

League Link

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



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November 2021



Advocacy Action

Energy Choice Legislation May Equal Local Preemption

Legislation posing as “energy choice” is moving through the General Assembly with speed and could result in the preemption of local autonomy if enacted.

Senate Bill 275 has passed the Senate and is now in the House Local Government Committee. Additionally, House Bill 1947, companion legislation introduced by Representative Tim O’Neal, has received first consideration on the House Floor. These bills would preempt local authority and decision making by prohibiting municipalities from taking action through policies that restrict or prohibit, or have the effect of restricting or prohibiting, the connection or reconnection of a utility service based on the type or source of energy. The bills would also prohibit a municipality from discriminating against a utility service based on the type or source of energy. The Public Utility Commission has jurisdiction over local governments when it comes to regulating utilities, making the bills unnecessary.

Additionally, the preemptive language and ambiguously defined terms in both bills makes this legislation dangerous for local governments and taxpayers alike. If enacted, this legislation would expose local governments to litigation. Communities with climate and energy incentives or policies would be especially susceptible to claims of discrimination under this bill.

For these reasons, The League strongly strongly opposes both bills. We ask that you help in our advocacy efforts and [send this email](#) to your Representative to express your opposition to this unnecessary and overreaching bill.

Newly Elected Official Affidavits of Residency

Prior to taking the Oath of Office, each newly elected official in a third class city, borough, or first class township must present a signed affidavit to the city clerk, secretary or manager attesting to continuous residency for one year preceding the individual’s election. This affidavit is a qualification for office.

Please see the following sections of the codes:

- [Section 11001](#) of the Third Class City Code
- [Section 501](#) of the First Class Township Code
- [Section 801](#) and [Section 901](#) of the Borough Code

Each municipality should reach out to its newly elected officials and provide notice of this requirement well in advance of January's swearing-in ceremonies. [Click here](#) for a sample residency affidavit. Your solicitor should approve prior to its use.

Executive Director's Report



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



League's Latest

Post-election database update: The League is requesting newly elected official information so our database remains up to date – We are taking the opportunity post-election to reach out to you and request information relevant to your newly elected officials and notify you of the upcoming newly elected officials orientation program in February 2021. More information regarding the upcoming training will be provided soon. You can enter your **Newly Elected Officials contact information** by [clicking](#)

[here](#). Once the information is received it will be updated in our database. Information needed is: first/last name, email address, phone number, political party, term expiration date and the official which they are succeeding. Any questions please contact Marcia Cavanagh at mcavanagh@pml.org

[Save the Date for the Newly Elected Officials Orientation Training](#) on February 2-3 at the Wyndham Garden State College.

PELRAS 40th Annual Training Conference – March 16-18, live and in-person at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College! [Click to register](#).

Envision 2032 – You should have received a recent email from Mayor Sorace asking asking for your participation in this vital effort. If you haven't already done so, please take a few moments to [provide your information](#) by December 6. Thanks in advance for your time and participation.

Message from PennPRIME Insurance Trusts – Fall Driving – PennDOT reminds motorists that wet leaves, fog, sun glare and frost are a few driving hazards they will encounter this fall, but there are steps drivers can take to help make their commutes safer. As leaves begin to fall, wet leaves on the roadway can be as slippery as ice. They also can obscure traffic lines and other pavement markings, making driving in unfamiliar areas particularly difficult. Motorists should slow down and use extra caution on leaf-covered roadways. [For more information click here](#).

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

[Cities Ready to Rebuild as Infrastructure Bill Signed Into Law](#) – “After years of advocacy, we were proud to stand with President Biden today for the signing of this historic infrastructure legislation on behalf of cities, towns and villages across the country. Today’s infrastructure bill means transformative investments in transportation, broadband and water are heading to communities of all sizes. As cities rebuild and recover, these funds will increase equity, create safer transportation, build resilient structures and strengthen our economy,” said **Clarence E. Anthony, NLC CEO and Executive Director**.

[KABOOM! Attends the White House Signing of the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act](#) – Lysa Ratliff, CEO of KABOOM! and Daniel J. Cardinali, president and CEO of Independent Sector attended the White House signing of the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act, a victory for nonprofits working to create more vibrant communities for kids and families across the country.

[Save the Date for the 2020-2021 Commonwealth Awards](#) – To be held virtually on Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021 from 3:30-5:00 pm. The Commonwealth Awards honor projects, plans and initiatives that demonstrate smart growth, community resilience, and equity principles in action. The awards recognize individuals, businesses and organizations with the vision to find new uses for vacant and underutilized land, increase opportunities and access for all in communities on the rise, and breathe new life into older neighborhoods.

[Comcast Donates \\$100,000 to Four Community Partners in Dauphin, Lakawanna, Centre and Allegheny Counties](#) – Comcast announced it is donating a total of \$100,000 in Lift Zone Opportunity grants to benefit low-income students and families in transitional housing in Harrisburg, Scranton, State College and Pittsburgh, part of marking the company's 10th anniversary of its Internet Essentials program.

[League BLN The Giant Company Enters Into Agreement With League BLN Constellation to Power Pennsylvania Operations With Renewable Energy](#) – The GIANT Company announced a long-term renewable energy supply agreement with Constellation to power its Pennsylvania operations including select stores, fuel stations, and perishable distribution center with renewable energy. Backed by The GIANT Company's commitment, Constellation has entered into separate long-term power purchase agreements to procure a total of 80 megawatts of renewable energy.



KNOW SOMEONE
WHO'S MAKING A DIFFERENCE
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

Submit Your Nomination by January 3, 2022
dced.pa.gov/lgawards



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



NLC
CITIES STRONG TOGETHER



VIRTUAL CITY SUMMIT
NOVEMBER 12, 15 - 19 2021

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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