

**PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT DATED APRIL 29, 2026**

**COUNTY OF BERGEN  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**\$37,460,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2026  
consisting of  
\$27,984,000 GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2026A,  
\$3,139,000 COUNTY VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL SCHOOLS BONDS, SERIES 2026B,  
\$1,233,000 COUNTY COLLEGE BONDS, SERIES 2026C,  
\$2,552,000 COUNTY COLLEGE BONDS, SERIES 2026D, and  
\$2,552,000 COUNTY COLLEGE BONDS, SERIES 2026E  
(County College Bond Act, P.L. 1971, c.12)**

This Official Statement has been prepared by the County of Bergen, a body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey (the "County") to provide information on its: \$37,460,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2026, consisting of: A) \$27,984,000 General Improvement Bonds, Series 2026A (the "Series 2026A Bonds"); B) \$3,139,000 County Vocational/Technical School Bonds; Series 2026B (the "Series 2026B Bonds"); C) \$1,233,000 County College Bonds, Series 2026C (the "Series 2026C Bonds"); D) \$2,552,000 County College Bonds, Series 2026D (the "Series 2026D Bonds"); and E) \$2,552,000 County College Bonds, Series 2026E (County College Bond Act, P.L. 1971, c.12) (the "Series 2026E Bonds", together with the Series 2026C Bonds and the Series 2026D Bonds, the "County College Bonds", and together with the Series 2026A Bonds, the Series 2026B Bonds, and the County College Bonds, the "Bonds"). Select information is presented on the cover page and the inside cover page of this Official Statement for the convenience of the user. To make an informed decision regarding the Bonds, a prospective investor should read this Official Statement in its entirety.

<b>Credit Rating</b>	Moody's: "Aaa" (See "Credit Rating" herein).
<b>Federal Tax Exemption</b>	Assuming continuing compliance by the County with certain covenants described herein, under current law, interest on the Bonds is exempt from federal income taxation. Interest on the Bonds is not included when calculating the federal alternative minimum tax on individuals. However, interest on the Bonds is taken into account in determining the annual adjusted financial statement income of certain corporations for purposes of calculating the federal alternative minimum tax imposed on such corporations.
<b>State Tax Exemption</b>	Interest on the Bonds, and any gain from the sale thereof, is not includable as gross income under the New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act.
<b>Redemption</b>	The Bonds are subject to redemption prior to their stated maturities as described herein.
<b>Security</b>	The Bonds will be valid and legally binding general obligations of the County and, unless paid from other sources, will be payable from <i>ad valorem</i> taxes to be levied upon all the taxable property within the County without limitation as to rate or amount, except to the extent that enforcement of such payment may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar laws or equitable principles affecting the enforcement of creditors' rights generally.
<b>Purpose</b>	Proceeds from the sale and issuance of the Bonds will be used by the County as described herein.
<b>Denominations</b>	The Bonds may be purchased in increments of \$5,000 or any integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof.
<b>Maturity Dates</b>	March 1, as shown on the inside cover.
<b>Interest Payment Dates</b>	September 1, 2026 and semiannually thereafter on March 1 and September 1 of each year until maturity.
<b>Interest Rates</b>	As shown on the inside cover.
<b>Bond Counsel</b>	Waters, McPherson, McNeill, P.C.
<b>Closing</b>	On or about May 20, 2026.
<b>Book-Entry System</b>	The Depository Trust Company, Brooklyn, New York.
<b>Issuer Contact</b>	Mr. Jon Rheinhardt, County Chief Financial Officer (201) 336-6560

**ELECTRONIC PROPOSALS SUBMITTED VIA THE PARITY ELECTRONIC BIDDING SYSTEM  
WILL BE RECEIVED FOR THE BONDS UNTIL 11:00AM ON MAY 6, 2026  
ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESPECTIVE NOTICE OF SALE.**

This is a Preliminary Official Statement and the information contained herein is subject to completion, amendment or other change without notice. The securities described herein may not be sold nor may offers to buy be accepted prior to the time the Official Statement is delivered in final form. Under no circumstances shall this Preliminary Official Statement constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy nor shall there be any sale of these securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the applicable securities laws of any such jurisdiction. This is a Preliminary Official Statement "deemed final" by the County within the meaning of and with the exception of certain information permitted to be omitted by Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities Exchange Commission, and is otherwise subject to change in accordance with applicable law.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**\$37,460,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2026**  
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**\$2,552,000 COUNTY COLLEGE BONDS, SERIES 2026D, and**  
**\$2,552,000 COUNTY COLLEGE BONDS, SERIES 2026E**  
**(County College Bond Act, P.L. 1971, c.12)**

<u>Maturity (March 1)</u>	<u>Combined Maturity Schedule</u>	<u>General Improvement Bonds, Series 2026A</u>	<u>County Vocational/ Technical Schools Bonds, Series 2026B</u>	<u>County College Bonds, Series 2026C</u>	<u>County College Bonds, Series 2026D</u>	<u>County College Bonds, Series 2026E</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>CUSIP No.*</u>
2027	\$1,845,000	\$1,485,000	\$95,000	\$65,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	%	%	
2028	2,415,000	1,965,000	95,000	85,000	135,000	135,000			
2029	2,515,000	2,045,000	100,000	90,000	140,000	140,000			
2030	2,615,000	2,125,000	105,000	95,000	145,000	145,000			
2031	2,710,000	2,210,000	105,000	95,000	150,000	150,000			
2032	2,815,000	2,300,000	105,000	100,000	155,000	155,000			
2033	2,935,000	2,390,000	110,000	105,000	165,000	165,000			
2034	3,045,000	2,485,000	110,000	110,000	170,000	170,000			
2035	3,165,000	2,585,000	115,000	115,000	175,000	175,000			
2036	3,300,000	2,690,000	120,000	120,000	185,000	185,000			
2037	3,425,000	2,795,000	125,000	125,000	190,000	190,000			
2038	3,565,000	2,909,000	128,000	128,000	200,000	200,000			
2039	545,000		135,000		205,000	205,000			
2040	570,000		140,000		215,000	215,000			
2041	595,000		151,000		222,000	222,000			
2042	155,000		155,000						
2043	160,000		160,000						
2044	165,000		165,000						
2045	175,000		175,000						
2046	180,000		180,000						
2047	185,000		185,000						
2048	190,000		190,000						
2049	190,000		190,000						

\*A registered trademark of the American Bankers Association. The CUSIP numbers referenced herein are provided by CUSIP Global Services, which is managed on behalf of the American Bankers Association by FactSet Research Systems, Inc. The CUSIP numbers listed above are being provided solely for the convenience of holders of the Bonds only at the time of issuance of the Bonds and the County and the Underwriters / Purchasers thereof do not make any representations with respect to such numbers or undertake any responsibility for their accuracy now or at any time in the future. The CUSIP number for a specific maturity is subject to being changed after the issuance of the Bonds as a result of procurement of secondary market portfolio insurance or other similar enhancement by investors that is applicable to all or a portion of certain maturities of the Bonds.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

James J. Tedesco, III

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Steven A. Tanelli, Commissioner Chairman  
Tracy Silna Zur, Commissioner Vice Chairwoman  
Dr. Joan M. Voss, Commissioner Chair Pro Tempore  
Mary J. Amoroso  
Germaine M. Ortiz  
Rafael Marte  
Thomas J. Sullivan

**COUNTY OFFICIALS**

Thomas J. Duch, Esq., County Administrator  
Jon Rheinhardt, County Chief Financial Officer  
Melissa Howard, County Treasurer  
Lara Pollitt, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

**COUNTY COUNSEL / COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Thomas J. Duch, Esq.

**COUNTY AUDITOR**

Wielkottz & Company, LLC  
Pompton Lakes, New Jersey

**BOND COUNSEL**

Waters, McPherson, McNeill, P.C.  
Secaucus, New Jersey

**MUNICIPAL ADVISOR**

NW Financial Group, LLC  
Bloomfield, New Jersey

No broker, dealer, salesperson or other person has been authorized by the County to give any information or to make any representations with respect to the Bonds, other than those contained in this Official Statement, and, if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the foregoing. The information contained herein has been provided by the County and other sources deemed reliable; however, no representation or warranty is made as to its accuracy or completeness and such information is not to be construed as a representation or warranty by the Underwriters of the Bonds or, as to information from sources other than itself, by the County. The information and expressions of opinion herein are subject to change without notice, and neither the delivery of this Official Statement nor any sale hereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in any of the information herein since the date hereof, or the date as of which such information is given, if earlier.

References in this Official Statement to laws, rules, regulations, resolutions, agreements, reports and documents do not purport to be comprehensive or definitive. All references to such documents are qualified in their entirety by reference to the particular document, the full text of which may contain qualifications of and exceptions to statements made herein, and copies of which may be inspected at the offices of the County during normal business hours.

This Official Statement does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any sale the Bonds in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for any person to make such an offer, solicitation or sale. No dealer, broker, salesman or other person has been authorized to give any information or to make any representations other than as contained in this Official Statement. If given or made, such other information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the County or the Underwriter.

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**OFFICIAL STATEMENT  
RELATING TO**

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**(County College Bond Act, P.L. 1971, c.12)**

**INTRODUCTION**

This Official Statement has been prepared by the County of Bergen, a body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey (the "County") to provide information on its: \$37,460,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2026, consisting of: A) \$27,984,000 General Improvement Bonds, Series 2026A (the "Series 2026A Bonds"); B) \$3,139,000 County Vocational/Technical School Bonds; Series 2026B (the "Series 2026B Bonds"); C) \$1,233,000 County College Bonds, Series 2026C (the "Series 2026C Bonds"); D) \$2,552,000 County College Bonds, Series 2026D (the "Series 2026D Bonds"); and E) \$2,552,000 County College Bonds, Series 2026E (County College Bond Act, P.L. 1971, c.12) (the "Series 2026E Bonds", together with the Series 2026C Bonds and the Series 2026D Bonds, the "County College Bonds", and together with the Series 2026A Bonds, the Series 2026B Bonds, and the County College Bonds, the "Bonds"). Select information is presented on the cover page and the inside cover page of this Official Statement for the convenience of the user. To make an informed decision regarding the Bonds, a prospective investor should read this Official Statement in its entirety. This Official Statement has been executed by the County Chief Financial Officer.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE BONDS**

The following is a summary of certain provisions of the Bonds. Reference is made to the Bonds themselves for the complete text thereof, and the discussion herein is qualified in its entirety by such reference.

**Terms and Interest Payment Dates**

The Bonds will be dated the date of delivery thereof. The Bonds will mature on March 1 of each year until maturity, in the principal amounts as set forth on the inside cover page hereof. The Bonds will bear interest at the interest rates per annum as set forth therein, payable on September 1, 2026 and semiannually thereafter on March 1 and September 1 of each year until maturity (each, an "Interest Payment Date").

**Denominations and Place of Payment**

The Bonds shall be issued in fully registered form to The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ("DTC"), and registered in the name of DTC's nominee, Cede & Co. One bond certificate shall be issued for each year of maturity of the Bonds, numbered GI-1 to GI-12 in order of maturity for the Series 2026A Bonds; VTS-1 to VTS-23 in order of maturity for the Series 2026B Bonds; CCC-1 to CCC-12 in order of maturity for each of the Series 2026C Bonds; CCD-1 to CCD-15 in order of maturity for Series 2026D Bonds; and CCE-1 to CCE-15 in order of maturity for the Series 2026E Bonds. DTC will hold the Bonds and not physically distribute bond certificates to the DTC participants or beneficial owners of the Bonds.

Principal of and interest on the Bonds will be paid by TD Bank, National Association, Mount Laurel, New Jersey, in its capacity as paying agent (the "Paying Agent"), to DTC as of each February 15 and August 15 (whether or not a business day) immediately preceding the respective Interest Payment Date (each, a "Record Date"). DTC will in turn remit the principal and interest payments received from the County to the DTC participants, which will remit such payments to the beneficial owners of the Bonds.

The Bonds may be purchased in increments of \$5,000, plus integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof. Purchasers of the Bonds will not receive bond certificates representing their beneficial ownership interest in the amount of Bonds purchased.

So long as Cede & Co. is the registered owner of the Bonds, references herein (except under the captions "Tax Matters" and "Secondary Market Disclosure") to the registered owner(s) shall mean Cede & Co. and shall not mean the beneficial owners of the Bonds. See "Book-Entry System" herein.

## Redemption

The Bonds maturing on or after March 1, 2034 will be redeemable at the option of the County in whole or in part on any date on or after March 1, 2033 at a redemption price equal to the principal amount thereof, plus accrued in time to the date fixed for redemption.

The Paying Agent shall, at least thirty (30) days and not more than forty-five (45) days prior to the date fixed for redemption, mail by first class mail, postage prepaid, to the registered owners of the Bonds to be redeemed (provided that such notice period may be waived by the Bond Holders) at their addresses as the same shall appear, if at all, upon the registry books of the Paying Agent, a notice to the effect that the Agency has elected to redeem all the Bonds or a part thereof, as the case may be, on a date therein designated, specifying, in the case of the redemption of less than all of the outstanding Bonds, the principal amount of the Bonds to be redeemed and the portion, if less than all, of any Bond is to be redeemed, and in every case stating that on said date there will become and be due and payable upon each bond so to be redeemed, at the designated office of the Paying Agent, the principal thereof, together with the accrued interest to such date, with such premium, if any, as is due and payable on such bond upon such redemption, and that from and after such date interest thereon will cease to accrue. At any time the Bonds are held by OTC, the Paying Agent shall send any notice of redemption to DTC at such address as may be given by OTC in writing to the Paying Agent. The foregoing notice may be sent by legible facsimile or by other secure method which enables the Paying Agent to verify the submission of such notice.

If at the time of mailing of any notice of redemption there shall not have been deposited with the Paying Agent moneys sufficient to redeem all the Bonds called for redemption, such notice shall state that it is subject to the deposit of the redemption moneys with the Paying Agent not later than the opening of business on the redemption date and shall be of no effect unless such are so deposited.

## Security and Source of Payment

The Bonds are valid and legally binding general obligations of the County and, unless paid from other sources, are payable from *ad valorem* taxes levied upon all the taxable real property within the County for the payment of the Bonds and the interest thereon without limitation as to rate or amount.

## Additional Security for the Series 2026B Bonds Only (School Bond Reserve Act)

All school bonds, including the Series 2026B Bonds, are secured by the School Bond Reserve established in the Fund for the Support of Free Public Schools of the State of New Jersey (the "Fund") in accordance with the New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act., N.J.S.A. 18A:56-17 et seq. (P.L. 1980, c. 72, approved July 16, 1980, as amended by P.L. 2003, c. 118, approved July 1, 2003 (the "Act")). The recent amendments to the School Bond Reserve Act provide that the Fund will be divided into two School Bond Reserve accounts. All bonds issued prior to July 1, 2003 shall be benefited by a School Bond Reserve account funded in an amount equal to 1-1/2% of the aggregate issued and outstanding bonded indebtedness of counties, municipalities or school districts for school purposes issued prior to July 1, 2003 (the "Old School Bond Reserve Account") and all bonds, including the Vocational-Technical Schools Bonds, issued on or after July 1, 2003 shall be benefited by a School Bond Reserve account equal to 1% of the aggregate issued and outstanding bonded indebtedness of counties, municipalities or school districts for school purposes issued on or after July 1, 2003 (the "New School Bond Reserve Account"), provided such amounts do not exceed the moneys available in the Fund. If a municipality, county or school district is unable to make payment of principal of or interest on any of its bonds issued for school purposes, the trustees of the Fund will purchase such bonds at par value and will pay to the bondholders the interest due or to become due within the limits of funds available in the applicable School Bond Reserve account in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

The Act provides that the School Bond Reserve shall be composed entirely of direct obligations of the United States government or obligations guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States government. Securities representing at least one-third of the minimal market value to be held in the School Bond Reserve shall be due to mature within one year of issuance or purchase. Beginning with the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2003 and continuing on each June 30 thereafter, the State Treasurer shall calculate the amount necessary to fully fund the Old School Bond Reserve Account and the New School Bond Reserve Account as required pursuant to the Act. To the extent moneys are insufficient to maintain each account in the School Bond Reserve at the required levels, the State agrees that the State Treasurer shall, no later than September 15 of the fiscal year following the June 30 calculation date, pay to the trustees for deposit in the School Bond Reserve such amounts as may be necessary to maintain the Old School Bond Reserve Account and the New School Bond Reserve Account at the levels required by the Act. No moneys may be borrowed from the Fund to provide liquidity to the State unless the Old School Bond Reserve Account and New School Bond Reserve Account each are at the levels certified as full funding on the most recent June 30 calculation date. The amount of the School Bond Reserve in each account is pledged as security for the prompt payment to holders of bonds benefited by such account of the principal of and the interest on such bonds in the event of the inability of the issuer to make such payments. In the event the amounts in either the Old School Bond Reserve Account or the New School Bond Reserve Account fall below the amount required to make payments on bonds, the amounts in both accounts are available to make payments for bonds secured by the reserve.

The Act further provides that the amount of any payment of interest or purchase price of school bonds paid pursuant to the Act shall be deducted from the appropriation or apportionment of State aid, other than certain State aid which may be otherwise

restricted pursuant to law, payable to the district, county or municipality and shall not obligate the State to make, nor entitle the district, county or municipality to receive any additional appropriation or apportionment. Any amount so deducted shall be applied by the State Treasurer to satisfy the obligation of the district, county or municipality arising as a result of the payment of interest or purchase price of bonds pursuant to the Act.

### **Additional Security for the Series 2026E Bonds Only (County College Bond Act)**

Within the limits of funds appropriated by the State Legislature for such purposes, the boards of trustees of the county colleges may apply to the State Treasurer and receive State support for (i) capital projects in an amount not to exceed 50% of the cost of said capital projects and (ii) operational costs in an amount not to exceed 50% of the educational and general costs of the county colleges in the base year.

Whenever funds appropriated by the State Legislature are insufficient to satisfy the State's share of capital projects for county colleges, as described in the preceding paragraph, additional State support for such projects shall, pursuant to the County College Bond Act of 1971 (N.J.S.A. 18A:64A-22.1, et seq.) (the "County College Bond Act"), be made available to counties in which county colleges are located for the payment of principal of and interest on bonds entitled to the benefits of the County College Bond Act and interest on bonds issued in anticipation thereof, provided that the total principal amount of such bonds shall not exceed \$265,000,000.

Since the adoption of the County College Bond Act, the State has made annual appropriations sufficient to provide for the debt service when due on all bonds and notes entitled to the benefits of the County College Bond Act. However, the State is not legally bound to make such appropriations.

The amount of bonds entitled to the benefits of the County College Bond Act is determined by the State Treasurer. Whenever the State Treasurer shall determine that it is unable to provide State support for a capital project of a county college within the limit of available State appropriations, the State Treasurer shall determine the necessity or advisability of making available additional State support for such capital project.

To the extent the State Treasurer determines that additional support is necessary or desirable for such capital projects, the State Treasurer shall certify to the governing body of the county in which such capital project is located the amount of bonds that shall be entitled to the benefits of the County College Bond Act for such capital project. The State Treasurer has certified to the County that the State will provide debt service support for ½ of the debt service on the Series 2025E Bonds.

At any time within 1 year of the aforementioned certification, such county is authorized to issue bonds, in anticipation thereof, in an aggregate amount not exceeding the amount set forth in such certification of the State Treasurer. Such bonds shall be in addition to the sums authorized to be borrowed by the county pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:64A-19 for the purpose of funding the county share of such capital project.

Under the provisions of the County College Bond Act, the State shall annually appropriate and pay on behalf of the County an amount equal to ½ of the principal of an interest on the Series 2026E Bonds. The amounts paid by the State pursuant to the County College Bond Act are paid directly to the Paying Agent, and must be used for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Series 2026E Bonds. Any obligations issued by the County that are entitled to the benefits of the County College Bond Act are not debts or liabilities of the State or a pledge of the faith and credit of the State, but are dependent for repayment upon appropriations provided by law from time to time.

### **AUTHORIZATION AND PURPOSE OF THE BONDS**

The Bonds are to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law of the State of New Jersey (N.J.S.A. 40A:2-1, et seq.) (the "Local Bond Law"). The Bonds are authorized by Resolution No. 426-26 of the County adopted on April 15, 2026 and the bond ordinances referenced therein, each all respects duly approved and published as required by law, Bond Ordinance No. 26-04 of the County finally adopted on March 31, 2026, and in all respects duly approved and published as required by law, and Resolution No. 428-26 of the County adopted on April 15, 2026.

The bond ordinances included in the sale of the Bonds were each published in full or in summary form after adoption, along with the statement required by the Local Bond Law that the 20-day period of limitation within which a suit, action or proceeding questioning the validity of the authorizing bond ordinance can be commenced began to run from the date of the first publication of such statement. The Local Bond Law provides that after issuance, all obligations shall be conclusively presumed to be fully authorized and issued by all laws of the State, and any person shall be estopped from questioning the sale or the execution or the delivery of the Bonds by the County.

The proceeds of the Series 2026A, Series 2026B and Series 2026C Bonds will be used to permanently finance \$32,356,000 of a \$78,000,000 Borrower Bond Anticipation Note, of the County dated May 22, 2026 and which was sold to the Bergen County Improvement Authority (the "BCIA") on such date, and which matures on May 21, 2026 (the "Series 2025 County Note"). The remainder of the Series 2025 County Note will be refinanced and/or paid down by the County in connection with its participation in

the Authority's Spring 2026 BCIA Pooled Notes Program (as hereinafter defined) and via grant funds received by the County. The proceeds of the Series 2026D Bonds and Series 2026E Bonds will be used to obtain \$5,104,000 new money to permanently finance various capital improvements for the Bergen Community College.

The projects to be funded in the sale of the Series 2026A Bonds are as follows:

<b><u>Bond Ordinance Number</u></b>	<b><u>Improvements Authorized</u></b>	<b><u>Principal Amount of Bonds to be Sold</u></b>
09-19	Law Enforcement Improvements	\$11,000
13-10	Park Improvements	12,000
14-19	Admin/ Fin/Clerk to Bd. Surrogate/Etc.	5,000
15-15/19	Administration & Finance	3,000
15-17	Law Enforcement	37,000
15-29-17	Planning & Engineering	185,000
16-17	Health Department	2,000
16-18	Public Safety	46,000
16-19	Sheriff's Department	419,000
16-20/17	Planning & Engineering	47,000
16-24	DPW	10,000
16-26	Parks & Golf Division	12,000
17-08	Law Enforcement	63,000
17-10/17	Admin & Finance	10,000
17-11	Parks & Golf	55,000
17-13	Human Services	2,000
17-16	Planning & Engineering	659,000
18-07	Sheriff/ Jail/BCI	1,077,000
18-09	Admin & Finance	296,000
18-10	Parks & Golf	96,000
18-11	Planning & Engineering	150,000
18-17	Public Safety	667,000
18-19	Prosecutor	156,000
18-21	Human Services	16,000
18-27	Plan & Engineering	19,000
18-29	Parks	328,000
18-34	Admin & Finance (Gen Svcs)	6,000
18-36	Prosecutor	14,000
19-03	Planning & Engineering	4,000
19-12	IT/Heath/Human Svcs/Public Safety	336,000
19-13	Parks & Golf	1,610,000
19-15	Planning & Engineering	842,000
19-17	Surrogate/County Clerk/Sup. of Schools	22,000
19-18	Prosecutor/Sheriff	1,577,000
19-31	Supt. of Election/County Clerk	105,000
20-03	Prosecutor	25,000
20-04	Health Dept.	207,000
20-05	Human Services	3,000
20-11	Planning & Engineering	62,000
20-17	Parks & Golf	195,000

20-19	Public Safety	129,000
20-20	Health Dept.	45,000
20-21	IT	536,000
20-23	Sheriff	86,000
20-24	Prosecutor	981,000
21-13	Supt. of Elections	730,000
21-14	IT	198,000
21-15	Health Dept.	58,000
21-16	Human Services	11,000
21-17	Public Safety	245,000
21-19	Parks & Golf	274,000
21-24	Prosecutor	1,297,000
21-25	Sheriff	29,000
22-01	DPW - Animal Shelter	1,702,000
22-13	IT	392,000
22-30	IT	880,000
23-07	Supt. of Elections	<u>11,000,000</u>
		<u>\$27,984,000</u>

The projects to be funded in the sale of the Series 2026B Bonds are as follows:

<b><u>Bond Ordinance Number</u></b>	<b><u>Improvements Authorized</u></b>	<b><u>Principal Amount of Bonds to be Sold</u></b>
14-25	BC Technical School Improvements	\$3,000
15-26	Bergen County Special Schools	2,000
16-23	Special & Technical Schools	1,000
17-23	Special Services Schools	4,000
18-22	Special Services & Vo. Tech School	27,000
19-14	Special Services/Technical Schools	86,000
20-13	Special Services/Technical Schools	597,000
21-22	Special Services Schools	103,000
21-23	Vocational Schools	303,000
21-32	Bergen County Technical Schools	1,946,000
22-21	Special Service School	9,000
22-22	Special Services/Technical Schools	<u>58,000</u>
		<u>\$3,139,000</u>

The projects to be funded in the sale of the Series 2026C Bonds are as follows:

<b><u>Bond Ordinance Number</u></b>	<b><u>Improvements Authorized</u></b>	<b><u>Principal Amount of Bonds to be Sold</u></b>
13-17	County College Improvements	\$2,000
18-05	Bergen Community College	134,000
18-23	Bergen Community College	20,000
19-16	Bergen Community College	331,000
20-15	Bergen Community College	<u>746,000</u>
		<u>\$1,233,000</u>

The projects to be funded in the sale of the Series 2026D Bonds and the Series 2026E Bonds are as follows:

<b><u>Bond Ordinance Number</u></b>	<b><u>Improvements Authorized</u></b>	<b><u>Principal Amount of Bonds to be Sold</u></b>
26-04	Bergen Community College Improvements	<u>\$5,104,000</u>

#### **BOOK-ENTRY SYSTEM**

The Depository Trust Company (“DTC”) will act as securities depository for the Bonds (for purposes of this section the “Securities”). The Securities will be issued as fully registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC’s partnership nominee) or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. One fully registered note will be issued for each of the Securities, and will be deposited with DTC.

DTC, the world’s largest securities depository, is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a “banking organization” within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a “clearing corporation” within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a “clearing agency” registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for over 3.5 million issues of U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues, and money market instruments (from over 100 countries) that DTC’s participants (“Direct Participants”) deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among Direct Participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between Direct Participants’ accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (“DTCC”). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly (“Indirect Participants”). DTC has a Standard & Poor’s rating of AA<sup>+</sup>. The DTC Rules applicable to its Direct Participants and Indirect Participants are on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. More information about DTC can be found at [www.dtcc.com](http://www.dtcc.com).

Purchases of Securities under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the Securities on DTC’s records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each Security (a “Beneficial Owner”) is in turn to be recorded on the Direct Participants’ and Indirect Participants’ records. Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase. Beneficial Owners are, however, expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the Direct Participant or Indirect Participant through which the Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the Securities are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of Direct Participants and Indirect Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in the Securities, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Securities is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all Securities deposited by Direct Participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC’s partnership nominee, Cede & Co., or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of Securities with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co., or such other DTC nominee do not effect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the Securities; DTC’s records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such Securities are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Direct Participants and Indirect Participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants, and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

Redemption notices shall be sent to Cede & Co. If less than all of the Securities within a maturity are being redeemed, DTC’s practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each Direct Participant in such maturity to be redeemed.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (nor any other DTC nominee) will consent or vote with respect to Securities unless authorized by a Direct Participant in accordance with DTC’s MMI procedures. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an omnibus proxy to the County as soon as possible after the record date. The omnibus proxy assigns Cede & Co.’s consenting or voting rights to those Direct Participants to whose accounts the Securities are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the omnibus proxy).

Principal, redemption and interest payments on the Securities will be made to Cede & Co., or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from the County or the Paying Agent, on the payable date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name", and will be the responsibility of such Direct Participant or Indirect Participant and not of DTC, the Paying Agent or the County, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of principal, redemption price and interest payments to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) is the responsibility of the County or the Paying Agent, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants will be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners will be the responsibility of Direct Participants and Indirect Participants.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as depository with respect to the Securities at any time by giving reasonable notice to the County or the Paying Agent. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor securities depository is not obtained, bond certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

The County may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, bond certificates will be printed and delivered to DTC.

The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources that the County believes to be reliable, but the County takes no responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

### **DISCONTINUANCE OF BOOK-ENTRY SYSTEM**

In the event that DTC determines to discontinue providing its service with respect to the Bonds or is removed by the County, and if no successor Securities Depository is appointed, the Bonds which were registered in the name of Cede & Co. shall be registered in the names of the beneficial owners to be provided to the County from the DTC participants. Upon such registration, the beneficial owners will become the registered owners of the Bonds and the following provisions shall apply: (i) the Bonds shall be exchanged for an equal aggregate principal amount of bonds (in any authorized denomination, and in the same maturities of the Bonds) (the "Substitute Bonds") upon surrender thereof at the office of the County or the Paying Agent, if any; (ii) the transfer of any Bonds shall be registered on the books maintained by the County or the Paying Agent, if any, for such purposes upon the surrender of the Bonds to the County or the Paying Agent, if any, together with duly executed assignments in a form satisfactory to the County or the Paying Agent, if any; and (iii) for every exchange or registration of transfer of the Bonds, the Paying Agent, if any, shall be reimbursed by the County for any charges required to be paid by the Paying Agent, if any, with respect to any such Substitute Bonds.

Interest on the Bonds will be payable by check or draft, mailed on each Interest Payment Date to the registered owners thereof as of the close of business on the Record Date next preceding an Interest Payment Date. Principal on the Bonds and redemption price, if any, when due, shall be paid to the registered owners of the Bonds upon surrender thereof to the County or the Paying Agent, if any.

### **MARKET PROTECTION**

#### ***BCIA 2026 Pooled Note Program***

In May 2026, the County intends to participate as a borrower in the BCIA's Spring 2026 County Guaranteed Governmental Pooled Project Notes, Series 2026 financing (the "BCIA Spring 2026 Pooled Notes Program"). With respect to the BCIA Spring 2026 Pooled Notes Program, the BCIA anticipates issuing its project notes in the approximate aggregate amount of \$190,000,000 (the "Spring 2026 BCIA Pooled Notes") on or about May 20, 2026: to (i) refinance certain of the outstanding bond anticipation notes of the participating borrowers (which include the County and the Series 2025 County Note), respectively; (ii) provide new money to finance general capital improvements of the participating borrowers (including the County); and (iii) pay certain costs of issuance of the 2026 BCIA Notes (and related borrower notes). In connection with its participation in the BCIA Spring 2026 Pooled Notes Program, the County anticipates issuing its borrower project note to the BCIA in the approximate amount of \$75,565,000 (the "Series 2026 County Note") to partially refinance the Series 2025 County Note and to obtain new money to finance various capital improvements on behalf of the County.

In addition to the issuance by the County of its Series 2026 County Note as part of its participation as a borrower in the BCIA 2026 Pooled Notes Program, the County also expects to provide its unconditional guaranty of the principal of and interest on the 2026 BCIA Pooled Notes, pursuant to the terms of Guaranty Ordinance No. 26-05 of the County finally adopted on April 15, 2026. As noted above, it is anticipated that the 2026 BCIA Pooled Notes will be sold in May 2026, with closing to take place on or about May 20, 2026.

### ***BCIA Bergen Greater Bergen Community Action***

The County intends to finance approximately \$\_\_\_\_\_ of its County Guaranteed Revenue Notes (GBCA Project, Series 2026) (the “2026 BCIA GBCA Notes”) through the BCIA to currently refund certain outstanding project notes of the BCIA which mature on June 11, 2026. The BCIA County Facility Project Notes will be issued by the BCIA and will be secured by a loan agreement by and between Greater Bergen Community Action, Inc. (“GBCA”), and in order to secure and evidence its payment obligations thereafter, GBCA will execute and deliver to the BCIA its promissory notes.

In connection therewith, the County also expects to provide its unconditional guaranty of the principal of and interest on the BCIA GBCA Notes, pursuant to the terms of Guaranty Ordinance No. 25-15 of the County finally adopted on April 16, 2025. The BCIA GBCA Notes are expected to price in late May of 2026 and close by June 10, 2026.

### ***BCIA Bergen New Bridge Medical Center Financings***

The County intends to finance approximately \$46,050,000 of its County Guaranteed Lease Revenue Notes, Series 2026 (County Facility Project) ( the “BCIA County Facility Project Notes”) through the BCIA to pay for construction of a new building on the Medical Center site. The BCIA County Facility Project Notes will be issued by the BCIA and will be secured by general obligation lease rental payments to be made by the County to the BCIA.

In connection therewith, the County also expects to provide its unconditional guaranty of the principal of and interest on the BCIA County Facility Project Bonds/Notes, pursuant to the terms of Guaranty Ordinance No. 25-16 of the County finally adopted on April 16, 2025. The BCIA County Facility Project Bonds/Notes are expected to price and close in or about May 2026.

Additionally, in June of 2026, the BCIA also intends to issue its County-Guaranteed Project Note (Bergen New Bridge Medical Center Project), Series 2026 (the “2026 BCIA Medical Center Note”) for the purpose of refunding the BCIA’s \$20,015,000 County Guaranteed Project Note (Bergen New Bridge Medical Center Note), Series 2025 (the “2025 BCIA Medical Center Note”), which was issued on June 30, 2025 and matures on June 30, 2026. In connection therewith, the County expects to provide its unconditional guaranty of the principal of and interest on the 2026 BCIA Medical Center Note, pursuant to the terms of Guaranty Ordinance No. 25-17 of the County, finally adopted on April 16, 2025.

