

A NEWSLETTER  
CONTAINING  
THE LATEST  
INFORMATION  
ON LEGISLATION  
AND NEWS OF  
INTEREST TO  
TOWNSHIPS

All townships  
that received  
American Rescue  
Plan Funds  
must file  
a report through  
Treasury's  
online portal  
by April 30.

## Wolf Budget Calls for Big Spending Hike

Gov. Tom Wolf gave his final 2022-23 budget address in February. 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 all 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.

Wolf proposed to spend \$450 million in ARP funds for conservation, recreation, and community revitalization projects. This would include new funding for the Growing Greener conservation and recreation program and agriculture conservation programs.

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 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. To learn more, go to [budget.pa.gov](https://budget.pa.gov).

## Townships Must Log Into Treasury Portal, File Report in April

The U.S. Treasury Department is asking local governments to log into the American Rescue Plan Reporting and Compliance Portal, confirm roles, and provide required information if they have not yet done so. You can access Treasury's portal using your existing login.gov account information at <https://portal.treasury.gov/compliance>. The page will say "Department of the Treasury is using Login.gov to allow you to sign into your account safely and securely." If you land on a different login.gov page, you will need to type in the address above into your browser. ***You do not need to use an ID.me account to access the portal.***

Townships should use [Treasury's Login.gov User's Guide](#) to take the first steps to link with your township's Treasury Portal. Then use the [NEU Agreements and Supporting Documents Guide](#) which has step-by-step instructions with screenshots to assist users in navigating the portal and in designating an Account Administrator, Point of Contact for Reporting, and Authorized Representative for Reporting. As part of the annual filing, townships must upload the same documents that your township submitted to DCED last year as part of the request for funding.

If you see individuals in your account that are not affiliated with your township, do not recognize the DUNS number, or are unable to change roles, your account may have been



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NATaT argued against one-size-fits-all federal overreach that would cause drainage ditches and retention basins to be regulated under the “Waters of the United States” definition in the Clean Water Act.

accidentally merged with that of another township. If so, please send an email to Treasury at [COVIDReliefTSupport@treasury.gov](mailto:COVIDReliefTSupport@treasury.gov), and copy Katie Lizza, PSATS Policy & Research Analyst, at [klizza@psats.org](mailto:klizza@psats.org) or call 717-763-0930. If you have any other technical issues, please reach out to [COVIDReliefTSupport@treasury.gov](mailto:COVIDReliefTSupport@treasury.gov)

**Please note that all townships that received ARP funds must file the first annual Project and Expenditure Report by April 30.** The form is expected to be available in the portal in early April, after the reporting period ends on March 31. Even if you have not spent funds, you will need to complete the report.

More reporting information is available by going to [psats.org](https://psats.org) and choosing the American Rescue Plan page on the red bar, including links to all of the documents mentioned in this article. This page will be updated as the Project and Expenditure Report becomes available. As always, feel free to contact PSATS directly with questions.

## Capitol Roundup

**PSATS Testifies on EMS Issues** — Joe Gerdes, PSATS’ Director of Government Relations, recently testified before the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee on EMS issues. Gerdes cautioned the committee against trying to apply a one-size-fits-all solution to every municipality or region, asked for new revenue raising options, and alternative ways of providing training and certifications. To read the testimony, go to [psats.org](https://psats.org) and choose “Legislation & Policy”.

**NATaT Says “No” to Proposed “WOTUS” Definition** — The National Association of Towns and Townships submitted comments to the Environmental Protection Agency with concerns about the agency’s revised definition of “Waters of the United States” in the Clean Water Act. The comments emphasized concerns about any expansion of the CWA that could bring isolated wetlands or other non-navigable waters under federal jurisdiction. NATaT argued against one-size-fits all federal overreach that would cause drainage ditches and retention basins to be regulated. Read the comments at [psats.org](https://psats.org), “Legislation & Policy,” then “Letters to Agencies.” PSATS members are also members of NATaT.

**DEP Accepting Comments on Proposed PFAS Drinking Water Regulation** — The state Department of Environmental Protection is collecting comments **until April 27** on a proposed rule that would set maximum contaminant levels in drinking water for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and perfluorooctanoic acid. To learn more, go to [www.dep.pa.gov/PFAS](https://www.dep.pa.gov/PFAS).

**Governor Signs New Acts** — Gov. Tom Wolf recently signed the following new acts:

- **Act 10 of 2022** (*SB 739*) provides \$25 million in grants from federal COVID-19 dollars to EMS companies for services in response to the pandemic.  
The act also expands eligibility for the Emergency Services Loan Assistance Program to nonprofit chartered fire companies and municipal-owned fire companies.
- **Act 12 of 2022** (*HB 764*) allows certain childcare providers to hire employees on a provisional basis. This includes employees hired for township recreational programs. Provisional employees must have applied for required background checks and affirm in writing that they have not been convicted of any offense which would disqualify them from the employment position.

To view the new acts, go to [legis.state.pa.us](https://legis.state.pa.us) and search for the bill number.

Don't miss out!  
Register for the  
PSATS Annual  
Conference  
by March 31  
to avoid  
higher rates!

## Are You Ready for the PSATS Annual Conference?

If you haven't yet registered for the 2022 PSATS Annual Conference and Exhibit Show, there's no time to waste. Register at [conference.psats.org](https://conference.psats.org) by **March 31** to avoid higher rates!

If you have registered for the conference, we hope you are looking forward to the best educational and networking opportunity for township officials in the commonwealth. While you count down the weeks to April 24, here are a few things you can do to prepare:

- 1) **Download the conference mobile app** from the Apple Store or Google Play Store. The app gives you tons of conference information, allows you to create a personalized schedule, and is where you will find the workshop handouts and evaluations.
- 2) **Check out the list of conference workshops** available on the app and at [conference.psats.org](https://conference.psats.org) so you can begin planning your conference agenda.
- 3) **Make sure to read the Insider**, the weekly conference newsletter sent to registrants so you don't miss any important conference-related information.
- 4) **Sign up for the First Timers Webinar on March 30**. Learn what to expect and receive tips for navigating the exhibit show, finding your way around the Lodge, voting on Association leadership and resolutions, and more. To register, go to [conference.psats.org](https://conference.psats.org) and click on "First Timers Webinar" in the blue box on the left below the big red "Register Here" button.
- 5) **Get ready to play ScanTrivia**. This interactive electronic trivia game will debut at this year's conference. All you need is a smartphone or tablet that can read a QR code via the device's camera or a free QR code reader app. To learn more, check out the article in the upcoming April issue of the *Township News*.

## Local Government Legislation Moves Forward

The following bills of interest to townships recently saw action in the General Assembly: [SB/153](#) would increase the maximum allowable weight for commercial vehicles powered by electric batteries from 80,000 to 82,000 pounds.

[SB 965](#) would regulate highly automated vehicles and authorize testing conditions for these vehicles, including platooning.

[SB 1027](#) would allow a 17-year old to train for an interior firefighting module with live burns if they have permission to engage from a fire chief and a parent.

[HB 1351](#) would amend the **Second Class Township Code** to prohibit the board of auditors from surcharging an elected or appointed official when that official acted in good faith based on a written, nonconfidential opinion of the township's solicitor or an opinion of the solicitor publicly stated at an open meeting. The bill also would allow a township to appoint a partnership, limited partnership, association, or professional corporation as the township's manager – in addition to the current ability to appoint a person.

[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 2058](#) would amend the Local Tax Enabling Act to align the deadline for filing final returns for the earned income tax with the deadline for filing a Pennsylvania personal income tax return. Normally this filing date would be the same as the current April 15 filing date.

To view these bills, go to [legis.state.pa.us](https://legis.state.pa.us) and enter the bill number in the upper-right hand corner.

## Don't Miss PSATS Training Opportunities!

Don't miss these in-person and virtual training options! Go to [learn.psats.org](http://learn.psats.org) for details.

**Basic Training for Secretaries and Administrators:** This in-person class will be offered in Cumberland County on **March 22**, Chester County on **March 24**, and Centre County on **April 7**! This is your opportunity to learn the most important issues township secretaries and managers need to know, including budgeting, purchasing, meeting management, human resources, and public engagement.

**Fundamentals of Zoning:** This virtual class on **March 22** will give attendees a solid understanding of the tools that zoning affords townships to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare.

**Newsletter Best Practices: Keeping Residents Updated Via Email and Mail:** In this virtual class on **April 7**, we will discuss how print/mailed communications work in tandem with email to ensure residents are informed and engaged.

**CDL Records Management and Probable Cause Training:** On **April 11 and 12**, join PSATS for training on addressing probable cause procedures for CDL drivers and managing CDL/CMV paperwork. This is especially critical for newer secretaries, roadmasters, or others responsible for your township's CDL program.

**Effective Township Administration: Steering Your Township Through Difficult Situations:** In this half-day class, held in Hershey on **April 24** prior to the Annual Conference, the instructors will use case studies and checklists to discuss best practices and ethical behavior when confronted with difficult issues.

## This and That...

Be sure to check this section each month, where you will find important reminders and information.

- **SAM.gov Registration is Always Free!** — Many townships have reported receiving suspicious emails and even phone calls claiming to be SAM.gov registration renewals. **The System for Award Management (SAM) is a 100% free government website** and the U.S. government will not send an email requesting payment for updating or renewing your account. Please note that SAM.gov registrations **need to be renewed each year**. When you receive an official email telling you to renew, which will come from a .gov domain, check your original registration email, which will have your township's SAM.gov expiration date. You should renew a few days before your expiration date.
- **Townships Encouraged to Approve America250PA Resolution** — America250PA was formed to celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States in 2026 and Pennsylvania's leading role in commemorating this event. Join the celebration by approving a sample commemorative resolution at your April meeting (*should you choose*) which is included with this *NewsBulletin*. Please send approved resolutions to your state senator and representative, as well as PSATS Policy & Research Analyst Katie Lizza at [klizza@psats.org](mailto:klizza@psats.org) or mail a copy to PSATS, 4855 Woodland Drive, Enola, PA 17025. Ask your county to join you in supporting this celebration. We will also have a special guest speaker at the April Conference. Learn more at [www.America250PA.org](http://www.America250PA.org)!
- **DCNR Accepting Grants Applications** — The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is accepting applications for the following grants:
  - **ATV or snowmobile trails and facilities** until **March 31**;
  - **Recreation and conservation projects** until **April 6**; and
  - **To fight wildfires** from communities with less than 10,000 residents until **May 12**.To learn more, go to [brcgrants.dcnr.pa.gov](http://brcgrants.dcnr.pa.gov) or contact the grants customer service center at (800) 326-7734 or [DCNR-Grants@pa.gov](mailto:DCNR-Grants@pa.gov).