

Published by the Pennsylvania Municipal League • Summer-Fall 2022



Municipal Reporter

Gubernatorial and Senatorial Election Race Edition

Impact on Local Government

Gubernatorial Candidates

U.S. Senatorial Candidates



Josh Shapiro



Doug Mastriano



John Fetterman



Mehmet Oz

Safe. Simple. Local.

Keep your large public deposits safe and working for your community.¹

With IntraFi[®] Network DepositsSM, formerly ICS[®] and CDARS[®], the full amount of your large deposit can be used for local lending. Across the United States, local and state governmental organizations use IntraFi Network Deposits to access multi-million-dollar FDIC insurance through a single bank relationship and to eliminate the burden of ongoing collateral tracking, while earning a return that can compare favorably to Treasuries and other alternatives that share a similar risk profile. Funds can be placed into demand deposit accounts, money market deposit accounts, and CDs.

See if your bank offers
IntraFi Network Deposits or
find one of the thousands that do.

IntraFiNetworkDeposits.com



IntraFi[®]
Network DepositsSM

formerly
CDARS[®] and ICS[®]

[1] When deposited funds are exchanged on a dollar-for-dollar basis with other banks in IntraFi's network of financial institutions, a bank can use the full amount of a deposit placed through IntraFi Network Deposits for local lending, satisfying some depositors' local investment goals or mandates. Alternatively, with the depositor's consent, a bank may choose to receive fee income instead of deposits from the banks. Under these circumstances, deposited funds would not be available for local lending.

Placement of funds through IntraFi Network Deposits is subject to the terms, conditions, and disclosures in the program agreements, including the Deposit Placement Agreement ("DPA"). Limits apply and customer eligibility criteria may apply. Program withdrawals may be limited to six per month for funds placed in MMDAs. Although funds are placed at destination banks in amounts that do not exceed the FDIC standard maximum deposit insurance amount ("SMDIA"), a depositor's balances at the relationship institution that places the funds may exceed the SMDIA (e.g., before settlement for a deposit or after settlement for a withdrawal) or be ineligible for FDIC insurance (if the relationship institution is not a bank). As stated in the DPA, the depositor is responsible for making any necessary arrangements to protect such balances consistent with applicable law. If the depositor is subject to restrictions on placement of its funds, the depositor is responsible for determining whether its use of IntraFi Network Deposits satisfies those restrictions. IntraFi Network, Network Deposits, and the IntraFi hexagon are service marks, and IntraFi, the IntraFi logo, ICS, and CDARS are registered service marks, of IntraFi Network LLC.





Municipal Reporter



Pennsylvania Municipal
League



OFFICERS

President – Danene Sorace, Mayor, Lancaster

First Vice President – Michael Lombardo, Mayor, Pittston

Second Vice President – Douglas Baker, Mayor, Franklin

Secretary/Treasurer – John Brenner, League Executive Director

STAFF

Executive Director – John Brenner, x*230 – *Publisher*

Director of Communications – Debbie Bitting, x*223 – *Editor*

Deputy Executive Director -Operations – Abraham Amorós, x*231

Accounting Clerk – Shawn Bradford, x*231

Marketing and Member Services Representative – Marcia Cavanagh, x*256

Director of Trusts – Paul Cornell, x*258

Meeting Manager – Mary Costik, CMP, x*232

Governmental Affairs Representative – Kaitlin Errickson, x*226

Director of Membership and Marketing – Denise Gembusia, x*238

Program Consultant
U•COMP – Debbie Gross, x*254

Director of Finance and Administration – Susan Helms, CPA, x*228

Trusts Member Services Manager – Elizabeth Henry, x*250

Communications Manager – Holli Hugendubler, x*233

Accounting Clerk – Colleen Ingersoll, x*234

Communications Manager – Britton Kosier, x*224

Deputy Executive Director - Membership – Harry Krot, x*321

Executive Assistant – Amanda Lane, x*319

Director of Training and Professional Development – Katie Reibsane, x*255

Office Coordinator – Victoria Romero, x*229

Director of Information and Technology – Josh Linsenbach, x*248

Sustainability Coordinator – Leslie Rhoads, x*237

Training and Development Representative – Christy Saliaris, x*322

Deputy Executive Director - Advocacy – Amy Sturges, x*225

Insurance Services Representative – Dona Yedlock, x*249

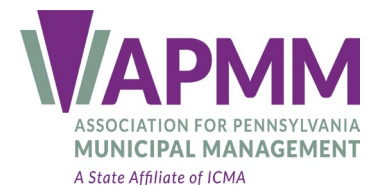
President – Sam Valenza, Upper Moreland Township

First Vice President – Sam Juliano, North Versailles Township

Second Vice President – John Jablowski, Wilkes-Barre Township

Third Vice President – Dennis Arthur, Tincum Township

Secretary/Treasurer – Tiffany O'Neill, Lower Merion Township



President – Gregory Primm, Manager, Allegheny Township

First Vice President – Amanda Serock, Manager, Concord Township

Second Vice President – David Pribulka, Manager, Susquehanna Township

Secretary/Treasurer/Managing Director – Harry Krot, League Deputy Executive Director – Membership



U-COMP
Unemployment Compensation Trust

Unemployment Compensation

Coverage

**Serving
Municipalities
And
Authorities
Since
1985**

- ✓ Your partner to lower unemployment claims.
- ✓ Open to all classes of Pennsylvania municipalities and authorities.
- ✓ Provides great opportunities for dividends.
- ✓ Offers representation at unemployment hearings.
- ✓ Competitive annual rates due to actuarial calculations.
- ✓ No separate sign-up fees to join the program.
- ✓ Prompt and professional service through experienced support staff.

For more information,
please call Elizabeth Henry
at 1-800-922-8063 or email
ehenry@pml.org.

The Pennsylvania Municipal League
414 North Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101



PML.org

Our Mission

To strengthen, empower and advocate for effective local government.

The League is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1900 as an advocate for Pennsylvania's 3rd class cities. Today, The League represents participating Pennsylvania cities, boroughs, townships, home rule communities and towns that all share The League's municipal policy interests. Our Board of Directors oversees the administration of a wide array of municipal services including legislative advocacy (on both the state and federal levels), publications designed to educate and inform, education and training certification programs, membership research and inquiries, programs, and group insurance trusts.

We are continually monitoring the needs of our members and are committed to providing the Commonwealth's municipalities with cost-effective programs and services required to meet the distinct needs of their communities.

The *Municipal Reporter* is a publication of the Pennsylvania Municipal League, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners and the Association for Pennsylvania Municipal Management. It is published three times a year.

Opinions expressed by authors and advertisers are not necessarily those of the officers, members and staff of The League. Original articles on subjects of interest to municipal officials are welcome, but subject to review by editorial staff. The publisher has the right to reject unsuitable advertising.