## **SUMMARY OF CERTAIN STATUTORY PROVISIONS RELATING TO COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL DEBT AND FINANCIAL REGULATION**

Set forth below is a summary of various statutory provisions and requirements relevant to the County’s debt and financial regulation and budget process. This summary does not purport to be complete, and reference should be made to the statutes referred to for a complete statement of the provisions thereof.

### **Legal Framework**

The Local Bond Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:2-1, et seq.) (the “Local Bond Law”) governs the issuance of bonds and notes to finance certain general municipal and utility capital expenditures. Among its provisions are requirements that bonds must mature within the statutory period of usefulness of the projects financed and that bonds be retired in serial installments. A 5% cash down payment is generally required toward the financing of such projects. Generally, all bonds and notes issued by a local unit are general full faith and credit obligations.

### **Debt Limit**

The authorized bonded indebtedness of a local unit is limited by statute, subject to the exceptions noted below, to an amount equal to 3.5%, in the case of a municipality, and 2%, in the case of a county, of its average equalized valuation basis. The average equalized valuation basis of a local unit is set by statute as the average for the last 3 years of the equalized value of all taxable real property and improvements and certain Class II railroad property within its boundaries as annually determined by the State Board of Taxation.

The County has not exceeded its statutory debt limit. As of December 31, 2025, the statutory net debt as a percentage of average equalized valuation was .427%. As noted above, the statutory limit is 2.00%.

Certain categories of debt are permitted by statute to be deducted for purposes of computing the statutory debt limit, including school bonds that do not exceed the school bond borrowing margin and certain debt that may be deemed self-liquidating.

## **Exceptions to Debt Limit - Extensions of Credit**

Except for the funding of certain notes, the authorization of certain bonds for municipal utility purposes, if the utilities are self-liquidating, and certain formula allowances, the debt limit of a local unit may be exceeded only with the approval of the Local Finance Board, in the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs of the State (the "Local Finance Board"), a State regulatory agency. If all or any part of a proposed debt authorization would exceed its debt limit, a local unit must apply to the Local Finance Board for an extension of credit. If the Local Finance Board determines that a proposed debt authorization would not materially impair the credit of a local unit or substantially reduce the ability of a local unit to meet its obligations or to provide essential public improvements or services, or makes other statutory determinations, approval is granted.

## **Bond Anticipation Notes**

Pursuant to the Local Bond Law, a local unit may sell short-term notes to temporarily finance a capital improvement or project in anticipation of the issuance of bonds, if the bond ordinance or subsequent resolution so provides. Any such note is designated a "bond anticipation note". Bond anticipation notes for capital improvements may be issued in an aggregate amount not exceeding the amount specified in the bond ordinance, as the same may be amended and supplemented, creating such capital expenditure. Bond anticipation notes, which are full faith and credit obligations of the local unit, may be issued for a period not exceeding 1 year and may be renewed from time to time for a period that does not exceed 1 year. Such notes shall mature and be paid not later than the first day of the fifth month following the close of the tenth fiscal year following the date of the original note, provided, however, that no such notes shall be renewed beyond the third anniversary date of the original notes unless an amount of such notes, at least equal to the first legally payable installment of the bond in anticipation of which these notes are issued, is paid and retired on or before each subsequent anniversary date beyond which such notes are renewed from funds other than the proceeds of obligations.

## **Local Budget Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-1 et seq.)**

The foundation of the New Jersey local finance system is the annual cash basis budget. Every local unit must adopt a budget in the form required by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey (the "Division"). Certain items of revenue and appropriation are regulated by law and the proposed budget must be certified by the Director of the Division (the "Director") prior to final adoption. The Local Budget Law requires each local unit to appropriate sufficient funds for payment of current debt service, and the Director is required to review the adequacy of such appropriations.

The local unit is authorized to issue Emergency Notes and Special Emergency Notes pursuant to the Local Budget Law.

Tax Anticipation Notes are limited in amount by law and must be paid off in full within 120 days of the close of the fiscal year.

The Director has no authority over individual operating appropriations, unless a specific amount is required by law, but the review functions focusing on anticipated revenues serve to protect the solvency of all local units.

The cash basis budgets of local units must be in balance, i.e., the total of anticipated revenues must equal the total of appropriation (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-22). If in any year a local unit's expenditures exceed its realized revenues for that year, then such excess must be raised in the succeeding year's budget.

The Local Budget Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-26) provides that no miscellaneous revenues from any source may be included as an anticipated revenue in the budget in an amount in excess of the amount actually realized in cash from the same source during the next preceding fiscal year, unless the Director determines that the facts clearly warrant the expectation that such excess amount will actually be realized in cash during the fiscal year and certifies that determination to the local unit.

No budget or budget amendment may be adopted unless the Director shall have previously certified his approval of such anticipated revenues except that categorical grants-in-aid contracts may be included for their face amount with an offsetting appropriation. The fiscal years for such grants rarely coincide with the municipality's calendar year. However, grant revenue is generally not realized until received in cash.

The same general principle that revenue cannot be anticipated in a budget in excess of that realized in the preceding year applies to property taxes. The maximum amount of delinquent taxes that may be anticipated is limited by a statutory formula, which allows the unit to anticipate collection at the same rate realized for the collection of delinquent taxes in the previous year. Also the local unit is required to make an appropriation for a "reserve for uncollected taxes" in accordance with a statutory formula to provide for a tax collection in an amount that does not exceed the percentage of taxes levied and payable in the preceding fiscal year that was received in cash by December 31 of that year. The budget also must provide for any cash deficits of the prior year.

Emergency appropriations (those made after the adoption of the budget and the determination of the tax rate) may be authorized by the governing body of a local unit. However, with minor exceptions, such appropriations must be included in full in the following year's budget.

The exceptions are certain enumerated quasi-capital projects ("special emergencies") such as ice, snow and flood damage to streets, roads and bridges, which may be amortized over three years, and tax map preparation, re-evaluation programs, revision and codification of ordinances, master plan preparation and drainage map preparation for flood control purposes, which may be amortized over five years. Of course, emergency appropriations for capital projects may be financed through the adoption of a bond ordinance and amortized over the useful life of the project.

Budget transfers provide a degree of flexibility and afford a control mechanism. Transfers between appropriation accounts may be made only during the last two months of the year. Appropriation reserves may also be transferred during the first 3 months of the year, to the previous year's budget. Both types of transfers require a 2/3 vote of the full membership of the governing body; however, transfers cannot be made from either the down payment account or the capital improvement fund. Transfers may be made between sub-account line items within the same account at any time during the year, subject to internal review and approval. In a "CAP" budget, no transfers may be made from excluded from "CAP" appropriations to within "CAPS" appropriations, nor can transfers be made between excluded from "CAP" appropriations.

### **Appropriation "CAPS"**

A provision of law known as the New Jersey "Cap Law" (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.1 et seq.) imposes limitations on increases in municipal appropriations subject to various exceptions. The payment of debt service is an exception from this limitation. The CAP formula is somewhat complex, but essentially, it permits a municipality to increase its overall appropriations by the lesser of 2.5% or the "Index Rate" if the index rate is greater than 2.5%. The "Index Rate" is the rate of annual percentage increase, rounded to the nearest 0.5 percent, in the Implicit Price Deflator for State and Local Government purchases of goods and services computed by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Exceptions to the limitations imposed by the Cap Law also exist for other things including capital expenditures; extraordinary expenses approved by the Local Finance Board for implementation of an interlocal services agreement; expenditures mandated as a result of certain emergencies; and certain expenditures for services mandated by law. Counties are also prohibited from increasing their tax levies by more than the lesser of 2.5% or the Index Rate subject to certain exceptions. Municipalities by ordinance approved by a majority of the full membership of the governing body may increase appropriations up to 3.5% over the prior year's appropriation and counties by resolution approved by a majority of the full membership of the governing body may increase the tax levy up to 3.5% over the prior year's tax levy in years when the Index Rate is 2.5% or less.

Additionally, legislation constituting P.L. 2007, c.62, effective April 3, 2007, imposes a 4% cap on the tax levy of a municipality, county, fire district or solid waste collection district, with certain exceptions, and subject to a number of adjustments. The exclusions from the limit include increases required to be raised for debt service and certain lease payments to county improvement authorities, increases to replace certain lost state aid, increases in certain pension contributions, increases in the reserve for uncollected taxes required for municipalities, and certain increases in health care costs over 4%. The Local Finance Board may approve waivers for certain extraordinary costs identified by the statute, and voters may approve increases above 4% not otherwise permitted by a vote of 60% of the voters voting on a public question.

This legislation has now been amended by P.L. 2010, c. 44, approved July 13, 2010 and applicable to the next local budget year following enactment, to limit tax levy increases for those local units to 2% with exceptions only for capital expenditures including debt service, increases in pension contributions and accrued liability for pension contributions in excess of 2%, certain healthcare increases, extraordinary costs directly related to a declared emergency, and amounts approved by a simple majority of voters voting at a special election. Chapter 44 eliminates the process for obtaining waivers for additional spending under the tax levy limitation.

Neither the tax levy limitation nor the "Cap Law" limits the obligation of the County to levy ad valorem taxes upon all taxable property within the County to pay debt service on its bonds or notes.

In accordance with the Local Budget Law, each local unit must adopt and may from time to time amend, rules and regulations for capital budgets, which rules and regulations must require a statement of capital undertakings underway or projected for a period not greater than over the next ensuing 6 years as a general improvement program. The capital budget, when adopted, does not constitute the approval or appropriation of funds, but sets forth a plan of the possible capital expenditures which the local unit may contemplate over the next 6 years. Expenditures for capital purposes may be made either by ordinances adopted by the governing body setting forth the items and the method of financing, or from the annual operating budget if the terms were detailed.

## **Tax Assessment and Collection Procedure**

Property valuations (assessments) are determined on true values as arrived at by a cost approach, market data approach and capitalization of net income where appropriate. Current assessments are the results of new assessments on a like basis with established comparable properties for newly assessed or purchased properties. This method assures equitable treatment to like property owners. But it often results in a divergence of the assessment ratio to true value. Because of the changes in property resale values, annual adjustments could not keep pace with the changing values.

The tax rate is struck by the County Board of Taxation based on the certified amounts in each of the taxing districts for collection to fund the budgets. The statutory provision for the assessment of property, levying of taxes, and the collection thereof are set forth in N.J.S.A. 54:4-1 et seq. Special taxing districts are permitted in New Jersey for various special services rendered to the properties located within the special districts.

The taxes are due August 1 and November 1 respectively, and are adjusted to reflect the current calendar year's total tax liability. The preliminary taxes due February 1 and May 1 of the succeeding year are based upon 1/2 of the current year's total tax.

Tax installments not paid on or before the due date are subject to interest penalties of 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of the delinquency and 18% per annum on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00. These interest rates and penalties are the highest permitted under New Jersey law. Delinquent taxes open for 1 year or more are annually included in a tax sale in accordance with New Jersey law.

## **Tax Appeals**

New Jersey law provide a taxpayer with remedial procedures for appealing an assessment deemed excessive. Prior to February 1 in each year, municipalities must mail to each property owner a notice of the current assessment and taxes on the property. The taxpayer has a right to petition the County Tax Board on or before April 1 for review. The County Board of Taxation has the authority, after a hearing, to decrease a property assessed value or to reject the appeal petition. These adjustments are usually concluded within the current tax year and reductions are shown as canceled or remitted taxes for that year. If the taxpayer feels his petition was unsatisfactorily reviewed by the County Board of Taxation, appeal may be made to the Tax Court of New Jersey (the "Tax Court") for further hearing. Some Tax Court appeals may take several years to complete prior to settlement, and any losses in tax collections from prior years are charged directly to operations.

## **Local Fiscal Affairs Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:5-1 et seq.)**

The Local Fiscal Affairs Law regulates the non-budgetary financial activities of local governments. The chief financial officer of every local unit must file annually, with the Director, a verified statement of the financial condition of the local unit and all constituent boards, agencies or commissions.

An independent examination of each local unit's accounts must be performed annually by a licensed registered municipal accountant. The audit, conforming to the Division of Local Government Services' "Requirements of Audit", includes recommendations for improvement of the local unit's financial procedures and must be filed with the report, together with all recommendations made, and must be published in a local newspaper within 30 days of its submission. The entire annual audit report for the year ended December 31, 2024 for the County is on file with the Clerk and is available for review during business hours.

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## DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

### General Description of Bergen County

Although the County comprises only 3% of the State's total land area, the County leads all other counties in the State in having the largest number of workers, private-sector jobs, and highest per capita income. The County has the largest population in the State. Situated in the northeastern tip of the State, its location offers all the advantages of being near the hub of the New York City metropolitan region. Over 38% of the area's employed residents work elsewhere, many in New York City.

Since income is high in the County, many fine stores, restaurants, and hotels are located in the County, or very close to it. The County is also the home of the Meadowlands Sports Complex and the professional football teams that play there. Although suburban, the area has clearly taken on an ambiance reminiscent of Manhattan: luxury high-rises on the Hudson River (dividing New Jersey from New York City) overlook the "city" and many modern office buildings are scattered throughout the area.

The total net equalized valuations of Land and Improvements for constituent municipalities for 2025 was \$244,777,970,432. Equalized ratables in the County have increased over \$124 billion since 2003.

For years the County has had one of the lowest county real estate tax rates in New Jersey.

The County is classified as a first-class county in the State and is divided into 70 municipalities, which include 56 boroughs, 9 townships, 3 cities (Englewood, Hackensack and Garfield) and 2 villages (Ridgewood and Ridgefield Park).

The City of Hackensack is the county seat of the County.

### Early History

The County was organized under an act of the New Jersey Assembly on March 1, 1682 at which time the first four counties in the State were formed - Bergen, Essex, Monmouth and Middlesex. The first settlers in the County area were chiefly of Dutch descent, although there were also some French Huguenots who settled there. The early boundaries of the County went through many changes, expanding and contracting through the years. In 1837, Passaic County was formed from the western part of the County, and in 1840 Hudson County was formed from the southern part of the County. It was not until 1874 that the State Assembly passed an act to permanently define the boundary lines between these counties.

The County is replete with legends, history, and heroes of the Revolutionary Age. The County's geographical location on the strategic Hudson River near New York City placed it close to action that took place during the American Revolutionary War. Fort Lee's fortifications were manned by American forces under General Nathaniel Greene. The Mansion House, which served as a temporary headquarters for General George Washington, no longer in existence, formerly stood across the Green from the Bergen County Courthouse.

The "Baylor Massacre" of 1778 took place in River Vale. There were many different encampments of Washington's troops throughout the County. The famous Washington Spring, now in Van Saun County Park, in Paramus Borough, was used by the soldiers as well as Washington himself, according to legend, and received its name from this fact.

In 1790, the census taken in the County showed that there were 12,601 persons in the County. The languages spoken included Dutch, English and even a smattering of Native American Dialect, although the last Native Americans had left the County before 1750. Farming was the chief occupation in the County but soon gave way to industry, since the County has high land values. Although once not as important as agriculture, industries today are of great significance to the County's economy.

### Governmental Structure

The County operates under an elected Board of Commissioners and elected County Executive form of county government (known as the "County Executive Plan") and is governed by such Board of Commissioners, County Executive and such other officers and employees as may be duly appointed pursuant to the provision of the Optional County Charter Act or ordinance of the County. The Board of Commissioners was previously referred to as the Board of Chosen Freeholders until the passing of Senate Bill No. 855 on August 21, 2020.

Under the County Executive Plan form of government, which was adopted by referendum in November, 1985, the County Executive is the executive branch of government responsible for the exercise of all administrative and executive functions of the County, and the Board of Commissioners is the legislative branch of government responsible for the exercise of all legislative powers of the County and such investigative powers as are germane to the legislative powers of the County. All commissioners of the County are elected at large.

## **Veto Over Authorities**

Legislation concerning the powers of county executives over certain authorities and amending various parts of the statutory law was signed into law on April 21, 1995. P.L. 1995, c.91, and gives the County Executive the authority to veto the minutes of the Bergen County Utilities Authority, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority and The Bergen County Improvement Authority.

## **Geographical Location**

The County is located in northern New Jersey and comprises part of the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area. The County borders New York State on the north and east, and is surrounded by Passaic, Essex and Hudson Counties.

Through its proximity to New York City, the County has the advantages of a large city but also an atmosphere conducive to good living and working.

Its strategic position across the Hudson River from the country's largest city gives its residents and industry close contact with the financial center of the world and the advantages of a great shipping center. It is located in the northeastern part of the State along the Hudson River, is connected with New York City by the George Washington Bridge, and adjoins Rockland County, New York. The County affords ample parking facilities, horizontal expansion for corporate offices, a pool of skilled workers, and nationally known industrial neighbors.

From the tableland along the summit of the Palisades, above the Hudson River, the land slopes sharply to the broad valley of the Hackensack River, rises and descends again across the Saddle River and Ramapo River valleys and then rolls up the steep sides of the wooded Ramapo Mountains above the northwest border. South of these, the Passaic River forms the boundary between Bergen and Passaic Counties.

## **Industries and Air Services**

Many nationally and internationally known industries and corporations have major or branch plants in the County, providing an unusual diversification of industry and steady employment opportunities. The County is the headquarters for many of the foreign automobile manufacturers who bring their cars into the United States.

Teterboro Airport, a modern general aviation reliever airport, is located in the County. A major public purpose is to attract general aviation aircraft away from the large passenger airports in the New York metropolitan area. To this end, Teterboro offers the following advantages:

1. Its 827 acres of land makes it larger in area than New York's LaGuardia Airport.
2. It is a customs clearance airport.
3. It is the closest general airport to midtown Manhattan, New York.
4. Landing fees are substantially lower than Newark Liberty International and LaGuardia Airports.

Teterboro Airport has more airplane movements than Newark Liberty International Airport. Teterboro ranked in the top 35 aircraft movements in the country. It is the 4<sup>th</sup> busiest airport in the country as far as general aviation activity.

## **Hospitals**

In addition to Bergen New Bridge Medical Center ("BNBMC" or "Hospital" and also previously referenced herein as the Medical Center) (formerly Bergen Regional Medical Center and formerly Bergen Pines County Hospital), the Englewood, Hackensack, South Bergen, Holy Name and Valley Hospitals, as well as Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, serve the County.

BNBMC provides a wide range of services in acute medicine and surgery, long-term care, and psychiatry, as well as in physical medicine and rehabilitation. BNBMC services patients of all ages from throughout the County.

On July 14, 2017, the County Executive, along with the Commissioner Board and the Authority Commissioners, signed an agreement with Care Plus Bergen to take over operations of Bergen County Medical Center on October 1, 2017. Care Plus Bergen is comprised of Care Plus – New Jersey, Integrity House and Rutgers Bio-Medical.

## **County Law Enforcement**

The Bergen County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Police Services (formerly the Bergen County Police Department) are integral parts of law enforcement in the County and each has an outstanding record of law enforcement.

The Police and Fire Academy in Mahwah, an educational facility for policemen and firemen, and the County Jail Annex in Hackensack are two of the County's newest institutions.

## **Recreation**

The Bergen County Department of Parks now owns over 7,804 acres of park lands which were acquired at a cost approximating \$21 million. Included in this amount are 843 acres of park land donated by various municipalities and individuals.

The County now has 26 park areas strategically located throughout the County. The facilities include provisions for swimming, boating, fishing and camping, ice skating, picnic groves, tennis, horseback riding and pony rides, model railroads, a bird sanctuary, a 27-hole golf course in Rockleigh, an 18-hole golf course in Teaneck, an 18-hole golf course in River Vale, a 9-hole golf course in Paramus, an 18-hole golf course in Mahwah and Ramsey, playgrounds at 17 park areas, an environmental center in Wyckoff, and a skiing facility at Campgaw Mountain County Reservation. Over 1,000,000 patrons used fee-charged activities, including golf, and paid \$20,152,157 in 2025.

The County expended \$20,346,715 of its 2025 appropriation of \$20,691,779 for recreation in 2025. The County has not yet introduced its 2026 Budget.

## **Department of Public Works**

This Department had an operating budget in 2025 of \$31,999,720 with expenditures of \$29,175,763. For the year 2026, the adopted budget has not been introduced. It has approximately 153 employees who maintain 439.31 miles of roadway in the County.

## **Open Space, Recreation, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust**

Through State Law, New Jersey counties are permitted to establish a dedicated trust fund to acquire land for conservation/open space purposes, enhance recreational facilities, and for farmland and historic preservation. Counties are given great latitude in crafting their own trust funds to meet their particular priorities and objectives. Under State Law, the Board of Commissioners needs voter approval to create and fund such a Trust. The County of Bergen recognized the merits of a trust and on November 3, 1998, placed a public question on the ballot to determine whether the County should establish such a trust fund. The ballot question was approved by a two to one majority of those who voted in 1998. The referendum was approved again in 2003, by an overwhelming majority of the voters, raising the tax from 0.005 cents to 0.01 cent per 100 of total County equalized property valuation. The Referendum is advisory to the Commissioners Board, not binding upon them.

The following Program Statement is intended to outline the objectives of the program and the governance process the trust will follow:

The Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust, created by Commissioner resolution on November 24, 1998, is divided into 2 separate programs each having its own distinct goals and objectives. First, the County Program will use trust fund dollars on a county-wide basis to preserve land, maximize recreational opportunities, and preserve historic areas and farmland. The second component, the Municipal Program, will help the 70 municipalities of Bergen County improve their municipal recreational facilities. The Municipal program would supplement municipal efforts and will not serve as a full funding resource. The County raised \$24,248,000 for the trust fund in 2025.

## **Banking Institutions**

There are more than 16 commercial banks, savings and loan associations and savings banks that maintain offices within the County.

## **Institutions for Learning**

The County has 63 high schools, 42 of which are public and 21 private or parochial, and 31 junior high schools, 30 public and 1 private. There are 5 institutions of higher learning located in the County:

Fairleigh Dickinson University (Teaneck)  
Ramapo College of New Jersey (Mahwah)  
Felician College (Lodi)  
Bergen Community College (Paramus)  
St. Peter's College (Englewood Cliffs)

Bergen Community College operates on a \$130 million campus, which was completed in September 1972 in Paramus, New Jersey. It has two satellite campuses; Bergen at the Meadowlands and the Philip Ciarco Learning Center. The student population is approximately 32,000 enrolled in various Programs.

The campus complex consists of a mega-structure building comprising seven distinct areas:

1. Administration Building Area
2. Library Learning Resources Area
3. College Center Area
4. Science and Allied Health Area
5. Business and Classroom Area
6. Physical and Health Education and Swimming Pool Area
7. Performing Arts Laboratory and Theater.

The County Vocational High Schools have the following programs:

1. At the Academies in Hackensack, approximately 1,114 session students are enrolled.
2. There is one shared-time technical education center at Paramus. The Paramus facility offers training to 405 students.
3. The Teterboro campus has an enrollment of 672 students.
4. There is one school to meet the needs of students with special requirements. The full-time vocational high schools at Paramus and Teterboro provide customized services to 408 students.
5. The adult division provides both full-time day services as well as evening and weekend program offerings.

In April, 1995, the County and the Private Industry Council entered into an agreement to designate the Board of Vocational and Technical Schools of Bergen County as the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) grant recipient and administrative entity for all JTPA programs operated within the Service Delivery Area for the County effective July 1, 1995.

## **Investment of County Funds**

Funds invested by the County during 2025 earned \$12,492,371 in interest. These were funds held temporarily by the County Treasurer pending disbursement. The County Treasurer is authorized to invest moneys from the Capital, Trust and General Account for limited periods.

## Population

The County is the most populous in the State. The following shows the population from the Federal Census Bureau:

1940	409,646
1950	539,139
1960	780,255
1970	897,148
1980	845,385
1990	825,380
2000	884,118
2010	905,116
2020	955,732

### DWELLING UNITS AND POPULATION FOR BERGEN COUNTY

Dwelling Units		Population	
2020 Census	2010 Census	2020 Census	2010 Census
360,816	352,388	955,732	905,116

Source: Bergen County Department of Planning and Economic Development

## Pension Fund

Substantially all County employees participate in the State of New Jersey Pension System and the Social Security System. The State pension funds were established by act of the legislature. Benefits, contributions, means of funding and the manner of administration are determined by the legislature. The two State-administered pension funds are: the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and the Police and Firemen's Retirement System of New Jersey (PFRS). The Division of Pensions within the Treasury Department of the State of New Jersey is the administrator of the funds.

The County's total payroll for the year ended December 31, 2024 was approximately \$240,607,866 and approximately 75% of all County employees participated in the above mentioned funds.

Covered employees are required by State statute to contribute a certain percentage of their salary to the funds. Each member's percentage is based on age determined at the effective date of enrollment. In addition, the PERS and PFRS bill the County annually for its required contribution. The County's 2025 and 2024 contributions to these funds were \$45,348,955 and \$43,752,299, respectively.

In addition to PERS and PFRS, there is also a County-administered pension fund that covers specific employees whose enrollment preceded the creation of the State-administered funds. The County also contributes to the State-administered Judicial Retirement System which covers the pensions of certain widows of judges.

## Potential Liability for Accrued Sick Time and Accrued Vacation Time

Employees accrue sick time at the rate of 15 days per year. The time remains accrued until used. At time of retirement, the accrued unused sick time is used as a basis for calculating terminal leave as follows: present hourly rate times unused one-half accrued sick leave, to a maximum of \$15,000 or \$25,000 depending on the employee's title. The potential terminal leave liability for persons eligible, who are 60 years of age or older, or 10 or more years of service, as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 was \$14,843,311 and \$14,820,424, respectively.

Employees accrue vacation time at the rate of 15 days per year for the first 5 years of service and 20 days per year thereafter. The time remains accrued for 2 years; it must be used or it is lost. Terminated employees are paid for accrued time at the current rate. The value of accrued vacation time as of December 2024 and 2023 was \$7,866,396 and \$7,680,125, respectively. No provision is made in the financial statements for the accrued value of terminal leave and vacation time.

## Other Post-Employment Benefits

The County provides lifetime medical benefits to County employees who retire after 25 years of state pension membership or upon a disability retirement. For retirees with 25 years of service, Part B premiums are reimbursed by the County. Dependents of retirees are covered until the death of the retiree except for Parks Department spouses that maintain coverage at no cost.

The last effective date of the biannual OPEB valuation was December 31, 2024. There were 1,901 retired employees receiving benefits.

## Actuarial Valuation Results

The actuarial accrued liability for current retirees and active employees for a total accrued liability (unfunded) of \$1,138,417,764 at December 31, 2024.

The County accounts for post-retirement benefits on a pay-as-you-go basis which is in compliance with the NJ regulatory basis of accounting.

Actuarial valuation, annual required contribution assumptions and methods are disclosed in footnote 18 of the enclosed financial statements.

## COUNTY AND OVERLAPPING INDEBTEDNESS

### Overlapping Government Units

In addition to the various municipalities and school districts within the County, the following exist within the County to provide certain governmental services: the Bergen County Utilities Authority, the Northwest Bergen Utilities Authority and The Bergen County Improvement Authority.

### Purposes of County Debt

The following table breaks down by purpose all direct general obligation bond and loan indebtedness of the County, for the payment of the principal and interest on which the County has pledged its full faith and credit as of December 31, 2025.

#### Schedule of Bond and Loan Indebtedness as of December 31, 2025

Notes	\$140,500,000
General County Purposes	476,648,000
Community College	32,658,000
Vocational and Special Needs School	<u>50,082,000</u>
Gross Bond and Loan Debt Issued and Outstanding	<u>\$699,888,000</u>

### Debt Incurring Capacity as of December 31, 2025

Equalized Valuation Basis (last 3 years average)	\$244,699,608,116
2% Borrowing Margin (1)	4,893,992,162
Net Debt Issued, Outstanding and Authorized	<u>1,045,930,095</u>
Remaining Borrowing Capacity	<u>\$3,848,062,067</u>

(1) Limited by Local Bond Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:2-1 et seq. to 2% of average equalized valuation.

## Debt History

The following table shows certain ratios relating to the County's gross and net direct general obligation indebtedness not including \$363,232,172 par amount of bonds authorized but not issued not including bonds issued as guaranteed by the County.

### History of Bonded Debt Ratios as of December 31, 2025-2021

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average Equalized Valuation(1)</u>	<u>Gross Debt (Issued and Authorized But Not Issued)</u>	<u>Gross Debt Per Capita</u>	<u>Ratio of Gross Debt to Equalized Valuation</u>	<u>Net Debt</u>	<u>Net Debt Per Capita</u>	<u>Ratio of Net Debt to Equalized Valuation</u>
2025	\$244,699,608,116	\$1,063,120,172	\$1,112	0.434%	\$1,045,930,095	\$1,094	0.427%
2024	227,183,185,143	1,058,204,673	1,107	0.466	1,042,720,595	1,091	0.459
2023	209,966,156,157	985,569,130	1,031	0.469	971,467,303	1,016	0.463
2022	196,252,922,450	989,364,375	1,035	0.504	975,645,048	1,021	0.497
2021	187,397,717,934	924,760,679	968	0.494	839,785,818	879	0.448

Source: Annual Debt Statements filed with the Division of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

(1) Represents average equalized valuation for the three fiscal years ending in the corresponding year set forth in this table.

The following table shows the principal of all direct general obligation bond indebtedness and bond anticipation note indebtedness of the County for the last five fiscal years.

### Schedule of Comparative Net Debt as of December 31, 2025-2021

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Bonds and Notes Issued and Outstanding:					
Notes	\$140,500,000	\$114,253,000	\$117,459,000	\$125,180,000	\$127,500,000
Bonds	559,388,000	302,137,000	566,585,000	547,076,000	574,347,000
Loans	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>371,802</u>
Total Issued	699,888,000	716,390,000	684,044,000	672,256,000	702,218,802
Bonds and Notes Authorized But Not Issued	<u>363,232,172</u>	<u>341,814,673</u>	<u>301,525,130</u>	<u>317,108,375</u>	<u>222,541,877</u>
Gross Direct Obligations	1,063,120,172	1,058,204,673	985,569,130	989,364,375	924,760,679
Less: Statutory Deductions	<u>17,190,077</u>	<u>15,484,078</u>	<u>14,101,827</u>	<u>13,719,327</u>	<u>84,974,861</u>
Net Direct Obligations Issued and Not Issued	<u>\$1,045,930,095</u>	<u>\$1,042,720,595</u>	<u>\$971,467,303</u>	<u>\$975,645,048</u>	<u>\$839,785,818</u>

Source: Bergen County Financial Statements

**Statement of Indebtedness  
as of December 31, 2025**

**GROSS DEBT**

Bonds, Notes and Other Loans Issued and Outstanding

Bonds and Notes

\$699,888,000

Bonds and Notes Authorized But Not Issued

363,232,172

TOTAL GROSS DEBT

1,063,120,172

Statutory Deductions(1)

17,190,077

TOTAL NET DEBT

\$1,045,930,095

**GROSS DEBT**

Per Capita (2020 Census - 955,732)

\$1,112

Percent of Average Equalized Valuation (\$244,699,608,116)

0.434%

**NET DEBT**

Per Capita (2020 Census - 955,732)

\$1,094

Percent of Average Equalized Valuation (\$244,699,608,116)

0.427%

Source: County Records

(1) Statutory deductions are used to determine the legal borrowing capacity of the County. The County, however, is obligated under law to repay the full amount of its gross debt.

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## THE COUNTY BUDGET

### Status of County Budget

Pursuant to the Local Budget Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-1 et seq.), every county in the State is required to adopt a balanced budget. See "Budget Requirements" and "Budget Process" herein. The County has not yet introduced its 2026 to date.

### Budget Requirements

No County budget may be adopted without the approval of the Director (the "Director") of the Division of Local Government Services ("the Division"). The Director approves the budget once he has determined that the budget meets all the requirements of the Local Budget Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-1 et seq.), and all regulations of the Board.

The Local Budget Law imposes various restrictions on the formulation of the County budget, the more important of which pertain to anticipation of revenues and review of adequacy of appropriation. Among other restrictions, the Local Budget Law requires that the budget be balanced and that the Director examine the Budget with reference to all estimates of revenue and the following appropriations: (a) administration, operation and maintenance of each office, department, institution or other agency of the County, (b) contingent expenses in an amount not more than 3% of the total referred to in clause (a) of this paragraph, (c) payment of interest and debt redemption charges, (d) deferred charges and statutory expenditures, (e) cash deficit of preceding year, (f) reserve for uncollected taxes and other reserves and non-disbursement items deemed advisable by the Board of Commissioners, and (g) the payment of all judgements not for capital purposes and for which bonds or notes cannot be lawfully issued. Anticipated tax revenues are limited to the same proportions as actual cash collections bore to the total levy in the previous year and a reserve amount must be factored into the budget to make up for the expected shortfall in amounts actually realized the previous year unless the Director certifies a higher figure.

The Local Budget Law, and the acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto, prohibits counties from measuring their final appropriations by more than the lesser of five percent or the index rate determined annually by the Director over that appropriated for the previous year. Not subject to the five percent limit are increases funded by sources other than an increase in the general property tax rate or necessitated by specified emergencies (as approved by the local governing body and the Board), for debt service, funding previous deficits, uncollected taxes, expenses mandated by state or federal law, and amounts received by new or increased fees or sales of assets.

A further statute limits the amount of increases in the State budget exclusive of state aid which may be appropriated to counties, municipalities and school districts. The maximum expenditure of the State cannot exceed the amount determined by multiplying the annual percentage increase in State per capita personal income by the appropriations of the State in the year prior to the current fiscal year. Adjustments are made should a transfer of functions or services occur between the state and counties or municipalities. Statewide referenda are required to authorize additional expenditures.

