

**MAIL LIST**  
**January 23, 2026**

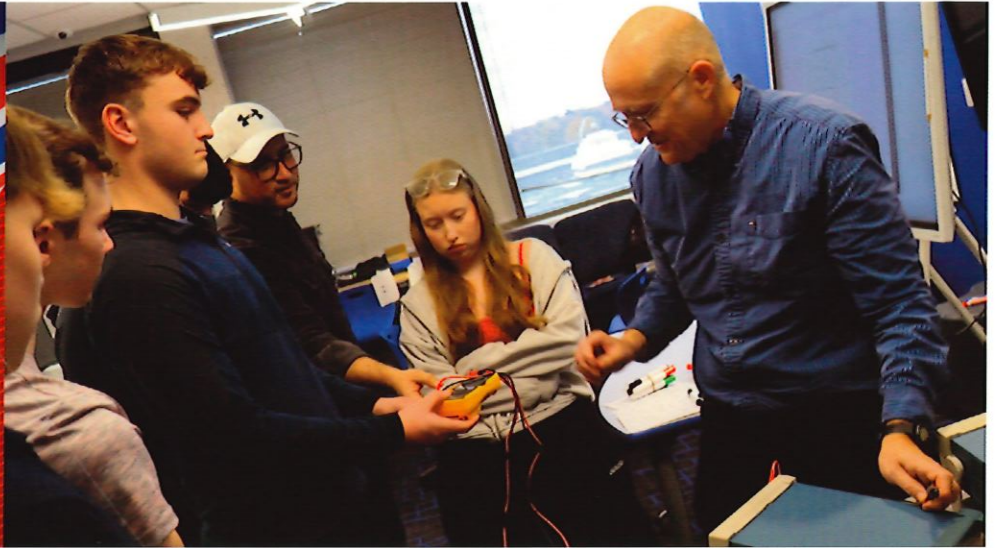
	<b>Date</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Pertains to:</b>	<b>Agenda/Committee/ Liaison</b>
1.	January 2026	Bergen Community College	Inside Bergen – The Bergen Community College Newsletter January 2026	Mayor and Council Borough Administrator
2.	1/16/2026	Bergen County Board of Commissioners	Commissioners: Resolutions	Mayor and Council Borough Administrator
3.	1/20/2026	Bergen County Board of Elections	High School Poll Worker Program	Mayor and Council Borough Administrator
4.	1/21/2026	NJLM	<p>Weekly Roundup</p> <p><b><u>State Issues</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation</li> <li>• Governor Sherrill’s Day One: Inauguration and Executive Orders 1 through 6</li> <li>• Late Budget Introduction Fines</li> <li>• SHBC Holds January Meeting</li> <li>• Governor Murphy signs Executive Order 414</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Federal Issues</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Budget Deadline Approaching</li> <li>• Congressional Portal Opens for Army Corps and Water Infrastructure Projects</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Also of Interest</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NJEDA Hosts Garden State CPACE Webinar</li> <li>• Show Off Your City 2026: Apply Today</li> <li>• <i>NJ Municipalities</i> Blog: Union Township Supports National Human Trafficking Awareness Month</li> <li>• Celebrate Your Municipality During Local Government Week 2026</li> </ul>	Mayor and Council Borough Administrator

1 ML 1.23.2026

# inside Bergen

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CONNECT. NJ's most social community college. 88,000+ followers. Join the conversation.



Professor Joseph Sivo works with exchange program students in the STEM Student Research Center at the College's main campus.

## It's a British Invasion!

Visitors from "across the pond" arrive for cultural learning exchange

The British are coming! (Actually, they were already here).

As an inaugural partner in the "U.S.-U.K. Community College and Technical Education Exchange" program organized by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and U.K. Association of Colleges (AoC), Bergen recently hosted students and faculty from Southport College (England) at its main campus in Paramus. The international learning exchange focused on sustainability—an area of excellence at the College. Based on this record of excellence, the ACCT and AoC selected Bergen as a flagship partner for the learning exchange program launched last year with full financial support from the Cyril Taylor Charitable Foundation.

"I am truly honored that Bergen became one of only two U.S. community colleges selected for this prestigious pilot program," President Eric M. Friedman said. "The opportunity to participate in a cross-cultural learning experience has offered our faculty, staff and students access to a unique global initiative that has enriched our campus environment."

