



THE MCGREEVEY
CHRONICLES

Building Bridges, Sharing Stories



A Warm Welcome from Jim McGreevey

Thank you for your efforts, dedication, and commitment to Jersey City and our fellow residents.

Through this newsletter, of which this publication is the first issue, I hope to share with you the events, initiatives, and the areas of Jersey City upon which I have focused as part of my campaign for mayor of Jersey City.

From community events to endeavors for advocacy and working to improve Jersey City for all residents, my campaign for Jersey City mayor seeks to work with residents, community organizations, and leaders to effectively address the concerns and problems facing Jersey City.

I also want to share with you recent events and cultural celebrations in Jersey City, in which I have been fortunate to partake. These events, in which the community comes together, demonstrates the vibrancy and unity of Jersey City.

As we reflect upon the events of recent weeks as well as focus upon those issues that need to be addressed,

we must recognize that Jersey City has received an extraordinary renaissance in certain neighborhoods of the City. Yet, we must also recognize that we have an opportunity to make Jersey City one of the best cities not only in the State but also the country.

Thank you once again for your continued support and steadfast desire to improve Jersey City for all members of this community.

If you have any questions or would you like to share your feedback or concerns, please contact me at jim@jim2025.com.

With heartfelt appreciation and warmest regards,

WWW.JIM2025.COM

In this newsletter you can expect:

Community Updates

Remembrance and Advocacy

Educational Initiatives

Political & Civic Engagements

Cultural Observances & Religious Events

Community Service & Engagements



Celebrating Saint Patrick's Day at the Park Tavern: A Celebration with Purpose

We gathered at the Park Tavern for a celebration to support our cherished Jersey City Parade for Saint Patrick's Day. We donned green and celebrated Saint Patrick's Day and Irish heritage together.

I want to extend my gratitude to everyone who joined us at the Park Tavern. I am most appreciative of your generosity and time to join in the celebration.



Celebrating Ely Gonzales: A Milestone of Grace and Generosity

Recently, we had the joy and privilege of celebrating a remarkable milestone: the 70th birthday of Ely Gonzales. Ely is a beacon of love and generosity in our community, a true source of grace that uplifts everyone around her.

To Ely, thank you for being a guiding light and a source of endless grace. Here's to celebrating not just the years in your life but the life in your years. May this new decade bring you as much joy and fulfillment as you've brought to those around you.



A Joyful Soirée: Saint Patrick's & Saint Joseph's at Saint Paul of the Cross

This season, we had the pleasure of attending the Saint Patrick's & Saint Joseph's soiree hosted by Saint Paul of the Cross. This event beautifully intertwined the celebrations of two patron saints, marking a time of joy, community, and spiritual reflection.

The soiree was a vibrant affair, filled with laughter, fellowship, and the shared warmth of our community members.

With heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this event a memorable one.

Remembrance and Advocacy



A Fond Farewell: The One Block Parade

As the Grand Marshal of the Jersey City St. Patrick's Day Parade, my last official duty brought me great joy. Joining the "One Block Parade," led by the Right Honorable Peter Brennan, was an honor that encapsulated the festivities.

Peter Brennan, with his dedicated service to Jersey City, has been a beacon of leadership and commitment. I was most grateful to lead the St. Patrick's Day Parade with Peter and end the celebrations with the "One Block Parade."

St. Patrick's Day Splendor in Hudson County



Hudson County celebrated St. Patrick's Day with enthusiasm, hosting vibrant parades in Jersey City and the West Hudson communities. As Grand Marshal in Jersey City, I was honored to stand among esteemed honorees and witness our community's unity and festive spirit.

Our parades, a week early but no less spirited, were a tribute to our rich Irish heritage. Let's carry the joy and pride of this day throughout the year.



