

MUNICIPAL CHARTER REVISION
IN NEW JERSEY

AN INVENTORY OF CHANGE
1950-2015

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The purpose of this publication is to provide an inventory of all of the actions taken locally under the provisions of the Optional Municipal Charter Law of 1950 (OMCL) to change the organization of New Jersey municipal governments. While over 350 actions have been identified and catalogued, the Inventory is not complete. Users are invited to forward additional information on actions under the OMCL to the author, so that the Inventory can be made more comprehensive. Information on recent actions is particularly desirable.

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Municipal Charter Revision in New Jersey, 1950-2015

In his first annual message to the Legislature, on January 12, 1948, Governor Alfred E. Driscoll, in the warm after-glow of New Jersey's highly-praised Constitutional Convention of 1947, proposed that the Legislature in similar fashion address the subject of local government in New Jersey. Accordingly, Joint Resolution No. 1 of 1948, approved on February 18 of that year, established the Commission on Municipal Government, consisting of two members appointed by the President of the State Senate, two by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and five appointed by the Governor, who also designated as chairperson Bayard H. Faulkner, a former mayor of the Town of Montclair. The staff of Princeton Surveys, an agency of that university, was selected to provide staff support.

Although the Governor in his message had suggested a broad scope to the Commission's work, including both governmental structure and the possible reallocation of functions among local and other levels of government, the Joint Resolution pointed the Commission primarily in the direction of governmental structure.

The Commission held hearings and issued three reports:

- a Preliminary Statement, issued in 1948;
- a Final Report, issued on February 14, 1949, and
- a Second Report, issued on February 20, 1950.

Legislation to implement the Commission's proposals on municipal government structure was enacted on June 8, 1950 as the Optional Municipal Charter Law (OMCL) or, popularly, the "Faulkner Act", and charters proposed or enacted under that law have come to be known as "Faulkner Act charters".

The OMCL authorized three broad types of optional charter:

Six Mayor-Council plans (A, B, C, D, E, F) that reflected the strong office of governor just established under the state's new constitution, providing for an elected mayor with substantial executive powers and a council, generally limited to legislative functions.

Five Council-Manager plans (A, B, C, D, E) that concentrated executive and administrative responsibilities in the office of a Manager appointed by the Council, and an elected Council limited to legislative functions.

Four Small Municipality plans (A, B, C, and D) that were regarded as a compromise in which executive and legislative powers would be shared by the Mayor and Council; this alternative was limited to communities under 12,000 in population.

The alternative plans in each group permitted choice in:

the size of the municipal Council,

partisan or non-partisan elections,

whether Council members should be elected at large or from a combination of

wards and at-large elections (not authorized in the Small Municipality options).

concurrent or staggered terms of office for Council members.

Not every possible combination of these choices was included in the "pre-packaged" sets of characteristics. This approach reportedly was followed because the Commission was concerned that the State courts might regard the grant of full choice to the local level as an unconstitutional delegation of legislative authority. An outline of the original alternatives is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Original Optional Municipal Charter Law of 1950**Mayor-Council Plans**

Mayor-Council Plan	Type of Elections	Wards or At-large	Staggered or Concurrent Terms	Selection of Mayor
A	Nonpartisan	At-large	Concurrent	By Voters
B	Nonpartisan	At-large	Staggered	By Voters
C	Nonpartisan	Wards + At-large	Concurrent	By Voters
D	Nonpartisan	Wards + At-large	Staggered	By Voters
E	Partisan	At-large	Staggered	By Voters
F	Partisan	Wards + At-large	Staggered	By Voters

Council-Manager Plans

Council-Manager Plan	Type of Elections	Wards or At-large	Staggered or Concurrent Terms	Selection of Mayor
A	Nonpartisan	At-large	Concurrent	By Council
B	Nonpartisan	At-large	Staggered	By Council
C	Nonpartisan	Wards + At-large	Concurrent	By Council
D	Nonpartisan	Wards + At-large	Staggered	By Council
E	Partisan	At-large	Staggered	By Council

Small Municipality Plans

Small Municipality Plan	Type of Elections	Wards or At-large	Staggered or Concurrent Terms	Selection of Mayor
A	Nonpartisan	At-large	Concurrent	By Voters
B	Nonpartisan	At-large	Concurrent	By Council
C	Partisan	At-large	Staggered	By Voters
D	Partisan	At-large	Staggered	By Council

Changes in 1981

In 1981, based on recommendations from the New Jersey County and Municipal Government Study Commission, the alphabetical designations were removed by Chapter 465 of the laws of that year, permitting a full range of combinations. In addition, the law authorized a new form of local government, the Mayor-Council-Administrator Plan (See Table 2). Chapter 465 also made it possible for the governing body of any OMCL municipality to propose that some characteristic of that municipality's charter be changed, subject to a public referendum. This law considerably broadened the number of options available to each community, with a new pattern, as shown in Table 2, becoming available. The numerical designations used in Table 2 do not have a specific statutory basis.

Method of Adoption

The new law provided two alternative methods for a local community to adopt one of the optional plans:

Direct Petition – If a sufficient percentage of the municipality's registered voters signed a petition, the question of replacing their existing form of government with one of the OMCL plans could be placed on the ballot and adopted or rejected by the voters in a referendum.

Charter Commission – A five-member local charter study commission could be established and given up to nine months to study the present form of government, study all alternative forms, and make a recommendation to the electorate to either:

retain the present form of government,

adopt one of the OMCL plans, or

petition the Legislature for a special charter under other legislation.

Table 2 . **Optional Municipal Charter Law After the Amendments of 1981****Mayor-Council Plans**

Mayor-Council Plan	Type of Elections	Wards or At-large	Staggered or Concurrent Terms	Selection of Mayor
1	Partisan	At-large	Concurrent	By Voters
2	Partisan	At-large	Staggered	By Voters
3	Partisan	Wards + At-large	Concurrent	By Voters
4	Partisan	Wards + At-large	Staggered	By Voters
5	Nonpartisan	At-large	Concurrent	By Voters
6	Nonpartisan	At-large	Staggered	By Voters
7	Nonpartisan	Wards + At-large	Staggered	By Voters
8	Nonpartisan	Wards + At-large	Concurrent	By Voters

Council-Manager Plans

Council-Manager Plan	Type of Elections	Wards or At-large	Staggered or Concurrent	Selection of Mayor
1	Partisan	At-large	Concurrent	By Voters
2	Partisan	At-large	Concurrent	By Council
3	Partisan	At-large	Staggered	By Voters
4	Partisan	At-large	Staggered	By Council
5	Partisan	Wards + At-large	Concurrent	By Voters
6	Partisan	Wards + At-large	Concurrent	By Council
7	Partisan	Wards + At-large	Staggered	By Voters
8	Partisan	Wards + At-large	Staggered	By Council
9	Nonpartisan	At-large	Concurrent	By Voters
10	Nonpartisan	At-large	Concurrent	By Council
11	Nonpartisan	At-large	Staggered	By Voters
12	Nonpartisan	At-large	Staggered	By Council
13	Nonpartisan	Wards + At-large	Concurrent	By Voters
14	Nonpartisan	Wards + At-large	Concurrent	By Council
15	Nonpartisan	Wards + At-large	Staggered	By Voters
16	Nonpartisan	Wards + At-large	Staggered	By Council

Table 2 (Continued)

Small Municipality Plans

Small Municipality Plans	Type of Elections	Wards or At-large	Staggered or Concurrent Terms	Selection of Mayor
1	Partisan	At-large	Concurrent	By Voters
2	Partisan	At-large	Concurrent	By Council
3	Partisan	At-large	Staggered	By Voters
4	Partisan	At-large	Staggered	By Council
5	Nonpartisan	At-large	Concurrent	By Voters
6	Nonpartisan	At-large	Concurrent	By Council
7	Nonpartisan	At-large	Staggered	By Voters
8	Nonpartisan	At-large	Staggered	By Council

Mayor-Council-Administrator Plan

Mayor-Council-Administrator Plan	Type of Elections	Wards or At-large	Staggered or Concurrent Terms	Selection of Mayor
	Partisan	At-large	Staggered	By Voters

The charter study commission could also recommend, but not require, any other actions that were within the power of the existing municipal governing body to implement.

The establishment of such a charter study commission could be proposed either by an ordinance of the existing municipal governing body or by a petition of the registered voters. Members

would be elected in non-partisan elections at the same time that a referendum determined whether such a commission should be created.