Paired with Southport College, members of a Bergen delegation have worked together to collaborate on sustainability-focused projects, with representatives of both colleges visiting the other during the past six months. The most recent November trip to Bergen included site visits to the offices of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 164, PepsiCo, The Hillier College of Architecture and Design at NJIT, and PSE&G to meet with sustainability experts, conduct field work and participate in hands-on experiential learning in the College's STEM Student Research Center.

"This partnership represents the very best of international collaboration in furthering education," Southport Assistant Principal Shaun Hindle said. "For Southport College, it is an opportunity to connect our students with peers across the globe, broadening their perspectives and strengthening our shared commitment to innovation and community impact." ■

*British Invasion continued on page 2*

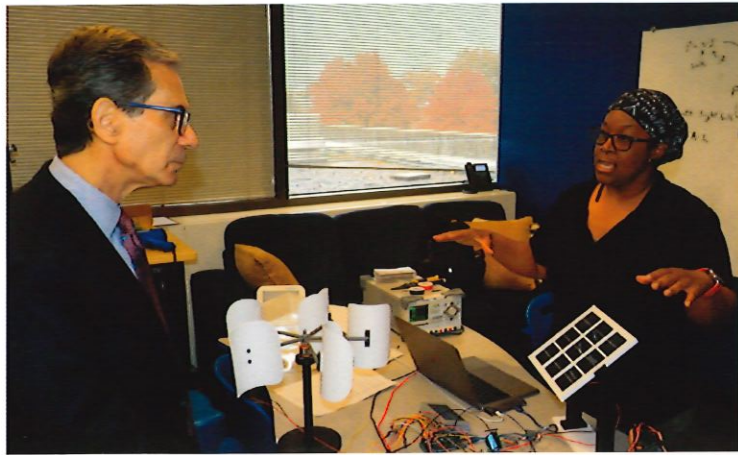


### BY THE NUMBERS - Tale of the Tape: Bergen and Southport

	Bergen	Southport
Opened	1967	1935
Students	11,720	3,800
Faculty/Staff	1,166	340
Nearest Body of Water	Hudson River	Irish Sea
Colors	Violet/Orange/White	Navy/White
Miles from Each Other	Approximately 3,400	



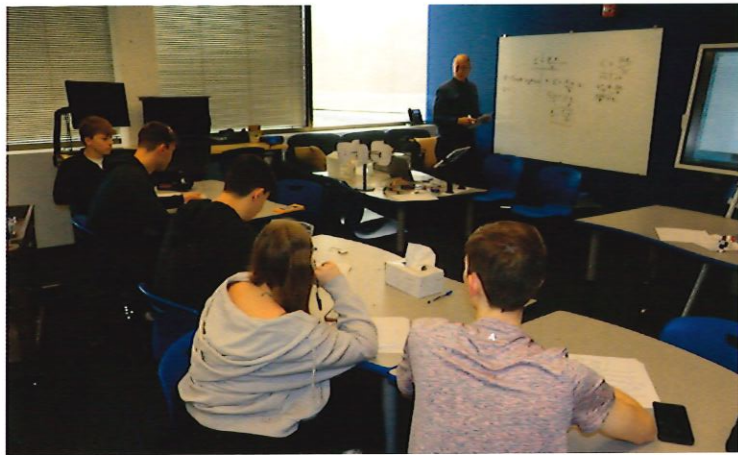
# THE BRITISH ARE COMING!



Project mentor Yolanda Sheppard shows President Eric M. Friedman some of the student projects.



Students learn about workforce opportunities during a site visit to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 164.



Students participate in a learning intensive in the STEM Student Research Center.



Professor Mark Balzarette shows off an electric motorcycle built in the Stryker Manufacturing lab.

## **British Invasion** continued from page 1

At the center of the November visit, Bergen faculty, staff and students worked with their Southport counterparts to collaborate on a culminating project. The capstone organizes the overall cohort into subgroups tasked with a common goal - designing a community impact initiative that addresses real-world challenges such as environmental sustainability or social equity.

The team has focused its project on developing a new, environmentally conscious street design concept for downtown Hackensack to reduce environmental impacts and energy use. The team proposes constructing an electrical microgrid fortified with sustainable technologies such as photovoltaic panels, kinetic paving and SMART efficiencies.

Bergen faculty member Tara Snyder, who partnered with STEM Student Research Center Director Chis Tully to oversee the exchange program, provided the foundational concept for the

project based on New Jersey's sustainability initiatives and current strain on the electrical grid.

