

# League Link

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



December 2021



## Advocacy Action

### 2021: A Legislative Year in Review

More than a year into the pandemic, our local governments continue to be challenged by the ever-changing environment brought on by COVID-19 and its economic, public health and social consequences. Despite these hurdles, The League and its member municipalities remain dedicated to serving its members and constituents.

December 31 will mark the end of the first half of a very active 2021/2022 legislative session. Throughout the year, the General Assembly introduced nearly 3,000 bills, of which The League tracked over 1,000 bills affecting local governments. In addition to bill tracking, The League's Governmental Affairs staff advocated for issues important to our members, such as the local use of radar, advertising modernization and addressing the concerns surrounding consumer fireworks. The League also opposed legislation that would preempt or place burdensome unfunded mandates on local governments. Lastly, The League scored a huge win with the passage of the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act, which preserved local zoning and is considered the most municipal friendly small cell legislation in the country.

Please see the list below summarizing some of the bills enacted in 2021, as well as bills we will continue to advocate for and against in the coming year.

#### **Enacted Legislation**

- Act 33 of 2021 – Pre-registration of Tax Sale Bidders
- Act 36 of 2021 – Municipal Relief from Duplicative Special Event Requirements
- Act 50 of 2021 – Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act

#### **Bills The League Supports**

- HB 606 and SB 419 – Local Use of Radar
- HB 955 and SB 252 – Advertising Modernization

- HB 1457, SB 312 and SB 552 – Right to Know Commercial and Vexatious Requesters

### **Bills The League Opposes**

- HB 1947 and SB 275 – “Energy Choice”
- HB 1732 and SB 775 – Post-traumatic Stress Injury in First Responders
- HB 979 and SB 448 – Preemption of Local Firearms Control

## **The League’s 2022 Legislative Priorities**

The League has reaffirmed its legislative priorities to maintain a consistent advocacy message as we move into the second half of the 2021/2022 legislative session. While the priorities remain the same, one priority – Preservation of Local Zoning and Rights-of-Way Management – was modified to express opposition to the broader and increasingly prevalent issue of local preemption. The [2022 Legislative Priorities](#) will serve as the top issues for our advocacy efforts in the next year.

## **Executive Director's Report**

### **Executive Director Rick Schuettler's Final Report**



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



## **League's Latest**

**Amy Sturges has been named Deputy Executive Director – Advocacy**, making her the first woman in League history to serve in this executive level position. Amy will assume her new position as Chief Advocacy Officer (CAO) on January 1, 2022 under John Brenner's leadership as our new Executive Director.

As Deputy Executive Director – Advocacy, Amy's elevated position with The League places advocacy and governmental relations as a vitally important top member benefit. Amy will be responsible for reacting to new legislation and being proactive in the promotion of both short-term and long-term solutions to fulfill The League's mission to strengthen, empower and advocate for effective local government in Pennsylvania. As CAO, she will work with John to manage relationships with outside firms or groups that assist or partner with The League on legislative issues. Under her leadership, the staff coordinated, member driven Legislative Committee and sub-committees will continue to be an important aspect of legislative advocacy and policy development.

Congratulations to Amy on this well-deserved appointment!

[Save the Date for the Newly Elected Officials Orientation Training](#) on February 2-3 at the Wyndham Garden State College. [Click to view Program Agenda](#). [Click to Register Now!](#)

**PELRAS 40th Annual Training Conference** – March 16-18, live and in-person at the Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center in State College, you can make your overnight reservation for the hotel [here](#). [Click to register](#). Stay tuned for program details.

**Message from PennPRIME Insurance Trusts** – Whether you are newly elected or a seasoned member of your council or township supervisors, you may not realize the implication of your actions and words. [Here is a link](#) to an excellent article by Marshall Dennehey explaining what immunities you may have under Pennsylvania Political Subdivision Act or Federal immunity.

[PennPRIME Webinar: Making Excellence the Norm, Not the Deviation - Featuring Gordon Graham](#) – Join PennPRIME Insurance Trust and Lexipol on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 11:00 AM ET for Gordon Graham's "Making Excellence the Norm - Not the Deviation."

For more information, see our [News & Announcements and newsfeed](#) on our homepage.

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



## COVID-19

### RESOURCES FOR LOCAL LEADERS

## Resource Roundup

[White House Holiday Letter - Protecting Against Malicious Cyber Activity before the Holidays](#) – The holidays are an opportunity to spend time with our loved ones and enjoy some well-earned rest. Unfortunately, malicious cyber actors are not taking a holiday – and they can ruin ours if we're not prepared and protected.

Check out the [PA Recreation & Park Society](#) (PRPS) upcoming events: January 26, March 30, May 25, August 24, November 16 – [Directors & Supervisors Roundtable](#) and March 29-April 1 [PRPS Conference & Expo](#) – Kalahari Resort, Poconos, PA.

[National League of Cities – Join the Safety First Challenge!](#) – NLC has introduced a new Safety First Challenge, an initiative to build a street safety coalition of 100 municipalities in 100 days to advance a safety first approach to transportation decisions. To join the challenge, local leaders can commit to taking at least one action to advance street safety in their community.

[Governor Wolf: Nearly 6,000 Businesses Received Support Through Pennsylvania's COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Relief Program](#) – Governor Tom Wolf announced that [5,860 businesses received funding support this year through the COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Relief Program \(CHIRP\)](#), helping to protect and preserve this vital industry in Pennsylvania.

The National Civic League is accepting applications for the **2022 All-America City awards** until March 1, 2022. The theme for 2022 is “Housing as a Platform for Early School Success and Equitable Learning Recovery.” The 2022 awards program will be co-convened by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and will focus on robust efforts that seek measurable improvement. Finalists will be announced in early May and invited to assemble a community team to present at the virtual All-America City event in July. [Learn more here.](#)

[Comcast RISE announces major expansion to all Women-owned small businesses](#) – Comcast RISE, which just celebrated its one year anniversary, will continue to be open to racially and ethnically diverse small business owners and the expanded Comcast RISE eligibility to all women-owned businesses will be effective on January 16, 2022.

[National League of Cities Elects New President and Board Members](#) – Mayor Vince Williams of Union City, Georgia has been elected NLC's new president. He stepped into the new role at the virtual 2021 City Summit. Williams will serve a one-year term focused on addressing vaccine hesitation, protecting the right to vote and access to the polls and reducing homelessness. He will serve alongside Mayor Victoria Woodards of Tacoma, WA and Councilmember David Sanders of Rancho Cordova, California.



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

Submit Your Nomination by January 3, 2022  
[dced.pa.gov/lgawards](https://dced.pa.gov/lgawards)

**PA** pennsylvania  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY  
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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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