All inquiries should be addressed to Debbie Bitting, Director of Communications, at:

717-236-9469, x *223, dbitting@pml.org, Fax 717-724-1663
414 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101



PML.org



#StrengthThroughEngagement

COVER



GUBERNATORIAL AND SENATORIAL ELECTION RACE EDITION CONTENTS

3 Association Officers and League Staff
7 Calendar of Events
8 League President's Message
9 League Executive Director's Message
11 .. Inside The League
12 .. Gubernatorial Candidate Questionnaire
17 .. Senatorial Candidate Questionnaire
24 .. League Leaders - Mayor Peter Urscheler
28 .. Mayor Eddie Moran - National Hispanic Heritage Month
29 .. Ellwood City Community Garden
30 .. Business Leaders Network
32 .. League News

35 .. PennPRIME
37 .. U•COMP
38 .. Legislative Status Report – State
46 .. Legislative Status Report – Federal
48 .. Public Finance
50 .. Legal Notes
54 .. Professional Directory
56 .. PSATC President's Message
57 .. PSATC News
58 .. APMM President's Message
59 .. APMM News

Annual subscription rate for The League's *Municipal Reporter* — \$45.

© 2022 Pennsylvania Municipal League

Let's invest in you.



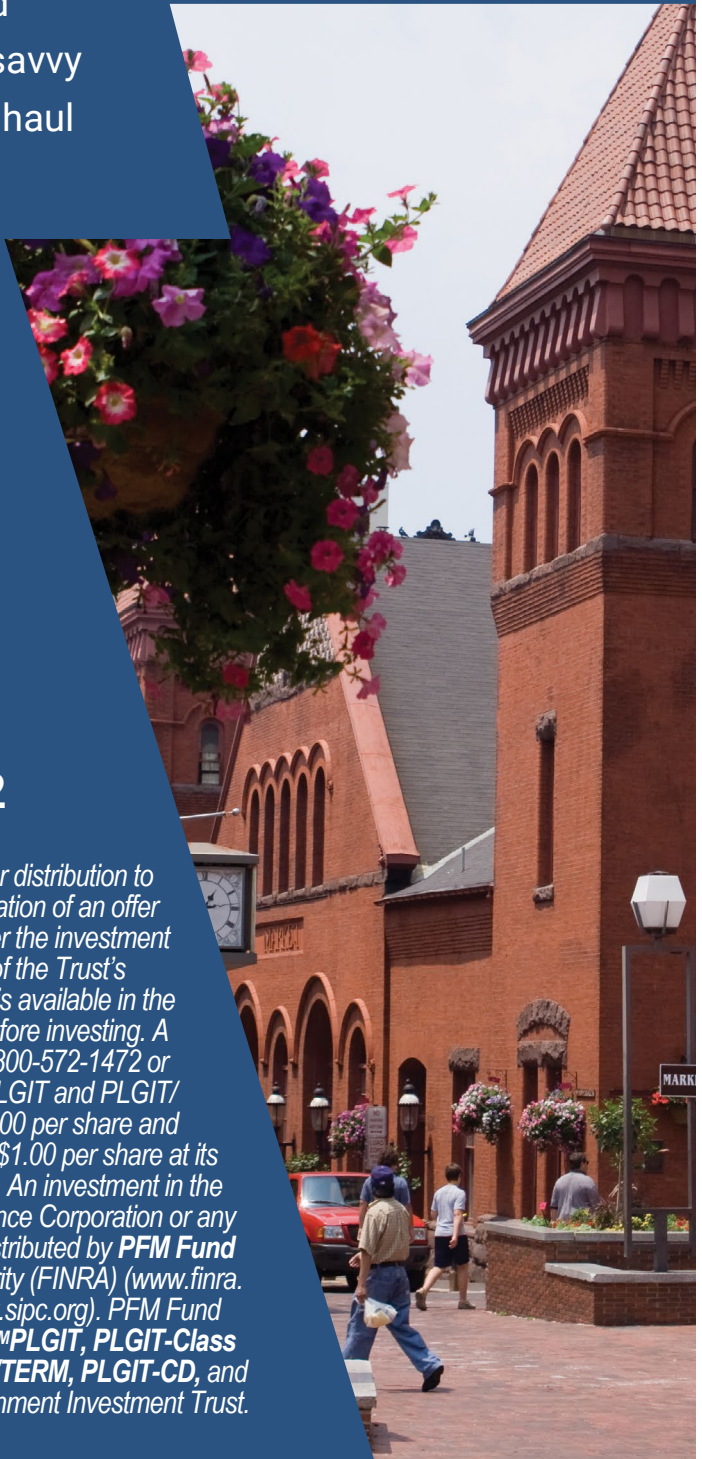
We're here – for our largest districts and smallest municipalities; for the market-savvy and the first-time investors; for the long haul and the short term.

We're here for you.

- 40 years of serving local governments and schools
- Liquid and long-term options
- Dedicated service team
- Variety of portfolio choices
- Cash management services

PLGIT.com | 800-572-1472

*This information is for institutional investor use only, not for further distribution to retail investors, and does not represent an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any fund or other security. Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in any of the Trust's portfolios. This and other information about the Trust's portfolios is available in the current Information Statement, which should be read carefully before investing. A copy of the Information Statement may be obtained by calling 1-800-572-1472 or is available on the Trust's website at www.plgit.com. While the PLGIT and PLGIT/PRIME portfolios seek to maintain a stable net asset value of \$1.00 per share and the PLGIT/TERM portfolio seeks to achieve a net asset value of \$1.00 per share at its stated maturity, it is possible to lose money investing in the Trust. An investment in the Trust is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. Shares of the Trust's portfolios are distributed by **PFM Fund Distributors, Inc.**, member Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) (www.finra.org) and Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) (www.sipc.org). PFM Fund Distributors, Inc. is an affiliate of PFM Asset Management LLC. SMPLGIT, PLGIT-Class Shares, PLGIT/Reserve-Class Shares, PLGIT/PRIME, PLGIT/TERM, PLGIT-CD, and PLGIT-CAP are service marks of the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust.*



Mark Your Calendar

ICMA Annual Conference – Achieving Excellence Together

September 17-21

Greater Columbus Convention Center – Columbus, OH

PennPRIME Board of Trustees Subcommittee Meetings

September 20

Wyndham Garden State College

PennPRIME Risk Management Conference & Annual Membership Meeting

September 21-22

Wyndham Garden State College

PELRAS Leadership Primer Workshop (Central)

September 28

Hilton Harrisburg

KaBOOM! Playground Build

October 3-5

West Penn Park, Pittsburgh

2022 Municipal Leadership Summit

October 6-9

Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh

PELRAS Leadership Primer Workshop (East)

November 1

Delaware Valley Trusts Headquarters – Horsham

U•COMP Board of Trustees Meeting

November 10

Hilton Harrisburg

2022 Fall Sustainability Conference

November 15

The Inn at Villanova University

NLC City Summit

November 16-19

Kansas City, MO

The League President's Message



DANENE SORACE
MAYOR
CITY OF LANCASTER



Pennsylvania Municipal
League

This is a significant election year for Pennsylvania with both Governor and U.S. Senator on the ballot.

As all local leaders know, elections come with consequences that shape our communities, bringing about positive change, stagnation or a mix of both. Elections at all levels demand our attention and deserve the attention of our residents.

We have felt the positive impact of Federal support for municipalities over the past two years with the passage of both the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act. These actions by Congress represent more support to municipalities than we have received in decades, if ever. The impact on our communities cannot be overstated.

