

New Year, New Format!

We know you are busy, but want to stay informed, so we have implemented a newsletter service which now brings the League Link directly to you via email.

Enjoy this new version, developed with your needs in mind!

League Link

A Newsletter of [The Pennsylvania Municipal League](#)



League Link

February 2020



Advocacy Action



by The Office of Governor Tom Wolf (www.flickr.com/governortomwolf)

Governor Wolf's Proposed 2020/21 Budget

Earlier this month, Governor Wolf unveiled a \$36 billion budget, which is about \$1.5 billion more than the previous year, and it does not suggest any new taxes. Wolf plans to pay for his proposed budget by repurposing funds, borrowing, and using existing revenue sources.

The Governor called for greater investment in education, such as an extra \$60 million in state grants for PA college students, \$200 million for State System of Higher Education student scholarships and \$400 million for public schools (of which \$280 million would be reliant on charter school reform). Wolf also requests policy changes and investments to address employment barriers identified by the Keystone Economic Development and Workforce Command Center. Other requests for workforce improvements include \$5 million for the State Facility Closure Transition fund and a minimum wage increase.

Prevention of gun violence, a key theme of the Governor's address, resulted in a \$10 million request. Other investments involve human services needs and programs, environmental protection, and infrastructure improvement. These include a \$1 per ton increase to the tipping fee on municipal waste landfill deposits, \$1 billion for asbestos and lead remediation from schools and \$4.5 billion over four years for projects completed through Restore PA.

Most notably, there is a new proposal to assess fees on all municipalities for State Police support. This fee would be determined by a formula predicated on station coverage costs while considering other factors like population and median income.

The League encourages our members to visit the [Governor's Budget Webpage](#) for more information on these proposals.

Check out the section on our website dedicated to member communities titled, [Meet a Member!](#) This month's focus is on the **CITY OF SCRANTON!**



League's Latest

CONGRATULATIONS! Wishing Joy Breach a fun-filled retirement as of March 5! Thank you for your years of dedicated service to The League's PennPRIME Insurance Trust. You have been a wonderful colleague and friend. We will miss you!



Executive Director's Report – [Check out Rick Schuettler's latest video](#) as he discusses his recent trip to D.C. with League President, Altoona Mayor Matt Pacifico for the NLC Fly-In and other upcoming events. **#StrengthThroughEngagement**

NLC 2020 State Municipal League Executive Directors and Presidents Fly-In was February 5-6. League President and Altoona Mayor Matthew Pacifico and Executive Director Rick Schuettler were both in attendance. This important event provided the opportunity for State Municipal League leaders to advocate for municipal priorities with the 116th Congress and network with peers from across the country. ()

Please welcome our newest members to The League – [Lemoyne Borough](#), Cumberland County and [Upper Darby Township](#), Delaware County. Welcome aboard!

Register now for The League Capitol Conference at the Hilton Harrisburg, March 31. **Save the date** for the upcoming League [District Meetings](#) in April. For more information on any of these programs, [click here](#).

Some Unemployment Basics (

Did you know that the basic requirements of unemployment eligibility are: claimants are able to, are available for and are actively seeking work? Claimants must meet minimum wage requirements and be partially or fully unemployed through no fault of their own. They must also register for employment-search services within 30 days of applying for benefits. Learn more about benefit

eligibility [here](#). Members of U•COMP receive education on how to adjust their business plans to minimize unemployment claims. For a free, non-binding quote, contact Deb Gross at dgross@pml.org.

Message from PennPRIME Insurance Trusts – The PA Medical Marijuana Act (Act 16) has triggered complicated employment issues. The law provides for certain patient-employee protections which have the potential of conflicting with employer HR policies and/or federal policies. It is challenging for employers to provide the right balance of worker safety and patient-employee rights. The Act provides for certain patient prohibitions such as not being in control of certain chemicals and high-voltage electricity and not performing duties at heights or in confined spaces. The Act also lists permitted employer-imposed prohibitions such as tasks which are deemed life-threatening or could result in a public health or safety risk. Both police officers and non-uniformed municipal employees may perform some of these duties. For more information, review the requirements in [Section 510 of the Act](#). Learn more at the 2020 PELRAS Training Conference on March 19 from Campbell Durrant, municipal law specialists, during the session titled, “Drug Testing in the Age of Medical Marijuana.”



Resource Roundup

[National League of Cities, Local Solutions Support Center Release Bold New Vision for Restructuring Local Power and Strengthening Local Democracy](#) – Mayors and elected officials from across the

country are committing to a new effort aimed at strengthening local democracy by modernizing home rule for the 21st century. League President Mayor Matt Pacifico and League Deputy Executive Director John Brenner joined leaders who gathered at the NLC on February 12 to discuss how they can take steps to advance home rule reform in their local communities.

[Reinventing Our Communities \(ROC\) Conference](#) is May 27-29. ROC will put equity in sight by highlighting research and local solutions you can use to increase economic opportunity in your community and foster economic equality.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) – is a federally-funded program administered at the state-level which helps prevent “summer slide.” Studies show that when children do not get proper nutrition during the summer, they fall behind academically when returning to school in the fall. Find out how you can help [here](#).

[2019/20 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant \(JAG\)](#) – Application deadline is March 27. Applicants may apply for up to a maximum \$150,000 for the first year of their proposed project. Successful applicants will be eligible to apply for a second year of funding up to a maximum of 70% of their year one award.

[Rural Business Development Grant \(RBDG\) Program](#) – USDA Rural Development offers a competitive grant designed to support targeted technical assistance, training, and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas. [Specific requirements apply](#). **Application Deadline: As [determined by the State Office](#) or through March 31.**

NLC Service Line Warranty Program by Homeserve – Get the details of a study on pipe failure rates and **learn about strategies to address aging infrastructure** for municipalities and their residents in this [Ebook](#).

[Nearly \\$25M Available to Substance Use Prevention Coalitions in New Partnership Between ONDCP and CDC](#): White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Director Jim Carroll announced the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program’s Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), which begins this year’s process of awarding funds to community coalitions focused on preventing youth substance use. For FY 2020, this will allow 200 new communities to receive direct financial help totaling \$25 million from the White House to prevent illicit drug use and save lives. Community coalitions interested in applying to the DFC Program can learn more [here](#).

Remember, you can access all archived editions of The League Link as well as other member publications, forms and resources in your [Member Dashboard](#).

Pennsylvania Municipal League

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