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Michael F. Cerra, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Loretta Buckelew, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

January 14, 2026

Re: Louis Bay 32nd Annual Scholarship Competition

Mayor:

The League of Municipalities is proud to announce the 32nd Annual Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition for high school juniors and seniors planning to continue their education after high school. We invite you to play a major role in this exciting venture.

This scholarship aims to advance the virtues of elected and volunteer positions in municipal government while raising awareness of municipal government in general.

This scholarship competition has been named in honor of Louis Bay 2nd, Mayor Emeritus of Hawthorne. Louis Bay 2nd actively participated as a League Board Member and Past President for 60 years.

[This Scholarship Promotional Kit](#) will explain your part in promoting this scholarship, how the application process works, how the selection process works, and some suggestions for coordinating your actions with interested community groups.

For deadlines, please see "Suggested Time Frames" under "The Mayor's Involvement" section. Please contact the League office at 609-695-3481, and dial Ciara Bradley at extension 128 or Mike Cerra at extension 120, if you have any questions about this program. We look forward to receiving an entry from your municipality and raising interest in future municipal leaders.

Very truly yours,

Sean Elwell

Sean Elwell, League President
Mayor, Salem Township

SE/cb

The Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition The Mayor's Involvement

This scholarship award cannot be a success without the interest and involvement of all New Jersey mayors. You are the main catalyst in your community. You will make it possible to publicize the scholarship, generate interest in local government, and ultimately send a finalist to the State level of this scholarship competition.

We are seeking your involvement in several key aspects:

1. Publicize the availability of this scholarship among your area High Schools through the PTA, PTO, School Board and Student Council. A brief letter from your office is all that is needed (draft letter attached).
2. Appoint a small committee to assist in reviewing applications and essays which will be returned to your office. We suggest an elected official, professional staff member, member of a volunteer board, and a member of the education community.
3. Have your committee select one statewide semi-finalist from your municipality and forward their entry to the League headquarters in Trenton. (See application for judging criteria.)
By mail: Attn: NJLM Scholarship, 222 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608
By email: cbradley@njlm.org (Preferred)
4. Announce entrants and statewide semi-finalist to local newspapers and raise awareness of the importance of local government.
5. Award a Certificate of Participation to each entrant (blanks supplied by the League in May).
6. Alert the statewide semi-finalist's school to make an announcement at any award ceremony they may hold.
7. If your statewide semi-finalist is selected by the League as one of 15 finalists, hold a ceremony to award a finalist certificate. In May, the League will provide you with the semi-finalist or finalist certificate.
8. If your statewide semi-finalist is selected as one of three winners, in May the League will send you a \$1,000 check to award to the winner. The winning essays will be featured in *New Jersey Municipalities* magazine.

Suggested Time Frame (Approximate)

- January 30** Announce contest (see draft letter).
- March 2** Create your local judging committee.
- March 9** Suggested deadline for submission of entries to the hometown mayor. (Please do not send from the school.)
- April 1** Submit to League office:
- Cover letter including the total number of entrants to receive certificates certificate of participation.
 - One (1) winning entry. (Please use paper clips to keep your documents together. Do not staple.)
 - You can now email us a complete and scanned package. (*Preferred*)
 - Please email the package to Ciara Bradley at CBradley@njlm.org.
- May 1** Announcement of (3) winners, (15) Statewide finalists and semi-finalists. League will send blank certificates to mayor's office for all participants.
- May 4 - May 25** Presentation of awards to (3) winners in local ceremonies.

Mayor's Draft Letter to PTA, PTO, School Board and Student Council

Dear _____:

The New Jersey State League of Municipalities and I have an excellent scholarship opportunity for the high school juniors and seniors from (your municipality).

We have teamed up to offer three \$1,000.00 scholarships through the Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition. This statewide scholarship competition centers on the theme "What I Like About My Hometown" and seeks to advance the virtues of elected and volunteer members of the municipal government.

Many of the elected officials and appointed board members serve (your municipality) with little or no compensation. It is their altruistic desire to serve their community which compels them to public service. These officials, along with a cadre of dedicated professionals, are guardians of our hometown's comforts and security. They give of their time and talents to help plan our community and preserve our way of life.

They serve us year-round, every day and yet are hardly noticed. This scholarship competition will help rectify that while encouraging our future municipal leaders.

Full details on the application process and contest are enclosed. I hope to see many of our young adults representing (your municipality) in the Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition.

