

NJAC COUNTY BIZ

An Educational and Informative Newsletter for Counties and Businesses

New Jersey Association of Counties

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Monmouth County Pizza Capital of New Jersey

by Thomas A. Arnone, Commissioner Director, Monmouth County



Thomas A. Arnone
Commissioner Director
Monmouth County

During the State of the County address in February, my fellow Commissioners and I declared Monmouth County as the Pizza Capital of New Jersey and wow did people have some big feelings on this declaration.

Some people across the State questioned the claim. Others pushed back with their own hometown loyalties. But in New Jersey, a debate about pizza is practically a tradition. And while we welcome the conversation, we also stand firmly behind our proclamation because the facts, and the slices, speak for themselves.

Monmouth County is home to more than 300 pizzerias. Many of them are family-owned, mom-and-pop establishments that have been serving their communities for generations. These are the places where recipes are passed down through families, where the owner greets regulars by name, and where the atmosphere feels more like Sunday dinner than a quick meal. In many ways, these pizzerias represent the heart of Monmouth County's small business community.

The quality speaks for itself. Pizzerias in Monmouth County are consistently ranked throughout the State as some of the best! From the thin slice, Scillian slice to a coal fire brick oven pizza, Monmouth County has it all. And getting a slice after a day on a beach? There's nothing better!

Recognizing the importance of these small businesses, the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners launched the Slice in Monmouth initiative in 2024. The goal was simple: celebrate and promote the incredible pizzerias that help define our communities while supporting tourism and economic development throughout the County.

Our pizzerias are more than just places to eat. They are gathering places, neighborhood landmarks, and small businesses that support local jobs and downtown economies. In many cases, they are also destinations that attract visitors from across the state and beyond.

In 2025, we took that effort a step further by launching SliceinMonmouth.com, a website that allows residents and visitors to easily find pizzerias throughout the County. The site lists pizzerias by town, making it easy to discover a new slice wherever you happen to be in Monmouth County.

And this year, we are continuing to build on that momentum by offering pizzerias a free social media marketing video. Our first video featured one of our most storied establishments, Federici's in Freehold. You can check it out on County's YouTube channel, @MonmouthCountyNJ.

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Monmouth County Pizza Capital of New Jersey

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And this year, we are continuing to build on that momentum by offering pizzerias a free social media marketing video. Our first video featured one of our most storied establishments, Federici's in Freehold. You can check it out on County's YouTube channel, @MonmouthCountyNJ.

It's a way for the County to help promote these local businesses and highlight the people behind the pizza at no cost to the pizzerias themselves. Businesses interested in participating can fill out a form at SliceinMonmouth.com.

So, for all of my fellow elected officials and members of the media that are challenging whether Monmouth County is the true Pizza Capital, I invite you to go to



SHARE THE NEWS!

Let us know what educational or informational articles you would like published in the NJAC COUNTY BIZ

Contact Loren Wizman, Director of Business Development
(609) 394-3467
or
loren@njac.org

IRS Audit Red Flags In Bond Arbitrage Compliance: Practical Guidance For New Jersey Local Government CFOs

by Joseph Luppino, CPA, CMFO, First VP, Head of Govt. Banking, Alma Bank

For much of the past decade, New Jersey counties, municipalities, and school districts operated in a negative arbitrage environment, where interest earnings rarely exceeded bond yields. However, the sharp rise in interest rates since 2022 created an economic environment in which, for a period of time, short-term interest rates exceeded long-term borrowing costs. This timeframe has brought the risk of positive arbitrage back into focus. At the same time, lingering project delays stemming from COVID-era supply-chain disruptions have slowed spend-down schedules, increasing the likelihood of yield-restriction exposure and the potential for IRS inquiries and examinations.

With the IRS prioritizing tax-exempt bond audits and modernizing its data-matching capabilities, CFOs must remain especially vigilant. The IRS now compares Form 8038-G filings with EMMA disclosures and annual audited financial statements, making inconsistencies far more likely to be flagged. A finding of noncompliance can jeopardize the tax-exempt status of a bond issue—exposing bondholders to federal income tax liability and triggering costly remediation requirements. Late filings and arbitrage payments are also costly, with penalties potentially reaching 50% of the accrued liability, plus additional late interest.