"Our STEM project mentors imagined a hypothetical design based on the most recent technology and electrical engineering designs from across the world," she said, "to see, first, the cost, and, second, if this would be feasible on a small scale for a controlled area containing apartments, businesses, brownfields or abandoned areas and regular homes."

The project takes additional inspiration from similar work in Liverpool, England, where sustainable construction has become a cornerstone of Southport's efforts to support the Liverpool City Region's commitment to achieving a "net zero" environmental impact by 2030. To achieve "net zero," the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere must remain equal to the amount removed from the atmosphere. The removal of greenhouse gas-

ses can improve the state of the local, regional and global environment, including air quality.

Bringing concepts learned abroad to develop similarly sustainable initiatives for a U.S. city excited Southport student John "JJ" Nicholson, who learned under College faculty and staff members - and program mentors - Mark Balzarette, Yolanda Sheppard and Joseph Sivo during the November visit.

"This has helped me understand how requirements differ across countries and how we can adapt our approaches to meet those challenges," he said. "It has also shown me how students and staff can work together using creative techniques to solve real-world problems and build lasting international partnerships."

Bergen students will visit Southport College in England in spring 2026 to continue work on the capstone project. ■

# London Calling for Adjunct Professor

Bergen adjunct professor of music technology and sound instructor Jonathan Appell (top photo) has led a diverse career as a music producer and audio engineer, working on shows such as "Ed," movies including "Coyote Ugly," and anime cartoons. He even crossed Abbey Road summer.

While in London, Appel delivered a featured presentation at Abbey Road Studios, one of the most iconic and historic recording studios in the world (bottom photo). He joined a select group of internationally recognized audio educators to discuss innovations in remote audio collaboration and instruction, using LISTENTO, a real-time audio streaming platform developed by Audiomovers, a company owned by Abbey Road Studios.

After the London visit, LISTENTO streamed a live performance at Omega Studios in Rockville, Maryland to six acclaimed professors and audio engineers across North and South America -

including Appell. Each educator received the multitrack audio in real time, recorded it locally, created their own stereo mix, and then re-transmitted those mixes to students around the world.

"Students had the opportunity to compare multiple professional mixes of the same session in real time," said Appell. "It was a powerful exercise in developing critical listening, artistic judgment and audio analysis skills."

Appell began teaching at Bergen in 2022.

"I love helping students plot their course in life," he said. "I think students sense my natural enthusiasm for the topic and find my passion for it relatable. When the opportunity to teach at Bergen came up, I eagerly accepted the role. We have a wonderful faculty and I'm proud to be counted among them. The faculty really cares about the students." ■



# Celebrating the First Thanksgiving ... in 2025

Taking its cue from the first Thanksgiving where people of different cultures came together to express gratitude, Bergen hosted a holiday celebration for international students as a way to introduce them to the uniquely American holiday. Sponsored by President Eric Friedman, nearly 100 faculty, staff and students came together to break bread. The photos below capture a small snapshot of the event's excitement. Student Fasih Ur Rehman Abassi, enjoyed the opportunity.

"As an international student, Thanksgiving made me feel genuinely valued," he said. "They even arranged a special halal table for us, which showed respect not just for what I eat, but for my identity and culture. No matter where we come from, we all deserve a seat at the table. Where everyone belongs, innovation and humanity grow side by side." ■



# STARS Students Step Up

NJ STARS students who volunteer under the initiative's "Thrive program" recently visited Eva's Village, a behavioral health and social services nonprofit in Paterson, to support individuals in need. During their half-day visit organized by NJ STARS coordinator Julia Gibson (bottom photo, second from left), the students created care packages and distributed them to the organization's clients. Bergen Board of Trustees member Howard Houghton serves as the CEO of the nonprofit. ■

# Ethnographer Terry Williams Visits

Bergen hosted internationally recognized sociologist and ethnographer Dr. Terry Williams for the "Beyond Poverty: Life Under the Surface" discussion this fall. Recognized as one of the world's preeminent ethnographers, Williams has helped to establish qualitative methods at the forefront of social science research. His work includes explorations of teen drug cultures and crack houses, after hours clubs and sex clubs, teenage suicide survivors, the lives of building supers and the homeless. He has taught at the New School for more than 40 years. President Eric M. Friedman is a former student of Dr. Williams.

"I have immense respect for Professor Williams and am proud to call him a mentor," the president said. "Helping to bring him to Bergen represented a full circle moment for me."