Anticipated non-tax revenues of the County are limited to the amount actually realized the previous year unless the Director authorizes a higher figure. Tax anticipation notes are limited in amount by law and must be paid off not later than June 30 of the succeeding fiscal year.

The Director has no authority over individual operating appropriations, unless a specific amount is required by law, but the review functions which focus on anticipated revenues serve to protect the solvency of the County. The County budget, by law and regulation of the Division, must be in balance and is a "cash basis" budget.

Pursuant to the Local Budget Law, miscellaneous revenues shall include such amounts as may reasonably be expected to be realized in cash during the fiscal year from known and regular sources or sources reasonably capable of anticipation and lawfully applicable to the appropriations made in the budget. The County's miscellaneous revenues generally consist of surplus, operating surplus from prior years, County purpose tax, State and Federal Aid, interest on investments, user fees, license fees and permits.

The Local Budget Law further provides that no miscellaneous revenues from any source shall be included as an anticipated revenue in the budget in an amount in excess of the amount actually realized in cash from the same source during the next preceding fiscal year, unless the Director shall determine upon application by the Commissioners that the facts clearly warrant the expectation that such excess amount will actually be realized in cash during the fiscal year and shall certify such determination, in writing, to the County.

The exception to this is the inclusion of categorical grants-in-aid contracts for their face amount with an offsetting appropriation. The fiscal years for such grants rarely coincide with the municipality's calendar fiscal year.

## **Budget Process**

Primary responsibility for the County's budget process lies with the Administrator. As prescribed by the Local Budget Law, adoption should occur by the end of February, however, an extension may be granted by the Division to any local governmental unit. In the first quarter in which the Budget formulation is taking place, the County operates under a temporary budget which may not exceed 26.25% of the previous fiscal year's modified budget. Upon adoption of an annual operating budget by the Commissioners, the Board of Taxation computes a tax rate for County purposes and apportions County Purpose Tax requirements to be paid by each municipality. The tax rate for each municipality includes County tax requirements.

## **Deferral of Current Expenses**

Supplemental appropriations made after the adoption of the County budget and determination of the tax rate may be authorized by the Commissioners with the approval of the Director. However, with minor exceptions, such appropriations must be included in full in the following year's budget.

## **Budget Transfers**

Budget transfers provide a degree of flexibility and afford a control mechanism. Transfers between major appropriation accounts are prohibited until the last two months of the year and, although subaccounts within an appropriation are not subject to the same year-end transfer restrictions, they are subject to internal review and approval.

## **Annual Financial Statement (N.J.S.A. 40A:5-12 et seq.)**

A verified statement of the financial condition of the County ("Annual Financial Statement") for the fiscal year must be filed with the Division on or before March 31, of the succeeding year. This financial statement is filed by the Chief Financial Officer of the County, it reflects the results of operations for the year of the Current Fund. If there is a cash deficit in the fund, it must be included in full in the succeeding year's budget.

While the Annual Financial Statement is not audited, the variance, if any, between the Annual Financial Statement fund balance and audited fund balance is usually immaterial.

## **Annual Audit**

The Local Fiscal Affairs Law, Chapter 5 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes, regulates the nonbudgetary financial activities of the County. An annual audit of the County's books, accounts and financial transactions for the previous year must be performed by a licensed Registered Municipal Accountant or by qualified employees of the Bureau of Financial Regulations and Assistance in the State Department of Treasury. The audit, conforming to the Division's "Requirements of Audit," includes recommendations for improvement of the County's financial procedures and must be filed with the Director of the Division within 6 months after the close of each fiscal year. A synopsis of the audit report, together with all recommendations made, must be published in a local newspaper within 30 days after receipt thereof by the Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of the County.

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**Comparative Summary of 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022 and 2021  
County of Bergen County Budgets**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Anticipated Revenues:					
Surplus Anticipated	\$42,804,779	\$35,187,996	\$36,698,617	\$29,763,022	\$24,443,265
State and Federal Grant Programs	17,552,002	13,085,472	23,138,104	110,372,290	207,966,180
State Assumption of Costs of County					
Social and Welfare Services	1,419,446	1,647,000	1,536,986	1,524,804	1,507,317
Miscellaneous Revenues-Local	55,555,016	51,238,016	44,636,966	34,678,951	33,725,188
State Aid	1,859,980	2,205,750	1,981,631	1,866,356	1,919,471
Other Special Items	55,857,813	93,697,539	81,968,700	80,984,182	62,845,687
Amount to be Raised by Taxation - County Purpose Tax	<u>544,413,737</u>	<u>505,040,623</u>	<u>481,023,278</u>	<u>448,377,089</u>	<u>448,377,089</u>
	<u>\$719,462,773</u>	<u>\$702,102,396</u>	<u>\$670,0984,282</u>	<u>\$707,566,694</u>	<u>\$780,784,197</u>
Appropriations:					
Legislative Branch	\$1,553,845	\$1,514,926	\$1,428,846	\$1,322,959	\$1,344,840
Executive Branch	272,997,779	260,300,225	249,797,006	218,191,822	210,075,819
Educational Agencies	74,380,527	71,249,638	69,958,793	63,314,850	66,965,192
Constitutional Officers	155,606,806	152,286,670	147,506,608	142,055,931	125,914,137
Other Boards & Agencies	18,994,662	17,689,160	16,709,376	15,015,011	14,085,237
Other Public and Private Programs	17,667,001	13,200,472	23,253,104	110,487,290	208,081,180
Capital Improvement Fund	4,350,000	21,774,556	4,278,800	3,850,000	3,850,000
Debt Service	105,595,905	93,670,450	93,670,450	92,938,000	97,938,000
Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures	<u>68,316,518</u>	<u>70,022,299</u>	<u>64,381,299</u>	<u>55,390,831</u>	<u>52,529,792</u>
	<u>\$719,462,773</u>	<u>\$702,102,396</u>	<u>\$670,984,282</u>	<u>\$707,566,694</u>	<u>\$780,784,197</u>

**Capital Improvement Program**

The capital budget and improvement program of the County is designed to function as a planning tool for legislators, County officials and administrators. It allows County officials to evaluate alternatives and determine priorities for projects and programs in relation to available and projected financial resources. A carefully organized program and project schedule can avoid costly improper decisions or ill-timed action in a project involving the allocation of scarce capital resources.

A capital budget is the first proposal of the financial allocation described in the six year capital improvement program. The main purpose of the capital budget is to initiate planning for ultimate authorization of capital projects for the first year of the six year plan/program. The anticipated Capital Budget (2025) and Capital Improvement Program (2025-2030) do not represent actual authorization of projects, but rather conceptual recognition of the needs of specific capital improvements.

With restrictions on current spending and new financial resources becoming limited, it is imperative that capital planning and budgeting become more responsive to public needs, both present and long range. In addition to the cost of the selection process, the impact of each project on future operating budgets must be considered. In prioritizing capital projects, a major element for recommendation of investment is the degree to which a facility will either generate revenues or significantly reduce costs.

The following schedule depicts the County Capital Plan for 2025-2030. This plan does not provide an appropriation for the purposes outlined, nor does it commit the Governing Body to the project or amounts listed. The Governing Body will make determinations, on a priority basis, as each program is proposed, as to the need for and method of financing.

**Six Year Capital Program (2025-2030)  
Anticipated Project Schedule and Funding Requirements**

<u>Project</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
General Services	\$39,366,945
Information Technology Improvements	24,951,575
Health Service	5,573,527
Human Services Improvements	18,900
Public Safety - Education	141,750
Law & Public Safety Improvements	407,212
Community Transportation	68,250
Public Safety Operations 911 Improvements	3,640,798
Mechanical Services	8,385,414
Public Works Improvements	19,791,273
Park & Golf Division Improvements	124,400,831
Planning & Engineering Improvements	54,737,423
Bergen County Community College Improvements	39,872,824
Special Schools Improvements	7,162,500
Vocational School Improvements	33,250,000
Prosecutor Improvements	14,862,750
Sheriff Improvements	13,952,925
Jail Improvements	<u>577,500</u>
	<u>\$391,162,397</u>

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2025	\$92,773,536
2026	113,249,464
2027	51,759,480
2028	49,899,960
2029	53,860,072
2030	<u>29,619,885</u>
	<u>\$391,162,397</u>

Source: 2025 Capital Budget of the County adopted on May 14, 2025.

**TAX INFORMATION ON THE COUNTY**

**County Tax Rates**

County taxes are apportioned based on equalized valuations in the County. The following table sets forth the valuations on which County taxes are apportioned.

**Valuation of Real Property, Personal Property  
Net Valuation Taxable and County Tax Rate Base**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Assessed Valuation of Real Property</u>	<u>Assessed Valuation of Personal Property</u>	<u>Net Valuation Taxable</u>	<u>County Tax Rate Base Valuation of Real and Personal Property</u>	<u>General Tax Rate Per \$100</u>
2025	\$200,423,753,653	\$59,539,530	\$200,483,293,183	\$244,777,970,432	0.2234
2024	189,063,591,448	58,582,036	189,122,173,484	227,475,151,295	0.2225
2023	180,970,079,266	68,068,000	181,038,147,266	211,006,053,676	0.2286
2022	174,657,465,802	83,552,257	174,741,018,059	194,949,256,706	0.2315
2021	166,666,360,490	84,305,337	166,750,665,827	186,343,057,570	0.2416

Source: Bergen County Board of Taxation, Abstract of Ratables

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**Comparative Statement of Equalized Valuations and General Tax Rate for Constituent Municipalities**

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>General Tax Rate Per \$100</b>
Allendale	\$2,394,094,311	\$2,198,941,010	\$2,067,091,532	2.030
Alpine	2,117,753,759	2,061,237,078	1,867,258,016	0.837
Bergenfield	4,633,753,068	4,126,111,177	3,796,867,157	3.738
Bogota	1,282,513,161	1,155,389,594	1,017,231,264	2.398
Carlstadt	3,452,299,478	3,303,716,063	2,936,835,889	1.705
Cliffside Park	4,552,675,562	4,281,101,335	3,999,791,783	2.836
Closter	3,044,547,460	2,840,514,149	2,603,974,354	2.072
Cresskill	3,066,113,409	2,829,110,770	2,577,620,552	2.269
Demarest	2,332,679,285	2,002,298,205	1,803,359,244	1.805
Dumont	3,060,886,513	2,709,658,593	2,579,405,499	2.340
Elmwood Park	3,278,130,849	2,947,288,849	2,729,147,257	3.202
East Rutherford	3,033,194,679	2,902,202,097	2,705,492,899	1.609
Edgewater	4,670,157,775	4,507,055,253	4,178,967,820	1.645
Emerson	1,721,533,891	1,620,595,974	1,520,091,978	3.420
Englewood	6,843,238,840	6,450,060,183	6,019,135,551	3.116
Englewood Cliffs	4,192,821,688	4,038,268,986	3,930,339,760	1.165
Fair Lawn	7,320,608,304	6,882,035,280	6,238,577,220	3.661
Fairview	1,957,977,714	1,866,284,142	1,699,162,662	2.275
Fort Lee	9,880,724,162	9,247,463,883	7,312,071,355	2.700
Franklin Lakes	6,233,523,866	5,562,460,285	4,944,492,082	1.904
Garfield	3,844,919,807	3,573,208,301	3,309,378,497	3.479
Glen Rock	3,458,567,056	3,183,793,357	2,940,420,159	3.407
Hackensack	8,302,764,183	7,586,709,528	7,137,002,994	3.209
Harrington Park	1,348,080,758	1,281,798,158	1,191,408,904	3.271
Hasbrouck Heights	2,559,527,265	2,277,652,413	2,209,767,472	2.657
Haworth	1,288,040,603	1,161,401,874	1,041,560,538	3.225
Hillsdale	2,479,839,613	2,261,445,776	2,110,751,561	3.330
Ho-Ho-Kus	1,771,437,781	1,617,638,019	1,495,463,275	2.501
Leonia	2,043,788,820	1,968,213,765	1,751,306,570	3.609
Little Ferry	1,690,484,740	1,571,841,901	1,451,801,673	2.436
Lodi	3,547,279,210	3,353,628,194	2,941,428,030	3.540
Lyndhurst	4,825,526,395	4,509,925,341	4,297,527,064	2.225
Mahwah	7,890,697,703	7,752,302,127	7,424,596,547	2.127
Maywood	2,039,617,386	1,893,107,571	1,849,603,463	2.156
Midland Park	1,692,544,360	1,539,538,785	1,432,093,851	3.688
Montvale	2,977,780,528	2,773,441,039	2,699,963,015	2.552
Moonachie	1,282,685,478	1,242,108,610	1,077,121,641	1.769
New Milford	3,023,340,452	2,611,812,716	2,481,679,967	2.178
North Arlington	2,669,213,507	2,558,577,130	2,375,200,843	2.236
Northvale	1,312,547,659	1,149,834,121	1,090,738,975	3.328
Norwood	1,749,607,838	1,519,464,681	1,444,466,079	2.892
Oakland	3,477,927,260	3,264,456,837	3,191,590,261	2.185
Old Tappan	2,415,796,503	2,176,860,282	1,978,227,409	2.346
Oradell	2,405,094,578	2,042,695,082	1,963,302,731	2.295
Palisades Park	4,312,030,279	4,078,627,662	3,882,185,401	1.463
Paramus	13,469,883,397	12,599,781,332	12,388,393,406	1.499
Park Ridge	2,402,781,479	2,270,519,111	2,136,107,872	3.333
Ramsey	4,990,032,631	4,428,671,989	4,130,245,749	2.059
Ridgefield	2,700,850,363	2,672,039,279	2,443,942,014	1.694

**Comparative Statement of Equalized Valuations and General Tax Rate for Constituent Municipalities, Continued**

<b>Net Equalized Valuations of Land and Improvements</b>				
<b>Municipality</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>General Tax Rate Per \$100</b>
Ridgefield Park	\$2,118,082,389	\$1,921,867,038	\$1,817,242,137	3.061
Ridgewood	9,113,454,274	8,404,797,126	7,817,186,484	2.890
River Edge	2,517,753,908	2,318,832,489	2,133,345,324	3.420
River Vale	2,832,458,248	2,587,364,684	2,366,132,216	2.801
Rochelle Park	1,410,448,867	1,229,657,812	1,150,873,291	2.934
Rockleigh	241,256,780	232,281,243	244,820,999	0.839
Rutherford	3,800,342,107	3,704,201,630	3,552,721,042	3.200
Saddle Brook	3,334,540,309	3,052,012,667	2,936,925,524	2.373
Saddle River	2,680,808,097	2,539,179,568	2,516,112,309	1.067
South Hackensack	1,127,200,888	1,073,847,949	900,933,197	1.851
Teaneck	8,716,207,580	8,184,071,804	7,204,312,111	2.292
Tenafly	5,855,336,979	5,386,562,841	5,053,917,890	2.973
Teterboro	694,235,987	706,179,919	662,757,786	1.050
Upper Saddle River	3,592,195,375	3,400,966,548	3,088,226,121	2.590
Waldwick	2,341,736,476	2,162,410,247	1,952,810,471	2.295
Wallington	1,714,018,757	1,503,205,658	1,403,897,371	1.950
Washington	2,428,421,656	2,247,622,556	2,097,186,720	2.859
Westwood	2,614,393,289	2,422,048,623	2,289,586,229	2.162
Woodcliff Lake	2,604,821,817	2,501,515,787	2,399,475,583	2.186
Wood-Ridge	2,227,350,000	2,058,420,173	1,881,451,778	2.990
Wyckoff	5,770,991,243	5,385,217,046	5,141,949,258	2.026

Source: Bergen County Board of Taxation - 2025, 2024 and 2023 Abstract of Ratables

**Ten Largest Assessed Valuations in the County - 2025**

<b>2025 Assessment</b>	<b>Taxpayer</b>	<b>Type of Business</b>	<b>Location</b>
\$830,556,200	Westland GSP	Shopping Mall	Paramus
375,000,000	Valley Hospital	Medical	Ridgewood
244,275,000	Westland GSP, LP	Shopping Mall	Paramus
185,000,000	IKEA Property, Inc	Shopping Mall	Paramus
156,547,900	Becton Dickinson & Co.	Manufacturer	Franklin Lakes
333,125,100	Vornado Bergen Mall LLC	Shopping Mall	Paramus
242,500,000	1266 Apt Corp	Co-op Apartments	Fort Lee
221,810,800	Fed Res Bank	Bank Facility	East Rutherford
168,241,000	1530 Owners Corp	Co-op Apartments	Fort Lee
172,039,700	LG Corporation, USA	Corporate Headquarters	Englewood Cliffs
145,000,000	Hackensack Hospital Assn	Medical	Hackensack

Source: Bergen County Board of Taxation

## Ten Largest Employers in the County - 2025

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Hackensack University Medical Center	Hackensack	Private Hospital
Valley Health Systems, Inc.	Paramus	Private Hospital
Bio-Reference Laboratories	Elmwood Park	Clinical Testing
Express Scripts	Franklin Lakes	Managed Health Care
Quest Diagnostics	Teterboro/Lyndhurst	Medical Testing
KPMG LLP	Montvale	Professional Services
Englewood Hospital and Medical	Englewood	Private Hospital
Englewood Hospital Home Health Care	Englewood	Health Care
Unilever Best Foods	Englewood Cliffs	Manufacturing
Stryker	Allendale/Mahwah	Manufacturing

Source: Bergen County Department of Planning and Economic Development  
(1) - Based on number of employees

## Tax Collection Record

The following table is the current real property tax collection record of the County for the years 2021 through 2025:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tax Levy</u>	<u>Cash Collections</u>	<u>Percent of Collections</u>
2025 (1)	\$544,413,737	\$544,413,737	100%
2024	504,788,603	504,788,603	100%
2023	481,023,278	481,023,278	100%
2022	448,377,089	448,377,089	100%
2021	448,377,089	447,482,602	99.8%

Source: County Records

## County Taxes

County taxes are collected by the municipalities and paid to the County Treasurer. The municipal levy includes all county, school and municipal taxes.

Each municipality is required to pay to the County Treasurer its share of the County Purpose tax on the fifteenth day of February, May, August and November of each year. The County gets its share of the taxes collected from the first taxes collected by each municipality.

## Tax Appeals

The Bergen County Board of Taxation ("Taxation Board") processes all appeals of county tax assessments. The appeal process is described below:

The taxpayer remits the full assessment (including any disputed amount) to the municipal tax collector. The municipality then remits the amount of county tax assessed against the municipality to the County Treasurer.

The taxpayer files an appeal with the Taxation Board, which conducts a hearing. If the appeal is granted, the municipality remits payments to the taxpayer. The county tax assessed to the municipality for the succeeding year is then reduced by the total amount of appeals granted. Therefore, the County does not remit payment to the taxpayer or the municipality for appeals granted.

If the Taxation Board does not grant the appeal or if the taxpayer is not satisfied with the amount granted, the taxpayer has a right to a hearing by the New Jersey Tax Court.

## TAX MATTERS

### Federal

The County has covenanted to comply with any continuing requirements that may be necessary to preserve the exclusion from gross income for purposes of federal income taxation of interest on the Bonds under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). Failure to comply with certain requirements of the Code could cause interest on the Bonds to be includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes retroactive to the date of issuance of the Bonds. In the opinion of Waters, McPherson, McNeill, P.C., Secaucus, New Jersey ("Bond Counsel") to be delivered at the time of original issuance of the Bonds, assuming continuing compliance by the County with certain covenants described herein, under current law, interest on the Bonds is not included in gross income for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference under Section 57 of the Code when calculating the federal alternative minimum tax on individuals. However, interest on the Bonds is included in the relevant income computation for purposes of calculating the federal alternative minimum tax on corporations as a result of the inclusion of interest on the Bonds in "adjusted current earnings" (see discussion below). No opinion is expressed regarding other federal tax consequences or other federal taxes arising with respect to the Bonds.

The Code imposes certain significant ongoing requirements that must be met after the issuance and delivery of the Bonds in order to assure that the interest on the Bonds will be and remain excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes. These requirements include, but are not limited to, requirements relating to use and expenditure of proceeds, yield and other restrictions on investments of gross proceeds, and the arbitrage rebate requirement that certain excess earnings on investments of gross proceeds of the Bonds be rebated to the federal government. Noncompliance with such requirements may cause interest on the Bonds to become subject to federal income taxation retroactive to their date of issuance, regardless of the date on which such noncompliance occurs or is discovered. The County has covenanted that it shall do and perform all acts permitted by law that are necessary or desirable to assure that interest on the Bonds will be and will remain excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes. The County will deliver its Arbitrage and Tax Certificate concurrently with the issuance of the Bonds, which will contain provisions relating to compliance with the requirements of the Code, including certain covenants in that regard by the County. In rendering its opinion, Bond Counsel has relied on certain representations, certifications of fact, and statements of reasonable expectations made by the County in connection with the Bonds, and Bond Counsel has assumed compliance by the County with certain ongoing covenants to comply with applicable requirements of the Code to assure the exclusion of interest on the Bonds from gross income under Section 103 of the Code. The Bonds are not "private activity bonds" as defined in the Code.

*Bank Qualification.* The Code denies the interest deduction for indebtedness incurred by banks, thrift institutions and other financial institutions to purchase or to carry tax exempt obligations. The denial to such institutions of 100% of the deduction for interest paid on funds allocable to tax exempt obligations applies to those tax exempt obligations acquired by such institutions after August 7, 1986. For certain issues, which must be so designated by the issuer as qualified under Section 265 of the Code, 80% of such interest may be deducted as a business expense by such institutions.

The Bonds will not be designated as qualified under Section 265 of the Code by the County for an exemption from the denial of deduction for interest paid by financial institutions to purchase or to carry tax exempt obligations.

*Alternative Minimum Tax.* Prospective purchasers of the Bonds should be aware that ownership of, accrual of, receipt of, interest on, or disposition of, tax-exempt obligations, such as the Bonds, may have additional Federal income tax consequences for certain taxpayers, including without limitation, taxpayers eligible for the earned income credit, recipients of certain Social Security and certain Railroad Retirement benefits, taxpayers that may be deemed to have incurred or continued indebtedness to purchase or carry tax-exempt obligations, financial institutions, property and casualty companies, foreign corporations and certain S corporations. Prospective purchasers of the Bonds (in particular, purchasers who are corporations of the type referenced above) should consult with their tax advisors with respect to the need to furnish certain taxpayer information in order to avoid backup withholding.

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 imposes a corporate alternative minimum tax equal to 15% of the "adjusted financial statement income" of any corporation (other than an S corporation, a regulated investment company and a real estate investment trust) having an average "adjusted financial statement income" exceeding \$1,000,000,000 over such corporation's three preceding taxable years. The corporate alternative minimum tax is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2022. Interest on tax-exempt bonds and notes, such as interest on the Bonds, is included in the calculation of a corporation's "adjusted financial statement income".

*Other Federal Tax Consequences.* Owners of the Bonds should consult their own tax advisors as to the applicability and the effect on their federal income taxes of the alternative minimum tax, the branch profits tax and the tax on S corporations, as well as the applicability and the effect of any other federal income tax consequences.

*Possible Government Action.* Legislation affecting tax exempt obligations is regularly under consideration by the United States Congress. In addition, the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") has established an expanded audit program for tax exempt obligations. There can be no assurance that legislation enacted or proposed or an audit initiated or concluded by the IRS after the issue date of the

Bonds involving either the Bonds or other tax exempt obligations will not have an adverse effect on the tax exempt status or market price of the Bonds.

## **State**

In the opinion of Bond Counsel, under current law interest on the Bonds, and any gain on the sale thereof, is not includable as gross income under the New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act.

ALL PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS OF THE BONDS SHOULD CONSULT WITH THEIR TAX ADVISORS IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CODE.

## **ABSENCE OF MATERIAL LITIGATION**

In the opinion of Thomas J. Duch, Esq. (the “County Counsel”) no litigation of any nature is now pending or, to his knowledge, threatened restraining or enjoining the issuance or delivery of the Bonds or the levy or collection of any taxes to pay the interest on or principal of the Bonds, or in any manner questioning the authority or proceedings for the issuance of the Bonds or for the levy or collection of said taxes, or relating to the Bonds or affecting the validity thereof or the levy or collection of said taxes, and neither the corporate existence or boundaries of the County nor the title of any of the present officers thereof to their respective offices is being contested, and no authority or proceedings for the issuance of the Bonds has or have been repealed, revoked or rescinded. A signed statement to that effect will be supplied upon delivery of the Bonds. In the opinion of the County Counsel, there is no litigation pending or, to his knowledge, threatened against the County which if adversely decided, would have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the County or which is not otherwise adequately covered by insurance.

## **MUNICIPAL BANKRUPTCY**

The undertakings of the County should be considered with reference to Chapter IX of the Bankruptcy Act, 11 U.S.C. 401, et seq., as amended by Public Law 94-260, approved April 8, 1976, the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978, effective July 15, 1979, Public Law 100-597, effective November 3, 1988, the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994, effective October 22, 1994 and other bankruptcy laws affecting creditors’ rights and municipalities in general. The amendments of P.L. 94-260 replace former Chapter IX and permit a state or any political subdivision, public agency or instrumentality that is insolvent or unable to meet its debts to file a petition in a court of bankruptcy for the purpose of effecting a plan to adjust its debts provided such entity is authorized by applicable state law; directs such a petitioner to file with the court a list of a petitioner’s creditors; provides that a petition filed under this chapter shall operate as a stay of the commencement or continuation of any judicial or other proceeding against the petitioner; grants priority to debt owned for services or material actually provided within 3 months of the filing of the petition; directs a petitioner to file a plan for the adjustment of its debts; and provides that the plan must be accepted in writing by or on behalf of creditors holding at least 2/3 in amount or more than 1/2 in number of the listed creditors. These amendments were incorporated into the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978 with only minor changes.

Reference should also be made to N.J.S.A. 52:27-40, et seq., which provides that a municipality has the power to file a petition in bankruptcy provided the approval of the Municipal Finance Commission of New Jersey has been obtained. The powers of the Municipal Finance Commission of New Jersey have been vested in the Local Finance Board. The Bankruptcy Act specifically provides that Chapter IX does not limit or impair the power of a state to control, by legislation or otherwise, the procedures that a municipality must follow in order to take advantage of the provisions of the Bankruptcy Act.

The above references to the Bankruptcy Act are not to be construed as an indication that the County expects to resort to the provisions of the Bankruptcy Act or that, if it did, such action would be approved by the Local Finance Board, or that any proposed plan would include a dilution of the source of payment of and security for the Bonds.

## **SECONDARY MARKET DISCLOSURE**

The County has entered into written Secondary Market Disclosure Undertakings with respect to the Bonds in order to comply with the secondary market disclosure requirements contemplated by Rule 15c2-12 adopted by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Rule”). Copy of the form of the Secondary Market Disclosure Undertaking is set forth in Appendix C hereto. Annual Financial Information, Operating Data and notices of Material Events shall be filed with www.emma.msrb.org (“EMMA”).

In the past five years, certain financial obligation notices of the County were not posted timely with respect to County obligations posted to Improvement Authority CUSIPs and County financial obligations as guarantor to County CUSIPs. These have all since been corrected. The County has engaged the services of DAC in connection with its continuing disclosure obligations.

## CREDIT RATING

Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's") has assigned a rating of "Aaa" to the Bonds. This rating reflects only the view of Moody's and an explanation thereof may be obtained only from Moody's. Certain information and materials, including information and materials not included in this Official Statement, were furnished by the County to Moody's. Generally, Moody's bases its ratings on the information and materials so furnished and on its investigations, studies and assumptions.

There is no assurance any such rating will remain in effect for any given period of time or that any such rating will not be revised downward, suspended or withdrawn entirely by a rating agency if, in the judgment of such rating agency, circumstances so warrant. Any such downward revision, suspension or withdrawal of a rating may have an adverse effect on the market price or the marketability of the Bonds. The County has not undertaken any responsibility to oppose any such downward revision, suspension or withdrawal of a rating.

## UNDERWRITING

The purchaser of the Bonds is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. The Bonds were purchased via competitive sale at a purchase price of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Such amount represents the principal amount of the Bonds [plus a premium in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_].

The purchaser of the Bonds intends to offer the Bonds to the public initially at the offering yields set forth on the inside front cover page of this Official Statement, which may subsequently change without any requirement of prior notice. The purchaser of the Bonds reserves the right to join with dealers and other underwriters in offering the Bonds to the public. The purchaser of the Bonds may offer and sell the Bonds to certain dealers (including dealers depositing the Bonds into investment trusts) at yields higher than the public offering yields set forth on the inside front cover page of this Official Statement, and such yields may be changed, from time to time, by the purchaser of the Bonds without prior notice.

## LEGALITY

All legal matters relating to the authorization, the issuance, the sale and the delivery of the Bonds are subject to the approval of Waters, McPherson, McNeill, P.C., Secaucus, New Jersey ("Bond Counsel"), whose approving opinion will be delivered with the Bonds substantially in the form set forth in Appendix B hereto. Except to the extent necessary to issue its approving opinion as to the validity of the Bonds and the exemption of the interest earned on the Bonds from taxation, as applicable Bond Counsel has made no inquiry of any County officials or other persons as to any financial information, documents, statements or materials, and has not independently verified any such financial information, documents, statements or materials that have been or may be furnished in connection with the authorization, issuance or marketing of the Bonds. Accordingly, Bond Counsel will not express any opinion with respect to the accuracy or completeness of any such financial information, documents, statements or materials.

Bond Counsel has reviewed the statements made in the Official Statement under the captions entitled "Description of the Bonds", (other than the information pertaining to DTC and Book-Entry System), "Authorization and Purpose", "Municipal Bankruptcy", "Tax Matters", "Secondary Market Disclosure" (first paragraph only) and "Legality". Bond Counsel has neither reviewed nor made any independent verification of the accuracy or completeness of any other portions of the Official Statement, and will not express any opinion with respect to such portions.

Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the County by the County Council. The County Council has reviewed the statements made in the Official Statement under the caption entitled "Absence of Material Litigation". The County Council has neither reviewed nor made any independent verification of the accuracy or completeness of any other portions of the Official Statement, and will not express any opinion with respect to such portions.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the County as of December 31, 2024 have been audited by Wielkotz & Company, LLC, Pompton Lakes, New Jersey (the "Auditor"). Accordingly, the Auditor takes responsibility for its Independent Auditors' Report, and the audited financial information specified therein, set forth in Appendix A hereto.

The Auditor has reviewed the statements made in the Official Statement under the caption entitled "Appendix A". The Auditor has neither reviewed nor made any independent verification of the accuracy or completeness of any other portions of the Official Statement, and will not express any opinion with respect to such portions.

## **MUNICIPAL ADVISOR**

NW Financial Group, LLC, Bloomfield, New Jersey (the "Municipal Advisor") served as municipal advisor to the County with respect to the issuance of the Bonds and assisted in matters relating to the planning, structuring and issuance of the Bonds. The Municipal Advisor has made no inquiry of any County officials or other persons as to any financial information, documents, statements or materials, and has not independently verified any such financial information, documents, statements or materials that have been or may be furnished in connection with the authorization, issuance or marketing of the Bonds. Accordingly, the Municipal Advisor will not express any opinion with respect to the accuracy or completeness of any such financial information, documents, statements or materials.

## **COVID-19 RISK FACTORS**

In early March of 2020, the World Health Organization declared a pandemic following the global outbreak of COVID-19, a respiratory disease caused by a newly discovered strain of coronavirus. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national public health emergency to unlock federal funds and assistance to help states and local governments fight the pandemic. The Governor of the State declared a state of emergency and a public health emergency on March 9, 2020. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, federal and State legislation and executive orders were implemented to, among other things, provide relief to state and local governments, including the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (the "Plan"). The pandemic and certain mitigation measures, which altered the behavior of businesses and people, have had and may continue to have negative impacts on regional, State and local economies. The national public health emergency and the State public health emergency have since ended, while the state of emergency declared by the State and several executive orders signed by the Governor remain to manage COVID-19 on an endemic level.

To date, the overall finances and operations of the County have not been materially adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, there can be no assurance regarding the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic, or any other national health crisis or pandemic, may impact the national, State or local economies in the future, nor how any such event may materially adversely impact municipalities, including the County. The County cannot quantify any such impacts at this time.

The Plan, signed into law on March 12, 2021, provided \$1.9 trillion in relief designed to provide funding to address the COVID-19 pandemic and alleviate the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The County has received \$261,035,746 from the Plan. The deadline to obligate the funds was December 31, 2024, and such funds can only be spent on certain allowable uses as set forth in the Plan.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Inquiries regarding this Official Statement, including information additional to that contained herein, may be directed to Jon Rheinhardt, Chief Financial Officer, One Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, New Jersey 07601, Telephone No. (201) 336-6000.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

All information used in the preparation of this Official Statement and the Appendices hereto has been obtained from sources which the County considers to be reliable. However, the County makes no warranty, guaranty or other representation with respect to the accuracy and completeness of any such information.

Upon request, the Chief Financial Officer of the County will confirm to the purchaser respective of the Bonds, by certificate signed by the Chief Financial Officer, that to the knowledge of the Chief Financial Officer the descriptions and statements relating to the County herein, as of the date of this Official Statement, are true and correct in all material respects and do not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make such descriptions and statements, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

All quotations from and summaries and explanations of provisions of laws of the State herein do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the official compilation thereof.

So far as any statements made in this Official Statement involve matters of opinion or estimates, whether or not expressly stated, they are set forth as such and not as representations of fact, and no representation is made that any such statements will be realized. Neither this Official Statement nor any statement which may have been made verbally or in writing is to be construed as part of any contract with the holder of the Bonds.



