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September 27, 2019

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

I. State Issues

a. CY 2019/SFY 2020 Best Practices Inventory Deadline October 30

As a reminder, the deadline for the CY2019/SFY2020 Best Practice Inventory is October 30 for all municipalities. For more on the Inventory, the process and changes, please read our [September 10 blog post](#).

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

b. Clean Water Council to Host Hearing and Information Session on Stormwater Utilities

The New Jersey Clean Water Council will be sponsoring a public hearing and is seeking public testimony on the practices and approaches of stormwater utilities and how they may be used to help address local flooding, stormwater management, and water quality concerns. NJ Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Catherine McCabe will be the keynote speaker, joined by a host of other professionals to discuss how to determine if a stormwater utility is right for your community and how to develop one.

The meeting will be held on October 25 from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Trenton at the NJDEP public hearing room. If you cannot attend but would like to comment, the Clean Water Council will be accepting written comments until November 29, 2019.

Please see the [announcement from the Clean Water Council](#) for more information on this event including a complete list of speakers and instructions on how to submit written comments.

Contact: Frank Marshall, Esq., League Staff Attorney, fmarshall@njlm.org, 609-695-3481 x137.

c. Governor Announces Local Assistance Bureau

Earlier this week Governor Murphy [announced](#) that the Division of Local Government Services has a new bureau to provide “on-site, hands-on technical assistance in a wide variety of areas to local government at no cost.” The Local Assistance Bureau (LAB) will be able to assist with, among other areas, administrative, finance, purchasing, human resources, labor negotiations, public safety, public works, risk management and insurance. Governor Murphy stated that “the goal of the bureau is to cultivate best practices in local government and to link local agencies that might be facing challenges to the State’s comprehensive network of resources.” LAB can be contacted by email at LocalAssistance@dca.nj.gov.

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

d. Governor Announces \$10 Million for New Local Efficiency Achievement Program

Earlier this week, Governor Murphy [announced](#) a new grant program to assist municipalities in promoting and supporting local shared services and school consolidation studies. The Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) has been allocated \$10 million for the following three initiatives:

- Challenge Grants, \$150,000 per county, will allocate funds for compelling projects in each county that support efficiency-generating shared services. Grants will be awarded based on the scope of impact, breadth of collaboration, and efficiencies generated.
- Implementation Grants, \$5.8 million, will support the cost associated with shared services project completion or transition support. Eligible expenses will be for one-time reimbursable costs. Funding will be set-aside to partially support district and county-wide school consolidation studies.
- Shared Service Coordinator, \$50,000 per county, to hire young professionals to work as full-time Shared Service Coordinator Fellow within the county to identify shared services opportunities. The county will be responsible for the employee’s benefits.

The Local Assistance Bureau (LAB) will be operating LEAP.

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

e. Looking Ahead to Lame Duck: Action Needed on Property Tax Relief

In every year, for the past dozen years, the State of New Jersey has grabbed \$331

million—money that is supposed to come back to municipalities for property tax relief—and spent that money on State-level programs and services. But even before that, for years and years, State budgets have been balanced with what are supposed to be municipal property tax relief dollars.

Earlier this year, legislation designed to address this long-time League priority took the first step toward enactment. [S-51](#) has been released by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee. This bill, along with its companion measure, [A-274](#), would require the State to begin a phased-in restitution of the \$331 million, which has been annually diverted from dedicated municipal funding programs—the Energy Tax Receipts Property Tax Relief Fund (ETR) and the Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Aid (CMPTRA) – for the past 12 years. During every year since the 2008 Recession, this funding has been used to address State budget concerns. S-51/A274 would, incrementally, over the next five years, bring funding for all municipalities back to 2007 levels.

To learn more about this issue, refer to the League's recent [Town Crier Blog Post](#).

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

f. State DOT Receives \$100 Million in Additional Federal Funding

Yesterday, Governor announced that the State Department of Transportation was awarded an additional \$100 million from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) This additional funding will allow the Department to fund 28 projects in 19 counties. [List of funded projects](#).

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

II. Annual League Conference

a. REMINDER: League Conference Deadlines, November 19-21, 2019, Conference Registration

You can register for a badge online or use the paper registration. Please do not create duplicate registrations by creating an online registration and paper registration or if you have already registered prior to this reminder notification.

