, NJLM Associate General Counsel, at fmarshall@njlm.org.



This Year's Conference Resolution Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, Nov. 16 at 3 p.m. in room information to come.

While only members of the Resolutions Committee can vote, it's a once-a-year opportunity for all local government officials to hear how the League's advocacy efforts begin with input from all of those in the League.

Conference Preview



**Creating
Your
Legacy**

2021

NJLM Conference

106th Annual • Atlantic City
November 16-18 [#njleague](#)



















Term Limits for Local Elected Officials



Can our municipality adopt an ordinance setting term limits for our elected officials?



Probably not. There is no provision within the New Jersey Constitution or elsewhere within the law setting term limits for local elected officials. Given New Jersey's strong principals of home rule, one could easily assume that a municipal government would be free to set their own term limits. However, given the fact that there is no specific statutory authority empowering municipal governments to adopt term limit regulations on their own, and because the state legislature has stepped into regulate the area of local elections, it is more likely that municipal governments have been preempted from taking such action.

While there is very limited case law on the topic, a superior court case from 1979 helps examine the question. *Sloan v. Lettieri*, 171 N.J.Super. 445, 409 A.2d 829 (Ch. Div. 1979), dealt with a declaratory judgment sought by a municipal clerk to determine the validity of an ordinance, limiting the number of terms for which a municipal elected official could be elected, which was proposed under the initiative power contained in the Optional Municipal Charter Law (commonly known as the Faulkner Act).

The municipal clerk contended that the petition proposed an ordinance that was not within the power of the municipality to enact.

The initiative's petitioners on the other hand, argued that the State legislature had granted to local governments the right to

adopt an ordinance limiting the number of terms of members of its governing body. This argument was based on the home rule provisions within the State Constitution (N.J. Const. (1974), Art. IV, s VII, par. 11) mandating laws regulating local governments to be liberally construed in their favor, on the initiative provisions of the Faulkner Act (N.J.S.A. 40:69A-184), and the silence of the Faulkner Act as to the number of terms permitted.

In examining the matter, the court determined that, despite the fact that powers granted by the legislature to local governments are to be liberally construed, the provision of self-government does not give unlimited power to municipalities. It has long been held that local governments are preempted from regulating in an area where the state legislature has already made clear and comprehensive regulations.

The court, ruling in agreement with the municipal clerk, found that local elections was one such area where the state had adopted clear and comprehensive regulations, thus preempting local governments from entering the field to regulate. The comprehensive scheme for local elections laid out in not only the Faulkner Act but other laws as well, combined with a lack of express authority to set terms limits, made it clear that the legislature had taken over the entirety of this realm of regulation, leaving no room for local government to regulate.

While the *Sloan* case has not been overruled, it is important to point out that this matter was never appealed and the issue was examined exclusively in the lower court meaning, the door is open for another challenge and for a higher court examine the ruling. However, it seems unlikely, without legislative action, that the court's holding would be altered. 

Create Your Legacy!

Creating
Your
Legacy

2021

NJLM Conference
106th Annual • Atlantic City
November 16-18 #njleague

Join your peers in local government at
League Conference events in Atlantic City

Annual Mayors' Box Lunch

**Wednesday,
November 17, 2021**

12:00 Noon – 1:45 p.m.

Sheraton Hotel,
Crown Ballroom

Tickets limited to
Mayor and 2 guests.

Cost: \$25 per person

Women in Municipal Government

**Wednesday,
November 17, 2021**

5:15 p.m.

Networking &
Award Event

Sheraton Hotel,
Pearl Ballroom

Cost: \$30 per person

League Delegates Luncheon

**Thursday,
November 18, 2021**

12:00 Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Sheraton Hotel,
Crown Ballroom

Cost \$40 per person

Download the order form from
www.njlm.org/events

Labor Negotiations



Matthew U. Watkins

Starting Off

We are pleased to launch a new column and a new aspect of member services at New Jersey State League of Municipalities. Following is a brief introduction by Matthew U. Watkins, we look forward to his work with the League.

