

April 2017

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Please consult the League [Web Calendar](#)

[April 4-
Avoiding Wage and Hour Pitfalls and Hot Topics in the
Union/Management Relationship-DoubleTree Hotel,
Tinton Falls](#)

[April 7-
Introduction to Smart Communities Technology- Felician
University, Rutherford](#)

[April 11-
Licensed Professionals: The Impact of Employee
Handbooks, the NJLAD and Other Municipal Actions
\(Shared Services\) On Tenure and Employment- Double
Tree Hotel, Tinton Falls](#)

[April 28-
Bail Reform: What It Means for Your Municipality
Webinar-Your Computer](#)

[May 10-
Using Current ABC Rules to Promote Redevelopment,
DoubleTree Hotel, Tinton Falls](#)

[June 16, 2017-
One Day Mini Conference, Conference Center at
Mercer, West Windsor](#)

- ✓ Louis Bay Scholarship Competition
- ✓ Mayors Hall of Fame
- ✓ Mayors Book Club
- ✓ CEU Deadline
- ✓ Earth Day Education Week

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Mayor Albert B. Kelly, President

On February 28, Governor Christie presented his proposed fiscal year 2018 budget (covering July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018) to a joint session of the State Legislature.

The Governor proposed a \$35.5 billion State budget for fiscal year (FY) 2018. That budget assumes revenues growth of 3.65% in the upcoming fiscal year. The proposal includes flat funding for "municipal aid," with the overall funding remaining at approximately \$1.5 billion. This includes a slight increase in the Consolidation Municipal Property Tax Relief Act (CMPTRA) and a slight decrease in "Transitional Aid," down to approximately \$93 million. Applications for calendar year municipalities seeking transitional aid were due in March; please see [Local Finance Notice 2017-4](#) for more details to follow. Fiscal year municipalities may apply in the fall.

The following are other highlights of interest to municipal governments.

Pension Contribution:

A proposed \$2.5 billion contribution to the state pension fund.

New Health Benefit Reforms:

The Governor said, "In 2001, health benefit costs represented 4.5% of the State budget. In 2018, without reforms, they would represent 10% of the State budget. This is not sustainable, and as such I am once again calling for the enactment of health benefit reforms in my budget proposal.

*Continued on next page under Presidents
Message.....*

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My budget assumes \$125 million in health benefit savings from those reforms. And because these costs are also borne by the State's local governments and the employees themselves, this \$125 million in State savings will also equate to approximately \$127 million in local government savings and approximately \$30 million in savings to State and local government employees. ... Let's not go through the brinksmanship of last year—let's pass these modest but important reforms by June 30."

New Pensions Reforms:

In part, the Governor proposes a diversion of "... the revenues from the Lottery to eligible pension plans. The contribution would have the immediate effect of reducing the unfunded liability of the pension system by approximately \$13 billion, and would increase the funded ratio of the pension system by almost 15 percentage points in one fell swoop, from 49% to 64%. This would also significantly reduce the amount we have to pay into the pension system every year out of the general fund. ... if implemented correctly this action would increase the value and stability of our pension funds immediately and would please bond investors and credit rating agencies, also giving greater confidence to New Jersey's public employees."

Transportation Funding:

A \$400 million supplemental appropriation in the current budget cycle (money that will be committed to projects before the end of June) for bridge repairs, road repairs and for New Jersey Transit. None of this will be distributed as Local Aide. The Governor noted, "This \$400 million will allow the NJ Department of Transportation to deliver the largest construction program in state history starting right now. The result will be smoother roads, safer bridges and a more technologically sound mass transit system – all great things for New Jersey commuters."

The Governor's proposal also calls for further investments in the battle against drug addiction, including an initiative to establish a permanent fund that Horizon would fund every year through their revenue surpluses. The proposed fund would provide greater access to in-patient and out-patient drug rehabilitation treatment.

The Governor also challenged the Legislature to work with him to reform the school funding formula, before June 30.

LOUIS BAY 2ND FUTURE MUNICIPAL LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

-Contact Ciara Bradley at ext. 128 or cbradley@njslom.org

In January, the League mailed information to all mayors concerning the Annual Louis Bay II Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition. League Past President and Mayor Chuck Chiarello of Buena Vista Township chairs the Scholarship Competition and Mayor James Anzaldi, Mayor of Clifton and League Past President also serves as a judge. This popular competition is open to all high school juniors and seniors throughout the state. The top three winners each receive \$1,000 scholarships from the League.

Mayors play an integral role in the success of this program because your office publicizes its availability, judges the local entries, and distributes the checks and certificates supplied by the League. You should publicize the scholarship to your local schools and establish your judging committee. Your local winning entry must be submitted to the League office by April 1, so we can announce the three statewide winners by May 5.

**NOMINATIONS SOUGHT
FOR MAYORS HALL OF FAME**

-Contact Michael Darcy ext. 116 or mdarcy@njslom.org

The League is accepting nominations for the [2017 Mayors Hall of Fame](#). To qualify, a mayor must be serving in at least their tenth cumulative year for the silver level, twentieth year for the gold level, or 30th year for the platinum level. Mayors who rotate into office can qualify after holding the office of mayor for ten years.

Qualifying mayors will be inducted into the New Jersey State League of Municipalities Mayors' Hall of Fame during the Mayors' Luncheon at the Annual Conference Wednesday, November 15 in Atlantic City. For nomination forms and more information about the Mayors' Hall of Fame, visit the [Mayors Corner](#) or contact the League at 609-695-3481 ext. 116.

PLANNING AND PARTICIPATING IN A MAYOR'S BOOK CLUB

Based on five years of experience conducting successful Mayor's Book Clubs throughout New Jersey we now have a free instructional manual on how to promote youth literacy by planning and conducting a successful Mayor's Book Club. More information can be found by visiting this link: <http://njlmef.org/Mayors-Book-Club.pdf>

DEADLINE TO CLAIM CEUS FROM 101st ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS MAY 1

-Contact Danielle Holland-Htut ext. 118 or dholland@njslom.org

Please remind your licensed officials that the deadline to claim CEU credits from the 101st Annual Conference is May 1, 2017. To claim credits, licensed officials should click the following link www.njslom.org/confceu and follow the prompts.

IT'S TIME TO GET YOUR HANDS-ON NEW JERSEY'S EARTH DAY AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEK

-Visit www.earthdayNJ.org for more details

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has administered the Earth Day - New Jersey website (www.earthdayNJ.org) for almost 20 years. We have accumulated a following of event coordinators, group leaders, educators, volunteers and media reps who use this website to promote their events in order to attract volunteers, participants and media reps to them.

Each year the Earth Day - New Jersey website receives more than 50,000 hits in April through May because it features an Events Calendar that lists as many as 100 or more public events, including fairs, cleanups, plantings, festivals, walks and outdoor programs. The Earth Day – New Jersey website also features a school programs listing, history of Earth Day and Environmental Education Week, and suggestions for what families, schools and individuals can do to help protect the environment.

In celebration of Earth Day (April 22) and New Jersey Earth Week (April 23 – 29), submit details about your public program at: www.nj.gov/dep/seeds/earthday/calsub.htm

In celebration of National Environmental Education Week (April 23-29), showcase your school's environmental, green and sustainable lessons and projects by submitting descriptions at: www.nj.gov/dep/seeds/earthday/calsub.htm

DEP celebrates Earth Day and Earth Week as “springboards” to ongoing environmental stewardship and year-round environmental protection efforts. Residents are encouraged to visit www.earthdayNJ.org to find events and programs that are located in or near their own communities.