

NEW COUNTY COMMISSIONER ORIENTATION
1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Thursday, May 7, 2026
Location @ Caesars TBD

With a dozen or so new county commissioners taking office in 2026, the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) is pleased to present a “New County Commissioner Orientation” set to take place from 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Thursday 5/7 during NJAC’s 75th annual celebration of government. We’ve assembled an outstanding lineup of county leaders to cover essential topics such as governance, labor relations, fiscal affairs, and procurement. This Orientation, and Registration for NJAC’s convention, is complimentary for all new county commissioners who complete the training. However, please make sure to register by sharing your name, county, title, and contact information at mdufosse@njac.org.

NJAC OVERVIEW 1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Opening remarks will include how NJAC serves all twenty-one counties as a steadfast advocate and trusted resource with a unified and proactive voice.

Panelists

John Donnadio, *Executive Director, New Jersey Association of Counties*

COUNTY GOVERNANCE 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

This presentation will offer a comprehensive overview of county governments’ unique framework and the essential services provided to residents.

Panelists

Eve Cullinan, *County Administrator, Burlington County*

Abe Antun, *County Administrator, Hudson County*

Teri O’Connor, *County Administrator, Monmouth County*

LABOR RELATIONS 2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

This session will examine the collective bargaining process, Civil Service, and other rules that regulate county governments’ role as an employer.

Panelists

Alejandra Silva, *Director of Human Resources, Mercer County*

SNACK & COFFEE BREAK 3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

FISCAL OPERATIONS 3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

This segment will address county fiscal affairs, property tax cap levy calculations, and important budgetary timelines and restrictions.

Panelist

Jon Rheinhardt, *Chief Financial Officer, Bergen County*

PROCUREMENT 4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

This unit will examine the complexities of purchasing goods and services under the Local Public Contracts law along with the role of the qualified purchasing agent (QPA).

Panelists

Helen Fiore, *QPA, Monmouth County*

Laura Scutari, *QPA, Union County*