

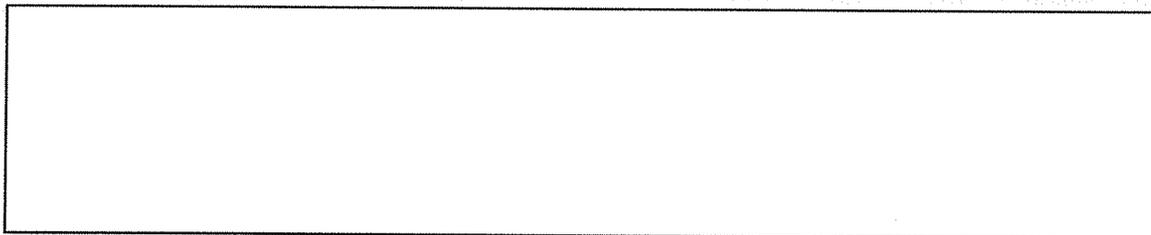
©

Masser, Michelle

From: Lashway, Lisa
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2013 2:07 PM
To: Canning, Sean; Masser, Michelle
Subject: FW: I. League Opposes Early Voting Bills A-3553 & S-2364 II. Public Hearing of the NJ Clean Water Council III. NJLM Educational Foundation Program

Lisa Lashway
Mt. Olive Twp. Clerk
973-691-0900 Ext. 7291
FAX 973-691-2080
PO Box 450
Budd Lake, NJ 07828

From: NJLM to Municipal Officials [mailto:njlm-clerks@njslom.org]
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2013 1:29 PM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: I. League Opposes Early Voting Bills A-3553 & S-2364 II. Public Hearing of the NJ Clean Water Council III. NJLM Educational Foundation Program



MAYORS ADVISORY

March 1, 2013

Re: I.League opposes early voting bills A3553 and S2364

Dear Mayor:

The League opposes two bills currently in the legislature that would require early voting: A3553, introduced by Assemblyman Wisniewski, and S2364, introduced by Senator Nia Gill.

These bills would require for each primary and general election a public facility, except a public school, located in an area of a high concentration of population be open and available to registered voters starting 15 days before an election for early polling. If there are more than 30,000 registered voters in a municipality, additional early voting sites must be designated in proportion to the number of registered voters in that municipality. The early polling locations must be open Monday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (12 noon to 6 p.m. in the Senate version). Any voter in line at the time of closing must be permitted to vote.

As a result, in many towns, this would mean that the municipal building, community center, or other frequently used public building be open and staffed by poll workers during the early voting time. Use of these buildings for early voting would likely conflict with if not push out other important uses for these buildings. A municipality may need to reschedule things like council meetings, meetings of land use boards, or municipal court dates, causing inconvenience for the taxpayers of the municipality.

These bills also require retraining of poll workers and dramatically increased hours, as well as chain of custody requirements to protect the voting process. Currently, it is very difficult to find poll workers for the Primary and General election. A 2007 report by the Pew Research Center identified numerous issues with the recruitment, training, and compensation for poll workers. These bills would only add to the problem by requiring the increase in the hours for poll workers.

We are also extremely concerned about the cost associated with the provisions of A3553 and S2364. A municipality would incur increased costs transporting election materials to and from such polling places every day for two weeks, rescheduling meetings to accommodate the use of public buildings, and paying over time to municipal employees forced to work extended hours and weekends. For example, the municipal clerk is required by law to be in office during polling hours. These bills would require the clerk to be in office 66-68 hours a week for two weeks. Many municipalities rely on public works to set up, take down, and transport election materials and polling places. Their hours

would also increase. All this leads to increased costs.

Although these bills contain a provision for reimbursement for any additional costs as well as an appropriation, we remain concerned by the language. The appropriation does not outline a specific amount, only that which the State Treasurer and the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting deem necessary. We question what would happen if the appropriation proves insufficient. In addition, the bill does not make clear who determines if a reimbursement request submitted by a municipality is related to the new early voting rules. The bills do not outline the procedure for a municipality whose reimbursement request is denied. Therefore, we believe these bills need a fiscal analysis by the Office of Legislative Services to determine the costs to municipalities and thus the needed appropriation amount.

The League strongly believes these bills would cause an unnecessary upheaval to the voting process in municipalities in New Jersey. Although a few states had issues with long lines and disenfranchised voters in the 2012 Presidential election, New Jersey performed quite well, even in light of Hurricane Sandy. Further, New Jersey already has a form of early voting, in that voters may request and cast absentee ballots without an excuse. Any voter may request an absentee ballot be sent to their home, or they may go in person to county locations and obtain a ballot there. This system has worked well for a number of years.

