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January 4, 2022

Township Video News



TVN's Training Tuesday | January starts a whole new year of classes!

The weather might be getting colder but PSATS' Education Calendar is heating up! The month of January is packed with great learning opportunities for township officials. Boot Camp sessions are continuing at 15 locations across the state, and there is a virtual training for secretaries offered on January 27 and February 3. The HR & Labor Management Institute will be on January 12, and the virtual ABCs for Elected Auditors will be on January 20. Registration for the 2022 Annual Educational Conference and Exhibit Show opens Tuesday, January 11. Don't forget to use your Webinar PowerPass each Wednesday and learn more on topics regarding public safety, planning and zoning, administration, and public works!

Latest News

Census Bureau Now Accepting Challenges to 2020 Results

The U.S. Census Bureau is accepting requests by local officials to review their official 2020 Census housing counts for potential processing errors in its [2020 Census Count Question Resolution Operation](#). Through the formal review process, the bureau ensures that housing and population counts are correctly allocated to 2020 Census tabulation blocks. Cases may be submitted through June 30, 2023.

Townships interested in submitting a request through this process should be aware that Census tabulation block data is not yet available for Pennsylvania municipalities but is expected to be available soon. PSATS will provide updates as the information is released. Block data release from Penn State Data Center is awaiting approval from the Wolf Administration. Meanwhile, township officials may contact the Governor's Center for Local Government Services at the state Department of Community and Economic Development toll-free at [888-223-6837](tel:888-223-6837) if they encounter any issues.

Township officials should note that the CQR program will not alter redistricting data or apportionment results. However, this data will be used in the Census Bureau's population estimates program and funding programs that use 2020 Census data.

A separate proposed program will allow local officials to request a review of group quarters population counts (prisons, schools and nursing homes). [Click here](#) for more on the proposed group quarters program.

Unemployment Fraud Victims Get Taxed, Too?

Some unemployment fraud victims may get a 1099G form from the Commonwealth to pay taxes on unemployment assistance. The state Department of Labor and Industry wants to prevent any income that you did not receive, or file for, from being reported as taxable under your Social Security number. The department is working diligently to process returned fraudulent payments, debit cards, and checks; return a significant number of fraud calls; and investigate identity theft complaints.

If you know someone who was a victim of fraud and payments were issued to them, but they returned the UC debit card, checks, or direct deposits that they received, they should NOT receive a 1099G. If they got a form and believe they shouldn't have because they had returned the funds and submitted an identity theft complaint, the department asks for patience while it works through the high workload due to fraudulent claims. They should call the department and confirm that their fraud claim is in process.

If someone was a victim of identity theft but no benefits were paid on the claim, they also should NOT receive a 1099G. If a claim was opened and paid using

your information and you did not receive the funds and therefore were unable to return them to the department, you should visit the [UC Benefits website](#) and click "Report Fraud" to complete and submit the Identity Theft Complaint Form. Do not log in. If, upon completion of the investigation, it is found that you were a true victim of identity theft, a revised 1099G will be issued to you.

To report identity fraud related to Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), please click [here](#).

For more information about responding to identity fraud, refer to the ["What should I do if I'm a victim of identity theft?"](#) FAQ.

State Revenues Approaching \$2 Billion Over Estimates

The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) and state Department of Revenue have released December 2021 revenue reports. State General Fund collections totaled \$3.8 billion in December and were 17.2% higher than estimates. The overage was primarily due to stronger-than-anticipated collections for the corporate net income tax, sales and use tax, and personal income tax. PIT collections alone were 7.4% above estimate. Overall collections for the fiscal year-to-date are higher than expected (*\$1.76 billion, or 8.5% above estimate*).

The Motor License Fund received \$208.5 million in December, \$14.2 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 \$1.4 billion, 4.5% above estimate.

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

PennDOT Connects Drop-In: Building Better Bus Stops

PennDOT Connects is offering a free drop-in on Building Better Bus Stops. All trips on transit buses begin and end at bus stops; making bus stops a vital connection between transit service and the communities served. Ensuring bus stops meet the needs of all riders, transit agencies, and the community is essential in providing quality, efficient transit service. This session will include an overview presentation of the Building Better Bus Stops Resource Guide developed by PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association (PPTA). Participants attending this session will leave with an understanding of key components of bus stop planning and design.

January 13, 2022, Noon to 1 p.m.

[Register Today](#)

To learn more about the free PennDOT Connects Municipal Resources, [click here](#).

Today in History....

On January 4, 1847, Samuel Colt rescues the future of his faltering gun company by winning a contract to provide the U.S. government with 1,000 of his .44 caliber revolvers.

Before Colt began mass-producing his popular revolvers in 1847, handguns had not played a significant role in the history of either the American West or the nation as a whole. That began to change when Samuel Colt patented his percussion-repeating revolver in 1836. The heart of Colt's invention was a mechanism that combined a single rifled barrel with a revolving chamber that held five or six shots. When the weapon was cocked for firing, the chamber revolved automatically to bring the next shot into line with the barrel.

Legislation & Policy



The State Senate and State House will each convene for session today, January 4, 2021. [Click here](#) to watch.

NATaT Urges Feds to Broaden Eligibility for Transportation Grants

The National Association of Towns and Townships recently asked the Federal Highway Administration to direct state departments of transportation to prioritize communities with populations under 5,000 for Surface Transportation Block Grant Funds. The group argued that this step will achieve the original legislative intent of adding local roads and direct those funds to smaller entities with limited resources. Approximately \$65 billion will be distributed through the program.

All PSATS member townships are automatically members of NATaT.

Learn

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

PSATS Boot Camp for Township Officials

This three-day event was created just for you — *newly elected (or veteran) supervisors, other newly elected officials, and new secretaries/managers*. Learn the everyday tasks to running a municipality, explore the tools and resources available to help you do your job successfully, and experience real-life scenarios through discussion with experienced PSATS members. [Click here](#) for dates/locations and to register.



2022 PSATS HR & Labor Management Institute - Virtual - 1/12/22

This virtual full-day offering is a must-attend for anyone who has responsibility for HR and personnel management in their township.



The ABCs for Elected Auditors - Virtual Class - 1/20/22

In this virtual class, you will learn about the responsibilities of elected auditors under the Second Class Township Code, the nuts and bolts of conducting a thorough audit of the township's finances, how to best navigate DCED's online financial reporting requirements, and ways to ensure a healthy working relationship between the elected auditors and the township.



Basic "Virtual" Training for Secretaries and Administrators - Jan. 27 & Feb. 3, 2022

This virtual training class will be offered in two half-day sessions. This is your opportunity to learn from acknowledged experts about all the most important issues township secretaries and managers need to know, right from the comfort of your desk. Topics covered will range from budgeting, purchasing, advertising and meeting management all the way to



human resource issues and public engagement.

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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