



[Click to view newsletter archives](#)

June 26, 2020

- I. State
- II. 2020 Annual League Conference
- III. Cerra Succeeds Darcy as League Executive Director

Municipal Clerks: Please forward to your Mayor, Governing Body and Department Heads.

To assist in providing guidance and information we have created a [COVID-19 resource page](#). We will continue to update the page as we get pertinent information and include announcements in our Daily Updates.

I. State

a. COVID-19 Update

On Thursday, the Governor announced that there were 406 new positive results and 26 deaths for COVID-19 since the day before. The Governor also announced that they identified an additional 1,854 probable deaths. These are fatalities in which no test was conducted but the cause of death was most likely attributed to the virus.

Meanwhile, the ROT (rate of transmission) is .88, a slight increase in recent days. The Governor and the Health Commissioner stated this week that even though some of the metrics have increased slightly, they remain comfortable with continuing with Stage 2 of reopening. But they also continue to caution to exercise good hygiene, social distancing, wearing face masks, and testing.

Today, the Governor will join the Commissioner of the Department of Education to discuss guidance on the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year.

Nationally, approximately 1.5 million filed new unemployment claims and 19.5 million have currently received unemployment. In New Jersey alone, about 33,000 new unemployment

claims were filed.

Since last Friday, the Governor has taken the following action:

[Executive Order 156](#) - Increased Indoor and Outdoor Gathering Capacity Limits

Considering the current pandemic, we remind you of NJ Mental Health Cares; the state's behavioral health information and referral service offer assistance to people dealing with anxiety and stress-related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Residents can call 1-866-202-HELP (4357) for free, confidential support. NJ Mental Health Cares will be answered from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week by live trained specialists.

See the League [COVID-19 page](#) for all our resources and communications.

Contact: Michael F. Cerra, Assistant Executive Director, mcerra@njlm.org, 609-695-3481 x120.

b. Bridge Budget Bill Introduced

Because of the extension of the State's current Fiscal Year for an additional three months, the Legislature must pass and the Governor sign a Supplemental Appropriations bill by midnight, June 30. On Thursday, June 24, Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin and Assemblyman John Burzichelli, respectively, Chairs of the Assembly Budget and the Assembly Appropriations Committees, introduced A-3. This bill, if enacted, includes supplemental appropriations that will permit state spending to bridge the gap between the usual end of the Fiscal Year, on June 30, and this year's final day, September 30.

The bill would appropriate \$298.6 million in Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Aid (CMPTRA) (\$209 million of which will be distributed as if it were Energy Tax Receipts, so that the State can avoid the 'poison pill,' while again failing to increase municipal property tax relief funding) and \$364 million in Energy Tax Receipts Property Tax Relief (ETR) assistance (funded not through the taxes on energy utilities, but from the Property Tax Relief Fund, that is, the income tax proceeds). Crucially, these appropriations will allow the State to make the full August 1 ETR/CMPTRA payments – representing 45% of the annual amount due – on time.

A-3 also includes \$2.2 million for Highlands Watershed Moratorium Aid. And, the bill also addresses Election Administration support, with \$2.5 million for County Election Board mail-in ballot aid, and \$3.8 million to support extended polling place hours.

The bill does not include the use of federal CARES Act funding, to create the local aid program, proposed by the Governor. Those federal funds were to be administered by the Division of Local Government Services, with priority given to the county governments that did not receive direct CARES Act aid. That fund may be created by another legislative initiative.

A-3 was released by the Assembly Budget Committee, also on Thursday. The Senate companion bill, S-20, sponsored by Senators Sarlo and Cunningham, is expected to be approved by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee today. Both bills are scheduled for final votes on Monday, June 29.

Contact: Jon Moran, Senior Legislative Analyst, jmoran@njlm.org, 609-695-3481 x121.

c. New Law Provides Local Units with Flexibility to Waive Penalties on Overdue Sewer or Water Charges

Last Friday, Governor Murphy signed into law [A-4126](#) (now, P.L.2020, c.39), which gives municipalities, counties, and utility authorities the ability to waive interest and lien enforcement for certain delinquent water and sewer utility payments during emergency circumstances.