**APPENDIX A**

**COUNTY OF BERGEN EXCERPTS FROM  
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR  
THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024  
AND SELECTED FINANCIAL  
INFORMATION FOR YEARS ENDED  
DECEMBER 31, 2025-2021**

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**WIELKOTZ & COMPANY** LLC  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners  
County of Bergen, New Jersey

**Report on the Financial Statements**

***Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles***

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets – regulatory basis of the various funds and account group of the County of Bergen in the State of New Jersey, as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, the related statement of operations and changes in fund balance – regulatory basis for the years then ended, and the related statement of revenues – regulatory basis and the statement of expenditures – regulatory basis of the various funds for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the "Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles" paragraph, the accompanying financial statements referred to above do not present fairly the financial position of each fund of the County of Bergen as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, or changes in financial position for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

***Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), the audit requirements prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey (the "Division") and Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the County of Bergen and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our adverse audit opinion.



As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the County of Bergen on the basis of the financial reporting provisions prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, to meet the requirements of New Jersey.

The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

### ***Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting***

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above, present fairly, in all material respects, the regulatory basis balance sheets and account group as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, the regulatory basis statements of operations for the years then ended and the regulatory basis statements of revenues and expenditures and changes in fund balance for the year ended December 31, 2024 in accordance with the basis of financial reporting prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey as described in Note 1.

### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the County of Bergen's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.



In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County of Bergen’s internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgement, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the County of Bergen’s ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

***Other Matters***

***Other Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the County of Bergen’s basic financial statements. The supplementary information listed in the table of contents and the letter of comments and recommendations section are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The supplementary information listed in the table of contents and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulation Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) are



presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the supplementary information listed in the table of contents and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulation Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The letter of comments and recommendations section has not been subject to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 27, 2025 on our consideration of the County of Bergen's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the County of Bergen's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Steven D. Wielkocz*

Steven D. Wielkocz, C.P.A.  
Registered Municipal Accountant  
No. CR00413

*Wielkocz & Company, LLC*

WIELKOTZ & COMPANY, LLC  
Certified Public Accountants  
Pompton Lakes, New Jersey

May 27, 2025



**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET - REGULATORY BASIS**

**CURRENT FUND**

**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024 and 2023**

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>Ref.</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	A-4	\$ 164,107,991	\$ 122,288,157
Investments	A-5	8,000,000	92,250,000
Imprest and Change Funds	A-6	9,460	9,460
		<u>172,117,451</u>	<u>214,547,617</u>
Receivables with Full Reserves:			
Due from State of New Jersey	A-9	8,685	
Due from Bergen County Improvement Authority	A-10	1,938,725	1,938,725
Interfunds	A-11	47,832	5,925
Prepaid Liability - Payroll Taxes	A-12	5,448	75,313
		<u>2,000,690</u>	<u>2,019,963</u>
Total Current Fund Assets		<u>174,118,141</u>	<u>216,567,580</u>
Federal and State Grant Fund:			
Interfunds Receivable	A-27	16,028,952	66,564,759
Federal and State Grants Receivable	A-28	46,537,262	61,509,501
Total Federal and State Grant Fund Assets		<u>62,566,214</u>	<u>128,074,260</u>
Total Assets		<u>\$ 236,684,355</u>	<u>\$ 344,641,840</u>

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET - REGULATORY BASIS**  
**CURRENT FUND**  
**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024 and 2023**

<u>LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE</u>		<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Liabilities:			
Appropriation Reserves	A-3, A-15	\$ 37,095,252	\$ 40,198,825
Contracts Payable	A-16	12,677,516	9,691,731
Encumbrances Payable	A-17	7,254,448	7,163,746
Accounts Payable	A-18	100,462	217,329
Other Reserves	A-19	3,230,630	3,157,351
Reserve for Jail Expansion	A-20	6,877,043	6,713,296
Reserve for Elections	A-21	5,098	933,566
Reserve for P-Card	A-22	5,160	
Reserve for Rockleigh ICF Closing	A-23	769,413	982,097
Reserve for Arbitrage	A-24	377,077	
Reserve for IRS Payments	A-25	250,024	
Deferred Revenue	A-26	439,177	130,501
Interfunds	A-11	16,054,894	66,565,735
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Liabilities		85,136,194	135,754,177
Reserve for Receivables	Contra	2,000,690	2,019,963
Fund Balance	A-1	86,981,257	78,793,440
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Current Fund Liabilities, Reserves and Fund Balance		174,118,141	216,567,580
Federal and State Grant Fund:			
Encumbrances Payable	A-29	25,472,601	22,237,083
Reserve for Federal and State Grants	A-30	36,949,283	105,634,445
Unappropriated Grants	A-31	144,330	202,732
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Federal and State Grant Fund Liabilities and Reserves		62,566,214	128,074,260
Total Liabilities, Reserves and Fund Balance		\$ 236,684,355	\$ 344,641,840
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

## COUNTY OF BERGEN

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE -  
REGULATORY BASIS

## CURRENT FUND

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Revenue and Other Income Realized:		
Fund Balance Utilized	\$ 35,304,779	\$ 36,698,617
Miscellaneous Revenues Anticipated	200,978,297	185,388,492
Receipts from Current Taxes	504,788,603	481,023,278
Miscellaneous Revenues not Anticipated	9,467,289	22,852,843
Other Credits to Income:		
Unexpended Balance of Appropriation Reserves	21,868,818	12,429,764
Accounts Payable Cancelled	23,189	38,322
Cancelled Appropriated Grant Reserves	17,864,204	2,353,027
Interfund Returned	5,925	131,639
Prepaid Payroll Taxes Applied	75,313	95,403
Due from County Treasurer	-	2,302
Contracts Payable Cancelled	24	32,258
	<u>790,376,441</u>	<u>741,045,945</u>
Expenditures:		
Budget Appropriations - Original Budget	695,388,209	665,105,268
Added by N.J.S.A. 40A:4-89	33,582,506	26,706,522
Other Charges to Income:		
Interfunds Advanced	47,832	5,925
Prepaid Liability - Payroll Taxes	5,448	75,313
Other Reserves	269,362	
Refunds		1,311,278
Cancelled Grants Receivable	17,590,488	2,328,584
	<u>746,883,845</u>	<u>695,532,890</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>746,883,845</u>	<u>695,532,890</u>
Excess in Operations	43,492,596	45,513,055
Fund Balance, January 1	<u>78,793,440</u>	<u>69,979,002</u>
	122,286,036	115,492,057
Utilized as Anticipated Revenue	<u>35,304,779</u>	<u>36,698,617</u>
Fund Balance, December 31	<u>\$ 86,981,257</u>	<u>\$ 78,793,440</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES - REGULATORY BASIS**  
**CURRENT FUND**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	Budget	Realized	Excess or (Deficit)
Surplus Anticipated	35,304,779	35,304,779	
Miscellaneous Revenues:			
<i>Local Revenues:</i>			
Register of Deeds	2,248,000	1,984,252	(263,748)
Surrogate	771,000	688,292	(82,708)
Sheriff	2,450,000	3,520,451	1,070,451
Interest on Investments and Deposits	10,275,000	13,637,776	3,362,776
Park Fees and Revenue	1,358,000	3,678,340	2,320,340
Golf Fees and Revenues	11,375,000	15,748,966	4,373,966
Realty Transfer Fees	9,400,000	8,612,209	(787,791)
State of NJ - Court Lease	128,016	128,016	
Central Municipal Court	331,000	381,231	50,231
Election Ballot Printing	937,000	953,409	16,409
Reimbursement from State of NJ for State Prisoners held in County Jails	4,400,000	2,144,589	(2,255,411)
Police and Fire Academy Fees	371,000	395,356	24,356
Reimbursement for In-Kind Grants	3,700,000	3,861,532	161,532
Animal Shelter Contracts	1,100,000	1,337,312	237,312
Animal Center - Other Fees	5,000	258,924	253,924
Shared Services Health Agreements	1,900,000	1,015,697	(884,303)
Shared Services Health Agreements - Kearny		36,778	36,778
Shared Services Health Agreements - 40 Passaic Street	189,000	219,191	30,191
Interlocal - Interboro Regional Communication Network	300,000	375,900	75,900
	<u>51,238,016</u>	<u>58,978,221</u>	<u>7,740,205</u>
<i>State Aid:</i>			
County College Bonds - (N.J.S.A. 18A:64A-22.6)	2,205,750	2,229,923	24,173
<i>State Assumptions of Costs:</i>			
Social and Welfare Services (c.66, P.L. 1990):			
Supplemental Social Security Income	1,383,217	1,129,331	(253,886)
DDD Assessment Program	147,000	132,824	(14,176)
	<u>1,530,217</u>	<u>1,262,155</u>	<u>(268,062)</u>
<i>Public and Private Programs:</i>			
Area Plan Grant	7,711,552	7,711,552	
Social Services for the Homeless	1,145,300	1,145,300	
Medicare Improvements for Patients	40,000	40,000	
FY23 Prosecutor Body Armor	7,027	7,027	
Disaster Response Crisis Counselor	30,000	30,000	
Respite Care Program	608,000	608,000	
Senior Citizen & Disabled Residents Transportation	2,892,198	2,892,198	
Visions Program - Additional 2023	7,069	7,069	
FY23 Sheriff Body Armor	34,222	34,222	

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES - REGULATORY BASIS**  
**CURRENT FUND**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Realized</u>	<u>Excess or (Deficit)</u>
<i>Public and Private Programs (continued):</i>			
WFNJ - Transportation	114,461	114,461	
County Historical Partnership Program	94,100	94,100	
State Community Partnership	1,125,145	1,125,145	
Local Arts Program	319,400	319,400	
Alternative to Domestic Violence - Additional 2023	173,160	173,160	
IOLTA Fund of the Bar of NJ	22,500	22,500	
Victims of Crime - Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner	172,224	172,224	
Homeless Management Information Shelter	20,000	20,000	
Mental Health Law Project	277,131	277,131	
Opioid Settlement Fund	5,491,373	5,491,373	
MAT for Opioid Use Disorder in Homeless Shelter	425,000	425,000	
Child Advocacy Development Grant	194,208	194,208	
Enhanced Mobility of Senior & Individuals with Disabilities	150,000	150,000	
Automated License Plate Reader Initiative	400,368	400,368	
Medicaid PEER Grouping	619,312	619,312	
County Health Infrastructure Program	2,117,217	2,117,217	
Childhood Lead Program - Additional 2023	12,500	12,500	
Collaborative Learning Program	80,000	80,000	
County Environmental Health Act	213,603	213,603	
County Comprehensive Alcohol Program	1,100,243	1,100,243	
Spring House for Women - Drug Court	103,521	103,521	
Senior Safe Navigator Grant	466,000	466,000	
Comprehensive Cancer Control Program - Additional 2023	6,000	6,000	
Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program	7,189	7,189	
Oradell Ave Bridge over Hackensack River	1,069,166	1,069,166	
Gunshot Detection Technology Initiative	336,500	336,500	
Homeless Management Information Shelter	100,693	100,693	
HUD - Veteran's Supportive Housing	88,415	88,415	
FY23 The Kevin & Devonte Program	75,887	75,887	
Shelter Support Program	118,161	118,161	
2025 Special Population Grant	150,000	150,000	
Visions Program	108,070	108,070	
Sub-Regional Transportation Planning	262,705	262,705	
State Health Insurance Program	45,000	45,000	
Communication and Language Access Grant	32,556	32,556	
FY25 Child Advocacy Development	190,944	190,944	
Corporate Marketing Grant	17,750	17,750	
FY23 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program - SCAAP	826,419	826,419	
Overdose Data to Action Program	22,880	22,880	
2025 Local Public Health Overdose Fatality Teams	75,000	75,000	
Personal Assistance Services Program	96,138	96,138	
Veterans Transportation	26,000	26,000	
Enhanced Mobility of Senior & Individuals with Disabilities	217,000	217,000	

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES - REGULATORY BASIS**  
**CURRENT FUND**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Realized</u>	<u>Excess or (Deficit)</u>
<i>Public and Private Programs (continued):</i>			
Violence Against Women Act	52,500	52,500	
2025 Municipal Alliance Program	317,346	317,346	
2025 Clean Communities Grant	198,055	198,055	
Cancer Education & Early Detection	6,628	6,628	
Arrive Together Grant Program	150,000	150,000	
Domestic Violence Intervention Services - BEBW	1,258,603	1,258,603	
Cancer Education & Early Detection	306,224	306,224	
NJACCHO Sustaining Local Public Health	168,049	168,049	
Drug Recognition Expert	25,000	25,000	
Tuberculosis Control Program	287,808	287,808	
Transitional Living for Homeless Youth	232,547	232,547	
Basic Center Program	197,000	197,000	
Bergenfield Senior Center	100,000	100,000	
Bergen County Job Center - WFNJ	40,000	40,000	
Human Service Advisory Council	66,499	66,499	
Early Intervention Services	2,687,768	2,687,768	
Case Management	163,109	163,109	
Medical Reserve Corp	24,290	24,290	
2025 Childhood Lead Program	388,468	388,468	
Job Access and Reverse Commute	200,000	200,000	
Bioterrorism (PHILEP) Program	330,538	330,538	
HUD - Homeless Management Information System	20,000	20,000	
Right to Know	21,869	21,869	
East Anderson Street Bridge/Cedar Lane	4,643,193	4,643,193	
Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement	205,514	205,514	
Victims of Crime Act Grant - Additional 2023	361,807	361,807	
Unified Child Care Program - Additional 2023	82,034	82,034	
PEER Recovery Specialist	150,000	150,000	
Tick Surveillance Program 2025	12,000	12,000	
Youth Complex Education Program	184,500	184,500	
Venture Program	686,120	686,120	
2025 Unified Child Care Program	2,247,001	2,247,001	
Mental Health Board Administration	12,000	12,000	
2025 Disaster Response Crisis Counselor	35,500	35,500	
Child Interagency Coordinating Council	39,455	39,455	
Victim Assistance Grant	137,500	137,500	
Victims of Crime - Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner	166,871	166,871	
	<u>46,667,978</u>	<u>46,667,978</u>	<u>-</u>

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES - REGULATORY BASIS**  
**CURRENT FUND**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	Budget	Realized	Excess or (Deficit)
<i>Other Special Items:</i>			
Added and Omitted Taxes	1,686,898	1,686,898	
Justice Center Parking	152,000	185,357	33,357
Sheriff - Outside Service Administrative Fees	648,000	244,040	(403,960)
Public Health Priority Funding	3,883,000	3,477,040	(405,960)
Register of Deeds - P.L. 2001 C370	2,006,000	1,813,018	(192,982)
Surrogate - P.L. 2001 C370	1,161,000	829,928	(331,072)
Sheriff - P.L. 2001 C370	250,000	250,000	
Shared Services Police Services	350,000	355,195	5,195
Medicare Part D Reimbursement	37,000	102,814	65,814
Housing Authority Lease	107,000	109,787	2,787
Health Department - Spring House Medicare Revenues	124,000	-	(124,000)
Health Department - Alcohol Recovery Medicare Revenues	23,000	14,936	(8,064)
Interlocal - 911 Agreement - Garfield	300,000	300,000	
Interlocal - 911 Agreement - Ridgefield	212,160	212,160	
Interlocal - 911 Agreement - Palisades Park	160,000	160,000	
Interlocal - 911 Agreement - Lodi	324,000	331,224	7,224
Interlocal - 911 Agreement - Leonia	171,130	171,130	
Interlocal - 911 Agreement - Wyckoff	191,017	194,837	3,820
Interlocal - 911 Agreement - Midland Park	137,000	137,700	700
Interlocal - 911 Agreement - Demarest	67,569	67,569	
Interlocal - 911 Agreement - Harrison	689,000	751,797	62,797
Interlocal - 911 Agreement - East Newark	150,000	158,586	8,586
Interlocal - 911 Agreement - Hillsdale		75,000	75,000
Bergen County Improvement Authority - Loan Repayment	1,938,725	-	(1,938,725)
BCIA - New Bridge Medical Center - Rental	4,800,000	4,800,000	
Passaic County Inmates	20,710,040	20,116,059	(593,981)
Intoxicated Driver Program Fees	207,000	207,160	160
Interlocal - JDC Revenue Passaic & Union County	280,000	643,115	363,115
Interlocal - BCC College Shuttle - Community Transportation	138,000	142,750	4,750
Interlocal - Security Services at Bergen Technical High School	286,000	286,496	496
Interlocal - Board of Social Services Payroll & Purchasing	27,000	28,154	1,154
Interlocal - Board of Social Services - Rental of County Facility	80,000	83,496	3,496
County Ambulance Service	1,000,000	2,010,829	1,010,829
Title IVD Reimbursements	1,042,000	1,454,559	412,559
Planning and Engineering Subdivision Fees	196,000	190,895	(5,105)
American Rescue Plan - Revenue Loss	39,600,000	39,600,000	
County Option Tax	10,563,000	10,647,491	84,491
	<u>93,697,539</u>	<u>91,840,020</u>	<u>(1,857,519)</u>

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES - REGULATORY BASIS**  
**CURRENT FUND**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	Budget	Realized	Excess or (Deficit)
Total Miscellaneous Revenues Anticipated	195,339,500	200,978,297	5,638,797
Subtotal General Revenues	230,644,279	236,283,076	5,638,797
Amount to be Raised by Taxation	504,788,603	504,788,603	
Budget Totals	\$ 735,432,882	741,071,679	5,638,797
Miscellaneous Revenues not Anticipated (Nonbudget)		9,467,289	
		\$ 750,538,968	

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES - REGULATORY BASIS**  
**CURRENT FUND**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated:	
PILOT Program	686,066
Unclaimed Property	158,158
Towing Fees	14,250
Miscellaneous	345,407
DEA Forfeiture Overtime Reimbursements	194,540
Clerk-Shared Services Record Retention	2,500
Reimbursement - Indirect Costs	859,281
Interest - Clerk	17,076
Title IV D BC Probation Reimbursement	449
Paymode X ACH Rebates	42,322
Charging Stations	3,752
COOP Administration Fee	857,081
Shared Services - College Landscaping	383,667
Insurance Claims and Reimbursements	2,101,243
Inspection Fees	61,337
Drain Connect Filing Fees	6,675
Sale of Plans & Specs	5,550
Filing Fees - Construction Board	4,350
NJ-Insurance Franchise Tax	2,738
Miscellaneous Police Services	350
Medical Examiner - Autopsy Protocol	10,339
Fire Permit Fees	7,872
Consumer Protection Board of Social Services	51,803
Division of Consumer Affairs	125,711
9-1-1 Dispatch Service	161,294
Sheriff US Marshall	663,500
Sheriff Work Release Program	6,618
General Services Reimbursements	6,142
Scrap Metal	6,735
Vending Machines	36,893
Recycling Revenue	802
39 Hudson Street	55,234
DPW Shared Services - PIP	96,631
Sale of County Assets	52,212
Various Rental Income	5,592
Comm Trans - Advertising	1,500
Health/American Dream Fee	94,928
Industrial Health	925,926
Mental Health	90
State Aid - Office on Aging	58,000
ADV - Client Fees	77,358
Human Services Institute Registration Fees	3,145
Human Services Miscellaneous	7,700
Prior Year Credit	317,644
Judicial - Mail Room Services	4,225
General Court Fees	1,120
Donations for Senior Activities	941,483
	9,467,289
	\$ 9,467,289

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS**

**CURRENT FUND**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	Appropriations		Paid or Charged	Reserved	Unexpended Balance Canceled
	Budget as Adopted	Budget After Modification			
<b>OPERATIONS:</b>					
<i>Legislative Branch</i>					
Board of Commissioners:					
Salaries and Wages	269,719	269,719	267,019	2,700	
Clerk of the Board:					
Salaries and Wages	921,457	921,457	742,988	178,469	
Other Expenses	323,750	323,750	250,749	73,001	
<i>Total Legislative Branch</i>	<u>1,514,926</u>	<u>1,514,926</u>	<u>1,260,756</u>	<u>254,170</u>	
<i>Executive Branch</i>					
County Executive:					
Salaries and Wages	1,415,699	1,690,699	1,690,695	4	
Other Expenses	44,300	44,300	39,529	4,771	
<i>Total County Executive</i>	<u>1,459,999</u>	<u>1,734,999</u>	<u>1,730,224</u>	<u>4,775</u>	
Department of Administration and Finance					
Division of Treasury:					
Salaries and Wages	1,284,479	1,239,479	1,145,505	93,974	
Other Expenses	68,000	68,000	40,183	27,817	
Division of Fiscal Operations:					
Salaries and Wages	1,105,147	1,045,147	854,231	190,916	
Other Expenses	3,096,624	3,036,624	2,565,979	470,645	
Division of Personnel:					
Salaries and Wages	1,019,654	1,000,654	924,821	75,833	
Other Expenses	89,978	89,978	55,295	34,683	
Division of Purchasing:					
Salaries and Wages	800,670	800,670	800,646	24	
Other Expenses	55,869	55,869	24,060	31,809	
Division of Information Technology:					
Salaries and Wages	1,626,706	1,534,206	1,411,270	122,936	
Other Expenses	1,329,500	1,329,500	1,240,836	88,664	
Division of Public Information:					
Salaries and Wages	316,487	316,487	245,743	70,744	
Other Expenses	25,000	25,000	18,726	6,274	

COUNTY OF BERGEN  
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS

CURRENT FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	Appropriations		Paid or Charged	Reserved	Unexpended Balance Canceled
	Budget as Adopted	Budget After Modification			
Division of Risk Management:					
Salaries and Wages	224,804	224,804	224,686	118	
Other Expenses	1,703,250	1,705,000	1,669,685	35,315	
Insurances:					
Insurance - Other Expenses	8,440,230	8,438,480	5,826,004	2,612,476	
Health Benefits	113,524,100	113,524,100	111,233,118	2,290,982	
Workers' Compensation	7,973,874	7,973,874	3,314,855	4,659,019	
Economic Development:					
Salaries and Wages	394,150	395,650	394,112	1,538	
Other Expenses	329,750	329,750	281,302	48,448	
Central Municipal Court:					
Salaries and Wages	923,435	871,435	728,785	142,650	
Other Expenses	23,300	23,300	16,533	6,767	
Salary Adjustment:					
Salaries and Wages	1,000,000	450,000	353,785	96,215	
Termination Pay:					
Salaries and Wages	1,000,000	550,000	172,772	377,228	
Division of Shared Services:					
Salaries and Wages	105,370	140,370	130,725	9,645	
Other Expenses	1,500	1,500	851	649	
Out-of-County College Reimbursement	110,000	110,000	41,859	68,141	
Total Department of Administration and Finance	146,571,877	145,279,877	133,716,367	11,563,510	
Department of Health					
Division of Public Health:					
Salaries and Wages	2,867,738	2,265,857	1,383,310	882,547	
Other Expenses	441,795	441,795	284,191	157,604	
Division of Mental Health:					
Salaries and Wages	1,241,345	1,241,345	1,025,765	215,580	
Other Expenses	675,800	675,800	574,305	101,495	
Aid to Mental Health:					
Other Expenses	1,917,093	1,917,093	1,916,074	1,019	

COUNTY OF BERGEN

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS

CURRENT FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	Appropriations		Paid or Charged	Reserved	Unexpended Balance Canceled
	Budget as Adopted	Budget After Modification			
Environmental Health:					
Salaries and Wages	885,510	885,510	4,074	881,436	
Other Expenses	374,000	374,000	309,638	64,362	
Public Health Priority Funding:					
Salaries and Wages	900,000	1,005,883	900,000	105,883	
Other Expenses	35,000	35,000	10,194	24,806	
Interlocal Health Agreements:					
Salaries and Wages	1,657,686	1,852,684	1,657,686	194,998	
Other Expenses	50,000	50,000	3,843	46,157	
Division of Animal Center:					
Salaries and Wages	2,350,546	2,350,546	2,226,995	123,551	
Other Expenses	1,121,800	1,121,800	988,508	133,292	
<b>Total Department of Health</b>	<b>14,518,313</b>	<b>14,217,313</b>	<b>11,284,583</b>	<b>2,932,730</b>	
Department of Human Services					
Division of Family Guidance:					
Salaries and Wages	5,265,185	4,917,185	3,986,545	930,640	
Other Expenses	404,086	404,086	341,242	62,844	
Division of Community Services:					
Salaries and Wages	2,284,217	2,284,217	2,110,125	174,092	
Other Expenses	4,331,109	4,331,109	4,068,752	262,357	
Division of Senior Services:					
Salaries and Wages	1,591,382	1,591,382	1,168,871	422,511	
Other Expenses	1,918,555	1,918,555	1,443,048	475,507	
Juvenile Detention Center:					
Salaries and Wages	2,561,631	2,516,631	2,137,775	378,856	
Other Expenses	360,236	360,236	310,408	49,828	
<b>Total Department of Human Services</b>	<b>18,716,401</b>	<b>18,323,401</b>	<b>15,566,766</b>	<b>2,756,635</b>	

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS**  
**CURRENT FUND**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	Appropriations		Paid or Charged	Reserved	Unexpended Balance Canceled
	Budget as Adopted	Budget After Modification			
Department of Law:					
Salaries and Wages	2,085,645	2,035,645	1,918,086	117,559	
Other Expenses	95,600	125,600	99,350	26,250	
Office of the Inspector General:					
Salaries and Wages	344,552	344,552	218,360	126,192	
Other Expenses	3,000	3,000	758	2,242	
Office of Mental Health Law:					
Salaries and Wages	292,067	292,067	213,061	79,006	
Other Expenses	7,300	7,300	2,067	5,233	
Mental Patients in State Institutions:					
Other Expenses - County Share	375,000	375,000	229,870	145,130	
DMHAS Greystone Hospital County Residents - County Share	2,264,192	2,264,192	2,264,191	1	
NJ Division of Mental Health - DMAS Costs - County Share	261,083	261,083		261,083	
Total Department of Law	5,728,439	5,708,439	4,945,743	762,696	
Department of Public Safety					
Division of Safety and Security:					
Salaries and Wages	3,331,378	3,331,378	3,297,708	33,670	
Other Expenses	97,350	97,350	96,398	952	
Division of Weights and Measures:					
Salaries and Wages	1,300,425	1,170,425	1,149,541	20,884	
Other Expenses	19,297	19,297	16,629	2,668	
Division of the Medical Examiner:					
Salaries and Wages	1,072,050	1,072,050	1,013,882	58,168	
Other Expenses	1,549,110	1,549,110	1,467,168	81,942	
Division of Emergency Management:					
Salaries and Wages	932,430	1,014,430	1,012,775	1,655	
Other Expenses	227,160	227,160	210,241	16,919	
Division of Ambulance Services:					
Salaries and Wages	1,633,518	1,633,518	1,562,098	71,420	
Other Expenses	155,000	322,000	244,120	77,880	
Division of Public Safety Operations 911-Dispatch:					
Salaries and Wages	5,436,659	5,436,659	5,378,477	58,182	
Other Expenses	2,141,000	2,141,000	1,913,691	227,309	

COUNTY OF BERGEN

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS

CURRENT FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	Appropriations		Paid or Charged	Reserved	Unexpended Balance Canceled
	Budget as Adopted	Budget After Modification			
Division of Law and Public Safety:					
Salaries and Wages	1,726,172	1,726,172	1,497,841	228,331	
Other Expenses	488,416	488,416	473,756	14,660	
Total Department of Public Safety	20,109,965	20,228,965	19,334,325	894,640	
Department of Public Works					
Division of General Services:					
Salaries and Wages	5,347,261	5,382,261	5,380,075	2,186	
Other Expenses	10,197,609	10,197,609	9,572,112	625,497	
Division of Mechanical Services:					
Salaries and Wages	1,437,290	1,437,290	1,230,056	207,234	
Other Expenses	4,012,300	4,012,300	3,337,746	674,554	
Division of Administration:					
Salaries and Wages	522,801	464,201	348,294	115,907	
Other Expenses	8,800	8,800	3,077	5,723	
Division of Operations:					
Salaries and Wages	2,240,061	2,190,061	2,103,880	86,181	
Other Expenses	4,237,248	4,237,248	3,368,174	869,074	
Division of Community Transportation:					
Salaries and Wages	363,931	363,931	363,930	1	
Other Expenses	873,100	873,100	536,373	336,727	
Division of Mosquito Control:					
Salaries and Wages	999,845	1,026,845	996,653	30,192	
Other Expenses	348,350	348,350	189,268	159,082	
Total Department of Public Works	30,588,596	30,541,996	27,429,638	3,112,358	
Department of Parks					
Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs:					
Salaries and Wages	354,086	371,086	368,431	2,655	
Other Expenses	36,410	36,410	30,370	6,040	
Division of Parks and Recreation:					
Salaries and Wages	7,193,775	8,213,775	8,152,258	61,517	
Other Expenses	4,668,100	4,868,100	4,750,840	117,260	

COUNTY OF BERGEN  
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS

CURRENT FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	Appropriations		Paid or Charged	Reserved	Unexpended Balance Canceled
	Budget as Adopted	Budget After Modification			
Division of Land Management:					
Salaries and Wages	70,000	70,000		70,000	
Other Expenses	15,000	15,000	7,767	7,233	
Division of Golf Courses:					
Salaries and Wages	4,337,079	4,702,079	4,520,701	181,378	
Other Expenses	1,654,514	1,729,114	1,573,553	155,561	
Total Department of Parks	18,328,964	20,005,564	19,403,920	601,644	
Department of Planning and Economic Development					
Division of Construction Board Appeals:					
Other Expenses	375	375	60	315	
Division of Planning and Economic Development:					
Salaries and Wages	1,209,587	1,218,587	1,218,585	2	
Other Expenses	40,510	40,510	25,077	15,433	
Division of Engineering:					
Salaries and Wages	2,235,070	2,151,070	1,965,778	185,292	
Other Expenses	118,382	118,382	90,420	27,962	
Division of Transportation Planning:					
Other Expenses	20,000	20,000		20,000	
Total Department of Planning and Economic Development	3,623,924	3,548,924	3,299,920	249,004	
<i>Total Executive Branch</i>	259,646,478	259,589,478	236,711,486	22,877,992	
Educational Agencies					
Office of the Superintendent of Schools:					
Salaries and Wages	470,322	470,322	405,418	64,904	
Other Expenses	33,425	33,425	20,657	12,768	
Bergen County Vocational Schools:					
Other Expenses	35,867,271	35,867,271	34,667,268	1,200,003	
Bergen County Community College:					
Other Expenses	23,996,114	23,996,114	23,996,114		
Bergen County Special Services School:					
Other Expenses	11,386,253	11,386,253	11,386,253		
Total Educational Agencies	71,753,385	71,753,385	70,475,710	1,277,675	

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS**  
**CURRENT FUND**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	Appropriations		Paid or Charged	Reserved	Unexpended Balance Canceled
	Budget as Adopted	Budget After Modification			
Constitutional Officers					
Office of the County Surrogate:					
Salaries and Wages	2,326,751	2,383,751	2,331,594	52,157	
Other Expenses	88,442	88,442	83,052	5,390	
Office of the County Clerk:					
Salaries and Wages	3,114,411	3,074,411	2,994,951	79,460	
Other Expenses	341,650	341,650	341,647	3	
Office of the County Clerk - Elections:					
Salaries and Wages	270,610	310,610	310,464	146	
Other Expenses	3,460,900	3,460,900	3,460,900		
Office of the County Prosecutor:					
Salaries and Wages	32,627,373	32,527,373	31,404,691	1,122,682	
Other Expenses	1,810,000	1,910,000	1,685,407	224,593	
Office of the County Sheriff:					
Salaries and Wages	30,522,426	30,522,426	28,555,871	1,966,555	
Other Expenses	1,404,000	1,704,000	1,383,276	320,724	
Bureau of Identification - Sheriff:					
Salaries and Wages	6,282,122	6,282,122	5,998,009	284,113	
Other Expenses	451,500	551,500	385,541	165,959	
County Jail - Sheriff:					
Salaries and Wages	17,750,235	17,750,235	15,585,012	2,165,223	
Salaries and Wages - American Rescue Plan	39,600,000	39,600,000	39,600,000		
Other Expenses	12,135,250	11,735,250	8,011,703	3,723,547	
Total Constitutional Officers	152,185,670	152,242,670	142,132,118	10,110,552	

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS**

**CURRENT FUND**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	Appropriations		Paid or Charged	Reserved	Unexpended Balance Canceled
	Budget as Adopted	Budget After Modification			
Other Boards and Agencies					
Board of Social Services - Welfare:					
Administration - County Share	9,670,651	9,670,651	9,670,651		
Temp. Assistance to Needy Families - County Share	115,606	115,606	115,606		
Supplemental Security Income - State Share	1,383,217	1,383,217	1,250,000	133,217	
Board of Taxation:					
Salaries and Wages	658,514	658,514	658,169	345	
Board of Elections:					
Salaries and Wages	1,632,956	1,632,956	1,632,956		
Other Expenses	630,880	630,880	566,211	64,669	
Superintendent of Elections:					
Salaries and Wages	686,828	686,828	632,696	54,132	
Other Expenses	670,020	670,020	660,068	9,952	
Commissioner of Registration:					
Salaries and Wages	1,355,968	1,355,968	1,279,917	76,051	
Other Expenses	483,500	483,500	478,695	4,805	
<b>Total Other Boards and Agencies</b>	<b>17,288,140</b>	<b>17,288,140</b>	<b>16,944,969</b>	<b>343,171</b>	
Other Common Operating Functions:					
Celebration of Public Events:					
Other Expenses	400,000	400,000	288,933	111,067	
<b>Total Other Common Operating Functions</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>288,933</b>	<b>111,067</b>	
Public and Private Programs					
Matching Funds for Grants	115,000	115,000		115,000	
Area Plan Grant	7,711,552	7,711,552	7,711,552		
Social Services for the Homeless	1,145,300	1,145,300	1,145,300		
Medicare Improvements for Patients	40,000	40,000	40,000		
FY23 Prosecutor Body Armor	7,027	7,027	7,027		
Disaster Response Crisis Counselor	30,000	30,000	30,000		
Respite Care Program	608,000	608,000	608,000		
Senior Citizen & Disabled Residents Transportation	2,892,198	2,892,198	2,892,198		
Visions Program - Additional 2023	7,069	7,069	7,069		
FY23 Sheriff Body Armor	34,222	34,222	34,222		

