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January 17, 2023

Township Video News



TVN's DaveTalk | Get on the "Road to the Future" with PSATS' 100th Conference!

Thank you, members, for making 2023 Conference Registration a huge success! This is a historic year for the State Association, and PSATS Executive Director Dave Sanko wants to make sure every member is part of PSATS' 100th Conference. We hope you are excited to get on the "Road to the Future" at the PSATS Annual Educational Conference and Exhibit Show, scheduled April 23-26 at the Hershey Lodge.

Latest News

PA Inauguration Day Today!

Gov.-elect Josh Shapiro and Lt. Gov.-elect Austin Davis will be sworn into office today at the Main Capitol Building in Harrisburg. Shapiro will become Pennsylvania's 48th governor at noon, while Davis will be sworn in at 10 a.m. to become the commonwealth's first African American lieutenant governor. [Click here](#) to watch the livestream, which will begin at 10 a.m.

Shapiro will start the day with breakfast with four of the commonwealth's living former governors (*Rendell is unable to attend due to health issues*). The Inaugural Gala will be held this evening at Rock Lititz in Lancaster County.

Sanko named to City and State Power 100 in Harrisburg

City and State Magazine released their Power 100 list of Harrisburg Government Relations professionals ranking PSATS Executive Director David Sanko 39th. PSATS had the highest municipal government association ranking follow by County Commissioners Association Executive Director at 40th, Municipal League Executive Director at 49th and Boroughs Association Government Affairs Director at 53rd.

PA Broadband Authority Submits Bulk Challenge to FCC Broadband Map

The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority Executive Director Brandon Carson announced that approximately 35,000 locations have been submitted as part of a bulk challenge to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) National Broadband Map. The challenge will prompt the FCC to work directly with internet service providers to review the information submitted and update the map accordingly.

"Submitting these challenges to the FCC is the next step in the federal funding allocation process," Carson says. "In addition to the Authority's efforts to prepare a bulk challenge, we have also been urging all Pennsylvanians to review their information on the map. Submitting these inaccuracies will help ensure Pennsylvania receives adequate federal funding for high-speed internet access to unserved and underserved areas of the commonwealth."

While updates to the National Broadband Map will be a continual process, the bulk challenge submission is the best opportunity for Pennsylvania's data to be considered as part of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's state broadband funding allocations, anticipated in summer 2023.

The authority plans to continue to partner with internet service providers and communities to verify and update information to ensure that the FCC's map has the most up-to-date information for Pennsylvania. The data will help to inform investments in broadband infrastructure across the commonwealth. [Click here](#) for the press release. [Click here](#) to learn more and view the map.

Webinar Series on Solar Development and Agriculture

Township officials interested in learning more about dual use of solar and agriculture can listen in to a webinar series hosted by Penn State, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the New York and Pennsylvania Farm Bureaus that is designed to help municipal officials better understand agrivoltaics and how to consider and discuss dual use as they make planning decisions.

- Overview of Agrivoltaics, Thursday, Jan. 19, noon-1:15 p.m. For local officials to integrate agrivoltaics into the site plan review process, they first must understand what agrivoltaics are — current and potential future practices. Learn more and register [here](#).
- Planning with Agrivoltaics in Mind, Thursday, Feb. 2, noon-1:15 p.m. This session will discuss practices and considerations when developing siting and zoning ordinances. Learn more and register [here](#).
- Series Q&A, Thursday, Feb. 16, noon-1:15 p.m. At this session, we will invite the speakers from the previous sessions back for an hour plus of Q&A. Learn more and register [here](#)

Legislation & Policy



Shapiro Finalizes Cabinet Members, Senior Staff On Friday, Gov.-elect

Josh Shapiro nominated five individuals for cabinet positions. Shapiro nominated Laurel Harry, Acting Western Region Deputy Secretary, as Secretary of Corrections; Tom Cook, State Fire Academy Administrator, as State Fire Commissioner; and Maj. Christopher Paris, who has more than 20 years' experience with the Pennsylvania

State Police, as State Police Commissioner. In addition, Shapiro nominated Randy Padfield, current director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency; and Mark Schindler, current Adjutant General of Pennsylvania, to continue in their roles. All but PEMA are subject to Senate confirmation.

Shapiro also announced the following additions to his senior staff: Manuel Bonder as Press Secretary; Meaghan Abbott as Chief of Staff to the First Lady; Annie Newman as Director of Digital Strategy; Jacklin Rhodes as Director of Public Affairs and Marketing; Will Simons as Director of Communications; Lisa Swanson as Director of Research; and Amanda Warren as Director of External Affairs. Bonder, Newman, Simons, Swanson, and Warren served on Shapiro's gubernatorial campaign staff; Rhodes serves as Communications Director for the Office of Attorney General; and Abbott recently served as Deputy Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs for Gov. Wolf.

Senate Returns, Cancels Session Days

The Pennsylvania Senate will return to Harrisburg today. Due to the House not being organized with a committee structure, the Senate has canceled session for January 23-25, 30-31, and February 1. [Click here](#) to watch today's session live to see the swearing in of Lt Governor-elect Austin Davis.

Commonwealth Court Rules Special Elections for Vacant House Seats Will Be February 7

The Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court [ordered](#) special elections to fill vacant Pennsylvania House of Representatives seats for the 34th and 35th districts, both in Allegheny County, to be held February 7. The special election for the vacancy in House District 32, also in Allegheny County, is also scheduled for February 7.

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.



[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.



[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.



[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.



[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



[The Next Chapter: Building Confidence In Your Administrative Role - 3/21/23 - Chester County](#)

You may have taken PSATS' Basic Training for Secretaries and Administrators class and are wondering "now what?" If so, then this course is for you. Some of you believe that there is no free lunch, which is true, but you can share a day, including lunch, with three experienced municipal administrators where you can enhance your knowledge base and become more confident in your administrative role. In addition to providing best practices for financial security procedures, agenda and



meeting practices, land development procedures, liquid fuels reports, and the administrative role in coordinating with fire and EMS services, there will be two roundtable discussions for you to bring your concerns and questions.

[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.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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