



Ras J. Baraka
Mayor, City of Newark, New Jersey

Ras J. Baraka is the 40th Mayor of the City of Newark. A native of Newark, whose family has lived in the City for more than 80 years, Mayor Baraka's progressive approach to governing has won him accolades from grassroots organizations to the White House. With a forward-thinking agenda that reduced crime to its lowest levels in five decades, addressed affordability while maintaining steady growth, lowered unemployment, and returned local control of schools after more than two decades, Baraka has defied expectations since taking office in 2014.

Mayor Baraka's futurist agenda includes the implementation of a groundbreaking partnership called Hire. Buy. Live. Newark, a program that marks the first time that any US city has sought to transform its economy by combining employment, procurement, and residential strategies. As part of his commitment to strengthen Newark's position in the expanded technology space, the City launched LinkNWK (pronounced Link Newark). This communications network of sidewalk kiosks provides Newark residents and visitors with free, gigabit Wi-Fi, mobile device charging, phone calls to anywhere in the U.S., access to municipal services, maps and directions, and real-time local information on city streets at no cost to taxpayers or users. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and History from Howard University in Washington, D.C. and a Master's Degree in Education Supervision from St. Peter's University in Jersey City.



John Brenner
Executive Director Designate, Pennsylvania Municipal League

John S. Brenner currently serves as Executive Director Designate of the Pennsylvania Municipal League. The League is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that serves Pennsylvania's cities and urban municipalities. Elected the youngest mayor of the City of York on November 6, 2001, he was sworn in as the 23rd Mayor on January 7, 2002. Prior to that, he served as the City Controller for two years. Mr. Brenner served as the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute, a statewide nonprofit group charged with educating elected officials and the public about fire and life safety issues, prior to becoming Mayor. He served on the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities Board, and was the League President in 2005. Mr. Brenner also served on the Community Board of Directors of York County Economic Development Corporation, Board Chairman of Regional Economic Development District Initiative, Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust Board, Prevailing Wage Appeals Board, and served on the Board of the National League of Cities.



Angela Bricmont
Chief Financial Officer, Denver Water, Colorado

Angela Bricmont is the CFO of Denver Water. In this role, she manages the financial resources of the Board of Water Commissioners, a 100-year old water utility serving 1.5 million customers in the City of Denver and surrounding suburbs. Angela is responsible for Accounting, Budgeting, Treasury and Rates; and as co-chair of the Retirement Committee, she is responsible for managing pension assets held in trust. Denver Water is one of a handful of utilities in the nation with the highest credit rating from all 3 major rating agencies. Prior to Denver Water, Angela was the Director of Budget and Operations at the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies; and prior to that, she was Vice President of Rates and Regulatory Matters for Comcast. Angela has a bachelor's degree in Finance and an MBA from the University of Denver. Angela was reappointed by the Mayor to serve on the Denver Urban Renewal Authority Board, and she was appointed to serve on the EPA's Environmental Financial Advisory Board in 2020.



Eric Burneson

Director, Standards and Risk Management Division, Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Eric Burneson is the Director of the Standards and Risk Management Division in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. He has been with EPA since 1999 identifying drinking water contaminants of concern and developing drinking water regulations to improve public health. Prior to working for EPA, Eric worked for 10 years as a consulting engineer. He also spent two years working for the Republic of Palau's Environmental Quality Protection Board. Eric is a registered Professional Engineer, with a M.S. in Environmental Engineering from Duke University and a B.S. in Environmental and Resource Engineering from the S.U.N.Y College of Environmental

Science and Forestry at Syracuse University.



Casey Katims

Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Casey Katims joined EPA this year with the new Biden-Harris leadership team as Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Affairs. Prior to joining EPA, he served as Director of Federal and Inter-State Affairs for Washington Governor Jay Inslee, working as his primary advisor on federal policy issues and directing the state of Washington's engagement with Congress, the White House, federal agencies, fellow governors' offices and various other stakeholders in D.C. He previously spent five years as a policy advisor in the

U.S. House of Representatives for Rep. Suzan DelBene, developing bills and amendments on a range of issues and helping manage her responsibilities on the House Ways and Means Committee. Casey has a degree in Political Science from Vassar College and grew up in Edmonds, Washington.



Kathy Maness

Councilmember, Town of Lexington, South Carolina and President, National League of Cities

Councilmember Kathy Maness serves on the Town Council of Lexington, South Carolina, and is the president of the National League of Cities. Councilmember Maness has been an active member of NLC since taking public office in 2004, including serving as president of the Women in Municipal Government (WIMG) constituency group. Councilmember Maness has also served in other roles including NLC's Council on Youth, Education and

Families, the Board Finance and Audit Committees, and the Board of Directors. Her areas of expertise include education, finance and youth civic engagement opportunities.

During her time on the Town Council, Councilmember Maness has been involved in the inception and development of the Icehouse Amphitheatre in downtown Lexington, as well as the addition of new parks and a road improvement plan. She also serves as the Council Liaison for the Town's Planning Commission and has been on school improvement councils for 20 years.

In addition to her role as a councilmember, Maness is the Executive Director of Palmetto State Teachers Association, previously serving as the president while teaching third grade at Erwin Elementary in Lancaster County. Though these experiences, Maness has worked with the South Carolina legislature for 25 years, gaining experience testifying in committees and lobbying members.



Nancy Quirk
Mayor, City of Lincoln, Alabama and Chair, National League of Cities Small Cities Council

Nancy Quirk, P.E. is currently the General Manager at Green Bay Water Utility and has 33 years in the drinking water industry in Wisconsin. Prior to working at Green Bay Water Utility, Nancy has worked as the Technical Engineering Services manager at Waukehsa Water Utility and as a Civil Engineer at Madison Water Utility. Nancy has been a member of AWWA (American Water Works Association) since joining Madison Water Utility in 1987. She is the past chair of the Wisconsin Section of AWWA and a past National Director for the State. She served six years on the Water Utility Council for

AWWA where she served as Regulatory Chair of the Technical Advisory Groups. She is also serving as a trustee for Municipal Environmental Group-Water in the State of Wisconsin and the Regulatory committee for WIAWWA and AMWA. She recently was appointed to EPA's National Drinking Water Advisory Council. Nancy has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree from University of Wisconsin-Platteville and is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Wisconsin.



Anthony Santiago
Director, Program and Partnership Development, Institute for Youth, Education and Families, National League of Cities

Anthony Santiago joined the Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (IYEF) at NLC in 2013. As a department Director focusing on Partnership and Program Development, Anthony facilitates new collaborations with municipal governments and IYEF, while also supporting several portfolio areas from program design through implementation. Since 2016, Anthony has been leading NLC's efforts to inform and engage municipal leaders on the intersection between health and housing, and the role housing policies can play in positively impacting health outcomes for residents. As of 2019, Anthony is also leading an effort to promote a network of

municipal officials in the states of AR, LA and MS around having a children and families policy agenda. He is a proud Annie E. Casey Foundation Children & Family Fellow and is committed to leading large-scale efforts that improve outcomes for vulnerable populations. Prior to his position at the National League of Cities, Anthony was Deputy Chief of Staff for the mayor of Newark, NJ for several years. In municipal government, his concentration was in the use of data for innovation and performance management in addition to managing the city's financial empowerment initiatives.