

## **AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE**

"A WEEK THAT SHAPES THE FUTURE"

Sponsored by THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

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## **Statesmen Elect 18 Mayors to Lead Jersey Boys State Cities**

First-Ever Mayors for Newly-Founded Grant and Hayes Cities



LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ - Today, the American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS) Board of Elections announced the results of municipal elections across Jersey Boys State. In less than 24 hours, each of the eighteen ALJBS cities has elected a mayor and many other city officials. Each mayor was sworn in immediately after the municipal elections. With 967 New Jersey high school risingseniors in attendance, ALJBS added two new municipalities to the mythical 51st state-Grant and Hayes. The new cities are named after the nation's eighteenth and nineteenth presidents, respectively.

In the Jersey Boys State structure, mayors are the leaders of their city. From the moment of their election, each mayor is expected to serve as a model statesman and is charged with leading his city in day-to-day operations. Mayors, along with other city officials are responsible for the passage and enforcement of new laws, the general appearance of the city, and the city manual.

Mayors of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of American Legion Jersey Boys State

| ALJBS CITY | MAYOR                     | HOMETOWN           | COUNTY     | LEGION POST |
|------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
| Washington | August P. Atencio         | New Vernon         | Morris     | #59         |
| Adams      | Michael J. Byrnes         | West Windsor       | Mercer     | #76         |
| Jefferson  | Tyler J. Citrin           | Springfield        | Union      | #228        |
| Madison    | Nicholas R. Demarie       | Mercerville        | Mercer     | #93         |
| Monroe     | Garrett J. Falk           | Lawrenceville      | Mercer     | #414        |
| Jackson    | Derek J. Gibbs            | Stockton           | Hunterdon  | #159        |
| Van Buren  | Gabriel R. Harrison       | Whitehouse Station | Hunterdon  | #284        |
| Harrison   | Liam B. Kang              | Florham Park       | Morris     | #43         |
| Tyler      | Justin E. Leandre         | South Orange       | Essex      | #70         |
| Polk       | Michael E. Lopez-Amaya    | Clifton            | Passaic    | #8          |
| Taylor     | Derek C. Nelson           | Ramsey             | Bergen     | #170        |
| Fillmore   | Logan J. Peterson         | Haddon Township    | Camden     | #230        |
| Pierce     | Christopher J. Ricigliano | Edison             | Middlesex  | #324        |
| Buchanan   | Nathaniel M. Roland       | Wenonah            | Gloucester | #192        |
| Lincoln    | Joel V. Sirusas           | Flemington         | Hunterdon  | #159        |
| Johnson    | Shivram Viswanathan       | Princeton Junction | Mercer     | #76         |
| Grant      | Robert A. Wolf            | Secaucus           | Hudson     | #118        |
| Hayes      | Ross A. Zimmerman         | Springfield        | Union      | #228        |

Prior to municipal elections in each of the eighteen ALJBS cities, statesmen discussed and debated which type of five common New Jersey municipal governments best fits their needs and philosophies. The five types are: 1) Weak Mayor; 2) Strong Mayor; 3) Mayor-Council-Administrator; 4) Commission; and 5) Council-Manager.

The hands-on approach for teaching civics and government at the local, county, and state level allows each statesmen to run for many offices from city dog catcher—to mayor—to county freeholder—and to Boys Nation Senator – among many others. These 967 statesmen hail from more than 325 communities across New Jersey.

Throughout the week-long program, statesmen are:

- Hearing from notable speakers including US Senate candidate and Newark Mayor Cory Booker (fmr. ALJBS delegate, 1986), Congressman Leonard Lance (fmr. ALJBS delegate, 1969), and NJ Assemblyman Herbert Conaway, Jr. (ALJBS Governor, 1980);
- Participating in a robust college fair featuring 95 colleges and universities from across the nation;
- Attending leadership seminars and training by United States Marine Corps and New Jersey State Police;
- Electing the 68<sup>th</sup> ALJBS Governor; and
- Electing two Boys Nation Senators who will represent New Jersey at the annual American Legion Jersey Boys Nation program in Washington D.C., from July 19-26, 2013.

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## About American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS)

In its 68th year, ALJBS is a week-long experience that educates, trains, and inspires New Jersey's youth so that each statesman may become a lifelong leader of character committed to service, respect, and Americanism. ALJBS is a college-level seminar that teaches citizenship, politics, and leadership to more than 1,000 rising-seniors in high school. ALJBS is among the most respected and selective educational programs of its kind in the country. All expenses are typically donated by a sponsoring American Legion Post, a local business, or a community-based organization. To learn more, please visit <u>aljbs.org</u>.