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS**  
**CURRENT FUND**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	Appropriations		Paid or Charged	Reserved	Unexpended Balance Canceled
	Budget as Adopted	Budget After Modification			
WFNJ - Transportation	114,461	114,461	114,461		
County Historical Partnership Program	94,100	94,100	94,100		
State Community Partnership	1,125,145	1,125,145	1,125,145		
Local Arts Program	319,400	319,400	319,400		
Alternative to Domestic Violence - Additional 2023	173,160	173,160	173,160		
IOLTA Fund of the Bar of NJ	22,500	22,500	22,500		
Victims of Crime - Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner	172,224	172,224	172,224		
Homeless Management Information System	20,000	20,000	20,000		
Mental Health Law Project	277,131	277,131	277,131		
Opioid Settlement Fund	5,491,373	5,491,373	5,491,373		
MAT for Opioid Use Disorder in Homeless Shelter	425,000	425,000	425,000		
Child Advocacy Development Grant	194,208	194,208	194,208		
Enhanced Mobility of Senior & Individuals with Disabilities	150,000	150,000	150,000		
Automated License Plate Reader Initiative	400,368	400,368	400,368		
Medicaid PEER Grouping	619,312	619,312	619,312		
County Health Infrastructure Program	2,117,217	2,117,217	2,117,217		
Childhood Lead Program - Additional 2023	12,500	12,500	12,500		
Collaborative Learning Program	80,000	80,000	80,000		
County Environmental Health Act	213,603	213,603	213,603		
County Comprehensive Alcohol Program	1,100,243	1,100,243	1,100,243		
Spring House for Women - Drug Court	103,521	103,521	103,521		
Senior Save Navigator Grant	466,000	466,000	466,000		
Comprehensive Cancer Control Program - Additional 2023	6,000	6,000	6,000		
Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program	7,189	7,189	7,189		
Oradell Ave Bridge over Hackensack River	1,069,166	1,069,166	1,069,166		
Gunshot Detection Technology Initiative	336,500	336,500	336,500		
Homeless Management Information System	100,693	100,693	100,693		
HUD - Veteran's Supportive Housing	88,415	88,415	88,415		
FY23 The Kevin & Devonte Program	75,887	75,887	75,887		
Shelter Support Program	118,161	118,161	118,161		
2025 Special Population Grant	150,000	150,000	150,000		
Visions Program	108,070	108,070	108,070		
Sub-Regional Transportation Planning	262,705	262,705	262,705		
State Health Insurance Program	45,000	45,000	45,000		

COUNTY OF BERGEN

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS

CURRENT FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	Appropriations		Paid or Charged	Reserved	Unexpended Balance Canceled
	Budget as Adopted	Budget After Modification			
Communication and Language Access Grant	32,556	32,556	32,556		
FY25 Child Advocacy Development	190,944	190,944	190,944		
Corporate Marketing Grant	17,750	17,750	17,750		
FY23 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program - SCAAP	826,419	826,419	826,419		
Overdose Data to Action Program	22,880	22,880	22,880		
2025 Local Public Health Overdose Fatality Teams	75,000	75,000	75,000		
Personal Assistance Services Program	96,138	96,138	96,138		
Veterans Transportation	26,000	26,000	26,000		
Enhanced Mobility of Senior & Individuals with Disabilities	217,000	217,000	217,000		
Violence Against Women Act	52,500	52,500	52,500		
2025 Municipal Alliance Program	317,346	317,346	317,346		
2025 Clean Communities Grant	198,055	198,055	198,055		
Cancer Education & Early Detection	6,628	6,628	6,628		
Arrive Together Grant Program	150,000	150,000	150,000		
Domestic Violence Intervention Services - BEBW	1,258,603	1,258,603	1,258,603		
Cancer Education & Early Detection	306,224	306,224	306,224		
NJACCHO Sustaining Local Public Health	168,049	168,049	168,049		
Drug Recognition Expert	25,000	25,000	25,000		
Tuberculosis Control Program	287,808	287,808	287,808		
Transitional Living for Homeless Youth	232,547	232,547	232,547		
Basic Center Program	197,000	197,000	197,000		
Bergenfield Senior Center	100,000	100,000	100,000		
Bergen County Job Center - WFNJ	40,000	40,000	40,000		
Human Service Advisory Council	66,499	66,499	66,499		
Early Intervention Services	2,687,768	2,687,768	2,687,768		
Case Management	163,109	163,109	163,109		
Medical Reserve Corp	24,290	24,290	24,290		
2025 Childhood Lead Program	388,468	388,468	388,468		
Job Access and Reverse Commute	200,000	200,000	200,000		
Bioterrorism (PHILEP) Program	330,538	330,538	330,538		
HUD- Homeless Management Information System	20,000	20,000	20,000		
Right to Know	21,869	21,869	21,869		
East Anderson Street Bridge/Cedar Lane	4,643,193	4,643,193	4,643,193		
FY24 Medication Assisted Treatment Initiative	422,875	422,875	422,875		

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS**  
**CURRENT FUND**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	Appropriations		Paid or Charged	Reserved	Unexpended Balance Canceled
	Budget as Adopted	Budget After Modification			
Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement	205,514	205,514	205,514		
Victims of Crime Act Grant - Additional 2023	361,807	361,807	361,807		
Unified Child Care Program - Additional 2023	82,034	82,034	82,034		
PEER Recovery Specialist	150,000	150,000	150,000		
Tick Surveillance Program 2025	12,000	12,000	12,000		
Youth Complex Education Program	184,500	184,500	184,500		
Venture Program	686,120	686,120	686,120		
2025 Unified Child Care Program	2,247,001	2,247,001	2,247,001		
Mental Health Board Administration	12,000	12,000	12,000		
2025 Disaster Response Crisis Counselor	35,500	35,500	35,500		
Child Interagency Coordinating Council	39,455	39,455	39,455		
Victim Assistance Grant	137,500	137,500	137,500		
Victims of Crime - Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner	166,871	166,871	166,871		
Total Public and Private Programs	46,782,978	46,782,978	46,667,978	115,000	
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONS</b>	<b>549,171,577</b>	<b>549,171,577</b>	<b>514,193,017</b>	<b>34,978,560</b>	
Detail:					
Salaries and Wages	215,777,215	215,265,615	201,989,147	13,276,468	
Other Expenses (Including Contingent)	333,794,362	334,305,962	312,492,803	21,813,159	
	549,571,577	549,571,577	514,481,950	35,089,627	
Capital Improvements					
Capital Improvement Fund	21,424,556	21,424,556	21,424,556		
Acquisition of Office Equipment and Other Capital Items	350,000	350,000	82,076	267,924	
Total Capital Improvements	21,774,556	21,774,556	21,506,632	267,924	
County Debt Service					
Payment of Bond Principal:					4,747,000
Other Bonds	69,000,000	69,000,000	64,253,000		
Interest on Bonds:					
Other Bonds	19,052,000	19,052,000	17,920,878		1,131,122
Interest on Notes	6,012,450	6,012,450	5,428,405		584,045
Total County Debt Service	94,064,450	94,064,450	87,602,283		6,462,167

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS**  
**CURRENT FUND**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	Appropriations		Paid or	Reserved	Unexpended
	Budget as	Budget After	Charged		Balance
	Adopted	Modification			Canceled
Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures					
Contribution to:					
Deferred Charges to Future Taxation - Capital	9,000,000	9,000,000	9,000,000		
Public Employees' Retirement System	16,247,671	16,247,671	16,122,671	125,000	
Social Security System (O.A.S.I.)	17,160,000	17,160,000	15,929,328	1,230,672	
Unemployment Compensation Insurance - (NJSA 43:21-3)	50,000	50,000		50,000	
Police and Firemen's Retirement System	27,504,628	27,504,628	27,204,628	300,000	
Define Contribution Retirement Program (DCRP)	60,000	60,000	27,971	32,029	
Total Statutory Expenditures	70,022,299	70,022,299	68,284,598	1,737,701	
Total General Appropriations	\$ 735,432,882	735,432,882	691,875,463	37,095,252	6,462,167
Adopted Budget \$	701,850,376				
Appropriated by N.J.S.A. 40A4-87	33,582,506				
	\$ 735,432,882				
Transferred to Federal and State Grant Fund \$			46,667,978		
Transfer to Reserve for P-Card			143,798		
Accounts Payable			603		
Transfer for Other Reserves			90,615,433		
Encumbrances			7,254,448		
Cash			547,193,203		
			\$ 691,875,463		

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET - REGULATORY BASIS**  
**REGULAR TRUST FUNDS**  
**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024 and 2023**

	<u>Ref.</u>	<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>				
Regular Trust Fund:				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	B-1	\$ 48,024,516	\$	40,169,754
Interfunds	B-2	10,405		976
		<u>48,034,921</u>		<u>40,170,730</u>
Open Space Trust Fund:				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	B-1	92,441,106		74,950,739
Accounts Receivable	B-3	112,594		123,427
Due from BCIA	B-4	14,176,546		14,176,546
		<u>106,730,246</u>		<u>89,250,712</u>
Prosecutor's Trust Fund:				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	B-1	25,565,679		25,523,839
Interfunds	B-2	15,537		31,280
		<u>25,581,216</u>		<u>25,555,119</u>
Self-Insurance Trust Fund				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	B-1	<u>25,850,919</u>		<u>17,855,981</u>
Community Development Trust Fund				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	B-1	731,283		461,649
Due from U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development - Letters of Credit	B-5	45,012,469		48,972,891
HOME Improvement Program Mortgages Receivable	Contra	7,381,491		7,521,729
Small Business Loans	Contra	18,746		113,178
HOME Investment Mortgages	Contra	9,418,254		9,418,254
American Dream Mortgages	Contra	16,060,361		16,572,648
		<u>78,622,604</u>		<u>83,060,349</u>
Total Assets		<u>\$ 284,819,906</u>	\$	<u>255,892,891</u>
<u>LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE</u>				
Regular Trust Fund:				
Reserve for Dedicated Revenue:				
Motor Vehicle Fines and Road Openings	B-6	\$ 11,215,247	\$	7,865,043
Weights and Measures	B-7	266,594		143,555
Miscellaneous Trust Accounts	B-8	34,475,034		30,099,386
Road Permit Deposits	B-9	1,028,055		968,810
Reserve for Encumbrances	B-10	672,785		561,840
Contracts Payable	B-11	377,206		500,815
Interfunds	B-2			31,280
		<u>48,034,921</u>		<u>40,170,730</u>

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET - REGULATORY BASIS**  
**REGULAR TRUST FUNDS**  
**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024 and 2023**

	<u>Ref.</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE (continued)</u>			
Open Space Trust Fund:			
Reserve for Open Space Trust Fund	B-12	\$ 54,964,942	\$ 39,078,718
Reserve for Encumbrances	B-13	2,211,809	229,297
Reserve for Contracts Payable	B-14	49,553,495	49,942,697
		<u>106,730,246</u>	<u>89,250,712</u>
Prosecutor's Trust Fund			
Interfunds	B-2		5,340
Reserve for Prosecutor's Trust Fund	B-15	22,808,917	22,752,722
Reserve for Encumbrances	B-16	2,767,776	2,792,534
Reserve for Contracts Payable	B-17	4,523	4,523
		<u>25,581,216</u>	<u>25,555,119</u>
Self-Insurance Trust Fund:			
Reserve for Self-Insurance Trust Fund	B-18	25,288,660	16,711,938
Reserve for Encumbrances	B-19	562,259	1,144,043
		<u>25,850,919</u>	<u>17,855,981</u>
Community Development Trust Fund:			
Interfunds	B-2	47,832	585
Reserve for Expenditures	B-20	44,720,962	48,728,631
HOME Improvement Mortgages - Principal	B-21	5,680	38,859
HOME Improvement Mortgages - Interest	B-22	13,363	13,363
Reserve for:			
HOME Improvement Program Mortgages Receivable	Contra	7,381,491	7,521,729
Small Business Loans	Contra	18,746	113,178
HOME Investment Mortgages	Contra	9,418,254	9,418,254
American Dream Mortgages	Contra	16,060,361	16,572,648
Program Income	B-23	705,644	436,010
Small Business Loans - Principal	B-24	146,395	113,216
Small Business Loans - Interest	B-25	30,326	30,326
First Time Home Buyer Mortgages	B-26	73,550	73,550
		<u>78,622,604</u>	<u>83,060,349</u>
Total Liabilities, Reserves and Fund Balance		<u>\$ 284,819,906</u>	<u>\$ 255,892,891</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET - REGULATORY BASIS**  
**GENERAL CAPITAL FUND**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 and 2023**

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>Ref.</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	C-2, C-3	\$ 60,386,183	\$ 43,097,171
Infrastructure Trust Loan Receivable	C-4	170,639	170,639
NJ DOT Receivable	C-5	44,174,047	59,319,452
FEMA Hazard Grant Program Receivable	C-6	-	1,092,456
School District Receivable	C-7	64,602	64,602
Due from State of New Jersey	C-8	18,112,500	25,875,000
Federal Grants Receivable	C-9	700,000	700,000
Due from Bergen County Improvement Authority	C-10	83,009,664	25,063,165
Deferred Charges to Future Taxation:			
Funded	C-11	602,137,000	566,585,000
Unfunded	C-12	456,067,673	418,700,053
Total Assets		\$ <u>1,264,822,308</u>	\$ <u>1,140,667,538</u>
 <u>LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE</u>			
General Serial Bonds	C-13	\$ 602,137,000	\$ 566,585,000
Bond Anticipation Notes Payable	C-14	114,253,000	117,459,000
Capital Improvement Fund	C-15	16,843,494	1,002,038
Improvement Authorizations:			
Funded	C-16	154,427,112	113,131,832
Unfunded	C-16	264,800,130	252,904,347
Encumbrances Payable	C-17	94,314,465	74,882,337
Reserve for Preliminary Expenses	C-20	-	1,434
Reserve for County Roads	C-21	698,387	668,592
Reserve for Payment of Notes	C-22	1,452,077	1,469,327
Total Liabilities and Reserves		1,248,925,665	1,128,103,907
Fund Balance	C-1	<u>15,896,643</u>	<u>12,563,631</u>
Total Liabilities, Reserves and Fund Balance		\$ <u>1,264,822,308</u>	\$ <u>1,140,667,538</u>

There were Bonds and Notes Authorized But Not Issued at December 31, 2023 and 2022 of \$341,814,673 and \$301,525,129 respectively. (C-23)

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCE - REGULATORY BASIS**  
**GENERAL CAPITAL FUND**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 and 2023**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Balance - January 1,	\$ 12,563,631	\$ 10,311,276
Increased by:		
Cash Receipts:		
Premiums on Bonds	1,972,165	2,833,446
Premiums on BANs	462,727	863,948
Outside Funding for Bonded Projects	432,500	
Reserve for Preliminary Cost Reserve Cancelled	1,434	
Improvement Authorizations Cancelled	464,186	1,747,405
	<u>3,333,012</u>	<u>5,444,799</u>
	15,896,643	15,756,075
Decreased by:		
NJDOT Receivable		692,444
Down Payment on Improvement Authorization		2,500,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,192,444</u>
Balance - December 31,	\$ <u><u>15,896,643</u></u>	\$ <u><u>12,563,631</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

COUNTY OF BERGEN  
 FIXED ASSETS  
 AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024 and 2023

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET - REGULATORY BASIS

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Land	\$ 981,813,308	\$ 981,572,330
Improvements	374,832,524	374,826,224
Equipment	<u>110,242,231</u>	<u>103,755,797</u>
	<u>\$ 1,466,888,063</u>	<u>\$ 1,460,154,351</u>
Investment in Fixed Assets	<u>\$ 1,466,888,063</u>	<u>\$ 1,460,154,351</u>

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The GASB Codification establishes seven fund types and two account groups to be used by governmental units when reporting financial position and results of operations in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

The financial statements of the County of Bergen have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles and practices prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey (the “Division”) which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Such principles and practices are designed primarily for determining compliance with legal provisions and budgetary restrictions and as a means of reporting on the stewardship of public officials with respect to public funds. Under this method of accounting, the County accounts for its financial transactions through the following separate funds which differ from the fund structure required by GAAP.

**A. REPORTING ENTITY**

The County of Bergen (the “County”) was organized under an act of the New Jersey Legislative on November 30, 1675 and operates under an elected Commissioner form of County government. The County’s major operations include the County judiciary system; law enforcement, recreation, road and bridge maintenance and construction, the County correctional and penal system, health and welfare, education and general administrative services.

GASB has issued Statement No. 14 which requires the financial reporting entity to include both the primary government and those component units for which the primary government is financially accountable. Financial accountability is defined as appointment of a voting majority of the component unit’s board, and either a) the ability to impose will be by the primary government, or b) the possibility that the component unit will provide a financial benefit to or impose a financial burden on the primary government.

However, the counties in the State of New Jersey do not prepare financial statements in accordance with GAAP and thus do not comply with all of the GASB pronouncements. The financial statements contained herein include only those boards, bodies, officers or commissions as required by NJS 40A:5-5. Accordingly, the County does not include the operations of the autonomous agencies including the Bergen County Community College, Bergen County Vocational Schools, Bergen County Special Services School and the Bergen County Housing Authority.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**A. REPORTING ENTITY, (continued)**

In April 1995, the State adopted a law that gives the County Executive the authority to veto the minutes of a Utility Authority, Sewerage Authority and Improvement Authority. Based on this law and the criteria set forth in GASB Statement 14, this change would require the financial statements of the Bergen County Utilities Authority, the Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority and the Bergen County Improvement Authority to be blended into the County Financial Statements as opposed to being shown discretely. The audit reports of the above entities are available at each individual entities location.

**B. MEASUREMENT FOCUS, BASIS OF ACCOUNTING AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

The accounting policies of the County of Bergen conform to the accounting principles applicable to municipalities that have been prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey. Such principles and practices are designed primarily for determining compliance with legal provisions and budgetary restrictions and as a means of reporting on the stewardship of public officials with respect to public funds. Under this method of accounting, the financial transactions and accounts of the County of Bergen are organized on the basis of funds, which is different from the fund structure required by GAAP. A fund is an accounting entity with a separate set of self-balancing accounts established to record the financial position and results of operation of a specific government activity. As required by the Division of Local Government Services, the County accounts for its financial transactions through the following individual funds:

**Current Fund** – This fund is used to account for the resources and expenditures for government operations of a general nature, including Federal and State grant funds.

**Trust Fund** – Trust funds are used to account for assets held by the government in a trustee capacity. Funds held by the County as an agent for individual, private organizations or other governments are recorded in Trust Funds.

**Regular Trust Fund** – This fund is established to account for the assets and resources which are also held by the County as a trustee or agent for individuals, private organizations, other governments and/or other funds. These funds include dedicated fees/proceeds collected, developer deposits and deposited funds with the County as collateral.

**Open Space Trust Fund** – This fund is used to account for dedicated funds received to acquire land, improve recreation facilities, preserve farmland/historic areas and to assist municipalities in the acquisition and improvement of outdoor recreation facilities.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**B. MEASUREMENT FOCUS, BASIS OF ACCOUNTING AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION (continued)**

**Prosecutor Trust Fund** – This fund is used to account for assets seized by local and county law enforcement agencies. Any seized assets forfeited are allocated to the respective agencies or returned upon the conclusion of each legal case filed.

**Self-Insurance Trust Fund** – This fund is used to account for the expenditures of Worker’s Compensation, General Liability, Unemployment, Disability, Health Benefits and Dental insurance claims and premiums.

**Community Development Trust Fund** – This fund is used to account for grant proceeds and related expenditures for Housing and Urban Development Grant Entitlements.

**General Capital Fund** – This fund is used to account for the receipts and disbursements of funds used for the acquisition or improvement of general capital facilities, other than those acquired in the Current Fund.

**General Fixed Assets Accounting Group** – To account for all fixed assets of the County. The County’s infrastructure is not reported in the group.

A modified accrual basis of accounting is followed with minor exceptions. The accounting principles and practices prescribed for municipalities by the State of New Jersey differ in certain respects from GAAP applicable to local governments units. The more significant differences are explained in the following paragraphs.

***Property Tax Revenues*** – Real property taxes are assessed to each municipality within the County, based upon a County wide assessment at true equalized value. Taxes are payable in four quarterly installments on February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15. The amounts of the first and second installments are determined as one-quarter of the total tax levied against the municipality for the preceding year. The installment due the third and fourth quarters is determined by taking the full tax as levied for the current year against the municipality, less the amount previously charged as the first and second installments, the remainder being divided equally. If unpaid on these dates, the amount due becomes delinquent and subject to interest at 6% per annum. In accordance with the accounting principles prescribed by the State of New Jersey, taxes receivable are realized as revenue when collected. Since delinquent taxes are fully reserved, no provision has been made to estimate that portion of the taxes receivable that are uncollectible. GAAP requires property tax revenues to be recognized in the accounting period when they become subsequent to accrual, reduced by an allowance for doubtful accounts.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**B. MEASUREMENT FOCUS, BASIS OF ACCOUNTING AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION (continued)**

*Miscellaneous Revenues* – Miscellaneous revenues are recognized on a cash basis. Receivables for the miscellaneous items that are susceptible to accrual are recorded with offsetting reserves on the balance sheet of the County’s Current Fund. GAAP requires such revenues to be recognized in the accounting period when they become susceptible to accrual.

*Grant Revenues* – Federal and State grants, entitlements or shared revenues received for purposes normally financed through the Current Fund are recognized when anticipated in the County’s budget. GAAP requires such revenues to be recognized in the accounting period when they become susceptible to accrual.

*Budgets and Budgetary Accounting* – An annual budget is required to be adopted and integrated into the accounting system to provide budgetary control over revenues and expenditures. Budget amounts presented in the accompanying financial statements represent amounts adopted by the County and approved by the State Division of Local Government Services, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4 et seq.

The County is not required to adopt budgets for the following funds:

- Trust Funds
- General Capital Fund

The governing body shall introduce and approve the annual budget not later than March 29, of the fiscal year. The budget shall be adopted not later than April 30, and prior to adoption must be certified by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey. The Director of the Division of Local Government Services, with the approval of the Local Finance Board may extend the introduction and approval and adoption dates of the County budget. The budget is prepared by fund, function, activity and line item (salary or other expense) and includes information on the previous year. The legal level of control for appropriations is exercised at the individual line item level for all operating budgets adopted. Emergency appropriations, those made after the adoption of the budget and determination of the tax rate, may be authorized by the governing body of the County. During the last two months of the fiscal year, the governing body may, by a 2/3 vote, amend the budget through line item transfers. Management has no authority to amend the budget without the approval of the Government Body. Expenditures may not legally exceed budgeted appropriations at the line item level.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**B. MEASUREMENT FOCUS, BASIS OF ACCOUNTING AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION (continued)**

During the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Governing Body approved additional revenues and appropriations of \$33,582,506 and \$26,706,522, respectively, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87. In addition, several budget transfers were approved by the governing body in 2024 and 2023.

*Expenditures* - unexpended or uncommitted appropriations, at December 31, are reported as expenditures through the establishment of appropriation reserves unless canceled by the governing body. GAAP requires expenditures in the current fund, to be recognized in the accounting period in which the fund liability is incurred, if measurable, except for un-matured interest on general long-term debt, which should be recognized when due.

*Encumbrances* - contractual orders at December 31, are reported as expenditures through establishment of a reserve for encumbrances. Encumbrances do not constitute expenditures or liabilities under GAAP.

*Appropriation Reserves* - are available until lapsed at the close of the succeeding year, to meet specific claims, commitments or contracts incurred during the preceding year. Lapsed appropriations reserves are recorded as additions to income. Appropriation reserves are not established under GAAP.

*Compensated Absences* - expenditures relating to obligations for unused vested accumulated vacation and sick pay are not recorded until paid. GAAP requires that the amount that would normally be liquidated with expendable available financial resources be recorded as an expenditure in the operating funds and the remaining obligations be recorded as a long-term obligation.

*Interfunds* - advances from the Current Fund are reported as interfunds receivable with offsetting reserves, which are created by charges to operations. Income is recognized in the year the receivables are liquidated. Interfunds receivable in the other funds are not offset by reserves. Under GAAP, interfunds receivable are not recorded through operations.

*Deferred Charges to Future Taxation - Funded and Unfunded* - Upon the authorization of capital projects, the County establishes deferred charges for the costs of the capital projects to be raised by future taxation. Funded deferred charges relate to permanent debt issued, whereas unfunded deferred charges relate to temporary or non-funding of the authorized cost of capital projects. According to the N.J.S.A. 40A:2-4, the County may levy taxes on all taxable property within the local unit, to repay the debt. Annually, the County raises the debt requirements for that particular year in the current budget. As the funds are raised by taxation, the deferred charges are reduced. GAAP does not require the establishment of deferred charges to future taxation and records proceeds of debt issued as revenue.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**B. MEASUREMENT FOCUS, BASIS OF ACCOUNTING AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION (continued)**

*Improvement authorizations* – in the General Capital Fund represent the unexpended balance of an ordinance appropriation and is similar to the unexpended portion of the budget in the Current Fund. GAAP does not recognize these amounts as liabilities.

*General Fixed Assets* - N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.6 codifies Technical Accounting Directive No. 85-2, Accounting for Governmental Fixed Assets, as promulgated by the Division of Local Government Services, which differs in certain respects from GAAP, requires the inclusion of a statement of general fixed assets of the County as part of its basic financial statements. It also requires the County to place a value on all fixed assets put into service, to maintain a subsidiary ledger of detailed records of fixed assets and to provide property management standards to control fixed assets. General Fixed Assets are defined as non-expendable personal property having a physical existence, a useful life of more than five years and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit. Public domain (“infrastructure”) general fixed assets consisting of certain improvements other than buildings, such as roads, bridges, curbs and gutters, streets and sidewalks, and drainage systems, are not capitalized.

All fixed assets are valued at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual historical cost is not available.

No depreciation has been provided for in the financial statements.

Expenditures for construction in progress are recorded in the Capital Fund until such time as the construction is completed and put into operation.

Fixed assets acquired through grants in aid or contributed capital have not been accounted for separately.

GAAP requires that fixed assets be capitalized at historical or estimated historical cost if actual historical cost is not available.

*Use of Estimates* – The preparation of financial statements requires management of the County to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**B. MEASUREMENT FOCUS, BASIS OF ACCOUNTING AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION (continued)**

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

The following GASB statement became effective for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024:

GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*. The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences. That objective is achieved by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures. As a result of the regulatory basis of accounting described in note 1, this Statement will have no impact on the financial statements of the Borough.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has issued the following statements that have effective dates that may affect future financial presentations:

In December 2023, the Government Accounting Standards Board issued GASB Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures*. This Statement requires a government to assess whether a concentration or constraint makes the primary government reporting unit or other reporting units that report a liability for revenue debt vulnerable to the risk of a substantial impact. Additionally, this Statement requires a government to assess whether an event or events associated with a concentration or constraint that could cause the substantial impact have occurred, have begun to occur or are more likely than not to begin to occur within 12 months of the date the financial statements are issued. The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2024, and all reporting periods thereafter. Management is currently evaluating whether or not this Statement will have an impact on the basic financial statements of the Borough.

In April 2024, the Government Accounting Standards Board issued GASB Statement No. 103, *Financial Reporting Model Improvements*. The objective of this Statement is to improve key components of the financial reporting model to enhance its' effectiveness in providing information that is essential for decision making and assessing a government's accountability. This Statement also addresses certain application issues. The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2025, and all reporting periods thereafter, though, earlier application is encouraged. Management is currently reviewing the provisions of this Statement and plans to implement, as needed, before the effective date.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**C. BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The GASB Codification also requires the financial statements of a governmental unit to be presented in the financial statements in accordance with GAAP. The County presents the financial statements listed in the table of contents which are required by the Division of Local Government Services and which differ from the financial statements required by GAAP. In addition, the Division requires the financial statements listed in the table of contents to be referenced to the supplementary schedules. This practice differs from GAAP.

**NOTE 2. CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS**

**Cash**

**Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits**

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The County's policy is based on New Jersey Statutes requiring cash be deposited only in New Jersey based banking institutions that participate in New Jersey Governmental Depository Protection Act (GUDPA) or in qualified investments established in New Jersey Statutes 40A:5-15.1(a) that are treated as cash equivalents. As of December 31, 2024 and 2023, \$-0- and \$-0- of the County's bank balance of \$425,831,105 and \$425,068,943, respectively, was exposed to custodial credit risk.

**Investments**

**Investment Rate Risk**

The County does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates. However, New Jersey Statutes 40A:5-15.1(a) limits the length of time for most investments to 397 days.

**Credit Risk**

New Jersey Statutes 40A:5-15.1(a) limits municipal investments to those specified in the Statutes. The type of allowance investments are Bonds of the United States of America, bonds or other obligations of the towns or bonds or other obligations of the local unit or units within which the town is located: obligations of federal agencies not exceeding 397 days; government money market mutual funds; the State of New Jersey Cash Management Plan; local government investment pools; or repurchase of fully collateralized securities.

**Concentration of Credit Risk**

The County places no limit on the amount the County may invest in any one issuer.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 3. COUNTY DEBT**

Long-term debt as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 consisted of the following:

	<u>Balance</u> <u>Dec. 31, 2023</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>Dec. 31, 2024</u>	<u>Amount Due</u> <u>Within</u> <u>One Year</u>
Bonds Payable – General Obligation Debt	\$566,585,000	\$95,795,000	\$60,243,000	\$602,137,000	\$62,295,000
Other Liabilities: Compensated Absences	<u>22,500,549</u>	<u>4,645,513</u>	<u>4,436,355</u>	<u>22,709,707</u>	_____
	<u>\$589,085,549</u>	<u>\$100,440,513</u>	<u>\$64,679,355</u>	<u>\$624,846,707</u>	<u>\$62,295,000</u>
	<u>Balance</u> <u>Dec. 31, 2022</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>Dec. 31, 2023</u>	<u>Amount Due</u> <u>Within</u> <u>One Year</u>
Bonds Payable – General Obligation Debt	\$574,076,000	\$81,515,000	\$62,006,000	\$566,585,000	\$60,243,000
Other Liabilities: Compensated Absences	<u>22,589,717</u>	<u>5,694,689</u>	<u>5,783,857</u>	<u>200,500,549</u>	_____
	<u>\$569,665,717</u>	<u>\$87,209,689</u>	<u>\$67,789,857</u>	<u>\$589,085,549</u>	<u>\$60,243,000</u>

The Local Bond Law governs the issuance of bonds and notes to finance general capital expenditures. All bonds are retired in serial installments within the statutory period of usefulness. Bonds issued by the County are general obligation bonds, backed by the full faith and credit of the County. Bond anticipation notes, which are issued to temporarily finance capital projects, must be paid off within ten years and five months or retired by the issuance of bonds.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023  
(continued)**

**NOTE 3. COUNTY DEBT (continued)**

The County's debt is summarized as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Issued		
General		
Bonds, Notes and Loans	\$1,347,121,156	\$1,294,722,229
Less: Funds Temporarily Held to Pay Bonds and Notes	1,452,077	1,469,327
Additional Borrowing for County College Guaranteed by County	<u>14,032,000</u> <u>630,731,156</u>	<u>12,632,500</u> <u>610,678,229</u>
 Total Subtractions	 <u>646,215,233</u>	 <u>624,780,056</u>
 Net Debt Issued	 700,905,923	 669,942,173
 Authorized But Not Issued		
General		
Bonds, Notes and Loans	<u>341,814,673</u>	<u>301,525,129</u>
Net Bonds and Notes Issued and Authorized But Not Issued	<u>\$1,042,720,596</u>	<u>\$971,467,302</u>

The summarized statement of debt condition which follows is extracted from the County's Annual Debt Statement, indicates a statutory net debt of .459% and .463% at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

	<u>Gross Debt</u>	<u>Deductions</u>	<u>Net Debt</u>
<u>2024</u>			
General Debt	<u>\$1,688,935,829</u>	<u>\$646,215,233</u>	<u>\$1,042,720,596</u>

Net debt of \$1,042,720,596 divided by equalized valuation basis per N.J.S.A. 40A:2-2, as amended, of \$227,183,185,143 equals .459%.