IRS Areas of Audit Focus for 2026

Each year, the IRS Tax-Exempt Bond (TEB) Office identifies key areas for examination. In 2026, the IRS indicated concentrated audit focus on: monitoring investment income, tracking bond proceeds, and reviewing management contracts.

These areas relate directly to arbitrage compliance and private-use issues. One of the primary tools used by the IRS to assess compliance is the Information Document Request (IDR). For 2026, IDRs are expected to be particularly targeted toward arbitrage matters, spend-down of bond proceeds, and the investment returns generated while those proceeds remain unspent.

Common IRS Red Flags for New Jersey Issuers

1. Late or Missing IRS Form 8038-G Filings

Flag: Errors, omissions, or late submissions of Form 8038-G.

Risk: Failure to submit Form 8038-G on time may result in the IRS treating the bonds as taxable or assessing penalties for late filing.

2. Failure to Complete the Required 5-Year Arbitrage Calculation and File Form 8038-T (if payment is due)

Risk: Missing the required 5-year arbitrage calculation can result in penalties, late interest, and potential loss of tax-exempt status.

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IRS Audit Red Flags In Bond Arbitrage Compliance: Practical Guidance For New Jersey Local Government CFOs

(continued)

3. Spending Delays Beyond the Three-Year Temporary Period

Flag: Unspent bond proceeds lingering beyond the allowed three-year window.

Risk: Issuers may incur a yield-restriction liability if interest earnings exceed the bond yield. Issuers must complete two distinct calculations: arbitrage rebate and yield restriction.

4. Commingling Bond Proceeds — Interfund Transfers Between Capital and Current Fund

Flag: Transferring Capital Fund bond proceeds to the Current Fund or using bond dollars for operating needs.

Risk: Commingling complicates tracing, increases exposure to private-use or arbitrage violations, and distorts rebate calculations.

Conclusion

Bond arbitrage compliance is not a one-time responsibility completed at issuance. It is an ongoing fiduciary obligation requiring continuous monitoring, timely calculations, documentation, and adherence to IRS requirements. By understanding IRS red flags, New Jersey CFOs can safeguard their tax-exempt financing programs.

Please contact Joseph Luppino, CPA, CMFO, Head of Government Banking via email at jluppino@almabank.com with questions or if you have an upcoming or recent Bond or Note deal. At Alma Bank, we offer competitive rates, an Escrow Sub-Accounting Bond Proceeds Tracking System, GUDPA Protection, and access to third-party expertise for arbitrage compliance. I am glad to share general guidance based on industry's best practices.

About the Author: Joseph Luppino is the Head of Government Banking at Alma Bank. He is a CPA and Certified Municipal Finance Officer with over 28 years of public sector experience. He is the former Chief Financial Officer of Bergen County, the largest County in New Jersey and an instructor for Municipal CFO students at Rutgers University's Center for Government Services.

Disclaimer: This alert is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal, tax, or fiduciary advice. Please contact Joseph Luppino for additional information.



This Year's Most Unforgettable Auctions

by Shari Williams, Content Creator, GovDeals

Every year, GovDeals connects buyers with [surplus assets](#) from government agencies across North America. While many listings are practical and predictable, some capture attention in unexpected ways.

Each year, standout listings are nominated and voted on to determine which auctions captured the most attention across the GovDeals marketplace. Before revealing this year's winner, here are the listings that rose to the top.

Honorable Mentions

Several auctions generated impressive engagement and deserve recognition.



[1988 Brutus Popeye Fire Truck](#)

A nostalgic and character-filled fire truck that drew strong bidder interest and reminded us how much personality surplus assets can carry.

[2021 Ford F-150 – Burnt Vehicle](#)

Even a non-running, no-title vehicle found its buyer. With 18 bids and a final sale of \$585, this listing proved that nearly every asset has value to the right bidder.



Finalists

2nd Place - Back to the Future Trailer



[DeLorean Trailer w/ Gullwing Doors](#)

Complete with signature gullwing doors and authentic DeLorean breaklights, this roadworthy trailer captured collector attention. It attracted 111 watchers and sold for \$9,900, demonstrating the lasting power of pop culture nostalgia.

3rd Place - The Fairy-Tale Carriage

[Decorative Vintage Cinderella Carriage](#)

This turn-of-the-century carriage, believed to date back to around 1900, once served as both a wedding photo prop and a stage piece in a 2024 production of Cinderella. Originally built by the J. Campbell and Son Carriage Factory in London, Ontario, the ornate pumpkin-style carriage still retains many of its antique elements. The listing attracted 20 watchers and 342 visitors before selling for CAD \$954, proving that even decorative historic pieces can capture bidders' imaginations.



