



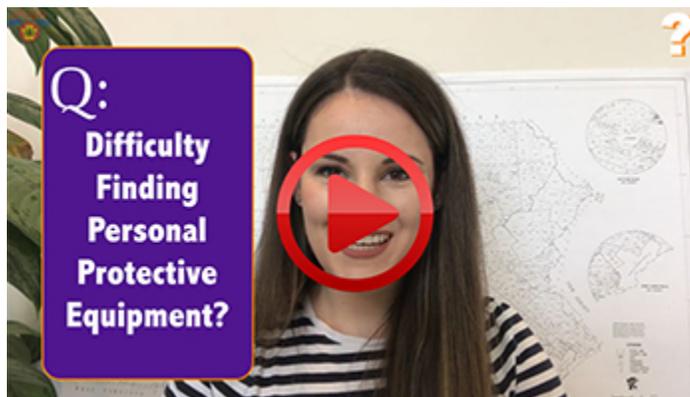
June 11, 2020

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.

Township Video News



Is your township having trouble finding personal protective equipment for employees? We tell you where to turn for help. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on other Questions of the Week. (1:05)

Latest News

PA Disaster Declaration Headed to Court

A day after the House and Senate passed a concurrent resolution to direct Gov. Tom Wolf to end the COVID-19 disaster emergency, the issue is headed to court as the [Senate filed a lawsuit](#) urging the Commonwealth Court to require Wolf to terminate the emergency declaration as stated in the resolution. [Read full story.](#)

[Commonwealth Releases Guidance on Outdoor Recreation, Sports](#)

The commonwealth has released updated guidance clarifying the types of outdoor recreation that businesses may offer during both the yellow and green phases of reopening and how to do so safely. Read full story. [Read full story.](#)

[PA Health Requires Protections for Hospital Staff, Continues to Report Lower Case Rates](#)

State Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine issued an order today requiring hospitals to take additional steps to protect staff and patients from COVID-19, including notification, testing, and quarantine for staff members who have been in close contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case, procuring and distributing nationally approved respirators to staff who determine their mask is soiled or damaged, and requiring universal masking for all individuals who enter a hospital. [Read full story.](#)

[PSP Reports COVID-19 Enforcement Numbers, Crime Statistics](#)

The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) is reporting statewide enforcement numbers for actions taken June 1-7 to enforce the commonwealth's COVID-19 orders. [Read full story.](#)

Celebrate Flag Day by Filling Out Your Census

Sunday is Flag Day. What could be as patriotic as the U.S. flag? How about completing your census survey? The census has a long history in our nation dating back to our Founding Fathers, who mandated a decennial population count in the U.S. Constitution. Try appealing to your residents' sense of civic pride, duty, and history and urge them to complete their 2020 Census today. Check out this [flyer](#) for ideas on how to encourage response to the census during COVID-19.



Legislation & Policy



The House is adjourned and will reconvene on Monday June 15th for non-voting session unless sooner recalled by the Speaker. The Senate is in recess at the call of the President pro Tempore.

Speaker Turzai Announces Last Day

Yesterday, House Speaker Representative Michael Turzai (R-Allegheny) announced his last day in office will be Monday June 15th. Turzai, was first elected to the House in 2001 and named House Speaker in 2015. Turzai has spoken multiple times at PSATS' annual conference both as Speaker and when he served as House Majority leader. A champion of local government and common-sense reforms, PSATS thanks him for his service and wishes him luck in his future endeavors.

House Passes Broadband Legislation

On June 10th, the House unanimously passed two bills aimed at assisting the deployment of broadband services to unserved areas of Pennsylvania.

The first, House Bill 2438, would allow rural electric cooperatives to use their existing infrastructure to deploy fiber lines for broadband service. This legislation would not apply to new poles or structures within an existing easement, only existing infrastructure that can meet applicable safety standards and maintains structural integrity.

The second, House Bill 2348 would create the Unserved High-Speed Broadband Funding Program. This legislation would repeal the Mobile Telecommunications Broadband Investment Tax Credit which is currently limited to \$5 million per year and is available to mobile telecommunication providers to invest in broadband equipment in Pennsylvania. HB 2348 would instead direct the \$5 million toward the grant program. The program would be administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority and preference would be given to unserved areas as defined by the Federal Communications Commission's minimum speed requirements and to projects that already have federal funding allocated to them.

Both bills are now awaiting committee assignment in the Senate.

House Passes Pipeline Emergency Response Legislation

On June 10th, the House unanimously passed House Bill 2293. This legislation would require pipeline companies carrying natural gas liquids through highly populated areas to provide emergency response plans to the secretary of the Public Utility Commission, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the county Emergency Management Coordinator. HB 2293 is now awaiting committee assignment in the Senate.

