



Bryant University
Hassenfeld Institute for Public Leadership



RHODE ISLAND ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Lauren Greene
Lgreene@nharbor.com
401-831-1200

Rhode Island's Elected Officials Prepare for Public Office

Over 100 local officials attend Newly Elected Leaders Orientation

Smithfield, R.I. – In collaboration with the Hassenfeld Institute for Public Leadership at Bryant University, the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns (League) and the Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC) hosted the Newly Elected Leaders Orientation on January 4th and 5th. The conference provided 129 municipal and school leaders the opportunity to learn essential skills, exchange ideas with peers and explore the unique challenges within public service. Attendees were from every corner of the state, representing municipal and school officials from 35 cities and towns.

“The Hassenfeld Institute is committed to helping public leaders develop the leadership skills needed to make informed decisions and manage effectively,” **said Gary Sasse, Founding Executive Director of the Hassenfeld Institute.** “The Newly Elected Leaders Orientation is an important component of preparing municipal leaders for public service leadership roles.”

“From the day they are sworn in, school committee members have decisions to make that have far reaching effects on students, teachers and municipal budgets. It is critically important that they have practical training on the most pressing issues and laws impacting them,” **said Timothy C. Duffy, Executive Director of the R.I. Association of School Committees.**

“Our public leaders need to be ready to hit the ground running on day one,” **said Brian Daniels, Executive Director of the R.I. League of Cities and Towns.** “This year’s orientation includes training and information on relevant issues facing local officials. We are proud to partner with RIASC and the Hassenfeld Institute to provide officials in local government with the skills needed to lead effectively on behalf of Rhode Island’s taxpayers.”

The program explored practical issues faced by municipal leaders, including financial oversight, roles and responsibilities, conflicts of interest, and collective bargaining. The conference was led by top faculty from Bryant University and experienced public leaders with subject area expertise.

This is the fourth biennial conference that the League and the RIASC have partnered with the Hassenfeld Institute to provide this training to new Rhode Island local officials.

About the [Hassenfeld Institute](#): The Hassenfeld Institute for Public Leadership provides public officials and community leaders with the tools and skills needed to make informed decisions and manage responsive organizations effectively.

About the [Rhode Island Association of School Committees \(RIASC\)](#): RIASC is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing the effectiveness of RI School Committee members in meeting their role and responsibilities in promoting student achievement in safe and challenging learning environments, while playing a leading role in shaping and advocating public education policy at the local, state and national levels.

About the [Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns](#): Founded in 1968, the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns is a municipal membership organization that serves as the unified voice of local government in Rhode Island.

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