A3553 and S2364 introduce new, complex, and potentially expensive processes without any dedicated funding mechanism unnecessarily as we currently have a process that permits voters every opportunity to vote and participate in the democratic process.

We have a sample resolution opposing these bills linked below:

PDF is <http://www.njslom.org/resolutions/2013-0301-Resolution-Early-Vote-A-3553-S-2364.pdf>

Word is <http://www.njslom.org/resolutions/2013-0301-Resolution-Early-Vote-A-3553-S-2364.doc>

Please send any completed resolutions to the League. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Matthew Weng at 609-695-3481 ext 137 or at mweng@njslom.com.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.

Re: II.Public Hearing of the New Jersey Clean Water Council

On Tuesday, April 9, 2013, from 9AM to 1PM (or end of testimony, whichever is earlier), the New Jersey Clean Water Council will hold its 2012 public hearing (postponed due to Superstorm Sandy) with a revised topic that focuses on improving the resilience of our water infrastructure.

A term with many meanings, resilience can be considered “the capacity to adapt successfully in the presence of risk and adversity.” There is no question that our water infrastructure has been the victim of adversity over the years – Tropical Storm Irene and Superstorm Sandy are only the two most recent catastrophic events. Whether the causes are river flooding, coastal storm surges and wave action, high winds, power failures or inadequate asset management, the ongoing and likely risks to water infrastructure are becoming clearer and of greater concern with each year. How should New Jersey respond? What roles should State government play?

The Commissioner of NJDEP, Bob Martin, is scheduled to provide an overview of NJDEP’s ongoing thinking regarding these issues. Public testimony is invited, leading to formal recommendations by the Clean Water Council to the Commissioner. A detailed public hearing notice will be released soon. To pre-register for the public hearing, please contact Geraldine Skrajewski, NJDEP, at Geraldine.Skrajewski@dep.state.nj.us.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director

Re: III. NJLM Educational Foundation, Inc.

**CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS - TECHNIQUES FOR COMMUNICATING WITH
CONSTITUENTS, THE MEDIA, AND SERVICE PROVIDERS**

MARCH 22, 2013

8:30AM - 12:00PM

The Conference Center at Mercer County College

1200 Old Trenton Rd., West Windsor, NJ 08550

Registration Form at <http://www.njlmef.org/events/032213-crisis.html>

CEU's: CMFO/CCFO-4.0 OFF MGMT/ANC; CPWM-4.0MGMT; RMC-4.0 PROF DEVEL

Whether the crisis is a natural disaster, security emergency, a leadership vacuum, or any loss that impacts an entire community, understanding the basic approach to crisis communication will help you limit damage. Learn who you should communicate with; what methods of communication work best; what techniques are appropriate or inappropriate; what to do when communication technology fails; who should deliver messages to various stakeholders - and more.

Understanding how proper communication affects recovery from many forms of crisis is important at many levels. This Educational Foundation Event provides information for anyone tasked with communicating during a crisis - whether at a department head level, public figure, or crisis manager.

Moderator: Paul Maticera, Educational Foundation Trustee; Partner, MBI Gluck Shaw; Past President, League of Municipalities; Former Mayor, North Brunswick

Presenters:

Michael Turner, President, Burton Trent Public Affairs, LLC

“An Overview and Framework for Crisis Communication”

**Lt. Thomas Scardino, Assistant Bureau Chief, Emergency Preparedness Bureau
Emergency Management Section; Homeland Security Branch, NJ State Police**

“Basics of Intergovernmental Crisis Communication”

Joe Ryan, Public Information Officer, Bayonne

Debbi Winogracki, Public Information Officer, Toms River Township
“Basics of Crisis Communication with the Public - from press to social media”

****IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER OR CANCELLATION:** We will announce emergency seminar cancellations via recorded announcement on our Weather Hotline: **609-695-3481 ext. 200** and post announcements on our website www.njlmef.org or www.njslom.org after 6:00am on the morning of the meeting.

*If you would like to be removed from receiving faxed advisories please contact Shirley Cade at scade@njslom.com or 609-695-3481 ext. 114 with the name of your municipality and fax number. Thank you.

Please be advised that the information you receive is not legal advice. You must consult your town attorney to make sure that any of the material you receive is in accordance with current state law and your particular facts and situation.

Please be advised that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities is subject to the New Jersey Open Public Records Act. As such, any email sent or received by the League may be subject to a records request.

New Jersey League of Municipalities
222 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608
609-695-3481
<http://www.njslom.org>

This message was sent to clerk@mtolivetwp.org from:

NJLM to Municipal Officials | 222 West State Street | Trenton, NJ 08608

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward To a Friend](#)

▪