I am excited to be a part of the League's efforts to enhance its Labor Advisory Service for New Jersey local governments. The Service assists communities with a wealth of information needed to prepare for negotiations with their labor unions. The enhancement will provide more current information about issues and trends in NJ Labor-Management.

Getting ready to negotiate and new collectively bargained agreement, it is critical to have the latest in trends and issues that may impact on the new agreement. Knowing the various trends and new regulations has been very time consuming. The Labor Advisory Service, now through articles and seminars will assist you in your preparations for negotiations. Each month, I will be working with labor attorneys and others to provide you with guidance on those trends and nuances to negotiations that I have experienced over the years. Moreover, I will make myself available to those individuals interested in getting more information.—MW
Many of us over the years have tried to obtain current infor-

mation on trends in negotiations. This has been a hit-or-miss proposition. Meanwhile, labor unions are well organized and very much aware of trends in negotiations with municipalities. We hope to address the constantly changing labor management environment in New Jersey by accumulating information, contracts, review of court and PERC decisions and make this available to you.

For this effort, it is extremely helpful if you can provide NJLM with your current contracts. Or, simply make sure that your municipal clerk has posted all your current contracts with a Public Employee Relations Commission (PERC).

Getting Ready

The first phase of every successful negotiation is preparation. Following is an outline of the preparatory steps needed for successful labor negotiations. This process should start 4 to 6 months before the contract ends.

SCATTERGRAM First, develop a scattergram of your union membership.

You should have a spreadsheet that includes:

- Name
- Title
- Date of hire
- Date of birth
- Base salary or hourly rate

Name				5/25/2016	Salary		Step			Longevity		14 Days				
First	Last	Title	Date Of Hire	Date Of Hire	Current seniority	on 5/31/16	Step	Date	Due Date	New Annual	%	Due date	Holiday	Clothing	Stipend	Total Compensation
		POLICE DE	9/11/2006	9/11/2006	9 Years, 8 mons	#####	1	7/24/2015	7/24/16	106,317.66	2%	9/11/16	\$ 6,898.33	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 109,979.93
		POLICE DE	9/1/1993	9/1/1993	22 Years, 8 mons	#####	2				8%		\$ 7,163.65	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 121,235.29
		POLICE DE	7/20/1998	7/20/1998	17 Years, 10 mons	#####	max				6%		\$ 7,030.99	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 118,517.97
		POLICE DE	9/7/2004	9/7/2004	11 Years, 8 mons	#####	max				4%		\$ 6,898.33	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 116,300.65
		POLICE DE	3/17/2006	3/17/2006	10 Years, 2 mons	#####	max				4%		\$ 6,898.33	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 116,400.65
		POLICE OFI	9/22/2015	9/22/2015	0 Years, 8 mons	#####	1	9/22/16		39,851.00	0%		\$ 2,204.17	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 37,841.17
		POLICE OFI	9/19/2014	9/19/2014	1 Years, 8 mons	#####	2	9/19/16		45,066.00	0%		\$ 2,535.97	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 43,386.97
		POLICE OFI	7/16/2013	7/16/2013	2 Years, 10 mons	#####	3	7/16/16		50,279.00	0%		\$ 2,867.84	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 49,133.84
		POLICE OFI	3/1/2012	3/1/2012	4 Years, 2 mons	#####	5				0%		\$ 3,531.37	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 60,024.37
		POLICE OFI	8/20/1990	10/7/2005	10 Years, 7 mons	#####	max				10%		\$ 7,005.60	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 118,093.60
		POLICE OFI	9/10/1993	9/10/1993	22 Years, 8 mons	#####	max				8%		\$ 6,878.23	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 115,964.63
		POLICE OFI	1/28/1994	1/28/1994	22 Years, 3 mons	#####	max				8%		\$ 6,878.23	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 116,464.63
		POLICE CA	1/6/1998	1/6/1998	18 Years, 4 mons	#####	max				6%		#####	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 174,703.54
		POLICE LIE	9/10/1993	9/10/1993	22 Years, 8 mons	#####	max				8%		\$ 9,287.60	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 156,235.56
		POLICE SEI	5/5/1997	5/5/1997	19 Years, 0 mons	#####	1	#####	10/20/16	124,421.74	6%		\$ 7,220.94	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 121,892.88
		POLICE SEI	1/28/1994	1/28/1994	22 Years, 3 mons	#####	max				8%		\$ 8,067.14	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 135,836.46
		POLICE SEI	9/11/2006	9/11/2006	9 Years, 8 mons	#####	max				2%	9/11/16	\$ 7,768.36	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 128,494.94

Example of a Scattergram

- Stipends such as holiday pay or uniform allowance, longevity
- Total compensation column for each employee.

