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April 7, 2020

Welcome to the PSATS Morning News, our new email digest.

The Morning News eliminates a common complaint – too many emails – while still delivering up-to-date information on PSATS and local government issues. Members will receive ONE email from PSATS that includes latest news & COVID-19 updates, videos – look for TVN and the Question of the Week every Tuesday and Thursday – along with legislative and policy updates, grant and funding opportunities, and announcements about upcoming PSATS training.

We're excited about this new concept and want to hear what you think. Email comments and suggestions to [morningnews@psats.org](mailto:morningnews@psats.org).

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## Latest News

### [Join Us for the 3rd PSATS Town Hall This Thursday, April 9, at Noon](#)

To assist in gathering and sharing all the COVID-19 information, as well as answer your questions, PSATS is hosting its third web-based Town Hall for township officials on Thursday, April 9, at noon. [Click here](#) to register.

### [Important Federal Survey Request](#)

PSATS has been working closely with the National Associations of Towns and Townships (NATaT) to better define municipal needs from the federal government since municipalities were not the focus of any of the first 3 stimulus laws. It is our understanding that Covid-4 will include this and that the infrastructure proposal supported by Speaker Pelosi and President Trump has been shelved until a later version (5 or 6). As we advocate for priority programs in the next federal stimulus, NATAT has created this form that will help demonstrate the fiscal impact of the coronavirus. Please take a few minutes to complete this [form](#) by Friday, April 10, 2020 at noon.

### **[Commonwealth Considering Sharing Data with Municipal Leaders](#)**

During Monday's press conference, Gov. Tom Wolf and Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine were asked if the administration would consider sharing COVID-19 data by municipality with municipal and county leaders to help better prepare resources. [Read full story.](#)

### **[Deadline Extended for Liquid Fuels Tax Refunds](#)**

The traditional deadline for filing liquid fuels tax refund claims with the Board of Finance and Revenue is March 31, 2020. [Read full story.](#)

### **[PennDOT Extends Deadline for Registrations, Inspections](#)**

The state Department of Transportation has announced that any vehicle registrations, safety inspections, or emissions inspections scheduled to expire from March 16 through April 30, 2020, are extended until May 31, 2020. [Read full story.](#)

### **[State and Local Prisons May Release Some Inmates](#)**

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, state and county prisons are reviewing protocols and will be releasing some at-risk inmates who are less violent offenders. Those with minimal sentences will be converted to probation and may not be aggressively supervised for reincarceration. [Read full story.](#)

### **[2020 Census: Pre-existing and New Protocols](#)**

Township officials are reminded to encourage residents to complete their census questionnaire online or by phone asap. If residents do not respond by phone or electronically, they will receive a paper questionnaire in a few weeks.

Census field operations are temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Questions on the Census can be directed to 1-844-330-2020 and can also be found by going to [mycensus2020.gov](http://mycensus2020.gov).

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## Legislation and Policy



The House and Senate are both scheduled to be in session today April 7th

Watch session live [here](#)

### Legislative News

On April 6th, Representatives Tim Bonner (R-8-Mercer), K.C. Tomlinson (R-18- Bucks), and Eric Davanzo (R-58-Westmoreland) were sworn in as members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives after recent special election victories. PSATS looks forwards to working with the new lawmakers.

Today, we expect the legislature to move forward several positive, municipal-related actions that PSATS has aggressively pushed for including remote meeting language, permit extension language and local option language for property tax payment deadlines. All 3 of these emergency tools are important and made necessary by the current CCOVID-19 challenge. Please encourage your members to support SB841 first in the Senate and then the House. We hope to have this on the Governor's desk shortly.

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## Learn

### [Municipal Finance 101/Boot Camp Virtual Classroom - 4/7/20](#)

Join Scott Piersol, an experienced township manager, as he reviews a wide range of topics ranging from municipal taxation and the tax collection process, permitted expenditures, budgeting basics, annual audits and working with elected/appointed auditors, liquid fuels funding, and best practices to protect the township.



**Cooperative Purchasing 101/Boot Camp  
Virtual Classroom - 4/7/20**

In this session, Kim Bullivant with the Department of General Services' Bureau of Procurement will review the Commonwealth's COSTARS program, which is a cooperative purchasing tool that allows townships (and many other governmental entities) to purchase thousands of goods without having to go through the bidding process.

**Investing Township Funds/Boot Camp  
Virtual Classroom - 4/8/20**

Join Brian Sanker of the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust as he reviews permitted investments, tips for creating investment policies and provides best practices to protect vital township financial information.

**Ethics Act 101/Boot Camp Virtual Classroom  
- 4/8/20**

In this session, Scott Coburn of PSATS will review all aspects of the Ethics Act, including conflicts of interest and other restricted activities, voting conflicts, statements of financial interest, resources to rely upon, and much more.



For full list of webinars and classes please visit <https://learn.psats.org>

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## Township Video News



Almost overnight, social distancing and quarantines have become the new norm so PSATS is making it easier for you to learn at home. Find out more about our expanded menu of webinars and simulcasts. \*Please note: This TVN segment was recorded in advance.\*



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