

# PSATS News Bulletin

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

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

## Make Plans To Be In Hershey October 15 to Help Decide Important PSATS Business

For the first time since 2019, PSATS members will gather in person on **Friday, October 15**, to network with one another and take care of important Association business at PSATS' Annual Business Meeting at the Hershey Lodge. If you haven't yet registered yourself or a voting delegate to represent your township or county association, you still have limited time to sign up. **We have added a panel discussion on ARP funding and several new speakers never before on a PSATS program!**

The Annual Business Meeting will convene from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Delegates will vote on bylaws changes and proposed resolutions and elect officers and Executive Board members. Among the proposed bylaw changes are those to allow for remote access of Association business if in-person meetings are not feasible, create consistency within the bylaws, revise the terms for standing committee members and the process for appointing them, and authorize township treasurers to serve on the PSATS Executive Committee. Delegates to the business meeting will also vote on at least 75 resolutions, which set Association policy and direct PSATS' legislative agenda.

A meeting packet containing these items was mailed to each member township and county association the first week of September. Every member township is entitled to one voting delegate, and county associations can also designate voting delegates. However, everyone is encouraged to attend the meeting. Register for the Business Meeting at [voting2021.psats.org](http://voting2021.psats.org). Immediately after registering and paying, you will be able to make hotel reservations, if needed, through the Association's online room reservation system, which provides access to PSATS' special room rate.

## Celebrate PSATS' 100th Anniversary on 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](http://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 Outlined 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 registered attendees will be notified. These safety guidelines are available on the websites listed above for the Business Meeting and Centennial Celebration, and by [clicking here](#).



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The first annual  
ARPA report  
is due  
October 31, 2021  
and will cover from  
when you received  
the funds through  
September 30.  
Details will be  
released soon!

## American Rescue Plan Report Due October 31

As part of the American Rescue Plan program, all municipalities that received funds are required to file an annual project and expenditure report that is due on **October 31, 2021**. Municipalities with populations of more than 50,000 must file additional reports, such as interim and quarterly reports. Townships' first annual report will cover from the time they received the funds until September 30, 2021. The U.S. Treasury Department will release a NEU user's guide soon with detailed information on the annual report, including where to go online and how to sign-in to file the report. Wait for the directions to avoid confusion.

Check for details in *PSATS' Morning News* and on PSATS' new American Rescue Plan webpage, accessible at [psats.org](https://psats.org) in the red bar. Township officials can find the latest guidance, links to important U.S. Treasury documents, and an American Rescue Plan Revenue Replacement Calculator. The calculator, developed by the Government Finance Officers Association, should be used to help townships determine the amount of eligible lost revenues under the ARP. Revenue replacement can then be used without restrictions for general government operations, including roads and other infrastructure.

## Capitol Roundup

**Right-to-Know Vexatious Requester Relief Passes Senate** — The Senate passed [SB 552](#), which would allow townships to petition the Office of Open Records for relief from a vexatious requester. A “vexatious requester” would be individuals who use the Right-to-Know Law with malicious intent to intimidate, harass, or punish an agency, resulting in the waste of taxpayer dollars and resources. PSATS supports SB 552, which would address a PSATS resolution. The bill is now before the House State Government Committee.

In related news, [SB 745](#), which would exempt birthdates from the RTKL, was reported out of the Senate State Government Committee. Both bills address PSATS resolutions.

**Committee Approves Workers' Compensation Expansion** — [SB 775](#) was approved by the Senate Labor and Industry Committee. The bill would expand the Workers' Compensation Law to provide 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.

**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 facilities with liquor licenses in the commonwealth. In a recent news release, the PLCB reported record sales for 2020-2021 at a time when host municipalities did not receive expected host payments in September. At the governor's direction, the LCB waived standard licensing fees for 2021 for retail licenses impacted by the pandemic to support local economic development.

As a result of the waivers, host municipalities received only a partial payment in March 2021 and would not receive any payments in September.

**Ida Emergency Declaration Extended** — Under the new constitutional amendment approved by the voters, the House and Senate unanimously approved [HR 139](#), which extends the Governor's Tropical Storm Ida disaster emergency declaration until October 27.

The Census  
Bureau will notify  
townships about  
its Count  
Question  
Resolution  
Program in  
December.

## Latest on 2020 Census Results

The October 2021 issue of the *Pennsylvania Township News* features an in-depth look at the census results, as well as the bureau's Count Question Resolution Program for those townships that are questioning their counts. The bureau will send municipalities a letter in December with details about the program. You can view your township's population results at [psats.org](http://psats.org). Scroll to the bottom and choose "Links to Key Resources" in the blue bar.