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This Year's Most Unforgettable Auctions *(continued)*

4th Place – Frosty the Snowplow



1949 Vintage Sterling Snowplow “Frosty”

This fully operational classic, powered by a Cummins diesel engine, generated 59 bids and sold for \$14,400. Its strong competitive bidding showcased the demand for well-preserved vintage equipment.

And the 2025 Govvies Winner Is... The Graffiti Vessel



Chris-Craft Roamer “Deep Thought” aka “Minnow”

Recovered from Lake Michigan and covered in layers of graffiti, this 43-foot Chris-Craft Roamer quickly became one of the most intriguing listings on the GovDeals marketplace.

The vessel's unusual appearance and backstory sparked curiosity among bidders and viewers alike, generating 45 bids and more than 15,000 listing views before ultimately selling for \$2,651.25.

With its mix of history, mystery, and unmistakable character, the Graffiti Vessel captured the hearts of voters and stood out as one of the most memorable auctions of the year.

This year's winning auction stood apart for its engagement, competitive bidding, and distinct character. It represents the diversity and unpredictability that make GovDeals unique.

From recovered vessels to cinematic trailers, the 2025 Govvies reflect the wide range of assets that move through the GovDeals marketplace each year. Every year brings a new mix of history, utility, and unexpected finds. We look forward to seeing which listings capture attention in 2026.

Explore current listings at [GovDeals.com](https://www.govdeals.com) to discover your next unforgettable find.

GovDeals[®]
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Study With The Leader In Online Education

Thomas Edison State University

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR NEW JERSEY PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES

LIVE WEBINAR
Wednesday, April 8, 2026
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Registration: Click [HERE!](#)

(bit.ly/publicsector426)

This informative meeting will cover how to:

- Fund your education
- Find time to finish your degree
- Receive college credit for prior course work and professional experiences

Come with your questions—we will have a live Q&A!

Can't make the webinar? Feel free to [schedule a 15 min. appointment](#) for more information!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER

The logo for Maximus, featuring the word "MAXIMUS" in a bold, white, sans-serif font inside a dark blue rounded rectangular box.

Maximus is a technology and business process outsourcing solutions to support government agencies.

For additional information and to learn more about Maximus please contact Gaynor Ferrell, Managing Director via email at GaynorFerrell@Maximus.com.

PKA Technologies Is On The Road

by Nicole Buccola, Marketing Associate, PKA Technologies, Inc.

PKA Technologies is excited to be on the road this spring, connecting with industry leaders and public sector professionals at several key events.

Join us at the **NJ GMIS Conference on April 15th**, where we'll be engaging with government IT leaders and hosting a 50-minute tech lab, *"The Race Against Ransomware,"* in collaboration with HPE, focused on strategies to strengthen your organization's security posture.

Then, catch us at **EdgeCon on April 16th**, a premier event geared toward higher education IT professionals. We'll be showcasing innovative solutions for campus networks, cloud infrastructure, and cybersecurity, and sharing insights to help universities and colleges stay ahead in today's rapidly evolving technology landscape.

Next, PKA will be attending the **Midsized Enterprise Summit** in Houston, Texas, **from April 26–28th**. Hosted by CRN, PKA will be exhibiting and connecting with midsized enterprise IT leaders on the latest trends and solutions.

And don't forget—we'll also be attending the **NJAC Annual Conference in May**, bringing even more opportunities to collaborate, learn, and explore what's next in the evolving IT landscape.

We'd love to connect while we're there—be sure to stop by, say hello, and start a conversation with our team!

Happy Spring and wishing you a joyful Easter and a meaningful Passover!

