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January 11, 2023

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## Latest News

### **Today is Public Officials Day at the Pennsylvania Farm Show!**

#### **Gasoline Consumption Down on Fuel Efficiency and Covid**

A research brief published by the Independent Fiscal Office analyzed post-pandemic gasoline consumption trends. The report notes that pre-2020, gasoline consumption was trending downward primarily due to improved fuel efficiency; the pandemic accelerated this reduction with hybrid or full-time work-from-home schedules.

While gasoline consumption declined 15% during the pandemic and has partially recovered, it remains below pre-pandemic levels, while diesel fuel consumption has fully recovered. High fuel prices contributed to reduced discretionary travel. At the same time, the number of vehicles on the roads continues to climb and miles travelled now exceeds 100 billion miles annually. The report notes that gasoline taxes fund 55% of state road and bridge construction. Liquid fuels funds that townships receive each year are solely funded by the gas tax. [Click here](#) to read the brief.

#### **PSATS Wants YOU to Be a Conference Ambassador!**

Want to get more out of your conference experience? Sign up to be a conference ambassador!

Share your knowledge and a little of your time by helping with one or more of these tasks during the Annual Conference:

- Mingling and answering questions in the Member Lounge and Hive
- Greeting people
- Scanning badges for events

- Helping people find their way around the Lodge
- Collecting evaluation forms
- Distributing items to exhibitors
- Handing out materials
- And much more!

If you have questions or want to volunteer, please email [powerofone@psats.org](mailto:powerofone@psats.org).

### **Reminder: PSATS Advertising, Payroll Tax Guidance Available**

Township officials are reminded that PSATS produces several valuable member resources that are available online and were mailed to each township in December. The [2023 Advertising Requirements for Townships](#) is a useful desktop reference guide for when legal advertisements are needed, how often they must be placed and when, and what is required for various types of advertisements. In addition, the [2023 Employer- Employee Tax Chart](#) details the tax treatment for the compensation of different elected and appointed officials and employees. These resources are provided to you as a member service and are updated each year.

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## Legislative News



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

### **Bills Reducing Gas Tax, Eliminating Transfers to PSP on Fast Track in Senate**

Two bills that would impact transportation funding in Pennsylvania appear to be on a fast track for a possible full Senate vote as early as today.

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

### **Senate Committee Approves Fire Training Pilot Program for High School Students**

Yesterday, the Senate Education Committee approved [SB 114](#), which would

authorize a pilot program for three community colleges or universities to provide firefighter training leading to Firefighter I certification for local high school students in partnership with their school district or school. A similar program was authorized for emergency medical service positions in 2022. PSATS supports this bill, which would address a PSATS resolution.

### **Shapiro Appoints Cabinet Secretaries**

Yesterday, Gov.-elect Josh Shapiro nominated former Philadelphia Deputy Mayor Rich Negrin as his Secretary of Environmental Protection. Shapiro renominated current Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding and current Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources Cindy Adams Dunn to continue in their existing roles. These positions are subject to Senate confirmation.

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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.



### **[2023 PAAZO Spring Seminar - 4/23/23 - Dauphin County](#)**

This educational seminar explores issues that zoning officers and planning/zoning officials face on a regular basis, and discusses effective strategies to address them.

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### **Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors**

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