**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Thursday, August 26, 2021**

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Click here for a photo of David M. Sanko: <https://www.psats.org/psats-staff/>

**Local Governments Say “Local Decision Making Is Best”**

The following statement was issued today by David M. Sanko, executive director of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS), which represents the 1,454 townships of the second class across Pennsylvania. Townships, in turn, represent more residents — 5.5 million Pennsylvanians — than any other type of political subdivision in the commonwealth and cover 95 percent of the commonwealth’s land mass.

“On behalf of Pennsylvania’s 1,454 townships of the second class, we emphasize the critical importance of local decision making. Township and other local leaders know what’s best for their communities and should be allowed to do what they always do: make decisions in the best interest of their citizens for their own local conditions.

“Our members have been on the front line every day and are not in favor of any mandates that would interfere in local authority at this time. One-size-fits-all solutions do not work in a state as diverse as the commonwealth that experiences different challenges by community, area, or region.

“Recognizing and promoting CDC recommendations, we do not believe townships’ hands should be tied in making their own local decisions. Vaccinations and common-sense hygiene solutions are primary ways to control the spread of disease and protect the general population.”