



[Click to view newsletter archives](#)

View a Featured Ad at the End of this Email.

## December 11, 2020

- I. State Issues
- II. Federal Issues
- III. 2020 Annual League Conference
- IV. Also of Interest

**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 Issues

#### a. Covid-19 Update

Governor Murphy today announced that there were 3,821 new positive cases and an additional 55 confirmed deaths resulting from COVID-19. To date, there have been 390,256 confirmed cases, and 15,794 confirmed deaths. The rate of transmission is at 1.14. There are 388 cases linked to the 88 school outbreaks.

The State continues to ask residents to download and use the new [Covid Alert NJ](#), the State's exposure notification smartphone app.

Since our last update, Governor Murphy issued the following COVID-19 related Executive Order:

[Executive Order 207](#): automatically enrolls residents who choose to receive a COVID-19 vaccine into the state's existing vaccine registry. The order changes the inclusion into the New Jersey Immunization Information System from an opt-in to an opt-out program for residents who elect to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

The State Police issued [Administrative Order 2020-24](#) clarifying that indoor entertainment centers where a performance is viewed or given including movie theaters, performing arts centers, and other concert venues, may host performances in an adjacent outdoor area with a maximum capacity equivalent to the facility's indoor capacity.

On Thursday, the Department of Labor [announced](#) over 17,000 new applications for unemployment. As a reminder, the federal pandemic unemployment benefits authorized under the CARES Act will expire on December 26, impacting just under 500,000 New Jersey claimants. All eligible weeks prior to December 26 will continue to be paid.

**Contact:** Lori Buckelew, Assistant Executive Director, [lbuckelew@njlm.org](mailto:lbuckelew@njlm.org), 609-695-3481 x112.

## **b. Cannabis Legislation Advancing**

Late last week Governor Murphy and legislative leaders reached an agreement on the legalization of adult recreational use of cannabis. In the announcement Governor Murphy, Senate President Sweeney, Speaker Coughlin, Senator Scutari and Assemblywoman Quijano stated, "We're proud to announce today that we've reached an agreement on legislation providing the framework for legalization, which is a critical step in reducing racial disparities and social inequities that have long plagued our criminal justice system." [S-21](#) is before the Senate Judiciary on Monday and [A-21](#) is before Assembly Appropriation on Tuesday. We anticipate the legislation will be before the full Senate and Assembly on December 17.

### **Contacts:**

- Mike Cerra, Executive Director, [mcerra@njlm.org](mailto:mcerra@njlm.org), 609-695-3481 x120.
- Lori Buckelew, Assistant Executive Director, [lbuckelew@njlm.org](mailto:lbuckelew@njlm.org), 609-695-3481 x112.

## **c. Local Finance Board Approves Division of Local Government Services Extension of 2021 Budget Calendar Year**

On Wednesday, the Local Finance Board approved the proposed Division of Local Government Services 2021 Calendar Year (CY) Budget extensions. The revised CY 2019 Budget deadlines is as follows:

### **Mayor/Council Faulkner Act (Executive) budget transmission to the governing body**

Statutory Date: 1/15

Revised Date: 2/26 or the next regularly scheduled governing body meeting

### **Municipal introduction and approval of the budget**

Statutory Date: 2/10

Revised Date: 3/30 or the next regularly scheduled governing body meeting

### **Municipal adoption**

Statutory Date: 3/20

Revised Date: 4/30 or the next regularly scheduled governing body meeting

We suggest you review the revised calendar with your Administrator and Chief Financial Officer.

**Contact:** Paul Penna, Legislative Analyst, [ppenna@njlm.org](mailto:ppenna@njlm.org), 609 695-3481, x110.

### **d. Assembly Committee Advances Small Cell Regulation Bill**

Yesterday, the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee advanced with amendments, [A-1116](#). The purpose of this legislation is to provide for uniform regulation of small wireless facility deployment in the State and attempts to mirror and in some cases goes beyond current Federal law.

While initially opposed to the legislation as introduced, the League remained neutral at yesterday's hearing after amendments were made that take into consideration a number of the League's concerns. These amendments were the result of numerous meetings between a coalition of wireless service providers and the League and NJ Conference of Mayors.

Make no mistake, A-1116 is not perfect and much work remains to ensure municipal concerns are appropriately addressed. We are hopeful that with the guidance of Assemblywoman Murphy, who sponsors A-1116, that we can continue to work with all stakeholders to develop a fair and rational bill.

For more information on A-1116 and an overview the underlying matter of small cell deployment please see the League's recent [blog post](#).

**Contact:** Frank Marshall, Esq., Associate General Counsel, [fmarshall@njlm.org](mailto:fmarshall@njlm.org), 609-695-3481 x137.

