

MOODY'S

INVESTORS SERVICE

Rating Action: Moody's assigns Aaa to Morris County, NJ's bonds; outlook remains stable

31 May 2019

New York, May 31, 2019 -- Moody's Investors Service has assigned a Aaa rating to Morris County, NJ's \$32.5 million General Obligation Bonds, Series 2019 consisting of: \$24 million General Improvement Bonds, \$1.8 million Park Bonds and \$6.7 million County College Bonds (County College Bond Act, P.L. 1971, c.12, as amended). Moody's maintains the Aaa rating on the county's outstanding GO debt. The outlook remains stable.

RATINGS RATIONALE

The Aaa rating reflects the county's substantial tax base, strong and diverse economy, healthy reserve levels, and modest debt burden. The rating also reflects a long trend of strong, proactive financial management.

RATING OUTLOOK

The stable outlook reflects our expectation that the county's financial position will remain strong over the near term and that the county will continue to benefit from its substantial and diverse tax base and above-average wealth levels.

FACTORS THAT COULD LEAD TO AN UPGRADE

- Not applicable

FACTORS THAT COULD LEAD TO A DOWNGRADE

- Unanticipated declines in economic health
- Weakening of reserves and liquidity

LEGAL SECURITY

Debt service on the bonds is secured by the county's general obligation unlimited ad valorem tax pledge.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Proceeds from the bonds will be used to finance various capital projects throughout the county, county parks, and county college.

PROFILE

Morris County is located in northern New Jersey (A3 stable) about 25 miles west of New York City (Aa1 stable). It is one of the wealthiest counties in the country.

METHODOLOGY

The principal methodology used in this rating was US Local Government General Obligation Debt published in December 2016. Please see the Rating Methodologies page on www.moody.com for a copy of this methodology.

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