Be sure to input dates so you can sort by date. Further, make sure you know when employees move from one grade to the next. This should be done as well for longevity. All should be in your calculations.

DOCUMENT CONTROL You should have your labor contract in a format that can be edited, such as MS Word or Google Docs. You will also need this to prepare the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Each article in the MOA, should include the entire article, not just the changes. Being specific and clear in the MOA is extremely vital and important as labor negotiations wrap up. Never lose control of this document, especially in the final form.

REVIEW ISSUES This is the time to review all grievances that occurred over the past few years to determine if there are any parts of the contract language that are vague and have created disputes. Ask the department heads about issues they may have, too. Review those carefully and address them if possible. Further, you should have a comprehensive discussion with the municipal labor attorney to make sure that those items you believe are important are not in conflict with any other part of the municipal operation or the law.

ESTABLISHING YOUR POSITION With the information above, prepare the cost analysis you will need to present your governing body. The finance officer should have this information or be able to assist in this analysis. You should have a clear understanding from the scattergram how much a 1% increase in salaries would cost the municipality. Further, you should understand the daily cost for that unit. Often, trading time for salary is part of the discussion. Knowing exactly how much a day costs is critical in both discussions with your governing body and later with the union.

Lastly, you should prepare the position that you wish to take with the unions. This needs to be discussed in executive session with the governing body. You should have a clear list of items that you want and those items in the contract that need to be addressed—and know the value of each item. The governing body must provide you with limits and agree on all issues that you intend to address.

I'm hopeful that this information is handy for you in preparations for your next negotiations. Again, I ask for your assistance; please send your labor contracts to me at Matt@njcs.us.

I look forward to hearing from you or assisting you on labor matters as a part of this new service from the New Jersey League of Municipalities. 🇯🇵

Matthew U. Watkins is a retired municipal manager, and former PERC Commissioner and Director of DLGS. He is now President of NJ Community Solutions, LLC

VENDORS: WANT TO REACH THE MUNICIPAL MARKET?

NJLM's magazine puts your company name in the hands of local government decision makers across the state.

REACH A UNIQUE NICHE AUDIENCE

92%

of NJ Municipalities' readers are currently involved in local government.

GENERATE QUALITY LEADS

6,355
subscribers



MAINTAIN A PRESENCE

70%

of readers have subscribed for 10 years or longer.

ESTABLISH BRAND AWARENESS

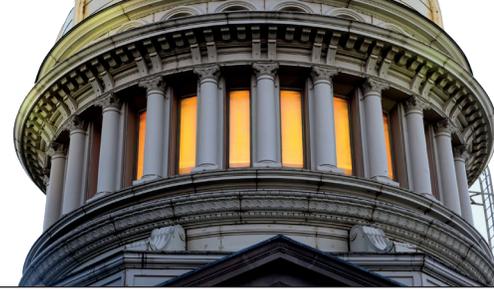


In front of the magazine's niche local government audience.



Contact: Tasneem Kapadia, Advertising Coordinator, 609-695-3481, ext. 121 • tkapadia@njlm.org

Gold Dome



Ben Dworkin, Ph.D., *Director, Rowan University Institute for Public Policy & Citizenship (RIPPAC)*

Congressional Redistricting Poses Quandary for Democrats

With the long-awaited release of US Census data, Congressional redistricting is upon us. Over the next few months, the district boundaries for 435 seats across the nation will be decided. The results of this process will be among the biggest determinants of who holds power for the next decade in Washington, DC.

New Jersey will retain its 12 seats in Congress, currently held by 10 Democrats and two Republicans. Under the state's new map, districts will need about 774,000 people each.

