



[Click to view newsletter archives](#)

View a Featured Ad at the End of this Email.

July 23, 2021

- I. State Issues
- II. Federal Issues
- III. COVID-19 Weekly Update
- 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. Governor Signs Bill Preempting Local Say Over Offshore Wind Projects

Governor Murphy, yesterday, signed into law [S-3926/A-5894](#), preempting local say over offshore wind projects. This new law, which took effect immediately, gives the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) authority to preempt and supersede all necessary local approval of projects necessary to construct offshore wind projects. S-3926/A-5894 also provides the BPU with authority to effectuate the transfer of municipal land to the offshore wind project if such land is deemed necessary to complete the project, and if the municipality and the project have not come to an agreement on the land within 180 days of the project's approval.

Because of the preemptive nature of this bill and for other reasons, the League **opposed**

this legislation, as it was fast-tracked through the legislature last month. Municipalities, especially those along the shore, should carefully review this new law with your municipal attorney for more information.

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

b. Governor Murphy Signs Social Affairs Permit Legislation

On July 22, Governor Murphy signed [A5310/S3597](#), which increases the limit of social affair permits that can be issued to premises for a one-time event from 25 to 52 when the premises is owned or the event is sponsored by municipality. Social affair permits allow an organization to serve alcoholic beverages at an event as long as the event is solely for religious, civic, educational, charitable, fraternal, social, or recreational purposes. This new law took effect immediately.

Contact: Andrew LaFevre, Legislative Analyst, alafevre@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x116.

c. Governor Signs Legislation Revising Notary Laws and Authorizing Electric Signatures

On Thursday, Governor Murphy signed into law [A-4250](#), which revises the law concerning the qualifications and duties of notaries public and other notarial officers. The new law also authorizes electronic signatures for notarial acts as well as various notarial acts to be performed with remotely located individuals. This new law takes effect on October 20, 2021, however, course of study, continuing education, and examination requirements would go into effect on July 22, 2021.

Contact: Lori Buckelew, Assistant Executive Director, lbuckelew@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x112.

d. NJ Supreme Court Seeking Comments on Proposal to Make Remote Court Proceedings Permanent

The NJ Supreme Court is [asking for public comments](#) on a proposal to continue certain court events in a primarily or presumptively remote format even after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. Preliminary comments anticipate municipal courts to transition to a remote format for most hearings, except DWI, other matters with especially serious penalties, and trials that involve multiple witnesses or complex evidence.

Written comments are due by August 16, 2021 and can be submitted via email to Comments.Mailbox@njcourts.gov. We request that if you do submit comments if you could provide us with a copy by emailing Frank Marshall, Associate Counsel, at fmarshall@njlm.org.

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

e. State Courts to Reopen to Public

Last week, the [Administrative Office of Courts announced](#) that all state court locations will

reopen to the public as of August 2, 2021, thus concluding the temporary restrictions on public access to the courthouses implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As of that August 2, 2021 date, individuals may be present in court locations regardless of their involvement in a scheduled court proceeding and without the need for an appointment.

On-site presence of judges and state court employees will also continue to increase, starting with 75% on-site presence beginning August 2, 2021 and returning to 100% presence as of September 7, 2021.

Questions regarding the reopening should be directed to the Office of the Administrative Director of the Courts at (609) 376-3000.

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

f. Governor Signs Package of Bills Aimed at Reducing Lead Poisoning

Governor Phil Murphy, yesterday, signed three bills into law, all aimed at reducing lead poisoning within the state. These bills include:

- [S-1147/A-1372](#): requires lead paint inspection on certain residential property, including upon tenant turnover, and establishes a lead-based paint hazard education program. This law will take effect on July 22, 2022, however Department of Community Affairs and municipalities are authorized to take anticipatory actions to prepare for the implementation of the law;
- [A-5343/S-3398](#): requires public community water systems to inventory and replace lead service lines within ten years, and provides for recoupage of costs by investor-owned public water systems. This law took effect immediately; and
- [A-5407/S-3459](#): removes restrictions on special assessments and bond issuance for replacement of residential lead services lines, and revises budgetary requirements for operators of certain water systems. This law took effect immediately.

Municipalities with their own water systems should pay special attention to A-5343/S-3398 and A-5407/S-3459 as these new laws set additional requirements for all water systems. We suggest you review these new laws with your municipal attorney and water system professionals for additional information on how your community may be impacted.

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

g. New Law Expands Disabled Veteran's Property Tax Exemption

On Thursday, Governor Murphy signed into law [S-956](#), which extends the disabled veteran's property tax exemption to disabled veteran shareholders and their surviving spouses residing in a cooperative or mutual housing corporation which is their legal residence. Division of Taxation was given rulemaking authority to require that the application for exemption include the name and address of the location of the property and the amount of real property taxes attributed to the cooperative unit or mutual housing

residential unit as well as ensure that the disabled veteran and surviving spouse is the sole beneficiary of the tax exemption. This new law will take effect on January 1.

Contact: Lori Buckelew, Assistant Executive Director, lbuckelew@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x112.