Senate Passes Constitutional Amendment to Limit Length of Future Disaster Declarations

Yesterday, the passed Senate Bill 1166 which would limit the length of an emergency declaration to 30 days unless approved for a longer duration by the General Assembly. SB 1166 would also amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to prohibit the denial of equal rights based on race or ethnicity. Amendments to the Pennsylvania Constitution must be passed by the General Assembly in two consecutive legislative sessions and then approved by voters via a statewide referendum.

Senate Democrats Announce Police Reform Legislation

Members of the Pennsylvania Senate Democratic Caucus announced plans for a comprehensive package of legislation to reform policing in Pennsylvania.

The bills by the Caucus will: improve Municipal Police Officer Education and Training; institute “8 Can’t Wait” to ban deadly police practices; appoint a special prosecutor for cases of officer involved shootings; require civilian review boards and provide grants and technical assistance to improve their performance; ban chokeholds; improve police pay; improve standards for the use of deadly force; demilitarize law enforcement; fund a regional policing incentive program and study; ban consent while in custody; create a professional oversight and policy development board for police officers; enhance civil asset forfeiture protections; and penalize false reports of “criminal activity” based on race or ethnicity.

The Senate is expected to review several police reform measures in its Judiciary and Law & Justice Committees in hearings and voting meetings during the month of June.

Learn

[Making Your Community Safer For Pedestrians - Virtual - 06/12/2020](#)

In 2017, pedestrian-related crashes represented only 3.2% of the total reported. Those accidents, however, accounted for 13.2% of all traffic crash fatalities. Many of these incidents occurred at intersections and mid-block crossings. Attend this virtual workshop to learn about a variety of infrastructure countermeasures that have been effective in keeping pedestrians safer. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. [Click here](#) to register.

[Funding Municipal Stormwater Management In PA - Virtual - 6/18/20](#)

This session will explore the emergence of stormwater fees and how they are determined. Lessons and successes will be discussed as participants work through exercises that will help them develop fee programs. The presenters will also provide strategies to build constituent support. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. [Click here](#) to register.

[Using Checklists To Work Smarter - Virtual - 6/18/20](#)

Have you ever wished someone would hand you checklists to make your administrative life easier? This workshop is the answer to your prayers. Attendees will receive several sample checklists for such tasks as taking minutes, developing and implementing budgets, adopting ordinances and resolutions, following the Sunshine Law, reviewing land development applications, and other topics. You can use these checklists to assess and improve your own administrative procedures. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[Webinar - Today's Liability Issues: From COVID-19 To Sexual Assault To Government Immunity - 6/18/20](#)

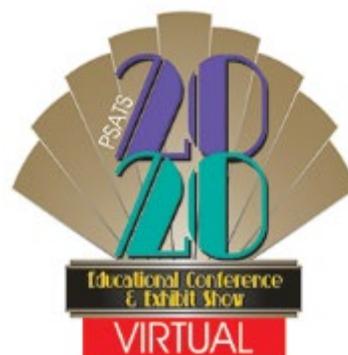
This program, by municipal attorney Tony Sherr, will examine the impact of COVID-19 on tort liability issues facing political subdivisions and will highlight specific situations where they could face tort liability. He will also review the potential ramifications for political subdivisions of the recent amendment to the Immunity Act applying to sexual assaults and provide an overview of the Political Subdivision Torts Claim Act. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. Eligible for 1 CLE Credit. [Click here](#) to register.

[Environmental Potpourri - A Regulatory Primer - Virtual - 6/25/20](#)

This primer on municipal environmental requirements will highlight recent regulatory and judicial developments in such areas as MS4 and stormwater management, Pennsylvania's Environmental Rights Amendment, clean water and Chesapeake Bay requirements, and waste management. Attendees will get practical advice on how to work with regulatory agencies and avoid compliance issues. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. Eligible for 1 CLE Credit. [Click here](#) to register.

[Flexible Zoning, Subdivision & Land Development Solutions - Virtual - 6/25/20](#)

Develop-able land is disappearing. Meanwhile, infrastructure and buildings are aging to the point where they are inconsistent with the needs of today's residents. The world is changing quickly, and it seems land use ordinances cannot be updated fast enough. As a result, it is necessary to employ zoning, subdivision, and land development strategies that are flexible, creative, and (at least for now) cutting edge. This workshop explains many of those strategies and how townships are employing them today. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. Eligible for 1 CLE Credit. [Click here](#) to register.



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



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