Dr. Williams has received honors such as a Russell Sage Foundation Fellowship, a Distinguished University Teaching Award from The New School, a MacArthur Award, the 2024-2025 Eastern Sociological Society Merit Award for his exemplary contributions to the field of sociology and the 2024-2025 New York City Book Award from the New York Society Library for "Life Underground: Encounters with People Below the Streets of New York." ■

*Above, right: Professor Maureen Ellis-Davis, Terry Williams and President Eric M. Friedman. Bottom, right: Students packed a lecture hall to have the opportunity to listen to Terry Williams.*



# Student Spotlight - Marcus Sanchez

Student Marcus Sanchez grew up in Paramus. He drove by the College every day.

"Bergen remained always in my peripheral, but not what I was looking at," he said.

But during his senior year of high school, Sanchez felt flustered by the impending decision of where to attend college.

"I felt as if I was under this giant hourglass, losing time to make the decision that would dictate much of my future," he said. "Choosing to enroll at Bergen allowed me to make time stand still, providing me an extension to make this decision. Bergen provided me with a perfect time period where I could set aside the stresses of everyday life, and instead focus on preparing myself for the next stages of my life and career."

Studying natural sciences to pursue a career in orthopedic medicine, Sanchez said he marvels at the College community.

"I quickly learned to appreciate the distinct perspective that an institution like Bergen Community College offers," he said. "Everyone at Bergen has an amazing story, and hearing these diverse accounts has served as a great reminder of how much of a blessing it is to have the opportunity to pursue higher education."

He, too, has become an active part of the College as an NJ STARS student, an ambassador in the community service Thrive program and as a peer mentor for the Educational Opportunity Fund. Sanchez also tutors peers in the sciences and mathematics as an academic coach and certified supplemental instructor. He participates in both the Judith K. Winn School of Honors and Phi Theta Kappa. Sanchez expects to graduate in 2026.

"Unequivocally, any success I have achieved here at Bergen Community College must be credited to the family I have come to know within this community," he said.

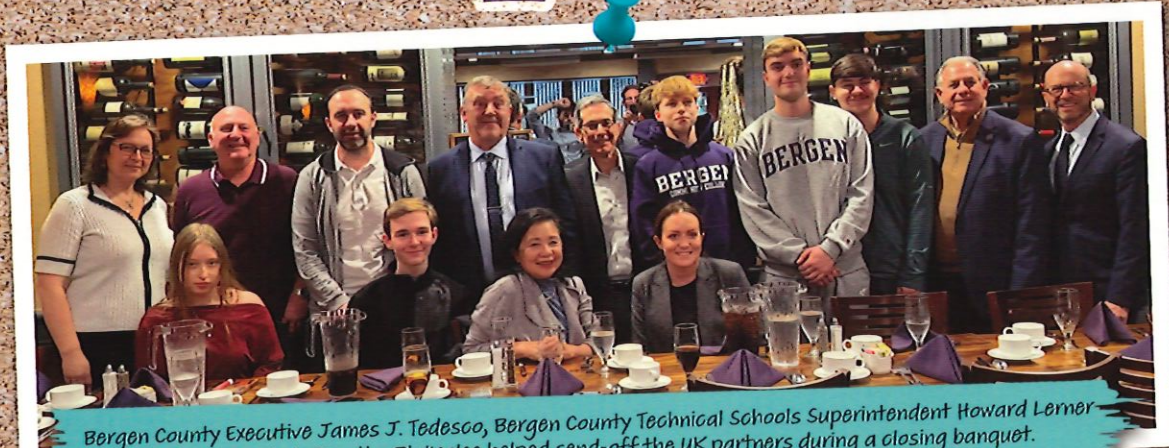


Off campus, Sanchez volunteers for the Ecuadorian Committee of New Jersey and the Paramus Fourth of July Committee. Additionally, he started a monthly blood pressure screening event at his local church and, with his interest in neuroscience, he works as a medical scribe and an associate at a physical rehabilitation center. ■

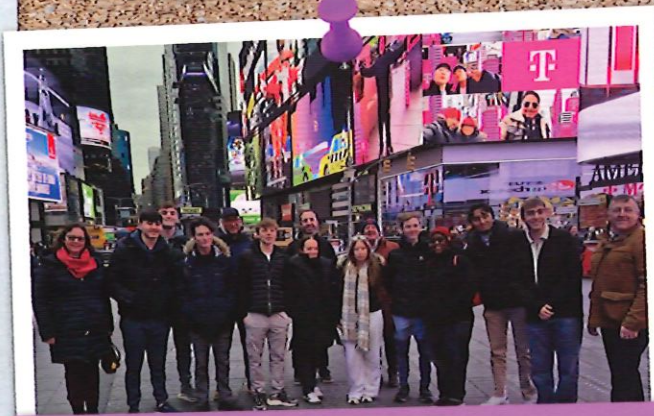


THE BRITISH ARE COMING!

