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February 1, 2023

Latest News

Shapiro Signs Order for “Money Back Guarantee” for Licenses, Certifications

The commonwealth issues hundreds of licenses, certificates, and permits, from barber and salon licenses to teacher certifications to business permits. Gov. Josh Shapiro signed an Executive Order to improve the commonwealth’s licensing, permitting, and certification processes, beginning with a review of how long it currently takes to process applications and how workers and businesses apply online. The order will establish a drop-dead date for each license, permit, or certificate by which applicants will hear back or see a refund of their application fee. To learn more about this proposal, [click here](#).

AARP Community Challenge Grants Available

The [AARP Community Challenge](#) provides grants to fund projects aimed at helping creating livable communities for people of all ages. Townships are eligible to apply for funds across three grant categories and may apply for more than one opportunity:

- Flagship Grants fund projects that benefit residents, including improving open spaces, transportation and mobility improvements, high-speed internet expansion, and investments in disaster management, preparedness, and mitigation.
- Capacity-Building Microgrants fund projects that enhance neighborhood walkability and create community gardens.
- Demonstration Grants fund projects that demonstrate and encourage replication in areas of transportation and housing.

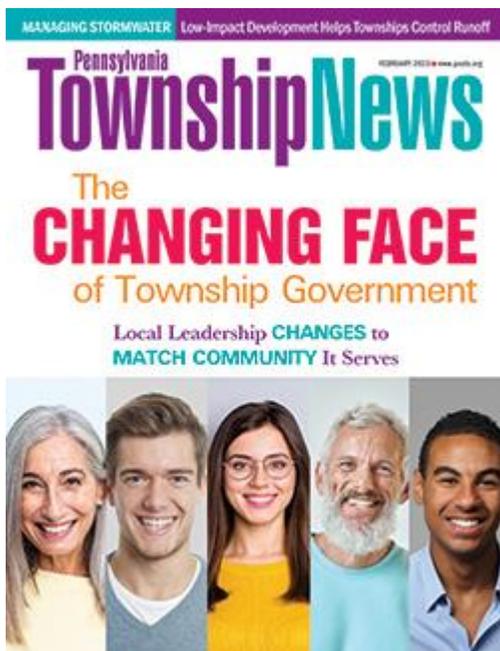
Applications must be submitted online by **March 15, 2023**. For more information,

including a Q&A Webinar, Frequently Asked Questions, and application form, please visit the [AARP Grant webpage](#).

Clarification: PURTA Report Due April 1

Now that the Public Utility Realty Tax Act (*PURTA*) report, RCT-900, must be filed via myPATH, there seems to be some confusion over the filing date. The RCT-900 is not due until April 1. Townships must file this report annually to be eligible for the PURTA revenue distribution in October. To learn more, [click here](#).

PSATS staff has heard of many townships running into challenges with the myPATH system. Due to required tax filings, townships may want to wait a few weeks before seeking a resolution to issues accessing the PURTA form.



Digital Edition Now Available!

Township News Looks at the Changing Face of Township Government
Local leadership is changing to match the community it serves, and townships are finding they benefit when more women and younger people get involved. Their differing perspectives and knowledge of today's technology are explored in the February issue of the *Pennsylvania Township News*. This month's edition also includes features on using low-impact development to manage stormwater, PSATS' new investment in cybersecurity, and tips for townships to celebrate Local Government Week in April.

Subscribers to the *News* can access a digital copy by signing in to psats.org and clicking on "Digital Publications" under "My PSATS." Not yet a subscriber? Check out the [free cover article](#) and learn how to subscribe to the *News*.

Legislative & Policy



New State Senator in 27th District

Yesterday, voters in the 27th Senate District elected State Representative Linda Schlegel Culver to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator John Gordner. Republican Senator-elect Culver won with nearly 70% of the vote and now brings the total number of women in the State Senate to 9 Republicans and 8 Democrats. Her win will cause another special election in the State House further complicating their majority question.

Learn

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



Fundamentals Of Zoning – The Why And How Of Zoning - 3/15/23 - Cumberland County

This workshop explains why we have zoning, how we implement it, and the tools it affords townships to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare. The workshop is intended to educate both the newest supervisors and the ones who have seen it all.



Duties Of A Zoning Hearing Board - 3/28/23 - Lancaster County

From making decisions on contentious public issues to learning the ins and outs of the Municipalities Planning Code, being a member of a zoning hearing board can be a challenge. In this course, Elam Herr, retired PSATS' assistant executive director and the chair of the East Hempfield Township (Lancaster) zoning hearing board, has a wealth of experience and will help you to better navigate this challenge.



[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.

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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