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April 27, 2021

Township Video News



TVN's PSATS Roulette | Publications, Pins, and Purple Stuff

There's only one place to get gear that shows off your PSATS and township pride: the PSATS Store at psats.org. Take a look at what you've been missing. (1:05)

Latest News



2020 Census Apportionment Results Announced

The U.S. Census Bureau announced yesterday that the 2020 Census shows the resident population of the United States on April 1, 2020 was 331,449,281. *The U.S. resident population represents the total number of people living in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.* The U.S. resident population increased by 22,703,743, or 7.4%, from 308,745,538 in 2010.

In Pennsylvania, the resident population was 13,002,700. The Commonwealth's population increased by 300,321, or 2.4%, from 12.7 million in 2010. Only statewide numbers were released.

As a result of our growth rate being 5% below the national number, the U.S. Census Bureau confirmed that Pennsylvania will lose one congressional seat, dropping the commonwealth to 17 seats. Seven states (*including Pennsylvania*) will lose one seat, five will gain one seat, Texas – which gained nearly 4 million residents in ten years – will gain two seats, and 37 states will stay the same. [Click here](#) for more Census results.

Municipal and county counts have not yet been released. Redistricting data, which includes local area counts, is expected to be released to the states by August 16, with full redistricting data delivered by September 30.

Pennsylvania's Enhanced "Move Over Law" Takes Effect

Pennsylvania's Move Over Law requires drivers approaching an emergency response area to either move over or, if they are unable to safely merge into a lane that is further away from the response area, to slow to at least 20 mph below the posted speed limit.

Under the act, an emergency response area is where an emergency vehicle has its lights flashing, or where road crews or emergency responders have lighted flares, posted signs, or tried to warn travelers. The enhanced law is vital to protecting the lives of our emergency responders and roadworkers on the scene.



[Act 105 of 2020](#) creates new penalties that impose two points for failure to merge out of the lane next to the emergency response area; sets fines at \$500 for first-time offenders, \$1,000 for a second offense, and \$2,000 for a third or subsequent offense; and requires a 90-day license suspension for a third or subsequent offense. In cases where a violation causes serious injury or death to another person, the penalties increase. [Click here](#) for more about the new law.

Reminder: DUNS Number Required for Reporting Rescue Funds

Township officials may notice certain interest groups and vendors attempting to provide guidance on the new federal funds that municipalities will receive in a few weeks. Some may be appealing to larger municipalities or counties and provide guidance that may not apply to your township.

As reported last week, all municipalities that receive federal funds through the American Recovery Plan (ARP) will need to have a valid DUNS number to meet reporting requirements under the program. Dun & Bradstreet provides DUNS numbers, which are unique nine-digit identification numbers.

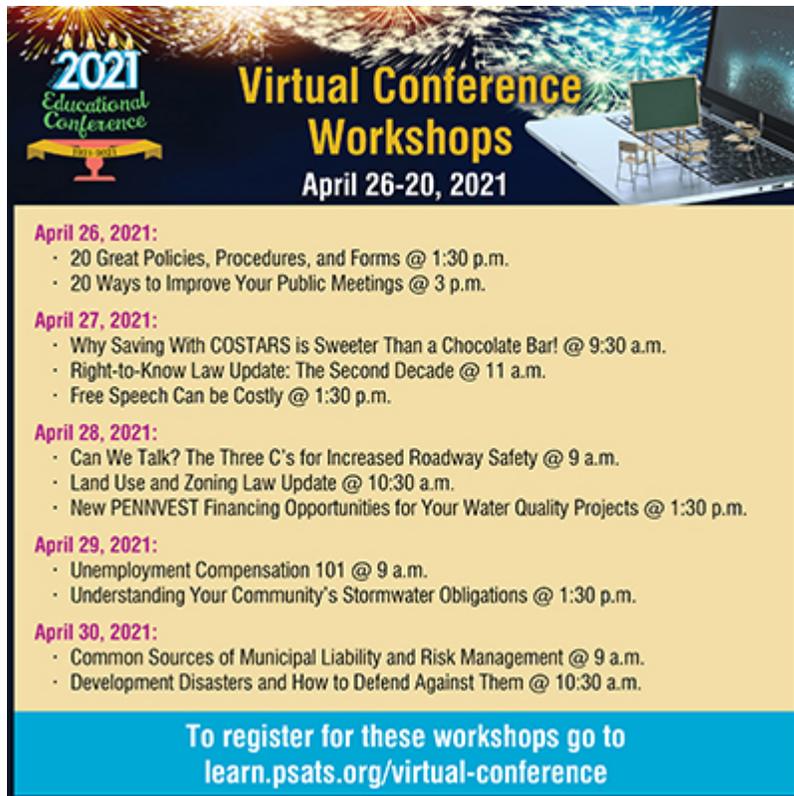
If your township already has a DUNS number, you do not need to do anything further. If your township does not have a DUNS number, now is the time to request one. DUNS numbers are free when required to register with the U.S. government for grants. [Click here](#) or call 1-866-705-5711 to begin the registration process.