CARES and ARPA funds are supporting municipalities through revenue replacement enabling many to balance our already strained budgets without additional tax increases (more on that shortly) and/or historical investments in our parks, local economies, housing, infrastructure and more.

At the state level, I am looking to this election as an opportunity to elect a true partner for Pennsylvania's municipalities. One who works to find true revenue solutions that work with and for us, not inadequate and inequitable solutions, like those frozen in time with the Local Tax Enabling Act of 1965. A partner that helps local governments deliver critical public safety services to our residents.

November can't come soon enough – and with it clarity about how our State and Federal partners will work with local municipalities going forward.

As an ending note, this is the last time I will write to you in the *Municipal Reporter* as President. It has been an honor to serve in this way. Advocating for our communities is indeed essential to building a stronger, more equitable Pennsylvania.

I am eager for new leaders and partnerships to emerge and hopeful for new opportunities for State and Federal support. Onward!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danene Sorace".

Mayor Danene Sorace

The League Executive Director's Message

Unless you have completely unplugged from your phone or any other form of modern communication, you have noticed we are in the midst of a monumental election year as Pennsylvania voters will decide on new folks to fill a U.S. Senate seat and a new Governor. Both roles have a direct impact on local government in our great Commonwealth. The relationship should not be akin to treating local officials as unwanted step-children or even your crazy cousin Eddie.

The relationship between our members of Congress, and certainly the Governor, should always be one of partnership. As local leaders, you have a specific charge to provide for public safety and promote the health and welfare of the same constituents that our Congressional delegation, General Assembly and Governor serve as well. You are visible in your community, your neighbors know where you eat, shop and walk your dog. You listen to citizen concerns in the market, grocery store, diner, bar, restaurant, church and your front porch. You wrestle with real-life issues every single day like speeding traffic, finding funds to upgrade the sewer system, improve parks, offer recreation for kids and families, purchase fire apparatus, fund pensions, and fight blight—all magically while working to improve efficiencies and trying like crazy not to raise taxes.

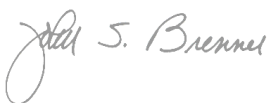
To make your community better, you work tirelessly with businesses, non-profits and universities in your community to help guide individuals and organizations to all row together in the same direction. You make plans, launch projects and innovative initiatives, all to serve the people of your city, borough, township or municipality. You get paid very little for what the job demands. You define what "service" means in the phrase 'public service'. You make a positive difference every day in your community.

As such, it is reasonable and appropriate to expect state and federal officials to work hand-in-hand with you to help make the community, our Commonwealth and our country better. As we have for many election cycles, your League staff sent a survey to each major candidate for Governor and U.S. Senator. This issue of the *Reporter* includes their responses on local government issues. We have also invited each candidate to speak at our Municipal Leadership Summit.

And for the first time, we have partnered with other local government associations to help coordinate a Gubernatorial Local Government Forum. The Pennsylvania Cable Network has agreed to broadcast the event live and Derry Township has offered to host the forum at their municipal building in Hershey. Each campaign has been given multiple dates. If we can get both campaigns to agree, we feel this could be a productive conversation about local government issues and potential solutions as we speak with one voice about the incredibly important partnership with you as local leaders.

When the candidates make their way to your community or region, remind them of the partnership they have with you and the need to work together to make good things happen. Remind them that we all need them to roll up their sleeves and work closely with us to get the job done.

Thank you for your public service, please stay in touch and take good care,



John S. Brenner

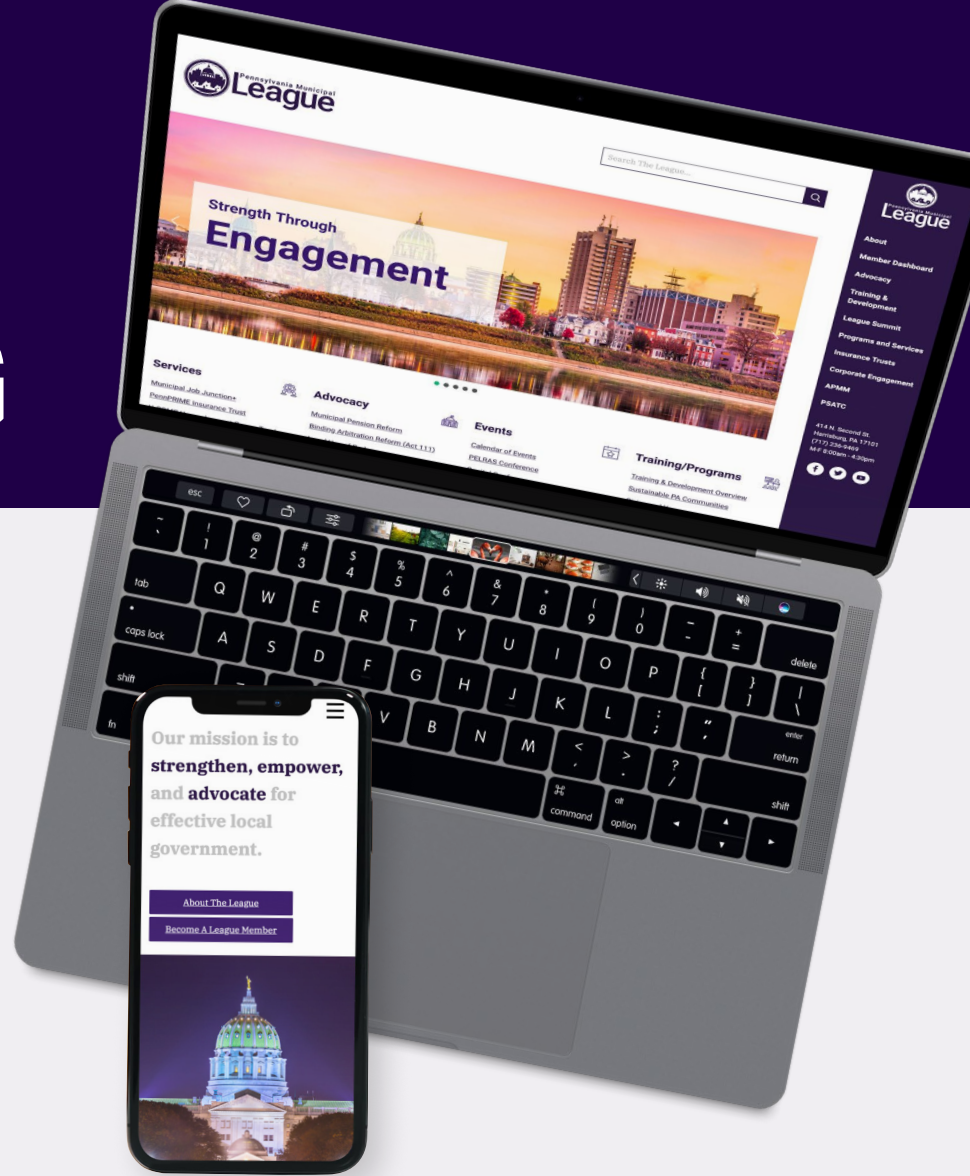


JOHN BRENNER



VISIT US AT PML.ORG

Our website is the embodiment of our mission to strengthen, empower, and advocate for effective local government. Visit Today!