If a charter study commission recommended adoption of one of the new OMCL plans, a subsequent referendum would be held to determine whether that recommendation should be implemented.

Forms of Government in Use in 1950

In 1950, New Jersey had 567 municipalities, covering the entire area of the state: 52 cities, 20 towns, 258 boroughs, and 237 townships. Most of them were governed under a variety of general laws dating back before 1900 and dealing with their municipal type – generally a weak mayor and council pattern in cities, towns and boroughs, and a committee system, with committee members combining executive and legislative responsibilities in townships. However, the Optional Municipal

Table 3. Forms of Municipal Government in Use, 1950

Type of Municipality	Forms of Municipal Government				
	Weak Mayor-Council	Committee	Commission	Municipal Manager	Total
Cities	27	-	22	3	52
Towns	13	-	7	-	20
Boroughs	231		23	4	258
Townships	-	228	8	1	237
Total	271	228	60	8	567

Sources: Thirteenth Annual Report of the Division of Local Government, Department of the Treasury, State of New Jersey, 1950 , p. I and Manual of the Legislature of New Jersey, 1950, pp.670-671,

Charter Law of 1950 was not the first optional charter law enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature and available to any municipality. Chapter 221 of the Laws of 1911 permitted municipalities to abandon their older form of local government and adopt a Commission Form, in which the municipality would be governed by a five- or three-member commission, with executive responsibilities distributed among the members and the commissioners serving together as the legislative body. Similarly, Chapter 113 of the Laws of 1923 made a Municipal Manager form of local government available, providing for a separation of executive powers – exercised by the manager – from the legislative responsibility, which was retained by the council.

The Commission government plan was widely accepted at first, especially by the larger municipalities of the state; in 1950, 60 places, including most of the largest cities, were using this form of local government, although the form had come under increasing criticism over the years. Municipal Manager government had been far less popular from the start, with only eight municipalities using this form of government in 1950.

Activity Under the OMCL

The first activity under the OMCL, probably stimulated by the position of its former mayor as chairman of the Commission on Municipal Government, came in the Town of Montclair which, by ordinance, authorized a referendum on establishing a charter study commission as early as June 13, 1950, just five days after the law became effective. In November of that year, Montclair's voters approved creating such a commission and, in June, 1951 the Charter Commission recommended abandoning the Commission form of government which the Town had used for 35 years, and replacing it with an OMCL Council-Manager plan. The new law lost some momentum, however, when Montclair's voters rejected the proposed plan in November of that year. In the same election,

voters in three other municipalities – Bradley Beach, Jersey City, and Maywood – followed suit, rejecting OMCL changes proposed by petition of the voters.

Table 4. Changes in New Jersey Municipal Charters, 1951 to 2015.

The Process Used to Propose Change;

All Actions That Resulted in a Public Referendum

	Direct Petition		Charter Study Commission		Consolidation Commission		Council-Initiated Action		Unknown Origin		Total OMCL Charter Changes	
	Pro-Posed	Approved	Pro-Propose	Approved	Pro-proposed	Approved	Pro-proposed	Approved	Pro-proposed	Approved	Pro-proposed	Approved
1951-55	9	3	19	9	1	1	-	-			29	13
1956-60	10	4	13	7	-	-	-	-			23	11
1961-65	12	7	19	10	-	-	-	-			31	17
1966-70	19	8	29	18	-	-	-	-			48	26
1971-75	19	12	19	15	-	-	-	-			38	27
1976-80	16	8	14	7	-	-	-	-			30	15
1981-85	13	12	7	6	-	-	1	1	4	4	25	23
1986-90	10	10	10	7	-	-	3	3			23	20
1991-95	11	7	4	3	-	-	-	-	2	1	17	11
1996-00	9	3	4	3	-	-	-	-			13	6
2001-05	5	3	6	3	-	-	-	-	2	2	13	8
2006-10	3	2	2	1	-	-	-	-			5	3
2011-15	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-			1	1
65-Year Total	136	79	147	90	1	1	4	4	8	7	296	181
% Approval	58%		61%		100%		100%		88%		61%	

The first municipality actually to implement an OMCL charter, in 1952, was the City of Vineland, and the change took place, not through the regular procedures of that law, but as part of the consolidation of the Borough of Vineland with the Township of Landis. After this, the law began to

pick up more momentum, with implementation in 1953 by Hoboken, and the next year in Mount Holly, Newark, and Parsippany-Troy Hills, three very diverse and geographically-separated communities.

During the first five years of the OMCL –1951 through 1955 -- voters in 28 municipalities beyond Vineland made a decision on adopting an OMCL charter (See Table 4). One other place, the Town of Bloomfield, opted for a special charter to be granted by the Legislature. Activity picked up as more communities became aware of the law and as postwar development led many formerly-rural townships to question the capabilities of their traditional local governments faced with explosive new growth.

Activity hit a peak in the five years from 1966 through 1970, when 48 different places considered changes in their traditional forms of local government (See Table 4) Throughout these early years, charter study commissions outnumbered direct citizen action in considering changes in municipal government organization. Activity began to decline after 1970, with direct petitions becoming the preferred course of action, but with a steady reduction in the total number of charter actions during each five-year period. Following the turn of the new century activity dropped off sharply, with only the charter commission in Asbury Park appearing in Table 4 after 2010. Simultaneously with the Asbury Park charter commission in 2012-13, there was a charter commission in Plainfield, but it does not show in Table 4, because it merely recommended changes in the city's special charter, which did not require a local referendum.

Charter study commissions have been only slightly more successful in having their proposals accepted by the voters in a referendum than have the proponents of change by direct petition. Overall, 61% of all charter change proposals have been approved by the voters. Included in Table 4 as "Council-Initiated Actions" are changes initiated by a municipal governing body under the 1981

amendment to the law permitting a change in the details of an OMCL charter. The table probably understates the number of such actions.

Changes Proposed in the Form of Government

Table 5 shows the nature of the changes proposed between 1951 and 2015, either by a municipal charter commission or by the voters through the petition and referendum process. In the first ten years under the OMCL, from 1951 through 1960, a majority of the proposals were for a change to a Council-Manager form of government, and the results were not very encouraging; only

Table 5. Changes in New Jersey Municipal Charters. 1951 to 2015.

Proposed and Approved Changes in Form of Government; All Actions That Resulted in a Public Referendum

	Proposed Change												
	Mayor-Council Plan		Council-Manager Plan		Small Municipality Plan		Mayor-Council-Admin. Plan		Spec. Chart	Back To Prior Form	No Data	Total OMCL Charter Changes	
	Pro-Proposed	Approved	Pro-Proposed	Approved	Pro-Proposed	Approved	Pro-Proposed	Approved				Pro-Proposed	Approved
1951-55	8	4	16	6	4	2	-	-	1	-	-	29	13
1956-60	8	5	12	4	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	23	11
1961-65	17	11	11	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	17
1966-70	24	14	17	11	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	48	26
1971-75	18	13	14	8	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	38	27
1976-80	10	5	12	4	3	3	-	-	4	1	-	30	15
1981-85	11	10	7	6	4	4	1	1	1	1	-	25	23
1986-90	9	7	9	8	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	23	20
1991-95	3	3	6	2	3	3	-	-	-	3	2	17	11
1996-00	3	2	5	3	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	13	6
2001-05	6	4	2	1	-	-	3	2	1	-	1	13	8
2006-10	3	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	3
2011-15	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
65-Year Total	120	80	113	61	39	26	4	3	8	6	6	296	181
% Approval	67%		54%		67%		75%					61%	

10 of the 28 Council-Manager proposals were accepted by the voters. Mayor-Council plans fared better, with nine of 16 receiving a favorable vote.

About 1960, the pattern began to reverse; for the next 15 years, Mayor-Council proposals dominated, and they were accepted in almost two-thirds of the referenda. Thereafter, these two major patterns of local government became about equally popular, resulting in only a modest advantage for the Mayor-Council plans over the full 65-year span of the OMCL, both in terms of proposals and in percentage of acceptance by the voters. Small Municipality Plans lagged behind the first two plans in number of proposals, but they have been more acceptable to the referenda voters than the Council-Manager plans. The Mayor-Council-Administrator Plan – made available in 1981 – has received little attention. However, the idea of petitioning the State Legislature for a special charter, continued as an option. As time went on, the charter revision procedures began to be used, on occasion, to propose a reversion from an OMCL charter.

