

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

## Capitol Roundup

**ARP Payment Made** — All non-entitlement municipalities should have received their second tranche of ARP funding via direct deposit on September 9. This is a combined deposit that includes the basic funding and the reallocation dollars from communities that opted out of the program. It is the final ARP payment and totals nearly \$500 million statewide. All entitlement communities (*populations over 50,000*) and counties received their money in early summer direct from the U.S. Treasury Department.

**2021-2022 Legislative Session Nearing End** — The state House will return to session on September 12 and the Senate will reconvene on September 19. Both chambers have three weeks of session scheduled before the November election.

Legislators will be scrambling to move favored bills as any bill that fails to make it to the governor's desk before both chambers break for the election will "die" and need to be reintroduced and begin the process over again in January.

Watch the *PSATS Morning News* for updates as critical bills that PSATS supports or opposes may begin to move quickly and we may need your help to push them along or stop them in their tracks. Not a subscriber? Email [memberservices@psats.org](mailto:memberservices@psats.org) to sign up.

**DEP Releases Draft 2022 Water Plan** — The state Department of Environmental Protection released the [draft 2022 Pennsylvania State Water Plan](#) identifying regional and statewide water resources priorities and recommending statewide and legislative actions to address those priorities. Township officials may review the draft plan and comment on it **by September 19**. PSATS will provide comments from a statewide perspective. Township officials should pay particular attention to regional priorities, as well as any unfunded mandates, and provide input as appropriate. To read the plan and comment, go to [dep.pa.gov](http://dep.pa.gov) and search for "water plan."

**Act 57 Requires Townships to Adopt Tax Resolution** — [Act 57 of 2022](#) amends the Local Tax Collection Law to allow taxpayers who fail to receive a tax notice during their first year of occupancy to apply for and receive a waiver and penalties and additional costs from the tax collector. The state Department of Community and Economic Development is required to make a waiver form available. The new act takes effect on October 10.

All townships that levy a property tax are required to adopt a resolution or ordinance directing the elected tax collector to implement the act between October 10 and January 9, 2023. A sample resolution is enclosed and available on [psats.org](http://psats.org) in the PSATS Resource Center (*log-in and then choose the "Legislation & Policy" tab*).

**2020 Pennsylvania Broadband Victory Canceled by Feds** — The FCC canceled the SpaceX Award to bring internet service to 59,200 unserved Pennsylvanians in 61 counties, stating that the Elon Musk funded private sector satellite initiative failed to demonstrate that it could deliver the promised service. SpaceX won the bid through the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Program for providing broadband to unserved households and businesses in 35 states. It is unclear how the FCC will resolve this issue and whether the unserved areas will be awarded to another provider.

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Townships can compare wages and benefits based on region, population size, and budget size, all of which have a major impact on both wage rates and benefits.

## Looking for Township Employee Wage Comparisons?

2022 PSATS Salary Survey Plus results are now available for participating townships! This online platform lets township officials securely and anonymously compare their employees' wages and benefits with those of similar townships with just a few clicks. Participating townships can compare wages and benefits based on region, population size, and budget size, all of which have a major impact on wage rates and benefits.

**If you/already/participated, thank you!** We could not do this without you. Your township supervisors, manager, secretary, and other township-designated officials can now access the results. Results are available under "Run Reports" for a summary by position or under "Compare Townships" to see all answers by position. **New this year:** Years of experience for full-time administrative office staff, management positions, and code officials.

**If you haven't participated yet, it is not too late!** Enter your data today and the real-time portal will calculate your answers into the results and give you access. Participating now will make a great product even better for all townships! And if the board changes pay rates mid-year, take a minute to update your answers!

To access Salary Survey Plus, log onto [psats.org](https://psats.org) and look under "My PSATS" for "Salary Survey Plus." If you need to change the township official designated to enter data (*the PSATS Salary Survey Plus processor*), contact [memberservice@psats.org](mailto:memberservice@psats.org) or (717) 763-0930, ext. 112.

**Not sure how to use the reports?** Here are some quick tips!

- Under "Run Reports," scroll down to below the filter box. Click on any report and it will automatically download with the 2022 statewide results. Or apply a filter from the and click on a report to download that report with your filter applied.
- Under "Compare Townships," choose a position group, then the "Salary Details" tab, and scroll below the filter box. Under the legend is a drop down with the current position. Scroll down to view the full 2022 statewide results for that position. Choose a different positions from the drop-down menu or apply any filter to analyze the results.

Questions? Can't access Salary Survey? Need help with a report? Email [salariesurveyplus@psats.org](mailto:salariesurveyplus@psats.org) or call (717) 763-0930, ext. 126 for Katie Lizza or ext. 138 for Holly Fishel.

## Census Accepting Appeals

The U.S. Census Bureau is accepting [Post-Census Group Quarters Review](#) cases. Municipalities may submit new data for group quarters populations that were not counted during the 2020 Census operation.

The Census Bureau is also 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 for both programs may be submitted **until June 30, 2023**.

To learn more about these programs and where to find the data needed to submit a challenge, go to [psats.org](https://psats.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page. In the blue bar, choose "Links to Key Resources."

The PSATS  
Conference offers  
great value as the  
delegate rate  
remains only  
\$175 per person  
for 2023! That's  
\$175 for  
three plus days of  
education,  
networking, and  
more!

## Budget Now for PSATS' 2023 Annual Conference

With budget season getting underway for townships, now is the time to think about creating a line item for attendance at PSATS' 2023 Annual Educational Conference & Exhibit Show, scheduled for April 23-26 in Hershey.

This will be **PSATS' 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** so make sure you don't miss this opportunity to commemorate the occasion, see your peers from all over the state, meet with the exhibitors, go to workshops, take care of business, hear from top state and federal officials, and just enjoy gathering with friends once again.