The final congressional map for New Jersey must be completed by mid-January, and each side is pouring resources and talent into the process, as a pickup of three seats by New Jersey Republicans alone would switch control of the House of Representatives to the GOP.

One of the most interesting storylines in redistricting is that the numbers on the ground bode well for the Democrats, but past electoral success that exceeded expectations may actually put them in a weaker position.

The Process

New Jersey's congressional redistricting process doesn't rest on which party controls Trenton. Instead, six Democrats and six Republicans are selected by party leaders to serve on a commission.

A 13th member, who serves as tie-breaker and chair of the commission, can be chosen by the other 12 commission members. If they disagree—as happened this year—the additional member must be chosen by the full N.J. Supreme Court from the top choice offered by each party. In August, the Court selected the Democrats' recommendation, former Supreme Court Justice John Wallace.

Wallace is the critical "X factor." He dominates the proceedings and, outside of the Voting Rights Act and a few court cases aimed at protecting the voting strength of minority populations, he can pretty much force the commission to go in whichever direction he wants.

Numbers Movement

In contrast to 10 years ago, the latest census numbers showed that New Jersey's population grew in the northern part of the state.

This means that strong Democrat areas, particularly in Hudson and Essex County, will be able to shed some of their voters to other districts. The ripple effects are likely to make it easier for Democrat mapmakers to strengthen other districts.

This population growth advantage is augmented by the continued growth in the Democrats' voter registration advantage. Today, there are more than 1 million more registered Democrats than registered Republicans in New Jersey. In 2011, that margin was about 670,000. Democrats are now 39% of all registered votes, while Republicans lag behind at just 23%.

Again, all of this portends well for Democrats. They simply have many more voters to spread around, thereby creating more favorable conditions for their House candidates.

Demographic changes might not help enough to maintain 10-2 House delegation makeup.

Now and Then

In 2011, New Jersey's current congressional map was designed to create six Republican districts and six Democrat ones.

Today, a major factor for both parties is that Democrats control 10 of the 12 seats. Their success in winning districts designed to favor GOP candidates imposes a political reality on the numerical reality, and the two don't fit well together.

As there are no defined rules for the 13th member of the congressional redistricting commission, the approach set by Donald Stokes, the legendary Princeton political scientist who led the legislative redistricting commission in both 1981 and 1991, offers a convenient starting point for discussion.

Basically, the "Stokes method" calls for districts to favor the partisan makeup of the state, as reflected by the average of election results over the previous decade. Thus, if Republican candidates won, on average, 75% of the votes in a series of elections since the last census, then the state's map should have 75% of the districts favoring Republicans.

Historically, Republicans and Democrats argue passionately about which races should be included in this formula.

Beyond this formula debate, each side will have to strike just the right balance in other areas to benefit their party. If the district is too competitive, your party's marginal advantage can be lost in an increasingly frequent "wave election." Make a district too safe for your side, and you can expect expensive and hostile primaries down the road.

Again, no one has to use Stokes's method, but it is a tool that helps illuminate the Democrats' quandary.

Consider this: If you average out Democrat and Republican performance in just the gubernatorial and U.S. Senate elections over the past decade a set of elections that favors the Democrats—you end up with a 56-44 split. Applying that to the 12 districts would mean that the new map should have seven districts favoring the Democrats and five favoring Republicans.

Given the demographic and partisan registration shift of the last decade, the GOP may be thrilled to draw a map that gives them five "Republican" seats. When you only have two members of the House delegation, it's hard to go anywhere but up.

Of course, the Democrats see no reason to allow that to happen. But the tension between political realities and the numerical realities are apparent: They want to protect 10 incumbents when a decade's worth of election results suggest they don't "deserve" more than seven.

One of the counter-arguments that Democrats are likely to offer is that New Jersey already has competitive districts, even if their party controls most of them currently.

For example, breaking down New Jersey voter performance for the past decade's presidential elections by Congressional district, it is clear that districts 2, 3, 5, 7, and 11 are much closer electorally than the state at-large, with the average Democrat performance edging that of the GOP, 49% to 48%. The fact that four of these five seats have flipped Democrat since 2016 doesn't mean that they aren't still competitively-drawn districts.