Abandonments of Forms of Government

Probably just as important as the nature of the proposals for change to a new form of government is the pattern of the existing forms of local government that were to be replaced. Here, Table 5 shows that there has been an overwhelming concentration of abandonments among two older forms of government – the Township form and the Commission form. Both of these older forms rely on a municipal governing pattern without a designated chief executive. Clearly, the voters have concluded that these older forms of government are considered inadequate in meeting current needs in their communities. In contrast, only a small number of places using the Borough form have considered a change, and only a small percentage of those proposed changes have been accepted by the voters. Apparently, the presence of a directly-elected mayor, even with limited executive authority, is more reassuring than a plan that diffuses responsibility among several elected officials.

Table 5. Changes in New Jersey Municipal Charters, 1951 to 2015.

**Proposed and Approved Abandonments of
Older Forms of Municipal Government**

All Actions That Resulted in a Public Referendum

	Proposed Abandonments													
	City Form		Town Form		Borough Form		Township Form		Commission Form		1923 Mun. Manager Form		All Older Forms	
	Pro- posed	Appro- ved	Pro- posed	Appro- ved	Pro- posed	Appro- ved	Pro- posed	Appro- ved	Pro- posed	Appro- ved	Pro- posed	Appro- ved	Pro- posed	Appro- ved
1950 Total	27		13		231		230		58		8		567	
1951-55	1	1	3	2	4	1	11	6	9	2	-	-	28	12
1956-60	2	1	-	-	5	-	10	6	6	4	-	-	23	11
1961-65	-	-	1	-	-	-	15	7	11	8	2	-	29	15
1966-70	3	2	1	-	5	3	29	17	7	4	1	-	46	26
1971-75	3	2	1	1	3	3	19	13	4	3	3	3	33	25
1976-80	2	1	-	-	5	2	10	6	6	3	-	-	23	12
1981-85	1	-	-	-	1	1	14	12	3	3	1	1	20	17
1986-90	2	2	-	-	1	1	8	6	4	3	1	1	16	13
1991-95	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	4	1	1	2	1	9	6
1996-00	-	-	-	-	1	-	7	5	-	-	-	-	8	5
2001-05	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	5	-	-	-	-	10	5
2006-10	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	3	2
2011-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
65-Year Total	14 9		6 3		29 11		136 87		53 33		11 7		249 150	
% Approval	64%		50%		38%		64%		62%		64%		60%	

A recognition of this attitude as far back as 1979 led to the enactment of the Mayor-Council-Administrator Plan – a modified and strengthened form of Borough government.

Proposed Changes in the Political Aspects of Municipal Government

Table 6 shows the changes in the most political aspect of the local charter – election on a partisan basis or in a non-partisan election. Non-partisan elections, originally held in May, but now possible at the General Election in November, with no party labels attached to the candidates' names,

Table 6 Charter Commission and Citizen Action on Proposals to Change the Political Aspects of Municipal Governments in New Jersey, 1951 to 2015.

Total Charter Actions	Prior Election Pattern	Recommended Action	Referendum Results	
286	Non-Partisan Elections 83	<u>Keep</u> Non-Partisan Elections 59	Yes No	39 20
		<u>Change to</u> Partisan Elections 24	Yes No	14 10
	Partisan Elections 203	<u>Keep</u> Partisan Elections 127	Yes No	85 42
		<u>Change to</u> Non-Partisan Elections 76	Yes No	42 34

had been a fixture in the Commission form of government, enacted in 1911, and the Council-Manager Form, made available in 1923. The older forms of municipal government continued partisan elections, with candidates chosen in a Spring primary election and final selection in a November general election. All of the OMCL plans offered both partisan and non-partisan options.

The results in Table 6 show a tendency, both by those who propose a charter change and by the voters when faced with a decision, to lean toward the familiar. If the community had partisan elections, the charter commissioners and the voters favored partisan elections; the same tendency for the familiar was shown in non-partisan communities.

The "Halo Effect": The Ordinance-Administrator

Except for the Small Municipality Plan, the charters made available through the OMCL have a central theme of creating a strong executive position: the Mayor in the Mayor-Council plans, the Manager in the Council-Manager plans, and even the Mayor, though in a more limited sense, in the Mayor-Council-Administrator Plan. The adoption of these charters requires citizen approval in a referendum, and they may not be abandoned without similar voter approval.

It is probable that, long before the enactment of the OMCL, the elected governing officials in some of the older cities, towns, boroughs, and townships, on occasion, turned to some other local government official – the clerk, the attorney, the engineer, or any other local official whom they trusted – to provide some degree of supervision or coordination for the various activities of the municipal government. This approach – creating the office of municipal administrator by action of the governing body --came to be considered by some elected officials as a more palatable alternative to the formal separation of powers built into most OMCL plans. This could provide some degree of central control and supervision, but it could be terminated fairly easily if it did not work out. So, municipal governing bodies began enacting ordinances creating such a position. By 1971, these ordinances had become sufficiently numerous to prompt the Legislature to regulate them by law, and the Ordinance-Administrator approach received legislative sanction in Chapter 146, Laws of 1970

Almost 300 municipalities now have administrators based on local ordinances, in distinction to a formal change in the municipal charter (See Table 7). In general, the municipal governing body is authorized to delegate to the ordinance-administrator any of its executive authority to supervise the activities of the local government. The ordinance may be changed at the will of the elected officials, and the designation of the ordinance-administrator can be changed by the governing body, both

Table 7. Forms of Local Government in Use in New Jersey, 2014,

County	Optional Municipal Charter Law				1923 Muni- cipal Mgr. Law	Spec. Char- ters	Ordi- nance Ad- min- istra- tor	No Admin- istra- tive Pro- vision	Total
	Mayor- Council Plans	Council- Manager Plans	Small Munici- ality Plans	Mayor- Council Admin- istrator Plans					
Atlantic	1	2	1	-	-	-	9	10	23
Bergen	4	3	-	-	4	2	48	9	70
Burlington	5	9	-	-	1	1	14	10	40
Camden	3	0	1	-	-	1	20	12	37
Cape May	3	2	-	-	-	-	6	5	16
Cumberland	2	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	14
Essex	4	5	1	-	-	2	10	-	22
Gloucester	2	1	2	-	-	-	18	1	24
Hudson	3	1	-	-	-	-	5	3	12
Hunterdon	-	-	2	-	-	-	12	12	26
Mercer	5	2	-	-	-	-	5	-	12
Middlesex	10	1	-	1	-	-	12	1	25
Monmouth	3	4	3	-	1	1	37	4	53
Morris	8	4	2	-	-	1	23	1	39
Ocean	5	1	2	-	-	-	19	6	33
Passaic	5	1	1	1	1	-	5	2	16
Salem	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	10	15
Somerset	2	1	-	-	-	-	15	3	21
Sussex	1	3	-	-	-	1	7	12	24
Union	4	1	-	1	-	2	12	1	21
Warren	1	1	3	-	-	1	8	8	22
Total	71	42	18	3	7	12	296	126	565

Table constructed by comparing data on municipal forms of government in the 2014 New Jersey Legislative District Data Book, pp.165-179 with listings of municipal officials in the 2015 Municipal Directory issued by the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

without citizen approval.

The ordinances are far from uniform. Some delegate a great deal of authority, others very little. Individual ordinance-administrators may or may not have much job security. In the analysis on which Table 7 is based, a substantial number of such positions were not counted, since they were listed as "vacant".

Nevertheless, the availability of the ordinance-administrator approach probably is one reason for the decline in more formal OMCL actions.

Conclusion

The major objective of this paper has been fulfilled by the creation, in the Appendix, of a data base for municipal charter change proposals and actions over the 65 years since the Optional Municipal Charter Law was enacted in 1950. Hopefully, the gaps in the inventory will be filled in, and growth of the inventory will be continued into the future.

Beyond this, a few of the major aspects of the law's use have been summarized:

- (a) the number of actions initiated and their disposition,
- (b) the processes used to implement change,
- (c) the nature of the new plans of local government proposed and adopted,
- (d) the forms of local government most often challenged and abandoned,
- (e) the political nature of the changes suggested.

Data Sources

Without any centralized reporting requirements under the law, the identification of actions taken locally has required searching and correlating information from several different sources. The use of these sources is indicated in the Inventory:

1. New Jersey Taxpayers Association – 1972 Cumulative Supplement

In 1964, the New Jersey Taxpayers Association published a report, New Jersey's Optional Municipal Charter Law. Supplementing this publication was a handout sheet providing a cumulative summary of all actions taken locally up to that time. In succeeding years, NJTP issued further printed cumulative updates of local action. The last such cumulative up-date was issued in 1972.

