



November 13, 2020

Latest News

[OOR Seeks Input on RTKL Fee Schedule, Hosts Annual Training](#)

The Pennsylvania Office of Open Records (OOR) is reviewing the Right-to-Know Law fee schedule that all local governments must follow when fulfilling requests for public records. The OOR is required to review the schedule every other year and is accepting input on the current fee schedule until November 30. To comment, email FeeReviewOOR@pa.gov. To view the current RTKL fee schedule, [click here](#).

While PSATS will provide input on behalf of townships, your township should comment to OOR with specific examples of costs that it has incurred while responding to requests. Please copy PSATS Legislative & Policy Analyst Melissa Morgan on any submitted comments to mmorgan@psats.org.

[Office of Open Records Free Annual Training](#)

The OOR will host its free annual training on Wednesday, November 18, at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. This year's session will focus on how the pandemic has affected the Right-to-Know Law and the Sunshine Act. It's scheduled to include representatives of the OOR, state agencies, local agencies, and the media. There will be opportunities for Q&As. To learn more or to register, [click here](#).

[DCED Approves Local Government Grants](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf announced the approval of projects through the state Department of Community and Economic Development's Municipal Assistance Program (MAP). MAP funding may be used for shared services, community planning, and floodplain management. Approved projects include \$23,000 to Upper Makefield, Newtown, and Wrightstown townships in Bucks County to update the Newtown Area Joint Zoning Council

multi-municipal comprehensive plan. For a list of the remaining 5 projects, [click here](#).

[Commonwealth Court Rules Against Ballot Extension](#)

The Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court has ruled that mail-in ballots not verified by November 9 cannot be counted regardless of direction provided by Commonwealth Secretary Kathy Boockvar. The court found that Boockvar did not have the authority to extend the statutory deadline. The case could be appealed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. [Click here](#) for more.

[October 2020 CPI Released](#)

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has released the October 2020 Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers, which was unchanged in October. Over the last 12 months, the index increased 1.2 percent. The bureau also released the CPI-U for Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, which increased only .8 percent over the last 12 months. [Click here](#) for more.

[DEP Orders ETC Northeast to Keep Natural Gas Out of Unstable Pipeline](#)

The state Department of Environmental Protection has ordered ETC Northeast Pipeline, LLC to not put natural gas in unstable sections of the Revolution Pipeline in Butler, Beaver, Allegheny, and Washington counties. In September 2018, a landslide occurred along the Revolution Pipeline in Center Township, Beaver County, causing a section of it to separate and methane gas to ignite, causing damage to a home, vehicles, and high-voltage transmission towers. [Click here](#) for more.

[Wolf to Nominate New Secretary of Labor and Industry](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf intends to nominate current state Department of Labor and Industry Deputy Secretary for Safety and Labor-Management Relations Jennifer Berrier to serve as department secretary when current L&I Secretary W. Gerard "Jerry" Oleksiak retires December 4. [Click here](#) for more.

Legislation & Policy



House and Senate Leadership Election Results

House Republican Leadership

On Tuesday, the Pennsylvania House Republicans met to elect their leadership team for the 2021-2022 legislative Session.

The House Republican Caucus reelected Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) as the Speaker-designee. *The full House will vote on Representative Cutler's nomination when it reconvenes in January.*

Representative Kerry Benninghoff (R-Centre) was reelected as House Majority Leader, Representative Donna Oberlander (R-Armstrong) was reelected as Majority Whip, Representative Stan Saylor (R-York) reelected as Appropriations Chair, Representative Kurt Masser (R-Northumberland) reelected as Caucus Administrator, and Representative Martin Causer (R-McKean) will continue to chair the House Majority Policy Committee.

Representative Mike Reese (R-Westmoreland) will move to Caucus Chair (formerly Caucus Secretary)

Representative Martina White (R-Philadelphia) joins leadership as Caucus Secretary.

House Democrats

On Thursday, the Pennsylvania House Democrats met to elect their leadership team for the 2021-2022 legislative session.

Representative Joanna McClinton (D-Philadelphia) was elected a House Minority Leader.

Representative Jordan Harris (D-Philadelphia) was reelected as Minority Whip and Representative Matt Bradford (D-Montgomery) was reelected as Appropriations Chair.

Four members were elected to join the leadership team: Representative Dan Miller (D-Allegheny) will serve as caucus chair, Representative Tina Davis (D-Bucks) caucus secretary, Representative Ryan Bizarro (D-Erie) policy chair and Representative Mike Schlossberg (D-Lehigh) was elected as caucus administrator.

Senate Republican Leadership

On Thursday, the Pennsylvania Senate Republicans met to elect their leadership team for the 2021-2022 legislative session.

The Senate Republican caucus nominated Senator Jake Corman (R-Centre) to serve as Senate President Pro Tempore. *The full Senate will vote on Senator Corman's nomination when it reconvenes in January.*

Senator Kim Ward (R-Westmoreland) was elected as Senate Majority Leader. *Prior to being elected to the Senate, Senator Ward served as a township supervisor.*

Senator Pat Browne (R-16) was reelected as Appropriations Chair, Senator John Gordner (R-Columbia) was reelected as Majority Whip, Senator Bob Mensch (R-Montgomery) was reelected as Majority Caucus Chairman and Senator Ryan Aument (R-Lancaster) will continue to serve as Majority Caucus Secretary.

Senate Democrats will meet at a later date to elect their leadership team for the 2021-2022 legislative session due to an undecided election for the 45th senate district seat.

Senator Ward and Representative McClinton made history as the first women to be elected to the positions of Senate Majority Leader and House Minority Leader, respectively.

Congratulations to all returning and new House and Senate leaders!

Learn

[Webinar - Best Practices For Managing Short-Term Rentals In Your Township - 11/17/20](#)

The use of short-term rentals continues to explode around Pennsylvania and the United States. Short-term rentals can bring the benefit of economic development and tourism dollars to your community, but also challenges and complaints if not regulated in an appropriate manner. In this webinar, Shawn McGlynn will review the current state of short-term rentals in Pennsylvania and provide best practices for how to best regulate them. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[Strategic Planning For Fire Service Operations In Townships - Virtual - 11/18/20](#)

This virtual session will review the top 10 challenges facing volunteer fire departments and identify the responsibilities of the township when it comes to volunteer fire companies. Methods for assessing community expectations will also be discussed. Participants will be provided “show and apply” methods to conduct a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis of their current fire service operations and how to develop a standard of response based on public expectations. Qualifies for 4 PMGA Public Safety points. [Click here](#) to register.



[Webinar-How To Assure Your Township's Families Benefit From PA's Child Development Account-11/18/20](#)

Learn about Keystone Scholars and the PA Saving Pledge and working with the PA Treasury. We'll share ways you can make sure your residents are aware of both new programs, how to gain access to their Keystone Scholar account and how to win money for their child by taking the PA Savings Pledge. Join PA Treasury for a webinar on winning and success! Qualifies for 1.0 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[Quickbooks - Getting Ready For The Township Audit 11/19/2020](#)

[Part of the PSATS Summer/Fall 2020 QuickBooks Series](#)

In this session, we will discuss what to look for, how to ensure that your financial records are correct, and how to close down the book for the year. [Click here](#) to register.



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

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.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

4855 Woodland Drive

Enola, PA 17025

Click [here](#) to unsubscribe or to change your Subscription Preferences.