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December 6, 2022

Township Video News



TVN's Training Tuesday | There's still time to take a few more classes in 2022!
The year might be winding down, but PSATS' educational calendar still has a great lineup of December classes!

Latest News

PA State Farm Show News...Local Government Day is Back!!

Opening Day ceremonies will be Saturday, January 7 at 10 AM, Public Official Day returns on Wednesday January 11 at 11 am, and a new flavor milkshake will be unveiled...Orange cream! Stay tuned for more details and plan to attend local officials brunch on Wednesday!

REAL ID Enforcement Deadline Delayed

The state Department of Homeland Security is extending the REAL ID full enforcement date by two years until after the next Presidential election, from May 3, 2023, to May 7, 2025. Once the law takes effect, which has been delayed numerous times since 2008, federal agencies, including the Transportation Security Administration, will require a REAL ID to enter certain federal buildings and board an airplane. [Click here](#) for the press release. This ID is not to be confused with voter identification.

Reminder: FCC Map Webinar Today at 1 p.m.

The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority and Penn State Extension are **offering an informational webinar on the new FCC map today at 1 p.m.** Learn about the map and how it works, how the new maps will impact Pennsylvania, the challenge processes, and how to submit data to Penn State and the Authority. Use the link below to register.

[FCC National Broadband Map & Challenge Process – Tuesday 12/6/22, 1-2PM](#)

Township Wins Appeal on RTKL Request for Harassment Investigation Records

In [Geleff v. Exeter Twp.](#), OOR Dkt. AP 2022-2244, Exeter Township in Berks County won a Right-to-Know Law (RTKL) appeal before the Office of Open Records (OOR) that sought a report from an investigation into a complaint of unlawful harassment by a township supervisor. Under the RTKL, an exemption for records related to a noncriminal investigation only applies to agencies acting within “their legislatively granted fact-finding and investigative powers.” Exeter, relying on Section 607 of the Second Class Township Code, argued that it was required to “perform duties and exercise powers as may be imposed or conferred by law,” including obligations under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to prevent, investigate, and take immediate corrective action with respect to allegations of unlawful harassment. The OOR agreed that the township was acting within its statutory powers under the Code and denied the appeal.

Phase 2 of OOR’s E-File Portal Open for Use by Local Agencies

The second phase of the Office of Open Record’s rollout of its new E-File Portal is now online. During this phase, the OOR will assign every third appeal that involves a local agency to be processed through the E-File Portal. The OOR will not seek permission from the parties prior to assigning the appeal to the E-File Portal. OOR is encouraging voluntary use of the portal for other appeals, which provides a one-stop location for all appeals records.

To learn more about the E-File Portal, [click here](#). To learn about OOR's plans for the portal, [click here](#).

Today in History.....

On December 6, 1865, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, officially ending the institution of slavery, was ratified. "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." With these words, the single greatest change wrought by the Civil War was officially noted in the Constitution.

Legislation & Policy



The state Senate released its schedule for the first half of 2023:

- January 3, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31
 - February 1, 27, 28
 - March 1, 6, 7, 8
 - April 24, 25, 26
 - May 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10
 - June 5, 6, 7, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30
-

Learn

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

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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