2. New Jersey Taxpayers Association – 1981(?)

Probably in 1981, NJTP issued an undated mimeographed addition to the cumulative supplement of 1972.

3. Bureau of Government Research – Rutgers University

Beginning with some of the earliest charter commissions, the Rutgers University Bureau of Government Research (BGR), now the Center for Government Services (CGS) began gathering copies of charter commission reports. The collection now numbers over 150 such reports, and is available for examination by future charter commissions.

4. ECR files

The author of this report served as consultant to a number of charter study commissions over the years, and his files helped fill in some gaps in other sources.

5. Municipal Charter Network Minutes

For a number of years, during the 1990s through 2010, a discussion group called the Municipal Charter Network met periodically at the Center for Government Services to discuss charter changes and local government generally. The group made a special effort to keep in touch with charter changes, and its minutes provided information on charter proposals and dispositions.

6. New Jersey Legislative District Data Book

The New Jersey Legislative District Data Book, published annually from 1976 to date by the BGR and CGS, has always included information on various aspects of current municipal charters, kept up-to-date until recently by an annual post-card survey of municipal clerks, and this provided information on current usage.

7. New Jersey State League of Municipalities – Wolfe Report

In 1993, the NJSLM published a report, The Faulkner Act: New Jersey's Optional Municipal Charter Law, by a staff member, Albert J. Wolfe, which provided a description of the law as it then stood, and included information on the forms of government then in use in every municipality at that time.

8. Mail from Clerk

In a few cases, where specific data were lacking, information has been obtained by direct mail inquiry to the municipal clerk.

9. NJSLM

In 2015, the New Jersey State league of Municipalities provided from their files an inventory of the forms of government then in use in each municipality.

Acknowledgements

This Inventory would not be complete without some acknowledgement of the many persons who, over the years, have helped to compile the record of OMCL actions and to provide advice and support to local charter study commissions and others who have used the law. They include:

William Miller, a staff member of Princeton Surveys, law professor at New York University, principal author of the original law, and a consultant to many early charter study commissions;

Frank Haines, Sr., a staff member and later executive director of the New Jersey Taxpayers Association, who compiled an extensive record of activity under the law in its early years;

Eugene J. Schneider and David C. Mattek who, as executive directors of the New Jersey County and Municipal Government Study Commission, supervised the preparation of major reports which modified and up-dated the law;

Raymond D. Bodnar, a staff member of the Rutgers University Bureau of Government Research, who participated in two major studies of the law that the Bureau prepared for the County and Municipal Government Study Commission, spent many hours collecting study commission reports from throughout the state as they were issued, and served as a consultant to several local study commissions;

Albert J. Wolfe, a staff member of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, who compiled information and prepared reports on the use of the law;

Alan Olsen and William Struwe, staff members of the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, who provided advice to many local charter study commissions on the application of the law to their municipalities.

APPENDIX

Charter Change Inventory-Alphabetically by Municipality; then by Referendum Date

Municipality	County	Type of Mun.	Prior Form of Govt.	Charter		Charter Study				Proposal				Ref-eren-dum Date	Vote	Chg. Effec.		
				Commission or Direct Petition	Study	Init. By	Study appr.	Date of Report	Have Rept.	Optional Form	Gov. Body Size	Wards or At-L.	Type of Elections					
Aberdeen	Monmouth	Township	Township	Direct								C-M(3)	M+6	A-L	Partisan	1988	Yes	Jan-90
Allamuchy	Warren	Township	Township	Direct								SM(C)	M+4	A-L	Partisan	1978	Yes	Jan-80
Asbury Park	Monmouth	City	1923 Mgr.	Direct								C-M		W+A-L		1995	No	
Asbury Park	Monmouth	City	1923 Mgr.	Commission	Ord.	Yes	2013	X				C-M	5	A-L	Non-part.	2013	Yes	Jan-15
Atlantic City	Atlantic	City	Commission	Direct								M-C(D)	9	W	Non-part.	1968	No	
Atlantic City	Atlantic	City	Commission	Direct								M-C(D)	9	W	Non-part.	1981	Yes	Jul-82
Atlantic City	Atlantic	City	M-C	Direct								M-C	9	6W	Partisan	2000	Yes	Jan-02
Atlantic City	Atlantic	City	Commission	Commission	Petition	Yes	1976	X	M-C (Inval.by NJSC)							None		
Avalon	Cape May	Borough	Commission	Direct								M-C(B)	5	AL	Non-part.	1978	Yes	Jul-79
Avon-by-the-Sea	Monmouth	Borough	Commission	Commission	Petition	Yes	1965	X				SM(B)	5	A-L	Nonpart.	1965	No	
Avon-by-the-Sea	Monmouth	Borough	Borough	Commission		No										None		
Barneget Twp.	Ocean	Township	Township	Commission		Yes	1989	X				C-M	7	4W	Non-part.	1989	No	
Barneget Twp.A24	Ocean	Township	Township	Commission		Yes	2005	X				M-C	5	A-L	Non-part.	2005	No	
Bayonne	Hudson	City	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1961	X				M-C(C)	5	3W	Non-part.	1961	Yes	Jul-62
Bayonne	Hudson	City	M-C(C)	Direct								M-C(F)		W	Partisan	1980	No	
Bayonne	Hudson	City	Commission	Commission	Petition	Yes	1951	X	Retain Comm.							None		
Beach Haven	Ocean	Borough	Borough	Direct								C-M			Non-part	2000	No	
Beach Haven	Ocean	Borough	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	2009	X				C-M	5	A-L	Non-part.	2009	Yes	Jul-10
Bedminster	Somerset	Township	Township	Direct								S-M				1996	No	
Belleville	Essex	Town	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1954	X				C-M(D)	7	4W	Non-part.	1954	No	
Belleville	Essex	Town	Commission	Direct								C-M(D)	7	4W	Non-part.	1961	Yes	Jul-62
Belleville	Essex	Town	Commission	Direct								C-M(16)	7	4W	Non-part	1987	Yes	Jul.88
Belleville	Essex	Township	C-M	Direct								Revert to Comm.						
Belmar	Monmouth	Borough	S-M	Commission								S-M(3)			Partisan	1989	Yes	Jan-91
Belmar	Monmouth	Borough	Commission	Commission		Yes	1990	X				S-M(3)	4+M	A-L	Partisan	1990	Yes	Jan-91
Berkeley Heights	Union	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1967	X				SM(C)	4+M	A-L	Partisan	1967	No	
Berkeley Heights	Union	Township	Township	Commission		Yes	2005					M-C-A	6	A-L	Partisan	2005	Yes	Jul-07
Berkeley Twp.	Ocean	Township	Township	Direct								M-C(F)		W	Partisan	1969	No	
Berkeley Twp.	Ocean	Township	Township	Direct								M-C(F)		W	Partisan	1978	No	
Berkeley Twp.	Ocean	Township	Township	Direct								M-C(D)	7	4W	Partisan	1982	Yes	Jul.83
Berlin Township	Camden	Township	Township	Direct								SM(A)	4+M	A-L	Nonpart.	1972	Yes	Jul-73
Berlin Township	Camden	Township	Township	Direct								SM(3)	4+M	A-L	Nonpart.	1987	Yes	Jan-88
Bloomfield	Essex	Town	Town	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1955	X				Sp.Chart.	6	3W	Partisan	1955	Yes	Jan-56
Boonton Town	Morris	Town	Town	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1952					C-M(D)		W	Non-part.	1952	No	
Boonton Town	Morris	Town	Town	Commission		Yes	1994	X	Sp.Ch.(L.1997,C198 not impl.)							None		
Bradley Beach	Monmouth	Borough	Commission	Direct								M-C(E)		A-L	Partisan	1951	No	
Bradley Beach	Monmouth	Borough	Commission	Direct								M-C(A)	5	AL	Non-part.	1976	No	
Bradley Beach	Monmouth	Borough	Commission	Commission		Yes	1991	X				SM(5)	4+M	A-L	Non-part.	1991	Yes	Jul-92
Bradley Beach	Monmouth	Borough	Commission	Commission	Petition	No'63										None		