YOUR BENEFITS

THE MEMBER DASHBOARD

As a member, you have access to a large range of exclusive services and resources. **Log in today and see how your Membership(s) can empower you!**

Visit [PML.org/pml-member-dashboard](https://pml.org/pml-member-dashboard) now.

FAST & INTUITIVE EXPERIENCE

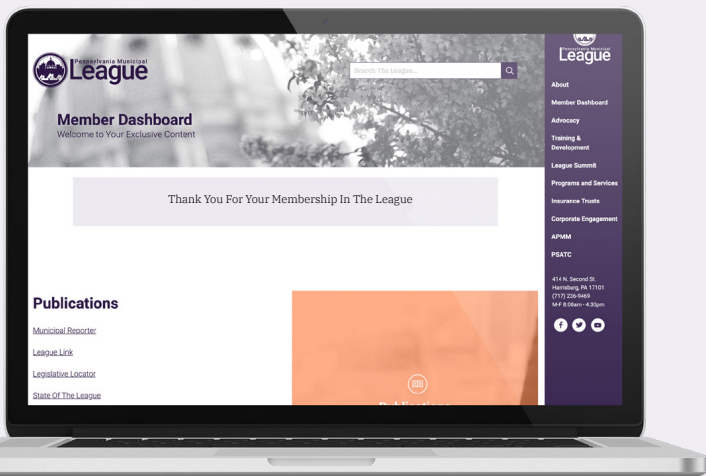
PML.org was built with our membership in mind. It's **easy to navigate** with the important information just a click away. **See upcoming League Events, Services, Training Programs** and have **access to the information your community needs.**

FIRST-CLASS MOBILE CONVENIENCE

A website falls flat if you're not able to make it work on mobile. At PML.org, you have the strength of The League in your pocket. This ensures you can engage with The League wherever you are.

STAY UP-TO-DATE

The latest and greatest news and events are easily found. With a constantly changing landscape, count on us to be your number one resource to stay on top of it all. No more hunting around different places. It's all at PML.org!



League News . . .

Inside The League



ABE AMORÓS
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -
OPERATIONS

Today, civility in government is more crucial than ever. Given the ever-increasing pressure to provide more with less, deal with unfunded mandates and continuously compete with surrounding municipalities for precious resources, one wonders how any elected or appointed official can “keep it together” on a daily basis in or out of an office environment.

Even public officials have breaking points and bad days where they lose their cool while saying and doing things that they will – eventually – regret. You don’t have to look any further than YouTube to find examples of poor behavior by either elected officials, appointed officials or members of the public who sign up to speak at meetings. Fisticuffs have broken out, ugly words have been hurled while a culture of dysfunction has permeated what was once an area of civility and compromise.

Even though we have participatory government that encourages dialogue and exchanges, some of it is inappropriate. Violence, profanity and being disagreeable “just for sport” have no place in our civil discourse. In fact, they hinder further participation which leads to apathy and skepticism. Everyone loses in this scenario.

That’s why the Pennsylvania Municipal League is proud to present an initiative aimed at fostering civility in the delivery of public services whether they be in an office setting, a public meeting or any contact with a member of the public. The Civility Campaign will begin with elected and appointed officials signing the following pledge:

“As a public servant, I hereby pledge to work daily to build a stronger and more prosperous municipality by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others – even during disagreements – building bridges to foster relationships and respecting different viewpoints, while finding solutions for the betterment of my community.”

This fall, The League will be focused on developing a toolkit that provides information on running effective meetings, addressing conflicts in the public arena, a sample resolution that commits to public civility along with strategies on communicating thoughtfully.

Heading into election season, it is even more important to stress the need for civility for candidates, as well. Given the controversy surrounding current events that have faced the nation and our commonwealth this year, the temperature has gone up dramatically in our conversations with co-workers, friends and even in our own homes.

Committing to civility in our discourse may seem like “pie in the sky” or a bit Pollyannaish, but we must return to treating each other respectfully in order to progress. Without this commitment, we are doomed to continue declining in our discourse which also leads to delivering public services poorly and with devastating results.

It also hampers our ability to understand someone else’s viewpoint which leads to greater conflict as it only festers. Let’s use our words and actions to help others and heal old wounds.

If we must disagree, let’s do so in a civil fashion. Let’s work together to find solutions, critique constructively and foster greater understanding in our municipalities.

Taxpayers and residents deserve no less in our communities.

From Inside The League,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Abe Amorós". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Abe Amorós

League's Gubernatorial Candidate Questionnaire

Impact on Local Government



Josh Shapiro



Doug Mastriano

1. **With both the nest egg of the state's ARPA dollars and higher than projected revenue collected by the state so far in 2022, Pennsylvania is in good financial standing. Based on current Commonwealth finances, as a new Governor you would have a budget surplus when developing your first budget. What existing or new local government programs would you propose funding?**



As Governor, I will make available more matching funds so local governments have the support they need to expand and support critical municipal programs, including public safety, education, healthcare, and economic growth. I also recognize that there are too many unfunded mandates and will work with the legislature to tackle and limit unfunded mandates.



The state government has an important role to play when it comes to ensuring our local governments have the resources they need. When I begin budget discussions with the General Assembly, I plan to include local government leaders in those discussions. I will be examining all existing local government programs and supporting those that have been proven to help local communities.

Economic Development grants and low interest loan programs will be a top priority of mine. I will advocate for an increase in funding for the Keystone Communities Program which has proven to be successful. I'll support targeted state grant programs and legislation to help communities combat urban blight. I'll also support targeted grants to help municipalities recruit and retain firefighters.

2. **If the state legislature decides to authorize recreational marijuana as a revenue tool, would you agree that local governments should receive a portion of the new revenue to help offset increased public safety responsibilities?**



I am committed to signing legislation to legalize recreational marijuana, expunge records of those serving time for non-violent marijuana convictions (a disproportionate number of whom are Black), and ensure that a portion of the revenue is used to support local communities which have been disproportionately impacted.



Yes.

3. **Pennsylvania's local taxation system was put in place in 1965. The 50 plus year old system is now outdated and falls short of meeting 21st century needs, yet it remains the only mechanism for revenue to pay for municipal services. In fact, local tax revenue does not even cover the public safety budget in most communities. As Governor, would you support a comprehensive update to the local taxing structure so that the cost of providing municipal services, especially public safety, are completely covered?**



As Governor, I am committed to bringing people to the table, including municipal officials and state legislators from both sides of the aisle to modernize the Commonwealth's taxation systems. We need to make sure law enforcement is fully funded – that's why I called on the legislature to provide funding to hire at least 2,000 more officers and improve recruitment and retention efforts.



As Governor, I pledge that my administration will not issue unfunded mandates that put localities in the position of having to raise taxes in the first place. I will also advocate for an increase in targeted local public safety grants and programs to offset rising costs.

4. **Public safety is the largest portion of a municipal budget, with many municipalities devoting over 50 percent of their budget to public safety, which can overwhelm the ability to fund other services and programs. At the same time, municipalities are experiencing a lack of firefighter and police officer candidates to fill positions. How do you suggest we balance encouraging people to apply for public safety positions with the immediate and long-term cost of employing full-time police and fire personnel?**



I have always fought to ensure that law enforcement has the funding that they need to protect communities across the Commonwealth. As noted above, during this past budget season, I called for the hiring of 2,000 extra police officers and an additional \$28.5 million from the state to recruit and train more officers, much of which would have gone to local governments. As Governor, I will continue these efforts and ensure that law enforcement has the resources that they need.



