

League Link

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



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August 2020



Advocacy Action

TAKE ACTION:

Support Reimbursement of Municipal Unemployment Compensation Costs

Has your municipality experienced lay-offs because of COVID-19? Help ensure municipalities receive fee reimbursement for claims made during the pandemic.

For eligible employers, the federal CARES Act reimburses 50 percent for COVID related unemployment claims. Pennsylvania's Act 9 of 2020 provides 100 percent reimbursement for unemployment claims as long as the employer has paid the annual solvency fee. The solvency fee is not required, but if an employer elects to pay the fee, it is typically paid in December for the following year.

Many reimbursable employers elected not to pay the solvency fee, however, the pandemic has caused significant and unforeseen lay-offs. The PA Unemployment Compensation Law may provide a solution, as the law allows the Secretary of Labor and Industry to accept late payment of the solvency fee for "good cause." While "good cause" is not defined within the law, The League has been arguing that the pandemic meets the "good cause" standard. You can read an article explaining this issue in greater detail [here](#).

The Governor has the power to issue an order to identify the pandemic as "good cause." Unfortunately, he has refused to act on this important issue; therefore, a legislative solution is necessary.

Representative David Dellosa introduced [House Bill 2708](#) which would allow for late payment of solvency fees to the Department of Labor and Industry, and employers would

have a window of 30 days to make the payment. Senator Timothy Kearney is also expected to introduce a bill in the near future.

Please contact your State House and Senate members and encourage them to support legislation authorizing payment of the late solvency fee. This is one small way the commonwealth can assist municipalities facing unforeseen costs.

Legislator's Contact Information

Check out the section on our website dedicated to member [Community Response During Coronavirus.](#)



League's Latest

[TUNE IN to Rick's latest Executive Director video report.](#)

[League Ex. Dir. Rick Schuettler on WITF Smart Talk \(August 18\); Pennsylvania cities raise the alarm for funding](#)

[League Executive Director Rick Schuettler Guest on PCN's Coronavirus Impact: Discusses Need for Direct Federal Funding for Municipalities](#)

[Pennsylvania Municipal League Hosts Press Conference with Municipal Leaders on Congressional Aid for Communities Impacted by COVID-19 \(includes press coverage links\)](#)

PCCA 2020-2021 COURSE SCHEDULE: The next round of virtual PA Construction Codes Academy trainings are being added to the website, [click here to view the schedule.](#)

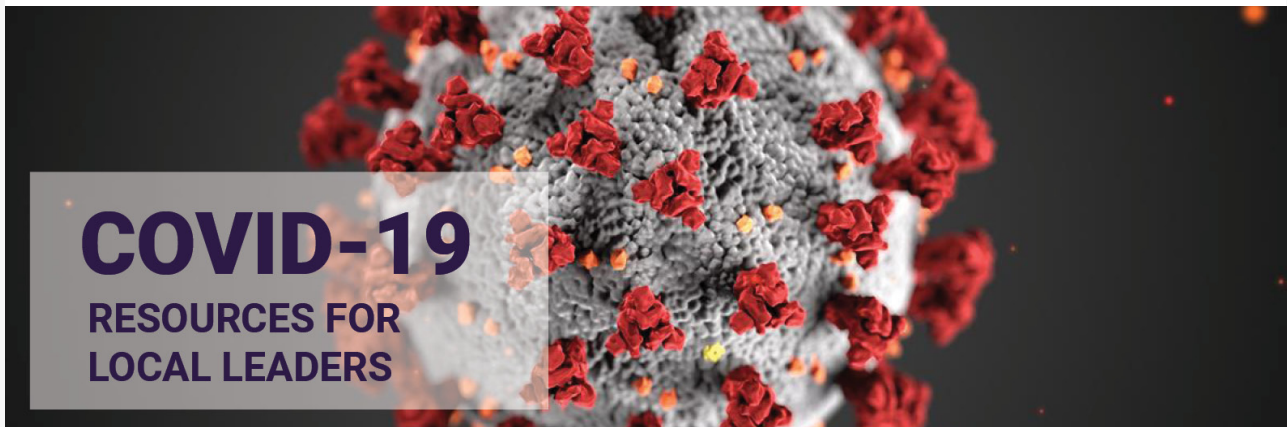
Are you using your PELRAS membership benefit to its fullest? As an additional benefit of being a member of The League, all members receive a membership in the PELRAS program at no additional cost. This is an annual savings of between \$350 and \$1,350 depending upon the number of employees you have in your municipality.