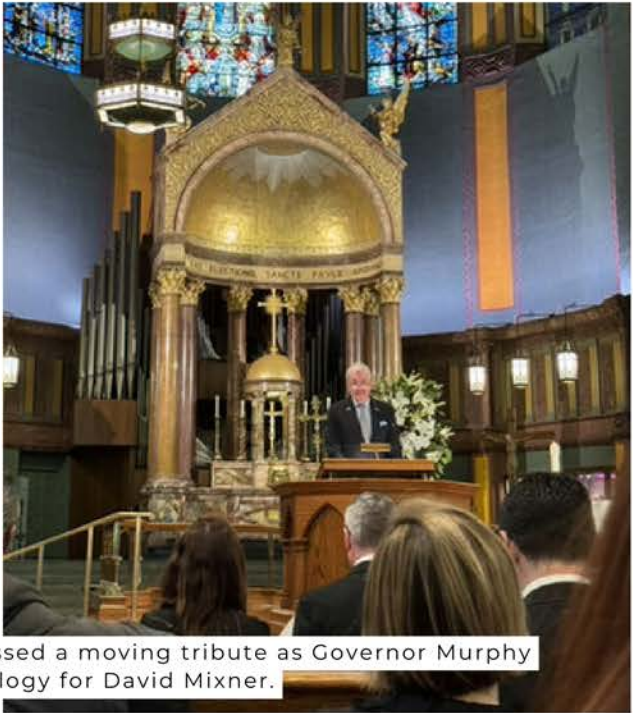
Stories of impact: this month's story is about how Olivia went from homelessness to back on her feet.

Recently, I had the solemn privilege of attending the funeral mass of LGBTQ legend and leader David Mixner at St. Paul the Apostle in NYC. Alongside Christian Fuscarino, the Executive Director of Garden State Equality, and his partner Aaron Williams, we paid our respects to a man whose life work has left an indelible mark on the fight for equality and justice.

As we remember David, let us carry forward his spirit of activism and advocacy. His life reminds us of the power of individual action to effect change and the importance of standing in solidarity for the rights of all.

Rest in peace, David Mixner. Your legacy will continue to guide us.

David's passing is a great loss to our community and everyone who knew him. His courage, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to human rights have inspired countless individuals to stand up for what is right. Attending his funeral mass was a moment to mourn and reflect on the legacy of a true pioneer.



At Saint Paul the Apostle Church, we witnessed a moving tribute as Governor Murphy delivered a heartfelt eulogy for David Mixner.

Education



Elevating Our Education: A Call to Action for Jersey City

In Jersey City, we stand at a critical juncture in the journey toward educational excellence. Recent statistics reveal a concerning trend: only 35.9% of our 3rd graders are reading proficiently, and a mere 10% of 8th graders are proficient in math. Moreover, many of our high school seniors face the risk of not graduating, as statewide exam results indicate a lack of readiness for further education, whether vocational school, college, or employment.

Our city must offer a robust educational system: our teachers, schools, and children. Regardless of their zip code, every child deserves access to a quality education that nurtures their potential and prepares them for success.

The time is now for us to come together as a community to support our educators, advocate for our schools, and, most importantly, champion the cause of our children. Let us join hands in a concerted effort to transform these statistics and shape a brighter future for Jersey City. Together, we can ensure that every child receives the education they deserve, laying the groundwork for a thriving, vibrant city.

A Tribute to the Unsung Heroes of Civil Rights

On March 25th, a conversation with my friend Regena Thomas opened a new window into the past that continues to shape our understanding of courage and resilience. She recommended exploring the narratives and research housed at Stanford's King Institute, a recommendation I swiftly acted upon.

Diving into these resources, I was struck by the stories of brave women whose strength, support, and unwavering determination were pivotal in the Civil Rights Movement. One narrative, in particular, that of Fannie Lou Hamer, stood out as a beacon of inspiring courage amidst adversity. Hamer's biography is not just a recount of events; it's a powerful testament to the human spirit's capacity to confront cruelty with grace and resilience.

These stories underscore the profound impact of women in the movement, often operating behind the scenes yet fundamentally shaping the course of history. It's a reminder of the collective strength found in the fight for justice and equality and a call to recognize and honor the contributions of these incredible women. Let their courage inspire us to face today's challenges with the same tenacity and hope for a better world.

“

Hamer, like King, was motivated by faith. Although she was only semi-literate, she had committed countless verses of the Bible to memory. Reflecting on the Nobel Peace Prize he was awarded a few months after the MFDP challenge, King thanked the “great people,” like the “Fannie Lou Hamers” whose “discipline, wise restraint, and majestic courage has led them down a nonviolent course in seeking to establish a reign of justice and a rule of love across this nation of ours” (King, “A Mighty Army of L...

Visualizando selección parcial

Hamer, Fannie Lou
kinginstitute.stanford.edu



Education



The children of Jersey City deserve to receive the highest quality education offered in the State of New Jersey. If not, it is only our children that will suffer.

