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June 16, 2021

Latest News

Statewide Ballot Question Results Certified

The PA Department of State yesterday certified the statewide election returns from the May Primary. Now that the ballot question results are certified, the PA Constitution has been amended by the voters and the Governor's Emergency declaration is now officially ended.

PUC Releases Summer Readiness Reports from Electric Utilities

As electric demand continues to increase as more strain is placed on the grid infrastructure, it is appropriate for townships to review these reports to plan for emergencies and possible summer outages. To view the actions taken by their electric distribution companies and the region's electric transmission organization (PJM Interconnection), townships can now see 2021 Summer Readiness Overview reports published by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. In addition to reporting adequate capacity and supply to meet the electric needs of Pennsylvania this summer, the reports provide details about the companies' plans for various conditions, including severe storms, high temperatures, and peak demand. The reports detail other steps utilities are taking to ensure reliable service in Pennsylvania. [Click here](#) for more.

Reminder: Grants Available for Community Green Space, Parks until June 30

Keep PA Beautiful is accepting applications for the Healing the Planet Grant Program funded by The GIANT Company. Applications for \$2,500 to \$25,000 will be **accepted until June 30**.

Townships in the following counties may apply: Adams, Berks, Blair, Bucks,

Carbon, Centre, Chester, Clearfield, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mifflin, Monroe, Montgomery, Montour, Northampton, Perry, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, Snyder, Union, and York.

Eligible projects will connect people and families with community green spaces and could include park improvements, watershed restoration, beautification and greening, tree plantings, and vacant lot restoration. To learn more or to apply, [click here](#).

Pennsylvania Remains at 13th for Vaccine Doses Administered Per Capita

In a switch from using the State Department of Health numbers to using the more accurate CDC numbers, the following is an update on vaccination numbers. According to the Centers for Disease Control, Pennsylvania remains at 13th for total doses administered per capita. Nationally, more than 145 million people have been fully vaccinated, 54.6% of the adult population and 76.5% of those age 65 or older.

The commonwealth has now administered more than 11.2 million vaccine doses. According to the CDC, more than 6 million Pennsylvanians are now fully vaccinated, and an additional 1.7 million Pennsylvanians have received the first dose of a two-dose vaccine series. The CDC's data shows that 57.8% of Pennsylvanians age 18 and older are now fully vaccinated. [Click here](#) for state numbers and [here](#) for national numbers.

This Day in History.....

On June 16, 1884, the first roller coaster in America opens at Coney Island, in Brooklyn, New York. Known as a switchback railway, it was the brainchild of LaMarcus Thompson, traveled approximately six miles per hour and cost a nickel to ride. The new entertainment was an instant success and by the turn of the century there were hundreds of roller coasters around the country.

Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate will be in session today, June 16. Watch session live [here](#).

Senate Passes No Bids Received Legislation

Yesterday, the Senate unanimously passed SB 478 which would create a process for a municipality to enter a contract for services when it first advertises a bid for

services and no bids are received. This legislation would authorize municipalities that have advertised for bids twice and received none to then contract for services with any provider not otherwise disqualified by law. SB 478 would require that such a contract for services, which is defined as the furnishing of labor and time by a contractor, be disclosed at an advertised public meeting.

The Association supports this legislation and will continue to work with the members of the House to get this bill to the Governor's desk and signed into law. SB 478 is now before the House Local Government Committee.

House Consumer Affairs Committee Approves 5G Legislation

Yesterday, the House Consumer Affairs Committee approved HB 1621 (PN 1797) which would provide for the regulation of small wireless facilities in municipal rights-of-way. This legislation would authorize municipalities to charge an annual fee for the use of the right-of-way, not exceeding \$270 per small wireless facility or \$270 per new utility pole with a small wireless facility and would set the maximum permitted height of the pole and small cell facility at 50-feet. HB 1621 would also require small cells to comply with restrictions in place in underground utility districts and would allow municipalities to develop reasonable design guidelines to minimize aesthetic impact. Municipalities would have 60 days to review applications for collocation on preexisting structures and 90 days for the installation of a new structure with attached small wireless facilities. HB 1621 is now before the full House.

Township officials should keep in mind that as currently written, HB 1621 would only apply to small cell wireless facilities and poles within the right-of-way; zoning and other local ordinances are preserved. Additionally, this legislation provides municipalities with the maximum allowable authority and control within the confines of the FCC order. The Association will continue to work with the General Assembly on this legislation.

House Passes Breast Cancer Research Contribution Legislation

Yesterday, the House unanimously passed SB 445 which would give individuals renewing either their vehicle registration or driver's license the option to donate \$5 to the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition. *The Coalition would be required to reimburse the motor license fund for the total cost of administering this program.* SB 445 has passed the Senate and the House and will be presented to the Governor.

House State Government Committee Approves Election Reform Legislation

Yesterday, the House State Government Committee approved HB 1300 which would allow early in-person voting beginning in 2025, the correcting of non-fatal defects on mail-in ballots, and would give counties the option of using secure mail-in ballot drop boxes. HB 1300 would also expand Pennsylvania's voted identification law, improve election uniformity among the 67 counties, enhance certification processes for all machines used in elections, require signature verification using ballot scanning equipment for mail-in and absentee ballots, improve lists of registered voters and more. HB 1300 is now before the full House.

Learn

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

2021 PAAZO Fall Seminar

In the PAAZO Fall Seminar, learn from experts on a wide variety of topics pertinent to your duties as a municipal Zoning official. Specific agenda items will be updated when finalized.

[2021 PAAZO Fall Seminar - 10/19/21 - Central](#)

[2021 PAAZO Fall Seminar -10/21/21 - West](#)

[2021 PAAZO Fall Seminar -11/9/21 - East](#)



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