



Bergen County Administrative Priorities

Greater Bergen County Association of Realtors
July 21, 2026

Presented by:
Thomas J. Duch,
Bergen County Administrator/County Counsel

Presented on behalf of
The County of Bergen & Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco III



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Bergen Snapshot

978,641 residents

70 municipalities

68 municipal police departments

78 school districts

9th Safest County in the nation

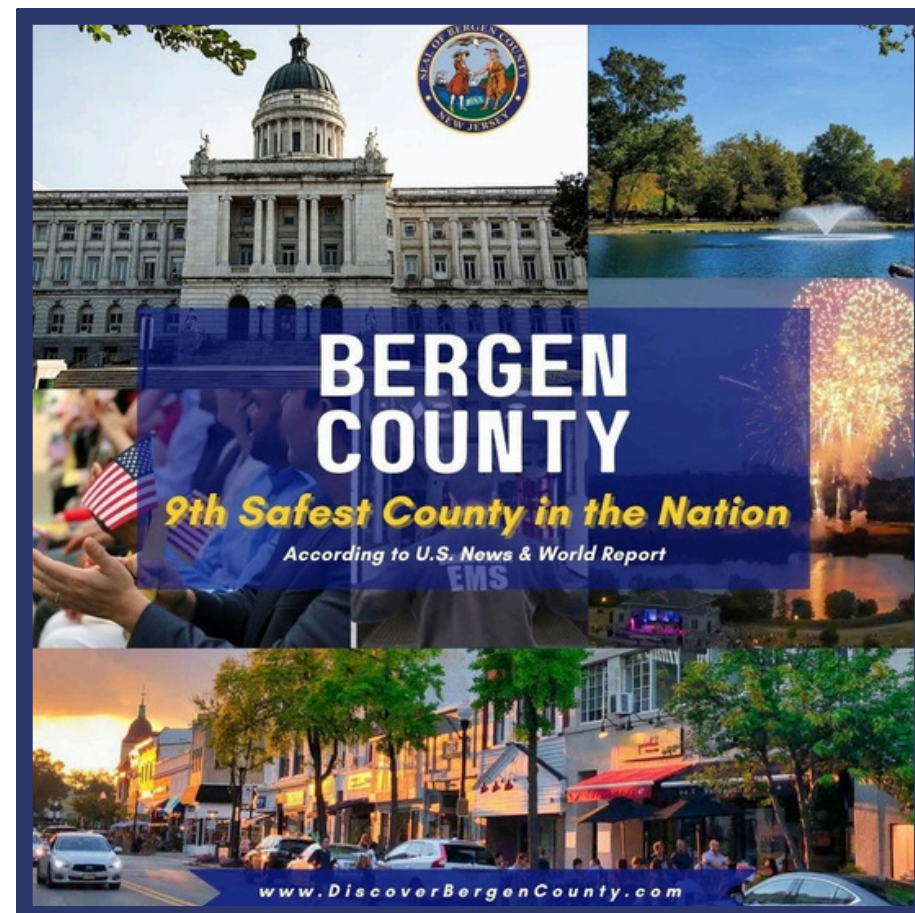
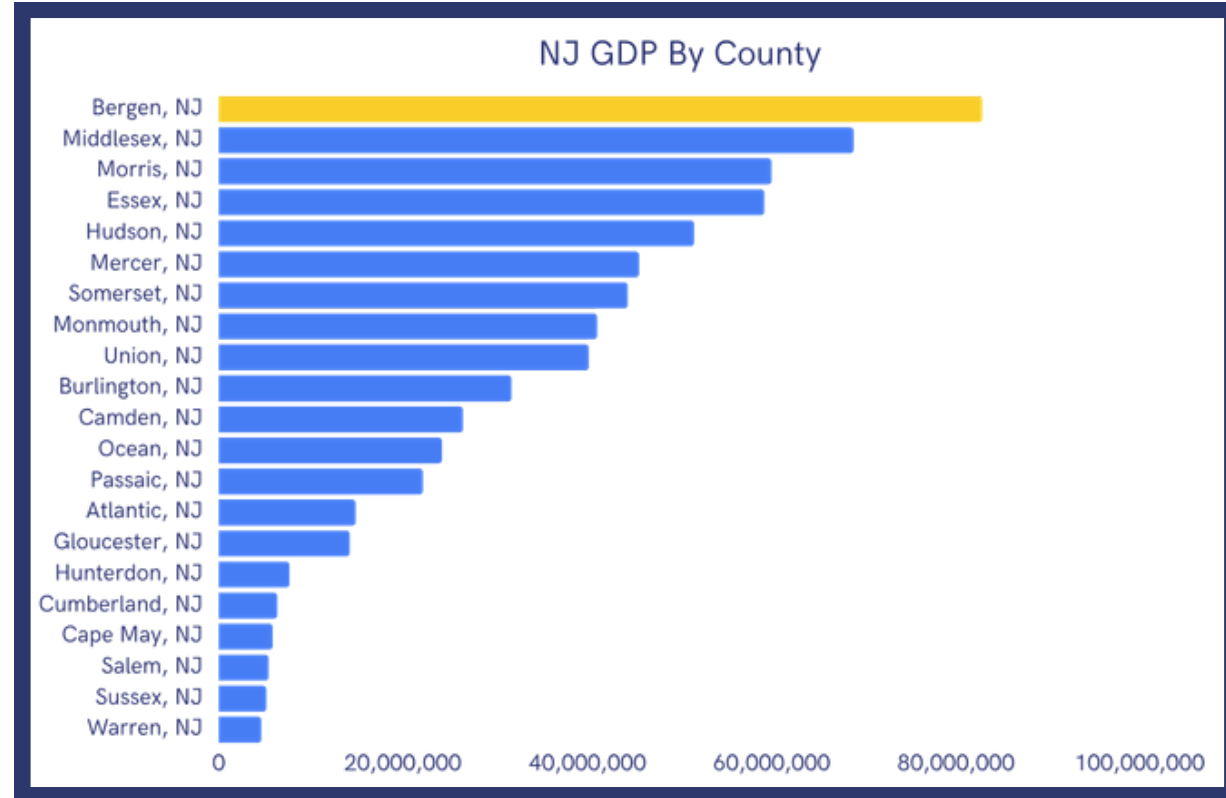
*U.S. News & World Report