2022 Elections

The elections of 2022 are going to be very tough for the Democrats. As a midterm election when Democrats control the White House, history suggests that the GOP will do extremely well in congressional races around the country.

Further, there will be no statewide race in New Jersey when candidates run for the first time under the new congressional map, a dynamic not seen in 60 years. As Democrats typically rely on presidential, gubernatorial, and U.S. Senate races to help generate turnout, this just makes a rough year even rougher for them.

However, as New Jerseyans have observed over the past decade, designing districts that favor one party or the other only goes so far. Every party wants that advantage, but district lines can be overcome because of any number of factors, including candidate quality, national mood, and changing demographics, among others.

Sometimes the map is just... a map. 🗺️

KNOW THE LAW GOVERNING MUNICIPALITIES

NJ Zoning & Land Use Administration

William M. Cox (1988-2010) & Stuart Koenig (2011-2012)

Revised and Updated By
Jonathan E. Drill & Lisa John-Basta

- Organization and powers of municipal boards.
- Requirements for variance, site plan, subdivision and other applications.
- Hearing, decision and appeal procedure.
- Passage of zoning ordinances.
- Challenges to zoning ordinances.
- Potential liability of boards & board members.
- Fundamentals of environmental regulation

**With Full Text of the
Municipal Land Use Law (N.J.S. 40:55D)**

New Jersey Statutes Titles 40 & 40A Municipalities & Counties

Perfect For Municipal Offices That Need
Access To The Laws Of NJ

Complete in One Paperback Volume

Also Available

NJ Claims Against Public Entities
Harry A. Margolis and Robert Novack

NJ Municipal Court Practice
Michael s. Richmond & Keith J. Burns

NJ Police Manual

NJ Public Education Employment Law
Maurice W. McLaughlin



Newark, N.J.
Since 1936



WE KNOW NEW JERSEY LAW • www.gannlaw.com

Legislative Update

Lori Buckelew, NJLM Assistant Executive Director and Director of Government Affairs;
Andrew LaFevre & Paul A. Penna, Legislative Analysts;
Frank Marshall Esq., NJLM Associate General Counsel

A-2991/S-421

Local Telecommunications BPPT Exemption

Status: A-2991 was favorably reported out of Assembly State and Local Government Committee and Assembly Appropriations Committee. S-421 was introduced and referred to the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee.

This legislation clarifies telecommunications industry corporate tax responsibilities, and shields local taxpayers from the costs of endless tax court litigation. Based on a misreading of a 1997 law, one telecommunications service provider decided that it could exempt itself from the payment of business personal property taxes (BPPT), in any year and in any municipality, when and where it, unilaterally, determined that it provided less than 51% of dial tone service.

The dispute began in 2008, when Verizon informed a handful of municipalities that it had decided to exempt itself from payment of taxes on all of the cables and electronic equipment it houses in local switching stations. In the years that followed, similar decisions by Verizon have led to cases affecting taxpayers in hundreds of other New Jersey municipalities.

In 2019, Hopewell Borough in Mercer County prevailed over Verizon in a Tax Court case involving the corporation's claimed exemption for 2008. It took one municipality 10 years to ensure that Verizon would pay its 2008 taxes. Further litigation will be needed for Hopewell to secure BPPT payments for each subsequent year in which the exemption was claimed. Every other municipality faces the same prospect of costly annual tax court filings, which, as we have seen, can drag on for over a decade. But even that might not end the problem, as Verizon

has appealed the final Tax Court decision, forcing Hopewell Borough to put even more time and treasure into the fight.

A-2991 will put an end to the travail. It will clarify the Legislature's intent to permanently apply the business personal property tax on local exchange telephone companies that were subject to the tax as of April 1, 1997.

The League supports this measure and urges its passage. –PAP

A-3170/S-308

Abandoned Property Administration

Status: A-3170 was introduced and referred to Assembly Housing Committee. S-308 was introduced and referred to the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee.