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				Commission or Direct Petition	Study Init. By	Study appr.	Date of Report	Have Rept.	Optional Form	Gov. Body Size	Wards or At-L.	Type of Elections				
Branchburg	Somerset	Township	Township	Commission		Yes	1990	X		M-C	5	A-L	Partisan	1990	No	
Brick	Ocean	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1966			M-C(B)	7	AL	Non-part.	1966	Yes	Jan-67
Brick	Ocean	Township	M-C(B)	Direct						M-C(2)			Partisan	1988	Yes	Jan-90
Bridgeton	Cumberland	City	City	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1969	X		M-C(A)	5	AL	Non-part.	1969	Yes	Jul-70
Bridgewater	Somerset	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1953	X		C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1953	No	
Bridgewater	Somerset	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1974	X		M-C(B)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1974	Yes	Jul-75
Bridgewater	Somerset	Township	M-C(B)	CIA						M-C(2)	5	A-L	Partisan	1982	Yes	Jan-84
Brigantine	Atlantic	City	City	Direct						C-M(5)	7	4W	Partisan	1989	Yes	Jan-91
Burlington City	Burlington	City	City	Commission		Yes	1990	X		M-C(4)	7	4W	Partisan	1990	Yes	Jan-92
Burlington Twp.	Burlington	Township	Township	Direct						SM(C)	7	A-L	Partisan	1954	Yes	Jan-56
Burlington Twp.	Burlington	Township	SM(C)	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1973			M-C(E)		A-L	Partisan	1973	Yes	Jan-75
Byram	Sussex	Township	Township	Direct						C-M(11)	M+4	A-L	Non-Part.	1985	Yes	Jul-85
Camden	Camden	City	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1960	X		M-C(B)	7	AL	Non-part.	1961	Yes	Jul-61
Cape May City	Cape May	City	1923 Mgr.	Direct						S-M	5	A-L	Non-part.	1994	Yes	Jul-95
Cape May City	Cape May	City	S-M	Commission		Yes	2003	X		C-M	4+M	A-L	Non-part.	2003	Yes	Jul-04
Carteret	Middlesex	Borough	Borough	Commission		Yes				Retain Borough				None		
Cedar Grove	Essex	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1954	X		C-M(B)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1954	Yes	Jul-55
Cherry Hill	Camden	Township	Commission	Direct						C-M(A)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1962	Yes	Jul-63
Cherry Hill	Camden	Township	C-M(A)	Direct						M-C(B)	7	AL	Non-part.	1972	No	
Cherry Hill	Camden	Township	C-M(A)	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1974			C-M(B)		A-L	Non-part.	1974	Yes	Jul-75
Cherry Hill	Camden	Township	C-M(B)	Direct						M-C(B)	7	AL	Non-part.	1980	Yes	Jul-81
Cherry Hill	Camden	Township	M-C(B)	Direct						M-C(2)	7	AL	Partisan	1987	Yes	Jan-88
Chester Twp.	Morris	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1958			SM(C)	4+M	A-L	Partisan	1958	Yes	Jan-60
Clark	Union	Township	Commission	Direct						M-C(F)	7	4W	Partisan	1959	Yes	Jan-61
Clinton Twp.	Hunterdon	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1971	X		SM(C)	5	A-L	Partisan	1971	Yes	Jan-73
Cranford	Union	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1972	X		C-M(E)	7	A-L	Partisan	1972	No	
Cranford	Union	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1977	X		Retain Twp..				None		
Delran	Burlington	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1971	X		M-C(D)	5	3W	Non-part.	1971	Yes	Jul-72
Denville	Morris	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1970	X		M-C(F)	7	4W	Partisan	1970	Yes	Jan-72
Deptford	Gloucester	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1970	X		C-M(E)	7	A-L	Partisan	1970	Yes	Jan-72
Dover Twp./Toms	Ocean	Township	Township	Direct						M-C	7	4W	Partisan	2002	Yes	
East Brunswick	Middlesex	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1963	X		M-C(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1963	Yes	Jan-65
East Hanover	Morris	Township	Township	Commission		Yes	1990	X		SM(3)	4+M	A-L	Partisan	1990	Yes	Jan-92
East Windsor	Mercer	Township	Township	Direct						C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1968	Yes	Jan-70
East Windsor	Mercer	Township	C-M(E)	Direct						M-C(F)		W	Partisan	1976	No	
East Windsor	Mercer	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1986	X		Retain Twp.				None		
Eastampton	Burlington	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1981	X		C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1981	Yes	Jan-83
Edgewater Park	Burlington	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1977	X		C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1977	No	
Edison	Middlesex	Township	Commission	Commission	Petition	Yes	1956	X		M-C(E)	7	A-L	Partisan	1956	Yes	Jan-58

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				Commission or Direct Petition	Direct	Study Init. By	Study apprv.	Date of Report	Have Rept.	Optional Form	Gov. Body Size	Wards or At-L.	Type of Elections			
Edison	Middlesex	Township	M-C(E)	Direct						M-C(F)		W	Partisan	1968	No	
Edison	Middlesex	Township	M-C	Direct							7	W		2003	No	
Edison	Middlesex	Township	M-C	Direct							9	W		2007	No	
Egg Harbor City	Atlantic	City	City	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1982	X		C-M	4+M	A-L	Partisan	1982	No	
Elizabeth	Union	City	City	Commission	Petition	Yes	1959	X		M-C(F)	9	6W	Partisan	1959	Yes	Jan-61
Elizabeth	Union	City	M-C	Direct									Non-part.	1993	No	
Elizabeth	Union	City	M-C	Direct									Non-part.	1999	No	
Elizabeth	Union	City	M-C(F)	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1978	X		Retain M-C(F)				None		
Englewood	Bergen	City	City	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1978			Sp.Chart.	5	4W	Partisan	1978	Yes	Jan-80
Englewood	Bergen	City	City	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1953	X		Retain City., add admin.				None		
Englewood	Bergen	City	City	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1969	X		Spec.Charter				None		
Estell Manor	Atlantic	City	City	Direct						SM(D)	5	A-L	Partisan	1975	Yes	Jan-77
Evesham	Burlington	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1968	X		C-M(B)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1968	Yes	Jul-69
Evesham	Burlington	Township	C-M(B)	Direct						M-C(F)		W	Partisan	1974	No	
Evesham	Burlington	Township	C-M(B)	Commission			1982	X		C-M(11)	6+M	A-L	Non-part.	1982	Yes	Jul.83
Evesham	Burlington	Township	C-M(B)	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1982	X		Retain C-M B				None		
Ewing	Mercer	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1955	X		C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1955	No	
Ewing	Mercer	Township	Township	Commission		Yes	1993	X		M-C(2)	5	A-L	Partisan	1993	Yes	Jan.95
Fair Lawn	Bergen	Borough	1923 Mgr.	Direct						C-M(E)		A-L	Partisan	1963	No	
Fair Lawn	Bergen	Borough	1923 Mgr.	Direct						C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1973	Yes	Jan-75
Fair Lawn	Bergen	Borough	C-M(E)	Direct						1923 Mgr.		A-L	Nonpart.	1980	Yes	Jul-81
Fair Lawn	Bergen	Borough	1923 Mgr.	Direct						C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1984	Yes	Jul.86
Fairfield	Essex	Borough	Township	Direct						SM(C)	5	A-L	Partisan	1960	Yes	Jan-62
Florence	Burlington	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1970	X		M-C(F)	5	3W	Partisan	1970	Yes	Jan-72
Franklin Twp.	Somerset	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1958	X		C-M(D)	9	5 W	Non-part.	1958	Yes	Jul-59
Franklin Twp.	Somerset	Township	C-M(D)	Direct						M-C(F)		W	Partisan	1966	No	
Franklin Twp.	Somerset	Township	C-M(D)	Direct						C-M(F)		W	Partisan	1978	No	
Franklin Twp.	Somerset	Twp.	C-M	Direct						C-M(8)	8+M	5W	Partisan	1993	Yes	Jan.95
Franklin Twp.	Somerset	Township	C-M(D)	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1968	X		Retain C-M(D)				None		
Franklin Twp.	Somerset	Township	C-M	Commission		Yes	1999	X		Retain C-M				None		
Galloway	Atlantic	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1974	X		C-M(E)	7	A-L	Partisan	1974	Yes	Jan-76
Garfield	Bergen	City	City	Direct						M-C(D)		W	Non-part.	1957	No	
Garfield	Bergen	City	City	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1967	X		M-C(D)	7	W	Non-part.	1967	No	
Gloucester City	Camden	City	Sp.Charter	Commission		Yes	1990	X		C-M	5	3W	Partisan	1992	No	
Gloucester City	Camden	City	City	Commission	Petition	Yes	1968	X		Spec.Charter				None		
Gloucester City	Camden	City	Sp.Charter													
Gloucester Twp.	Camden	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1965			C-M(D)		W	Non-part.	1965	No	
Gloucester Twp.	Camden	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1971	X		C-M(E)	7	A-L	Partisan	1971	Yes	Jan-73
Gloucester Twp.	Camden	Township	C-M(E)	Direct						M-C(B)	7	AL	Non-part.	1981	Yes	Jul-82

