



# nj21st weekly news summary

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11/29/2025

NJ21ST WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## **This Week at NJ21st: Protecting the Comptroller, Unpacking OPRA & Referendum Updates**

This week's coverage focuses on efforts to protect one of New Jersey's last independent watchdogs, new civic-education work on OPRA, and ongoing reporting around school safety data and the Berkeley Heights referendum.

### **FEATURE FOCUS**

## **Protecting the NJ Comptroller's Independence**

New proposals in Trenton could weaken the Office of the State Comptroller at a moment when its oversight work is badly needed. Our latest coverage explains what's at stake and how residents can respond.



### How to Make Your Voice Heard on Protecting the NJ Comptroller's Independence

A practical guide to contacting legislators, framing your message, and defending an independent fiscal watchdog for New Jersey.

[Read the action guide ↗](#)



### Open Letter to NJ State Senator Nicholas Scutari Requesting the Immediate Withdrawal of S-4924

Our open letter lays out why S-4924 is a step backward for transparency and urges legislative leaders to withdraw the bill.

[Read the open letter ↗](#)

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#### CIVIC EDUCATION SERIES

### Understanding Your NJ Government: OPRA



Understanding  
Your NJ  
Government  
Series



**OPRA: New Jersey's Public  
Records Law**

OPRA remains the backbone of public accountability in New Jersey, even after major changes in 2024. This new installment in the civic-education series walks through the law in plain language for residents and students.

[Read the OPRA explainer ↗](#)

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#### STATEWIDE EDUCATION & SCHOOL SAFETY

### NJ Education Report Contribution on School Safety Data



NJ21st's contribution in NJ Education Report examines the latest school safety numbers, how incidents and disciplinary actions are reported, and what families should know about gaps in the data.

[Read the safety data analysis ↗](#)

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#### BHPSNJ REFERENDUM & SPECIAL EDUCATION



### **Laura's Notes on the Referendum Portion of the BOE Meeting**

A clear breakdown of what the Board's recent decision means for the March 10 referendum, which projects move forward, and how the timeline affects residents.

[Read Laura's notes ↗](#)



### **Beyond the Referendum: Special Education Challenges at a Marathon Meeting**

Coverage of how special education capacity, tension over supports, and questions about inclusion surfaced during a long Board of Education session.

[Read the meeting analysis ↗](#)

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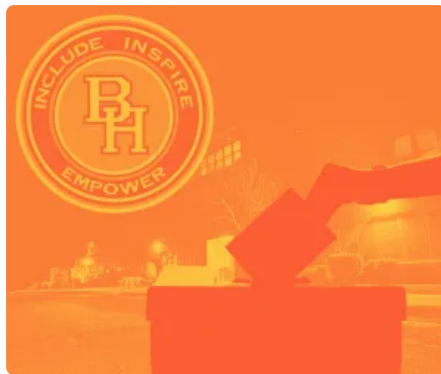
#### ADDITIONAL COVERAGE THIS WEEK



## **This Week's NJ Legislative Preview: Mental-Health Access, Public-Works Transparency, Farmland Use, and Worker Safety**

A rundown of six of the most potentially impactful items scheduled for committee hearings this week, from psilocybin access and mammogram coverage to farm-labor fire safety and public-works transparency.

[Read the legislative preview ↗](#)



## **Student Testimony While Supportive Underscores Challenges Within BHPSNJ Referendum Structure**

GL student representatives backed facility upgrades but warned that essential repairs and safety projects are trapped in Question 2, making them more vulnerable if the March referendum fails.

[Read the student testimony coverage ↗](#)

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IMAGE OF THE WEEK



A snapshot from this week's coverage.

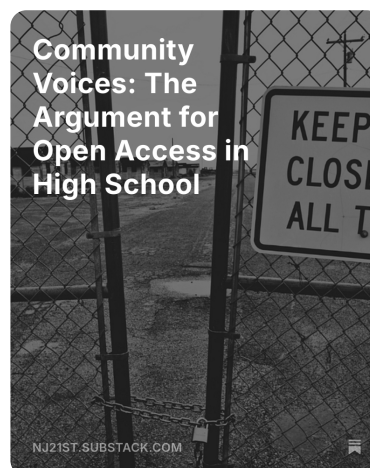
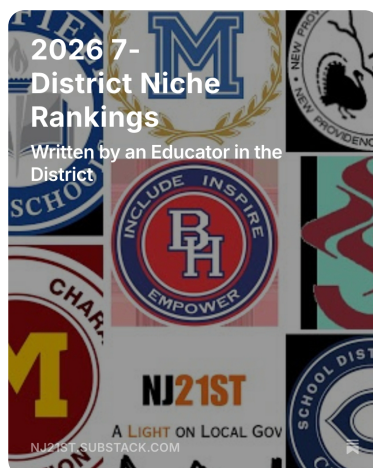
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## Top Three Articles for October



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