This legislation creates an undue burden on municipalities. While the legislation authorizes the municipality to charge the owner for purposes of keeping a registry, it is incongruous to expect that the municipality would be able to collect said fee in any meaningful way given the property is not taken care of, the owner is absent, and the property is likely abandoned.

Requiring a municipality to monitor a property that was abandoned but may be in the process of rehabilitation is a further burden on municipal governments.

The redevelopment of abandoned properties is a goal that all municipalities can support, the threat of withholding Energy Tax Receipts Property Tax Relief Aid, Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Aid, Transitional Aid to Localities and other discretionary aid programs is needless punitive.

The League opposes this legislation as unduly burdensome on local government. – PAP



Catch up on the latest laws impacting municipalities at the 106th Annual Conference.

A session on Federal Legislative Issues: ARP and Infrastructure will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 16.



2022 Show Off Your City CONTEST

Share your hometown pride! Please send in your photos of your tourist attractions, downtown areas, economic development initiatives, parks, city halls, community groups and new projects for the annual Show Off Your City contest.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 3

- Entries will be posted on the League's Facebook page, website, and some will be featured in the April issue of NJ Municipalities magazine, and possibly other issues. A winner will be chosen and awarded a free League publication of their choice as well as a place of pride on the cover of the April issue.
- Photos should be high resolution JPEG files, at least 1 MB in size. Please provide photo credit if necessary. They can be sent to aspiezio@njlm.org or mail on CD or flash drive to 222 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

ENTRY DETAILS: Unfortunately, stock photos and images that are too low resolution will not be considered. By submitting a photo, you are agreeing that you own the rights to the photo and that NJLM has permission to use the photo in NJ Municipalities, on NJLM's social media and website, and on other printed materials.

A winner will be announced with the publication of the April issue. Please include your Facebook profile name and we will tag your photo on Facebook!



nj Business Directory



Alaimo Group Consulting Engineers

200 HIGH STREET, MOUNT HOLLY, NJ 08060
Tel: 609-267-8310 Fax: 609-845-0300

2 MARKET STREET, PATERSON, NJ 07501
Tel: 973-523-6200 Fax: 973-523-1765

www.alaimogroup.com

BOSWELL ENGINEERING

Engineers | Planners | Surveyors | Scientists



330 PHILLIPS AVENUE
SOUTH HACKENSACK, NJ 07606-1722

P - (201) 641-0770 / marketing@boswellengineering.com

WWW.BOSWELLENGINEERING.COM

"Engineering Excellence since 1924"



AMY GREENE ENVIRONMENTAL

a DAVEY company

- Wetland Delineation
- Environmental Permitting
- Wetland Mitigation
- Endangered Species Surveys
- Vegetation & Wildlife Surveys
- Green Infrastructure Design, Inspections & Reporting
- Environmental Construction Monitoring
- Reforestation Plans

4 Walter E. Foran Blvd.
Suite 209
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-788-9676

www.amygreene.com agemarketing@davey.com



THE BUZAK LAW GROUP, LLC

Attorneys at Law

MONTVILLE OFFICE PARK
150 RIVER ROAD SUITE N-4
MONTVILLE, NEW JERSEY 07045

EDWARD J. BUZAK
EJBUZAK@BUZAKLAWGROUP.COM

(973) 335-0600
FAX: (973) 335-1145

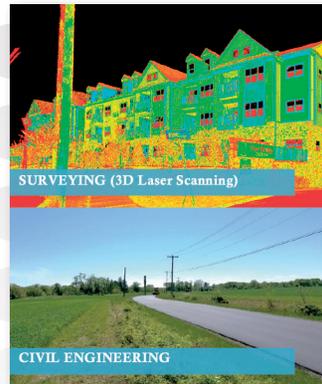
arcari + iovino

ARCHITECTS PC

25 YEARS OF
PUBLIC ARCHITECTURE

www.aiarchs.com

tel. 201.641.0600



SURVEYING (3D Laser Scanning)

CIVIL ENGINEERING



Providing Our
New Jersey Municipalities
With Civil Engineering and
Surveying Services Since 1973

105 Raider Boulevard, Suite 206
Hillsborough, NJ 08844
Phone: 908-874-7500

www.carrollengineering.com



Bai Lar Interior Services Inc.

