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April 15, 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.

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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## A Special Message



In these times of social distancing and quarantining, PSATS is bringing top-notch municipal education directly to you. Whether you're alone at your township office or working from home, PSATS is offering informative and interactive virtual classes, seminars, and webinars now and through spring.

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## Latest News

### [4th PSATS Town Hall Tomorrow, April 16, at 4 p.m.](#)

PSATS is hosting its fourth web-based Town Hall for township officials on Thursday, April 16, at 4 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to submit questions before and during the Town Hall, which is limited to the first 500 registrants and is free. [Click here](#) to register.

### [Wolf, Levine Propose Steps to Reopen Commonwealth](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf addressed the state Monday to thank Pennsylvanians for their sacrifices in responding to the COVID-19 crisis and outline the three stages that he sees for dealing with the pandemic. Wolf provided his thoughts on what each phase will look like. [Read full story](#).

### [2020 Census Makes Operational Adjustments Due to COVID-19](#)

The U.S. Census Bureau temporarily suspended 2020 Census field data collection activities in March. Steps are already being taken to reactivate field offices beginning June 1, 2020, in preparation for the resumption of field data collection operations as quickly as possible. [Read full story](#).

### [DEP Reaches Agreement with Range Resources for Air Quality Violations](#)

The state Department of Environmental Protection has reached an agreement with Range Resources for \$198,920 for violations of state regulations and the Air Pollution Control Act. [Read full story](#).

## [Census Response Rates](#)

The 2020 Census is continuing even in the midst of a global pandemic. As of Sunday, the self-response rate for Pennsylvania was 49.7% with roughly 44.2% completed online. As comparison, the final 2010 self-response rate was 70%. Townships can go online at [2020census.gov/en/response-rates](https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates) to keep tabs on their local response rates. The map is updated daily around 3 p.m.

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## Legislative and Policy



### **Association Urges Governor's Signature**

Yesterday, the State House joined the State Senate and unanimously passed SB841 which provides for remote meetings, permit extensions and local option of property tax deadlines and waivers. PSATS sent a letter to Governor Wolf urging his immediate signature to help local governments. [Click here](#) for a copy of the letter.

### **Senate Returning to Session to Legislate Safe Re-opening of the PA Economy**

Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati (R-25) and Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman (R-34) announced on April 14th that the Senate plans to return to session this week to consider legislation that will provide a safe path for re-opening the state's economy.

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## Learn

### [Now What? Layoffs, Furloughs and Restarts](#) [- 4/15/20](#)

This webinar is specifically focused on dealing with the aftermath of COVID-19 crisis. We will discuss expected challenges to revenue and budget as well as what that means for upcoming personnel decisions. We will look at differing strategies and best practices for how operations will be adjusted to deal with new realities brought on by this worldwide pandemic. For



more information, [click here](#).

**[Media Training 101: Tips to Improve Your Township's Approach to Communications - 4/16/20](#)**

During this webinar session, Gavin's team of PR strategists will teach you ways to better leverage social channels to communicate with your residents. This session will also focus on crisis communications planning and media coaching, to help you more effectively communicate with the public and news media. For more information, [click here](#).



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

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