Largest GDP by County in NJ

12.5% of total State GDP

Largest Ratable Base by County in NJ

Moody's Aaa Bond Rating





Health and Public Safety



Law and Public Safety Institute

- **State-of-the-art, multidisciplinary** training facility
 - Training Annex features **real-life simulations**, allow for advanced training
- **Bergen County Police Academy** run by Administration



Bergen Emergency Medical Services (Bergen EMS)

- **Free** emergency ambulance service
- **Supplements local volunteer** EMS operations
- Completely **cost-neutral**
- **25,000+ calls answered** in the past three years



Bergen New Bridge Medical Center

- **4th largest** publicly owned hospital **in the nation**
- Undergone a **renaissance** under the Tedesco Administration
- **Quality, innovative, and affordable** health care
- **Services include:**
 - Robotic surgery
 - Substance use care
 - Mental health care
 - Veteran's health care (*Veteran's Choice Facility*)
- Recently **expanded Emergency Department**



Serving our Veterans

\$8,000,000
IN BENEFITS &
COMPENSATION



Bergen County Veterans Services

- One of the *first counties in the nation* to reach a *functional zero for veteran homelessness*
- Secured **\$8 million in compensation and benefits** for Bergen County veterans and their families in 2025 alone
- Bergen County Division of Veterans Services is *nationally recognized*
- Bergen New Bridge Medical Center is a **VA Choice Facility**





Serving our Communities



Bergen County Human Services

- **Largest department** in Bergen County
- Provides services to residents at all stages of life
- **Bergen County Meals on Wheels** program has delivered **2.5+ million meals** since 2019 to seniors, veterans, and residents with limited mobility
- **Division of Alternatives to Domestic Violence** secured a record **\$1.42 million** in grant funding & provided **3,389 emergency bed nights** to survivors in 2025
- Over **1+ million meals served** at County **Senior Activity Centers**
- **Division of Child Care Resources** provides children with high-quality child care that fosters healthy childhood development



Bergen County Office of Food Security

- **Oasis Insights** software connects local pantries to resources
- **Emergency Distributions:** Distributed **180,000 pounds of fresh produce** and shelf-stable items to **1,200+ Bergen County households** last fall
- **Annual Food Pantry Summit** gathers local pantries for resource sharing
- **No Wrong Door:** works to address the interconnected causes of food insecurity



Parks and Recreation Priorities



Promoting Year-Round Recreation

- **Bergen County's Winter Wonderland** at Van Saun County Park is North Jersey's premier destination for winter family fun
- **The Lakes at Darlington** offer white sand beaches, swimming, inflatable water obstacle courses, and more
- **Bergen County Star-Spangled Spectacular** is a free July 4th celebration and fireworks show at Overpeck County Park
- **Movies and Music in the Park** offer free outdoor entertainment across our County parks