# Snapshotted



Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco, Bergen County Technical Schools Superintendent Howard Lerner and Trustee Chair Dorothy Blakeslee helped send-off the UK partners during a closing banquet.



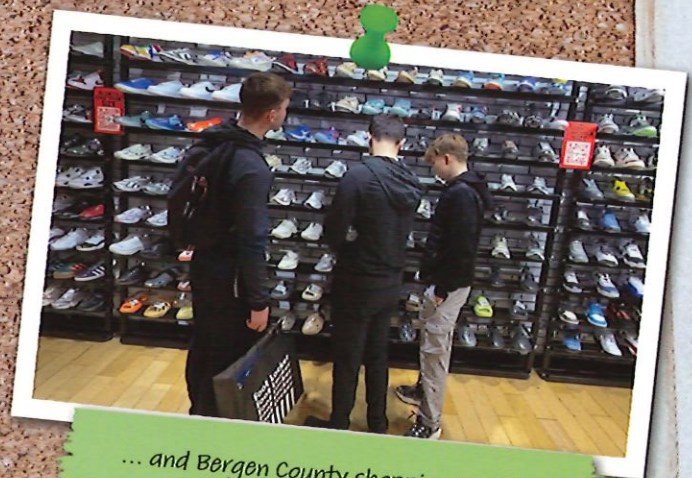
No visit to the New York metropolitan area is complete without a visit to landmarks such as Times Square ...



Bandit the Bulldog even stopped by to meet our UK friends.



The Empire State Building ...



... and Bergen County shopping malls!

# Families Remember the Holocaust



A scene from the Bergen performance of "Hidden: A Musical" based on the life of Holocaust survivor Ruth Kapp-Hartz.

The Center for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation (CPJR), led by Professor Sarah Shurts, sponsored two events during the fall semester that helped tell the stories of Holocaust survivors.

The first, "Hidden: A Musical," takes a decidedly artistic approach to telling the story of survivor Ruth Kapp-Hartz. The musical draws upon Kapp-Hartz's memoir, "Your Name is Renee," for the source material. Kapp-Hartz left her home and lived under a false identity during World War II.

Ultimately, she said it took her 30 years to discuss her experience navigating and surviving anti-semitism and fascism during that time. Kapp-Hartz discussed her memoir at the College as the 2025 Literary Arts Series keynote speaker in April organized by Professor Jessica Datema.

"When [the co-writers] approached me that they had read my memoir and were inspired to write a musical, I was very surprised," Kapp-Hartz said. "They were wonderful from day one. They were also excellent musicians, so I was very pleased."

Adapting the memoir into a musical helped co-writers, producers and actors David and Jenny Heitler-Klevans, pay tribute to their own family history as well.

"I have a great-aunt who was hidden during World War II, and I knew some of her story," Jenny Heitler-Klevans said. "But I felt like Ruth's story was so fleshed out and interesting that I thought it would make a good musical."

She wanted the play to not only teach students about the Holocaust's impact and how survivors

navigated it, but to also connect college students with their emotions.

"I would like students to think about their own feelings," she said. "If they have ever felt like they had to hide who they were, and also to be allies and care for people who are also having to deal with these issues today."

Meanwhile, the CPJR also hosted a discussion with Bergen student Joel Lelonek (pictured, above) on the book "We Fought Like Lions: A Son's Tribute to His Father." His son, Gary, wrote the book that follows his grandfather's (Charles) journey as a Holocaust soldier, Polish People's soldier and Nazi P.O.W.

Professor Ellen Feig attended the event and said family histories give faces to those who perished during the Holocaust.

"Joel Lelonek's family history is important for many reasons," she said. "I hope that this will propel students to tell their own family story; we each have an important and unique narrative." ■



## Veterans Have a Home at Bergen

Together with the nation, Bergen recognized Veterans Day with a commemorative event in the student center followed by a symbolic flag-pole salute. Student veterans Anna Waite and Michael Puca (pictured) recounted their experience in the military, and how Bergen supported their transitions into college. Puca, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2011-2014, said the College's Veterans and Military Affairs Center has become a "big family."