As Governor, I pledge that my administration will not issue unfunded mandates that put localities in the position of having to raise taxes in the first place. I will also advocate for an increase in targeted local public safety grants and programs to offset rising costs.

5. **Current and legacy public safety pension costs are one of the reasons public safety budgets remain the largest portion of a total municipal budget. Several years of high investment earnings helped municipalities with their annual pension obligations. The current market downturn and possibility of a recession will widen the gap between employer investment earnings and annual obligations and the spike in pension costs will have to be absorbed by already tight municipal budgets. Would you support reforming the public safety pension system for future workers, like the recommendations found in the Auditor General DePasquale's 2015 Municipal Pension Task Force Report, so that pension costs are more predictable and sustainable?**



Every Pennsylvanian deserves to access the pension that they have earned. Right now that future accessibility is in jeopardy because we have a pension system that is severely underfunded. My first order of business as Governor will be to ensure that every Pennsylvanian who has been promised a pension actually receives one and I will bring stakeholders to the table to advise on the best way to establish a healthy pension fund for the long term.



Instead of changing the current pension system for first responders, my administration will focus on ramping up aid from the state budget to fund public safety and removing onerous regulations that are costing localities millions of dollars annually.

6. **Pennsylvania is an outlier compared to the rest of the nation by not providing radar to local police. Radar is a more appropriate, efficient and effective tool for enforcing speeding on local roads than the current VASCAR, ENRADD or stopwatch. In fact, local police access to these non-radar tools is drastically decreasing because they are obsolete. How can Pennsylvania continue to deny local law enforcement the proper tools to protect the public from speeding motorists?**



As Governor, I will ensure that police departments across the Commonwealth have the support and funding from the state that they need to acquire the most up-to-date equipment and tools needed to protect the public from all forms of crime.



As Governor, I would support legislation that permits municipal police in Pennsylvania to use radar for speed enforcement. I supported that legislation when it came up for a vote in the Senate as well.

7. **Blighted properties have many negative impacts on a community and its residents, affecting property values of neighboring homes, deterring new residents and businesses from moving in and contributing to crime and a poorer quality of life. An aged housing stock and absentee landlords also contribute to more blight in older, core communities. What tools would you promote as Governor to help remediate and prevent future blight?**



There is an affordable and quality housing stock shortage in the Commonwealth and as your next Governor, I will address this head on. I will sign legislation to increase the Housing Trust Fund budget so that there is more affordable housing available, support and fund the newly created Whole Home Repairs Program to address aging homes, and implement a state-wide program to both address blight and empower local residents to revitalize their own communities.



I will establish a blight reduction grant program that all localities will be eligible to apply for. I will make sure that landlords are doing their part to provide regular outdoor and cosmetic maintenance on their properties.

8. **As you are aware, the once vibrant volunteer fire and EMS services in the Commonwealth are in crisis, and the health and safety of residents and communities are in jeopardy. Many solutions have been proposed to alleviate operational expenses, reimburse for services and recruit new volunteers and staff. As Governor, what solutions would you promote to ease this serious situation?**



As Governor, I will propose a budget that includes significant increases to recruit and retain EMS professionals, including additional funding for pay increases for starting EMTs. I will also bring stakeholders to the table to address piecemeal training and ensure that EMS professionals have access to the mental healthcare they need.



So many of our fire and EMS services are provided by selfless volunteers. Right now, we are facing a critical shortage of these volunteers throughout PA.

As Governor, I'm going to propose an ambitious package of bills that will provide aid and state benefits to those who step up as volunteer firefighters and EMS. That will include tax credits for providers and the businesses that support them. I will support educational tax credits volunteers enrolled in undergrad classes at PA Universities. I will work with local leaders to ensure that we are exploring every option in Harrisburg to ease the burden of providing quality fire and EMS services for constituents.

9. **Unmet infrastructure needs are high on the list of concerns among our members because of the ultimate threat to public health and safety. Roads, bridges, storm water, drinking water and waste water systems all require repair and on-going maintenance. Grants and loans from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will help, but will not cover all needs. How can state and local government partner to ensure that our infrastructure needs are appropriately met?**



As Governor, I am committed to investing in Pennsylvania's infrastructure. Whether it's connecting folks to the internet at high speeds and for affordable prices, ensuring we can drink clean water, or repairing our bridges, I believe Pennsylvania's infrastructure should work for everyone. Under my administration, local governments will have a seat at the table and I will prioritize on-going maintenance of our aging infrastructure.



My administration will work collaboratively with local leaders on legislative priorities and formulation of the budget. I plan to have regular meetings with The League to ensure they are kept in the loop on the latest with the executive branch and the General Assembly. It's unacceptable that local leaders are only aware of what's in the state budget after it is passed.

10. **Transportation funding at both the state and local level is inadequate. The 2021 Transportation Revenue Options Commission reported a \$9.35 billion state funding gap and a \$3.9 billion local funding gap. Several solutions were presented in the report to reconfigure our funding away from reliance on a gas tax. Naturally, some solutions will be more popular than others with residents, but the funding gap must be addressed. Keeping in mind that municipalities must not lose funding in the transition to new sources of revenue, what solutions would you support?**



As a former Montgomery County Commissioner, I understand that public transportation must be funded properly and that the Commonwealth's public transit agencies need reliable and sustainable funding sources. I have a long history of supporting stable investments in public transportation. As a state Representative, I voted in favor of state budgets that invested over \$140 million in new funding for SEPTA, and worked with SEPTA to improve local stations and create new stations in the community. I will continue these efforts as Governor and I will ensure municipalities do not lose out on existing funding and have the resources that they need.



As governor, I will look to cut waste and abuse in the annual budget. That will free up additional finding to be allocated towards our local roads and bridges. I believe that we can close the funding gap without placing additional financial burdens on residents.

I'll also shift more of the annual state police funding to a dedicated funding stream in the General Fund so less revenue is shifted away from roads and bridges.

11. **The economic prosperity of our Commonwealth goes hand in hand with the economic prosperity of our local communities. How does Pennsylvania leverage its assets – top universities and research institutions, a proud industrial history, our mid-Atlantic location – to become more business friendly to bring 21st Century industry and jobs to the state? And how do we make sure Pennsylvania workers are ready to fill these jobs?**



I recently released an aggressive strategy to jump-start Pennsylvania's economy. My plan calls for: embracing Pennsylvania's role as an energy leader, attracting new businesses to Pennsylvania and help existing businesses stay open, lowering the corporate net income tax to become one of the lowest in the county, cutting red tape to help businesses attract workers and acquire permits, and investing in vocational and technical education so that all Pennsylvania students have ample opportunity to succeed. You can read more about my plan [here](#).



We must fight the effects of inflation and a looming recession by accelerating economic growth. This will fix many of the other current issues we are facing in PA. A strong economy means more jobs, higher wages, more GDP growth, and ultimately more money for the annual budget.