Recent events, where members of the Jersey City Board of Education changed leadership, as well as calls for the State to intervene, demonstrate that the JCBOE is characterized by dysfunction and unable to meet the needs of teachers and children.

These are the facts:

- The cost of educating a child in Jersey City is over \$36,000, among the highest in the State.
- School board taxes have increased by nearly \$350 million from 2020 to 2022.
- The School Board now spends over \$1 billion per year.
- Jersey City's academic performance is deficient. We need to a culture of support for our teachers and our children, where their interests are placed first.

IN RECENT YEARS, THE BUDGET FOR THE JERSEY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS INCREASED PRECIPITOUSLY.

The budget remained relatively stagnant for the academic years beginning in 2017 and ending in 2021, ranging from \$628.7 million to \$660.1 million. In the 2021-2022 academic year, the budget increased to \$734.4 million. In the 2022-2023 academic year, the budget is now over \$1 billion, rising by nearly \$350 million from two years prior.

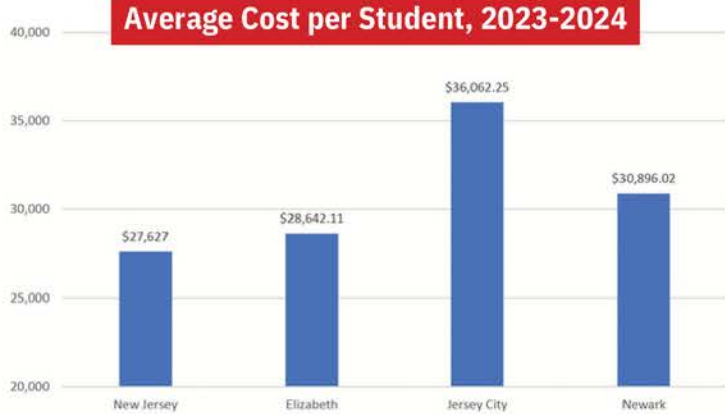
With a current budget of \$1,035,238,943, Jersey City Public Schools is spending \$36,062 per student per year, a significant increase from the average of \$27,627 per student per year in New Jersey.



Education

\$36,062
per student
in Jersey City

Compared to
\$27,627 per student
in New Jersey



Source: 2023-2024 Budgets of Elizabeth Public Schools, Jersey City Public Schools, and Newark Public Schools; 2023 NJDOE Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending

MATH

In the 2021-2022 academic year, reading proficiency rates were 35.9 percent for third graders and 36.0 percent for **ninth graders**.

Nearly two-thirds of JC students need help to read at their age level. One in six children who are not reading proficiently in third grade do not graduate from high school on time.

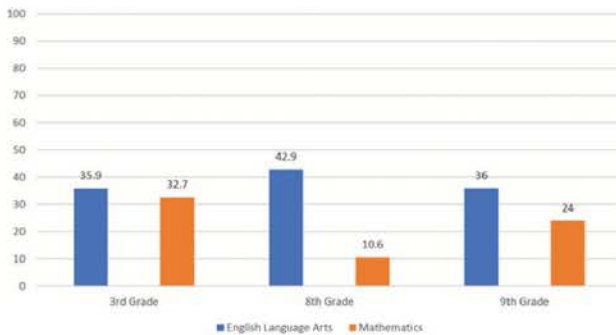
Compared to the 90.9 percent graduate rate in New Jersey, only 78.0 percent of students in Jersey City graduate.

ENGLISH

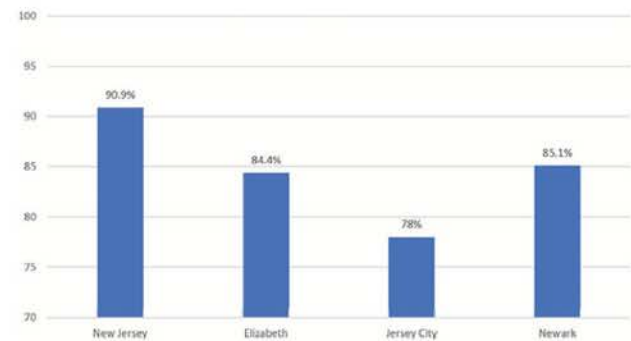
For the 2021-2022 academic year, the proficiency rates were **32.7 percent for third graders and 10.6 percent for eighth graders**.

Nearly 90.0 percent of Jersey City students are deficient in eighth-grade mathematics, which is concerning and profoundly troubling.