Benefits of membership include: **Training**- comprehensive labor and HR management related training provided by the attorneys of Campbell Durant, currently being offered in a virtual format; **Quick Call Consult**- members may contact PELRAS attorneys free of charge for immediate assistance in noncomplex matters that do not require additional research or consultation and can be addressed in one phone call; **Reduced hourly rates**- League members receive reduced hourly rates for legal services and counseling by Campbell Durant; **PELRAS Scoop**- League members receive this newsletter that addresses key labor issues and current topics such as those that relate to changes in the law related to COVID-19; and **Survey Navigator**- members have access to a database containing wage and benefit information that is shared among all PELRAS members. Take advantage of the benefits of the PELRAS program! If you have any questions, contact Harry Krot at hkrot@pml.org.

Message from PennPRIME Insurance Trusts – Insects serve a valuable part of our ecosystem. However, they can be pesky, and even harmful, buggers. In late August and early Fall, mosquitos tend to carry the highest amount of infection potential and the peak season for deer ticks is quickly approaching. Employees working outdoors need to protect themselves by wearing long sleeves and long pants and using effective repellent with sufficient quantities of DEET or other approved substances. Symptoms of exposure can include chills, muscle aches, pains and stiffness for West Nile Virus (mosquitos). For Lyme disease (ticks), symptoms can include fever/chills, headache, muscle/joint pain, fatigue and the classic bullseye rash. More information on prevention, signs and symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of [West Nile Virus](#) and [Lyme Disease](#) can be found on the CDC website. Now that you are armed with awareness, tell your insect enemies to “Bug off!”

For more information, see our [News & Announcements and newsfeed](#) on our homepage as well as our League COVID-19 Weekly Update email blasts every Friday.

Also be sure to check out our [COVID-19 Resources for Local Leaders](#) webpage.



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**Please note that the date has changed for this year’s “now virtual”
Municipal Leadership Summit.**

Resource Roundup

[HomeServe USA Webinar: Pennsylvania's Aging Infrastructure - Challenges and Solutions for Municipalities, Utilities, and Homeowners \(August 25 at 1:30 p.m. ET\)](#) – Pennsylvania's aging water and sewer infrastructure is a growing problem for municipalities, utilities and the homeowners they serve. The webinar will address this issue and pose solutions that can help: Recover lost revenue; Improve public and private infrastructure; Educate and protect homeowners; and Assist disadvantaged citizens in your community.

[Nominate a Great Place in Pennsylvania for Great Public Spaces and Great Neighborhoods](#) – Do you know a public space or neighborhood that embodies planning excellence and promotes a sense of community? Do you think it merits designation as a Pennsylvania Great Place? If so, PLEASE NOMINATE IT! The **deadline for Nominations is August 31, 2020.**

[Constellation's Virtual Association Summit and Energy Forum: The COVID economy and impact on energy](#) – September 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., register for this complimentary, virtual Association Summit, where industry-leading experts share insights on market outlooks, critical energy management and policy issues, and strategies to manage your members' bottom line.

[Trump Administration Invests \\$462 Million to Modernize Water and Wastewater Infrastructure in Rural Communities](#) – the USDA announced an investment of \$462 million to upgrade and modernize water and wastewater infrastructure in your communities. The investment – facilitated through USDA's [Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program](#) – will benefit 467,000 Americans.

[Comcast Connections July 2020 Edition, Community Impact bi-monthly Digital Newsletter](#) provided by Comcast, League Business Leader.

City Summit 2020 is **going virtual.**
MEET US ONLINE - REGISTER TODAY



NLC CITY SUMMIT
VIRTUAL NOVEMBER **18-21** 2020

REGISTER >

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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PML.org

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