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October 4, 2021

Latest News

State Revenues Continue to Exceed Estimates

The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) and state Department of Revenue have released September 2021 revenue reports. State General Fund collections totaled \$4 billion and were \$551 million, or 16%, higher than estimates. The increase is due to strength in corporate net income tax, sales and use tax, and personal income tax revenues. Realty transfer tax revenue also continues to exceed estimates and is up 9.8% for the fiscal year-to-date. Overall collections for the fiscal year-to-date are higher than expected (*\$714.5 million, or 8.3% above estimate*).

The Motor License Fund received \$236.8 million in September, \$20 million above estimate. The fund includes liquid fuels taxes and other license, fine, and fee revenues. Motor License collections for the fiscal year-to-date total \$729.8 million, 3.2% above estimate.

[Click here](#) for the Independent Fiscal Office report. View the state Department of Revenue press [release here](#).

Reminder: Commonwealth Accepting Fire Company and EMS Grant Applications

The Office of the State Fire Commissioner is accepting applications for the Fire Company and Emergency Medical Service Grant Program until Monday, **October 25, 2021**. Instructions and guidelines for the 2021-2022 program are available on www.osfc.pa.gov.

All fire companies, emergency medical services, and volunteer rescue squads may apply for this grant. This year, funds may again be used to supplement operational expenses incurred by the lack of opportunities for fundraising and the inability to generate revenue due to compliance with measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As always traditional categories allow funding to be used for such projects as construction and/or renovation of the fire company or EMS facilities, equipment, debt reduction, training, and recruitment and retention, including volunteer firefighter length-of-service award programs and programs for minors.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

Pa. COVID-19 Case, Hospitalization Update

32,934 new cases of COVID-19 were reported last week, a 4% increase compared to the prior week. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,444,973. The commonwealth is now 24th in cases per 100,000 nationally, with Alaska, West Virginia, and Wyoming continuing to make up the top three.

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) increased for the eleventh week in a row to 2,800 from 2,691, an increase of 4%. 669 patients are in the ICU, an increase compared to the previous week's 660. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 29,519, with 378 new deaths reported this week, a 35% increase compared to the previous week.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate increased from 8.9% to 9.1%. One county has a rate less than 5% (*down from two last week*), 14 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (*compared to 19 last week*), 50 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*compared to 43 last week*); two counties have a rate of at least 20% but less than 30% (*compared to two last week*) and no county has a rate of more than 30% (*down from one last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

Today in History.....

On October 4, 1927, sculpting begins on the face of Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills National Forest of South Dakota. It would take another 12 years for the granite images of four of America's most revered presidents—George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt—to be completed. The monument was the brainchild of a South Dakota historian named Doane Robinson, who was looking for a way to attract more tourists to his state. He hired a sculptor named Gutzon Borglum to carve the faces into the mountain.

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



The House and Senate will be in session today, October 4. Watch the session live [here](#).

Learn

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

[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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