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September 29, 2021

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## Latest News

### **Come Celebrate PSATS' 100th Anniversary at a Dinner October 14**

Don't miss PSATS' Centennial Celebration Dinner, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Leadership Institute, on Thursday evening, October 14, scheduled for the Hershey Lodge. The fun-filled historic event, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Leadership Institute, will kick off with a reception at 6 p.m. in the Chocolate Ballroom followed by dinner and light entertainment in the Great American Hall from 7 to 9:30 p.m. If you haven't yet registered to attend, you still have time. Go to [psats100.mypli.org](https://psats100.mypli.org). The PA Leadership Institute is a qualified non-profit scholarship organization for local government, so your contributions are tax deductible.

### **Safety Precautions Outlines for Centennial Dinner and Business Meeting**

PSATS remains committed to the safety of our members and staff. PSATS will continue to follow appropriate state and federal safety guidelines as well as those of the Hershey Lodge. If any additional information and/or changes occur, all attendees will be notified. [Click here](#) for details.

### **PSATS Calls on Governor, LCB to Restore Local Funding**

PSATS is calling on Gov. Tom Wolf and the Pa. Liquor Control Board (PLCB) to restore funding to municipalities that host establishments that hold liquor licenses in the commonwealth.

In a recent news release, the PLCB reported record sales for 2020-2021 at a time when host municipalities will not receive expected host payments this month. At the governor's direction, the LCB waived standard licensing fees for 2021 for retail licenses most impacted by the pandemic.

“While we understand and support the need for relief for these business owners, the waiver of these fees impacted host municipalities and eliminated about \$4 million in host municipality payments,” PSATS Executive Director David M. Sanko says. “We are respectfully asking the governor to champion an effort to replace these waived payments for impacted municipalities and direct the LCB to restore local funding.

“Surely within the LCB’s \$2.91 billion record windfall is \$4 million that could be used to replace these waived fees.”

As a result of the waivers, host municipalities received only a partial payment in March 2021 and will not receive any payments in September. Local-share payments will return with a partial payment in March 2022 and should resume at normal levels by September 2022.

“While some of these host payments may be very small, municipalities count on every penny to provide critical services to their residents,” Sanko says. “If the LCB had record sales, there is no excuse for the commonwealth to continue withholding payments to municipalities that deserve their fair share of this money as hosts to these licensees.”

#### **IFO Releases Public Pension Report**

The Independent Fiscal Office published a research brief on the status of public pension funds in the commonwealth. The report looks at both the state pension system as well as local pension systems. The brief notes that since 2009, distressed municipal pension systems decreased by 115 systems and severely distressed systems decreased from 27 to 6. [Click here](#) to read the report.

#### **Today in History.....**

On September 29, 2008, after Congress failed to pass a \$700 billion bank bailout plan, the Dow Jones Industrial Average falls 777.68 points—at the time, the largest single-day point loss in its history.

Down 7 percent, a greater loss than the 684.81 skid on September 17, 2001 (the first trading day post-9/11), the S&P 500 also suffered its biggest one-day loss since the 1987 crash, dropping 8.8 percent, and the Nasdaq fell 9.1 percent, its biggest single-day point loss in eight years.

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## Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate will be in session today, September 29. Watch the session live [here](#).

Both the House and Senate had very active sessions yesterday. Several bills of interest to townships saw action, including the following:

[SB 745](#) was reported out of Senate State Government Committee and would exempt birthdates from the RTKL. This bill would address a PSATS resolution.

[HB 591](#) was passed by the House, which would authorize construction sites that would disturb more than one acre but less than five acres to apply for a waiver from requirements from a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. The bill would address a PSATS resolution.

[SB 832](#) was reported out of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and would create new grant programs to improve water quality, including a Municipal Storm Water Assistance Program.

[SB 525](#) was reported out of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and would create a Growing Greener III program with \$500 million of American Rescue Plan funds to address environmental and water quality issues, with emphasis on the Susquehanna River watershed.

[SB 775](#) was reported out of the Senate Labor and Industry Committee. The bill would amend the Workers' Compensation Law to provide coverage post-traumatic stress injury coverage for first responders, including professional and volunteer firefighters, members of a volunteer ambulance corps, and police officers. PSATS is opposed to this costly unfunded mandate in its current form.

[HB 1839](#) was reported out of House Urban Affairs Committee and would authorize municipalities to enter into intergovernmental cooperative agreements community associations for purchasing and maintenance of facilities.

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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.

## **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](#)



## **[PSATS Zoning Academy - 12/7-9/21](#)**

The PSATS Zoning Academy is a multi-day class that is focused on providing attendees with a foundational understanding of all important aspects of zoning in Pennsylvania. This class will greatly benefit newer zoning officials, those looking to become zoning officials and municipal officials and employees seeking a better understanding of zoning's impact on municipal operations.



## **[The Code Officials Guide to Zoning - Virtual Class - 1/18/22](#)**

The 90-minute online course provides a comprehensive overview of current zoning issues and problems as they inter-relate to the UCC. Topics include: overview of the MPC, zoning requirements and difficulties, responsibilities of BCOs to meet and manage zoning challenges, permit issuance and enforcement conflicts, violation letter requirements and templates, and legal issues in zoning.



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Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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