### **e. Bill Advances Extending Totally Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption with Reimbursement to Towns**

Earlier this week the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee advanced [S-220](#), which extends the totally disabled veterans property tax exemption to be retroactive to the effective date of the determination of the veteran's total disability by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as well as require the State to reimburse municipalities for the amount of such property taxes returned to the totally disabled veteran. The legislation requires the municipal tax assessor to annually notify the Division of Taxation amount of totally disabled veterans' property tax exemption. The State must reimburse the municipality 102% of the totally disabled veterans property tax exemptions paid.

We thank Senator Diegnan for supporting this legislation. The League adopted a [Conference Resolution](#) supporting such legislation. Our veterans proudly served the residents of the entire Country, not just the State and municipality; it is therefore appropriate that the Federal and State governments contribute towards the costs of this exemption. The legislation now waits consideration by the full Senate.

**Contact:** Lori Buckelew, Assistant Executive Director, [lbuckelew@njlm.org](mailto:lbuckelew@njlm.org), 609-695-3481

x112.

### **f. A-850/S-2864 Seeks to Create a Community Broadband Study Commission**

Next Monday, December 14, the Senate Economic Growth Committee will hear [A-850/S-2864](#). This legislation seeks to create a low-cost broadband study commission. To stay competitive in modern day, New Jersey needs access to low-cost broadband. New Jersey's local leaders can work with their neighbors and community partners to build broadband bridges that will continue to push the Garden State into the future. We thank our legislative leaders for identifying the need of this legislation and look forward to a favorable outcome on Monday.

**Contact:** Andrew LaFevre, Legislative Analyst, [alafevre@njlm.org](mailto:alafevre@njlm.org), 609-695-3481 x116.

## **II. Federal Issues**

### **a. Federal Update**

This week, the House and Senate passed a one week extension of the Continuing Resolution. This gives negotiators one additional week to finalize the details of a spending plan by December 18.

Since last week, momentum on a bipartisan COVID-19 funding agreement has slowed significantly. The major sticking points are that Senate Republicans do not want to include funding for state and local governments and Senate Democrats do not want to include a liability shield that protects businesses and organizations from COVID related lawsuits. Talks are ongoing, and we will keep you apprised as developments warrant.

**Contact:** Paul Penna, Legislative Analyst, [ppenna@njlm.org](mailto:ppenna@njlm.org), 609 695-3481, x110.

## **III. 2020 Annual League Conference**

### **a. Print Your CEU Certificates from the 2020 NJLM Virtual Conference**

The tracking system from the 2020 NJLM Virtual Conference is now open. To print your certificates visit the [Tracking System webpage](#).

The system will be available until **May 1, 2021**.

### **b. It's Not Too Late!**

We hope that the NJLM Virtual Conference allowed you to look back and forward on the challenges of the day, be it the COVID-19 pandemic, social and restorative justice or how to balance the competing interests in preparing for your 2021 budget. While we hope to be back in-person in Atlantic City in 2021, the virtual conference offers a unique benefit. The content of the approximately 80 programs and 145 virtual exhibitor booths will be available on-demand through October 31, 2021.

Anyone who is registered can simply log in to [the Conference website](#) to view any of the programs or visit any of the exhibitor booths. And for those who did not attend, it's not too late. We will continue to [accept registrations](#) for access to the Conference site. Those who register now will not be able to apply for CEUs but will have full access to all programs and exhibit booths. And please continue to visit the exhibitors who chose to support the 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference by stopping by their booths. You can contact exhibitors directly with any questions or comments by simply using the "Request Information" button on each booth. This will generate an automatic email to the exhibitor and they will contact you with a reply.

## IV. Also of Interest

### a. New Jersey Future Smart Growth Awards

New Jersey Future will be honoring the 2020 Smart Growth Award winners and the recipient of this year's Cary Edwards Leadership Award at a virtual celebration on Dec. 15 at 4:00 pm.

There is no cost to attend this event but pre-registration is required. [Read about this year's honorees and register here.](#)

---

### Advertiser Spotlight

	<p><b>Where Service Meets Leadership</b> @RutgersSPAA   spaa.newark.rutgers.edu</p>
---	---



HCM Innovation. Powered by People.  
973.360.0688 • [www.unicornhro.com](http://www.unicornhro.com)  
[Click Here](#)

 <p>New Jersey State League of Municipalities</p>	<p>222 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608 Phone: 609-695-3481 Web: <a href="http://www.njlm.org">www.njlm.org</a></p>	
<p><b>NJLM on Social Media:</b> <a href="#">Facebook</a> <a href="#">Twitter</a> <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> <a href="#">YouTube</a></p>		
<a href="#">f Share on Facebook</a>	<a href="#">t Share on Twitter</a>	<a href="#">✉ Share via Email</a>

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](#).