



DIRECTOR JAYNÉ JOHNSON APPOINTED AS CABINET SECRETARY

Congratulating Jayné Johnson on her appointment as Cabinet Secretary in the Office of the Governor, effective August 1st. She continues leading the Office of Equity while assuming this key position. Johnson succeeds Andrea Katz Spevak, who departs following her appointment as an Administrative Law Judge.



"I am proud to name Jayné Johnson as my new Cabinet Secretary," said Governor Murphy. "As New Jersey's first Director of the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Jayné has been a driving force in advancing our vision of a stronger, fairer, more equitable state. I am grateful that she will continue in her current capacity while taking on this expanded role, and I look forward to her leadership as we work to solidify the vision that has guided our administration from the start. "

NEW JERSEY BREAKS GROUND ON NATION'S FIRST MATERNAL HEALTH INNOVATION HUB

Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy – alongside Lisa Asare, President and CEO of the NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority (MIHIA), NJ Economic Development Authority CEO Tim Sullivan, MIHIA Board Chair Barbara Johnson, state legislators, municipal and community leaders – broke ground on NJ's first Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center in Trenton. With \$86.7 million in state and federal funding committed, the center will serve as a hub for research, innovation, workforce development and integrated family supports under the Nurture NJ initiative. MIHIA will oversee the center, steering efforts to advance equity and eliminate disparities in maternal and infant health care.



CODIFYING UNIVERSAL PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN



On July 9, 2025, Governor Murphy signed three bills to expand access to early childhood education in New Jersey. The laws fund universal preschool, mandate free full-day kindergarten by 2030, and simplify childcare contracting. The new laws also launch a Universal Preschool Committee and require annual reporting to improve transparency. Education leaders and advocates across the state praised the measures as historic, equitable investments that will improve access, support working families, and strengthen long-term academic outcomes.

REMEMBERING LOUISA CARMAN



Celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Louisa Carman Act! EndMedDebtNJ.org, in this time, has helped over 600 visitors, equipping residents to fight medical debt. The site offers guidance in both English and Spanish to ensure broader access to the resources. We refuse to let Louisa Carman's name be forgotten. Her legacy continues to bring financial relief for families burdened by medical bills.

ADVANCING NEW JERSEY BUSINESSES



Business.NJ.gov is a one-stop site that offers entrepreneurs and businesses clear, reliable guidance on registering, hiring, accessing funding, and operating successfully. Most of all, it reflects New Jersey's commitment to supporting businesses at every stage of their journey. Explore helpful tools, regulations, and opportunities from state, federal, and local sources.



SPECIAL EDITION
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
2025

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EQUITY

SECOND ANNUAL SHEILA Y. OLIVER LEGACY BRUNCH CELEBRATES WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP



The Sheila Y. Oliver Foundation's 2nd Annual Legacy Brunch was a powerful testament to Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver's lifelong dedication to public service and uplifting others. The event honored nine exceptional leaders for their leadership and impact: Assemblywoman Shavonda E. Sumter, Linda J. Schwimmer, Estina Baker, Tai Cooper, Dr. Barbara Gaba, Dr. Pamela B. Jones, Sara Peña, Dr. Cynthia Samuel, and Monica Slater Stokes. Newark native and actress Tisha Campbell delivered the keynote address. Proceeds from the brunch support initiatives that empower underserved communities and encourage women of color to pursue public policy, civic leadership, and grassroots organizing.

BREAKING GROUND ON LANDMARK GREENWAY PROJECT

On July 15, 2025, Governor Murphy broke ground on the first phase of the Greenway. Built along an abandoned rail line, the Greenway will become a nine-mile-long state park connecting communities across Essex and Hudson Counties and will offer a safe, ADA-accessible corridor for walking, biking, and public transit. The Newark segment makes state history as the largest single investment in the development of a state park. The \$69.2 million project is forecasted to open in 2026 and represents a major milestone in green space development that will serve New Jersey communities and residents.



A TRIBUTE TO MALCOLM-JAMAL WARNER



Malcolm-Jamal Warner, a proud son of Jersey City, passed away on July 20, 2025, due to a drowning accident, at the age 54. Beloved for his groundbreaking role as Theo Huxtable on The Cosby Show, he earned an Emmy nomination and won three Young Artist Awards for the role. Later, he won a Grammy for Best Traditional R&B Performance for the song "Jesus Children." Warner also starred in several other television shows, including the acclaimed series Reed Between the Line and received praises for his spoken word album Hiding in Plain View, earning him another Grammy nomination. Warner's legacy as an actor, poet, musician, and cultural voice lives on. His Jersey roots are reflected in the depth, authenticity, and impact of his storytelling.

PODCASTS WITH THE GOVERNOR AND MORE

Ask Gov Murphy

Gov. Phil Murphy spends an hour answering our questions the second Wednesday of most months, at 7pm.



The Cooligans

Governor Murphy Explains Why 2026 World Cup Final Will Be "BEST EVER"!

Greetings From The Garden State

A Conversation with Governor Murphy

Hasan Minhaj Doesn't Know

Is New Jersey Going MAGA? - with Governor Phil Murphy



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NJBPU Technical Conference on Resource Adequacy

Join NJBPU's Resource Adequacy Conference on August 5 to discuss the implications of recent PJM Capacity Auction results.



Jayné J. Johnson, Esq.
Cabinet Secretary
&
Director of the Office of
Equity

Thank you for connecting with the NJ Office of Equity! We appreciate your interest in learning more about our work.

If you are not receiving this email directly from us and would like to subscribe to our mailing list, please click here.

Many thanks to Awn Rizvi, Mel Walker, and Peyton Smith for their contributions to this issue!