My plan to revive the economy includes slashing burdensome regulations from Harrisburg, streamlining our outdated and slow permit process, and cutting taxes for job creators who want to invest in our state.

No matter the situation, I vow to never support a statewide mandate forcing businesses to close.

I will support the development of a world class workforce by improving our underfunded Career and Technical education programs (Vo-tech) in schools.

12. **The 2020 census demonstrated that the demographics of Pennsylvania are changing. As a Commonwealth, we must embrace diversity and treat all Pennsylvanians equally no matter their race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation. What are some ways your administration will work to ensure an inclusive Commonwealth?**



I understand that Pennsylvania is strongest when it not only accepts but embraces and empowers people of all socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, religious, geographic, and ability backgrounds. As Governor, I will appoint an administration that is representative of our Commonwealth and works every day to connect with all communities. A Shapiro administration will protect the vulnerable and have zero tolerance for hate.



My administration will welcome input of individuals from all races, religions, and backgrounds. Accordingly, there will be no discrimination of any kind when it comes to hiring staff for my administration. We will hire the best and brightest from all regions, races, and backgrounds of the state.

13. **Local government interacts on a daily basis with various state agencies. Traditionally, the Department of Community and Economic Development has been seen as the agency closest to local government, but the Departments of Transportation, Environmental Protection, Health, and Conservation and Natural Resources all play a role in successful local governance. How do you plan to improve the coordination of state and local government? Would you consider employing a local government liaison who would work directly for you facilitating successful interaction between state agencies and local government?**



As Montgomery County Commissioner, I saw first hand some of the disconnects between local governments and state agencies. These issues only hinder progress. As Governor, I will use that experience to design an administration that works hand in hand with local governments on important policy development, program funding and design, and implementation initiatives.



I will establish a dedicated local government liaison in every state agency under my jurisdiction.

As local leaders, you all know best about the local needs of your communities.

As I mentioned above, my administration will work collaboratively with local leaders on legislative priorities and formulation of the budget. I plan to have regular meetings with The League to ensure they are kept in the loop on the latest with the executive branch and the General Assembly. It's unacceptable that local leaders are only aware of what's in the state budget after it is passed.

League's Senatorial Candidate Questionnaire

Impact on Local Government



John Fetterman



Mehmet Oz

1. **Local governments are the backbone of Pennsylvania providing the services their residents utilize on a daily basis. For this reason, it's vital our next U.S. Senator partners with local government to make local issues a priority in federal policy. One vital program is the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) which local governments use to address a wide range of community development and housing needs. As U.S. Senator, would you support continued or increased funding for the CDBG program?**



Yes, I would support expanding funding for the CDBG program. Community development and revitalization is crucial to revitalizing the lives of communities in need. Access to housing, public services, better school buildings, and even rehabilitation of old and abandoned buildings is vital to improving the socioeconomic well-being of a community. As a former small-town Mayor, I understand how vital this kind of investment can be, and I've seen the benefits of similar programs like Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program.



I support increased funding for Community Development Block Grants.

2. **Pennsylvania's aging infrastructure of streets, roads, bridges, water and sewer systems threatens the safety and quality of life in communities across the Commonwealth. Through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Pennsylvania is set to receive a historic amount of funding for strategic investment in our infrastructure. Would you have voted in favor of the IIJA and would you support continued or increased federal investment for local infrastructure in the future?**



Yes, I would have proudly voted in favor of the IIJA, and I will continue to support increased infrastructure funding to make sure that Pennsylvania has the tools it needs. Pennsylvania has some of the country's worst roads and bridges and our rural communities suffer from poor broadband infrastructure. Not too long ago, I was one of the first public officials to be on-site at the Fern Hollow bridge collapse in Pittsburgh. The infrastructure dollars in the IIJA will be crucial to repairing our roads and bridges to prevent situations like this from happening again. It will also help us expand and refit other infrastructure needs, like increasing broadband access, especially in Pennsylvania's rural communities. I would have supported this bill and will support future legislation like it to make sure that our infrastructure is in the best shape possible for Pennsylvania's workers and businesses.



Like the rest of the country, Pennsylvania's infrastructure needs more investments. However, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act should have focused more on needed improvements to our Infrastructure rather than unrelated spending. It's now law, and I look forward to supporting federal and state investments in Pennsylvania's aging infrastructure.

3. **Climate change has caused more severe storms, flooding, droughts and wildfires, and such a threat must be taken into consideration as Congress thinks about new infrastructure investments. We must invest in developing resilient infrastructure that can sustain the impacts of more severe weather events to maintain the safety of our residents. One recent example is the disastrous flooding caused by Hurricane Ida in the Southeast of the state. How can the federal government support local leaders to proactively prioritize infrastructure resiliency in their communities?**



I've long believed that climate change is an existential threat, and we need to deal with it. The federal government has to invest more dollars in local projects that will restore and protect the environment's natural safeguards against natural disasters including coral reefs, forests, our wetlands and our shorelines. We have to also identify and invest in non-natural infrastructure such as levies, more resilient buildings, transit systems, telecommunication and power systems, while simultaneously developing crisis management plans. In addition, we must do all we can to curb climate change to help mitigate natural disasters to start.



One of the best ways to support local leaders is to show up and hear about their challenges directly. Our local leaders know their needs best, and I will champion their priorities. We will have to continue to prioritize federal funding for programs that assist with project planning for issues ranging from severe storms and flooding to droughts.

4. **Broadband access must be treated as a basic right and a form of essential infrastructure. Unfortunately, it's not known exactly how many Pennsylvanians do not have broadband access, as coverage gaps are believed to be greater than data suggests. The IIJA allocates \$65 billion for broadband, guaranteeing a minimum of \$100 million to go to Pennsylvania for broadband development in underserved areas. While this funding will be helpful to increase connectivity in the Commonwealth, long-term investments in funding and technology will be needed. As a U.S. Senator, what federal tools would you propose to help achieve digital equity in Pennsylvania?**



Everyone in Pennsylvania should have high speed broadband, no exceptions. At an event I held earlier this year in rural McKean County, a member of the crowd told me that people park outside of the local library just to use the internet or get phone reception, because they don't get it anywhere else. This is unacceptable and shows the disparity in Internet access across the commonwealth. We need to enact universal broadband for all people, in rural and urban areas, so that everyone has access to stable high-speed internet at home. This should not be happening in the United States. I would strongly support efforts to continue to expand broadband and technological access to communities that do not have it. There are so many benefits. For seniors and people who are disabled, it allows for more frequent visits with doctors through telehealth appointments. With high-quality internet, people can work from home in a rural community instead of a city, keeping jobs and money in rural towns and lowering unemployment. For farmers, many pieces of modern farm equipment require access to broadband for tools and software. Finally, in education, it impacts students' abilities to work on schoolwork at home, especially with increasingly remote learning options.



Services like telehealth are dependent on reliable broadband. Work is ongoing to increase broadband availability but we can always continue to improve it. It is important that we are responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars and ensure this money is going to underserved areas first. I will work to leverage federal opportunities to bolster Pennsylvania's broadband connectivity. A connected Pennsylvania is a stronger and healthier Pennsylvania.

