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November 15, 2022

Township Video News



TVN's Coffee and the Capitol | Senator John R. Gordner of the 27th Senatorial District

PSATS Legislative Director Joe Gerdes talks with Sen. John R. Gordner, Senate Majority Whip, about the importance of keeping local government leaders and state legislators well connected in this month's Coffee and the Capitol.

Latest News

OOR Annual Right-to-Know Law/Sunshine Act Training Today at 10 a.m.

The state Office of Open Records (OOR) will conduct a free annual training on the Right-to-Know Law and Sunshine Act today, November 15, at 10 a.m. via Microsoft Teams. OOR staff will cover the basics of Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law and best practices for agencies when dealing with requests and appeals. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions in the chat box.

[Click here to join](#) in Microsoft Teams or join by phone at (267) 332-8737 (Conference ID: 528 206 930#).

Letters of Interest Accepted for U.S. DOT Thriving Communities Program

The U.S. Department of Transportation has funding available for the new [Thriving Communities Program](#) (TCP), funded under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The TCP will provide a two-year path of technical assistance, planning, and capacity-building support to community partnerships that may lack staffing or expertise to scope, fund, and develop infrastructure projects. Projects supported through this program include revitalization activities that increase mobility, reduce pollution, and expand affordable transportation options.

Townships are eligible to apply to receive technical assistance and must identify community partners and together submit a [Letter of Interest](#) by **December 6, 2022**. For more information, including how to apply and recorded webinars, visit the [program website](#).

PSATS Submits Comments to FEMA on Simplified Procedures Policy

PSATS submitted comments to the Federal Emergency Management Agency on its Proposed Policy: Public Assistance Simplified Procedures. The policy would eliminate Quarterly Progress Reports for small projects, reduce documentation for cost estimates, and allow acceptance of estimates certifications for damages in lieu of providing comprehensive source documentation.

PSATS expressed support for the policy, but raised a concern that if an applicant has multiple projects, some completed and others to be completed, would the applicant have to wait to receive the remaining non-federal cost share? If so, PSATS requested that these provisions be revisited.

Click here [to read the comments](#). To view the policy or learn how to comment, [click here](#).

Accepting Entries for All PSATS Excellence Awards to be presented at 2023 Annual Conference

Attention township officials and staff! PSATS is currently accepting entries for its 2023 awards programs. The deadline for entries is as follows:

- **Citizen Communication:** December 1
- **Youth Awards:** January 15
- **President's Leadership Award:** January 31

- **Excellence in Intergovernmental Cooperation Awards:** January 31
- **Road and Bridge Safety Awards:** March 23

Award winners will be presented at the 2023 Annual Conference Excellence Awards ceremony. To learn more, go to psats.org and choose "Programs & Services," then "[PSATS Awards Programs](#)." For questions, contact Hanna Martin at hmartin@psats.org or 717-763-0930, ext. 129. We look forward to receiving your submissions!

Today in History....

On November 15, 1957, In a long and rambling interview with an American reporter, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev claimed that the Soviet Union had missile superiority over the United States and challenged America to a peaceful missile "shooting match" to prove his assertion. The interview further fueled fears in the United States that the nation was falling perilously behind the Soviets in the arms race.

Legislation & Policy



The state House returned to session yesterday but delayed the election of officers due to pending results in two races (1 in Bucks County and 1 in Montgomery County) that will determine control of the House. The House will return to session today. The state Senate will also return to session tomorrow to elect officers. Watch today's session live [here](#).

Learn

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

Human Resources And Labor Management Institute

This class is a must-attend for anyone who has responsibility for HR and personnel management in their township. In this seminar, the team from Eckert Seamans will detail what to expect in human resources and labor relations.

[12/5/22 - VIRTUAL](#)



QUICKBOOKS

[QuickBooks Year-End Reports - Virtual Class - 12/15/22](#)



[The ABCs for Elected Auditors - Virtual Class - 1/19/23](#)

In this virtual class, you will learn about the responsibilities of elected auditors under the Second Class Township Code, the nuts and bolts of conducting a thorough audit of the township's finances, how to best navigate DCED's online financial reporting requirements, and ways to ensure a healthy working relationship between the elected auditors and the township.



[Steering Through Difficult Township Situations - Virtual Class - 1/24/23](#)

Elected and appointed officials are often asked to solve problems that are either not within their authority to solve or where the proposed "solution" might create negative unintended consequences for the municipality. Navigating these difficult issues requires skill, diplomacy and, often patience.



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