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January 9, 2023

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## Latest News

### **Get Ready: Conference Registration Opens Tomorrow!**

Are you ready for conference registration, which opens tomorrow morning at 9 a.m.? You should have the following information on hand to expedite your registration:

- The PSATS ID number (the "C" number) for each person who is registering;
- A unique email address for each registrant;
- The name of the person who will act as your voting delegate; and
- Your preferred hotel(s).

To register, go to [conference.psats.org](https://conference.psats.org) and click on the Register Here button. After you complete your conference registration, you can proceed to the hotel reservation system. **You must first register for the conference to be able to reserve a hotel room through our system.**

If you need help, the Conference Registration Help Desk will be available from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. tomorrow at (717) 763-0930, ext. 190.

### **Borough's Stormwater Management Charge Ruled a Tax**

In [Borough of West Chester v. Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education](#), No. 260 M.D. 2018, 2023 WL 27942 (Pa.Cmwlt. Jan. 4, 2023), the Commonwealth Court ruled that a stormwater management charge imposed by a borough on all developed properties was not enforceable against West Chester University or the State System of Higher Education because it is a tax, not a fee, and those entities are immune from taxes.

The Borough of West Chester is a home rule municipality and levied its fee under the Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law, which does not have specific

language on stormwater fees. The court did not consider the specific stormwater fee language in the Second Class Township Code or the Municipalities Authorities Act as part of its decision.

### **Clarification on Auditor Wages**

Elected township auditor wages remain at \$10 per hour under the Second Class Township Code. While there was legislation to increase this amount last year that passed the Senate, it was not considered by the House. As such, it “died” at the end of 2022. PSATS is working with legislators to reintroduce this legislation, as well as an increase in compensation for supervisors, and see these changes move forward per Association policy.

### **Time is Running Out to Apply for PSATS' Awards Programs!**

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

- Youth Awards: January 15 (to County Associations)
- President's Leadership Award: January 31
- Excellence in Intergovernmental Cooperation Awards: January 31
- Road and Bridge Safety Improvement Awards: March 3.

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

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## Legislation & Policy



The Pennsylvania Senate returns to Harrisburg today. Click here to [watch the session live](#).

On Friday, Gov. Tom Wolf called for a Special Session of the General Assembly to convene starting today to address the statute of limitations for claims involving childhood sexual abuse. The House will also convene in Special Session today.

### **Senate Appoints Committee Chairs, Assignments**

The Pennsylvania Senate has appointed committee chairs and assigned senators to the committees. Below are the chairs of the committees that consider legislation of interest to townships. To find your [senator's committee assignments](#), click here.

### **Agriculture & Rural Affairs**

Sen. Elder A. Vogel, Chair  
Sen. Judy Schwank, Minority Chair

**Appropriations**

Sen. Scott Martin, Chair  
Sen. Vincent Hughes, Minority Chair

**Communications & Technology**

Sen. Tracy Pennycuick, Chair  
Sen. Jimmy Dillon, Minority Chair

**Environmental Resources & Energy**

Sen. Gene Yaw, Chair  
Sen. Carolyn Comitta, Minority Chair

**Labor & Industry**

Sen. Devlin Robinson, Chair  
Sen. John Kane, Minority Chair

**Local Government**

Sen. Rosemary Brown, Chair  
Sen. Tim Kearney, Minority Chair

**Transportation**

Sen. Wayne Langerholc, Chair  
Sen. Marty Flynn, Minority Chair

**Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee**

Sen. Doug Mastriano, Chair  
Sen. Katie Muth, Minority Chair

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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.

**[The Municipal Chart Of Accounts - What And Why - 1/18/23](#)**

In this webinar, Terri Cunkle from DCED's Center for Local Government Services will provide best practices when operating within the municipal Chart of Accounts, which is a listing of the account numbers used for municipal budgeting.



### **Best Practices For Local Bridge Owners - 1/25/23**

Managing your local bridges can be a daunting task. This presentation will discuss how to assess your inventory, prioritize projects, review various funding options, and provide tips to extend the life of the structures.



### **Understanding Your Township's Emergency Operations Plan - 2/1/23**

One of the most important matters a township supervisor needs to become familiar with is the status of their Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The EOP specifies activities to be taken by the township and other community officials to protect the lives and property of citizens in the event of a natural or human-caused emergency or disaster.



### **More Than Water: Other Benefits Of Stream Restoration - 2/8/23**

Unfunded MS4 requirements....The need to preserve land and protect against encroaching development....Rising demand for recreational amenities....Can a township address all of these competing challenges with limited funds? They have in Conewago Creek!



### **Operational And Financial Considerations For Electric Vehicles - 2/15/23**

This webinar will focus on the operational and financial issues that municipalities must consider with respect to the use of electric vehicles within their fleets, as well as choosing providers for EV charging stations for municipal and public use.



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**Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors**

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