5. **Local economies are diverse and local governments aim to attract and retain businesses to remain economically prosperous. Additionally, with an ever changing economy comes new business and industry, and ultimately, a need for skilled workers. What federal policies would you change or adopt to empower local workforce solutions and draw businesses to Pennsylvania's communities?**



American companies have abandoned so many Pennsylvania workers and communities by shipping their jobs and livelihoods overseas. I believe that there are a few ways to help these communities remain prosperous and help revitalize communities that were once prosperous. And the first step is to make more stuff in America to expand manufacturing and production here at home. That will require investing in manufacturing, punishing companies that ship jobs overseas, and increasing investment in new research and development. I support legislation like the America COMPETES Act or CHIPS Act to expand our country's manufacturing and help us compete with countries like China. Second, we need to invest in revitalization and redevelopment of these towns. This means guaranteeing access to affordable housing, eliminating dilapidated buildings, and improving access to capital for small businesses. Third, we must improve access to broadband and bolster our public transportation systems. These are both vital to connect people to available services and job opportunities. Finally, we must make more investments into technical and trade education and apprenticeship programs.



The number one issue I hear from businesses across the Commonwealth is the need for workers. I will strongly support and advocate for Career and Technical Education programs that create the next generation of workers so many industries need right now. I also look forward to hearing from local leaders across Pennsylvania about programs they have utilized that I can advocate for in Washington.

6. **Housing instability has increased in severity over the last several years. Pennsylvania ranks the 7th highest in the nation for those experiencing housing insecurity. Evictions and homelessness disproportionately impact communities of color and affordable housing options are more and more scarce. Local governments struggle to tackle this issue while working within the policy and funding restraints placed upon them through federal and state laws. What federal tools would you promote or improve upon to support local government efforts to ensure all citizens of the Commonwealth have safe, stable and affordable housing?**



In order to ease housing insecurity, the federal government must invest more money to develop affordable housing to allow municipalities to keep up with demand. We also need to pass antidiscrimination legislation to eliminate the high rates of homelessness among the LGBTQ community, and we must develop stronger oversight of lending practices that overwhelmingly discriminate against people of color.



Simply put, we need to make it easier for builders to increase the housing supply. Currently, we find that the state and localities have restrictive zoning requirements and complex building regulations, which makes it harder to build affordable homes in areas with high housing demand. The federal government is spending more than ever to subsidize affordable housing yet the problem is getting worse. So, we need to look at what has gone wrong since then and enact housing reforms that unleashes private investments while protecting taxpayer dollars.

7. **One of the top priorities of local governments is the health and safety of their residents. Fire, police and EMS services in communities across Pennsylvania are struggling to remain open, as departments are receiving fewer applications, volunteers are dwindling and funding is barely meeting basic operational needs. As a U.S. Senator, how would you foster a partnership with the state and local governments to utilize federal resources in developing solutions to ease this serious situation?**



All across Pennsylvania, we have been facing the issue of losing emergency service employees. We need to keep fire departments, police departments and EMS services open. In addition to keeping the doors open, we must increase incentives for our voluntary emergency responders. As a Senator I would support legislation that offers financial relief through tax credits, education, and training assistance to emergency service employees.



Pennsylvania's Senators have done a great job over the years of working closely with the House delegation to make sure our fire, police, and EMS services have the tools and information they need to be competitive in the grant process and other funding requests. It will be a top priority that our men and women are in the front of the line when these programs allocate resources. Additionally, I'll support legislation that protects these critical programs from any cuts. We need to fund our first responders.

8. Local governments look to the state and the federal government for support so they can provide the necessary services for their residents. As an example, local governments needed assistance to respond to and recover from the pandemic. Congress passed and the President ultimately signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) providing a historic investment of \$350 billion in direct funding for state, local, territorial and tribal governments. Would you have voted in favor of ARPA and would you support future efforts to provide direct funding to local governments?



Local governments have the most direct interactions with Americans and the funding they receive from the federal government is crucial to their community members. I would have supported the American Rescue Plan in the Senate, and I will proudly support future efforts to provide funding to local governments who are most aware of their communities' needs and how to meet them.



With inflation at a forty-year high, Congress must be more responsible with our tax dollars. For example, the bill included \$270 million for the National Endowment of the Arts and Humanities. In an effort to help state and local governments recovering from the pandemic, packages like this should be going to our state and local governments and communities – not the NEA. I will fight for state and local governments, and I oppose out of control spending in Washington.

Ways You Can Promote The Municipal Leadership Summit

1. List on your community's website event calendar
2. Share in your emails or e-newsletters
3. Share social media posts



DOWNLOAD GRAPHICS/
TEMPLATE TEXT HERE

Q&A with League Leader Peter Urscheler Mayor Phoenixville Borough Southeast District Officer



This Q&A feature section of the Municipal Reporter highlights an individual local leader who has been involved and engaged with their community and The League.



Pennsylvania Municipal
League

Q: Mayor, thank you for your service as mayor of Phoenixville. How did you get involved in local government?

I love telling the story that my first elected office was in 3rd grade. My class was learning about government, we built a city out of milk cartons and then elected officials. I became the Superintendent and that was my entry into local government.

I continued to be extremely involved in Student Government throughout my High School and College years. In college I became more involved with community activism and launched a statewide campaign targeted at raising student scholarships from the state legislature. The campaign saw an increase of \$17 million in educational grants, impacting 28 educational institutions and over 30,000 students in Florida.

In 2006, I was recruited by the CEO of an international financial services firm based in greater Philadelphia. I worked in a variety of capacities in both the Philadelphia area and in London.

In 2014, I left the company to help care for my aging parents, I started a small consulting firm focused on marketing for small business and non-profits. I became very involved in our Chamber of Commerce, Business Association and Jaycees.

After I started getting involved more locally, I was out to dinner with some friends and they brought up the idea of running for Mayor and the rest is history. In 2017, I was elected Mayor of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, the youngest in the borough's 173-year history.

Q: What leadership advice do you have for other local leaders?

Be authentic. So many of us got into this to help people, share your story about what made you want to get involved as a local leader. Let people know that you are there to help and understand their challenges. Also don't be afraid to share your struggles, let people in your community know when things aren't going well and how they can help.

I always say my job isn't to impart my opinion or beliefs onto people in my community, it is to set a table where people from all backgrounds and ideologies can come together, in a respectful way and share their ideas on how to make our community even stronger.

Another piece of advice I would give is to explain all the factors and the process you go through when making a decision, in that way people may disagree with the decision you made, but they can respect the process that you went through to make the decision.

Q: What has been your most rewarding experience as a municipal official?

The people. I love getting to know all the people in our community. I feel so fortunate to have a role where I can interact with so many different people in such unique ways. I love visiting places like the VFW, the Senior Center and all our different schools. Being a mayor is such a unique way to be involved in not only the community but in the lives of your residents; We laugh together, cry together and I even get to officiate their marriages. I greet kids on their first day of school and get to follow along with them as they grow up. To me it's like being part of a humongous family.

When I've had a rough day, I drive around Phoenixville after dark and look at all the porch lights, it reminds me that within each of those

homes are people who rely upon me to represent them to the best of my abilities, people who have hopes and dreams, people who maybe struggling, but most of all they are all people who are part of this extraordinary community.

Q: What has been the greatest challenge in your position?

