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February 9, 2022

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## Latest News

### **Wolf Budget Calls for 9.5% Spending Increase**

Gov. Tom Wolf gave his final 2022-23 budget address yesterday. Where previous budgets called for a package of new taxes, including a municipal tax for the Pennsylvania State Police and a natural gas severance tax, this budget does not ask for any tax increases. Instead, it calls for spending federal funds, including \$5.1 billion of American Rescue Plan funds for various programs and projects and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds to rebuild roads and bridges, remediate the environment, plug wells, and expand access to broadband, clean drinking water and more state employees.

As predicted in Morning News, more State Police funding is proposed to be transferred from the commonwealth's General Fund rather than the Motor License Fund, allowing for more gas tax funds to be spent on roads and bridges. The budget also requests \$7.7 million for law enforcement technology, such as mobile video recorders and body-worn cameras, and \$35 million in grants and technical assistance for community-led violence prevention efforts.

Wolf did again request a \$15 per hour minimum wage increase (starting at \$12 this year) and childcare benefits for state employees. He asked for \$5 million to fill positions in the state Department of Environmental Protection and another \$2.5 million for the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. [Click here](#) to view the budget.

**Here's Your Chance to Get Some Glory!**

There's still time to participate in several PSATS Award Programs. Don't miss this chance to grab some glory for your township or individuals to recognize their outstanding accomplishments. Upcoming awards programs and their deadlines include:

- The PSATS Youth Awards, which honor youth organizations that have completed community service projects in townships of the second class in the last year. Youth groups must submit their entries to their respective county association by March 1. [Click here](#) for more information.
- The Road and Bridge Safety Improvement Awards, which recognize townships that continued or completed road or bridge projects in 2021 to enhance safety for road travelers. Townships must submit their entries to PHIA by March 4. [Click here](#) for more information.
- PSATS' Excellence in Intergovernmental Cooperation Award, which recognizes townships that work with neighboring municipalities, state, or federal agencies to complete projects. Nominations are due March 11. [Click here](#) for more information.

Don't wait ... enter today!

#### **Today in History....**

On February 9, 1825, with no presidential candidate receiving a majority of electoral votes in the election of 1824, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to elect John Quincy Adams, who came in second to Andrew Jackson in the popular election, as president of the United States. Adams was the son of John Adams, the second president of the United States.

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## Legislative News

The Senate and the House will be in session today, February 9. Watch the sessions live [here](#).

The House passed [SB 739](#), which would amend the Emergency Services Loan Assistance Program to incorporate a statewide referendum to expand the program's eligibility to include nonprofit chartered fire companies and municipal-owned fire companies. The bill now goes before the Senate for concurrence on House amendments which added \$25 million in additional pandemic funding for EMS squads struggling from pandemic challenges.

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## Learn

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

### **Duties of a Zoning Hearing Board**

Topics to be covered include procedures for deciding variances and special exceptions, handling hearing-related questions, Ethics Act requirements and much more.

[2/22/22 - Chester County](#)

[3/3/22 - Butler County](#)

[3/8/22 - Cumberland County](#)



### **[Duties of a Zoning Hearing Board - 3/15/22 - Virtual Class](#)**

Topics to be covered include procedures for deciding variances and special exceptions, handling hearing-related questions, Ethics Act requirements and much more.



### **[Fundamentals of Zoning – The Why and How of Zoning - Virtual Class - 3/22/22](#)**

The workshop is intended to educate both the newest supervisors and the ones who have seen it all. We will discuss the legal roles of supervisors and others, zoning hearings (including conditional uses), and several other important aspects of zoning ordinances that are often overlooked or misunderstood.



### **[2022 PAAZO Spring Educational Forum - 4/24/22](#)**

This educational forum explores issues that zoning officers and planning and zoning officials face on a regular basis, and discusses effective strategies to address them.



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## **Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors**

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