

# NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

*County Government with a Unified Voice!*

JOHN W. KING  
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Executive Director

## LEGISLATIVE RECAP *2014/15 Legislative Session*

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With the support of NJAC's Board of Directors; all 21 counties; our partners in Trenton such as the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, the New Jersey School Boards Association, the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, and others; and, our county affiliate groups that represent county administrators, finance officers, jail wardens, purchasing officials, welfare directors, engineers, planners, adjusters, counsels, human resource directors, road supervisors, public information officers, improvement authorities, clerks of the board, nursing homes, constitutional officers, and others, NJAC successfully advocated for the following issues during the 2014/15 legislative session.

- Extending the 2.0% cap on interest arbitration awards that maintained a level playing field in negotiations with collective bargaining units.
- Protecting \$25.0 million in Local Bridges Futures Needs funding initially frozen by the Department of Transportation.
- Phasing out the termination of \$30.0 million in funding for peer grouping instead of eliminating the monies as originally planned by the State.
- Making pre-adjudicated inmates housed in county jails eligible for health benefits saving counties \$20.0 million each year.
- Authorizing counties to establish mosquito control reserve funds as a means to stabilize the budgeting process and enhance fiscal planning.

As the 2014/15 legislative session comes to a close, NJAC is optimistic that Governor Christ Christie will also pass our priorities to authorize all local governing bodies to pay their bills through Electronic Fund Transfers and a package of county governance bills designed to allow counties to more effectively manage valuable property taxpayer dollars. During the 2014/15 legislative session, NJAC published position statements and testified at legislative committee hearings on paid sick leave, open public meetings and records, privatization contracts, transportation funding, 911 dispatch fees, electronic waste recycling, realty transfer fees, nursing homes, pension and health benefits, state of emergencies, money market funds, environmental infrastructure trust financing, prescription medication in county jails, county improvement authority financing, early voting, bed bugs, electronic

procurement, county planning boards, solitary confinement, transportation services for the aged and disabled, and several other matters.

NJAC also conducted research and analysis on a wide range of issues that included county budget and tax rate data, salaries and job descriptions, state psychiatric billing practices, special county counsel rates of pay, solitary confinement, welfare agencies and boards of social services, health benefits, purchasing, engineering, planning, golf courses, economic development, board recordings, bank fees, transportation funding, utility construction on county roads, snow days, shooting ranges, realty transfer fees, performance test measures, employee training, drug treatment, essential employee classifications, debt service, superintendent of elections, consent agendas, 911 dispatch, and county clerk of the board operations.