"Being a veteran gives you a completely different perspective on school, life, people, businesses and relationships," he said. "Without being a veteran, I don't even think I would be here today or have the drive to do anything in life."

The weekend before Veterans Day, the 10th annual Hero 5K at the main campus (pictured) raised nearly \$15,000 for the student veteran emergency fund. ■



## Employee Excellence

Bergen rolled out the violet carpet at the annual Employee Anniversary and Retiree Recognition event to honor faculty and staff celebrating milestone anniversaries at the institution. Among the honorees, Professor Paula Williams celebrated her 30-year anniversary (pictured alongside Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost Andrew Tomko, Dean of Library Services David Marks and President Eric M. Friedman). ■



Send your feedback on Inside Bergen Community College to [hlavenka@bergen.edu](mailto:hlavenka@bergen.edu).



2 ML 1.23.2026

Mari Margiotta <mmargiotta@closternj.us>

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## COMMISSIONERS: RESOLUTIONS

1 message

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Pollitt, Lara <LPollitt@bergencountynj.gov>  
To: "Pollitt, Lara" <LPollitt@bergencountynj.gov>

Fri, Jan 16, 2026 at 2:08 PM

Please find attached legislation passed at the January 7<sup>d</sup> Meeting

-

### RESOLUTION

42-26 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

44-26 – Appointing Members of the 2026 New Jersey Association of Counties Board of Directors

*If you require a non pdf document for your own purposes, please let me know.*



Lara Pollitt (she/her/hers)

Clerk to the Board

Bergen County

Board of Commissioners

Phone: 201-336-6536

One Bergen County Plaza

Hackensack, NJ 07601


Please note that effective  
October 3<sup>rd</sup> my e-mail address  
has changed from:  
[lrodriguez@co.bergen.nj.us](mailto:lrodriguez@co.bergen.nj.us) and  
[lpollitt@co.bergen.nj.us](mailto:lpollitt@co.bergen.nj.us) to  
[lpollitt@bergencountynj.gov](mailto:lpollitt@bergencountynj.gov)


Our website is now:  
[www.bergencountynj.gov](http://www.bergencountynj.gov)

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**2 attachments**

 **42 - 2026.pdf**  
191K

 **44 - 2026.pdf**  
183K



**COUNTY OF BERGEN**

ONE BERGEN COUNTY PLAZA  
HACKENSACK, NJ 07601

**Certified Copy**

**Resolution: 44-26**

**Agenda: 1/14/2026**

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**County Commissioner**

**Meeting Date: 1/14/2026**

**Purpose: APPOINTING MEMBERS OF THE 2026 NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF  
COUNTIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Prepared By: EJF/lp**

**Sponsored by Chairman Tanelli, seconded by County Commissioner Ortiz, and passed by the following  
vote:**

**Yes: 7 -** Chairman Tanelli, Vice Chairwoman Silna Zur, Chair Pro Tempore Voss, County  
Commissioner Amoroso, County Commissioner Marte, County Commissioner Ortiz,  
and County Commissioner Sullivan

I, Lara Pollitt, Clerk, Board of County Commissioners, certify that this is a true copy of Resolution No.  
44-26, passed by the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS on 1/14/2026.

*Lara Pollitt*

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_



**COUNTY OF BERGEN**

ONE BERGEN COUNTY PLAZA  
HACKENSACK, NJ 07601

**Certified Copy**

**Resolution: 44-26**

**Agenda: 1/14/2026**

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**BERGEN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Association of Counties will be holding its annual reorganization meeting on Friday, January 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, counties may appoint a voting member to the New Jersey Association of Counties Board of Directors as well as a first and second alternate member.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Bergen hereby appoints the following members to the New Jersey Association of Counties, Board of Directors for calendar year of 2026:

Commissioner Tracy S. Zur, Voting Member

Chairman Steven A. Tanelli, 1st Alternate

County Administrator Thomas J. Duch, 2nd Alternate

I, Lara Pollitt, Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Bergen in the State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners at its regularly convened meeting on January 7, 2026.

