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November 18, 2022

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## Latest News

### **PA State House to Switch Majority Control**

The two remaining state House seats were finalized yesterday with concessions by 1 Democrat candidate in Bucks County and 1 Republican incumbent in Montgomery County leaving the chamber split 102-101 and a nominal Democrat majority for the first time since 2010. This includes one Democrat seat being vacant due to the death of a member who was still re-elected as well as the pending departure of another member to join the US Congress in January. A third vacancy will occur when another member resigns to become Lt. Governor on January 17. The House will likely be back to full capacity after several special elections are held in the spring, prior to the state budget finalization.

### **As Utilities Increase Rates, PUC Reminds Residents of Options**

As utilities adjust their seasonal energy supply prices, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission is reminding consumers that they have options to manage anticipated higher bills and stresses the consumers struggling to pay monthly bills should act now and seek assistance by contacting their utilities.

The cost of energy used each month for electricity or natural gas is made up of the delivery/distribution charge, which supports your local utility, and the generation/supply charge, which covers the cost of the electricity or natural gas used during the month. For consumers who do not shop for electricity or natural gas, the utility provides energy supplies at the "Price to Compare." For many utilities, the "Price to Compare" will increase on December 1.

To learn how to decrease utility costs, shop for energy suppliers, and find support programs, [click here](#).

### Today in History.....

On November 18, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln boarded a train for Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to deliver a short speech the following day at the dedication of a cemetery of soldiers killed during the battle there on July 1 to July 3, 1863. The address Lincoln gave in Gettysburg became one of the most famous speeches in American history.

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## Legislation & Policy



Gov. Wolf Takes Action on Legislation Yesterday, Gov. Tom Wolf took the following actions on legislation on his desk:

Wolf vetoed [HB 140](#), which would have amended the Vehicle Code to require vehicles parking along a pedalcycle lane or pedestrian plaza to park in the direction of traffic flow,

parallel with their right or left wheels within 12 inches of the outside lane of the buffer area between the pedalcycle lane or plaza and parking. The bill would have allowed municipalities to adopt alternative regulations for parking adjacent to a plaza or pedalcycle lane. In addition, the bill would have required the commonwealth on state roads and municipalities on local roads to give deference to loading for businesses and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Wolf signed [HB 1546](#) into law as **Act 165 of 2022**. The act amends Title 18 (*Crimes and Offenses*) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to create the offense of endangering a public safety official if a person intentionally or knowingly communicates, or posts on social media, the restricted personal information of a public safety official or a family or household member of a public safety official with reckless disregard or the intent that the information will be used to threaten, intimidate, or facilitate a crime against the public safety official or their family. The act defines restricted personal information as the individual's image, name, social security number, home address, home phone number, mobile phone number, personal email, or home fax number. Act 165 addresses a PSATS resolution.

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## Learn

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

**[Emergency Management Fall Exercise Forum - Virtual Class - 12/8/22](#)**

This full-day, virtual class is designed for everyone responsible for your municipality's emergency management program, including elected officials, municipal managers, road crew/public works personnel, and, most importantly, local emergency management coordinators (EMCs).



**In The Line Of Fire: Best Practices In Police Department Management**

A primary goal of the training is to arm the attendees with practical guidance on how to conduct a meaningful assessment of their departments to ensure compliance with federal and state law.



**[1/24/23 - Chester County](#)**  
**[2/16/23 - Lehigh County](#)**

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