Golf Improvements

- **6 public courses** throughout Bergen County
 - **335,000 rounds played** at County courses *last year*
- New clubhouse at **Overpeck County Golf Course**
 - 2,774-sq-ft clubhouse with 1,197-sq-ft outdoor patio
 - State-of-the-art **indoor golf simulators**
- Keeping golf **accessible and affordable**

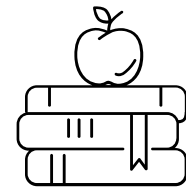


Open Space Trust Fund

- **Provides funding** for municipalities to make **upgrades to local parks and open spaces**
- Improvements include safety upgrades, ADA-accessibility, and more
- **\$6 million distributed** to municipalities in 2025



Investing in Education



Bergen County Technical Schools

- Ranked among the *best public high schools in the nation*
- New, state-of-the-art, *Career Innovation Technical High School*
 - *Expanding access* to technical education
 - Inaugural programs include *Dental Care, Fabrication and Design*, and *Global Business Logistics*
- **Bergen County Special Services School District**
 - Addresses the unique social, emotional, physical, intellectual and career needs of students



Bergen Community College

- *Largest* community college in New Jersey
 - *11,000+ students* enrolled across *three campuses*
 - *120+* degree, certificate, and continuing education *programs*
- Top producer in the State for *associate degree graduates*
- Associate degree program for *high school students*, *3,300 students currently enrolled*
- Pathways to *affordable education and workforce training*



Expanding Shared Service Opportunities



Bergen Fiber Network

- *County built-and-owned broadband system*
- *Faster, more secure, more reliable* internet designed for government use
- Joining the Bergen Fiber Highway *saves municipalities more than 50%*
- *48 entities* currently enrolled



9-1-1 Answering

- Offers *free 9-1-1 answering and dispatch* to all municipalities
- Ensures access *to latest public safety technologies*



Bergen County Utilities Authority & Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority Merger

- Provide wastewater treatment and environmental services
- Serve *80% of Bergen County residents* and *process 38.7 billion gallons of wastewater* each year
- Merging the two entities into one will save money and *increase efficiency*

Housing Assistance Resources

Division of Community Development

- **7th largest urban county recipient** of CDBG, HOME, and ESG funding in the nation
- **American Dream Homebuyer Program** provides downpayment assistance to eligible applicants (*450-500 Bergen County American Dreams homeowners*)
 - Program on hold due to federal funding uncertainties
- **Home Improvement Program** assists qualified low to moderate income Bergen County homeowners with an interest free loan for improvements that upgrade the home and help to maintain property value



Housing Authority of Bergen County

- **50+ years of service**, 8k individuals and 4k households served
- Combines federal resources, local partnerships, and community services
- Oversees **Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)**
- Utilized Small Area Fair Market Rents (SAFMRs)
- Supports **affordable housing development** through Housing Development Corporation
 - Housing for seniors, veterans, residents with disabilities
- Operates **Bergen County Housing, Health, and Human Services Shelter**



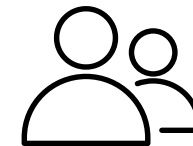
Economic Development Initiatives



BERGEN COUNTY
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



BERGEN COUNTY
BUSINESS
RESOURCE
NETWORK



Bergen County Business Resource Network

- *Free business resources, services, and guidance* to move your business forward



Bergen for Business

- Pairs Bergen Community College students with *small businesses*
- Offers *free consultation services* from skilled students
- Small business resource meets workforce development



Bergen County Job Fair

- *Brings together 100+ employers and employees* to Bergen Community College
- Matches *the best talent* with interested employers
- *Gateway to opportunity*

Contact: Joanne Cimiluca, *Director of Economic Development*
jcimiluca@bergencountynj.gov



Infrastructure and Transportation Priorities



Road Resurfacing

Last year alone...

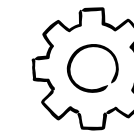
25 miles of County roads resurfaced

65.9k tons of asphalt used for resurfacing

3,465 potholes filled

400 ADA-ramps constructed

*See a Pothole on a County road?
Email bcoperations@bergencountynj.gov*



Infrastructure Improvements

- **20 drainage projects** completed in 2025
 - Addt'l repairs recently approved in Ridgewood and New Milford
- **Critical Infrastructure Upgrades** last year include:
 - Passaic Ave. Bridge Replacement (Lodi)
 - County Road & Hardenburgh Ave. intersection (Demarest)
 - Liberty Street & Redneck Ave. intersection (Little Ferry)



Route 17 Bottleneck

- Bergen County is the **Economic Engine of New Jersey**
- Route 17 corridor **connects billions of dollars in commerce**
- Project goals include:
 - Improving safety
 - Relieving congestion
 - Quality of life



Thank You

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 DiscoverBergenCounty.com

