

Weekly Local Politics Report: Trenton, New Jersey

Charlotte R. Smallwood
The Demopolis Coalition

27 February 2026

Weekly Local Politics Report: Trenton, New Jersey

This report outlines this week's findings regarding political activity in Trenton, New Jersey. It provides updates on city leadership, election activity, ongoing legislative matters, and major concerns impacting the community.

City Leadership

Trenton operates under a Mayor–Council form of government. The current mayor, Reed Gusciora, is serving a term that concludes on December 31, 2026, and he is widely expected to seek a third term in office. No emergency executive orders or changes in municipal leadership were identified during this reporting period. A review of recent mayoral statements and local reporting indicates that the administration's primary priorities remain public safety, infrastructure improvement, and economic development.

City Council

The council includes seven members which is divided into two categories of representation: (1) representatives at-large, and (2) individual wards. Three serve at-large (whole city), Jasi Edwards, Crystal Feliciano and Yazminelly Gonzalez. The four remaining represent smaller sections within the city, Jennifer Williams (North Ward), Joseph A. Harrison (East Ward), Jenna Figueroa Kettenburg (South Ward) and Teska Frisby (West Ward). During the report period, there are no changes in council leadership or elections announced. **Elections**

There are no active municipal elections occurring this week. The 2026 mayoral race however is emerging with Austin Edwards publicly positioning himself as running mayor. There are no other officially declared candidates as of this reporting period.

Governmental Concerns

Mayor Reed Gusciora has identified the Trenton Water Works as a major concern for the city, focusing on issues such as system management, necessary infrastructure repairs, and ongoing debates over whether control should remain with the city or be transferred to another authority. Residents have also expressed concerns about public safety following a federal investigation into the police department for alleged improper use of force and unconstitutional policing practices. In addition, downtown revitalization and economic development have been highlighted as priorities in local forums and news reports.

Progress Report

Trenton has responded to key governance challenges by strengthening government accountability, implementing public safety reforms, upgrading essential infrastructure including the water system, and fostering downtown economic development through focused planning and investment.

Summary

Overall, Trenton's political environment remains stable, with early activity beginning around the upcoming mayoral election, while infrastructure and public safety continue to be central issues.

References

City of Trenton. (n.d.). *City of Trenton announces \$1.35 million investment in Reading Senior Center*. Insider NJ.

<https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/city-of-trenton-to-announce-1-35-million-investment-in-reading-senior-center/>

City of Trenton. (n.d.). *Safe Streets for All committee announcement*.

<https://www.trentonnj.org/m/newsflash/Home/Detail/1242>

City of Trenton. (n.d.). *Economic development and redevelopment updates*.

<https://www.trentonnj.org/m/newsflash/home/detail/711>

New Jersey Business & Industry Association. (n.d.). *Grants available to support revitalization efforts in downtown Trenton*.

<https://njbiz.org/grants-available-to-support-revitalization-efforts-in-downtown-trenton/>

NJBiz. (2025). *Trenton enacts emergency curfew amid unrest near City Hall*.

<https://njbiz.com/trenton-enacts-emergency-curfew-city-hall-unrest/>

Peterson's Breaking News of Trenton. (2025). *City of Trenton to pursue reforms despite end of federal investigation*.

<https://petersonsbreakingnewsoftrenton.com/2025/05/22/city-of-trenton-to-pursue-reforms-despite-end-of-federal-investigation/>

Trenton Journal. (2025). *Austin Edwards, Esq. announces candidacy for 50th mayor of Trenton*.

<https://trentonjournal.com/austin-edwards-esq-announces-candidacy-for-50th-mayor-of-trenton/>