II. Federal Issues

a. Infrastructure Update

On Wednesday, the Senate failed to advance a motion to proceed to begin debate on the bipartisan infrastructure legislation, after being unable to gather the 60 votes needed with a vote of 49-51. This legislation had been negotiated between President Joe Biden and a bipartisan group of Senators. Text of the legislation was not publicly available when the vote occurred.

Despite this failure, senators continue to finalize details and draft legislative language. The bipartisan group of senators are hopeful that a vote to begin debate can occur next week. This is an evolving situation and we will update as details change.

As we have previously asked, it is critical that New Jersey municipalities highlight infrastructure needs and successes on social media and tag federal members.

Using the hashtags #RebuildWithUs and #LeadWithInfrastructure, please share pictures, graphics and descriptions of local infrastructure needs and success stories on your social media accounts. Examples of tweets can be viewed on the [League's Social Media Sample Page](#)

Contact: Paul Penna, Legislative Analyst, ppenna@njlm.org, 609 695-3481, x110.

b. American Rescue Plan Coronavirus State and Local Relief Funds Compliance Guidance

Recently, both the U.S. Treasury and the New Jersey Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) provided American Rescue Fund Coronavirus State and Local Relief Funds compliance resources for municipalities. For more information, please review the League's recent [blog post](#).

Contact: Paul Penna, Legislative Analyst, ppenna@njlm.org, 609 695-3481, x110.

III. COVID-19 Weekly Update

This week Governor Murphy provided an update on breakthrough cases, in other words, positive COVID cases that occur in fully vaccinated individuals. The Governor noted that based on data through June 28, out of the 4,432,769 vaccinated individuals, 3,474 have tested positive, 84 have been hospitalized, and 31 died. This means the vaccines available combined are 99.92% effective against contracting the virus, 99.998% effective against having a COVID case requiring hospitalization, and 99.9993% effective in

preventing death.

The Governor also announced John Walsh as the winner of the [Your Voice, Your Shot video contest](#) and continued to urge New Jersey residents to get vaccinated.

COVID Data for July 22, 2021:

- 750 new positive cases for a total of 900,128 confirmed cases
- 4 new confirmed deaths for a total of 23,846 confirmed deaths
- The rate of transmission is at 1.4
- 10,301,669 vaccine doses have been administered, including 5,643,239 who have received at least one dose and 5,045,957 who are fully vaccinated. 56% are Pfizer, 40% Moderna, and 4% J&J.

Vaccine Information

As a reminder, the Department of Health provides access to individuals' COVID vaccination records through NJ Docket, a [secure and free smartphone app Docket](#), which is CDC approved.

Homebound residents who have not yet connected with their local health department or a home health agency, and need an in-home vaccination should visit www.covid19.nj.gov/homeboundvax or contact the call center at 855-568-0545.

Contacts:

Mike Cerra, Executive Director, mcerra@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x120.

Lori Buckelew, Assistant Executive Director, lbuckelew@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x112.

IV. Also of Interest

a. Governor Murphy Designates September as Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month

In March 2019, [Governor Murphy signed Assembly Joint Resolution 149](#), which designates September as Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month. With the signing of this legislation, the Governor hopes that New Jerseyans will become more aware of what a brain aneurysm is, be able to identify the symptoms, and seek medical attention if they are experiencing one.

Currently, more than 40,000 people experience a brain aneurysm in the United States. One third of those individuals will suffer from permanent neurological deficits, and another third will be unable to return to a normal life prior to an aneurysm.

Contact: Andrew LaFevre, Legislative Analyst, alafevre@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x116.

b. 2021 Governor's Conference on Housing and Economic Development

The 2021 Governor's Conference on Housing and Economic Development virtual conference will be held on September 29-30, 2021. The [agenda](#) includes sessions addressing lessons learned from the pandemic, what has changed, and efforts the state

has taken to stabilize and adapt to address the needs of impacted homeowners, renters, businesses, and communities.

The [registration](#) fee is \$75 before August 25 and \$85 thereafter. More information on the Governor's Conference is available on their [conference's website](#) or by contacting njhousingconference@njhmfa.gov.

Contact: Lori Buckelew, Assistant Executive Director, lbuckelew@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x112.

Advertiser Spotlight

| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  | <p>Jersey Cape Tags Customizable Beach Tags/Badges & Promotional Products Municipalities • Events • Businesses • Memories • Causes Leading the Jersey Shore in developing successful access control & promotional solutions. We make New Jersey's famous beach tags/badges!</p> |  |
|---|--|---|

| | |
|--|---|
|  | <p>PCS-GREEN.COM 264 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, WOODLAND PARK, NJ 07424</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DESIGN • INSTALLATION • COMPACTORS • BALERS• TOUCHLESS-SOLAR TRASH BINS • TRASH CHUTES AND DOORS• CHUTE CLEANING & REPAIR • PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE <p>800.877.7475</p> <p><small>NJC OGA# 201389 - NJ OGA ID# 0087900</small></p> |
|--|---|

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>222 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608 Phone: 609-695-3481 Web: www.njlm.org</p> <p>NJLM on Social Media: Facebook Twitter LinkedIn YouTube</p> |
|---|---|

| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  Share on Facebook |  Share on Twitter |  Share via Email |
|---|--|---|

Copyright 2021 NJLM. All Rights Reserved.
222 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

Powered by
 **CIVICSEND**
A Product of CivicPlus

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

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