

Community Trends®



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November 2020



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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I write this column with just a few weeks to go before Election Day November 3...and you will be receiving this issue of *Community Trends*® just a few days before the big day. If you're like me, you've already voted and can't wait for election season to be over. But I expect many of you have yet to vote and will be doing so on Election Day.

While the main focus this year is on the candidates for President and Vice-President, don't forget the many down-ballot candidates for US Senate, US House of Representatives, and your county and local municipal offices. It is fair to say that these people will have as much of an impact on our daily lives as will the successful candidates at the top of the ticket, including those of us living and working in New Jersey's common interest communities!

I just received an email from the CAI National office announcing a free resource program entitled "CAI VOTES" that enables voters to check their registration status, search and find elected officials, learn more about candidates, and request an absentee ballot. It reported that a whopping 92% of homeowners living in common interest communities vote in national elections. Check it out at www.caionline.org/caivotes and let's increase that number!

You may have also recently received an advocacy alert from CAI National announcing that the US House of Representatives had approved another version of the next economic stimulus package, this time totaling \$2.2 million. While it is not expected to pass the US Senate, talks are continuing between Congress and the White House on

this important legislation. Three policy issues are currently being discussed in this package that will directly impact community associations, so we are being asked to contact our federal legislators (and the other candidates who are vying for those positions this Election Day) and ask them to:

"Three policy issues are currently being discussed in this package that will directly impact community associations..."

1. Access to Financial Resources

- Support S. 3620: Establishment of a Housing Assistance Fund at the Treasury Department to specifically include homeowner association assessments.
- Support additional funding for the Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program.
- Support community association and CAI Chapter eligibility for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans; and

2. Ability to Collect Assessments

Oppose S. 3565 legislation that suspends consumer debt collection; and

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3. Limited Liability for Responsible Organizations

Support Safe to Work Act (S. 4317) that limits an association's liability as common areas and community facilities reopen for communities that act in good faith and comply with local, state, and CDC guidelines.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this column, the down-ballot candidates can have a big impact on the issues that affect us in our communities and in our jobs. So, if you haven't yet, GET OUT THERE AND VOTE!!!

See you here next month. Stay safe. ■