3 ML 1.23.2026

COUNTY OF BERGEN  
BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
One Bergen County Plaza, Room 310  
Hackensack, NJ 07601-7076  
(201) 336-6230 • Fax (201) 336-6242



Richard L. Miller, Chairman/Commissioner  
Margaret E. Frontera, Commissioner  
Angela M. Malagiere, Commissioner  
John L. Schettino, Esq., Commissioner  
Tomas J. Padilla, Commissioner

January 20, 2026

Superintendent of Schools:

The past two elections we trained and had high school students as election poll workers in various towns. It was extremely successful, and we received numerous compliments on how well our teen poll workers performed.

We will be expanding our program once again to additional schools in Bergen County. Will your District be one of the NEW participating schools? Participation will be limited.

For schools that have been with us if you would like to continue in this program, we would be happy to come back and train the students again. Please send us an email so we can set you up for training.

If your school is unable to participate students 16 or over are always welcome to be poll workers and can attend one of our many training classes in Hackensack. We have a flyer that we can send to you that can be posted on your Schoology or student website if interested.

The program includes training for the students you select (approximately 2.5 hours) in your school or at One Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack. Training class size should be no more than 40 students. The students that are 16 or 17 years old will work an 8-hour shift and the 18-year-old students are required to be registered voters and work the full day on Primary Election Day, June 4, 2026. The students will have 1 hour for lunch with an additional 15-minute break. Each student will be compensated \$160 for the 8-hour shift and \$300 for the full day shift, plus an additional \$50 for training.

We ask for this elections if you could keep the classes to one per school, as this is a Primary and voter turn-out trends on the low side. We have tentatively scheduled the high school classes the week of April 13th - April 17th, April 27th - May 1st, and May 4th - May 8th. We hope this will work around most school's spring recess and end of year activities.

I would appreciate your prompt response as Election Day is nearing and it is important to have training dates set in advance. Please contact us at the three emails below and always feel free to call us if necessary at the number listed below.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Miller  
Chairman/Commissioner  
Bergen County Board of Elections  
rmiller@co.bergen.nj.us  
Cc: [aperez@co.bergen.nj.us](mailto:aperez@co.bergen.nj.us) and  
[mraymundo@co.bergen.nj.us](mailto:mraymundo@co.bergen.nj.us)  
Office: 201-336-6225

**Make an Impact!**

# **BECOME A POLLWORKER**



**EARN \$300**

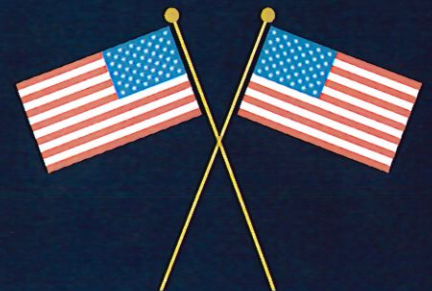
You can apply to serve as a poll worker if you:

- Are a United States citizen and a resident of New Jersey
- Registered to vote in Bergen County, 18 and over
- Are not running as a candidate in this election
- Are at least 16 years of age (minors earn \$160 for 8hr day)

**Mandatory Training Class Provided**

**ALL INTERESTED STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE FURTHER  
INSTRUCTION FROM YOUR SCHOOL PROGRAM  
DIRECTOR**

**BERGEN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**





4 ML 1-23-2026

Mari Margiotta <mmargiotta@closternj.us>

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## Final Legislation, Inauguration & Executive Orders, Budget Fines

1 message

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NJLM Weekly Roundup <noreply@civicplus.com>

Wed, Jan 21, 2026 at 3:51 PM

Reply-To: noreply@civicplus.com

To: mmargiotta@closternj.us



[View a Featured Ad at the End of this Email](#)

January 21, 2026

## State Issues

### Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

In his final act before leaving office, Governor Murphy acted on legislation from the 221st Legislative Term.

Please read the League's recent [blog post](#) on legislation with municipal interest that he acted on.

**Contacts:** Mike Cerra, Executive Director, [mcerra@njlm.org](mailto:mcerra@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x120, Lori Buckelew, Deputy Executive Director, [lbuckelew@njlm.org](mailto:lbuckelew@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x112, Paul Penna, Director of Government Affairs, [ppenna@njlm.org](mailto:ppenna@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x110, Sadayah Q. DuRant-Brown, Legislative Counsel, [sdurantbrown@njlm.org](mailto:sdurantbrown@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x137, and Erin Knoedler, Legislative Analyst, [eknoedler@njlm.org](mailto:eknoedler@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x116.

