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April 16, 2020

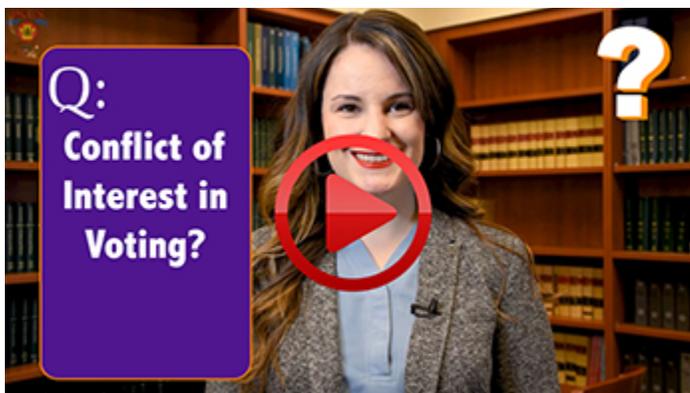
Welcome to the PSATS Morning News, our new email digest.

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.

Township Video News



Worried an issue might create a conflict of interest for you? PSATS staff explains where you can turn for reliable – and legal – answers. *Please note: This TVN segment was recorded in advance.*

Latest News

[PEMA to join Today's Town Hall](#)

PSATS is pleased to announce a special guest joining us in our Town Hall at 4 p.m. today: Chris Evans, the Acting Director of Hazard Mitigation and Response for the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. Chris is Pennsylvania's leading expert on eligibility requirements for local governments for disaster-related federal and state reimbursements. The PSATS staff will also participate. Please join us to get your questions answered. The Town Hall is limited to the first 500 registrants and is free. [Click here](#) to register.

[PSATS Looking for Photos of Township "Everyday Heroes" for 2021 Calendar](#)

In no other time in recent history have townships experienced anything like the COVID pandemic, but as in many other crises, townships have those "Everyday Heroes" who step up to the plate to help their neighbors. Do you have a township official, employee, or volunteer who has gone above and beyond to help others during the pandemic or for other reasons and causes? We want to see them "in action" on the annual PSATS Calendar! Maybe it's you! [Read full story](#).



[U.S. Census Bureau Adjusts 2020 Census Operations](#)

With the 2020 Census now under way, the U.S. Census Bureau continues to adjust census operations in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. After temporarily suspending field data collection activities in March, the Census Bureau is making plans to reactivate field offices beginning June 1 with field data collection operations to begin as quickly as possible afterwards. The Census Bureau is also seeking statutory relief from Congress of 120 additional calendar days to deliver final apportionment counts. Under this plan, the bureau would extend the window for field data collection and self-response to October 31, 2020, with apportionment counts to be delivered to the president by April 30, 2021, and redistricting data to be delivered to the states no later than July 31, 2021.

[Commonwealth Orders Open Businesses to Implement Worker Safety Measures](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf announced Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine signed a new order directing protections for critical workers employed at businesses that are authorized to maintain in-person operations during the COVID-19 disaster emergency. The new order will be enforced beginning Sunday, April 19, at 8:00 p.m. [Read full story.](#)

[Wolf Administration Makes Several More COVID Announcements](#)

The Wolf Administration made several additional announcements on Wednesday about the COVID-19 emergency. [Read full story.](#)

[U.S. Labor Department Releases Labor Law Poster for Employee Rights under FFCRA](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor has released a new labor law poster detailing employee rights under the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act. Townships should print and post this document in their workplaces. [Click here](#) for the poster.

[Pa. State Police Releases Enforcement Totals for Business Closure](#)

The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) released data on actions taken to date against non-life-sustaining businesses that failed to comply with Gov. Tom Wolf's order closing their physical locations. As of April 14, the PSP have issued 248 warnings and no citations. In addition, since April 1, the PSP reported issuing 18 warnings and 2 citations for failure to comply with the Stay-at-Home order. [Click here](#) for more information, including breakdowns by PSP Troop.

Legislative and Policy



House and Senate Approve Legislation to Reopen Businesses

The House and Senate recently passed SB 613, which would reopen certain businesses that were ordered to shut down during the coronavirus pandemic. If enacted, businesses could be eligible to reopen if they follow federal guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Governor's Office announced that he will veto SB613.

The House will convene today, April 16, for non-voting Session.

Learn

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



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