

Governor Kean To Moderate Forum on the Future of Local Government

North Jersey--Former New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean will moderate a public forum on Tuesday, June 22, to discuss “The Future of Local Government.”

Joining him will be current class members of Bergen LEADS, the County’s premier civic leadership program sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Bergen County. The forum will be held at Bergen Community College, Room TEC 128, 400 Paramus Road, Paramus, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The public is invited to attend this free event, but pre-registration is required. To register, e-mail amissey@bergenvolunteers.org or call 201-489-9454 x119; deadline for registration is June 18, 2010.

The Forum on the Future of Local Government is sponsored by TD Bank and the law firm of Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard in Hackensack.

Under the guidance of former Bergen County Executive William “Pat” Schuber, Bergen LEADS Seminar Director, the class of 30 has met monthly since September to dissect issues, debate viewpoints and get a first-hand look at Bergen County’s infrastructure. Shared services and regionalization are recurrent themes in every issue that the class explored—healthcare, education, economic development, the environment, government, public safety and diversity.

Drawing on knowledge and experience gleaned throughout the year, Bergen LEADS class members will examine three perspectives on how government can best deliver services:

1. Eliminate County government and let individual municipalities provide service.
2. Eliminate municipal government and let County government provide service.
3. Continue as is, with both County and municipal governments providing services, but make delivery of services more efficient and cost-effective.

Governor Kean served from 1982 to 1990, and was widely known for his leadership of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, also known as the 9/11 Commission. After his second term as governor of New Jersey, he became president of Drew University until his retirement in 2005. Kean has also been on

the board of several organizations such as the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation and the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

“Governing with limited resources has entered into every topic Bergen LEADS has explored throughout the year,” says Janet Sharma, executive director of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County. “Our intention is for this forum to spark open discussion throughout the community that will ultimately improve the delivery of services to residents in Bergen County”.

For more information on the Public Forum, or about Bergen LEADS, contact Amanda Missey, Bergen LEADS Director, at 201-489-9454 x119 or amissey@bergenvolunteers.org