## Grants Available

**Multimodal Transportation Grants:** PennDOT is accepting applications for a new round of Multimodal Transportation Fund grants until **November 5**. Awards will be made next year and funded in July 2022. Find out more at [www.penn.dot.gov](http://www.penn.dot.gov), choose Projects and Programs, then Multimodal Program.

**Fire/EMS Grants:** The Office of the State Fire Commissioner is accepting applications for the Fire and EMS Grant Program until **October 22**. Written instructions and guidelines for the 2021-2022 program are available at [www.osfc.pa.gov](http://www.osfc.pa.gov).

**Community Violence Grants:** The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency is accepting grant applications designed to reduce or prevent community violence until **October 15**. More information is available at [www.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov)

## Local Government Legislation Moves Forward

The following bills of interest to townships recently saw action in the General Assembly:  
[SB 302](#) would prohibit the use of Class B firefighting foams that contain PFAS from being used in training exercises.

[SB 478](#) would allow a municipality to enter a contract for services when it advertises a bid for services but no bids are received. This bill would address a PSATS resolution.

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

[SB 673](#) would amend the Second Class Township Code to prohibit the board of auditors from surcharging an elected or appointed official when that official acted in good faith based on a written or publicly stated opinion of the township's solicitor. The bill would also allow a partnership, limited partnership, association, or professional corporation to be appointed as a township's manager.

[SB 739](#) would amend the Emergency Services Loan Assistance Program to incorporate a statewide referendum to expand the program's eligibility from only volunteers to include nonprofit chartered fire companies and municipal-owned paid fire companies.

[SB 832](#) would create new grant programs to improve water quality, including a Municipal Storm Water Assistance Program.

[HB 527](#) would require municipalities to hold at least one advertised public meeting prior to entering into an agreement to sell or lease a water or sewer system owned by an authority that would require the authority to be dissolved by the municipality.

[HB 591](#) would authorize construction sites that would disturb more than one acre but less than five acres to apply for a waiver from an NPDES permit. The bill would address a PSATS resolution.

## Don't Miss PSATS' Training

Don't miss these in-person and virtual training options! Go to [learn.psats.org](https://www.learn.psats.org) for details.

- **Final Regional Forums:** Come join peers from throughout your region to learn about and discuss a variety of township-related topics. In-person events coming to the Southeast (Exton) on October 27 and the Northeast (Wilkes-Barre) on November 10!
- **QuickBooks Classes:** PSATS will host a series of QuickBooks training virtually and in-person in October. To register, go to [psats.org](https://www.psats.org), then Education, and choose "QuickBooks."
  - **Budget with QuickBooks:** Learn how easily create your proposed township budget. To be held virtually on October 6.
  - **QuickBooks Year-End Reports:** Learn how to file all year-end taxes and reports. To be held virtually on October 26
  - **QuickBooks for Beginners:** Develop a fundamental understanding of QuickBooks. In-person classes scheduled for Union County on October 7, Cumberland County on October 12, and Lehigh County on October 19
  - **Intermediate QuickBooks:** Discover the benefits of Accounts Payable and Receivable. In-person classes scheduled for Montgomery County on October 21, Centre County on October 28, and Cumberland County on November 12.

## This and That...

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

- **Townships 2022 Organization Meeting Date** — Townships' 2022 organization meeting date will be Monday, January 3, since the legal holiday for New Year's will be December 31, 2021. The Second Class Township Code requires the supervisors' organization meeting to be held on the first Monday in January unless the first Monday is a legal holiday. The board of auditors will meet on Tuesday, January 4.
- **2022 Estimated Liquid Fuels Rates Released** — The state Department of Transportation has estimated that the total amount of liquid fuels funds for the 2022 distribution will be \$445,855,000 or about 2% less than last year's. Often the actual distribution is higher than the estimate, but the estimate should be used for budget purposes.

The amount per mile is estimated to be \$3,050.21, and the amount per capita is estimated to be \$17.55. Look for letters from PennDOT with your estimated 2022 distributions.
- **Power of One Volunteers Needed!** — The 2022 Conference informational materials are being printed. The next step is to get them out to our membership — a GINOURMOUS task! On December 1, we will be working on preparing packets of information in the Enola office and we are looking for some help! Get a sneak peek at the 2022 Annual Conference and work alongside some of the PSATS Staff. A crazy, fun day and.... a delicious lunch for all!

Can you help? Need more information? Call (717) 763-0930 ext. 107, or email [mlehane@psats.org](mailto:mlehane@psats.org) for more information or to let us know you can help. We look forward to hearing from you!
- **PSATS Accepting Entries for Citizen's Communication's Contest** — Attention, township officials and staff! Enter your outstanding printed or electronic publications in PSATS 2022 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](https://www.psats.org) and choose "Programs & Services," then "PSATS Awards Programs" or see the enclosed flyer.