Reading and mathematics proficiency at an early age is highly correlated with future student success, high school graduation, and the ability to enter successful careers.



Source: New Jersey School Performance Report



Source: New Jersey School Performance Report

78%

Statewide Graduation Rate

90.9%

Joint Task Force on EDUCATION

The Task Force will focus on:

We need to do a better job supporting our teachers, students, and schools in order to provide the children with the opportunity to succeed and thrive.

The City must work closely with the Jersey City Board of Education to ensure our children are provided the best education possible. A Joint Task Force between the City and the Board of Education is necessary to achieve these goals.

Task Force will be composed of teachers, representatives in the State Legislature, educational experts, parents, community members, the mayor, the Superintendent, and advocates.

This Task Force would enable the City to engage with the community and ensure that the Jersey City Public School District will provide our children with the best learning opportunities.

- 
- ✓ **Childhood Literacy**
 - ✓ **School Day Scheduling**
 - ✓ **Apprenticeship Education**
 - ✓ **School Facility Upgrades**
 - ✓ **Professional Development**
 - ✓ **Recreational Opportunities**
 - ✓ **Technology Upgrades**
 - ✓ **After-School Tutoring**
 - ✓ **Curriculum Development**
 - ✓ **Student Engagement**



Political and Civic Engagement



Celebrating a Vision for Jersey City: An Unforgettable Evening at The Rasoi

On March 21, 2024, Jersey City experienced an extraordinary gathering of community leaders, supporters, and enthusiasts at The Rasoi: Excellent Indian Cuisine, located at 810 Newark Ave. This was a spectacular fundraising cocktail and dinner event supporting Jim McGreevey's mayoral campaign.

The atmosphere turned electrifying as attendees savored The Rasoi's exquisite Indian cuisine, celebrated for its rich flavors and impeccable presentation. This event not only displayed the vibrant local culture but also underscored the community's strong endorsement of Jim McGreevey's vision for the future of Jersey City.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and played a role in the event's success. Your support is invaluable, and it's clear that together, we can accomplish remarkable things for our beloved city.

Let's keep building momentum and paving the way for positive change in Jersey City. Remember, every contribution, regardless of its size, is crucial in shaping our community's future.

Thank you for being part of this unforgettable evening. Let's maintain the spirit and collaborate to realize a brighter, more prosperous Jersey City under Jim McGreevey's leadership.

Political and Civic Engagement

Senator Raj Mukherji's Endorsement of Jim McGreevey

Thank you for believing that Jersey City can be better and will be better. Our best days are ahead of us. We will address property taxes and rents, focus on affordability, ensure safe and clean streets, provide excellent schools and recreation options, maintain a responsive 911 system, and uphold robust public safety for our neighborhoods. Let's get to work!



Senator Raj Mukherji's endorsement was articulate, generous, and thoughtful, but his son Leo, who turns 4 in April, offered the most eloquent and innocent endorsement.

Political and Civic Engagement



Political and Civic Engagement



"Our 'Town Meetings' at Journal Square and St. Joseph's Church addressed concerns ranging from unresponsive LLC developers, garbage, traffic, cleanliness, property taxes, and school facilities to curriculum and government responsiveness. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in this crucial dialogue. Your voices are the driving force behind our efforts to enhance the quality of life in our community.

Stay tuned for updates on our progress and information on future meetings. Together, we can build a safer, more service-oriented Jersey City. To stay informed about our next meeting, join our mailing list and newsletter at info@jim2025.com. Follow us on social media for more updates: **Instagram:** @jim_mcgreevey, **Twitter:** @jim_mcgreevey, **Facebook:** @JEMcGreevey."



Cultural and Religious Events

Saint Patrick's: Celebrating The Season.



Cultural and Religious Events

St. Patrick's Day breakfast with my friends Terrell Washington, US Army, and Marisha Johnson at Mauricio's for breakfast.



Father Joe discussed Saint Patrick's kidnapping, slavery, dreams, and his poignant return to Ireland for missionary service. In this Season of Lent, Father discussed how suffering may be transformative, to discern God's will, and the grace and growth of charity in service.

Cultural and Religious Events



At the Bayonne Saint Patrick's Day Parade with our Grand Marshall and Mayor Jim Davis.

Cultural and Religious Events



The last "official" duty as Grand Marshal of the Jersey City St. Patrick's Day Parade is to join the "One Block Parade" festivities, whose Grand Marshal is the Rht. Honorable Peter Brennan, who has so ably served our Jersey City community.

