

Community Trends®



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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As I wrote in this column last year, the September issue of *Community Trends*® is my favorite of the year... there's always so much good stuff in it! It's commonly known as the "LAC" issue because all of the articles are about legislative, regulatory and legal issues affecting common interest communities in New Jersey, written by members of the CAI Legislative Action Committee – NJ. This year has been active and productive. We have gained some important legislative victories, both in the passage of helpful legislation, and in the opposition of bad laws. These are some of the issues you'll read about in these pages:

- **Foreclosure Reform:** This past Spring we achieved one of the LAC's legislative priorities, addressing the foreclosure crisis which continues to plague our communities (yeah!). Thomas Martin, a lawyer and former chair of the LAC, reviews this issue and explains how the package of foreclosure reform bills recently signed into law will help our common interest communities.
- **Politics in Trenton...where we go from here:** We are closing in on the end of this current two-year legislative session in Trenton (ends in mid-January 2020). Michele Jaker and Kayvon Paul, two of the LAC's professional lobbyists, report on the news from Trenton, our recent successes, and what we can expect between now and January 2020.
- **Forging Positive Relationships with your Municipality:** Paul Raetsch, a homeowner leader member of the LAC and former President of his HOA Board,

discusses the importance of these relationships and how to develop them for the betterment of your community.

- **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations:** Advancing "green energy" technology brings with it both benefits and complications, and this topic is a good example of that. Matthew Earle, a lawyer and the LAC's go-to

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resource on tech issues who wrote about this issue in last year's edition, updates us on legislative efforts to promote the use of electric vehicles, and how we are working with the legislature to make sure those laws are fair to our communities.

- **CAI-NJ's Political Action Committee (CA-PAC) Supports NJ LAC in Political Efforts:** CAPAC's mission of initiating and advocating for helpful legislation, and opposing harmful legislation, costs money. Not that your LAC members receive any of that money (we don't), but to be effective in what we do requires the help of lob-

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bying professionals (who get paid for their services by NJ LAC) and attendance at functions which gives NJ-LAC the opportunity to interact directly with the lawmakers and their staffers (which also costs money). Chris Florio, a lawyer and former President of CAI-NJ, reports on how the New Jersey Chapter's Political Action Committee assists us in NJLAC's mission, and how you can help.

This is the issue of Trends you should keep on the top of the legislative and legal resource pile on your desk at all times. Many thanks to the authors of the articles in this

issue, and all members of the LAC, for their unselfish and tireless efforts on behalf all of us who live and work in common interest communities in New Jersey. I encourage you to share the information in these pages with your Board members, homeowners, property managers, and legal and accounting professionals. This edition and the information it provides is just another example of the many great benefits of membership in CAI.

Hope you had a great summer! See you here next month... ■