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September 27, 2021

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## Latest News

### **2022 Liquid Fuels Allocations Down?**

Watch for a letter soon from PennDOT projecting a 1.5% to 2% reduction from your actual current year revenue (so higher than you budgeted last year). As a result of the 2020 pandemic, the department projected a 10% reduction for 2021. Actual numbers were higher (\$439 million projection became \$453 million actual). This year's estimate is expected to be \$445,855,000.

### **Want More Options for ARP Spending?**

Many townships have not yet taken advantage of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) "revenue replacement" calculator on the PSATS website. Created by the Government Finance Officers Association, it is available on the ARP resource page at [www.psats.org](http://www.psats.org). It is important to townships to determine whether they lost revenue from 2019 to 2020 and in future years. If there was a loss, you can "replace" that lost revenue with ARP funds and have nearly unlimited options in how to spend those dollars. Please run that calculation before spending any ARP funds. To access the calculator, [click here](#).

### **Pennsylvania Hits New Vaccination Milestone**

According to the Centers for Disease Control, 85% of Pennsylvanians 18 and older have now had at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. 68.5% of Pennsylvanians 18 and older are fully vaccinated. Nationally, more than 183 million people have been fully vaccinated, or 66.6% of the adult population and 83.2% of those age 65 or older. [Click here](#) for more.

### **More Counties Approved for Ida Assistance**

Gov. Tom Wolf has announced that the major disaster declaration from the remnants of Ida has been expanded and President Joe Biden has approved a request for individual assistance for Bedford and Northampton counties. [Click here](#) for more.

**Reminder: Natural Gas Firefighting Grant Applications Due October 15**

Applications are being accepted from fire companies and emergency medical services in the 40 counties where unconventional gas wells are located or counties that directly border these counties until **October 15, 2021**.

Grants of \$2,000 to \$6,000 are available for professional national certification of members, purchase of firefighting, emergency medical, rescue, or air monitoring equipment used at or related to an unconventional gas well pad incident, and training for incidents at unconventional gas well pads. [Click here](#) to learn more.

**Pa. COVID-19 Case, Hospitalization Update**

31,675 new cases of COVID-19 were reported last week, a decrease compared to the prior week. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,412,039. The commonwealth jumped to 28th in cases per 100,000 nationally, with Alaska, West Virginia, and Wyoming now making up the top three.

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) increased for the 10th week in a row to 2,691 from 2,337, an increase of 15%. 660 patients are in the ICU, an increase compared to the previous week's 589. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 29,141, with 279 new deaths reported this week, a decrease from the previous week.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate remains at 8.9%. Two counties have a rate less than 5% (*up from one last week*), 19 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (*compared to 23 last week*), 43 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*compared to 40 last week*), two counties have a rate of at least 20% but less than 30% (*compared to three last week*); and one county has a rate of more than 30% (*up from none last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

**Today in History....**

On September 27, the internet search engine, Google, celebrates its birthday. Launched in 1998, the company first celebrated September 27th as its birthday in 2006. However, the founders aren't certain of the exact date the organization was established. You would think the place you go for all the answers would know exactly when they started!

[Click here](#) for the latest issue of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

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## Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate will be in session today, September 27. Watch the session live [here](#).

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## Learn

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

### **[Webinar - Everything You Need to Know about Township Vacancies - 9/29/21](#)**

In this webinar, we will discuss all of the tricky issues that arise when a vacancy occurs on a township board of supervisors, including accepting letters of registrations (or having letters of resignation withdrawn), calculating the timing of required actions and the process for convening the vacancy board.



### **[Webinar - Perils of the Digital World: An Employer's Guide to Dealing with Data Breaches - 10/6/21](#)**

Data breaches are seemingly constantly reported in the news. And not only are municipal governments not immune...they are prime targets. In this webinar, learn about the most common ways that employers suffer from data breaches and best practices for how



to put your township in position to avoid those breaches and respond in the event that a breach occurs.

**[Webinar - Hot Topics in Planning: Storefront Vacancies, Recovery, & Multifamily Impacts - 10/13/21](#)**

In this webinar, representatives of the Montgomery County Planning Commission will cover several new and emerging areas in the planning world and their efforts to address them.



**[Webinar - How to Use Your Solicitor Efficiently and Effectively - 10/20/21](#)**

This session will highlight real-life experiences and ideas that the presenters have implemented with their municipal clients and leave you with practical advice that you can implement to maximize your municipality's legal budget.



**[Webinar - Bidding Basics & Beyond - 10/20/21](#)**

Putting projects out to bid is not just about complying with regulations, but also about getting the most for your tax dollars. This thought-provoking session will help you visualize strategies that position your township to achieve both of these objectives when managing bids, all while putting in place practices that minimize the need for blood pressure and headache medicines.



**[Webinar - Is Your Township Protected from Hackers? A Live Hacking Demonstration - 10/25/21](#)**

During this webinar, representatives of IntermixIT will present a live hacking demonstration in which they show how hackers can breach accounts to gain credentials and other important information. They will also provide insights on how townships can best avoid getting hacked and exposing their valuable information and that of their residents.



**Webinar - How Capital Improvement Plans  
Position You to Maximize ROE and Reduce Costs  
- 10/27/21**

With a capital improvement plan, municipalities can take the guesswork out of infrastructure investment, identify their highest priority needs, and ensure they have the funds in place for repair and replacement before failure or regulatory action puts them at risk.



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