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October 27, 2021

Latest News

IFO Labor Report Shows Less New Jobs, Worker Shortage

The Independent Fiscal Office has released a labor market update showing about 40,000 new jobs were added in Pennsylvania during September, 20,000 less than the three-year pre-COVID-19 average. At the same time, as unemployment benefits ended, many formerly unemployed are choosing to exit the labor market, leading to a decline of 78,000 workers in September. [Click here](#) for more.

EPA Is Accepting Applications For Brownfields Assessment, Cleanup Grants

Townships with brownfields that need remediation may apply for Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The deadline for applications is December 1, 2021. Grants offered by the Brownfields Program may be used to address sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, petroleum, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum). [Click here](#) for more information and application resources.

Nominate Your Trail or River for State Recognition

Does your community have an exceptional trail? Does a beautiful river/creek run through your township? Consider nominating one or both in DCNR's 2022 Trail of the Year and River of the Year contests. Click on the links to learn more:

- [2022 Trail of the Year](#) (The deadline for nominations is November 12.)
- [2022 River of the Year](#) (The deadline for nominations is November 15.)

PennDOT Virtual Innovation Days Last Chance to Register 10/29/2021

Register today for the PennDOT Virtual Innovation Days event. This FREE event is scheduled for Nov. 2-4, 2021, featuring 12 sessions over the course of the 3-day event. For additional details, including the complete event schedule and registration link, please go to the [PennDOT website](#).

Today in History.....

On October 27, 1994, The U.S. Justice Department announced that the U.S. prison population topped one million for the first time in American history. The figure—1,012,851 men and women were in state and federal prisons—did not even include local prisons, where an estimated 500,000 additional prisoners were held, usually for short periods. The increase made the United States second only to Russia in the world for incarceration rates at the time. Today, the U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the world.

Legislation & Policy



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

The **House Local Government Committee** reported the following bills out of committee yesterday:

SB 208 would amend the Municipalities Planning Code to clarify that a municipality may not require a developer to post a bond of more than 110% of the costs of the improvements. The bill would also clarify that a municipality may retain 110% of the remaining costs of improvements prior to completion.

HB 1947 would prohibit municipalities from restricting access to any energy source. The bill clarifies that it does not affect municipal land use authority under the Municipalities Planning Code or a municipality's ability to take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from municipal facilities and operations.

HB 1877 would establish the Municipal Boundary Change Act to consolidate and standardize provisions of the municipal codes that deal with boundary change, but not mergers and consolidations. The bill would allow municipalities to adjust a municipal boundary or settle a dispute over an unclear boundary by agreement.

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 -11/9/21 - East](#)

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.



[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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