

PSATS News Bulletin

A NEWSLETTER
CONTAINING
THE LATEST
INFORMATION
ON LEGISLATION
AND NEWS OF
INTEREST TO
TOWNSHIPS

Keep in mind
that the first
reporting period
for ARPA ends
September 30
and the first
annual ARPA
report will be due
October 31.

Census Results Available

The U.S. Census Bureau has released detailed 2020 Census results that will direct the flow for federal and state funding for the next decade. States will use the data to redraw congressional and state legislative district boundaries. Overall, the 2020 Census recorded 331 million people in the U.S., a 7.4% increase over 2010. However, Pennsylvania's population only grew 2.4% since 2010 and now is a little more than 13 million. As a result, Pennsylvania will lose one congressional seat, dropping from 18 to 17.

5,677,472 people, 45 percent of Pennsylvania's total population, now live in a township of the second class. Township populations have grown overall by 2.5 percent since 2010. Once again, more Pennsylvanians live in a township than any other type of municipal government in Pennsylvania! To view your township's 2020 Census Population, go to psats.org, scroll to the bottom, and choose "Links to Key Resources."

American Rescue Plan Update

The application period for the American Rescue Plan Funds has now closed. The Pennsylvania Department of Treasury continues to regularly release funds to municipalities as applications are approved for the more than 1,350 townships that applied.

Less than \$1 million in ARPA remains unclaimed. These remaining funds will be reallocated (*based on population*) to all municipalities that did apply. If your township applied, look for this small, unannounced supplemental deposit.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury is expected to issue final rules for the use of the funds, as well as reporting, by early October. PSATS continues to recommend waiting for the final rules before spending the funds. To read the current rules from Treasury, including the Interim Final Rule, an FAQ document, and reporting information, go to <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>. The link is also available on psats.org, under the COVID-19 Info page, under Announcements.

Keep in mind that the first annual reporting period ends September 30 and the first annual report will be due October 31. While reporting guidance is available at the link above, Treasury will release a user's guide for the annual report. Municipalities with populations of less than 50,000 only need to file one report per year, which will be due annually on October 31 for the prior October 1-September 30. In addition, larger municipalities need to file more frequent reports. For details, use the link above and choose "Compliance and Reporting Guidance."

Capitol Roundup

PSATS Testifies on Congressional Redistricting — In July, PSATS Director of Government Relations Joe Gerdes testified before the House State Government Committee on Congressional reapportionment. The comments called for not splitting municipalities between multiple Congressional Districts unless absolutely necessary. Also, Gerdes asked for the counting of inmates at the housed facilities rather than original sentencing address to support the demand on local infrastructure. To read the testimony, go to psats.org and



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The TROC report identified a local transportation funding shortfall and calls for local governments to share in new or replacement gas tax revenue options.

choose “Legislation & Policy,” then “Legislative Testimony.”

Redistricting Commission Changes Where Prisoners are Counted — Pennsylvania’s Legislative Reapportionment Commission voted 3-2 to count certain prisoners in the municipalities in which they lived immediately prior to sentencing. The U.S. Census Bureau requires counting prisoners where they are physically located. This state change will apply to State House and State Senate districts only. Congressional districts will continue to count inmates where they are incarcerated. This marks a significant change from past redistricting.

Transportation Commission Releases Final Report — The Transportation Revenue Options Commission (TROC) submitted its final report to Gov. Tom Wolf. The proposal aims to address the transportation funding challenge by providing a variety of options for the governor and legislature to consider for funding shortfalls in transportation funding.

PSATS Executive Director Dave Sanko served on the commission and the inclusion of local government in the final report was a hard-fought addition. The report identified a current \$3.9 billion local transportation funding shortfall and calls for local governments to share in new or replacement gas tax revenue options including 14% of any mileage based fee that would be paired with a congestion fee for short, but time-consuming, trips in urbanized areas, as well as a package delivery fee. Other revenue options include doubling registration fees and an increase in the gas tax before it begins to be phased out.

There are lots of controversial proposals for the legislature to consider, but all can agree that Pennsylvania’s roads and bridges are in need of new funding. Cost saving measures like prevailing wage reform were rejected. To view the report, go to penndot.gov and choose “Funding.”