	<u>Gross Debt</u>	<u>Deductions</u>	<u>Net Debt</u>
<u>2023</u>			
General Debt	<u>\$1,596,247,358</u>	<u>\$624,780,056</u>	<u>\$971,467,302</u>

Net debt of \$971,467,302 divided by equalized valuation basis per N.J.S.A. 40A:2-2, as amended, of \$209,966,156,157 equals .463%.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023  
(continued)**

**NOTE 3. COUNTY DEBT (continued)**

**BORROWING POWER UNDER N.J.S.A. 40A:2-6 AS AMENDED**

The County's remaining borrowing power under N.J.S.A. 40A:2-6, as amended, at December 31, was as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
2% of Equalized Valuation Basis	\$4,543,663,703	\$4,199,323,123
Net Debt	<u>1,042,720,596</u>	<u>971,467,302</u>
Excess Borrowing Power	<u>\$3,500,943,107</u>	<u>\$3,227,855,821</u>

Paid by Current Fund:

**General Obligation Bonds**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
\$4,313,000, 2009 County Hospital Bonds, due in annual installments of \$245,000 to \$388,000 through November 1, 2024, interest at various rates from 3.75% to 5.30%	\$	\$388,000
\$35,800,000, 2012 General Improvement Refunding Bonds, due in annual installments of \$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000 through December 1, 2027, interest at various rates from 1.00% to 2.25%	8,900,000	11,700,000
\$4,250,000, 2012 County College Bonds, due in annual installments of \$350,000 to \$400,000 through June 15, 2024, interest at various rates from 2.00% to 2.25%		400,000
\$4,250,000, 2012 State Aid County College Bonds, due in annual installments of \$350,000 to \$400,000 through June 15, 2024, interest at various rates from 2.00% to 2.25%		400,000
\$54,830,000, 2014 General Improvement Bonds, due in annual installments of \$1,605,000 to \$3,060,000 through April 15, 2039, interest at various rates from 2.00% to 5.00%		1,945,000
\$40,000,000 2014 Special Services/Vocational School Bonds, due in annual installments of \$2,000,000 through June 30, 2034, interest at various rates from 2.00% to 3.50%	20,000,000	22,000,000
\$4,250,000, 2014 County College Bonds, due in annual installments of \$425,000 through June 30, 2024, interest at various rates from 2.00% to 3.00%		425,000
\$1,600,000, 2015 County College Bonds, due in annual installments of \$105,000 to \$200,000 through June 30, 2025, interest at various rates from 2.00% to 3.00%	200,000	400,000

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 3. COUNTY DEBT (continued)**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
\$1,600,000, 2015 County College Bonds, due in annual installments of \$105,000 to \$200,000 through June 30, 2025, interest at various rates from 2.00% to 3.00%	\$200,000	\$400,000
\$47,315,000, 2016 General Improvement Refunding Bonds, due in annual installments of \$185,000 to \$7,215,000 through August 15, 2016, interest at various rates from 2.00% to 5.00%	13,595,000	20,810,000
\$25,668,000, 2017 General Improvement Bonds, due in annual installments of \$1,300,000 to \$2,573,000 through February 15, 2030, interest at various rates from 2.00% to 3.00%	14,468,000	16,368,000
\$2,134,000, 2017 County Vocational/Technical School Bonds, due in annual installments of \$100,000 to \$199,000 through February 15, 2031, interest at various rates from 2.00% to 3.00%	1,294,000	1,459,000
\$15,950,000, 2017 General Obligation Bonds, due in annual installments of \$875,000 to \$1,180,000 through December 1, 2033, interest at various rates from 2.25% to 3.00%	9,610,000	10,560,000
\$1,800,000, 2017 County Vocational/Technical School Bonds, due in annual installments of \$85,000 to \$120,000 through December 1, 2035, interest at various rates from 2.25% to 3.00%	1,180,000	1,275,000
\$750,000, 2017 County College Bonds, due in annual installments of \$80,000 to \$90,000 through December 1, 2016, interest at 2.25%	175,000	260,000
\$6,850,000, 2017 Taxable General Improvement Bonds, due in annual installments of \$705,000 to \$835,000 through December 1, 2026, interest at various rates from 2.50% to 2.95%	1,645,000	2,435,000
\$28,205,000, 2017 General Improvement Refunding Bonds, due in annual installments of \$45,000 to \$3,635,000 through November 1, 2027, interest at various rates from 2.00% to 4.00%	10,915,000	14,560,000
\$2,090,000, 2017 County Vocational/Technical Schools Refunding Bonds, due in annual installments of \$10,000 to \$425,000 through November 1, 2024, interest at various rates from 2.00% to 3.00%		425,000
\$2,000,000, 2018 County College Bonds, Series A, due in annual installments of \$150,000 to \$240,000 through June 1, 2028, interest at various rates from 2.25% to 2.50%	920,000	1,130,000
\$2,000,000, 2018 County College Bonds, Series B, due in annual installments of \$150,000 to \$240,000 through June 1, 2028, interest at various rates from 2.25% to 2.50%	920,000	1,130,000

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 3. COUNTY DEBT (continued)**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
\$4,050,000, 2019 County College Bonds, Series A, due in annual installments of \$250,000 to \$435,000 through June 1, 2031, interest at 3.00%	\$2,650,000	\$2,960,000
\$4,050,000, 2019 County College Bonds, Series B, due in annual installments of \$250,000 to \$435,000 through June 1, 2031, interest at 3.00%	2,650,000	2,960,000
\$70,315,000, 2019 General Obligation Bonds, due in annual installments of \$2,380,000 to \$4,755,000 through July 1, 2040 interest at 3.00%	57,825,000	60,465,000
\$8,895,000, 2019 County Vocational/Technical School Bonds, due in annual installments of \$430,000 to \$720,000 through July 1, 2035 interest at 3.000%	6,600,000	7,085,000
\$790,000, 2019 County College Bonds, due in annual installments of \$90,000 to \$110,000 through July 1, 2027, interest at 3.000%	320,000	420,000
\$50,140,000, 2019 County Guaranteed Governmental Lease Reserve Bonds, due in annual installments of \$1,950,000 to \$3,895,000 through October 2039, interest at various rates from 4.00% to 5.00%	44,235,000	46,240,000
\$72,670,000, 2019 General Improvement Bonds, due in annual installments of \$3,500,000 to \$4,790,000 through December 1, 2036 interest at various rates from 2.000% to 3.000%	54,170,000	58,070,000
\$2,000,000, 2019 Country Vocational/Technical Schools Bond, due in annual installments of \$120,000 to \$220,000 through December 1, 2031, interest at various rates from 2.000% to 3.000%	1,330,000	1,480,000
\$330,000, 2019 County College Bonds, due in annual installments of \$40,000 to \$65,000 through December 1, 2025, interest at various rates from 2.000% to 3.000%	65,000	125,000
\$2,000,000, 2019 Taxable General Improvement Bonds, due in annual installments of \$100,000 to \$200,000 through December 1, 2032, interest at various rates from 2.250% to 2.500%	1,445,000	1,570,000
\$2,050,000, 2020 County College Bonds, Series A, due in annual installments of \$125,000 to \$220,000 through June 1, 2032, interest at 2.00%	1,495,000	1,645,000
\$2,050,000, 2020 County College Bonds, Series B, due in annual installments of \$125,000 to \$220,000 through June 1, 2032, interest at 2.00%	1,495,000	1,645,000
\$31,850,000, 2020 General Improvement Bonds, due in annual installments of \$1,705,000 to \$2,710,000 through May 1, 2035 interest at 2.000%	24,845,000	26,645,000

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 3. COUNTY DEBT (continued)**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
\$3,615,000, 2020 County Vocational Technical Schools Bonds, due in annual installments of \$415,000 to \$500,000 through May 1, 2028, interest at 2.000%	\$1,895,000	\$2,340,000
\$835,000 2020 County College Bonds, due in annual installments of \$50,000 to \$100,000 through May 1, 2030, interest at 2.000%	580,000	655,000
\$6,670,000, 2020 Taxable General Improvement Bonds, due in annual installments of \$570,000 to \$775,000 through May 1, 2030, interest at 2.000%	4,270,000	4,900,000
\$54,945,000 2021 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, due in annual installments of \$1,005,000 to \$7,275,000 through December 1, 2031, interest at various rates from 0.173% to 1.636%	39,285,000	46,345,000
\$3,880,000 2021 County Special Services/Technical Schools Refunding Bonds, due in annual installments of \$80,000 to \$855,000 through December 1, 2029, interest at various rates from 0.173% to 1.466%	2,215,000	3,070,000
\$16,000,000, 2021 General Obligation Bonds, due in annual installments of \$600,000 to \$1,125,000 through June 1, 2041, interest at 2.000%	14,155,000	14,785,000
\$2,050,000, 2021 County College Bonds, Series B, due in annual installments of \$125,000 to \$220,000 through June 1, 2033, interest at 2.000%	1,645,000	1,790,000
\$2,050,000, 2021 County College Bonds, Series C, due in annual installments of \$125,000 to \$220,000 through June 1, 2033, interest at 2.000%	1,645,000	1,790,000
\$19,150,000 2021 General Obligation Bonds, due in annual installments of \$2,000,000 to \$2,425,000 through November 1, 2030, interest at 2.000%	13,075,000	15,125,000
\$1,855,000, 2021 County Vocational/Technical Schools Bonds, Series B, due in annual installments of \$210,000 to \$265,000 through November 1, 2029, interest at 2.000%	1,210,000	1,430,000
\$680,000, 2021 County College Bonds, Series C, due in annual installments of \$90,000 to \$140,000 through November 1, 2027, interest at 2.000%	380,000	490,000
\$41,625,000, 2021 BCIA Governmental Loan Revenue Bonds, due in annual installments of \$565,000 to \$2,850,000 through February 2039, interest at various rates from 0.433% to 2.841%	39,715,000	40,285,000
\$2,175,000, 2022 County College Bonds, Series A, due in annual installments of \$130,000 to \$225,000 through June 1, 2034, interest at 4.00%	1,905,000	2,045,000

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 3. COUNTY DEBT (continued)**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
\$2,175,000, 2022 County College Bonds, Series B, due in annual installments of \$130,000 to \$225,000 through June 1, 2034, interest at 4.00%	\$1,905,000	\$2,045,000
\$22,400,000, 2022 General Improvement Bonds, due in annual installments of \$1,050,000 to \$1,900,000 through May 1, 2037 interest at 4.00%	20,275,000	21,350,000
\$6,300,000, 2022 County Vocational/Technical Schools Bonds, due in annual installments of \$620,000 to \$770,000 through May 1, 2031, interest at 4.00%	5,040,000	5,680,000
\$1,300,000, 2022 County College Bonds, Series C, due in annual installments of \$135,000 to \$440,000 through May 1, 2029, interest at 4.00%	1,015,000	1,165,000
\$19,000,000, 2023 General Improvement Bonds, due in annual installments of \$1,260,000 to \$1,955,000 through June 1, 2035 interest at various rates from 3.500% to 4.000%	17,740,000	19,000,000
\$2,050,000, 2023 County College Bonds, Series A, due in annual installments of \$135,000 to \$210,000 through June 1, 2035, interest at various rates from 3.500% to 4.000%	1,915,000	2,050,000
\$2,050,000, 2023 County College Bonds, Series A, due in annual installments of \$135,000 to \$210,000 through June 1, 2035, interest at various rates from 3.500% to 4.000%	1,915,000	2,050,000
\$21,975,000, 2023 Taxable General Improvements Bonds, due in annual installments of \$3,965,000 to \$4,845,000 through June 1, 2028, interest at 5.200%	18,010,000	21,975,000
\$31,355,000, 2023 General Improvement Bonds, due in annual installments of \$2,700,000 to \$3,505,000 through October 15, 2033 interest at 4.00%	28,655,000	31,355,000
\$4,335,000, 2023 County Vocational/Technical Schools Bonds, due in annual installments of \$225,000 to \$450,000 through October 15, 2035, interest at 4.00%	4,110,000	4,335,000
\$750,000, 2023 County College Bonds, Series C, due in annual installments of \$110,000 to \$190,000 through October 15, 2028, interest at 4.00%	640,000	750,000
\$24,475,000, 2024 General Improvement Bonds, due in annual installments of \$1,395,000 to \$2,545,000 through March 1, 2036, interest at various rates from 1.00% to 4.00%	24,475,000	
\$7,995,000, 2024 County Vocational/Technical Schools Bonds, due in annual installments of \$590,000 to \$960,000 through March 1, 2034, interest rates from 1.00% to 4.00%	7,995,000	

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 3. COUNTY DEBT (continued)**

\$2,026,000, 2024 County College Bonds, Series C, due in annual installments of \$85,000 to \$170,000 through March 1, 2040, interest at various rates from 1.00% to 4.00%	\$2,026,000	\$
\$2,552,000, 2024 County College Bonds, Series D, due in annual installments of \$105,000 to \$200,000 through March 1, 2041, interest at various rates from 1.00% to 4.00%	2,552,000	
\$2,552,000, 2024 County College Bonds, Series E, due in annual installments of \$105,000 to \$200,000 through March 1, 2041, interest at various rates from 1.00% to 4.00%	2,552,000	
\$56,195,000, 2024 County Guaranteed Governmental Lease Revenue Bonds, due in annual installments of \$830,000 to \$16,000,000 through June 1, 2054, interest at 5.00%	<u>56,195,000</u>	<u>                    </u>
	<u>\$602,137,000</u>	<u>\$566,585,000</u>

The County's principal and interest for long-term debt issued and outstanding at December 31, 2024 is as follows:

	<u>Bonds</u>		
<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$62,295,000	\$19,297,174	\$81,592,174
2026	63,505,000	17,499,074	81,004,074
2027	56,865,000	15,598,561	72,463,561
2028	51,210,000	13,878,713	65,088,713
2029	43,145,000	12,426,336	55,571,336
2030-2034	184,627,000	43,015,683	227,642,683
2035-2039	94,485,000	18,509,451	112,994,451
2040-2044	17,540,000	9,520,350	27,060,350
2045-2049	12,465,000	6,804,625	19,269,625
2050-2054	<u>16,000,000</u>	<u>3,600,000</u>	<u>19,600,000</u>
	<u>\$602,137,000</u>	<u>\$160,149,967</u>	<u>\$762,286,967</u>

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 4. BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES**

The County issues bond anticipation notes to temporarily fund various capital projects prior to the issuance of serial bonds. The term of the notes cannot exceed one year but the notes may be renewed from time to time for a period not exceeding one year. Generally, such notes must be paid no later than the first day of the fifth month following the close of the tenth fiscal year following the date of the original notes. The State of New Jersey also prescribes that on or before the third anniversary date of the original note a payment of an amount at least equal to the first legally payable installment of the bonds in anticipation of which such notes were issued be paid or retired. A second and third installment must be paid if the notes are to be renewed beyond the fourth and fifth anniversary date of the original issuance.

On December 31, 2024 and 2023, the County had \$114,253,000 and \$117,459,000, respectively, in outstanding General Capital bond anticipation notes.

The following activity related to bond anticipation notes occurred during the calendar years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023:

<u>2024</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Barclays Capital Inc. Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company	\$28,550,000	\$	\$28,550,000	\$ -
	<u>88,909,000</u>	<u>114,253,000</u>	<u>88,909,000</u>	<u>114,253,000</u>
	<u>\$117,459,000</u>	<u>\$114,253,000</u>	<u>\$117,459,000</u>	<u>\$114,253,000</u>

<u>2023</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Piper Sandler & Co. Barclays Capital Inc. Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company	\$88,735,000	\$	\$88,735,000	\$
	36,445,000	28,550,000	36,445,000	28,550,000
	<u>88,909,000</u>	<u>88,909,000</u>	<u>88,909,000</u>	<u>88,909,000</u>
	<u>\$125,180,000</u>	<u>\$117,459,000</u>	<u>\$125,180,000</u>	<u>\$117,459,000</u>

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 5. PENSION PLANS**

Description of Plans

County employees participate in one of the two contributory, defined benefit public employee retirement systems: the State of New Jersey Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) or the State of New Jersey Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS); or the Defined Contribution Retirement Program (DCRP), a tax-qualified defined contribution money purchase pension plan under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) 401(a).

*Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS)*

Plan Description

The State of New Jersey Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the State of New Jersey, Division of Pensions and Benefits (the "Division"). For additional information about the PERS, please refer to the Division's annual financial Report statement, which can be found at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/annual-reports.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/annual-reports.shtml).

Benefits Provided

The vesting and benefit provisions are set by N.J.S.A. 43:15A. PERS provides retirement, death and disability benefits. All benefits vest after ten years of service, except for medical benefits, which vest after 25 years of service or under the disability provisions of PERS. The following represents the membership tiers for PERS:

<u>Tier</u>	<u>Definition</u>
1	Members who were enrolled prior to July 1, 2007
2	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after July 1, 2007 and prior to November 2, 2008
3	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after November 2, 2008 and prior to May 22, 2010
4	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after May 22, 2010 and prior to June 28, 2011
5	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after June 28, 2011

Service retirement benefits of 1/55<sup>th</sup> of final average salary for each year of service credit is available to Tiers 1 and 2 members upon reaching age 60 and to Tier 3 members upon reaching age 62. Service retirement benefits of 1/60<sup>th</sup> of final average salary for each year of service credit is available to Tier 4 members upon reaching age 62 and to Tier 5 members upon reaching age 65. Early retirement benefits are available to Tiers 1 and 2 members before reaching age 60, to Tiers 3 and 4 before age 62 with 25 or more years of service credit and Tier 5 with 30 or more years of service credit before age 65. Benefits are reduced by a fraction of a percent for each month that a member retires prior to the age at which a member can receive full early retirement benefits in accordance with their respective tier. Tier 1 members can receive an unreduced benefit from age 55 to age 60 if they have at least 25 years of service. Deferred retirement is available to members who have at least 10 years of service credit and have not reached the service retirement age for the respective tier.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023  
(continued)**

**NOTE 5. PENSION PLANS (continued)**

*Police and Firemens' Retirement System (PFRS)*

Plan Description

The State of New Jersey Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS), is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the State of New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits (the "Division"). For additional information about the PFRS, please refer to the Division's annual financial Report statement, which can be found at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/annual-reports.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/annual-reports.shtml).

Benefits Provided

The vesting and benefit provisions are set by N.J.S.A. 43:16A. PFRS provides retirement, death and disability benefits. All benefits vest after ten years of service, except for disability benefits, which vest after 4 years of service. The following represents the membership tiers for PFRS:

<u>Tier</u>	<u>Definition</u>
1	Members who were enrolled prior to May 22, 2010
2	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after May 22, 2010 and prior to June 28, 2011
3	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after June 28, 2011

Service retirement benefits are available at age 55 and are generally determined to be 2% of final compensation for each year of creditable service, as defined, up to 30 years plus 1% for each year of service in excess of 30 years. Members may seek special retirement after achieving 25 years of creditable service, in which benefits would equal 65% (Tiers 1 and 2 members) and 60% (Tier 3 members) of final compensation plus 1% for each year of creditable service over 25 years but not to exceed 30 years. Members may elect deferred retirement benefits after achieving ten years of service, in which case benefits would begin at age 55 equal to 2% of final compensation for each year of service.

Defined Contribution Retirement Program

Empower jointly administers the DCRP investments with the NJ Division of Pensions and Benefits. If an employee is ineligible to enroll in the PERS or PFRS, the employee may be eligible to enroll in the DCRP. DCRP provides eligible members with a tax-sheltered, defined contribution retirement benefit, along with life insurance and disability coverage. Vesting is immediate upon enrollment for members of the DCRP.

The State of New Jersey, Department of the Treasury, Division of Pensions and Benefits, issues publicly available financial reports that include the financial statements and required supplementary information of the DCRP. The financial reports may be obtained by writing to the State of New Jersey, Department of the Treasury, Division of Pensions and Benefits, PO Box 295, Trenton, New Jersey, 08625-0295.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 5. PENSION PLANS (continued)**

Defined Contribution Retirement Program

Employers are required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. Employee contributions are based on percentages of 5.50% for DCRP of employees' annual compensation, as defined. The DCRP was established July 1, 2007, under the provisions of Chapter 92, P.L. 2007 and expanded under the provisions of Chapter 89, P.L. 2008. Employee contributions for DCRP are matched by a 3% employer contribution.

Contribution Requirements

The contribution policy is set by laws of the State of New Jersey and, in most retirement systems, contributions are required by active members and contributing employers. Plan member and employer contributions may be amended by State of New Jersey legislation. The pension funds provide for employee contributions based on 5.5% for PERS. This amount will increase to 6.5% plus an additional 1% phased in over 7 years beginning 2012 and 8.5% for PFRS, which increased to 10% in October 2011, of the employee's annual compensation, as defined by law. Employers are required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate in all Funds except the SACT. The actuarially determined employer contribution includes funding for cost-of-living adjustments and noncontributory death benefits in the PERS and PFRS. In the PERS and PFRS, the employer contribution includes funding for post-retirement medical premiums.

The County's contribution to the various plans, equal to the required contributions for each year, were as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>PERS</u>	<u>PFRS</u>	<u>DCRP</u>
2024	\$16,122,671	\$27,204,628	\$27,971
2023	16,574,649	25,923,540	91,956
2022	15,104,763	23,135,028	71,258

Statement No's 68 and 71 require a state or local government employer to recognize a net pension liability measured as of a date (the measurement date) no earlier than the end of its prior fiscal year. However, since the financial statements are prepared on another comprehensive basis of accounting, the net pension liability of the various pension systems is not recorded in the financial statements and is only required to be disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023  
(continued)**

**NOTE 5. PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions**

**Public Employees Retirement System (PERS)**

At June 30, 2024, the County had a liability of \$167,823,312 for its proportionate share of the PERS net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2023 which was rolled forward to June 30, 2024. The County's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the County's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating governmental entities, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2024, the County's proportion was 1.2350805590 percent, which was an increase/(decrease) of (0.0287707818) percent from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2023.

For the year ended December 31, 2024, the County recognized pension expense of \$16,574,649.

At June 30, 2024, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to PERS from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of <u>Resources</u>	Deferred Inflows of <u>Resources</u>
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$3,361,810	\$446,792
Changes of assumptions	208,489	1,909,443
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments		7,781,508
Changes in proportion and differences between the County's contributions and proportionate share of contributions	<u>5,694,458</u>	<u>9,781,120</u>
Total	<u>\$9,264,757</u>	<u>\$19,918,863</u>

**COUNTY OF BERGEN  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023  
(continued)**

**NOTE 5. PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (continued)**

**Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) (continued)**

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from contributions subsequent to the measurement date (June 30, 2024) will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the subsequent year. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions (excluding changes in proportion) will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended June 30:	
2025	\$(7,125,368)
2026	5,513,397
2027	(3,171,976)
2028	(1,831,155)
2029	47,658

**Changes in Proportion**

The previous amounts do not include employer specific deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to changes in proportion. These amounts should be recognized (amortized) by each employer over the average of the expected remaining service lives of all plan members, which is 5.08, 5.08, 5.04, 5.13, 5.16 and 5.21 years for 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019 amounts, respectively.

**Additional Information**

Local Group Collective balances net of nonemployer (State of New Jersey) balances at June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023 are as follows:

	<u>June 30, 2024</u>	<u>June 30, 2023</u>
Collective deferred outflows of resources	\$1,079,580,780	\$1,080,204,730
Collective deferred inflows of resources	1,611,322,898	1,780,216,457
Collective net pension liability	13,588,045,796	14,484,374,047
County's Proportion	1.2350805590%	1.263097772%

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 5. PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (continued)**

**Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) (continued)**

**Actuarial Assumptions**

The collective total pension liability for the June 30, 2024 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2023, which rolled forward to June 30, 2024. This actuarial valuation used the following assumptions, applied to all periods in the measurement.

Inflation Rate:	
Price	2.75%
Wage	3.25%
Salary Increases	2.75-6.55% (based on years of service)
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 Percent

**Mortality Rates**

Pre-retirement mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 General Below-Median Income Employee mortality table with an 82.2% adjustment for males and 101.4% adjustment for females, and with future improvement from the base year of 2010 on a generational basis. Post-retirement mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 General Below-Median Income Healthy Retiree mortality table with a 91.4% adjustment for males and 99.7% adjustment for females, and with future improvement from the base year of 2010 on a generational basis. Disability retirement rates used to value disabled retirees were based on the Pub-2010 Non- Safety Disabled Retiree mortality table with a 127.7% adjustment for males and 117.2% adjustment for females, and with future improvement from the base year of 2010 on a generational basis. Mortality improvement based on Scale MP-2021.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2023 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 5. PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (continued)**

**Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) (continued)**

**Long-Term Rate of Return**

In accordance with State statute, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments (7.00% at June 30, 2024) is determined by the State Treasurer, after consultation with the Directors of the Division of Investments and Division of Pensions and Benefits, the board of trustees and the actuaries. The long-term expected rate of return was determined using a building block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in PERS's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2024 are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
U.S. Equity	28.00%	8.63%
Non-U.S. Developed Market Equity	12.75%	8.85%
International Small Cap Equity	1.25%	8.85%
Emerging Market Equity	5.50%	10.66%
Private Equity	13.00%	12.40%
Real Estate	8.00%	10.95%
Real Assets	3.00%	8.20%
High Yield	4.50%	6.74%
Private Credit	8.00%	8.90%
Investment Grade Credit	7.00%	5.37%
Cash Equivalents	2.00%	3.57%
U.S. Treasuries	4.00%	3.57%
Risk Mitigation Strategies	3.00%	7.10%

**COUNTY OF BERGEN  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023  
(continued)**

**NOTE 5. PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (continued)**

**Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) (continued)**

**Discount Rate**

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00% as of June 30, 2024. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current member contribution rates and that contributions from employers and the nonemployer contributing entity will be based on 100% of the actuarially determined contributions for the State employer and 100% of actuarially determined contributions for the local employers. Based on those assumptions, the plan’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments was applied to all projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

**Sensitivity of the Collective Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate**

The following presents the collective net pension liability of the participating employers as of June 30, 2024, calculated using the discount rate as disclosed above as well as what the collective net pension liability would be if it was calculated using a discount rate that is 1 - percentage point lower or 1- percentage-point higher than the current rate:

	June 30, 2024		
	1% Decrease	At Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
	<u>6.00%</u>	<u>7.00%</u>	<u>8.00%</u>
County's proportionate share of the pension liability	\$224,873,002	\$167,823,312	\$120,476,508

**Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position**

Detailed information about the pension plan’s fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued Financial Report for the State of New Jersey Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). The financial report may be accessed at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions).

**COUNTY OF BERGEN  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023  
(continued)**

**NOTE 5. PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (continued)**

**Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS)**

The following PFRS pension information is as of June 30, 2023 which is the latest information available. This information is eighteen months prior to December 31, 2024. GASB Statement No. 68 requires that the information be no more than twelve months prior to the employer's fiscal year end. No modification of the Independent Auditor's Report is being made since the Division of Local Government Services, Department of County Affairs, State of New Jersey, is permitting the regulatory basis financial statements of Municipal, County and Library's to be issued with unmodified opinion's until such time current pension information is available.

At June 30, 2023, the County had a liability of \$224,681,473 for its proportionate share of the PFRS net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The County's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the County's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating governmental entities, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2023, the County's proportion was 2.03354048 percent, which was an increase of 0.0402704300 percent from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2022.

For the year ended December 31, 2024, the County recognized pension expense of \$25,923,540.

At June 30, 2023, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to PFRS from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$9,620,411	\$10,715,314
Changes of assumptions	484,943	15,171,382
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	11,442,604	
Changes in proportion and differences between the County's contributions and proportionate share of contributions	<u>8,204,798</u>	<u>3,272,311</u>
Total	<u>\$29,752,756</u>	<u>\$29,159,007</u>

**COUNTY OF BERGEN  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023  
(continued)**

**NOTE 5. PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (continued)**

**Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS) (continued)**

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from contributions subsequent to the measurement date (June 30, 2023) will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the subsequent year. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions (excluding changes in proportion) will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended June 30:	
2024	\$(8,743,818)
2025	(8,391,241)
2026	13,500,653
2027	(1,161,163)
2028	414,448
Thereafter	42,383

**Changes in Proportion**

The previous amounts do not include employer specific deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to changes in proportion. These amounts should be recognized (amortized) by each employer over the average of the expected remaining service lives of all plan members, which is 6.16, 6.22, 6.17, 5.90, 5.92 and 5.73 years for 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019 and 2018 amounts, respectively.

**Additional Information**

Local Group Collective balances net of nonemployer (State of New Jersey) balances at June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022 are as follows:

	<u>June 30, 2023</u>	<u>June 30, 2022</u>
Collective deferred outflows of resources	\$1,753,080,638	\$2,163,793,985
Collective deferred inflows of resources	1,966,439,601	2,805,919,493
Collective net pension liability	11,048,782,843	11,446,356,176
County's Proportion	2.0335404800%	1.9932700500%

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 5. PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (continued)**

**Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS) (continued)**  
**Actuarial Assumptions**

The total pension liability for the June 30, 2023 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2022, which rolled forward to June 30, 2023. This actuarial valuation used the following assumptions, applied to all periods in the measurement.

Inflation Rate:	
Price	2.75%
Wage	3.25%
Salary Increases:	
Through all Future Years	3.25-16.25% (based on years of service)
Investment Rate of Return	7.00%

**Mortality Rates**

Employee mortality rates were based on the PubS-2010 amount-weighted mortality table with a 105.6% adjustment for males and 102.5% adjustment for females. For healthy annuitants, mortality rates were based on the PubS-2010 amount-weighted mortality table with a 96.7% adjustment for males and 96.0% adjustment for females. Disability rates were based on the PubS-1010 amount-weighted mortality table with a 152.0% adjustment for males and 109.3% adjustment for females. Mortality improvement is based on Scale MP-2021.

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2022 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023  
(continued)**

**NOTE 5. PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (continued)**

**Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS) (continued)**

**Long-Term Rate of Return**

In accordance with State statute, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments (7.00% at June 30, 2023) is determined by the State Treasurer, after consultation with the Directors of the Division of Investments and Division of Pensions and Benefits, the board of trustees and the actuaries. The long-term expected rate of return was determined using a building block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in PFRS's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023 are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
U.S. Equity	28.00%	8.98%
Non-U.S. Developed Market Equity	12.75%	9.22%
International Small Cap Equity	1.25%	9.22%
Emerging Market Equity	5.50%	11.13%
Private Equity	13.00%	12.50%
Real Estate	8.00%	8.58%
Real Assets	3.00%	8.40%
High Yield	4.50%	6.97%
Private Credit	8.00%	9.20%
Investment Grade Credit	7.00%	5.19%
Cash Equivalents	2.00%	3.31%
U.S. Treasuries	4.00%	3.31%
Risk Mitigation Strategies	3.00%	6.21%

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 5. PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (continued)**

**Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS) (continued)**

**Discount Rate**

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00% as of June 30, 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current member contribution rates and that contributions from employers and the nonemployer contributing entity will be based on 100% of the actuarially determined contributions for the State employer and 100% of actuarially determined contributions for the local employers. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments was applied to all projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

**Sensitivity of the Collective Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate**

The following presents the collective net pension liability of the participating employers as of June 30, 2023 calculated using the discount rate as disclosed above as well as what the collective net pension liability would be if it was calculated using a discount rate that is 1 - percentage point lower or 1- percentage-point higher than the current rate:

	June 30, 2023		
	1% Decrease	At Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
	<u>6.00%</u>	<u>7.00%</u>	<u>8.00%</u>
County's proportionate share of the pension liability	\$329,338,007	\$224,681,473	\$137,527,582

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 5. PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (continued)**

**Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS) (continued)**

**Special Funding Situation - PFRS**

Under N.J.S.A. 43:16A-15, the County is responsible for their own PFRS contributions based on actuarially determined amounts, except where legislation was passed which legally obligated the State to make contributions if certain circumstances occurred. The legislation which legally obligates the State is as follows: Chapter 8, P.L. 2000, Chapter 318, P.L. 2001, Chapter 86, P.L. 2001, Chapter 511, P.L. 1991, Chapter 109, P.L. 1979, Chapter 247, P.L. 1993 and Chapter 201, P.L. 2001. The amounts contributed on behalf of the County by the State under this legislation is considered to be a special funding situation as defined by GASB Statement No. 68 and the State is treated as a nonemployer contributing entity. Accordingly, the County's proportionate share percentage of the net pension liability, deferred outflows and inflows determined under GASB Statement No. 68 is zero percent and the State's proportionate share is 100% for PFRS under this legislation.

At June 30, 2023 and 2022, the State proportionate share of the net pension liability attributable to the County for the PFRS special funding situation is \$41,400,174 and \$40,605,220, respectively. For the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022, the pension system has determined the State's proportionate share of the pension expense attributable to the County for the PFRS special funding situation is \$4,709,185 and \$4,684,767, respectively, which is more than the actual contributions the State made on behalf of the County of \$4,734,585 and \$5,055,152, respectively. The State's proportionate share attributable to the County was developed based on actual contributions made to PFRS allocated to employers based upon covered payroll. These on-behalf contributions have not been reported on the County's financial statements.

**Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position**

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued Financial Report for the State of New Jersey Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS). The financial report may be accessed at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions).

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 6. FIXED ASSETS**

The following is a summary of the General Fixed Assets as of December 31, 2024 and 2023:

<u>2024</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2023</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2024</u>
Land	\$981,572,330	\$240,978	\$	\$981,813,308
Buildings and Improvements	374,826,224	6,300		374,832,524
Machinery and Equipment	<u>103,755,797</u>	<u>6,486,434</u>	<u>        </u>	<u>110,242,231</u>
	<u>\$1,460,154,351</u>	<u>\$6,733,712</u>	<u>\$ -0-</u>	<u>\$1,466,888,063</u>
<u>2023</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2022</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2023</u>
Land	\$981,572,330	\$	\$	\$981,572,330
Buildings and Improvements	373,132,810	1,693,414		374,826,224
Machinery and Equipment	<u>88,492,084</u>	<u>21,274,561</u>	<u>6,010,848</u>	<u>103,755,797</u>
	<u>\$1,443,197,224</u>	<u>\$22,967,975</u>	<u>\$6,010,848</u>	<u>\$1,460,154,351</u>

**NOTE 7. FUND BALANCES APPROPRIATED**

Fund Balances at December 31, 2024 and 2023, which were appropriated and included in the 2025 and 2024 County Budgets were \$42,804,779 and \$35,304,779, respectively.

