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July 8, 2020

Welcome to the PSATS Morning News.

Missed yesterday's PSATS Morning News? No problem! A [PSATS Morning News Library](#) is available online for your viewing pleasure!

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

### **Make Sure Your Township Has the Earliest Access to Salary Survey Results!**

Be sure your township has the earliest access to the 2020 PSATS Salary Survey Plus results! Make sure your designated township staff (PSATS Salary Survey Plus Processor) enters your township's wage and benefit data by August 15 to ensure the earliest access to all reports, including comparisons to 2019 and 2018 results, question by question comparisons, and reports by region, population, budget size, union status, benefits, and more! This salary comparison data will be especially helpful as you begin to make budget preparations for your 2021 budget.

Townships participating in this secure survey allows your township supervisors, managers, secretaries, and other township-authorized employees to view the data you enter and run reports and comparisons. To protect anonymity, results are only provided for questions that receive responses from at least 5 townships.

Questions? Email [salariesurveyplus@psats.org](mailto:salariesurveyplus@psats.org) or call 717-763-0930 ext. 138. Trouble

logging into connect? [Click here](#) for directions.

Need to change the township official designated to enter data (PSATS Salary Survey Plus Processor)? Contact [memberservice@psats.org](mailto:memberservice@psats.org) or (717) 763-0930 so that we may give the correct employee or official access.

### **Toomey, Casey Join Gov. Wolf in Call for Masking**

U.S. Senators Bob Casey and Pat Toomey have joined Gov. Tom Wolf in reminding Pennsylvanians to wear a mask to reduce the likelihood of spreading COVID-19.

“Public health experts continue to recommend mask-wearing in public, and ongoing research continues to support that recommendation,” said U.S. Sen. Bob Casey. “When you wear a mask, you are sending a clear message to others in your community that you care about them and their well-being as much as your own. I know that if we each do our part, we will beat this virus and be able to start safely rebuilding together.”

“Since late March, I have been making the case for Pennsylvanians to wear masks when they venture out,” said U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey. “As the commonwealth continues to re-open, mask wearing has taken on increased significance, as studies continue to affirm that masks help slow the spread of the coronavirus. Put simply, wearing a mask is an important step that we, as Pennsylvanians, can take to protect one another – as my mask protects you, and your mask protects me.”

### **Commonwealth Releases Opioid Command Center Strategic Plan**

In another governor declared disaster that has transcended several years, the PA Opioid Command Center has released its strategic plan, highlighting its accomplishments and providing a roadmap for continued work to help those with substance use disorder. The plan, available here, includes five goal areas: prevention, rescue, treatment, recovery, and sustainability.

Prevention involves reducing the risk of substance misuse through education and limiting the availability of addictive substances, as well as continuing efforts to reduce the stigma of the disorder as a disease. Rescue efforts are establishing sustainable methods to provide life-saving measures and increase access to harm-reduction services. The COVID declaration has temporarily halted the progress being made on the opioid mitigation strategy.

Treatment means promoting access and reducing barriers for individuals and supporting the professionals who treat those with a substance use disorder. Recovery involves promoting supportive services for individuals in recovery. And sustainability includes the work to implement long-lasting policies and regulations to support the other four goals of prevention, rescue, treatment, and recovery efforts.

## **2020 Census: Encourage Your Township Residents to Respond Today!**

Townships officials should remind township residents that the results of the 2020 Census will help determine how federal funding flows into communities every year for the next decade. That funding shapes many different aspects of every community, no matter the size, no matter the location. Think of your morning commute: Census results influence highway planning and construction, as well as grants for buses, subways, and other public transit systems. Curious about what other programs are impacted by census data? [Click here](#) to see a full list.

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## Legislation & Policy



### **House Announces Committee Chair Appointments**

Yesterday, the House Republican Caucus announced two committee chair appointments resulting from the recent election of House Speaker Bryan Cutler and subsequent leadership elections. Representative Mark Keller (R-Perry) will now chair the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and Representative Sheryl Delozier (R-Cumberland) will chair the House Commerce Committee.

### **House Passes Public Works Contractors' Bond Law Legislation**

On July 7th, the House passed HB 885 which would amend the Public Works Contractors' Bond Law of 1967 to clearly define the types of financial security that may be accepted by a township from a contractor performing a public works contract. HB 885 would clarify that the required security must equal the contract amount with a performance bond, irrevocable letter of credit, or an escrow account for all public works contracts over \$10,000. HB 885 is now awaiting committee assignment in the Senate.

### **House State Government Committee Approves Constitutional Amendment**

On July 7th, the House State Government Committee approved SB 1166. This legislation would amend the Pennsylvania Constitution by requiring the passage of a concurrent resolution by the General Assembly for the Governor to extend an emergency declaration beyond 30 days.

SB 1166 would also add a section to the constitution against denial or abridgement of

equality of rights because of the race or ethnicity of the individual.

Note: Amendments to the constitution must pass the General Assembly in two consecutive legislative sessions and be adopted via a statewide referendum.

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## Learn

### **[Local Economies And Quality Of Life In The Age Of E-Tail - Virtual - 7/9/20](#)**

The popularity of online shopping is leading to retail closures and warehouse development. This new economy will have winners and losers, and it will transform the landscape of how communities look and function. Attend this session to learn how your community can adjust its land use policies and build infrastructure to sustain existing businesses, promote economic development, and maintain quality of life. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. [Click here](#) to register.



### **[Advancing Public Communication Through Website Design - Virtual - 7/9/20](#)**

This session will provide an in-depth look at website design best practices that can help you better connect and communicate with the public. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.



### **[Webinar - How To Manage Work Relationships More Effectively - 7/15/20](#)**

The relationships we have with our co-workers determine, in large part, how effective we are at our jobs and even how happy we are outside of work. However, as a busy township professional, you may feel that improving work relationships takes a lot of time and skills that may be outside of your comfort zone. The good



news is, with some awareness and practice, everyone can develop better relationships at work. Join us on July 15th for an interactive webinar to explore how you can manage work relationships more effectively. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.

**[Partnering With Your Police Chief - Virtual - 7/15/20](#)**

In this workshop, attendees will learn best practices for recruiting and hiring a police chief, including conducting skills assessments, figuring the "fit" for their particular community, and the importance of a thorough background investigation. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Safety Point. [Click here](#) to register



**[Webinar - RoadResource.Org - Get The Most Out Of It For Township Roads - 7/22/20](#)**

In this webinar, presented by Corinne Chalovich of Russell Standard Corporation, learn how to maximize the value of RoadResource.org, including by building your own road network, using the pavement life cost calculator, planning for future repairs and replacement, and using other tools in the RoadResource.org toolbox. Corinne will also be discussing what road treatments you can still perform this year to save your roads and stretch your budgets. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. [Click here](#) to register.



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



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