Masking at Township Meetings a Local Decision — While Gov. Tom Wolf implemented a masking requirement for schools and daycares, township officials retain the ability to make local decisions about whether to mask at township meetings, on township property, or for township employees. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently recommends that everyone wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission of COVID-19.

Opioid Settlement Released — Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen, major pharmaceutical distributors, and Johnson & Johnson, which manufactured and marketed opioids, agreed to deliver \$26 billion to state and local governments to address opioid-related costs. The agreements also require significant industry changes that will help prevent an opioid addiction crisis. The agreement resolves the claims of state and local governments across the country. PSATS is participating on a task force that will address how Pennsylvania’s \$1 billion share of the funds will be used to address the opioid epidemic.

COSTARS Salt Contract Delayed — The state Department of General Services has confirmed that there is a delay in issuing the 2021-2022 Road Salt contract. A new contract is expected to be available by the end of September. Participating townships should not order salt until you receive notification from DGS about your new supplier, unless your township did not order at least 60% of its 2020-2021 minimum order requirement. In this situation, you should order the required amount from the 2020-2021 supplier to avoid storage fees.

Questions? Contact COSTARS at 1-866-768-7827 or via email at gs-PACostars@pa.gov.

FEMA Reimbursement for COVID-19 Expenses Extended — The 100% federal cost-share for eligible Category B Emergency Protective Measures incurred by local governments for the COVID-19 pandemic has been extended until December 31, 2021. This includes expenses for personal protective equipment and disinfection services and supplies.

Vote on
more than
75 resolutions
to guide PSATS
legislative efforts
and critical bylaw
changes needed
to modernize
PSATS post-
pandemic
procedures.

Don't Miss PSATS' Special Events!

Registration for PSATS' Centennial Celebration Dinner and Annual Business Meeting opened August 2 and there's still time to register. If you're going to the Business Meeting, register at voting2021.psats.org. If you're going to the Centennial Celebration, register at PSATS100.mypli.org. If you're attending both, start at one site and finish at the other. You can also make hotel reservations during the registration process. Register now to lock in discounted hotel rates. Refunds will be available if there are any governmental Covid restrictions.

Business Meeting: On **Friday, October 15**, delegates (*especially voting delegates*) are invited to the Hershey Lodge to conduct **PSATS' 2021 Annual Business Meeting**, elect PSATS leadership, debate and vote on more than 75 resolutions that will guide state association policy, and vote on critical bylaw changes to modernize PSATS procedures post-pandemic. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. with a light breakfast and end by 1:30 p.m. Lunch is included.

We need your help to vote on these important bylaw changes that would allow Association business to be conducted remotely if in-person meetings are not feasible. Under the current bylaws, an in-person vote is needed to amend the bylaws and on resolutions. All business meeting material were mailed before Labor Day.

Centennial Celebration Dinner: The night before, **Thursday, October 14**, the Pennsylvania Leadership Institute will host a **Centennial Celebration of PSATS' First 100 Years** at the Hershey Lodge. This fun-filled historic evening, complete with dinner and light entertainment, is not to be missed! A reception will begin at 6 followed by dinner at 7.

While these events will not replace our Annual Conference, you will not want to miss them! For details, go to the websites listed above or call PSATS at (717) 763-0930.

Plan to attend the Centennial Celebration Dinner and/or the Business meeting? PSATS is looking for volunteers to help the evening of October 14th for its Centennial Celebration Dinner and the morning of October 15th for its Annual Business Meeting. Interested? Please contact Mary Lehane at (717) 763-0930, ext. 107, mlehane@psats.org.

Grants Available

Townships may apply for of the grant opportunities below:

ATV and Snowmobile Trail Projects: The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is accepting applications for ATV and snowmobile trails and facilities until **September 30**. Learn more at <https://apps.dcnr.pa.gov/grants/>

Transportation Funding: The state Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the 2021 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program **until October 15**. For more information, go to penndot.gov and choose "Projects & Programs," then "Planning." Questions can be directed to RA-pdTASA@pa.gov or 717.775.3276.

