



June 18, 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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## Township Video News



As COVID-19 restrictions ease, we share the four things townships need to keep in mind when scheduling post-pandemic public meetings. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on our Questions of the Week. (1:45)

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## Latest News

### **PUC Releases Impact Fee Information**

Yesterday, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission announced that it collected \$200 million in natural gas impact fees for calendar year 2019, which will be distributed in early July. Counties and municipalities directly affected by drilling will receive \$109 million of these funds. [Click here](#) for more information. Use this link to find your township's distribution and choose "Reports," then "County and Municipality Disbursement," and then choose "2019" from the drop-down menu.

The total collected is down about 18 percent from last year, which at \$243 million was the highest amount collected in any one year. The PUC noted that the reduction was primarily due to a lower price of natural gas in 2019 than in 2018. [Click here](#) for the press release.

### **Supreme Court Intervenes in Lawsuit Seeking End to Disaster Order**

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has granted Gov. Tom Wolf's "King's Bench" request to intervene in a Senate lawsuit seeking the termination of Wolf's emergency declaration as stated in a concurrent resolution passed by the House and Senate last week. Wolf argues that the legislature does not have the ability to unilaterally require him to end the emergency declaration without submitting for his signature or veto, which the legislature may override.

### **[PA Recognized by CDC for Lower Case Rates](#)**

Pennsylvania has been recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as being one of just three states that has had a downward trajectory of COVID-19 for more than 42 days. The other two states are Montana and Hawaii. Meanwhile, other states are reporting increasing numbers of cases per day, such as Arizona and Florida. [Read full story.](#)

### **[PA Capitol Complex to Reopen to Public on June 22](#)**

The state Department of General Services has announced that the Pennsylvania Capitol building will reopen to the public with modified prevention protocols on June 22. The reopening follows Dauphin County moving to the green phase of the reopening tomorrow, June 19. [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 8-14 to enforce the commonwealth's COVID-19 orders. [Read full story.](#)

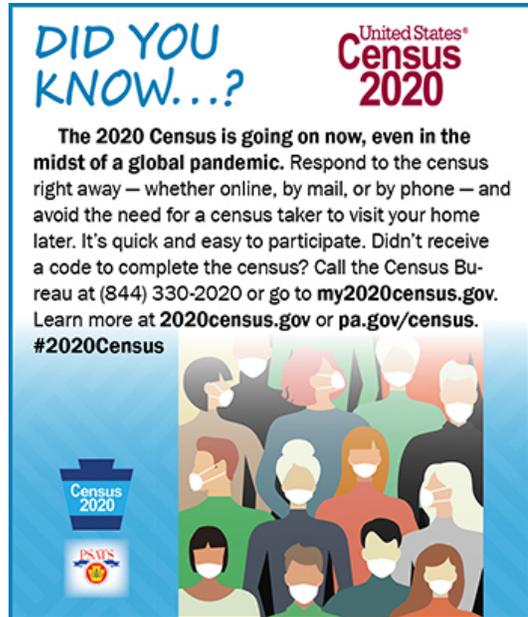
### **[Reminder: Deadline Extended for Environmental Project Grants](#)**

Act 13 grants for watershed restoration, abandoned mine drainage abatement, baseline water

quality data, orphaned or abandoned well plugging, sewage facilities, flood mitigation programs and recreation deadline is July 31. These grants are funded by the Act 13 drilling impact fees paid by natural gas drillers. [Read full story.](#)

### Promoting the 2020 Census

As more Pennsylvania counties go “green” and people start to emerge from their homes, now is a good time to urge your residents to complete their 2020 Census if they haven’t done so yet. Remind them that by participating in the decennial count, they can avoid a visit from a census taker later. Feel free to share this census box with your residents. It is one in a series that PSATS has created to help townships promote the census. You can access them, plus many other 2020 Census resources, at [http://www.psats.org/subpage.php?pageid=2020\\_Census](http://www.psats.org/subpage.php?pageid=2020_Census).



**DID YOU KNOW...?** United States Census 2020

The 2020 Census is going on now, even in the midst of a global pandemic. Respond to the census right away — whether online, by mail, or by phone — and avoid the need for a census taker to visit your home later. It’s quick and easy to participate. Didn’t receive a code to complete the census? Call the Census Bureau at (844) 330-2020 or go to [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov). Learn more at [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov) or [pa.gov/census](http://pa.gov/census). #2020Census

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## Legislation & Policy



The House is in recess until June 22 while the Senate remains on a 12-hour call of the President pro tempore.

### Senate Committees Hold Joint Hearing on Police Reforms

On June 17th, the Senate Judiciary and the Senate Law & Justice Committees held part one of a two-part joint hearing on ensuring accountability and equality in law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

Testifiers, including Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro, discussed reforms including,

but not limited to legislation that is currently before the General Assembly to increase law enforcement training requirements, the creation of a law enforcement database to be used for hiring, access to records, and mental health protocols.

Part two is scheduled for today at 10 am. Watch the hearing live [here](#).

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## Learn

For a full list of Virtual Conference Workshops please visit <https://learn.psats.org/products/virtual-conference>.

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

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