The advertisement features a dark blue background with a photograph of the New Jersey State Capitol building. The PKA Tech logo is in the top left, and contact information is in the bottom right. The main headline is in large white letters, and a descriptive paragraph is in a pink box.

pka tech
IT solutions

INNOVATIVE IT SOLUTIONS FOR GOVERNMENT

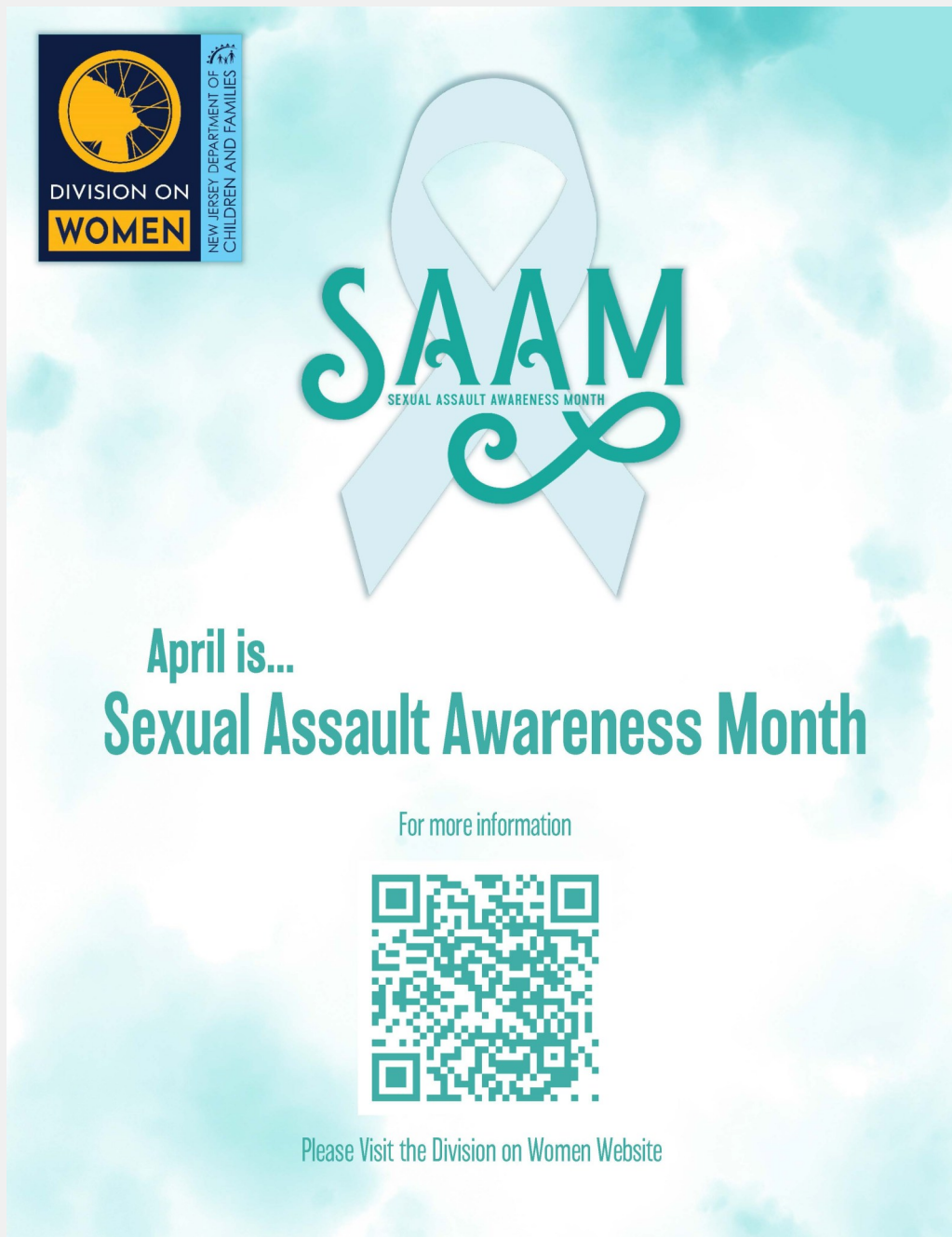
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Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Division on Women (DOW) joins other states across the nation in observance of the 25-year Anniversary since the start of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which is an opportunity to show solidarity with survivors, raise awareness of services, and recommit to a violence-free future. DOW would also like to take this moment to acknowledge and thank our many system partners, service providers, judicial partners, members of law enforcement, colleagues, friends and families, and so many others who work every day supporting survivors of sexual assault. We see you, we appreciate you, and we value you for all you do to uplift survivors in their journey through recovery and healing. Together, we can make New Jersey a safer place for future generations of our residents.