During a public health emergency the new law allows sewage authorities, county or municipal utility authorities, or counties or municipalities responsible for the administration of a sewage or water utility to refrain from charging interest on a delinquent payment, placing a lien on a property for unpaid balance of a sewer charge and accruing interest, or discontinuing service for failure to pay an owed amount.

Contact: Frank Marshall, Esq., Associate General Counsel, fmarshall@njlm.org, 609-695-3481 x137.

d. DCA Announces COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Enrollment Period

Department of Community Affairs' [COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#) (CVERAP) will provide temporary rental assistance to low and moderate-income households that have had a substantial reduction in income or became unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The enrollment period begins Monday, July 6, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. and closes at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 10, 2020. For more information on the program please see the [FAQ guide](#). Please feel free to share this information with your constituents.

Contact: Lori Buckelew, Senior Legislative Analyst, lbuckelew@njlm.org, 609-695-3481 x112.

II. 2020 Annual League Conference

a. Delegate Registration

[Delegate registration](#) will open on August 1. We encourage everyone to preregister online and have their conference credentials mailed to them in advance. This avoids delays and lines onsite in Atlantic City.

b. League Code of Conduct

The League intends to maintain a welcoming professional atmosphere in all aspects of the Annual League Conference. To that end, conduct that violates the [League Code of Conduct](#) is not tolerated by the League, anyone who witnesses it, or is subjected to it. Everyone who participates in the Annual League Conference is required to adhere to this code.

c. Conference Center Preparations

We are busy making arrangements for this live event including education and exhibits with the full expectation that by November the State will permit important gatherings of government officials like the Annual League Conference. The League is taking measures along with our partners at the Atlantic City Convention Center and all related service providers to follow CDC and NJDOH guidelines to create a safe and healthy conference. A healthy conference environment is our top priority for 2020 and with that, we are dedicated to providing an educational, informative, productive, and collaborative conference. Sanitization protocols that comply with CDC guidance are ready for public spaces, meeting areas, food service, and transportation. Venue layout will take into account social distancing, and preregistration will eliminate waiting lines.

d. Unauthorized Hotel Reservation Services

Every year there are unauthorized firms soliciting housing and hotel reservations from attendees at the Annual League Conference. We assure you that the only firm authorized to handle our conference housing reservations is AC Central Reservations. This information is on the top of the official conference housing form sent to all municipal clerks and posted on [our website](#).

Using unauthorized reservation services creates real problems for you and the conference as a whole. You cannot be assured your credit card information is secure and your room reservation may not actually be made. Using unauthorized services means your room will not be part of the official conference housing block so you won't get emergency housing information (which happened in both 2011 and 2012), nor will there be adequate shuttle bus services to your hotel.

As always, the League is available to answer your questions on any aspect of the annual conference and we strive to make your participation both enjoyable and highly productive.

III. Cerra Succeeds Darcy as League Executive Director

New Jersey State League of Municipalities Executive Board in April unanimously announced the selection of Mike Cerra as the new executive director of the New Jersey League of Municipalities, effective July 1, 2020. The appointment effective date coincides with the planned retirement of the current executive director, Michael J. Darcy, CAE, following his 30 years and six months of service to the League. Darcy notified the Executive Board in December of his retirement.

The full [media](#) announcement is available at the League website along with Cerra's [bio](#).



New Jersey State League of Municipalities

222 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608
Phone: 609-695-3481 Web: www.njlm.org

NJLM on Social Media: [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [YouTube](#)

 [Share on Facebook](#)

 [Share on Twitter](#)

 [Share via Email](#)

Copyright 2020 NJLM. All Rights Reserved.
222 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

Powered by



If you no longer wish to receive emails from us, you may [Unsubscribe](#).

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser](#).