Alternative Fuel Vehicles: The state Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for the Truck and Bus Fleet Grant Program (**until October 9**) and the OnRoad Rebate Program (**until November 12**). Both programs help with reduction of diesel emissions by funding alternative fuel vehicles. To learn more, go to <https://gis.dep.pa.gov/DrivingPAForward/>

Natural Gas Firefighting Grants: The Office of State Fire Commissioner is accepting applications from fire companies and emergency medical services counties where unconventional gas wells are located or neighboring counties. Applications are due **October 15** for grants of up to \$6,000 for responding to gas well fires. Go to osfc.pa.gov for more.

Don't Miss PSATS' Training

Don't miss these in-person and virtual training options! Go to learn.psats.org for details.

- **QuickBooks Classes:** PSATS will host a series of QuickBooks training virtually beginning in September. To register, go to psats.org, then Education, and choose "QuickBooks."
 - **Budget with QuickBooks:** Learn how easily create your proposed township budget.
 - **QuickBooks Year-End Reports:** Learn how to file all year-end taxes and reports.
 - **QuickBooks for Beginners:** Develop a fundamental understanding of QuickBooks.
 - **Intermediate QuickBooks:** Discover the benefits of Accounts Payable and Receivable.
- **Developing Your Township Budget:** Learn proven methods to develop budgets that work. A **virtual class** will be held **September 21** from 1-:3:30 p.m..
- **PSATS Stormwater Conference:** Be sure to attend these virtual sessions and chose from the Policy or Technical Tracks. Learn how to best invest ARP funds into eligible categories. Go to psats.org/psats-ms4-great-ideas/ for details!
- **HR Institute:** Slated for **September 23 & 24** in Dauphin County, this is a must-attend for anyone responsible for HR and personnel management in their township whether you have 2 or 200 employees. Don't miss the new interactive format spread over two days!

This and That...

Be sure to check this section each month, where you will find important reminders and information.

- **PSATS' Salary Survey Reports Opening Very Soon!** — PSATS will release the 2021 reports for the the Salary Survey Plus shortly, which provide valuable data on township employee wages and benefits. However, we can't product this quality product without your help. Be sure to take a few minutes this week to enter your township's wage and benefit data to ensure the earliest access for your township and enable PSATS to provide this member benefit. These new reports are real-time and new data will be automatically included in the results. Only participating townships have full online access to customizable reports. Thank you to the hundreds of townships that have already participated!
To access Salary Survey Plus, log onto psats.org and look under "My PSATS" for "Salary Survey Plus." If you need to change the township official designated to enter data (*the PSATS Salary Survey Plus processor*), contact memberservice@psats.org or (717) 763-0930, ext. 112. Questions about the survey? Don't see the Salary Survey option? Email salariesurveyplus@psats.org or call (717) 763-0930.
- **FHWA Form 536 Due** — Townships are reminded that FHWA Form 536 is due to the state Department of Transportation by **September 15**. Instructions were recently sent out on how to log in and complete this form electronically at gis.penndot.gov/munifform/login.aspx or by email at RA-PDFHWAMUNIFORM@pa.gov. Please enter information for 2020. Contact Kristen Sims with questions at krsims@pa.gov or 717-214-6161.
- **See Your Township in the 2022 PSATS Calendar!** — We'd like to see your township public works crew in action. Show us the many ways that your public works crew keeps your township running smoothly throughout the year. Photos should be in color, must have a resolution of at least **300 dpi** at a size of **4 inches x 6 inches**. Smartphone photos work but be sure to send them to us as "actual size" to ensure best reproduction. Email photos as jpeg attachments to kacri@psats.org by **September 17, 2021**. Provide your name, position, township, county, and daytime telephone number. Identify everyone in the photo left to right, their titles, and a brief description of what they are doing.
- **PSATS Accepting Entries for Citizen's Communication's Contest** — Attention, township officials and staff! Enter your outstanding printed or electronic publications in PSATS 54th Annual Township Citizen Communications Contest by **October 29**. Entries must be from member townships and have been produced between November 1, 2020 and October 28, 2021. To learn more, go to psats.org and choose "Programs & Services," then "PSATS Awards Programs" or see the enclosed flyer.