

# League Link

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



June 2021



## Advocacy Action

### General Assembly Ends the COVID Emergency Declaration

During the May 18<sup>th</sup> primary election, a majority of Pennsylvanians voted to approve two constitutional amendments curbing gubernatorial powers regarding disaster emergency declarations.

The first constitutional amendment limits emergency declarations to 21 days, and the second provides the General Assembly with the sole authority to extend or end an emergency declaration with a simple majority vote.

With this new constitutional authority, Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff introduced [House Resolution 106](#) to terminate a part of the emergency declaration declared by Governor Wolf on March 6, 2020. The bill moved swiftly through the House, and during consideration on the House floor, an amendment was adopted to completely and immediately terminate the emergency declaration. On June 8, the House voted to adopt the resolution in a party line 113 to 90 vote.

The General Assembly stayed in Harrisburg an additional day and the Senate adopted the resolution in a party line 30-20 vote on June 10. As a concurrent resolution, it does not need the Governor's approval as long as both chambers of the General Assembly approve the resolution. Therefore, the disaster emergency declaration has been terminated as of June 10, 2021.

Additionally, [House Bill 854](#), passed by both Chambers and signed by the Governor, represents a compromise that allows for the continued suspension of certain Commonwealth business and agency regulations that were originally suspended by the COVID emergency declaration. These regulation waivers, which mainly concern healthcare, are extended until September 30.

In terms of an impact on local government, the termination of the emergency declaration means local governing bodies must return to in-person meetings immediately. As the municipal codes differ, please consult your solicitor when making decisions regarding the transition.

# Executive Director's Report



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

## COMMUNITY MITIGATION

Community mitigation plans are steps that are taken on a larger scale to slow the spread of disease



## League's Latest

Please welcome our newest members to The League – [Swissvale Borough](#), Allegheny County; [City of Johnstown](#), Cambria County; and, the [City of Chester](#), Chester County. The cities of Johnstown and Chester were both former League members. Welcome back!

**The 2021 Municipal Leadership Summit will be held on October 7 – 9 at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square.** [Click Here to View the Save the Date!](#)

**Pennsylvania Municipal League members** – Do you know... a municipal manager that is struggling with managing their borough's collective bargaining agreement? ... a neighboring municipality that needs to post a job opening and is looking for options to get the word out? ... elected officials looking for avenues to network with other elected officials to share best practices and resources? ... a neighboring township interested in using renewable energy sources to power their municipality?

The League has programs and services to address each of these questions. Please reach out to Harry Krot, our Director of Marketing and Member Services and provide him with the name of the municipality and a point of contact and he would be happy to give them a call discuss the benefits of League membership. Harry can be reached at [hkrot@pml.org](mailto:hkrot@pml.org).

**Message from PennPRIME Insurance Trusts** – We are all looking forward to having fun in the sun this summer. Whether that means going to the local pool, the beach or even swimming in the lake, precautions should be taken so that your fun doesn't turn to done. Please [click here](#) for additional tips from the National Safety Council.

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.



# COVID-19

## RESOURCES FOR LOCAL LEADERS

## Resource Roundup

[NLC's Federal Advocacy Newsletter](#) – Resources for COVID-19 Response and Economic Recovery.

[Wolf Administration Encourages Counties, Local Governments to Apply for Federal Lead Remediation Grants](#) – The departments of Human Services (DHS) and Health (DOH) today are encouraging county and local governments to apply for the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Lead Hazard Remediation grant. **Applications are due by July 12.**

[Comcast Connections:](#) May 2021 Edition provided by League Business Leader Network member, Comcast.

[NLC's Federal Advocacy Newsletter](#) – Resources for COVID-19 Response and Economic Recovery.

[COVID-19 Local Fiscal Recovery Funding is Now Available](#) – The U.S. Department of Treasury has established that local governments that are **NOT** metropolitan cities or counties – called non-entitlement units of local government (NEUs) – must access the funds through the commonwealth by visiting [DCED's Single Application webpage](#).

[Announcing Pennsylvania's 2021 Nationally Accredited and Affiliate Main Street America™ Programs](#) – Pennsylvania Downtown Center (PDC) is honored to recognize the 28 Pennsylvania downtowns earning national Accreditation status.

[PennDOT 2021 ARLE Funding Program Application Period](#) – PennDOT will be accepting applications for the 2021 Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Funding Program from June 1st through July 1st. The 2021 program will continue to prioritize safety enhancements considering both PennDOT's [Safety Network Screening](#) methods for the project location and [Crash Modification Factors](#) associated with proposed improvements.

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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