To learn more about DOW's services to survivors of sexual violence, visit <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/women/sexual-violence-direct/>




DIVISION ON WOMEN
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

SAAM
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

April is...
Sexual Assault Awareness Month

For more information



Please Visit the Division on Women Website

AI Literacy Is Now A Workforce Standard And If Government Doesn't Catch Up, It Falls Behind

by Megan Olson, Director of Marketing, Polimorphic

The U.S. Department of Labor recently released its Artificial Intelligence Literacy Framework. At first glance, it reads like workforce guidance for businesses and educators.

But it sends a clear signal for government as well.

AI literacy is no longer a “nice to have.” It is becoming a baseline workforce expectation across industries. If public sector teams do not intentionally build AI competency now, the gap between resident expectations and government capacity will grow.

This is not about turning government staff into engineers. It is about ensuring every department understands how to operate responsibly and effectively in an AI-enabled world.

AI Literacy Is About Competence, Not Coding

The Department of Labor identifies five core areas of AI literacy: understanding AI principles, exploring use cases, directing AI effectively, evaluating outputs, and using it responsibly.

For government teams, these are practical skills.

Understanding AI principles means staff know what generative AI can and cannot do. They must understand issues like hallucinations, bias, and the need for human review. Without that baseline, employees may over-trust AI or avoid it entirely, both of which limit effective public service.

Exploring use cases helps agencies identify where AI can reduce administrative burden. Examples include drafting resident communications, summarizing council packets, translating materials, triaging service requests, or assisting internal research. Agencies that explore these uses deliberately will shape how AI supports their work.

Directing AI effectively is becoming a professional skill. Clear prompting requires providing context, defining the audience, setting constraints, and requesting structured outputs. Without training, teams spend more time struggling with tools than benefiting from them.

Evaluating outputs is especially important in government environments. AI-generated content must be reviewed for accuracy, legal alignment, tone, accessibility, and equity considerations. In public service, evaluation is not optional. It is part of governance.

Responsible use connects directly to public trust. Agencies must establish clear guidelines, data governance standards, and oversight processes. AI adoption that strengthens transparency builds confidence.

What This Means for Government Leaders

The Department of Labor emphasizes that AI literacy should be developed through practical, contextual learning.

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AI Literacy Is Now A Workforce Standard And If Government Doesn't Catch Up, It Falls Behind *(continued)*

Policy memos alone are not enough. Staff need opportunities to experiment and scenario-based training tied to real responsibilities. Different roles will use AI in different ways, so training should reflect those realities.

The framework also highlights human skills like judgment, ethical reasoning, communication, and problem-solving. AI can accelerate work, but it cannot replace public accountability or stewardship.

AI Literacy Is Workforce Infrastructure

The central message is clear: AI literacy is becoming workforce infrastructure.

Just as digital literacy became essential during the rise of the internet, AI competency is now foundational. Governments that treat AI literacy as a core capability will be better positioned to deliver responsive public services.

The question is not whether AI will shape government work. It already is. The real question is whether institutions will build the literacy needed to shape it responsibly.

polimorphic



Beyond “Gas Station Weed”: Empowering NJ Counties To Tackle Intoxicating Hemp

by Susanna Puntel, American Trade Association of Cannabis & Hemp (ATACH)



New Jersey’s counties are grappling with a burgeoning public health and economic dilemma: the proliferation of unregulated intoxicating cannabinoid products—often dubbed “gas station weed.” These readily available products, found in convenience stores, smoke shops, and gas stations across the state, operate without adequate safety oversight, risking public health, particularly for our youth, and undermining the legitimate, licensed cannabis businesses that contribute vital tax revenue.

This crisis originated with an unintended loophole in the 2018 Farm bill. Congress’s intent was clear: to legalize non-intoxicating hemp for industrial purposes, aiming for “rope, not dope.” However, the legislation contained two critical gaps. It defined hemp based solely on Delta-9 THC content by weight, and it permitted the derivation of various substances from hemp. Bad actors swiftly exploited these ambiguities to produce, distribute, and sell intoxicating cannabinoids like Delta-8, THCA, HHC, THCP, and other novel compounds without any regulatory

oversight. For years, these products operated in a dangerous “legal gray area,” proliferating rapidly while public health officials, law enforcement, and licensed cannabis operators raised alarms.