Only municipalities with populations of more than 50,000 (entitlement communities) are required to have an active SAM registration in place to receive the funds. SAM is the official government-wide database to register with to do business with the U.S. government. SAM registrations must be renewed annually. In addition, only entitlement communities need to provide confidential account information to the federal government. To learn more, [click here](#).

Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available. We anticipate US Treasury guidelines to be released ahead of schedule any day now.

Conference Virtual Workshops Start this Week!

This week is the start of the PSATS Conference Virtual Workshops. This is a snapshot of what is coming up this week. To view a the full list of workshops or to register, go learn [psats.org/virtual-conference](https://www.psats.org/virtual-conference).



The image is a promotional graphic for the 2021 Educational Conference Virtual Workshops. It features a dark background with a vibrant, colorful abstract pattern resembling fireworks or a starburst. In the top left corner, there is a logo for the '2021 Educational Conference' with the text '2021' in large blue numbers, 'Educational Conference' in a smaller font, and 'April 26-20, 2021' below it. The main title 'Virtual Conference Workshops' is written in large, bold, yellow and white letters. Below the title, the dates 'April 26-20, 2021' are displayed in white. The central part of the graphic is a yellow rectangular area containing a list of workshops for each day from April 26 to April 30, 2021. Each day's list is preceded by a pink header. The bottom of the graphic is a blue horizontal bar with white text providing the registration link.

2021 Educational Conference
April 26-20, 2021

Virtual Conference Workshops
April 26-20, 2021

April 26, 2021:

- 20 Great Policies, Procedures, and Forms @ 1:30 p.m.
- 20 Ways to Improve Your Public Meetings @ 3 p.m.

April 27, 2021:

- Why Saving With COSTARS is Sweeter Than a Chocolate Bar! @ 9:30 a.m.
- Right-to-Know Law Update: The Second Decade @ 11 a.m.
- Free Speech Can be Costly @ 1:30 p.m.

April 28, 2021:

- Can We Talk? The Three C's for Increased Roadway Safety @ 9 a.m.
- Land Use and Zoning Law Update @ 10:30 a.m.
- New PENNVEST Financing Opportunities for Your Water Quality Projects @ 1:30 p.m.

April 29, 2021:

- Unemployment Compensation 101 @ 9 a.m.
- Understanding Your Community's Stormwater Obligations @ 1:30 p.m.

April 30, 2021:

- Common Sources of Municipal Liability and Risk Management @ 9 a.m.
- Development Disasters and How to Defend Against Them @ 10:30 a.m.

To register for these workshops go to [learn.psats.org/virtual-conference](https://www.psats.org/virtual-conference)

National Tell a Story Day

National Tell a Story Day on April 27th each year in the United States encourages people of all ages to share stories. The stories can take many forms, too. You can read from a book or create one from your imagination. Stories recreated from childhood memory leave an indelible imprint on both the storyteller and the listener. No matter what story you tell, the day supports gathering with friends and family to share those stories.