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					Study Init. By	Study appr.	Date of Report	Have Rept.	Optional Form	Gov. Body Size	Wards or At-L.	Type of Elections			
Greenwich	Gloucester	Township	Township	Direct					SM(C)	4+M	A-L	Partisan	1980	Yes	Jan-82
Haddonfield	Camden	Borough	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1959	X	M-C(A)	5	AL	Non-part.	1959	No	
Haddonfield	Camden	Borough	Borough	Direct					C-M				1993	No	
Hamilton	Mercer	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1956	X	C-M(A)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1956	No	
Hamilton	Mercer	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1968	X	M-C(E)	7	A-L	Partisan	1968	No	
Hamilton	Mercer	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1974		M-C(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1974	Yes	Jan-76
Hammonton	Atlantic	Town	Town	Direct					M-C(B)		AL	Non-part.	1969	No	
Hanover	Morris	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1963	X	C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1963	No	
Hardyston	Sussex	Township	Township						Sp.Charter	5	A-L	Partisan	1983	Yes	Jan-85
Hardyston	Sussex	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1984	X	Retain Twp.					None	
Hawthorne	Passaic	Borough	Commission	Commission	Petition	Yes	1988	X	M-C	7	4W	Non-part.	1988	No	Jul-89
Hawthorne	Passaic	Borough	Commission	Direct					M-C(4)	7	4W	Partisan	1989	Yes	Jan-90
Highlands	Monmouth	Borough	Borough	Direct					SM-B	4+M	A-L	Non-part.	1955	Yes	Jul-56
Highlands	Monmouth	Borough	SM(B)	Direct					SM(C)	4+M	A-L	Partisan	1976	Yes	Jan-78
Hillsborough	Somerset	Township	Township	Direct					M-C				2005	No	
Hillsborough	Somerset	Township	Township	Commission		Yes	2007		M-C				2007	No	
Hillside	Union	Township	Township	Direct					M-C(4)	7	4W	Non-part.	1996	Yes	Jul-97
Hoboken	Hudson	City	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1952	X	M-C(D)	9	6W	Non-part.	1952	Yes	Jul-53
Holland	Hunterdon	Township	Township	Direct					SM(A)		A-L	Nonpart.	1970	No	
Hopewell Twp.	Mercer	Township	Township	Commission		Yes	2005	X	M-C-A	6	A-L	Partisan	2005	No	
Howell	Monmouth	Township	Township	Direct					C-M(3)	5	A-L	Partisan	1992	Yes	Jan-93
Howell	Monmouth	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1979		Retain Twp.					None	
Irvington	Essex	Town	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1954	X	M-C(A)	5	AL	Non-part.	1954	No	
Irvington	Essex	Town	Commission	Direct					M-C(D)	7	4 W	Non-part.	1962	Yes	Jul-62
Island Heights	Ocean	Borough	Borough	Direct					SM(A)	5+M	A-L	Nonpart.	1973	Yes	Jul-74
Jackson	Ocean	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1965	X	M-C(F)	5	W	Partisan	1965	No	
Jackson	Ocean	Township	Township	Direct					M-C(F)	5	2W	Partisan	1968	No	
Jackson	Ocean	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	2005	X	M-C	5	A-L	Non-part.	2005	Yes	Jul-06
Jackson	Ocean	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1993	X	Retain Twp.					None	
Jefferson	Morris	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1969	X	M-C(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1969	Yes	Jan-71
Jersey City	Hudson	City	Commission	Direct					M-C(B)		AL	Non-part.	1951	No	
Jersey City	Hudson	City	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1960	X	M-C(C)	9	6W	Non-part.	1960	Yes	Jul-61
Jersey City	Hudson	City	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1951		Retain Comm.					None	
Keansburg	Monmouth	Borough	1923 Mgr.	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1965	X	C-M(B)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1965	No	
Keansburg	Monmouth	Borough	1923 Mgr.	Direct					C-M(B)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1973	Yes	Jul-74
Lacey	Ocean	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1968	X	SM(D)	3	A-L	Partisan	1968	No	
Lacey	Ocean	Township	Township	Direct					C-M(E)		A-L	Partisan	1971	No	
Lakewood	Ocean	Township	Township	Direct					C-M(B)		A-L	Non-part.	1963	No	
Lambertville	Hunterdon	City	Commission	Direct					SM(C)	4+M	A-L	Partisan	1981	Yes	Jan-83

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Lawrence	Mercer	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1968	X	C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1968	Yes	Jan-70
Lawrence	Mercer	Township	C-M	Commission		Yes	1990	X	Retain C-M				None		
Lincoln Park	Morris	Borough	Borough	Direct					C-M(B)		A-L	Non-part.	1967	No	
Lincoln Park	Morris	Borough	Borough	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1969	X	M-C(F)	7	4W	Partisan	1969	Yes	Jan-71
Lincoln Park	Morris	Borough	M-C(F)	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1978	X	Retain M-C(F)				None		
Linwood	Atlantic	City	City	Direct					C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1973	No	
Little Falls	Passaic	Borough	Borough	Direct					M-C	5	A-L	Partisan	2003	Yes	2005
Livingston	Essex	Township	Township	Direct					C-M(A)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1952	No	
Livingston	Essex	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1955	X	C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1955	Yes	Jan-57
Lodi	Bergen	Borough	1923 Mgr.	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1970	X	C-M(E)	7	A-L	Partisan	1970	No	
Lodi	Bergen	Borough	1923 Mgr.	Direct					M-C(B)		AL	Non-part.	1974	Yes	Jul-74
Lodi	Bergen	Borough	M-C(B)						1923 Mgr.	5	A-L	Non-part	1992	Yes	
Logan	Gloucester	Township	Township						SM(3)	4+M	A-L	Partisan	1983	Yes	Jan-84
Long Beach	Ocean	Township	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1966	X	C-M(B)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1966	No	
Long Beach	Ocean	Township	Commission	Direct					C-M(B)		A-L	Non-part.	1969	No	
Long Branch	Monmouth	City	Commission	Commission	Petition	Yes	1960	X	C-M(D)	9	W	Non-part.	1960	Yes	Jul-61
Long Branch	Monmouth	City	C-M(D)	Direct					M-C(A)	5	AL	Non-part.	1965	Yes	Jul-66
Lopatcong	Warren	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1974	X	SM(C)	M+4	A-L	Partisan	1974	Yes	Jan-76
Lower Twp.	Cape May	Township	Township	Commission		Yes	1983	X	C-M(15)	5	3W	Non-part.	1983	Yes	Jul-84
Lower Twp.	Cape May	Township	C-M	CIA					C-M(7)	5	3W	Partisan	1987	Yes	Jan-89
Madison Bor.	Morris	Borough	Borough	Commission	Petition	Yes	1969	X	M-C(F)	7	W	Partisan	1969	No	
Madison Twp.	Middlesex	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1962	X	C-M(E)	7	A-L	Partisan	1962	Yes	Jan-64
Mahwah	Bergen	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1978	X	C-M(E)	7	A-L	Partisan	1978	No	
Mahwah	Bergen	Township	Township	Direct					M-C(B)	7	A-L	Non-part.	1983	Yes	Jul.84
Manalapan	Monmouth	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1970	X	C-M(E)	7	A-L	Partisan	1970	No	
Manchester	Ocean	Township	Township	Direct					M-C(6)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1989	Yes	Jul-90
Manchester	Ocean	Township	M-C	Direct								Partisan	1999	No	
Mansfield	Burlington	Township	Township	Commission		Yes	1993	X	Incr.Twp.Comm.; hire admin.				None		
Maple Shade	Burlington	Township	Township	Direct					C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1973	Yes	Jan-75
Maplewood	Essex	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1963	X	M-C(B)	5	AL	Non-part.	1963	No	
Marlboro	Monmouth	Township	Township	Direct					M-C(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1963	Yes	Jan-64
Matawan	Monmouth	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1964	X	C-M(E)	7	A-L	Partisan	1964	Yes	Jan-66
Maurice River	Cumberland	Township	Township	Direct					SM(A)		A-L	Nonpart.	1970	No	
Maywood	Bergen	Borough	Borough	Direct					C-M(A)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1951	No	
Maywood	Bergen	Borough	Borough	Direct					C-M(A)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1955	No	
Medford Twp.	Burlington	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1978	X	C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1978	Yes	Jan-80
Middletown	Monmouth	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1969	X	M-C(F)	7	4W	Partisan	1969	No	
Middletown	Monmouth	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	No'63							None		
Millburn	Essex	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1972	X	C-M(B)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1972	No	