Fortunately, this era of unchecked sales is drawing to a close. On November 12, 2025, the U.S. Congress took decisive action, redefining hemp to close the 2018 Farm Bill loophole. This crucial federal change eliminates the legal basis for unregulated intoxicating “hemp” products by establishing clearer parameters for intoxicating cannabinoids derived from hemp.

New Jersey acted swiftly to align its state law with this federal shift. P.L. 2025, c. 215 went into effect on January 13, 2026. This landmark state law mirrors the new federal hemp definition and provides clear statutory authority to enforce standards and impose penalties on businesses selling these unlawful products. Comprehensive in scope, it addresses multiple facets of the unregulated intoxicant problem, empowering local, county, and state officials with the tools to halt illicit sales and ensure product safety.

While the legislative foundation is now firmly in place, the path to effective enforcement presents its own complexities. Counties are committed to safeguarding their communities, but implementing these new regulations requires specialized expertise. Challenges include precise product identification, developing sound testing protocols, establishing clear enforcement mechanisms, and crafting effective penalty strategies. Navigating these intricacies is crucial for a successful and uniform statewide approach.

This is where informed guidance becomes indispensable. I am a cannabis and hemp policy strategist deeply involved in shaping these critical reforms. I was instrumental in closing the federal hemp loophole through my work with the National Council of the American Trade Association for Cannabis and Hemp (ATACH) and provided strategic guidance to the New Jersey Legislature in developing our state’s landmark statute. My webinar titled, “Gas Station Weed: Local Approaches to New Federal and State Laws” has been attended by hundreds of local officials in New Jersey, and I am strategizing with law enforcement leaders to improve enforcement outcomes in advance of April 13, the statutory deadline when most of these products become unlawful.

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Beyond “Gas Station Weed”: Empowering NJ Counties To Tackle Intoxicating Hemp *(continued)*

My extensive experience in this evolving landscape can help your county understand the nuances of these new laws, develop robust enforcement strategies, and ensure your community reaps the full public health and economic benefits intended by this legislation. At the county level, both prosecutors’ offices and health departments stand to benefit most directly from my support.

I encourage you to reach out to discuss how my expertise can support your county’s efforts to tackle the problem of “gas station weed.”

For additional information please contact Susanna Puntel via email at susannapuntel@gmail.com.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Learn about the benefits of being a part of NJAC and how you can join.

Contact Loren Wizman, Business Development Director at
(609) 394-3467 or loren@njac.org

[Click here for an application](#)

Join MRA International at our Annual InterNETworking Event!!!

by Yvonne Ha, Marketing, MRA International

Where: Ocean Place Resort in Long Branch, NJ

When: Thursday, July 16th

Time: 8:00 am – 3:30 pm

Join us for an exclusive annual event by the beach that offers unique learning and networking opportunities in an open, relaxed environment.

Our Annual **InterNETworking** event immerses professional educators, IT leaders, and passionate learning enthusiasts to explore industry-leading trends and topics that are actionable and beneficial to the public sector. Our event aims to bring innovative technology, practical solutions, and accessible resources to K-12, Higher Education, and State & Local Government organizations while offering a unique day of learning, networking, and collaboration.

Please register for the event on our website:

<https://www.mrainternational.com/inw2026>

MRA International is a leading technology expert and a value-added HP Power Services and HPE Partner with over 20 years of experience providing unique IT solutions and turn-key results to the public sector.

For more information, please contact the MRA Sales Team:

Email: sales@mrainternational.com

Phone: (732) 222-0997



MRA
INTERNATIONAL

**NJAC Conference
May 6-8, 2026
Caesars
Atlantic City**

Registration Can Be Found [Here!](#)

NACo Webinars

AI Meets Information Governance in the Public Sector

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. ET



Public sector AI adoption is caught in a "regulatory paradox": a strong push for rapid innovation occurring alongside a lack of clear roadmaps and regulations for information safety. Data privacy regulations remain in full force.

For government information owners, the burden of responsibility for information governance has landed squarely on your shoulders. To innovate and modernize while keeping your information safe, you need a responsible information governance model that ensures only high-quality, compliant data is available for AI tools.

During this session, we'll explore the four immediate steps you can take to ensure your agency's AI adoption is secure, compliant, and trustworthy.

*Enforcing information minimization; *Implementing "need-to-keep" retention policies for AI tools; *Demanding privacy-preserving information architectures; *The importance of keeping a human in the loop

This webinar is brought to you by NACo EDGE, establishing people, purchasing, and performance cost-saving solutions that can be applied to counties nationwide. EDGE is owned by NACo, advised by county leaders and 100% focused on solutions for U.S. Counties. Learn more about NACo EDGE [here](#).