The ancient practice of storytelling handed down knowledge from one generation to the next. It is a wonderful way to pass on family traditions, histories, and long-told tales. It can also be entertaining as well as educational. Any good storyteller will tell you, some of the very best stories come from real-life experiences.

Legislation & Policy



The Senate is scheduled to return to session today, April 27. Watch session live [here](#).

PSATS Grassroots Action Alert: Contact Your Senator Today to Request Support of Right-to-Know Law Reforms

Two very important Right-to-Know Law bills are before the Senate State Government Committee. We need your help to get these important reforms moving.

The first, **SB 312** would allow townships to charge a reasonable fee for commercial requests. A commercial purpose would include selling or reselling any portion of the records, using names and addresses from the records for commercial solicitation, or any other purposes which are intended to generate revenue. A commercial purpose would not include requests from the media, or nonprofit educational or noncommercial scientific institutions.

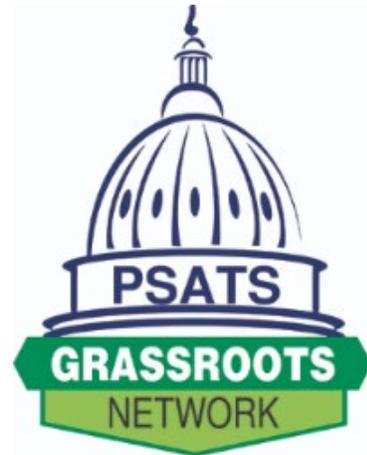
The Second, **SB 552** would allow townships to petition the Office of Open Records for relief from a vexatious requester. A “vexatious requester” would be individuals who use the Right-to-Know Law with malicious intent to intimidate, harass, or punish an agency, resulting in wasting taxpayer dollars and resources.

Both bills are facing opposition and we need your help!

Login to your PSATS account and click on the "Grassroots Engagement Tool" on the PSATS Grassroots Network page under the legislative and policy tab and click on "take action" to contact your Senator. *This will include sample text for you to use as well as space for you to provide specific township examples.*

Questions can be directed to the Association at (717) 763-0930 or grassroots@psats.org. Thank you.

Hearing on Alternate Septic Systems



PSATS is scheduled to testify today, April 27, before the joint House and Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committees on the implementation of Act 34 of 2020 and Act 26 of 2017 by the state Department of Environmental Protection. Both acts provide for a wider, more cost-effective use of alternate on-lot sewage treatment systems and were intended to simplify the municipal sewage planning process and reduce the financial burden on homeowners who are unable to use conventional on-lot sewage systems to meet their land development needs. However, both acts have been interpreted by the state Department of Environmental Protection to make the use of these systems more difficult, if not impossible.

[Click here](#) to watch the hearing

Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety.

[Right-to-Know Law Update: The Second Decade - Virtual - 4/27/21](#)

This session will explore significant Right-to-Know Law decisions in the last year from both the courts and the Pennsylvania Office of Open Records. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Free Speech Can be Costly - Virtual - 4/27/21](#)

This session explores how townships can balance an employee's right to free speech with its need to prevent disruption and unrest in the workplace. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Unemployment Compensation 101 - Virtual - 4/29/21](#)

Plan to attend this class, which will include a review of the unemployment system, the claims process, and appeals. A mock hearing is planned, too. You'll also learn about the new web-based UC benefit process that was introduced in October 2020. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Common Sources of Municipal Liability and Risk Management - Virtual - 4/30/21](#)

If you attend this session, however, you'll walk away with a holistic understanding of municipal liability and the history of claims, the impact of COVID-19, and basic insurance terms and concepts. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Staying Open for Business: Learning from COVID:19 - Virtual - 5/4/21](#)

This workshop analyzes the lessons learned from COVID-19 and what your township can do to successfully continue operations -- especially financial operations -- during the next significant business interruption, whenever and whatever it may be. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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