The PSATS Conference offers great value as the delegate rate remains only \$175 per person for 2023. That's \$175 for three-and-a-half days of education, networking, and access to the commonwealth's largest municipal exhibit show.

Make the most of your township's budget dollars by planning to attend next year's conference. Budget for at least one person, if not more, from your township to attend. Isn't your professional development as an elected official or employee one of the most important investments you can make on behalf of your township and its residents?

For estimated conference fees and costs, please call PSATS at (717) 763-0930, ext. 190. Don't forget to budget for the PSATS Annual Conference. It's an investment you won't regret.

## Grants Available

Take advantage of the many grant opportunities currently available!

**Traffic Signal Modernization Grant:** The state Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the new Traffic Signal Technologies Grant program until **September 30**. Guidance is available at [penndot.pa.gov](https://www.penndot.pa.gov), choose "Doing Business," then "Local Government," and choose the Traffic Signal Portal link on the right-hand side. Send questions to Michael Centi, Senior Traffic Control Specialist, at (717) 787-5313 or [GLG@pa.gov](mailto:GLG@pa.gov).

**Local Law Enforcement Grant:** The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency is accepting applications until **September 30** for the Local Law Enforcement Program for local and regional police departments and the Gun Violence Investigation & Prosecution Program. Guidance is available at [pccd.pa.gov](https://www.pccd.pa.gov) and choose "Enhancing Law Enforcement."

**Federal Broadband Grant:** The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is accepting applications for the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program until **September 30**. The program funds expansion of middle-mile broadband infrastructure. Details are available at [internetforall.gov](https://www.internetforall.gov).

**ATV and Snowmobile Grant:** The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is accepting applications for grants for ATV or snowmobile trails and facilities until **September 30**. Guidance is available at [dcnr.pa.gov](https://www.dcnr.pa.gov), choose "Communities," then "Grants."

**Public Library Grant:** The state Department of Education is accepting applications for the 2023 Keystone Grants for Public Library Facilities program until **October 14**. For a public library to be eligible, it must jointly prepare and submit the application with the sponsoring municipality. Guidance is available at [statelibrary.pa.gov](https://www.statelibrary.pa.gov) by choosing "Libraries" and then "Subsidies and Grants."

## 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.

- **PSATS' Regional Forums:** Learn about issues that matter to your community. Coming **September 22** to Camelback and **September 29** to Cranberry. Learn more at [regionalforum.psats.org](https://regionalforum.psats.org)!
- **Emergency Management Fall Exercise Forums:** Scheduled for **September 29** in Cumberland County and **October 14** in Montgomery County.
- **QuickBooks Training:** Virtual classes for beginners and intermediate users, budgeting, payroll, and more are slated for this fall! Classes start **September 19!**
- **Fall Solicitors Seminar:** Scheduled **November 10** in Montgomery County, the seminar covers a wide variety of issues vital to municipal solicitors.
- **Stormwater 101:** This half-day, introductory virtual class slated for **September 23** will educate you on the basics of municipal stormwater management.
- **Basic Training for Secretaries and Administrators:** Scheduled for **October 12** in Chester County.
- **2022 PAAZO Fall Seminar:** Scheduled for **October 13** in Montgomery County and **November 17** in Butler County, this seminar lets zoning officials learn from experts on a wide variety of topics.
- **CDL Records Management/Probable Cause:** Scheduled for multiple in-person locations this fall!

## This and That...

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

- **FHWA Form 536 Due** — Townships are reminded that FHWA Form 536 is due to the state Department of Transportation by **September 15**. Instructions were recently sent out on how to log in and complete this form electronically at [gis.penndot.gov/muniform/login.aspx](https://gis.penndot.gov/muniform/login.aspx) or by email at [RA-PDFHWAMUNIFORM@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PDFHWAMUNIFORM@pa.gov). Please enter information for 2021. Contact Kristen Sims with questions at [krsims@pa.gov](mailto:krsims@pa.gov) or 717-214-6161.
- **See Your Township in the 2023 PSATS Calendar!** — We'd love to see your township's parks and recreation programs featured in the 2023 PSATS Calendar. Photos should be in color, must have a resolution of at least **300 dpi** at a size of **4 inches x 6 inches**. Photos should show people using parks and rec facilities, rather than empty playground or ball fields. Email photos as jpeg attachments to [kacri@psats.org](mailto:kacri@psats.org) by **September 16**. Provide your name, position, township, county, and daytime telephone number.
- **PA Cybersecurity Summit Slated** — The Pennsylvania Cybersecurity Summit is being held **September 28-29** at Harrisburg University. The two-day hybrid conference will offer educational opportunities about the many cyber threats and mitigation strategies and include tracks for non-technical senior leaders, as well as a technical track for cybersecurity practitioners. To learn, visit [summits.harrisburgu.edu/cybersecurity](https://summits.harrisburgu.edu/cybersecurity).
- **PSATS Accepting Entries for Citizen's Communication's Contest** — Attention, township officials and staff! Enter your outstanding printed or electronic publications in PSATS' 2022 Citizen Communications Contest by **December 1**. Entries must be from member townships and have been produced between November 30, 2021 and December 1, 2022. To learn more, go to [psats.org](https://psats.org) and choose "Programs & Services," then "PSATS Awards Programs" or see the enclosed flyer.
- **Major CDC COVID-19 Changes** — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has substantially revised its COVID-19 guidance. Social distancing guidance of six feet is no more. Quarantining is no longer recommended if you were exposed to COVID-19. Instead, the CDC recommends wearing a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested on day 5. Isolation recommendations for those who are sick or test positive for COVID-19 were revised. To learn more, go to [cdc.gov](https://cdc.gov).