For more information, visit the [event page](#)! Register [HERE](#)

Emerging Dynamics in the Pharmacy Marketplace: Direct-to-consumer and Plan Sponsors' RX Benefits

Thursday, April 9, 2026
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET

This webinar will feature Josh Fredell, Senior Vice President, PBM, Payor and Life Science Solutions at CVS Health, who will provide an expert overview of the rapidly evolving world of pharmacy benefits. Key discussion points will include the impact of the Direct to Consumer marketplace and prominent entrants such as TrumpRx, Mark Cuban's Cost Plus model, GoodRx, and others, with a particular focus on GLP-1 therapies.

The session will explore current industry trends, how plan sponsors are responding, and strategic considerations for navigating this shifting landscape. Attendees will gain valuable insight into market forces shaping consumer access, payer decision-making, and future implications for benefit design.

This webinar is brought to you by NACo EDGE, establishing people, purchasing, and performance cost-saving solutions that can be applied to counties nationwide. EDGE is owned by NACo, advised by county leaders and 100% focused on solutions for U.S. Counties. Learn more about NACo EDGE [here](#).

For more information, visit the [event page](#)!

Register [Here](#)

National Stormwater Policy Forum Webinar

Monday, April 13, 2026

Register [Here](#)



457(b) retirement plans

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) and Nationwide® are unified in our mission to help county leaders find better retirement solutions for their employees. Together we've achieved a lot:

More than
425,000
current participants

More than
\$24 billion
in assets

More than
40 years
of partnership

Nearly
3,000
participating
counties and county
jurisdictions

More than
1.5 million
employees and retirees
served over the years



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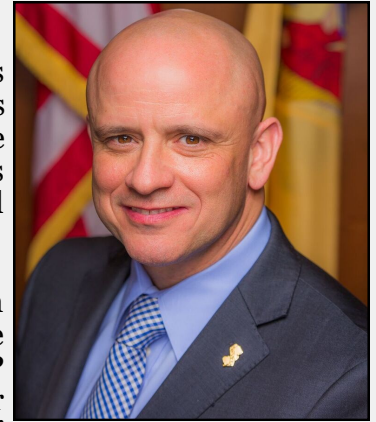
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NJAC is grateful to Governor Mikie Sherrill and Department of Human Services (DHS) Commissioner Stephen Cha for including \$71.0 million in the Governor's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2027 to address the fast-approaching changes in the amount the federal government will reimburse states for the administrative costs associated with providing essential services to those in need under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).



John G. Donnadio, Esq.

Unfortunately, these changes will impact county governments and beneficiaries in New Jersey particularly hard as the Garden State is one of only ten states nationwide where county welfare agencies and boards of social services process SNAP applications and have historically been reimbursed by the federal government for administrative expenses at 50%. Under the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)" signed into law last year, the federal government will now reimburse SNAP administrative expenses at a rate of 25% leaving county governments responsible for the 75% balance as summarized by DHS in Table 1 below. This figure is based on the fact that the federal government reimbursed counties \$156.0 million to process SNAP applications in 2024. Please note that county governments have already begun preparing for this additional financial burden in their calendar year 2026 budgets as the SNAP administrative fee shift will take effect in Federal Fiscal Year 2027, which begins on October 1, 2026.

In addition to effectively and efficiently utilizing the \$71.0 million appropriation to fund critical investments in staff, software, information technology, and other resources, NJAC looks forward to working with DHS to implement the following recommendations: (1) Develop best practices to mitigate payment error rates along with utilizing monthly error rate reports in all 21 counties. (2) Advocate for guidance on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to help alleviate worker caseload and streamline services. (3) Enhance case processing software, systems, and applications. These recommendations should also help reduce SNAP payment error rates where the federal government has historically paid 100% of SNAP benefits, separate from the administrative fee summarized above. However, beginning in 2028, the federal government will anchor federal funding to the following payment error rates in Table 2 also below. For example, New Jersey's monthly federal SNAP allotment in October of 2025 for all twenty-one counties equaled \$161,798,401 for 795,674 people. If the State's payment error rate averaged 7% during the month, the federal government would require the State to pay 5% of the federal SNAP allotment at \$8,089,920 or \$97,079,040 if the payment error rate remained at 7% for the entire year.

