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February 22, 2021

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## Latest News

### **Grassroots Advocacy Opportunity: NATaT Virtual Town Hall & “Zoom”-In!**

The National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) is hosting a VIRTUAL Town Hall & Zoom-In! On **Monday, March 1**, NATaT will host speakers to address some of our top priorities: Municipal COVID relief funding, broadband deployment, transportation, and rural development funding. [Click here](#) to register

*\*Note: There is a \$25 registration fee to attend the NATaT virtual town hall.*

### **Confirmed Town Hall Speakers**

**Gabe Amo**, Deputy Director, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

**Justin Maxson**, USDA Deputy Undersecretary for Rural Development

**Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)**, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Committee's Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet Subcommittee

### **Invited Town Hall Speakers**

**Pete Buttigieg**, USDOT Secretary

**Jennifer Rosenworcel**, FCC Chair

**Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)**

**Representative Rodney Davis (R-IL)**

**Representative Bob Latta (R-OH)**

### **Virtual Zoom-In**

PSATS staff will coordinate virtual meetings to discuss federal priorities with members of

the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation during the remainder of the week, **March 2-5** and throughout **the week of March 8**.

**Interested in attending or have questions? Contact Melisa Morgan at [mmorgan@psats.org](mailto:mmorgan@psats.org) or (717) 763-0930 ext. 178.**

### **Wolf Renews COVID-19 Disaster Declaration**

On February 19, Gov. Tom Wolf signed a fourth renewal of his Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic. The proclamation is in effect for an additional 90 days unless rescinded or extended by official action of the governor. [Click here](#) for more.

### **Pa. COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations Continue to Drop**

The statewide COVID-19 case total now stands at 911,591, and 19,247 new cases were reported this week, a 28 percent drop over last week. The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) decreased for the ninth week in a row, from 2,447 to 1,959, and is 3,500 less than the December peak. 421 of these patients are in an ICU, down from 504 the prior week. The number of COVID-19 patients on a ventilator statewide decreased for the seventh week in a row, from 265 to 253.

While the total deaths attributed to COVID-19 in Pennsylvania have reached 23,570, including 498 deaths reported this week, this is 26% less than in the previous week and a decrease for the fourth week in a row.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate dropped for the sixth week in a row, from 8% to 6.5%. 16 counties now have rates less than 5% (*up from three last week*), 47 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10%, and the remaining four counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*down from 16 last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

### **IFO Monthly Report Features Survey Results on Use of Stimulus Payments**

The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) posted a monthly economic update featuring survey findings on how Americans used their stimulus payments and a report on mortgage forbearance trends. [Click here](#) to read the report.

### **National Cook A Sweet Potato Day**

Across the United States, National Cook A Sweet Potato Day on February 22nd celebrates a root vegetable packed with flavor and a bit of history, too. The sweet potato is an excellent source of vitamin A, which supports good vision, the immune system, and bone growth. Sweet potatoes are a good source of vitamin B-6, magnesium, and vitamin C. It's also great for the complexion.

While many Americans confuse the sweet potato with a yam, the two are different. A yam

is a starchy tuber while the sweet potato is truly a sweet root vegetable. The sweet potato also comes in a variety of sizes and colors, including pale to bright orange, white, and purple. High in fiber and low in fat and calories, this root vegetable is a healthful alternative to snack foods when prepared without added butter, sugar, or salt.

Looking for the Latest Issue of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*? [Click here.](#)

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## Legislation & Policy



The Senate will convene for voting session today, February 22. Watch session live [here](#).

The House is not in session this week, but will be holding budget hearings. [Click here](#) to view the schedule and to watch the hearings.

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## Learn

### [Basic “Virtual” Training for Secretaries and Administrators - Feb. 22 & March 1, 2021](#)

This virtual training class will be offered in two half-day sessions. This is your opportunity to learn from acknowledged experts about all the most important issues township secretaries and managers need to know, right from the comfort of your desk. Topics covered will range from budgeting, purchasing, advertising and meeting management all the way to human resource issues and public engagement. Attendance for both sessions qualifies for 6 PMGA Administration points. [Click here](#) to register.



## [HR and Labor Relations in 2021 - Four New Things to Watch For - Virtual Class - 2/23/21](#)

In this seminar, Mike Miller and the team from Eckert Seamans (sponsor of the PSATS HR & Labor Management Institute) will detail what to expect in human resources and labor relations for 2021, including:

- Work from Home
- Employee Stress and Coping
- Compensation and Bargaining
- Management

As always, this seminar will be designed to spark discussion and create value for townships by giving them insight into what Eckert is seeing and anticipating for 2021. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

## [CDL - Probable Cause Training for CDL Supervisory Personnel - Virtual Training - 3/15/21](#)

State and federal regulations require every employer who has CDL employees driving vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating or operating weight of more than 26,001 pounds used on public roads to participate in a drug and alcohol testing program. These same regulations also require that such employers train all personnel who supervise employees with commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) in handling suspected on-the-job drug or alcohol use. This workshop addresses these federal requirements by providing supervisory personnel with a working understanding of the federal CDL regulations, including on-the-job probable cause procedures. In addition to those supervisory personnel required to attend, all township CDL employees should attend this workshop to ensure that everyone is on the same page regarding this important public safety training. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



## [CMV/CDL Records Management - Virtual Training - 3/22/21](#)

This virtual training workshop will review CMV/CDL employee and vehicle paperwork, including pre-employment inquiries regarding a CDL applicant's records in the FMCSA Clearinghouse; requests for CMV driver's license information from PennDOT; annually reviewing each CDL drivers records in the Clearinghouse; CMV daily vehicle inspection, maintenance, and repair reports; the employer's required policy on CDL drug and alcohol testing; and a general overview of all the CDL regulations. This class is eligible for 3 PMGA Public Works points. [Click here](#) to register.

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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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