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				Commission or Direct Petition	Study	Init. By	Study appr.	Date of Report	Have Rept.	Optional Form	Gov. Body Size	Wards or At-L.	Type of Elections	Ref-eren-dum Date			
Mine Hill	Morris	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1978	X	M-C(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1978	Yes	Jan-80		
Monroe	Gloucester	Township	Township	Direct					M-C(F)	5	A-L	Partisan	1970	Yes	Jan-72		
Monroe	Middlesex	Township	Township	Direct					M-C(F)	5	3W	Partisan	1971	Yes	Jan-72		
Montclair	Essex	Town	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1951	X	C-M(B)	7	A-L	Non-part.	1951	No			
Montclair	Essex	Town	Commission	Direct					C-M(C)	5	3W	Non-part.	1973	No			
Montclair	Essex	Town	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1979	X	C-M(C)	7	4W	Non-part.	1979	Yes	Jul-80		
Montclair	Essex	Town	C-M	CIA					C-M(13)	6	4W	Non-part.	1987	Yes	Jul-88		
Montclair	Essex	Town	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1964	X	Spec.Charter	5			None				
Montville	Morris	Township	Township						Spec.Charter			Non-part	2005	Yes	Jul.96		
Montville	Morris	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1973	X	Spec.Charter				None				
Moorestown	Burlington	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1965	X	C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1965	Yes	Jan-67		
Morristown	Morris	Town	Town	Commission	Petition	Yes	1972	X	M-C(F)	7	4W	Partisan	1972	Yes	Jan-74		
Mount Holly	Burlington	Township	Township	Direct					C-M(A)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1953	Yes	Jul-54		
Mount Holly	Burlington	Township	C-M(A)	CIA					CM(12)			Nonpart.	1989	Yes	Jul-90		
Mount Laurel	Burlington	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1969	X	C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1970	Yes	Jan-72		
Mount Olive	Morris	Township	Township	Direct					SM-(B)		A-L	Nonpart.	1955	No			
Mount Olive	Morris	Township	Township	Direct					SM(B)		A-L	Nonpart.	1959	No			
Mount Olive	Morris	Township	Township	Direct					SM(A)		A-L	Nonpart.	1964	No			
Mountain Lakes	Morris	Borough	Borough	Commission	Petition	Yes	1960	X	M-C(B)	5	AL	Non-part.	1960	No			
Mountain Lakes	Morris	Borough	Borough	Commission	Petition	Yes	1973	X	C-M(E)	7	A-L	Partisan	1973	Yes	Jan-75		
Mt.Olive	Morris	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1970	X	M-C(E)	7	A-L	Partisan	1970	Yes	Jan-72		
Mullica	Atlantic	Township	Township	Direct					M-C	5	3W	Partisan	1984	Yes	Jan-86		
Mullica	Atlantic	Township	M-C	Direct					Revert to Twp.	5	A-L	Partisan	1995	Yes	Jan.96		
New Brunswick	Middlesex	City	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1969	X	M-C(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1969	Yes	Jan-71		
New Brunswick	Middlesex	City	M-C(E)	Direct					M-C(B)		AL	Non-part.	1976	No			
New Brunswick	Middlesex	City	M-C	Commission	Petition	Yes	1998	X	Retain M-C				None				
Newark	Essex	City	Commission	Commission	Petition	Yes	1953	X	M-C(C)	9	5W	Non-part.	1953	Yes	Jul-54		
Newton	Sussex	Town	Town	Commission	Petition	Yes	1955	X	C-M(B)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1955	Yes	Jul-56		
North Arlington	Bergen	Borough	Borough	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1979	X	C-M(A)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1979	No			
North Brunswick	Middlesex	Township	Township	Direct					M-C(E)		A-L	Partisan	1981	No			
North Brunswick	Middlesex	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1982	X	M-C-A	6	A-L	Partisan	1982	Yes	Jan-83		
North Plainfield	Somerset	Borough	Borough	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1954	X	C-M(E)	7	A-L	Partisan	1954	No			
North Plainfield	Somerset	Borough	Borough	Direct					C-M(E)		A-L	Partisan	1956	No			
North Plainfield	Somerset	Borough	Borough	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1975	X	M-C(E)	7	A-L	Partisan	1975	Yes	Jan-77		
Ocean	Monmouth	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1962	X	C-M(A)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1962	Yes	Jul-63		
Ocean City	Cape May	City	Commission	Direct					M-C(C)		4W	Non-part.	1963	No			
Ocean City	Cape May	City	Commission	Commission	Petition	Yes	1976	X	Sp.Chart.	5	A-L	Non-part.	1976	No			
Ocean City	Cape May	City	Commission	Direct					M-C(D)	7	4W	Non-part.	1977	Yes	Jul-78		
Old Bridge	Middlesex	Township	C-M	Direct					M-C(4)	9	6W	Partisan	1982	Yes	Jan.84		

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				Commission	or	Study	Init.	Study	Date of	Have	Optional	Gov.	Wards				Type
				Direct	Petition	By	apprv.	Report	Rept.	Form	Body	or	of				Elections
Orange	Essex	City	Commission	Commission	Petition	Yes	1962	X	M-C(C)	7	W	Non-part.	1962	Yes	Jan-63		
Orange	Essex	City	Commission	Direct					M-C(D)		4W	Non-part.	1975	Yes	Jul-76		
Oxford	Warren	Township	Township	Direct					SM(C)		A-L	Partisan	1974	Yes	Jan-75		
Oxford	Warren	Township	SM						Revert to Twp.				1984	Yes	Jun-05		
Paramus	Bergen	Borough	Borough	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1975	X	Sp.Chart.	6	6W	Partisan	1977	No			
Par-Troy Hills	Morris	Twp.	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1953	X	C-M(A)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1953	Yes	Jul-54		
Par-Troy Hills	Morris	Township	C-M(A)	Direct					M-C(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1964	Yes	Jan-66		
Par-Troy Hills	Morris	Township	C-M(A)	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1961	X	Retain C-M(A)				None				
Passaic	Passaic	City	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1955	X	M-C(F)	7	W	Partisan	1955	No			
Passaic	Passaic	City	Commission	Direct					C-M(C)	7	4W	Non-part.	1966	Yes	Jul-67		
Passaic	Passaic	City	C-M(C)	Direct					M-C(B)	7	AL	Non-part.	1972	Yes	Jul-73		
Passaic Twp.	Morris	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1969	X	SM(C)	6+M	A-L	Partisan	1969	No			
Paterson	Passaic	City	City	Commission	Petition	Yes	1973	X	M-C(D)	9	6W	Non-part.	1973	Yes	Jul-74		
Pemberton Twp.	Burlington	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1979	X	C-M(F)	5	W	Partisan	1979	No			
Pemberton Twp.	Burlington	Township	Township	Commission		Yes	1989	X	M-C(1)	5	A-L	Partisan	1989	Yes	Jan-91		
Pequannock	Morris	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1955	X	C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1955	Yes	Jan-57		
Pequannock	Morris	Township	Twp.	Commission		No							None				
Perth Amboy	Middlesex	City	Commission	Direct					M-C(B)	5	AL	Non-part.	1971	Yes	Jul-72		
Phillipsburg	Warren	Town	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1968	X	C-M(B)	7	A-L	Non-part.	1968	Yes	Jul-69		
Phillipsburg	Warren	Town	C-M	Direct					M-C(2)	5	A-L	Partisan	1992	Yes	Jul-92		
Piscataway	Middlesex	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1967	X	M-C(F)	7	4W	Partisan	1967	Yes	Jan-69		
Plainfield	Union	City	Sp.Charter	Commission	Ord.	Yes	2013		Amend Sp.Ch.				None				
Pohatcong	Warren	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1972	X	M-C(D)	5	3W	Non-part.	1972	No			
Pohatcong	Warren	Township	Township	Commission		Yes	1990	X	S-M(7)	4+M	A-L	Non-part.	1990	Yes	Jul-91		
Rahway	Union	City	City	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1953	X	M-C(F)	9	6W	Partisan	1953	Yes	Jan-55		
Ramsey	Bergen	Borough	Borough	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1953	X	Retain Bor., add admin.				None				
Randolph	Morris	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1967	X	C-M(E)	7	A-L	Partisan	1967	Yes	Jan-69		
Randolph	Morris	Township	C-M									Non-part	1995	No			
Ridgefield	Bergen	Borough	Borough	Direct					C-M				1993	No			
Ridgewood	Bergen	Township	Commission	Direct					C-M(B)		A-L	Non-part.	1960	No			
Ridgewood	Bergen	Township	Commission	Direct					C-M(B)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1969	Yes	Jul-70		
Ringwood	Passaic	Borough	Borough	Direct					C-M(D)		W	Non-part.	1978	No			
Ringwood	Passaic	Borough	Borough	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1980	X	C-M(E)	7	A-L	Partisan	1980	Yes	Jan-82		
Ringwood	Passaic	Borough	Borough	Commission		No											
Rivervale	Bergen	Township	Township	Direct					M-C(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1978	Yes	Jan-79		
Rochelle Park	Bergen	Township	Township	Direct					SM(C)		A-L	Partisan	1969	No			
Rockaway	Morris	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1956		C-M(D)		W	Non-part.	1956	No			
Rockaway	Morris	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1966	X	M-C(F)	9	6W	Partisan	1966	Yes	Jan-68		
Roxbury	Morris	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1980	X	C-M(F)	7	4W	Partisan	1980	Yes	Jan-82		