**NOTE 8. DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLANS**

The County has established four deferred compensation plans for its employees under Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The plans are administered by outside agencies, which pay claims and invest the funds.

The County established a Deferred Compensation Plan as an enhancement program for the benefit of its employees to be provided by Nationwide Retirement Solutions. The County then established a second Deferred Compensation Plan as an enhancement program for the benefit of its employees, to be provided by the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States. The third and fourth Deferred Compensation Plans were established to be provided by the Empower Annuity Insurance Company of America, and Corebridge Financial Services, respectively. The Plans are substantially similar to one upon which a favorable Private Letter Ruling has been previously obtained from the Federal Internal Revenue Service except for provisions added by reason of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 (United States Public Law No. 104-188), and such provisions are stated in the Plan in terms substantially similar to the text of those provisions in Federal Internal Revenue Code Section 457.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023  
(continued)**

**NOTE 8. DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLANS (continued)**

The plans are available to all County employees and permit them to defer a portion of their salaries until future years. The deferred compensation is not available to employees until termination, retirement, death, or unforeseeable emergency. All amounts of compensation deferred under the plan, all property and rights purchased with those amounts, and all income attributable to those amounts, property or rights are solely property and rights of the individual contributors and are not subject to the claims of the County's general creditors.

**NOTE 9. POTENTIAL LIABILITY FOR ACCRUED SICK AND VACATION TIME**

Employees accrue sick time at the rate of 15 days per year. The time remains accrued until used. At time of retirement, the accrued unused sick time is used as a basis for calculating terminal leave as follows: present hourly rate times unused one-half accrued sick leave, to a maximum of \$15,000 to \$25,000 depending on the employee's title within their existing contract. The potential terminal leave liability for persons eligible, who are 60 years of age or older, or 10 or more years of service, as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 was \$14,843,311 and \$14,820,424, respectively.

Employees accrue vacation time at the rate of 15 days per year for the first five years of service and 30 days per year thereafter. The time remains accrued for two years; it must be used or it is lost. Terminated employees are paid for accrued time at the current rate. The value of accrued vacation time as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 was \$7,866,396 and \$7,680,125, respectively. No provision is made in the financial statements for the accrued value of terminal leave and vacation time.

**NOTE 10. INTERFUND BALANCES AND ACTIVITY**

Balance due to/from other funds at December 31, 2024 consist of the following:

\$16,028,952	Due to the Federal and State Grant Fund from the Current Fund for receipts not turned over.
47,832	Due to the Current Fund from the Community Development Trust Fund for receipts deposited in error.
15,537	Due to the Prosecutors Trust Fund for the Current Fund for receipts deposited in error.
<u>10,405</u>	Due to the Other Trust Fund from the Current Fund for receipts deposited in error.
<u>\$16,102,726</u>	

**COUNTY OF BERGEN  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023  
(continued)**

**NOTE 10. INTERFUND BALANCES AND ACTIVITY (continued)**

Balance due to/from other funds at December 31, 2023 consist of the following:

\$66,564,759	Due to the Federal and State Grant Fund from the Current Fund for receipts not turned over.
585	Due to the Current Fund from the Community Development Trust Fund for receipts deposited in error.
5,340	Due to the Current Fund from the Prosecutors Trust Fund for receipts deposited in error.
976	Due to the Other Trust Fund from the Current Fund for receipts deposited in error
<u>31,280</u>	Due to the Prosecutor Trust Fund from the Other Trust Fund for receipts deposited in error.
<u>\$66,602,940</u>	

It is anticipated that all interfunds will be liquidated during the fiscal year.

**NOTE 11. LEASES**

On December 20, 2017, the County entered into a lease agreement with the Bergen County Improvement Authority for property known as the Emerson Golf Course. Bergen County, through its' Parks Department, possesses the personnel and resources to operate the Emerson Golf Course as a high quality public golf course. The County, at its sole cost and expense, shall operate and maintain the Property during the term of the lease. The County shall provide security for the Property as the County deems appropriate. The County has agreed to assume all term contracts in effect in connection with the operation of the golf course on the effective date of the agreement including, but not limited to, alarm contracts, utilities, and golf cart leases or concessions. The County shall pay to the Bergen County Improvement Authority rent of one dollar (\$1) per year, payable on the first day of the term. The term of the agreement shall be for a period of one (1) year and shall automatically renew for additional periods of one (1) year.

**NOTE 12. CONTRACTS PAYABLE**

Current Fund contracts payable balances for 2024 and 2023 in the amount of \$12,677,516 and \$9,691,731, respectively, does not represent the liability due to vendors and employees for payment of goods or services received by the County. Included in this amount are contracts issued for the purchase of goods and services that have not yet been received.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 13. BERGEN COUNTY LEASE BANK PROGRAM**

In September 2003, the Bergen County Improvement Authority (the “Authority”) issued Bonds in the amount of \$19,395,000, with a final maturity date of May 1, 2009. The \$19,395,000 principal amount of Revenue Bonds, Series 2003 (the “Bonds”), consist of the \$1,480,000 principal amount County Guaranteed Capital Equipment Lease Revenue Bonds, Series 2003A (the “Series 2003A Bonds”) and \$17,915,000 principal amount County Taxable Project Revenue Bonds, Series 2003B (the “Series 2003B Bonds”).

Many Local Governments have requested the Authority’s assistance over the years to finance their capital items and equipment needs at the lowest possible cost. A number of these requests are to finance smaller capital items and equipment needs of Local Governments. The costs attendant with the large, standalone leasing deals between the Authority and Local Governments were often prohibitive for these transactions, which tend to have smaller borrowing amounts.

The Authority (the “lessor”) developed its Program in order to access the greatest number of bidders of governmental leases in the tax-exempt market. Under the Program, no bonds would be involved. The Authority, as lessee, would enter into a lease with the successful bidder to provide financing for the capital equipment, and as lessor (although this master lease would designate the Authority as title holder of the lease) the Authority would in turn enter into a sublease with the Local Government participant (the “sublessee”), whereby the Local Government would make lease payments under the sublease subject to appropriation or a general obligation sublease with a non-profit corporation. The Lease and Sublease would have the same terms, be cross-secured, and upon expiration thereof, the Authority would sell the capital equipment financed thereby to the Participant for \$1. The capital equipment would also secure the sublease payments, which Sublease payments and collateral would secure the Lease payments. The Authority acts as a conduit only and is indemnified by the Sublessee for claims relating to the equipment or the transaction. In addition, the County of Bergen would enter into an agreement with the Authority (the “County Agreement”) to provide payments to the Authority if there are insufficient payments under the Sublease, which payments would be subject to appropriation.

On April 21, 2004, the County adopted an ordinance approving the Authority’s Leasing Banc Program in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000. Subsequently during 2006 and again during 2008, the County adopted ordinances re-approving the Lease Bank Program and additional financing therefore not to exceed \$10,000,000 and \$8,000,000, respectively. In accordance with the terms of the “Agreement to Effectuate the Bergen County Improvement Authority’s Bergen County Lease Bank Program” between the County and the Authority (the “Agreement”), the County intends to appropriate moneys to the Authority to the extent the lease payment made by the Authority to the original lessor are not sufficient.

On April 20, 2009, the County adopted two ordinances authorizing additional funding to its Lease Banc Program, by a total of \$46,400,000.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 14. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

The County entered into a lease agreement with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) to finance, design, and construct a County Administration Building and parking garage on land the County owns and has ground-leased to EDA, adjacent to the County Justice Center in Hackensack. Based upon a design and construction budget of \$62.2 million, the building contains approximately 263,000 square feet while the parking garage and associated site parking contains approximately 1,400 parking spaces.

Bergen County will make annual rent payments of approximately \$4.8 million to EDA from 2001 through the end of the term in 2026 and will own the complex for \$1 at the end of the lease. Although greater than past rent due to the 103,000 square foot increase in space over the previous leased location, the rent per square foot of \$18.22 includes furniture, fixtures, and equipment and is very competitive with current market rents. Further, the rent amount is flat and fixed for the term of the lease with no future rent increases. Also, the County consolidated into the facility, various other divisions that were located at remote sites. The County fully maintains and operates the complex.

In November 2003, the County, through its Improvement Authority, issued \$27,595,000 in County Guaranteed Revenue Bonds in order to prepay a portion of rental payments under the lease agreement. The Bonds are dated December 10, 2003 and matured on November 15, 2018. The Bonds bear a variable interest rate ranging from 1.50% to 5.00%.

Additionally, in August 2005, the County, again through its Improvement Authority, issued \$30,075,000 in County-Guaranteed Revenue Bonds for the purpose of advance refunding of a portion of the EDA's Lease Revenue Bonds maturing November 15, 2026. These bonds are dated August 25, 2005 and have a final maturity on November 15, 2026. The Bonds bear a variable interest rate ranging from 4.00% to 5.00%.

Additionally, in February 2014, the County, again through its Improvement Authority, issued \$12,590,000 in County-Guaranteed Revenue Bonds for the purpose of advance refunding of a portion of the EDA's Lease Revenue Bonds maturing May 15, 2018. These bonds are dated February 13, 2014 and had a final maturity on May 15, 2018. The Bonds bear a variable interest rate ranging from 0.400% to 1.900%.

**NOTE 15. BERGEN PINES COUNTY HOSPITAL PROJECT (Now Known as Bergen New Bridge Medical Center)**

The County executed a Lease and Agreement, dated December 17, 1997 (the "County/Authority Agreement"), with the Authority, pursuant to which the County transferred the license for the operation of the Medical Center to the Authority, conveyed to the Authority a 19-year leasehold interest in the Medical Center, and delegated to the Authority the responsibility for managing, administering, operating and maintaining the Medical Center. The Authority thereupon executed a Lease and Operating Agreement, dated December 17, 1997, as amended and supplemented (collectively the "1997 Authority Lease and Operating Agreement") with Solomen Health Group, L.L.C. ("Solomen"), pursuant to which the Authority

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 15. BERGEN PINES COUNTY HOSPITAL PROJECT (Now Known as Bergen New Bridge Medical Center) (continued)**

conveyed to Solomen a 19-year sub-leasehold interest in the Medical Center and delegated to Solomen the day to day responsibility for managing, administering, operating and maintaining, at its sole expense (except for capital improvements) and for and on behalf of the Authority and as its agent, the Medical Center. The County/Authority Agreement and the 1997 Authority Lease and Operating Agreement each became effective on March 15, 1998. Solomon thereupon assigned its interest in the 1997 Authority Lease and Operating Agreement to a related entity, Bergen Regional Medical Center, L.P. (the “Manager”), which assumed all of Solomen’s rights and obligations under the Authority Lease and Operating Agreement. Under such Assignment, Solomen remained a guarantor of such entity’s performance thereunder.

The original expiration date of the 1997 Authority Lease and Operating Agreement of March 14, 2017 was extended by way of an amendment to the 1997 Authority Lease and Operating Agreement to September 30, 2017. By way of a separate agreement, the accounts receivable loan repayment by the Manager to the Authority, with an original maturity date of March 2020, was accelerated to December 31, 2017, with a corresponding discount and reduction in the principal and accrued interest due and owing by the Manager on the accounts receivable loan, so that the total amount due and owing on the accounts receivable loan in \$22,500,000. Payments by the Manager on the accounts receivable loan commenced on February 5, 2017 and all amounts due and owing to the Authority shall be paid by the Manager by the maturity date of December 31, 2017.

In anticipation of the expiration of the BCIA Lease and the LOA, on April 10, 2015 Executive Order No. 2015-03 was signed by the County Executive ordering and directing the establishment of a fifteen (15) member Healthcare Advisory Committee to explore how the BRMC may: (1) provide quality healthcare to residents of Bergen County and northern New Jersey; (2) provide a healthcare safety net for the elderly, indigent and those in need of emergency services; (3) provide for Veteran services; (4) adapt to changes in the healthcare market; and (5) provide quality healthcare services in a cost efficient manner.

On April 27, 2016, the Healthcare Advisory Committee issued the Healthcare Advisory Committee Report identifying guiding principles and establishing goals and objectives related to the future operations of BRMC and the selection of a tenant-operator or third-party operator, as follows:

- (i) Strong Capabilities in Acute Care, Behavioral Health and LTC,
- (ii) Maintenance, Improvement and Growth of Patient Services,
- (iii) Structure of Governance and Appropriate Oversight,
- (iv) Transparency & Collaboration with the BCIA and Other Stakeholders,
- (v) Alignment of Strategic Interests,
- (vi) Access for Bergen County Residents and the Underserved,
- (vii) Capital Commitments and Financial Considerations,
- (viii) Employee Retention, Advancement and Workplace Safety, and
- (ix) Sustainable and Viable Relationship

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**(continued)**

**NOTE 15. BERGEN PINES COUNTY HOSPITAL PROJECT (Now Known as Bergen New Bridge Medical Center) (continued)**

The BCIA and the County approved an amendment to the BCIA Lease on February 23, 2017, so that the Lease Term Closing Date would be coterminous with that of the LOA as changed by the Sixth Supplement.

The County and the BCIA desire to enter into this Agreement in order to establish the terms and conditions relating to the lease of the BRMC to the BCIA, who will then sublet BRMC through a Sublease, Lease and Operating Agreement with a Tenant-Operator.

By a Sublease, Lease and Operating Agreement dated July 14, 2017 between the Bergen County Improvement Authority (the “Sublessor”) and Care Plus Bergen, Inc., a New Jersey nonprofit corporation (the “Tenant-Operator”), the Sublessor desires to sublease certain buildings located on the Property and lease certain assets to the Tenant-Operator and for the Tenant-Operator to operate the Facility, and the Tenant-Operator desires to sublease certain buildings located on the Property and lease certain assets from the Sublessor and to operate the Facility for a period of nineteen (19) years with a commencement date of October 1, 2017.

As of the Commencement Date, the Tenant-Operator assumed the full operation of the Facility, including the responsibility for the maintenance and repair of the facilities and equipment including, but not limited to, the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, plumbing, electrical systems, sprinkler systems and the IT Systems (which shall include updates and upgrades to hardware and software to maintain the same in accordance with the IT Standards throughout the Term).

Under Section 11.1 of the Lease and Operating Agreement, Rent shall be equal to ninety percent (90%) of EBITDAR (total operating revenue minus total operating expenses recorded pursuant the GAAP, plus interest expense, income taxes, depreciation, amortization and the lease expense for the Subleased Premises and the Leased Assets (not excluding any other operating lease expense), less interest income and investment income), payable on a monthly basis commencing October 31, 2017 and continuing on or before the last business day of each month thereafter during the term. Under Section 11.2 of the LOA, During the Term, the Tenant-Operator will pay all expenses associated with the operation of the Facility, including, but not limited to, all utilities, supplies, purchased services (including management fees), professional service fees, employee compensation and benefits, Pastoral Care Services, applicable property taxes (including payments in lieu of taxes or any other government impositions) and insurance costs.

Under Section 11.3 of the LOA, The Tenant-Operator shall require up to Twenty Million (\$20,000,000) Dollars prior to and on the Commencement Date to fund all of the Tenant-Operator’s working capital (including twenty-one (21) days of DCOH (Days Cash on Hand) and other transaction expenses (the “Initial Cash Requirements”) as follows:

- (a) Up to Two Million (\$2,000,000) Dollars for transaction expenses actually incurred by the Tenant-Operator (the “Transaction Expense”); and

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 15. BERGEN PINES COUNTY HOSPITAL PROJECT (Now Known as Bergen New Bridge Medical Center) (continued)**

(b) Working Capital of Eighteen Million (\$18,000,000) Dollars (“the Working Capital Escrow”).

The Sublessor shall fund the Initial Cash Requirements through a loan in accordance with the terms of a promissory note made by the Tenant-Operator in favor of the Sublessor. Interest on the Sublessor Loan shall accrue at a rate equal to the Sublessor’s actual interest expense. The Tenant-Operator shall not be permitted to borrow money other than through the Sublessor Loan or as otherwise approved by the Sublessor in writing.

Under Section 11.5 (a) of the LOA all cash receipts related to patient service revenue generated by the Tenant-Operator shall be collected by the Sublessor except for professional medical services provided by Rutgers Physicians and that are billed by Rutgers and/or its agent; (b) On each of (1) the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of each month (or the first business day following the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of the month) and (2) the last business day of each month, the Sublessor shall remit the lessor of: (i) actual cash receipts collected or (ii) fifty percent (50%) of monthly budgeted operating expenses (excluding Total Rent Payments, Accrued Rent Interest and interest expense related to the Sublessor Loan), net of budgeted professional fee collections that the Tenant-Operator is expected to receive from Rutgers.

The Authority (BCIA) issued County Guaranteed Project Notes (Medical Center Project), Series 2017 totaling \$74,935,000 consisting of \$54,950,000 County Guaranteed Project Note, Series 2017A and \$19,985,000 County Guaranteed Project Note, Series 2017B at 2.25% interest and maturing on March 1, 2019. Proceeds of the Series 2017A Note will be used to provide funds to the Authority to (i) finance various capital improvements and equipment for the Bergen Regional Medical Center including, but not limited to, parking lot improvements, assessment and improvements to electrical power supply systems, HVAC, electrical vault, and air ventilation shaft improvements, boiler replacement and information technology improvements and (ii) pay the Series 2017A Note costs of issuance. Proceeds of the Series 2017B Note will be used to provide funds to the Authority to (i) provide working capital with respect to the Medical Center, and (ii) pay the Series 2017B Note costs of issuance.

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**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 16. INMATE MEDICAL SERVICES**

Billings for inmate medical services rendered to a prisoner in the Bergen County Jail is ultimately the responsibility of the County. The hospital is responsible to use its best efforts to collect amounts due from any source at the earliest possible date and to the greatest extent practicable (as permitted under applicable law). Additionally, a review of each bill is managed through an outside consultant in order to determine the reasonability of service. Due to this extensive process, the County cannot determine its liability until the process is complete, thus the County treats these billings on a pay-as-you-go basis, charging its current year appropriations.

**NOTE 17. RISK MANAGEMENT**

The County is exposed to various risks of loss related to general liability, automobile coverage, damage and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The County established a self-insurance program in accordance with the New Jersey Statute Chapter 40A:10. The Chapter enables the governing body of any local unit to create a fund to provide insurance coverage for its exposure to a wide variety of property casualty risks, including:

- Property damage caused to any of the unit's property, motor vehicles, equipment or apparatus.
- Liability resulting from the use or operation of such motor vehicles, equipment, or apparatus.
- Liability for the unit's negligence, including that of its officers, employees, and servants.
- Workers' compensation obligations.
- Health benefits, dental and prescription

The County self-insures for its automobile, general liability, and workers' compensation exposures. The County has purchased excess health benefit coverage for losses in excess of \$150,000. Additionally, the County maintains insurance policies covering property, fire, water utility, boiler and machinery, and employee fidelity. Various deductibles, limits, and coinsurance provisions apply to these policies.

For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the County has expended a total of \$110,687,424 and \$101,186,673 for the above programs. Post-employment health benefits are also included for eligible retirees.

During the year ended December 31, 2001, the County authorized \$15,115,000 in debt to help fund this reserve in accordance with an actuarial study. In 2002, the County issued a Note to fund this insurance reserve. On September 30, 2003, the County, through the Improvement Authority, issued \$17,915,000 Taxable Project Revenue Bonds, Series 2003B. Of this amount, \$15,115,000 was used to permanently finance this reserve for the County.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**(continued)**

**NOTE 17. RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)**

During the year ended December 31, 2022, the County adopted an ordinance in the amount of \$40,000,000 to help fund this reserve in accordance with an actuarial study. The purpose of this ordinance is to fund reserves for the self-insurance fund originally created to provide general liability (pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:10-6), worker’s compensation (pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:10-13) and health insurance (pursuant N.J.S.A. 40A:10-6) for present and former County employees. As of December 31, 2024 the balance of the ordinance is \$40,000,000.

**New Jersey Unemployment Compensation Insurance** – The County has elected to fund its New Jersey Unemployment Compensation Insurance under the “Benefit Reimbursement Method”. Under this plan, the County is required to reimburse the New Jersey Unemployment Trust Fund for benefits paid to its former employees and charged to its account with the State. The County is billed quarterly for amounts due to the State. The following is a summary of County contributions, employee contributions, reimbursements to the State for benefits paid and the ending balance of the County’s trust fund for the current and previous two years:

December 31,	Interest Earnings/County or Employee Contributions	Amount Reimbursed	Ending Balance
2024	\$556,422	\$508,889	\$2,426,915
2023	507,357	513,745	2,379,382
2022	919,659	116,619	2,385,770

**NOTE 18. POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

The number of retirees receiving retiree benefits as of December 31, 2024, the effective date of the biannual Other Post-Employment Benefit, herein referred to as “OPEB”, valuation is 1,901. Active employees number 1,885 of whom 127 are eligible to retire as of the valuation date. There have been no significant changes in the number of covered retirees or type of coverage since the valuation date. The average age of the active population is 47 and the average age of the retiree population is 69.

**Total OPEB Liability**

At December 31, 2024, the County had a liability of \$1,138,417,764 for its OPEB Liability. The OPEB liability was measured as of December 31, 2024 and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**(continued)**

**NOTE 18. POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

**Actual Assumptions and Other Inputs**

The total OPEB liability in the December 31, 2024 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified.

Actuarial Funding Method: Entry Age Normal Funding Method based on a level percentage of salary. 2024 salaries were reported as \$162.010 million.

Attribution period: The attribution period begins with the date of hire and ends with full benefit eligibility date.

Per capita cost methods: The valuation reflects per capita net premium costs based on actual 2024 medical and prescription drug premiums and the plan option selected. Plan selections are assumed to remain unchanged in retirement. The age specific cost was derived based on per person costs at the average age of the active population (47) and scaled to each age based on the medical cost aging factors. At age 65, Medicare Advantage benefits are provided and aging factors are no longer applied.

Retiree Contributions: NJ Chapter 78 requires that certain future retirees contribute toward the cost of their benefits. Specifically those who had retired prior to passage of Chapter 78 and those employees that had more than 25 years of service on the date of passage are grandfathered. All others are subject to the contribution rates in effect when they retire, but not less than 1.5% of their annual retirement allowance from the Public Employees Retirement System. For purposes of this valuation and for conservatism, we have assumed that future retiree contributions percentage rates will not increase.

<u>NET OPEB LIABILITY as of December 31, 2024</u>	
Net OPEB Liability December 31, 2023	\$1,169,926,540
Service Cost	\$ 23,232,223
Interest Cost	38,431,225
Difference Between Expected and Actual Experience	(4,059,538)
Changes in Assumptions	(60,539,055)
Benefit Payments	<u>(28,573,631)</u>
Net OPEB Liability December 31, 2024	<u>\$1,138,417,764</u>

**COUNTY OF BERGEN  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023  
(continued)**

**NOTE 18. POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

**Actual Assumptions and Other Inputs (continued)**

Total OPEB Expense Calculation as of December 31, 2024

Service Cost	\$ 23,232,223
Interest on Total OPEB Liability	38,431,225
Recognition of Experience Changes	(5,380,819)
Recognition of Assumption Changes	<u>(7,668,338)</u>
 Total OPEB Expense Recognized	 \$ <u>48,614,291</u>

**Sensitivity of Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate**

Actuarial measurements are sensitive to changes in actuarial assumptions and where actual experience differs from assumptions. If the discount rate were to increase by 1% per annum, the NOL as of December 31, 2024 would decrease to \$1,025,068,124 and if it were to decrease by 1% the NOL would increase to \$1,282,701,652.

**Sensitivity of Net OPEB Liability to Changes in Healthcare Trend Rate**

Actuarial measurements are sensitive to changes in actuarial assumptions and where actual experience differs from assumptions. If medical trend were to increase by 1% per annum, the NOL as of December 31, 2024 would increase to \$1,261,527,435 and if it were to decrease by 1% the NOL would decrease to \$1,042,745,500.

**NOTE 19. OPEN SPACE, RECREATION, FARMLAND, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FUND**

The County has established a Trust Fund in which the County will retain 70% of the fund to acquire land, improve recreation facilities, and preserve farmland and historic areas throughout Bergen County, with the remaining 30% to assist municipalities to acquire and improve outdoor recreation facilities.

The County will raise up to one cent per \$100 of total County equalized real property valuation during each of the next five years to fund this Trust.

During 1999 the County established a Trust Fund for the above. As of December 31, 2024 and 2023, the fund had a balance of \$106,730,246 and \$89,250,712, respectively.

Included in the balance as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, is \$57,176,751 and \$49,942,697 in contracts payable set aside for various municipalities in the County.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 20. OVERPECK PARK**

The County of Bergen owns Overpeck County Park, which had been a municipal sanitary landfill from 1952 to 1975. Four hundred acres of the site remain undeveloped. The site was conveyed to the County by the Village of Ridgefield Park, Township of Teaneck, Borough of Leonia, Borough of Palisades Park and City of Englewood for the purpose of development as a public park. The site to be developed includes land in Ridgefield Park, Teaneck, Leonia and Palisades Park.

The County entered into an amended final judgment on October 1, 2002 that requires the redevelopment of portions of the site by September 30, 2009. The natural forces of erosion have caused the site to deteriorate. It is necessary to close the landfill under present D.E.P. requirements to develop the park facilities in the future.

The County, through a grant agreement with the Bergen County Improvement Authority (the "BCIA") has transferred the responsibility for the closure and redevelopment of the landfill to the BCIA. As part of this agreement, the BCIA issued Notes in the amount of \$12,000,000. Such debt is cross collateralized by the County with its full faith and credit pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:37A-80.

Pursuant to the Agreement, within 45 days of the issuance of the \$12,000,000 Bond or Note, the BCIA paid \$8,500,000 to the County as a first licensing fee payment (which has been included as a revenue in the County's 2003 Budget). On September 8, 2005 the BCIA permanently financed these notes and issued a \$12,000,000 Taxable Revenue Bond, Guaranteed by the County.

Under the terms of the Agreement, the balance of the funds was used for all expenses relating to the project. Included in these costs is a \$2,500,000 payment to the municipalities (part of the court order). The remaining \$1,000,000 is made up of capitalized interest for two years (Note interest) engineering and licensing costs (NJDEP) and usual costs of issuance.

An analysis of the cost estimates for the closure and post closure of the landfill was performed. The report, which was received in April 2008, estimated the total costs of closure to be \$10,800,000 and the estimated post closure cost for 30 years to be \$9,800,000.

As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, the BCIA has accrued costs of \$15,661,508 and \$15,074,005, respectively, based on a percentage of the capacity of the landfill filled as of that date. The County, as the party ultimately responsible for funding these costs, is liable to the BCIA for the full amount of these accrued costs and has recognized this obligation on the books of its General Capital Fund. The County has adopted Ordinances 06-35, 07-73 and 08-48 and 10-16, to which the closure and post-closure costs were charged in full amount of the liability to the BCIA. As of December 31, 2011, the County has no liability to the BCIA for Overpeck Park Closure and post-closure costs.

In addition, refer to Note 2 of these notes to financial statements for a description of the \$7,383,149 New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust Loan awarded to the County for expenses related to the landfill. The loan finances, in part, Ordinance 06-35.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 21. PENDING LITIGATION**

The County is a defendant in various lawsuits, none of which is unusual for a County of its size and should be covered by the County's insurance program or by the County directly and which may be settled in a manner satisfactory to the financial stability of the County. Some of the more significant lawsuits are described briefly as follows:

A. Zisa v. County of Bergen

Plaintiff filed a Complaint, in June 2017 against the County of Bergen as well as the Bergen County Sheriff's Office and the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, amongst others, asserting claims for wrongful prosecution, false arrest, false imprisonment and civil rights claims. Plaintiff asserts that he was wrongfully accused of influencing a Driving-While-Intoxicated incident involving his former girlfriend while he was Chief of Police for the City of Hackensack. The prosecution arose during the disciplinary hearings for a Hackensack police officer, who is also a Defendant in this matter. Plaintiff claims that the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office and Bergen County conducted a deliberately malicious and false prosecution of his case, resulting in a conviction on misconduct in office and official corruption charges. Plaintiff appealed his conviction and they were eventually reversed. Plaintiff has not stated any dollar amount at this time. The case is currently before the Federal Court in continuing settlement negotiating sessions. The demand for settlement was \$7,500,000. It is believed that any demand in this case would exceed \$1,000,000 as to all Defendants collectively. Discovery is complete, all depositions have been taken, and the Court has not yet scheduled dispositive motions or a trial date pending completion of an in person meeting with the court in June 2025. The County of Bergen has responded with authorization for defense of the matter by outside counsel due to potential conflicts of interest between Defendants. The County of Bergen is presently monitoring the case while it is in extended discovery proceedings over privileged documents because individual members of the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office and Bergen County Sheriff's Office are named Defendants.

The County of Bergen has been dismissed from the case. In this case, the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office is treated as a separate legal entity for purposes of allocating liability and damages. Therefore, although the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office could be held liable for damages, the County of Bergen will not likely be held directly responsible for any claims or awards. The County of Bergen could potentially have to indemnify the Sheriff's Officer. The County has offered \$125,000 which was rejected. The Court stated at one point that the demand against the County of Bergen and the Sheriff's Office is \$200,000. There is also a component of attorney fees in connection with the civil rights claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and violation of the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination and the New Jersey Civil Rights Act.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 21. PENDING LITIGATION (continued)**

B. Nicole Barlow-Griffin v. County of Bergen

Plaintiff has asserted claims against Defendants for gender discrimination in violation of the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD); retaliation in violation of the LAD; aiding and abetting discrimination against Defendants Montello and Sandoval; intentional infliction of emotional distress; retaliation in violation of the Conscientious Employee Protection Act (CEPA); common law conspiracy; negligent infliction of emotional distress; and a violation of the New Jersey Civil Rights Act.

Other than conclusory allegations, Plaintiff has not produced any evidence to support the claims. Indeed, it appears that the crux of Plaintiff's claims really stem from Plaintiff be passed over for the Chief JDO position in 2022. In this regard, it is noted that Plaintiff's claim that she was improperly by-passed for the position is the subject of a separate administrative appeal to the Civil Service Commission and has been referred to by the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing which is currently pending and scheduled to be heard in 2024.

The case went to mediation on April 9, 2024, October 24, 2024 and February 13, 2025, the parties to this matter entered mediation with the with Hon. John E. Keefe, Sr., serving as the mediator in an attempt to resolve this case and a related administrative appeal that Plaintiff had filed with the New Jersey Civil Service Commission regarding her bypass for a promotion. At the conclusion of the mediation session on February 13, 2025, the parties arrived at a tentative settlement, the basic parameters of which were memorialized in a settlement memorandum. The settlement memorandum provided, amongst other things, that the County would pay Plaintiff a total of \$1,100,000. However, the parties were unable to agree to some of the other non-monetary terms of the settlement. The matter was submitted to the Court by way of cross-motions to enforce the settlement based on the parties' respective positions regarding the non-monetary terms. On June 6, 2025, the Court denied both motions to enforce the settlement without prejudice and ordered the parties to appear in-Court for a conference.

C. Victoria Alberto, et al. v. Bergen County Sheriff's Office, et al.

This complaint was filed in June 2017. Fourteen Bergen County Police Department officers alleging various violations, retaliatory demotions, and terminations arising out of the County of Bergen's dissolution of the independent Police Department. The Complaint asserts that 14 separate Plaintiffs were demoted. Plaintiff has not stated any specific dollar amount at this time. It is believed that any demand in this case may exceed the monetary threshold as to all Defendants collectively. However, as noted below, the County of Bergen Sheriff's Office Defendants may not ultimately face any exposure on this claim as some of the claims have already been resolved and the Defendants will ultimately move for dismissal of Plaintiff's claims.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 21. PENDING LITIGATION (continued)**

C. Victoria Alberto, et al. v. Bergen County Sheriff's Office, et al., (continued)

The matter is still in discovery. There was a delay with COVID and opposing counsel not being well for some time. In addition, the previous Judge in Hudson County assigned to this case retired in the interim and the matter has now been reassigned. Since that time, the Judge also suffered from a personal injury/condition which cause the matter to again be delayed for many months while the Judge recovered. The parties have since conducted a Case Management Conference with the Court and a new Case Management Order has been issued. The parties will be conducting, at some unknown time, remaining discovery, including but not limited to the taking of the depositions of all applicable parties. In addition, the BCSO Defendants may request leave of Court to ultimately file its dismissal motion on the remaining Plaintiff's counts set forth in the Amended Complaint, which will require Court approval prior to said filing.

The BCPO Defendants have a less than favorable chance to fully succeed on a motion to dismiss so the matter should ultimately resolve similarly to the initial Plaintiff's resolution. However, the issue would be the fee shifting aspect of the case and the potential award of Plaintiff's attorneys fees should the matter go to trial and a verdict be obtained. It is also important to note that, in this case, the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office is treated as a separate legal entity for purposes of allocating liability and damages. No demand has been made in this matter, but some settlements have already taken place. It is to be noted that eight (8) of the twenty-five (25) plaintiffs have each settled for an amount of \$20,000, inclusive of attorney's fees.

