



**From:** NJLM - Municipal Clerks [mailto:njlm-clerks@cityconnections.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 05, 2010 1:53 PM  
**To:** Lashway, Lisa  
**Subject:** Three Issues

**LEAGUE ALERT**

Municipal Clerk: Please forward to Mayor and Governing Body.

February 5, 2010

**Re: I      You're Invited! Health Policy Event on  
Adherence - Monday, February 22, 2010**

**Re: II      S-458 (Collection, assessment, health and  
animal control bill)**

**Re: III      Important League On-line Survey**

**Re: I. You're Invited! Health Policy Event on Adherence - Monday, February 22, 2010**

Dear Mayors,

At the League Convention last November, John Miall, the former Risk Manager for the City of Asheville, North Carolina, made an outstanding presentation on how Asheville was able to improve the health of its employees while reducing their health care costs without cutting back on benefits. His presentation was so well-received that many of your colleagues in the audience were asking if he would return to New Jersey so they could learn more about the Asheville Program.

On Monday, February 22nd, the HealthCare Institute of New Jersey will be sponsoring a free public policy forum featuring John Miall in the State House Welcome Center from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Mr. Miall's approach to benefit design is reshaping how municipalities around the country are providing health benefits that reduce cost but improve outcomes.

I believe this program will be of great benefit and urge you or someone from your administration to attend. The program is free but pre-registration is necessary.

*Admission to this event is free, but an RSVP is required. PLEASE RESPOND TO [ballard@hinj.org](mailto:ballard@hinj.org) by February 18th. For further information call Haskell Berman at 908-212-0333.*

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.  
Executive Director

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**RE: II. S-458 (Collection, assessment, health and animal control bill)**

Dear Mayor:

A Senate bill has been introduced (S-458), which would mandate a county-wide binding referendum in every county in the State on the transfer of a predetermined package of municipal responsibilities to the county. We have informed the sponsors of this bill that we oppose its passage. This bill has not yet been scheduled for consideration by the Legislature.

S-458 is based on the unstudied assumption that countywide administration of municipal property tax assessment and collection, municipal animal control services and municipal public health services will result in long-term cost savings. It is further based on the belief that the price of a service determines its value to the public.

We have encouraged the Legislature to refrain from a rush to judgment, until such questions are studied by the Local Unit Alignment, Reorganization and Consolidation Commission. The Legislature's Special Session for Property Tax Reform created the LUARCC, and charged the Commission with studying and reporting on the structure and functions of county and municipal government, including local taxing districts, their statutory bases, the fiscal relationship between local governments and the appropriate allocation of service delivery responsibilities from the standpoint of efficiency. The Commission will also consider optimal service levels, ratios of employees to population served, cost structures for service delivery and other best practices.

Until the Commission completes this work, we cannot be sure that the arbitrary transfer of these four functions makes any sense at all; let alone whether it makes sense for the taxpayers of every municipality in every county. Indeed, the Commission could find that greater efficiency would be achieved by the elimination of certain county governments, in their entirety.

We did, however, commend the sponsors for recognizing the need to eliminate certain statutory impediments to greater inter-local cooperation in the delivery of public health services. And we support Section 4 of the bill, which would repeal those impediments.

Our affiliate organization, the Tax Collectors and Treasurers Association has prepared a sample letter and resolution opposing S-548, which is available on their website at <http://www.tctanj.org/>

We will contact you again on this, if the bill is scheduled for Committee consideration.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.  
Executive Director

**RE: III. Important League On-line Survey**

Dear Mayor:

We need your help in order to accurately inform Governor Christie and the Members of the Legislature of the impact that the over-all economic conditions and State actions, such as reductions in municipal property tax relief, have had on local budgets and services.

Toward that end, we ask one person from each municipality to visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RRJHN6R>.

At that site, you be able to complete a short, five-minute survey, telling us what your municipality did in 2009, and what you expect to do in 2010, in order to keep your budget in balance, without crippling property tax increases.

Individual responses will not be published. Aggregate results will be released to members, posted on NJSLOM.org and provided to State policy-makers, to assist in deliberations on the 2010-2011 budget.

There are only 3 questions, requiring only 5 minutes to complete.

Please do your best to ensure that we receive one response, and only one response, from your municipality. Multiple responses would devalue the survey results, and make it more difficult to use the data effectively.

We appreciate your input so the League can accurately reflect the municipal perspective on the economic collapse.

If you have any questions, contact Jon Moran at 609-695-3481, ext. 121 or [jmoran@njslom.com](mailto:jmoran@njslom.com)

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.  
Executive Director

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