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May 26, 2022

Township Video News



TVN's Question of the Week | How do we increase compensation for township supervisors?

This week's episode shares more information on how to adjust compensation for elected township officials. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week.

Latest News

Legal Advertising Reform Bill Passed Over in Committee

Despite efforts by PSATS and other local government associations to convince legislators of the need for legal advertising reform, the House Local Government Committee passed over [HB 955](#). HB 955 would give municipalities the option of placing public notices on their own website or a shopper and would expand the types of newspapers that could be used for legal advertisements, in addition to a newspaper of general circulation. PSATS will continue to work to move this priority forward, which would fulfill PSATS resolutions.

Thank you to the dozens of townships that provided detailed cost information on legal advertising!

We appreciate your efforts and will use it to build support for legal advertising reform. If you haven't yet submitted information, we are collecting examples of how much it currently costs your township for a legal advertisement and how long in advance advertisements must be submitted before publication. We are also looking for examples of townships that don't currently have a newspaper of general circulation available in your township. Please send your input to Holly Fishel, PSATS Policy & Research Director, at hfishel@psats.org or call 717-763-0930, ext. 138. Documentation of expenses is much appreciated! Please send by **Monday, June 6!**

Biden Signs Police Reform Executive Order

President Joe Biden signed a new executive order copying many safeguards already in place in Pennsylvania aimed at promoting accountability and raising standards for policing. The executive order only requires compliance by federal law enforcement agencies. However, local governments may participate and will be able to access several of the programs, including the national database of police misconduct. In addition, the new standards may be required for future federal grant applications. [Click here](#) for more.

Today in History...

On May 26, 1927, Henry Ford and his son Edsel drove the 15 millionth Model T Ford out of their factory, marking the famous automobile's official last day of production.

Legislation & Policy



Below is a summary of yesterday's legislative action of interest to townships. Both chambers will return to session on June 6.

The House passed the following bills:

[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.

[HR 199](#) recognizes Pennsylvania law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty.

The following bills were reported out of committee:

[SB 1209](#) would amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to prohibit the Legislative Reapportionment Commission from adjusting group quarters population data determined by the Federal decennial census. Note: Amendments to the Pennsylvania Constitution must pass the General Assembly in two consecutive sessions and then be approved via ballot referendum. SB 1209 was reported out of the Senate State Government Committee.

[HB 2434](#) would increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for ambulance transportation, including a loaded mileage fee, and would provide a 10% add-on for areas designated as super-rural by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. The bill was reported out of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee and would address a PSATS resolution.

[HR 179](#) would urge Congress to direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency to update its per capita impact indicator to better provide disaster assistance to communities impacted by flooding and other disasters. The bill was reported out of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

[SB 275](#) would prohibit municipalities from restricting access to any energy source and 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. The bill was reported out of the House Local Government Committee.

[HB 1952](#) would identify and fund legacy infrastructure projects in each county to celebrate the United States' Semiquincentennial celebration in the commonwealth, America250PA. The bill was approved by the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee.

[HB 2087](#) would prohibit the commonwealth and local governments from requesting or disclosing membership and donation data from a charitable organization. PSATS has concerns because of possible unintended exposure to costly litigation to townships. The bill was reported from the House State Government Committee.

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

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).



[6/1/22 - York County](#)

[6/6/22 - Butler County](#)

[6/10/22 - Erie County](#)

[6/15/22 - Berks County](#)

[6/16/22 - Carbon County](#)

[6/22/22 - Bucks County](#)

[Performing MS4 Outfall Inspections - Virtual Class - 6/23/22](#)

In this virtual class, attendees will learn a workable, effective framework for establishing a hierarchy for outfall inspections, a protocol for performing inspections in the field, and method for inspecting documenting and addressing potential illicit discharges.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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