- The Delegate Municipal Pre-Registration Form: [WORD](#) or [PDF](#) [Ends October 1, 2019]
- The Non-Municipal Pre-Registration Form: [WORD](#) or [PDF](#) [Ends October 1, 2019]
- Municipal Online Pre-Registration: [To Register online click here](#) [Ends October 1, 2019]

NJLM MEAL FUNCTION REGISTRATION FORMS NOW AVAILABLE TO PRINT

Please note attendees who wish to attend the League ticketed meal function must be registered for a conference badge. Ticketed meal function fees are separate from badge registration fees.

- Meal Function Form: [WORD](#) / [PDF](#)

b. Deadlines Approaching to Submit Conference Resolutions

As the Annual League Conference approaches, we would like to remind our members of the opportunity to submit Conference Resolutions. Submitting a Conference Resolution is your opportunity to have a specific municipal challenge you have encountered brought to the attention of the League for advocacy efforts. In the past, League Conference Resolutions have led to legislative action and statutory changes.

Deadlines for submitting Conference Resolutions are fast approaching, with a summary of the proposed resolution due to the League for review by the first Friday in October (October 4). The full text of all resolutions must be received in the League office by the third Friday in October (October 18).

Submitted Conference Resolutions are reviewed by the Resolution Committee during a meeting held on Tuesday, November 19 at 3:00 p.m. at the Annual League Conference. If a resolution is recommended by the Resolution Committee, it is submitted as part of the Resolution Committee Report for consideration at the Annual Business Meeting held on Thursday November 21, at 3:30 p.m. Resolution sponsors and co-sponsors must be present at both the Resolution Committee meeting and Business Meeting in order to speak to their proposal and answer any questions from committee members.

Please see the [League's website](#) for more information on Annual Conference Resolutions, including resolutions previously adopted.

Contact:

- Michael Cerra, Assistant Executive Director, mcerra@njlm.org, 609-695-3481 x120.
- Frank Marshall, Esq., League Staff Attorney, fmarshall@njlm.org, 609-695-3481 x137.

c. View the NJLM Annual Conference List of Exhibitors

The exhibit hall at the conference is almost sold out with nearly 700 exhibitors displaying their products and services in over 1,000 booths. Review the full list on the [Interactive Floor Plan](#) and on the conference app (available October 2). Start to make your schedule now and save a list of the exhibitors you would like to visit. The exhibitors are eager to provide education and solutions to your challenges!

Contact: Kristin Lawrence, Director of Exhibition and Sponsorships, 609-695-3481 x125, klawrence@njlm.org.

d. Reserve Your Hotel for the Annual League

Preparations for the Annual League Conference, November 19-21, are underway and the hotel reservations system is open for attendees and exhibitors at the [League Conference webpage](#).

There you will also see a preliminary schedule of conference sessions. Staying in Atlantic City for the Conference is a great way to get the most from your attendance at the

Conference. Staying over will maximize your time and opportunities to participate in the educational, informational, and networking opportunities offered throughout the Annual League Conference.

e. Unauthorized Hotel Reservation Services

Every year unauthorized firms solicit 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 the League 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 and you will not 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.

Contact: Michael J. Darcy, CAE, Executive Director, mdarcy@njlm.org, 609-695-3481 x116.

III. Also of Interest

a. Final Reminder: The League is Accepting Applications for the Innovation in Governance Program!

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities will again acknowledge and promote Innovation in Governance through our annual recognition program. This is a great opportunity to showcase innovative solutions to any problems that have cropped up – either suddenly or overtime – in your municipality. It can also be an opportunity to let your peers in on innovations that prevented problems from even arising.

Visit our awards page to see previous years of impressive ideas created by our winning municipalities as well as the [full invitation and application](#) to this year's program.

Contact: Ciara Bradley, Legislative Administrator, CBradley@njlm.org, 609-695-3481 x128.

b. Complete Streets

Free training is available to help in advancing your Complete Streets initiative. Attend [Implementing Complete Streets at the Local Level](#) on October 16 in Newark, October 24 in Chester, or January 9 in Vineland.

Training provided by Sustainable Jersey, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, and Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers, and NJDOT.



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