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January 10, 2023

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## Township Video News



**TVN's Coffee and the Capitol | Stacy Garrity, Pennsylvania's 78th Treasurer**  
Join PSATS Director of Government Relations Joe Gerdes for a cup of coffee with Stacy Garrity, the 78th Treasurer of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Treasury is currently seeking the owners of more than \$4 billion in unclaimed property, and your township might be the rightful owner of some of these funds.

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## Latest News

### PSATS 2023-2024 Policy Statements

Each session, PSATS releases policy statements, which represent its legislative agenda for the next two years. These policies are established through the Association's resolutions process, where member townships debate and vote on resolutions at the Annual Conference. The resolutions that are approved become part of the PSATS platform for five years.

The PSATS legislative agenda is described in PSATS' 2023-2024 Policy Statements, which both educate and advocate on the Association's positions. Association staff is at work sharing these policy positions with legislators and encouraging them to introduce legislation to implement PSATS resolutions. To view the policy statements, [click here](#) or click on the policy statements of interest below.

- [Access to High-Speed Internet](#)
- [Agriculture](#)
- Environmental Protection:
  - [Sewage and Water](#)
  - [Solid Waste and Recycling](#)
  - [Stormwater](#)
- [Government Transparency: Sunshine, Right-to-Know, and Legal Advertising](#)
- [Growth and Development](#)
- [Labor & Employment Mandates](#)
- [Legal Reforms](#)
- [Local Taxation](#)
- [Natural Gas Impact Fees](#)
- [Preserving Local Democracy](#)
- [Public Officials' Code of Ethics](#)
- Public Safety:
  - [Emergency Management](#)
  - [Fire and Ambulance Service](#)
  - [Police Protection](#)
- [Relief from Unfunded Mandates](#)
- [Transportation](#)

### **Reminder: Nominations Due 1/17 for 2023 Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence!**

Each year, the commonwealth presents the annual Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence to recognize local officials for their successes in undertaking innovative initiatives to improve the quality of life in their communities. Awardees are recognized during Local Government Week.

Have you undertaken innovative projects or worked with other municipalities to deliver services more efficiently and cost-effectively? Nominate your township's efforts today for the 2023 Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence. Nominations are due January 17, 2023. To learn more, [click here](#).

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## Legislation & Policy



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

### **Committee Approves Bill Reducing Gas Tax, Eliminating Transfers to State Police**

The Senate Transportation Committee met yesterday and approved two bills that would impact transportation funding in Pennsylvania.

[SB 35](#) would eliminate automatic increases for the commonwealth's oil franchise tax based on the average cost of oil. Instead, the bill would freeze the levy at \$2.99 per gallon, which would eliminate the 4-cent increase that took effect January 1 due to higher average oil prices over the last year. PSATS opposes this bill since it will decrease road funding available to townships without replacement revenues and will prevent future increases in needed funds.

[SB 121](#) would phase out transfers of moneys from the Motor License Fund to the Pennsylvania State Police from \$250 million in the 2023-2024 budget to \$0 by the 2028-2029 budget.

### **House Cancels Session**

The Speaker of the State House of Representatives, having no operating rules in place, cancelled both regular session and special session for the remainder of the week.

### **Shapiro Appoints Cabinet Secretaries**

Yesterday, Gov.-elect Josh Shapiro nominated individuals to be Secretaries of Administration, Education, and Labor and Industry. Shapiro nominated current Acting Secretary of Community and Economic Development Neil Weaver to be his Secretary of Administration; Dr. Khalid Mumin, former superintendent at Lower Merion School District in Montgomery County and Reading School District in Berks County, as Secretary of Education; and Nancy Walker, first Chief Deputy Attorney General under the Fair Labor Section, as Secretary of Labor and Industry.

These individuals nominated for Secretary of Labor & Industry, as well as Education will require Senate confirmation. The Secretary of Administration does not.

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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 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.



### **Basic Training For Municipal Secretaries And Administrators - 2/23/23 - York County**

This is your opportunity to learn from acknowledged experts about all the most important issues township secretaries and managers need to know. Topics covered will range from budgeting, purchasing, advertising and meeting management all the way to human resource issues and public engagement.



### **How To Fix Your Productivity To Amp Up Your Results - Virtual Class - 2/9/23**

Join master trainer, Chad Barger, for a fast-paced session filled with tips (hacks) for busy professionals to get more done, by working smarter, not harder. This presentation focuses not on what we do, but how we do it. Tips are provided to help professionals better manage email, meetings, their energy level, distractions, self care, to do lists and work life balance (but we prefer the term work life harmony). Attendees leave the session with practical tips that they can immediately implement to make their days more productive and therefore amp up their results.



### **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.



**[2023 Update - Retirement Plans, Employee Hot Topics, Using Solicitors And More - 2/28/23 - Erie Co.](#)**

In this event, which features a pre-program networking lunch, the team from Knox Law will cover a variety of issues important to municipalities. Those include:

- *10 Retirement Plan Administration Mistakes & How to Fix Them:* [Nadia Havard](#)
- *Hot Topics in Municipal Labor & Employment Law for 2023:* [Matt Lasher](#)
- *The Role of the Solicitor: How Solicitors can be Effective Members of the Township Team:* [Tim Wachter](#)
- Q&A



**[2023 Solicitors Spring Seminar - 4/24/23](#)**

This seminar will cover a wide variety of emerging and important trends and issues vital to the practice of every municipal solicitor. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from experts and network with your peers from around the state.



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