Cultural and Religious Events



During Ramadan, people observe a strict fast from dawn until sunset. Fasting is an act of spiritual discipline. The fast was broken with prayer and a meal (Iftar) at the Muslim Federation of NJ with family and friends (Chopin Court).

Community Service and Engagement

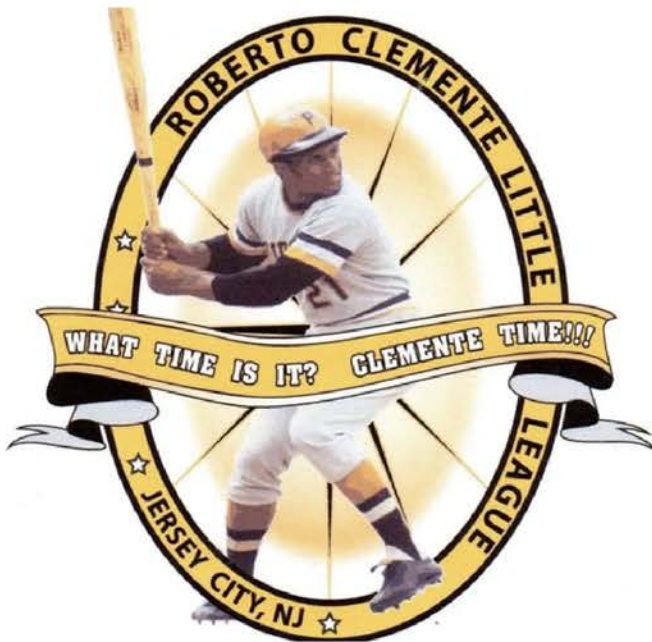


(Left) With Daquan and Jermaine, working as mail sorters at LaserShip in Secaucus, and congregants of Reverend Cynthia Jackson, AME, volunteering with the church pantry. Blessings!

(Below) Thank you to Anthony Delfino of the College City League, McGovern Park @ Sycamore Street! League focusing on children ages four to ten and girls softball. JC needs to support recreational efforts, strengthen our volunteers, & improve summer and after school youth recreation.



Community Service and Engagement



Firefighters and Community Leaders Rally for Youth Recreation

At Big House, w/Engine Co #1, #5, Ladder 2, & First Battalion Chief w/ Captains Nelson Estremera of Roberto Clemente Little League & Joe Scalone. Firefighters Anthony, Andrew, Robert Delfino, Nelson Estremera, John Scafidi, & Scott Thomas give back & support youth recreation.

Community Service and Engagement

What a delightful Easter celebration with the Hispanic community in Jersey City! Children and their parents came together for a day filled with fun, joy, and a touch of magic.



Community Service and Engagement



Easter Egg Prep at Pershing!



COMMUNITY FIRST: SPEARHEADING EASTER EGGS AT PERSHING



Special Feature



A STEP
FORWARD IN
GIVING:
UNIQUE
SNEAKER
PURCHASE
FUELS
GENEROSITY



With my friends Mario and Melody at Sneaker Room, Central Avenue, with the unstoppable Suraj featuring Air Max 1 DB "one of a kind" sneaker, which Suraj purchased for \$25K to support Portland Children's Hospital.

#JIM 2025 JIM MCGREEVEY

For Jersey City Mayor



JIM
MCGREEVEY
★★★★★★★★★
FOR MAYOR

WWW.JIM2025.COM



Photos of Jim McGreevey with MLK Drive residents, capturing moments of genuine interaction and community engagement. These snapshots highlight Jim's commitment to connecting with individuals and understanding their stories, reflecting his dedication to service and community unity. Each image tells a tale of shared smiles and conversations, underlining the importance of accessibility and responsiveness in leadership. Join us in celebrating these instances of connection and hope for a united community future.

A Heartfelt Thank You from Jim McGreevey

Thank you to all our readers for your continued engagement with our Chronicles. Your support and involvement are crucial to our community's growth and success.

We welcome your thoughts, concerns, and stories. Please feel free to share them with us at info@jim2025.com. Together, we're building a brighter future for our community.

With gratitude,



Jim McGreevey



**VOLUNTEER
TODAY**



**Empower Change with
JIM MCGREEVEY**

@jim_mcgreevey WWW.JIM2025.COM

A horizontal row of five solid white stars.