Commercial Window Treatments
Stage Curtains and Flameproofing

Stacy Felice
Vice President
stacy@bailarinteriors.com

554 New Brunswick Avenue
Fords, New Jersey 08863
www.bailarinteriors.com

Phone: (732)-738-0350
Toll Free: (800) 481-0350
Fax: (732) 738-0074



Customized Solutions

All your project needs under one roof.

877 627 3772 | colliersengineering.com

Maser Consulting is now Colliers Engineering & Design

Accelerating success.



Connecting Communities to Innovative Code Solutions



**GENERAL
CODE**

GeneralCode.com | 800.836.8834

MCMAHON
TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS & PLANNERS

Highways, Streets & Structures
Traffic & Parking
Transit
Signals & ITS
Walking & Biking
GIS & Technology

**Transportation
Solutions
Building Better
Communities**

www.McMahonAssociates.com | 609.585.5745
4573 S. Broad St., Suite 200, Yardville, NJ 08620

GPI

Many Talents One Firm

Engineering | Design | Planning | Construction Management

NJ Offices: Lebanon, Morris Plains, Red Bank, Ocean View
973-377-8500 | gpinet.com

NEGLIA
ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES

Civil Engineering
Municipal Engineering
Traffic Engineering
Planning
Land Surveying
Construction Management

Michael J. Neglia, P.E., P.L.S., P.P
President

34 Park Avenue
P.O. Box 426
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

Tel: 201.939.8805
Fax: 201.939.3935

mneglia@negliaengineering.com
www.negliaengineering.com

CONTRACTORS | CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS

JINGOLI

David DelVecchio, Business Development
ddelvecchio@jingoli.com

100 Lenox Drive, Suite 100 | Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648
P: 609.896.3111 | F: 609.219.0799
www.jingoli.com



800-877-7475

PREMIER
Compaction Systems, LLC
NYC DCA# 2011389 • NJ DCA# 13VH06573600

24 Hour Service

**Design • Installation • Compactors • Chute & Chute Doors
Balers • Chute Cleaning & Repair • Preventative Maintenance**
www.PCS-Green.com

Bruce D. Linger, CFP®, CRPC®, CCFSTM
Member, The Resource Group

Lincoln
Financial Advisors®
A member of Lincoln Financial Group

Lincoln Financial Advisors Corp.
61 South Paramus Road, Suite 425
Paramus, NJ 07652
phone 201 556-4500
direct 201 556-4564
toll free 800 445-2448 Ext. 4564
fax 201 556-4511
cell 908 510-6069
Bruce.Linger@LFG.com

www.goforanswers.com
www.HeroPlusProgram.com

**USA
PHONE.COM**
(856) 761-1000

BUSINESS PHONES

Providing Business Phones to the NJ League of Municipalities HQ since 2007



CUT COSTS UP TO 50% GET NEW TECHNOLOGY!
CALL USA PHONE 856-761-1000



Local Governing

Thank You For Your Service



Memorial Day and Veteran's Day are opportunities for municipalities to thank their resident service members for their sacrifices. Each year, Lavallette pays tribute to residents who have served in the military. The last Monday of May they hold an outdoor ceremony at the town's Memorial Park, one of the town's best-attended events.

The six Lavallette residents who gave their lives for their country in World War 1, World War 2, Korea, and Vietnam were additionally remembered for their ultimate sacrifice with the placement placards of their names, ranks, overseas campaign, and year of death added to the signs for the streets on which they'd lived.

Councilman Robert Lamb noted, "I felt recognition once a year seemed very slight for their ultimate sacrifice." The rest of the Council agreed and with the help of Borough Administrator Robert Brice and Ted Golubowski of the Lavallette Public Works Department the signs were installed where the streets intersect Grand Central Avenue, the town's main thoroughfare.

The beachside town also recently added its first woman to the marker honoring service members from town. Lillie Leonard Gough served in the Navy during World War I and followed her son into the Air Force in World War 2, although both stints involved some fudging about her age. While Gough died in 1999, her service remained a family story until her grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren who live in town brought it to the attention of municipal officials. Her name was subsequently added to the Lavallette Veterans Memorial.