Sincerely,

Mayor

**The Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition
Application and Selection Process
(Please keep these instructions with the application)**

Open to all high school juniors and seniors who are residents of New Jersey and plan to continue their education after high school.

1. Complete the application and essay.
2. **Return them to your Hometown Mayor's Office** (or the location designated by your Mayor).

Regional Or Private High School Students: Please note that the application and essay must be returned to your **hometown** mayor, not the mayor of the municipality where your high school is located (unless that is your hometown).

3. The mayor or a designated committee will select one semi-finalist from your municipality.
4. All entrants will receive a certificate of participation from the Mayor's office.
5. The winner from each municipality will be designated as a state semi-finalist. They will have their essay and application reviewed by the Scholarship Committee of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.
6. All state semi-finalists will receive a certificate attesting to their status as state semi-finalists.
7. The Scholarship Committee will select 15 finalists and 3 winners.
8. The 15 finalists will each be awarded finalist certificates. The three winners will each be awarded \$1,000.00 by their mayor at a hometown ceremony.
9. Winners' essays will be featured in *New Jersey Municipalities* magazine.

2026 Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Municipality In Which You Reside _____

Current School _____

Grade Attending _____

Colleges or Schools To Which You May Apply

Area of Municipal Govt/Administration That Interests You _____

Write an essay on the theme "What I Like About My Hometown." Your essay should be based on your perceptions and experiences with your municipality's local government. The essay should consider the public contributions of your municipal government.

Length: Approximately 500 words. Recommended Times New Roman, Double space, 12 pt font. Please use paper clips, not staples.

Deadline: Essays must be submitted to your hometown mayor by **March 9, 2026**

Judging Criteria:

- Judging is based solely on the essay. Please do not include any other information such as transcripts and references.
- Appropriateness of theme.
- Effective articulation of theme.
- Originality.
- Technical composition, spelling, and syntax.

Return completed application and essay to your **hometown** mayor's office.

WHAT IS THE LEAGUE?

The New Jersey State League of Municipalities is a voluntary association created to help communities do a better job of self-government through pooling information resources and brainpower. The League is authorized by state statute and since 1915, has been serving local officials throughout the Garden State. All of New Jersey's 564 municipalities are members of the League. The 564 mayors and 13,000 elected and appointed officials of member municipalities are entitled to all of the services and privileges of the League.

The League publishes a magazine titled *New Jersey Municipalities* that reports up-to-the-minute information on municipal administration and procedures with practical examples, news notes, and new laws. It is one of the reading "musts" for municipal officials and is sent to more than 8,500 readers each month.

In addition to the magazine, other League services include: Bureau of Municipal Information; Ordinances and Codes; Research; Legislative Analysis; Legislative Bulletins; New Laws; Contracts; In-Service Training; Personal Consultation; and Instructional Seminars. Nearly all League services are available through the League website, www.njlm.org.

The highlight of the year's activities is the Annual League Conference, held each November in Atlantic City at the Atlantic City Convention Center. The Conference is an invaluable learning experience which yields benefits throughout the year. Delegates have the opportunity to learn and ask questions at more than 100 panels, clinics, workshops, and other sessions conducted by the League and the 22 associations of technical and professional employees allied with it. Commercial, government and association exhibits display the latest products and services for municipal government. At the 2025 Annual League Conference, approximately 17,000 delegates, participants, and guests attended, representing the largest municipal gathering in the country.

These Organizations Form an Integral Part of the League

Association of Municipal Assessors of New Jersey
New Jersey Institute of Local Government Attorneys
New Jersey Building Officials Association
Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey, Inc.
Municipal Court Administrators Association of New Jersey
Municipal Electrical Inspectors Association of New Jersey, Inc.
New Jersey Society of Municipal Engineers, Inc.
New Jersey Government Management Information Sciences
Government Finance Officers Association of New Jersey
New Jersey State Fire Prevention and Protection Association
NJACCHO – Health Officers
Jersey Access Group
New Jersey Municipal Management Association
New Jersey Planning Officials, Inc.
New Jersey State Plumbing Inspectors Association, Inc.
New Jersey State Municipal Prosecutors Association
American Public Works Association – New Jersey Chapter
Governmental Purchasing Association of New Jersey
Community Recreation Society of New Jersey
Registrars Association of New Jersey
Tax Collectors and Treasurers Association of New Jersey
New Jersey Association of Planning & Zoning
Administrators