D. Valmir Xhemajli v. County of Bergen, et. al.

Plaintiff alleges that on October 21, 2021, he was assaulted by two (2) corrections officers employed by the County of Bergen while he was in custody at the Bergen County Jail. In addition to his assault and battery claims directly against the individual corrections officers, Plaintiff is asserting claims against the County for negligent infliction of emotional distress, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and a claim under the New Jersey Civil Rights Act. The parties entered into a Settlement Agreement and Release on January 9, 2025, a Stipulation of Dismissal was filed with the court.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 21. PENDING LITIGATION (continued)**

E. Melody Cunningham, Guardian ad litem for Jawara McIntosh v. County of Bergen

Notice of Claim has been filed on behalf of a Bergen County Jail inmate alleging jail personnel were negligent in monitoring inmate population, as well as delay in, and quality of, subsequent medical treatment. This case involves serious injury resulting from a fellow inmate suddenly attacked Jawara McIntosh, resulting in coma and brain damage. McIntosh subsequently died. Fact Discovery has concluded and the parties are presently conducting expert discovery. Counsel is awaiting plaintiff's expert report(s) and have engaged a jail standards expert to rebut the anticipated report. Counsel will consider retaining a medical expert as needed. Plaintiff has yet to make a settlement demand. It is the counsel's position that this was an unanticipated sudden attack by one inmate on another that was immediately broken up by corrections officers. Accordingly, counsel asserts that Bergen County defendants have no liability. Nevertheless, due to the serious injuries of Plaintiff, the liability exposure to the County is significant.

F. K.L. (minor) v. Bergen County Special Schools

Plaintiff alleges sexual assault by now former guidance counselor, who was criminally charged. The twenty-three count complaint sets forth causes of action under 1) Sexual Assault; 2) Respondeat Superior; 3) Negligent Hiring/Supervision/Retention; 4) Negligence; 5) Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress; 6) Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress; 7) Sexual Abuse of a Minor; 8) Sexual Harassment; 9) Violation of Title IX; 10) Civil Rights Violation; 11) Prima Facie Tort; 12) Breach of Fiduciary Duties; 13) Counseling and Psychological Malfeasance; 14) New Jersey Law Against Discrimination; 15) New Jersey Civil Rights Act, New Jersey Constitutional Substantive Due Process: Special Relationship; 16) New Jersey Civil Right Act, New Jersey Constitutional Substantive Due Process: State-Created Danger; 17) New Jersey Civil Rights Act, New Jersey Constitutional Procedural Due Process; 18) Deviation of Standard of Care and Gross Neglect; 19) Sexual Assault: Victim Under Supervision; 20) Willful Disregard of Rights; 21) Liability in Connection with the Actions of Another – Inadequate Supervision; 23) Liability in Connection with the Actions of Another – Failure to Adopt a Needed Policy.

The County's attorney filed an answer on September 17, 2020, denying the allegations set forth in Plaintiff's complaint. The County's attorney responded to Plaintiff's demand for interrogatories on December 2, 2020. Paper discovery was exchanged. Plaintiffs' deposition occurred on December 7, 2021. School District Counsel served supplemental interrogatories following that deposition requesting all emails, photographs, police reports and additional medical and psychological records, to which Plaintiff responded. The guidance counselor pled guilty to second degree sexual assault pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:14-c(4) on October 14, 2021. That party was sentenced to 5 years on April 13, 2022 and is currently confined by the New Jersey Department of Corrections.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 21. PENDING LITIGATION (continued)**

F. K.L. (minor) v. Bergen County Special Schools, (continued)

The County filed a timely Motion for Summary Judgement. The argument focused on how the County is a separate legal entity from the BCSS, had no hiring or supervisory authority over the guidance counselor and no notice of the sexual relationship between the counselor and K.L. Further, there is no evidence that Plaintiff notified any County employee of abuse. Plaintiff's counsel agreed to execute a stipulation dismissing the County from the case, with prejudice, on November 16, 2023.

G. Michael Duke Reeves v. County of Bergen

This is a civil rights action brought by Plaintiff alleging inadequate medical care at the Bergen County Jail. Plaintiff was an ICE detainee who came to the jail with a pre-existing injury to his right shoulder allegedly caused by ICE officers during the course of his apprehension. Plaintiff had right shoulder surgery performed at New York Presbyterian prior to being transported to the jail. Plaintiff had a second shoulder surgery during the course of his detention. Plaintiff contends that medical staff acted with deliberate indifference to his medical needs, and that the County had a policy and practice of providing inadequate care to ICE detainees.

The firm filed a motion to dismiss the Complaint as it believes the County is not an appropriate party to this case. The Court disagreed and denied the motion in part, but dismissed the count alleging Conspiracy. Plaintiff has made a settlement demand in the amount of \$6.5 million that, after mediation, came down to \$1 million. The parties completed depositions and exchanged fact discovery. Plaintiff insists that his shoulder complaints were ignored and that he was not sent to physical therapy. To date, counsel is not in possession of any documents to the contrary. Counsel continues to reject that the County had a policy or practice of providing inadequate medical care to ICE detainees and expert discovery supported that notion. Plaintiff had one treating doctor issue a short report in which he concluded that while an injury was sustained, he would not have recommended a different course of treatment. Accordingly, counsel moved for summary judgement, which is presently pending before the Court.

H. Gabrielle Jackson v. County of Bergen

This six-count Complaint was filed on December 5, 2022 by Plaintiff alleging that on or about December 12, 2020, Plaintiff, an African American female, was engaged in a peaceful protest in front of the Bergen County Jail to show solidarity with the hunger strike of incarcerated immigrants when her civil rights were violated and she was subjected to excessive force.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 21. PENDING LITIGATION (continued)**

H. Gabrielle Jackson v. County of Bergen, (continued)

Defendants denied the allegations, contend that the protest was not peaceful and that and Plaintiff became violent and resisted arrest. Bergen County Prosecutor's Office's Motion to Dismiss is pending but discovery is moving forward. The parties have exchanged initial disclosures and have propounded discovery requests. Counsel is in receipt of a large amount of body camera video footage which will take significant time to review. It is too early to determine the merits of Plaintiff's claims until discovery, including video footage, is reviewed and deposition of Plaintiff is taken. Magistrate issued an Order to Show cause due to the repeated absences of Plaintiff's counsel at telephonic and in-person status conferences, failure to prosecute the case, and non-compliance with court orders and discovery obligations. Magistrate scheduled a show cause hearing, requiring Plaintiff's Counsel and the Plaintiff to explain in writing by November 1, 2023, why the Complaint should not be dismissed. Plaintiff's Counsel was tasked with serving the order to the Plaintiff and filing proof of service with the court.

Neither Plaintiff nor Counsel responded to the Order to Show Cause. Plaintiff's Counsel continued to fail to comply with court orders and attempted to withdraw as counsel without proper procedures on more than one occasion. The court attempted to give Plaintiff's Counsel additional chances to rectify the situation, scheduling conferences and requesting communication, but Plaintiff's Counsel failed to appear. Plaintiff's Counsel even neglected to provide Plaintiff's last known address and contact information. As a result of Plaintiff's Counsel and his client's persistent non-compliance, on January 25, 2024, Magistrate filed a Report and Recommendation that District Judge, U.S.D.J. dismiss the Complaint with prejudice, citing a pattern of negligence and disregard for legal proceedings. On February 9, 2024, Magistrate issued an Order dismissing the matter with prejudice due to Plaintiff and Plaintiff's counsel's failure to participate in the litigation.

I. Estate of Percy Rengifo v. Bergen County Prosecutor's Office

Complaint filed April 26, 2019 in Bergen County Superior Court. Bergen County Prosecutor's Office vehicle collided with a 61-year old pedestrian in a parking lot resulting in fatality. The plaintiff is the decedent's son, Percy Rengifo, Jr. He is seeking damages for conscious pain and suffering of the decedent and economic damages. The plaintiff's last settlement demand was \$3,500,000. The County's last offer at mediation was \$2,500,000.

The jury attributed 35% liability to the decedent and 65% to the driver. The verdict was approximately \$340,000 gross. The County filed an Offer to Take Judgement for \$1,000,000 and as the verdict was less than that amount, the Court granted the motion post-trial for fees and costs, further reducing the verdict. The plaintiff has now filed an appeal arguing several legal issues ant that the verdict was against the weight of the evidence.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 21. PENDING LITIGATION (continued)**

J. Nicole Barlow-Griffin v. County of Bergen

Plaintiff, a Sergeant at the Bergen County Juvenile Detention Center (BCJDC), filed a complaint in July 2023, making various claims including 1) LAD Gender Discrimination & Retaliation: Plaintiff alleges a culture shift at BCJDC after Jorge Sandoval became Superintendent in 2012, claiming discrimination in promotions and accommodations; 2) Hostile Work Environment: Plaintiff cites instances of harassment, including being told to resign her position for a promotion, denied accommodations for fertility treatments, and subjected to sexist comment; 3) Safety Concerns & Retaliation: Plaintiff and other officers reported unsafe conditions and favoritism to County authorities, leading to alleged retaliatory actions from Sandoval; 4) Promotional Discrimination: Plaintiff claims that despite being the most senior officer, she was passed over for promotion to Chief in favor of a less qualified male colleague, with alleged discrepancies in the promotion process; and 5) Ongoing Discrimination: Plaintiff claims continued mistreatment, including being excluded from meetings and denied scheduling accommodations, while male counterparts are favored.

The parties engaged in three mediation sessions. During the third mediation on February 13, 2025, the parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding settling the matter for \$1,100,000 subject to County Executive and County Commissioner approval, made in two payments. It also allowed Plaintiff to remain employed with the County until July 1, 2025 or until she reaches 22 years of employment. The parties later disputed whether tax indemnification and PTO-related deductions should be included in the final settlement agreement, prompting Plaintiff's to file a Motion to Enforce the Memorandum of Understanding and Defendant's cross-motion to enforce the original settlement terms. Counsel is awaiting a decision from the court.

**NOTE 22. PROPERTY TAX CALENDAR**

Property tax revenues are collected, from individual municipalities, in quarterly installments due February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15. The amount of tax levied includes the amount required in support of the County's annual budget. The County has a 100% collection rate. The County's tax levy for December 31, 2024 and 2023 was \$504,788,603 and \$481,023,278, respectively.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**  
**(continued)**

**NOTE 23. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED BY SUBGRANTEES**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the County to record the value of property and equipment acquired by subrecipients with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds (CFR, 24 Part 85, Sections 85.31 and 85.32). The County does not hold title to this property and equipment, nor is this property and equipment considered to be County assets. Should the subrecipients sell or dispose of this property and equipment, the proceeds are due the County to be reprogrammed for other purposes.

Exceptions are for property and equipment valued at \$5,000 or less or held for 20 years or more. The estimated value of property and equipment acquired with CDBG funds as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 are \$28,243,390 and \$28,243,390, respectively, based upon information provided by the subgrantee.

**NOTE 24. MORTGAGES RECEIVABLE**

The County operates a Home Improvement Program through its Community Development Block Grant. Qualified homeowners apply for lines of credit, and improvement loans against these lines of credit are secured by mortgages on the improved property. Mortgage payments by homeowners are considered program income.

**NOTE 25. OTHER MATTERS**

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 into effect. This plan, among other things, provides direct federal funding to aid county and municipal governments to help offset revenue losses and cover increased costs incurred during the coronavirus pandemic response and to make necessary investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure. The amount of federal aid available to the County of Bergen is \$261,035,747 million which will be available for use until December 31, 2024. As of December 31, 2024, the County has committed all available funds.

**NOTE 26. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

A subsequent event is an event or transaction occurring after the balance sheet date, but before the financial statements are either issued or available to be issued. A review of the County's operating activity has been performed to identify events that provide evidence about conditions that did not exist as of the balance sheet date; instead, they arose subsequent to that date.

The County has evaluated subsequent events through May 27, 2025, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued and no other items were noted for disclosure.

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**CONDENSED COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEETS**  
**CURRENT FUND**

	<b>DECEMBER 31,</b>				
	<b>(Unaudited)</b>				
<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	157,292,878	172,107,991	214,538,157	246,625,702	185,507,308
Imprest and Change Funds	8,459	9,460	9,460	9,460	8,960
	<u>157,301,337</u>	<u>172,117,451</u>	<u>214,547,617</u>	<u>246,635,162</u>	<u>185,516,268</u>
Due From State	1,692,366				
Receivables with Full Reserves:					
Prepaid Payroll Taxes	7,370	5,448	75,313	95,403	362,367
Interfunds	37,151	47,832	5,925	131,639	
Due From State of New Jersey		8,685		2,302	9,674
Reserve for P Card	18,707				
Taxes Receivable					894,487
Due From Bergen County Improvement Authority	1,938,725	1,938,725	1,938,725	2,725,000	2,725,000
Due From Bergen County Community College				100,000	
	<u>2,001,953</u>	<u>2,000,690</u>	<u>2,019,963</u>	<u>3,054,344</u>	<u>3,991,528</u>
Deferred Charges					
	<u>160,995,656</u>	<u>174,118,141</u>	<u>216,567,580</u>	<u>249,689,506</u>	<u>189,507,796</u>
Federal and State Grant Fund:					
Cash					131,600
Due from Current Fund	3,407,458	16,028,952	66,564,759	126,194,646	70,467,077
Federal and State Grants Receivable	63,226,722	46,537,262	61,509,501	59,259,336	59,628,598
	<u>227,629,836</u>	<u>236,684,355</u>	<u>344,641,840</u>	<u>435,143,488</u>	<u>319,735,071</u>
<b>LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE</b>					
Liabilities:					
Appropriation Reserves	33,686,729	37,095,252	40,198,825	24,441,444	27,642,041
Contracts Payable	229,405	12,677,516	9,691,731	9,453,278	9,843,387
Miscellaneous Liabilities	3,862,434	3,958,193	3,374,680	3,529,472	
Encumbrances Payable	19,576,484	7,254,448	7,163,746	7,000,352	7,768,303
Due to Bergen County Technical Schools					
Reserve for Jail Expansion	6,877,043	6,877,043	6,713,296	4,048,196	
Reserve fro P-Card		5,160		9,288	
Reserve for Rockleigh ICF Closing	769,413	769,413	982,097	548,901	
Reserve for Election	2,785,618	5,098	933,566		
Deferred Revenue		439,177	130,501		280,871
Interfunds	3,407,458	16,054,894	66,565,735	127,625,229	70,677,250
Reserve for Sale of County Property					4,806,318
	<u>71,194,584</u>	<u>85,136,194</u>	<u>135,754,177</u>	<u>176,656,160</u>	<u>121,018,170</u>
Reserve for Receivables	2,001,953	2,000,690	2,019,963	3,054,344	3,991,528
Fund Balance	87,799,119	86,981,257	78,793,440	69,979,002	64,498,098
	<u>160,995,656</u>	<u>174,118,141</u>	<u>216,567,580</u>	<u>249,689,506</u>	<u>189,507,796</u>
Federal and State Grant Fund:					
Encumbrances Payable	14,913,569	25,472,601	22,237,083	33,857,908	32,410,110
Reserve for Federal and State Grants	51,553,389	36,949,283	105,634,445	151,458,631	97,583,153
Unappropriated reserves	167,222	144,330	202,732	137,443	234,012
Due to Current Fund					
	<u>66,634,180</u>	<u>62,566,214</u>	<u>128,074,260</u>	<u>185,453,982</u>	<u>130,227,275</u>
	<u>227,629,836</u>	<u>236,684,355</u>	<u>344,641,840</u>	<u>435,143,488</u>	<u>319,735,071</u>

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**

**CONDENSED COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
CURRENT FUND**

	<b>DECEMBER 31,</b>				
	<b>(Unaudited) 2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Revenue and Other Income Realized:</b>					
Fund Balance Utilized	42,804,778	35,304,779	36,698,617	29,763,022	24,443,265
Miscellaneous Revenue Anticipated	173,448,223	200,978,297	185,388,492	253,282,200	302,465,239
Receipts from Current Taxes	544,413,737	504,788,603	481,023,278	448,377,089	447,482,602
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes				894,486	
Non-Budget Revenue	6,862,839	9,467,289	22,852,843	5,928,330	5,994,477
<b>Other Credits to Income:</b>					
Unexpended Balance of Appropriation Reserve	23,564,542	21,868,818	12,429,764	16,498,961	13,756,759
Contracts Payable Cancelled	994,149	24	32,258	73,169	77,792
Interfunds Returned		5,925	131,639		
Other		17,962,706	2,489,054	6,550,566	7,999,322
	<u>792,088,268</u>	<u>790,376,441</u>	<u>741,045,945</u>	<u>761,367,823</u>	<u>802,219,456</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>					
Budget Appropriation	748,428,378	728,970,715	691,811,790	719,507,155	765,291,325
Interfunds Advanced	37,249	47,832	5,925	373,198	
Miscellaneous		17,865,298	3,715,175	6,243,544	8,608,383
	<u>748,465,627</u>	<u>746,883,845</u>	<u>695,532,890</u>	<u>726,123,897</u>	<u>773,899,708</u>
Excess in Revenue	43,622,641	43,492,596	45,513,055	35,243,926	28,319,748
<b>Adjustments to Income before Surplus:</b>					
Expenditures included above which are by statute Deferred Charges to Budget of succeeding year:					
Overexpenditures					
Statutory excess to Surplus	43,622,641	43,492,596	45,513,055	35,243,926	28,319,748
Fund Balance, January 1	<u>86,981,257</u>	<u>78,793,440</u>	<u>69,979,002</u>	<u>64,498,098</u>	<u>60,621,615</u>
	130,603,898	122,286,036	115,492,057	99,742,024	88,941,363
Utilized as Anticipated Revenue	<u>42,804,779</u>	<u>35,304,779</u>	<u>36,698,617</u>	<u>29,763,022</u>	<u>24,443,265</u>
Fund Balance, December 31	<u><u>87,799,119</u></u>	<u><u>86,981,257</u></u>	<u><u>78,793,440</u></u>	<u><u>69,979,002</u></u>	<u><u>64,498,098</u></u>

**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**CONDENSED COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEETS**  
**GENERAL CAPITAL FUND**

	DECEMBER 31,				
	(Unaudited) 2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
<b>ASSETS</b>					
Cash	45,889,418	60,386,183	43,097,171	46,661,417	42,383,171
Accounts Receivable	155,007,528	146,231,452	112,285,314	111,076,065	118,713,627
Deferred Charges to Future Taxation:					
Funded	559,388,000	602,137,000	566,585,000	547,076,000	574,718,802
Unfunded	503,732,172	456,067,673	418,700,053	442,288,375	349,041,877
Total Assets	<u>1,264,017,118</u>	<u>1,264,822,308</u>	<u>1,140,667,538</u>	<u>1,147,101,857</u>	<u>1,084,857,477</u>
<b>LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE</b>					
General Serial Bonds	559,388,000	602,137,000	566,585,000	547,076,000	574,347,000
Bond Anticipation Notes	140,500,000	114,253,000	117,459,000	125,180,000	127,500,000
Capital Improvement Fund	8,225,791	16,843,494	1,002,038	3,136,989	4,378,392
Improvement Authorizations:					
Funded	172,917,283	154,427,112	113,131,832	118,318,164	104,687,865
Unfunded	272,182,479	264,800,130	252,904,347	262,474,095	184,509,387
Reserve for Interest					
Encumbrances Payable	86,860,925	94,314,465	74,882,337	78,460,980	78,697,745
Environmental Infrastructure Trust Loans					371,802
Reserve for Payment of Notes	4,593,077	1,452,077	1,469,327	1,474,327	1,488,361
Reserve for State Aid		698,387	668,592	668,592	668,592
Reserve for Preliminary Expenses			1,434	1,434	1,434
Fund Balance	<u>19,349,563</u>	<u>15,896,643</u>	<u>12,563,631</u>	<u>10,311,276</u>	<u>8,206,899</u>
Total Liabilities, Reserves and Fund Balance	<u>1,264,017,118</u>	<u>1,264,822,308</u>	<u>1,140,667,538</u>	<u>1,147,101,857</u>	<u>1,084,857,477</u>

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**APPENDIX B**

**FORM OF APPROVING OPINION OF BOND COUNSEL**

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WATERS, McPHERSON, McNEILL

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

SECAUCUS — NEW YORK

MEADOWLANDS OFFICE

300 LIGHTING WAY

P.O. BOX 1560

SECAUCUS, NEW JERSEY 07096

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May \_\_, 2026

County of Bergen  
Hackensack, New Jersey

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have examined a record of proceedings relating to the issuance of \$37,460,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2026 consisting of \$27,984,000 General Improvement Bonds, Series 2026A (the “Series 2026A Bonds”), \$3,139,000 County Vocational/Technical Schools Bonds, Series 2026B (the “Series 2026B Bonds”), \$1,233,000 County College Bonds, Series 2026C (the “Series 2026C Bonds”), \$2,552,000 County College Bonds, Series 2026D (the “Series 2026D Bonds”), and \$2,552,000 County College Bonds, Series 2026E (County College Bond Act, P.L. 1971 c.12) (the “Series 2026E Bonds, and together with the Series 2026A Bonds, Series 2026B Bonds, Series 2026C Bonds and Series 2026D Bonds, the “Bonds”) of the County of Bergen, a body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey (the “County”) dated May \_\_, 2026. The Bonds are issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law of the State of New Jersey. The Bonds are authorized by: Resolution No. 488-25 of the County adopted on April 16, 2026, and the bond ordinances referred to therein, each in all respects duly approved and published as required by law; Resolution No. 485-25 of the County adopted on April 16, 2026; and Bond Ordinance No. 25-10 of the County finally adopted on April 2, 2026 and in all respects duly approved and published as required by law (the “Authorization Proceedings”).

The Bonds are issued in fully registered form to The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (“DTC”), and registered in the name of DTC’s nominee, Cede & Co. One bond certificate is issued for each year of maturity of the Bonds, numbered GI-1 to GI-12 in order of maturity for the Series 2026A Bonds; VTS-1 to VTS-23 in order of maturity for the Series 2026B Bonds; CCC-1 to CCC-12 in order of maturity for the Series 2026C Bonds; CCD-1 to CCD-15 in order of maturity for the Series 2026D Bonds; and CCE-1 to CCE-15 in order of maturity for the Series 2026E Bonds.

The Bonds mature on March 1 of each year until maturity, in the principal amounts, and bear interest at the interest rates per annum payable on September 1, 2027 and semiannually thereafter on March 1 and September 1 of each year until maturity, as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Combined Maturity Schedule</u>	<u>General Improvement Bonds, Series 2026A</u>	<u>Vocational/ Technical Schools Bonds, Series 2026B</u>	<u>County College Bonds, Series 2026C</u>	<u>County College Bonds, Series 2026D</u>	<u>County College Bonds, Series 2026E</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2027	\$1,845,000	\$1,485,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 65,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	%
2028	\$2,415,000	\$1,965,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 85,000	\$135,000	\$135,000	
2029	\$2,515,000	\$2,045,000	\$100,000	\$ 90,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	
2030	\$2,615,000	\$2,125,000	\$105,000	\$ 95,000	\$145,000	\$145,000	
2031	\$2,710,000	\$2,210,000	\$105,000	\$ 95,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	
2032	\$2,815,000	\$2,300,000	\$105,000	\$100,000	\$155,000	\$155,000	
2033	\$2,935,000	\$2,390,000	\$110,000	\$105,000	\$165,000	\$165,000	
2034	\$3,045,000	\$2,485,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	
2035	\$3,165,000	\$2,585,000	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	
2036	\$3,300,000	\$2,690,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$185,000	\$185,000	
2037	\$3,425,000	\$2,795,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$190,000	\$190,000	
2038	\$3,565,000	\$2,909,000	\$128,000	\$128,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	
2039	\$ 545,000		\$135,000		\$205,000	\$205,000	
2040	\$ 570,000		\$140,000		\$215,000	\$215,000	
2041	\$ 595,000		\$151,000		\$222,000	\$222,000	
2042	\$ 155,000		\$155,000				
2043	\$ 160,000		\$160,000				
2044	\$ 165,000		\$165,000				
2045	\$ 175,000		\$175,000				
2046	\$ 180,000		\$180,000				
2047	\$ 185,000		\$185,000				
2048	\$ 190,000		\$190,000				
2049	\$ 190,000		\$190,000				

The Bonds maturing on or after March 1, 2034 will be redeemable at the option of the County in whole or in part on any date on or after March 1, 2033 at a redemption price equal to the principal amount thereof, plus accrued interest to the date fixed for redemption.

In our opinion, the Authorization Proceedings have been validly adopted, executed and delivered, and are in full force and effect. The Bonds are valid and legally binding general obligations of the County, enforceable in accordance with its terms and the Authorization Proceedings, except insofar as the enforcement thereof may be limited by any applicable bankruptcy, moratorium or similar laws relating to the enforcement of creditors' rights. The County has the power and is obligated to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all the taxable real property within the County for the payment of the Bonds and the interest thereon without limitation as to rate or amount. The Series 2026B Bonds are further secured under the provisions of the New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act (N.J.S.A. 18A:56-17 et seq.). The Series 2026E Bonds are also entitled to the benefits of N.J.S.A. 18A:64A-22.1 et seq. which provides for appropriations of State aid for payment of 1/2 the debt service on bonds issued for county college capital projects.

The County has covenanted to comply with any continuing requirements that may be necessary to preserve the tax exempt status of the Bonds under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). In the event that the County continuously complies with its covenant, it is our opinion that interest on the Bonds is not includable in gross income for federal income tax

purposes under the current law. It is also our opinion that interest on the Bonds is also not an item of tax preference under Section 57 of the Code when calculating the federal alternative minimum tax on individuals. However, interest on the Bonds is included in computing adjusted financial statement income of those corporations subject to the corporate alternative minimum tax. The Bonds are not “private activity bonds” as defined in the Code. We express no opinion regarding other federal tax consequences or other federal taxes arising with respect to the Bonds.

Further, in our opinion, under current law interest on the Bonds, and any gain on the sale thereof, is not includable as gross income under the New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act.

Our engagement by the County with respect to the opinions expressed herein does not require, and shall not be construed to constitute, a continuing obligation on our part to notify or otherwise inform the addressee hereof of the amendment, repeal or other modification of the applicable laws or judicial decisions that served as the basis for this opinion letter or of any laws or judicial decisions hereafter enacted or rendered that impact on this opinion letter.

This opinion letter is being furnished solely to the party to whom it is addressed, and it may not be relied upon by any other person or quoted in whole or in part or otherwise referred to without our express prior written consent.

Very truly yours,

WATERS, McPHERSON, McNEILL, P.C.

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**APPENDIX C**

**FORM OF SECONDARY MARKET DISCLOSURE UNDERTAKING**

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**FORM OF  
SECONDARY MARKET DISCLOSURE UNDERTAKING**

This UNDERTAKING is made as of May 1, 2026 by the County of Bergen, a body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey (the “Issuer”) in order to comply with the secondary market disclosure requirements contemplated by Rule 15c2-12 adopted by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Rule”). Defined terms used in this UNDERTAKING shall have the definitions set forth in the Rule unless the context of this UNDERTAKING clearly indicates otherwise.

Section 1. The obligations with respect to which this UNDERTAKING applies are the Issuer’s \$37,460,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2026 consisting of \$27,984,000 General Improvement Bonds, Series 2026A, \$3,139,000 County Vocational/Technical Schools Bonds, Series 2026B, \$1,233,000 County College Bonds, Series 2026C, \$2,552,000 County College Bonds, Series 2026D, and \$2,552,000 County College Bonds, Series 2026E (County College Bond Act, P.L. 1971 c.12) described in Appendix A hereto (collectively, the “Municipal Securities”).

Section 2. The term of this UNDERTAKING is from the date of delivery of the Municipal Securities to the date of the last payment of the principal amount or redemption price, if any, and interest to accrue thereon, of the Municipal Securities.

Section 3. The Issuer is the only Obligated Person with respect to the Municipal Securities.

Section 4. The Issuer undertakes to provide the following Annual Financial Information and Operating Data to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board in an electronic format to be filed with the Electronic Municipal Market Access system (“EMMA”, [www.emma.msrb.org](http://www.emma.msrb.org)) for each fiscal year ending on or after December 31, 2026:

- (1) Audited Financial Statements (or Unaudited Financial Statements as set forth in Section 5(1) of this UNDERTAKING);
- (2) Property Valuation;
- (3) Tax Rate;
- (4) Tax Levy and Collection Data;
- (5) New Debt; and
- (6) Litigation.

Section 5. The Issuer shall file the Annual Financial Information and Operating Data with EMMA on or before October 1 following the close of the Issuer's fiscal year ending on the preceding December 31.

- (1) If the Issuer's Audited Financial Statements are not available by the October 1 filing deadline, the Issuer shall file its Unaudited Financial Statements on or before the October 1 filing deadline and thereafter file its Audited Financial Statements as soon as it becomes available.
- (2) If the Issuer fails to file the Annual Financial Information and Operating Data with EMMA by the October 1 filing deadline, the Issuer shall file a notice with EMMA of such failure on October 2, and thereafter file the Annual Financial Information and Operating Data with EMMA as soon it becomes available.
- (3) If the fiscal year of the Issuer changes, notice of such change and of the subsequent change in the aforementioned filing deadlines shall be filed with EMMA within 10 days after such occurrence.

Section 6. The accounting principles followed by the Issuer are the New Jersey Accounting Principles, as promulgated by the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey. If the Issuer is required by law or regulation to adopt different accounting principles, notice of such change shall be provided at the time the Issuer files its next succeeding Annual Financial Information and Operating Data.

Section 7. The Issuer undertakes to file notices with EMMA of the occurrence of any of the following events of which it has direct knowledge with respect to the Municipal Securities, within 10 days after such occurrence:

- (1) Principal and interest payment delinquencies;
- (2) Non-payment related defaults, if material;
- (3) Unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties;
- (4) Unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties;
- (5) Substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or of their failure to perform;
- (6) Adverse tax opinions, the issuance by the Internal Revenue Service of proposed or final determinations of taxability, Notices of Proposed Issue (IRS Form 5701-TEB) or other material notices or determinations with respect to the tax status of the Municipal Securities, or other material events affecting the tax status of the Municipal Securities;

- (7) Modifications to the rights of the holders of the Municipal Securities, if material;
- (8) Bond calls, if material, and tender offers;
- (9) Defeasances;
- (10) Release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the Municipal Securities, if material;
- (11) Rating changes of the Issuer, but not of a credit enhancement provider such as a Bond Insurer, if any, for the Municipal Securities, unless the Issuer has direct knowledge of such ratings changes;
- (12) Bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the Issuer;
- (13) The consummation of a merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving the Issuer or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Issuer, other than in the ordinary course of business, the entry into a definitive agreement to undertake such an action or the termination of a definitive agreement relating to any such actions, other than pursuant to its terms, if material;
- (14) Appointment of a successor or additional trustee, or the change of name of a trustee, if material;
- (15) The incurrence of a financial obligation of the Issuer, if material, or agreement to covenants, events of default, remedies, priority rights, or other similar terms of a financial obligation of the Issuer, any of which affect security holders, if material; and
- (16) Default, event of acceleration, termination event, modification of terms, or other similar events under the terms of a financial obligation of the Issuer, any of which reflect financial difficulties.

The Issuer, from time to time, may choose to file notices with EMMA of the occurrence of any event, in addition to those listed above. Nevertheless, the Issuer does not undertake to file any such notice with EMMA of the occurrence of any event except those events set forth and enumerated (1) through (16) above. Notices filed with EMMA pursuant to this UNDERTAKING shall be drafted substantially in the form set forth in Appendix B hereto.

The term, “*financial obligation*” shall mean a (i) debt obligation; (ii) derivative instrument entered into in connection with, or pledged as security or a source of payment for, an existing or planned debt obligation; or (iii) a guarantee of (i) or (ii). The term financial obligation shall not include municipal securities as to which a final official statement has been provided to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board consistent with the Rule.

Section 8. This UNDERTAKING is made for the benefit of the holders or beneficial owners of the Municipal Securities and may be enforced by any such holder or beneficial owner. The sole remedy of any such holder or beneficial owner shall be for specific performance of this UNDERTAKING and not for money damages in any amount.

Section 9. The Issuer designates the County Chief Financial Officer as the person charged with the responsibility to execute the obligations set forth in this UNDERTAKING. The Issuer, from time to time, may hereafter designate an Agent with such responsibility by resolution of its governing body.

Section 10. The Issuer may amend any provision of this UNDERTAKING if the Issuer's bond counsel issues an opinion supporting a determination that:

- (1) This UNDERTAKING, as amended, would have complied with the requirements of the Rule at the time of the primary offering of the Municipal Securities, after taking into account any amendments or interpretations of the Rule; and
- (2) The amendment does not materially impair the interests of the holders or beneficial owners of the Municipal Securities.

Notice of any amendment to this UNDERTAKING shall be filed with EMMA in a timely manner.

Section 11. The Issuer may rely on an opinion of its bond counsel when determining questions of materiality relating to any provision of this UNDERTAKING and the Rule.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the County of Bergen has caused this UNDERTAKING to be executed in its name by the County Chief Financial Officer, and its official seal to be affixed hereon and attested to by the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, all as of the date set forth herein above.

[ SEAL ]

COUNTY OF BERGEN

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lara Pollitt  
Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Rheinhardt  
Chief Financial Officer

Appendix A

DESCRIPTION OF THE MUNICIPAL SECURITIES

Appendix B

FORM OF

NOTICE TO MUNICIPAL SECURITIES RULEMAKING BOARD  
OF FAILURE TO FILE VIA  
ELECTRONIC MUNICIPAL MARKET ACCESS

Name of Issuer/  
Obligated Person: COUNTY OF BERGEN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Issuer/Obligated Person failed to file, in a timely manner, as required pursuant to its prior secondary market disclosure undertakings: (1) Annual Financial Information for the fiscal years ending December 31, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; and (2) Operating Data for the fiscal years ending December 31, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. The Issuer/Obligated Person has subsequently filed the required information.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY OF BERGEN  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY