

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

## PSATS 2022 Annual Conference a Success!

After a two-year Covid restriction hiatus, PSATS 2022 Annual Conference was held April 24-27 in Hershey PA and was a success! Township officials were excited to be “Together Again” and network, visit with vendors at the state’s largest municipal exhibit show, and learn about township issues at dozens of workshops. On Tuesday, delegates elected the Association’s leadership, adopted bylaws changes, and debated 50 resolutions, 42 of which were approved. The adopted resolutions set the Association’s policy for the next five years and direct PSATS’ legislative agenda. **A copy of the 2022 Adopted Resolutions, along with the Association’s 2022 Legislative Priorities are enclosed.**

Delegates also heard from state officials, including Pa. Senate Majority Whip John Gordner, Pa. House Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff, PA. Auditor General Timothy DeFoor, and Pa. Treasurer Stacy Garrity. On Wednesday, the Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidates participated in a forum on important township issues. **See the enclosure for coverage of the gubernatorial forum** and look for full Conference coverage in the June issue of the *Pennsylvania Township News!*

See enclosure for  
full coverage of  
“Ask the Governor  
Candidates’ Forum.”

To watch the full video  
go to [PSATS.org](https://psats.org) and  
click on Candidate’s  
Forum box..

## Data Available for Challenges to 2020 Census

The U.S. Census Bureau is accepting requests by local officials to review their official 2020 Census housing counts for 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. Challenges 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 now available through the Penn State Data Center.** The [Center’s new report](#) walks users through important guidance about the CQR program and includes interactive data tables for users to find data for their community.

Township officials should note that the CQR program will not alter redistricting data but will be used in the Census Bureau’s population estimates program and for funding that uses 2020 Census data. To learn more, go to [psats.org](https://psats.org), scroll to the bottom and choose “Links to Key Resources” in the blue bar.

## Reminder: Treasury Reports Were Due April 30

Please note that all townships that received American Rescue Plan funds were required to file the first annual Project and Expenditure Report with the U.S. Department of the Treasury by April 30. Even if your township had not spent funds by March 31, you were required to complete the report. If your township is waiting on Treasury to resolve an issue with your account, you will be able to file once the issue is addressed, but it could take longer due to the backlog of issues.

If your township did not yet file, please do so as soon as possible. You can access



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Act 18 of 2022 allows a municipality to enter a contract for services when it advertises for bids for services, but no bids are received.

Treasury's portal using your login.gov account information at the following link:

<https://portal.treasury.gov/compliance>. Step-by-step information, including a recorded webinar, on how to efficiently file the report is available by going to [psats.org](https://psats.org) and choosing the American Rescue Plan page on the red bar.

If you are stuck and need help, please reach out to Katie Lizza, PSATS Policy & Research Analyst at 717-763-0930 ext 126 or [klizza@psats.org](mailto:klizza@psats.org) or Holly Fishel, PSATS Policy & Research Director, at 717-763-0930 ext 138 or [hfishel@psats.org](mailto:hfishel@psats.org). PSATS staff is happy to walk you through the report and troubleshoot any issues. If you have a technical issue with your account, please send an email to Treasury at [COVIDReliefITSupport@treasury.gov](mailto:COVIDReliefITSupport@treasury.gov).

## Capitol Roundup

**PSATS Testifies on Stream Cleaning** — Deven Martin, supervisor for Delmar Township, Tioga County, recently testified on behalf of PSATS before the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee on the need for the state Department of Environmental Protection to simplify the permit process for cleaning streams to reduce or eliminate flooding in a timely fashion. To read the testimony, go to [psats.org](https://psats.org), choose “Legislation & Policy” and then “Legislative Testimony.”

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

- [Act 15 of 2022](#) (HB 221) authorizes local governments to use up to 25% of revenue from the **open space tax** for maintenance and development of open space regardless of the method of acquisition or purchase. Act 15 takes effect June 18, 2022.
- [Act 17 of 2022](#) (HB 2058) aligns the deadline for filing final returns for the **earned income tax** with the deadline for filing a Pennsylvania personal income tax return. Normally, Act 17 would make the new filing date the same as the current April 15 filing date. Act 17 took effect April 19.
- [Act 18 of 2022](#) (SB 478) allows a municipality to enter a contract for services when it advertises a **bid for services but no bids are received**. Townships may currently enter into a contract for goods if no bids are received. Act 18 addresses a PSATS resolution and takes effect June 18, 2022.

## Local Government Legislation Moves Forward

The following bills of interest to townships recently saw action in the General Assembly: [SB 145](#) would **exempt municipal vehicles** and vehicles of local government contractors that are providing material for road maintenance **from bonding requirements** on commonwealth-owned highways. SB 145 would fulfill a PSATS resolution.

[SB 284](#) and [HB 2104](#) would establish statewide requirements for the decommissioning and bonding of solar energy facilities, which would preempt **local solar decommissioning** regulations. Bonds and a decommissioning plan would be required to be filed with the recorder of deeds. PSATS has concerns with the preemption language.

[SB 749](#) would provide clarity for employers and employees on the use of **medical marijuana in the workplace**.

[SB 1058](#) would amend the Second Class Township Code to authorize the board of supervisors to adopt a resolution to **increase the compensation for elected auditors** from

**HB 2428**  
would amend  
the Sunshine  
Law to  
create rules for  
broadcasting  
hybrid and  
livestream  
meetings and  
accepting  
remote public  
comment.