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NJAC Save The Dates

**NJAC Virtual Workshop
April 15, 2026**

**NJAC Board of Directors Meeting
June 26, 2026**

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *(continued)*

COUNTY	ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN
Atlantic	\$2,166,000
Bergen	\$2,790,000
Burlington	\$3,206,000
Camden	\$8,215,000
Cape May	\$1,102,000
Cumberland	\$2,230,000
Essex	\$10,199,000
Gloucester	\$1,478,000
Hudson	\$6,295,000
Hunterdon	\$425,000
Mercer	\$6,458,000
Middlesex	\$4,835,000
Monmouth	\$3,031,000
Morris	\$1,871,000
Ocean	\$4,565,000
Passaic	\$6,610,000
Salem	\$799,000
Somerset	\$1,870,000
Sussex	\$551,000
Union	\$8,680,000
Warren	\$670,000
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$78,045,000</i>

PAYMENT ERROR RATE	STATE MATCH PENALTY
< 6%	0%
6% - 8%	5%
8% - 10%	10%
> 10%	15%

EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Community 1st Spring Carnival</p> <p>4/1 - 4/19</p> <p>Pershing Field Park</p> <p>Jersey City Hudson County</p>	<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>Easter EggstravaganZoo</p> <p>10:00am</p> <p>Cape May County Park & Zoo</p> <p>Middle Township Cape May County</p>
<p>5</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>Cherry Blossom Festival</p> <p>4/4 - 4/19</p> <p>Branch Brook Park</p> <p>Newark Essex County</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Little Women: The Musical</p> <p>7:30pm</p> <p>Walter K. Gordon Theater</p> <p>Camden Camden County</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Graham NBash</p> <p>4/11 8:00am</p> <p>State Theatre</p> <p>New Brunswick Middlesex County</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Atlantic City Beer & Music Festival</p> <p>Convention Center</p> <p>Atlantic City Atlantic County</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Monmouth University Career Fair</p> <p>11:00am - 2:00pm</p> <p>OceanFirst Bank Center</p> <p>Long Branch Monmouth County</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Garden State Anime Fest</p> <p>4/18 & 4/19</p> <p>County Fairgrounds Richards Bldg. & Barn 6</p> <p>Augusta Sussex County</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Historic Greenwich Running Festival</p> <p>8:30am</p> <p>Gibbon House</p> <p>Greenwich Cumberland County</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Kids' Art Bash</p> <p>12:00pm</p> <p>Lyceum Hall</p> <p>Burlington City Burlington County</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Spring Festival & Earth Day</p> <p>11:00am-4:00pm</p> <p>Red Bank Battlefield</p> <p>National Park Gloucester County</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Hot Air Balloon & Aviation Festival</p> <p>4/25 11:00am-5:00pm</p> <p>Warren Tech</p> <p>Washington Warren County</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Bergen County Senior Expo</p> <p>10:00am-1:00pm</p> <p>Bergen County Community College</p> <p>Paramus Bergen County</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Art in the Park</p> <p>4/25 & 4/26 11:00am-5:00pm</p> <p>Goffle Brook Park</p> <p>Hawthorne Passaic County</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Spring Huddy Park In-Water Boat Show</p> <p>4/23 - 4/26 12:00pm-6:00pm</p> <p>Huddy Park</p> <p>Toms River Ocean County</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Varsity Spirit US Cheering Finals</p> <p>4/25 9:00am</p> <p>CURE Arena</p> <p>Trenton Mercer County</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Shad Fest</p> <p>4/25 & 4/26</p> <p>Lambertville Hunterdon County</p>
<p>26</p> <p>4-H Spring Carnival</p> <p>10:00am-2:00pm</p> <p>Ted Blum 4-H Center</p> <p>Bridgewater Township Somerset County</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Run It Out 5K</p> <p>4/26 10:00am - 12:00pm</p> <p>Central Park</p> <p>Morris Plains Morris County</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Salem County Film & Arts Festival</p> <p>4/25</p> <p>Downtown</p> <p>Woodstown Salem County</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Stirling Annual Street Fair & Food Truck Fest</p> <p>4/26 10:00am-5:00pm</p> <p>Main Ave.</p> <p>Stirling Warren County</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	