### Governor Sherrill's Day One: Inauguration and Executive Orders 1 through 6

On January 20, Mikie Sherrill, who was sworn in as New Jersey's 57th Governor, declared a state of emergency on utility costs and signed Executive Orders 1 through 6.

[Read more: Governor Sherrill's Day One: Inauguration; and Executive Orders 1 through 6](#)

**Contact:** Erin Knoedler, Legislative Analyst, [eknoedler@njlm.org](mailto:eknoedler@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x116.

### **Late Budget Introduction Fines**

N.J.S.A. 40A:4-84 permits the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to impose a fine for refusing or failing to timely adopt municipal or county budgets.

[Read more: Late Budget Introduction Fines](#)

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

### **SHBC Holds January Meeting**

On Wednesday, January 14, the State Health Benefits Commission (SHBC) held its regularly scheduled January meeting and heard presentations from Aetna and Optum.

[Read more: SHBC Holds January Meeting](#)

**Contact:** Erin Knoedler, Legislative Analyst, [eknoedler@njlm.org](mailto:eknoedler@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x116.

### **Governor Murphy signs Executive Order 414**

Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 414, one of his last, on January 16 regarding advisory entities.

[Read more: Governor Murphy signs Executive Order 414](#)

**Contact:** Erin Knoedler, Legislative Analyst, [eknoedler@njlm.org](mailto:eknoedler@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x116.

## **Federal Issues**

### **Federal Budget Deadline Approaching**

The federal budget expires on January 31. Bipartisan negotiators in Congress released a budget bill for consideration ahead of the deadline.

[Read more: Federal Budget Deadline Approaching](#)

**Contact:** Paul Penna, Director of Government Affairs, [ppenna@njlm.org](mailto:ppenna@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x110.

### **Congressional Portal Opens for Army Corps and Water Infrastructure Projects**

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee opened the internal Congressional portals to accept requests

from Congressional members for Army Corps projects and/or water infrastructure projects.

[Read more: Congressional Portal Opens for Army Corps and Water Infrastructure Projects](#)

**Contact:** Paul Penna, Director of Government Affairs, [ppenna@njlm.org](mailto:ppenna@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x110.

## Also of Interest

### **NJEDA Hosts Garden State CPACE Webinar**

NJEDA is hosting a webinar on how the Garden State CPACE program financing can drive private investment and sustainability.

[Read more: EDA Hosts Garden State CPACE Webinar](#)

**Contact:** Ciara Bradley, Research Associate, [cbradley@njlm.org](mailto:cbradley@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x128.

### **Show Off Your City 2026: Apply Today**

The deadline is approaching for the Show Off Your City Contest. Municipalities are invited to send the League photos of their tourist attractions, downtown areas, economic development initiatives, parks, city halls, community groups, and new projects for the 2026 Show Off Your City Photo Contest!

The winning photo will be featured on the cover of the April issue of *NJ Municipalities* and the winner will also receive a free League publication of their choice. Entries will be posted on the League's Facebook page, and some featured in the April issue of *NJ Municipalities*, and possibly other issues.

Photos should be high-resolution JPEG, the bigger the image, the better it would look on a magazine cover, with the ideal size being 7MB or larger.

**Deadline: February 6.**

[Submit photos using the Show Off Your City submission form](#) or mail a CD or flash drive to 222 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608.

**Contact:** Amy Spiezio, Editor, [aspiezio@njlm.org](mailto:aspiezio@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x123.

### ***NJ Municipalities* Blog: Union Township Supports National Human Trafficking Awareness Month**

[The NJ Municipalities](#) blog focuses this week on Union Township (Union) and its Police Department as they step up to prevent human trafficking with special awareness-building efforts this month.

Want to share your local story? Please send in your 300- to 1,000-word items and photos to Editor Amy Spiezio at [aspiezio@njlm.org](mailto:aspiezio@njlm.org).

**Contact:** Amy Spiezio, Editor, [aspiezio@njlm.org](mailto:aspiezio@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x123.

## Celebrate Your Municipality During Local Government Week 2026

Please join municipalities across the Garden State for 2026 Local Government Week from April 12-18 to engage citizens while celebrating the work of local government.

[Read more: Celebrate Your Municipality During Local Government Week 2026](#)

**Contacts:** Amy Spiezio, Editor, [aspiezio@njlm.org](mailto:aspiezio@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x123, or Taran Samhammer, [tsamhammer@njlm.org](mailto:tsamhammer@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x124.

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