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January 6, 2022

Township Video News



TVN's Question of the Week | What year should I file the Statement of Interests for?

Township officials who were elected by write-in at the November election but were not listed on the ballot need to file the Statement of Financial Interest, which is required by the State Ethics Law. Since you won in the 2021 election, you need to complete this form for the previous year, 2020, and file it with the township secretary before you begin your term. Remember: You will also need to complete a Finance Interest Statement for 2021 (which is due May 1, 2022). [Click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week!

Latest News

Reapportionment Maps Carve Up Townships

Avoiding partisan disputes, PSATS only policy on redistricting is to not split municipalities. Even the State Constitution agrees. The Pennsylvania Constitution specifically provides that, “unless absolutely necessary, no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward shall be divided” in creating a legislative district.

Today, PSATS will offer comments to the Legislative Reapportionment Commission draft House map that hacks up 45 townships, more than any other type of municipality. The Commission should review these excessive township splits or explain why these communities of interest have been divided. Not a single township in Pennsylvania is larger than the 64,050 targeted size of a district so there should not be township splits. In fact, one proposed township split has less than 7,500 people (Delaware Township, Pike County). There are 25 townships that were not previously split, remain below the target size and yet are split this time. including Northampton Township, Bucks County, South Middleton Township, Cumberland County Harborcreek Township, Erie County, and Lower Paxton Township, Dauphin County just to name a few.

Understandably, communities larger than the target size must be split, but that ONLY includes Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Allentown, Erie, Reading, Bethlehem and Scranton. Here is another unexplainable tidbit: State College, Harrisburg and Lancaster (all less than 64,050) were previously whole, have LOST population and are now split.

Townships that have concerns are encouraged to submit additional comments to the Legislative Reapportionment Commission that is holding hearings starting today through next week. In accordance with Pennsylvania Constitution, Article II, Section 17(c), any person aggrieved by the Preliminary Plan may file exceptions with the Commission. Any exceptions to the Preliminary Plan should precisely state the objections. Exceptions may be uploaded on the Commission's website, www.redistricting.state.pa.us ([House](#), [Senate](#)), or may be sent in writing to the Commission at the following address:

2021 Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission
P.O. Box 203079
Harrisburg, PA 17120

[SUBMIT EXCEPTION FOR HOUSE](#)

[SUBMIT EXCEPTION FOR SENATE](#)

The deadline for exceptions is January 18, 2022. Exceptions must be either uploaded on the website or physically received by the Commission by that deadline. Exceptions uploaded or received after January 18, 2022, even if post-marked before that date, cannot be considered by the Commission.

It's Not Too Late to Sign Up for Boot Camp!

While some locations are currently at capacity, PSATS is intent on meeting the needs of new or veteran supervisors or staff who wish to participate in our 3-part Boot Camp for Township Officials. Held in over a dozen locations around the state, we are exploring some additional alternate facilities to meet demand. While all session one events have been completed, people can still sign up for session 2 and 3 and catch up on a session one recording. prior to going to session 2. [Click here](#) to register or for more details. If you have any additional questions, call Scott Coburn, Education Director at 717-763-0930 ext 171.

DEP Amends Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan for Chesapeake Bay

On December 31, 2021, the state Department of Environmental Protection amended its Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) to include all 34 countywide action plans and other measures and demonstrate how 100% of water quality restoration goals will be met if the plan is funded.

Pennsylvania is mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to lower its nutrient and sediment levels by 2025. This includes reducing nitrogen by 32.5 million pounds and phosphorus by .85 million pounds. Through 2020, Pennsylvania reduced nitrogen by 6.77 million pounds and phosphorus by .3 million pounds.

The WIP estimates that statewide, \$521 million per year is needed to fund these goals and that an annual gap of \$324 million exists. Watch for Governor Wolf's Budget Address on February 1 to see if the state is funding this or if you are as another unfunded mandate. [Click here](#) for more.

Today in History...

On *January 6, 1975*, *Wheel of Fortune*, one of the longest-running syndicated game show in American television, premiered on NBC. Created by television legend Merv Griffin and hosted since the early 1980s by Pat Sajak and Vanna White, *Wheel* is one of the most popular television shows in the world.

Learn

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

[Flagger Training - 2/24/22 - Cumberland County](#)

This instructor-led Flagger Training will be conducted for individuals who have flagging responsibilities on ANY ROAD OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Others who would benefit from this course include: utility companies working on low volume roads, law enforcement personnel, municipal managers and elected officials (to understand the importance, and for budgeting purposes).



[Webinar - Stormwater Management: An Annoying Requirement, Simplified - 1/26/22](#)

This webinar is designed to provide participants with an overview of the challenges and best practices associated with managing a township's many stormwater-related responsibilities – in a way that is user friendly and easy to understand.



[Webinar - Where We Ride: Bicycle and Pedestrian Networks and Improvements - 2/23/22](#)

Do all streets and roads need to be “complete”? Not all do, but enough to create a network that allows bicyclists and pedestrians to travel to their regular destinations.



[Webinar - What Your Public Works Director Wants You to Know - 3/23/22](#)

Your township's public works staff have unique perspective, knowledge, history and information that greatly benefit elected officials and senior employees. Confronted daily with the challenge of solving problems with finite resources, they are your front line for issues that matter to your constituents.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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