



NJLM President Mayor  
Paul Tomasko, Alpine

## President's Note:

Good news, we have a State budget! Thank very much to the mayors who added their voice to the League's call to protect local government from the state spending plan. It's far from perfect, but it gives us a starting point for our own planning as we move into 2026.

Now it's time to begin your preparations for this year's Annual League Conference. You'll have the opportunity to visit more potential partners in our biggest Exhibit Hall in the event's history. Enjoy a mix of educational opportunities with more than 125 sessions covering a variety of topics representing the ongoing and newest issues in local government. We'll be making announcements about events, awards, and opportunities as we move into fall.

This month we're also welcoming a new Board Member who is stepping into the role of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. We thank Hamilton (Mercer) Mayor Jeff M... replacing Westfield Mayor Shelley Brindle, who has opted to leave office at the end of her current term. Thank you for your hard work, Shelley, and we look forward to working with you in this new capacity, Jeff.

Elected in 2017 and reelected in 2021, Mayor Brindle is Westfield's first female mayor. She has served on the NJLM Executive Board since 2021, and as Vice President in 2023 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President in 2024. She is not running for reelection and will continue to serve the League as a member of the Executive Board until its reorganization in November.



# Action List: July

1. [Nominate candidates for the Mayors' Hall of Fame](#). Marking its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary the Mayors' Hall of Fame is seeking nominations for 2025 inductees. These nominees must be serving as mayor and have at least 10 years of mayoral service to be inducted at the silver level, at least 20 years of mayoral service to be inducted at the gold level, and at least 30 years to be inducted at the platinum level.
2. [Submit nominations for the Elected Official's Hall of Fame](#). The Elected Officials' Hall of Fame is now accepting nominations of local municipal governing body members, active and retired, who have served for 20 or more years as a governing body member.
3. [Complete a topic consideration as a Conference Resolution](#) if you have a topic to improve local government and address an issue impacting local governance. If you already have a resolution drafted, please submit [your resolution for consideration](#). The resolution will be reviewed by League staff and presented at the Resolutions Committee meeting during the Annual League Conference. Visit the [Conference Resolutions webpage](#) for more details on the process and answers to other questions you may have.
4. [Register now for the 2025 Annual Conference](#). Early Bird pricing is \$60 for government or nonprofit and \$120 for non-government registrants, ending August 15.
5. [Book your housing for the Annual Conference](#). Book a hotel room through the League's official room blocks to ensure the best Conference experience. The League's room blocks provide the best rates and shuttle bus service to the Annual Conference Convention Center. Book early for your preferred hotel—room blocks will sell out.



## 250th Celebrations

Municipalities can celebrate their history with the New Jersey Historical Commission's State Historical Marker Program 250<sup>th</sup>. The initiative is to explore the whole history of America's independence from its origins to the American Revolution and its revolutionary legacy. While the initiative is connected to the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, proposed markers can address any time period.

as long as they relate to at least one of the RevolutionNJ themes. More information about RevolutionNJ's themes can be found at <https://RevNJ.org> [<https://revnj.org/>].

Nominations will also be accepted to replace extant and missing State-owned markers from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As part of the replacement process nominated markers will be reviewed for historical accuracy. Nominators will also be given the opportunity to propose new marker text and suggest a location if desired. All State markers erected in honor of America's 250th, whether new or replacements, must be supported by historical research to ensure accuracy. The NJHC can provide resources to those seeking assistance with this research and is available to answer questions.

The priority deadline for the submission of a completed nomination is Friday, July 25 at 2 p.m. The first-round deadline for the submission of a completed nomination is Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 2 p.m., and the final deadline for the submission of a completed nomination is Tuesday, October 7, 2025. Submissions are not accepted by paper, mail, or fax and must be submitted online. Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the guidelines before starting the application.

## Grants

### Clean Energy Program to Provide Grants to Municipalities

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) opened the application window for the fourth Program Year of the Community Energy Plan Grant (CEPG) Program. The CEPG program empowers local communities to create community energy plans that align with the State's Energy Master Plan, which is the roadmap to achieving Governor Murphy's clean energy and emissions reductions goals. Municipalities may earn up to \$25,000 to create localized community energy plans to combat climate change, with a specific focus on equitable access, energy resilience, renewable energy, and energy efficiency. Municipalities that successfully create a community energy plan may additionally apply for a Community Energy Plan Implementation grant to fund local projects outlined in their plan.

Administered by NJBPU's Office of Clean Energy Equity, the CEPG program allows overburdened municipalities to be eligible for larger grants; while all towns are eligible for \$10,000, those deemed overburdened are eligible for \$25,000. In partnership with NJBPU, Sustainable Jersey provides priority

technical assistance to CEPG applicants, with a particular focus on overburdened municipalities, including preparation of applications and development of community energy plans.

Municipalities that do not have a community energy plan are encouraged apply for year four of the CEPG program.

### **Due Date**

The deadline is July 18.

### **To Apply**

Visit the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Grant Management System [<https://njbpu.intelligrants.com/>] for information and to apply.

## **Meet Your New Officer: Mayor Jeff Martin**

Hamilton (Mercer County) Mayor Jeffrey Martin was selected by the New Jersey State League of Municipalities Officers and Executive Board members to serve as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. He steps in for Westfield Mayor Shelley Brindle as an Officer. Mayor Brindle will retain her position on the Executive Board until November when she exits the Board in anticipation of leaving office in January 2026.



Mayor Jeff Martin  
Hamilton (Mercer County)

Mayor Martin joined the League's Executive Board in 2020, representing Mercer County and Hamilton, the ninth-largest municipality in New Jersey with more than 92,000 residents and over 656 employees. He presides over a budget of more than \$150 million in annual revenue/appropriations. He has led the effort to consolidate and merge nine separate fire districts into one municipal fire department—saving township residents more than \$1.5 million per year. Mayor Martin has directed the township's response during COVID-19 and numerous emergency operations.

## **Magazine Moment**

## Watch for Renewal Emails This Summer

New in 2025! Those who have an email address on file will be emailed their magazine subscription renewals. Ask your staff to check their inboxes for renewal notifications. The new online system will make it easier for subscribers to update and manage their subscriptions online throughout the year using the new Subscriber Portal.

If your subscription is part of a group subscription, renewal emails or letters will be sent to the person responsible for managing your group.

Are you and your team [subscribing to \*NJ Municipalities\*](https://www.njlm.org/712/Subscribe) [<https://www.njlm.org/712/Subscribe>]? Inspire your local government workers by reading and building a library of the League's magazine in print or online. [a sample of the magazine.](https://www.njlm.org/714/Magazine-Sample-Bookshelf) [<https://www.njlm.org/714/Magazine-Sample-Bookshelf>]

## Share Your Stories: Fall Issue Articles Sought

We invite Mayors all over New Jersey and their teams to send in articles about their success stories, challenges, and innovations. Currently, we are seeking articles, news briefs, op-eds, and columns for the fall issues. The due dates are August 12 for the October issue, September 15 for the November issue, and October 15 for the December issue. Have a potential story you'd like to discuss? [Email Amy Spiezio](mailto:aspiezio@njlm.org) [<mailto:aspiezio@njlm.org>] today.

## Support the League's Magazine

If your municipality has recently used a vendor and you feel that their services would benefit other municipalities, [email Tasneem Kapadia](mailto:tkapadia@njlm.org) [<mailto:tkapadia@njlm.org>], Advertising Manager, with their details so she can send them information about the League's magazine. Advertising in *NJ Municipalities* magazine promotes their services and could benefit other towns.

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