\$10 per hour to up to \$17 per hour for performing the annual audit and other necessary duties of office. SB 1058 would fulfill a PSATS resolution.

**HB 978** would **amend the Right-to-Know Law** to further clarify that personal financial information, such as account passwords, tax forms, benefit election forms, account information, and dependent information, is confidential. The bill would also protect township account numbers, routing numbers, credit card numbers, and PINs from disclosure. This bill would address a PSATS resolution.

**HB 1462** would **mandate that municipalities mail notifications** to each property owner of a change in a special flood hazard area map by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. PSATS is opposed to HB 1462 in its current form as an unfunded mandate.

**HB 1790** would amend the **Uniform Construction Code** to require code officials to perform all required inspections and include a written description of any items not in compliance, including references to the applicable codes. The bill would also require the state Department of Labor and Industry to investigate complaints about code administrators and take corrective action for just cause.

**HB 2097** would set the **minimum staffing for a Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance** in a county of county of the fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth class as an emergency medical service (EMS) vehicle operator and an EMS operator that is an emergency medical technician (EMT) or above.

**HB 2253** would **authorize municipalities to hold emergency meetings** in another location, including another municipality, or to hold a fully remote meeting if a disaster emergency is declared by the governor or the local government and it is unsafe, hazardous to human health, or impossible to conduct a public meeting at the location where the municipality's meetings are normally held.

**HB 2286** would **amend the Municipalities Planning Code to require zoning ordinances to permit low-impact home-based business activity** under either of two conditions: a) during a disaster emergency that renders operation of the business unsafe or impossible or b) due to loss or damage to a regular business location caused by a natural disaster or other physical destruction that renders the operation of the business in its regular location unsafe or impossible.

PSATS opposes the bill in its current form as a preemption of local land use authority. The property owners would not be required to request the use from the township. In addition, the bill would limit:

- business activity to no more than 25% of the habitable floor area;
- retail operations to between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.;
- excess noise, vibration, glare, fumes, or odors to weekdays from 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.; and
- signs and lights indicating the business activity to temporary installation only.

**HB 2428** would **amend the Sunshine Law** to create rules for broadcasting hybrid and livestream meetings and accepting remote public comment and would require posted public notices and agendas to include the method of broadcast and whether remote public comments would be accepted.

**HB 2524** would **amend the Right-to-Know Law** to implement a number of reforms, including language to address vexatious requests, commercial fees, and a number of other RTKL issues. The bill would address several PSATS resolutions.

To view these bills, go to [legis.state.pa.us](http://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](https://learn.psats.org) for details.

**Flagger Training:** This instructor-led Flagger Training will be held at locations across the state in May and early June. Be sure to have your public works employees trained before construction season is too far along.

**Leadership: Five Things Empowering Leaders Do:** This in-person class will be held on **May 12** in Butler County. What separates a good leader from a great leader? The key to exceptional leadership is empowerment. How does one become an empowering leader? Attend this class to find out!

**Seven PSATS Webinars in May:** PSATS will hold seven webinars in May, which will cover from What Your EMC Wants to Know, to managing roadside trees, to getting your township's message right, to stormwater management best practices, and more!

## This and That...

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

- **DCED Accepting Applications for Act 13 Grants** — The state Department of Community and Economic Development is accepting applications for Act 13 programs until **May 31**. These grants include flood mitigation, sewage facilities planning, trails and recreation, watershed restoration and more. To learn more, go to [dced.pa.gov](https://dced.pa.gov) and under "Programs and Funding," choose "Commonwealth Financing Authority" and then "Act 13."
- **Complete Streets, Active Transportation Plan Grants Available** — WalkWorks is accepting grant applications from municipalities to develop Active Transportation Plans, Complete Streets policies and/or Vision Zero policies. These plans connect people to everyday destinations and opportunities for physical activity. Applications are due **May 13**. For more information, go to [health.pa.gov](https://health.pa.gov) and choose "I'm looking for..." and then "Our programs."
- **DEP Accepting Applications for Grants** — The state Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for the Growing Greener Plus and Watershed Planning and Restoration Grants (Section 319) **until June 24**. Both programs are looking for projects that will reduce nonpoint source pollution. To learn more, go to [dep.pa.gov](https://dep.pa.gov) and look for the [April 29 press release](#).
- **CFA Accepting Multimodal Transportation Fund Grants** — The Commonwealth Financing Authority is accepting applications for its Multimodal Transportation Fund until July 31. Note this is different than the program through the state Department of Transportation. Funds may be used to develop, rehabilitate, and enhance transportation assets, including lighting, sidewalks, pedestrian safety, and transit-oriented development. To learn more, go to [dced.pa.gov](https://dced.pa.gov) and under "Programs and Funding," choose "Commonwealth Financing Authority."
- **DUNS Numbers Replaced by Universal Entity Identifier** — The federal government has transitioned to the Universal Entity Identifier (UEI) number for all entities doing business with it and will no longer use the DUNS number to uniquely identify entities. The UEI is assigned by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov). Your UEI number is viewable in your SAM.gov account.
- **PA Safety Days Return to In-Person!** — [PA Safety Days](#) are sponsored by the Pennsylvania 811 and return to in-person events in 2022! Events will be held in Allentown, Altoona, Drexel Hill, Erie, Pittsburgh, Wilkes-Barre, and York beginning May 17. Don't miss these events designed to teach attendees about safe digging practices, which are valuable for public works employees. Learn more and register at [pa1call.org](https://pa1call.org).