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Roxbury	Morris	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1972	X	Retain Twp.				None		
Saddle Brook	Bergen	Township	Township	Direct					M-C(B)	7	A-L	Non-part.	1969	Yes	Jan-69
Saddle Brook	Bergen	Township	M-C(B)	Direct					M-C(2)			Partisan	1989	Yes	Jan-91
Saddle Brook	Bergen	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1961	X	Retain Twp.				None		
Scotch Plains	Union	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1971	X	C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1971	Yes	Jan-73
Sea Isle City	Cape May	City	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1980		C-M(B)		A-L	Non-part.	1980	No	
Sea Isle City	Cape May	Borough	Commission	Direct			2006		M-C	5	A-L	Non-part.	2006	Yes	Jul-07
Ship Bottom	Ocean	Borough	Borough	Direct					C-M(A)	5\	A-L	Non-part.	1958	No	
Somers Point	Atlantic	City	City	Direct					C-M(C)		W	Non-part.	1976	No	
Somers Point	Atlantic	City	City	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1974	X	Retain City.				None		
South Amboy	Middlesex	City	City	Direct					M-C(D)	5	3W	Non-part.	1969	Yes	Jul-71
South Brunswick	Middlesex	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1964	X	M-C(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1964	No	
South Brunswick	Middlesex	Township	Township	Commission		Yes	1997	X	C-M	4+M	A-L	Partisan	1997	Yes	Jan-99
Sparta	Sussex	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1959	X	C-M(B)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1959	Yes	Jul-60
Spotswood	Middlesex	Borough	Commission	Direct					SM(C)		A-L	Partisan	1961	No	
Spotswood	Middlesex	Borough	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1975	X	M-C(B)	5	AL	Non-part.	1975	Yes	Jul-76
Springfield	Union	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1958	X	C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1958	No	
Springfield	Burlington	Township	Township	Direct					SM	5	A-L	Partisan	1992	Yes	Jan.93
Springfield	Union	Township	Township	Direct					Spec.Charter				1997	Yes	
Springfield	Burlington	Township	Township	Commission		Yes	1999	X	C-M	5	A-L	Partisan	1999	Yes	Jan.01
Springfield	Union	Township	Township	Commission		Yes	2013								
Stafford	Ocean	Township	Township	Direct					M-C(F)	5	W	Partisan	1973	No	
Stafford	Ocean	Township	Township	Direct					SM(A)		A-L	Nonpart.	1981	Yes	Jul-82
Stafford	Ocean	Township	Township						SM	6+M	A-L	Non-part.	1981	Yes	Jul.82
Teaneck	Bergen	Township	1923 Mgr.	Direct					C-M(12)	7	A-L	Non-part	1987	Yes	Jul.88
Tenaflly	Bergen	Borough	Borough	Commission	Petition	Yes	1979	X	Sp.Chart.	6	A-L	Partisan	1980	Yes	
Tinton Falls	Monmouth	Borough	Borough	Direct					M-C(6)	5	A-L	Non-part	1984	Yes	Jul.85
Trenton	Mercer	City	Commission	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1961	X	M-C(C)	7	4W	Non-part.	1961	Yes	Jul-62
Union Twp.	Union	Township	Township	Commission		Yes	1996	X	M-C	9	4W	Partisan	1996	No	
Union Twp.	Union	Township	Township	Commission			2009		Retain Twp.				None		
Vernon	Sussex	Township	Township	Commission		Yes	1996	X	C-M	5	A-L	Partisan	1996	Yes	Jan-98
Vernon	Sussex	Township	C-M	Direct					M-C	5	A-L	Non-part.	2010	Yes	Jul-11
Verona	Essex	Borough	Borough	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1986	X	C-M(12)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1986	Yes	Jan-87
Vineland	Cumberland	City	Comm.-Twp.	Consol.Comm.	--	Yes	1951		M-C(A)	5	AL	Non-part.	1952	Yes	Jul-52
Voorhees	Camden	Township	Township	Direct					M-C(B)		AL	Non-part.	1971	No	
Voorhees	Camden	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1993	X	Retain Twp.				None		
Waldwick	Bergen	Borough	Borough	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1960	X	C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1960	No	
Warren	Somerset	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1955		SM-(C)		A-L	Partisan	1955	No	
Warren Twp.	Somerset	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1975	X	C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1975	No	

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Wash.Twp-Robbin	Mercer	Township	Township	Direct						M-C	5	A-L	Non-part.	2004	Yes	
Washington Bor.	Warren	Borough	Borough	Direct						C-M(E)	M+6	A-L	Partisan	1967	Yes	Jan-69
Washington Bor.	Warren	Borough	C-M(E)	Direct						Revert to Bor.				1973	No	
Washington Twp.	Bergen	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1968	X		M-C(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1968	Yes	Jan-70
Washington Twp.	Gloucester	Township	Township	Direct						M-C(2)	5	A-L	Partisan	1983	Yes	Jan-85
Wayne	Passaic	Township	Township	Direct						M-C(F)	9	6W	Partisan	1960	Yes	Jan-62
Weehawken	Hudson	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1969	X		C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1969	No	
Weehawken	Hudson	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1981	X		C-M(C)	5	3W	Non-part.	1981	Yes	Jul-82
West Milford	Passaic	Township	Township	Commission	Petition	Yes	1962	X		M-C(F)	5	W	Partisan	1962	No	
West Milford	Passaic	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1968	X		C-M(D)	5	3W	Non-part.	1968	Yes	Jul-69
West Milford	Passaic	Township	C-M(D)							M-C-A	6	A-L	Partisan	2003	Yes	
West Orange	Essex	Town	Commission	Commission	Petition	Yes	1954	X		C-M(A)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1954	No	
West Orange	Essex	Town	Commission	Direct						M-C(B)	5	AL	Non-part.	1961	Yes	Jul-62
West Orange	Essex	Township	M-C	Direct						C-M				1997	No	
West Paterson*	Passaic	Borough	Borough	Direct						C-M(A)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1957	No	
West Paterson*	Passaic	Borough	Borough	Direct						SM(C)	6+M	A-L	Partisan	1966	Yes	Jan-67
West Windsor	Mercer	Township	Township	Commission		Yes	1992	X		M-C(6)	5	A-L	Non-part.	1992	Yes	Jul-93
Westfield	Union	Town	Town	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1961	X		M-C(F)	7	W	Partisan	1961	No	
Wildwood	Cape May	City	Commission	Commission	Petition	Yes	1982	X		M-C	5	3W	Non-part.	1982	Yes	Jul-83
Wildwood	Cape May	City	CM	Direct						Revert to Comm.	3	A-L	Non-part.	1994	Yes	
Willingboro	Burlington	Township	Township	Direct						C-M(E)	5	A-L	Partisan	1960	Yes	Jan-62
Woodbridge	Middlesex	Township	Township	Commission	Ord.	Yes	1962	X		M-C(F)	9	5W	Partisan	1962	Yes	Jan-64
Woodcliff Lake	Bergen	Borough	Borough	Commission		Yes	2003	X		C-M	7	4W	Partisan	2003	No	