



September 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.

Latest News

[PA Supreme Court Rules on Election Issues](#)

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued several split 4-3 election rulings yesterday. The court ruled that the Green Party presidential and vice-presidential candidates will not be on the ballot due to procedural errors, which finalizes the November 3 ballot.

The court also ruled that ballots postmarked by 8 p.m. on Election Day will be counted if otherwise valid and received by 5 p.m. on Friday, November 6, 2020; that the poll watcher residency requirement is constitutional; and that boards of elections may collect hand-delivered mail-in ballots at locations other than their office addresses, including drop-boxes.

The court denied an injunction requiring election boards that have knowledge of incomplete or incorrect ballots to contact the elector and provide an opportunity to cure the defect; a petition asking for ballots to be accepted even if they are not placed in the official election envelope; and a request for third-party assistance in the return of mail-in ballots.

[Click here](#) and scroll down to view these decisions.

[Commonwealth Revises Restaurant Guidance](#)

Yesterday, the commonwealth revised orders affecting restaurant capacity and alcohol sales. The revised orders will require the sale of alcohol for on-site consumption to end at 11 p.m. (instead of 10 pm as previously announced) beginning Monday, September 21, and all alcoholic beverages must be removed from patrons by midnight, which applies to all restaurants. There is no change to sales of cocktails-to-go or take-out alcohol sales.

As previously announced, restaurants that self-certify and are complying with state orders to mitigate COVID-19 may increase indoor occupancy to 50 percent beginning on Monday, September 21. Restaurants are encouraged to self-certify by October 5, when enforcement will begin for the new occupancy rates. However, self-certification will now be available after October 5. [Click here](#) for more.

Legislation & Policy



The House is now in recess until September 29. The Senate is in recess and will return to session on Monday September 21.

Local Government Commission Meeting

The Local Government Commission held a meeting on September 17, for the purpose of discussing proposed changes to Act 47, the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act. The proposed changes presented to the commission would create an optional oversight process for municipalities that is more self-directed than the current process and would allow for the creation of multi-county, regional recovery authorities. PSATS submitted our objections to the creation of multi-county regional recovery authorities intended to oversee local governments and we are happy to report that this part was taken out of the proposal.

The commission members also discussed additional ways, outside of amendments to Act 47, to assist local governments financially during the pandemic including the elimination of costly unfunded mandates as well as providing greater flexibility for earmarked funds.

PSATS will continue to work toward changes that would be beneficial to township

government.

House Transportation Committee Approves Personal Delivery Device Legislation

On September 17, the House Transportation Committee voted to approve SB 1199 which would provide for the operation of personal delivery devices (PDDs) in Pennsylvania.

PDDs are autonomous robots designed to deliver packages to consumers. SB 1199 would authorize local governments to prohibit PDDs on local roadways and pedestrian areas if they would constitute a hazard. SB 1199 has passed the Senate and is now before the House.

Learn

[PSATS Virtual Regional Forum](#)

Learn more about issues that matter to your community. Attend general session as well as workshop sessions. Earn PMGA and other professional credits for workshop attendance, and discuss common interests with other local leaders. Click on the date and region below to register.

[Lancaster County- 9/23 & 29/20](#)

[Butler County - 9/30/20](#)

[Clearfield County - 10/6/20](#)

[Lehigh County - 10/15/20](#)

[Lackawanna County - 11/12/20](#)

[PSATS Summer/Fall 2020 QuickBooks Series 7/30 - 12/17/2020](#)

These virtual QuickBooks sessions are a great opportunity to learn about specific ways to use QuickBooks to bring greater efficiency and value to your township. From using QuickBooks for budgeting and meeting reports to preparing for the township audit or year-end reporting, these classes will cover a wide variety of important QuickBooks functions. Click here to



register for all six sessions or click on the remaining dates below.

[Budgets And QuickBooks 9/24/2020](#)

[Using QuickBooks For Meeting And Year-End Reports 10/29/2020](#)

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

[Year-End Employee Functions 12/17/2020](#)

[MS4 Great Ideas 2020 PSATS Stormwater Conference](#)



Is your stormwater management program in need of some help?
Do you have problems complying with your MS4 permit?
Want to learn the latest best practices in stormwater management?
Are you new to stormwater management?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, then you will want to attend the "2020 Pennsylvania Virtual Stormwater Conference!"

Click on the conference track you want to attend. Registration is open to anyone.

[October 20 & 21 \(Policy Track\)](#)

[October 27 & 28 \(Technical Track\)](#)

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



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
4855 Woodland Drive
Enola, PA 17025

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