These acknowledgements illustrate how local governments can bring to life the men and women who represent the rich background that fills the portrait of a municipality. 🇺🇸

NJLM Supporters

The New Jersey State League of Municipalities would like to thank its supporters, who value their partnership with the 565 municipalities of New Jersey. For information about the League's sponsorship program, please contact Michael F. Cerra at 609-695-3481, Ext. 120, or mcerra@njlm.org.



Gold Dome Level

Atlantic City Electric, an Exelon Company

Aqua New Jersey

New Jersey American Water

Stay Current, Stay Informed...

Local Government Stays Inspired with
New Jersey Municipalities Magazine

Subscribe Today!



100+ Years of Ideas and Information on Municipal Affairs

On your device and in your mailbox!

Subscribe today at
www.njlm.org/subscriptions
For more information,
contact Thomas Fratticcioli
at tfratticcioli@njlm.org

Name/Title: _____

Municipality/Company: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

of Subscriptions: _____

Rates: \$25 members • \$30 non-members • \$47 foreign

nj municipalities
Official Publication of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities

www.njlm.org/subscriptions

New Jersey State League of Municipalities
222 West State Street • Trenton, NJ 08608

Procure™ Reverse Auction Platform by Mantis Innovation

Mantis is a leader in saving money on energy costs for New Jersey's utility authorities, municipalities, and schools with its intelligent energy procurement technology.

Government Agencies have realized the following with Mantis:



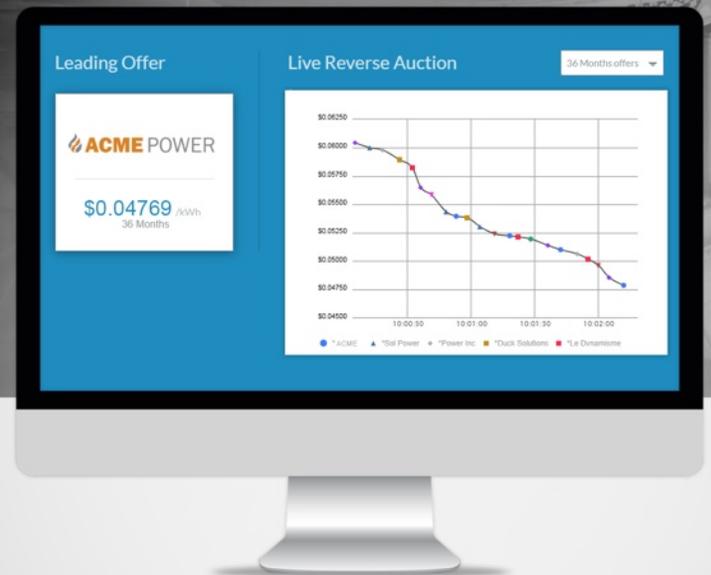
Helped Save Tens of Millions of Dollars



Facilitated Over 1,000 Electricity and Natural Gas Contracts



Served More Than 5.5 Billion kWh's



Reverse Auction Platform
NJDCA Approved

Mantis Innovation is the premier provider of smart solutions that deliver better building performance through managed facility services and turnkey program management. Mantis leverages expertise from a vast array of professional disciplines in engineering, comprehensive data collection and analysis, technology-enabled solutions, and a network of trusted partners. The Mantis Innovation managed solutions include energy procurement, demand management, solar, roofing, building envelope, pavement, LED lighting, HVAC/mechanical, building automation systems, and data center optimization. Mantis is headquartered in Houston, Texas, with 17 locations across the United States from Massachusetts to Washington.

EMEX, LLC is now a part of Mantis Innovation. EMEX now offers its energy procurement as part of Mantis Innovation's suite of products and services and is now publicly branded as Mantis Innovation, although EMEX remains the contracting entity for energy procurement. EMEX, LLC is licensed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission in Dockets A-2019-3014305 and A-2013-2365773.

Start a free consultation today and see how much Mantis can reduce your local government's electricity and natural gas bills.

mantisinnovation.com/NJ
877.459.4728