Explaining the Balance. So many people believe that "governments" have unlimited resources. We may have larger checkbooks than a household, but in many cases, we struggle with the same things; we have a long list of things we'd like to do, but only a finite amount of resources and when things break, like a snow plow or a garbage truck, it's a huge unexpected expense.

For Phoenixville specifically, we've been so fortunate over the past 25+ years to have undergone a significant revitalization, but that also poses a challenge for us. I want to ensure that as we grow, we are able to do so responsibly, making sure that people who want to live in our community are able to do so in an affordable way.

Q: Thank you for serving on The League Board as the Southeast District Officer. How has your involvement with The League helped you and your community?

The League is an extraordinary resource for community leaders. It's an incredible place to share ideas and to learn about what is being done in other communities. I feel so fortunate that our members are always willing to share their resources, so whenever we have an idea or challenge, I first look to The League members to see if someone has faced a similar situation.

The League also provides the opportunity to come together with your peers, people who are working in a very similar capacity in different communities. It's refreshing and often

therapeutic to know that you aren't the only one out there who is experiencing the ups and downs of public service.

I also appreciate all the insight provided by The League Staff, whenever I have any kind of question, I know they are just a phone call away to provide guidance and counsel.

Q: What advice do you have for people considering municipal government as a career?

Don't wait! Just do it! It's such rewarding work. I can't think of any other roles that are more dynamic and interesting than roles in municipal government. We continue to need talented and committed individuals who want to help their communities thrive for generations to come.

Q: As a proud mayor, what would you say are some of Phoenixville's greatest attributes?

By far Phoenixville's greatest attributes are our people. Phoenixville owes its existence and vitality to generations of people, from all abilities, geographies and walks of life who contributed their hopes, dreams, and energy to shaping our shared home.

Phoenixville is also one of the most caring and supportive communities. Our residents understand that Phoenixville flourishes when, each of us, contributes in whatever way we are able, when our community's resources are multiplied and shared by all. If someone needs help or has a dream the people in our community will surround them and ensure they succeed.

At the height of COVID-19 the residents and non-profits in our community bound together to ensure every family had basic necessities. We never had an interruption in meal service to

student or senior citizens. In addition to caring about one another, our community also cares deeply about our impact on the environment.

Phoenixville is Innovative. We are launching the first installation in North America of a system that will take the bio solids in our wastewater and turn it into a renewable fuel source. In years to come, we hope to expand the system to take in food waste from restaurants.

Phoenixville is a community where people don't fit in, it's a place where they belong.

For generations Phoenixville's residents produced the iron and steel that held up our country's greatest monuments and the world's bridges.

Today our strength is no longer measured in steel or in size, but instead the hope we share with the world; a hope that all people will find a place of security, a place of love and a place to be celebrated. □



Every piece of the puzzle is important to the big picture.

Reduce costs and improve performance with a total building enclosure approach.

Facilities need *complete* protection from the elements – on all six sides, within all components. How every piece connects – from roofs to walls to windows to doors and more – is crucial to controlling air, heat, and moisture flow.

At Tremco Roofing and Building Maintenance, we are building enclosure experts. Together with our affiliated construction services company WTI, we provide turnkey maintenance, repair, roof management, and general contracting services for the entire building enclosure.

Through advanced diagnostics, proven asset management programs, and cooperative purchasing options, we can help you to avoid emergency repairs, establish predictable budgets, and improve building performance to ultimately reduce facility lifecycle costs.



**To learn more or to schedule a complimentary consultation, please contact:
Jennifer Miller at jdmiller@tremcoinc.com, 412.225.6007 or visit yourroofexperts.com.**



tremcoroofing.com
yourroofexperts.com

Tremco Roofing and WTI are part of Tremco Construction Products Group.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

September 15 to October 15



**Guest Column with
Eddie Moran
Mayor
City of Reading
Reading Representative**

The Latino population in Pennsylvania remains as the fastest-growing community throughout our commonwealth. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Philadelphia boasts the largest vibrant and dynamic Latino population with nearly 250,000 residents. Other municipalities report high numbers since the Census of 2010 with an astonishing growth rate of 48 percent. The City of Reading, where I proudly serve as Mayor, is home to 95,113 residents, 63 percent of which are Latino.

Other municipalities with significant Latino populations are Allentown (with Mayor Matt Tuerk – grandson of a Cuban immigrant), Bethlehem, Hazleton, Lancaster, Harrisburg, York, Kennett Square, Lebanon, Norristown, Chambersburg and Wilson. However, it doesn't stop there. Nationwide, according to American Community Survey, 6.3 million more Latinos live in the U.S. than in 2010, an increase of nearly 15 percent.

Each year, between September 15 to October 15, we celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month. We not only acknowledge our history, heritage and contributions of the ancestors of American citizens who came from Mexico, Spain, the Caribbean, and South- and Central America but also with an eye toward the future. In Pennsylvania, the median age for the Latino population is 25 with an increasing

number of high school students going into higher education.

As a nation, we've been celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month since 1968 during the civil rights movement when Lyndon Baines Johnson was president. What started as Hispanic Heritage Week was later extended to an entire month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. September 15th was set as the starting date as it recognizes independence in Latin American countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Honduras. Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16th and 18th, respectively. Dia de la Raza, or Columbus Day, also falls within the month.

Latinos have been key to our nation's prosperity and our contributions are immeasurable. They embody the very best of American values in many ways and are integral to the prosperity of the U.S. Our voting power has also been increasing. According to the Pew Research Center, 32 million Latinos were eligible to vote in 2020, constituting the largest minority voting bloc in the nation.

This year will be no different with the upcoming elections for U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives and governor along with state Senate and state House of Representatives appearing on the ballot in Pennsylvania. Expect Latinos to come out again in record numbers as we rightfully take our seat at the table as important stakeholders.

As you celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month in your own communities, make a special effort to learn more about our wonderful people who continue to contribute significantly to the fabric of our commonwealth and great nation on a daily basis.

Ellwood City Community Garden Brings Residents Together Post-Pandemic

BY DAVID ALLEN, ELLWOOD CITY BOROUGH MANAGER



The Ellwood City Community Garden is a community project located at 327 Sims St. in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania. The Garden was funded through the Environmental Grant Program through Pennsylvania American Water Company. The Borough of Ellwood City, as well as several local businesses have contributed to the creation, maintenance and continuing development of the Garden.

The Community Garden was developed as a way to help control water run off near the Connoquenessing Creek while creating a supplemental food source for members of our community and a gathering place for our residents to work towards a beneficial goal. With the assistance of nearly 50 volunteers, the Community Garden donated 520 pounds of food to our local food bank in 2021. This has become an important resource in

our community as the need for assistance is on the rise as a result of the COVID pandemic.

Each food plot has a designated volunteer for the summer growing months. Volunteers are responsible to plant, water, weed and harvest their designated food box. The Garden project is now in Phase III, which has allowed us to add additional beds, bringing our total to 51.

Our development objective for the 2022 growing season is to continue to add additional beds to the Garden. With the increase in cost of supplies we have been met with several challenges this year, however we have been able to slightly increase growing space. We also added a “Share the Harvest” box to the garden for local backyard

growers to leave donations of produce to donate to the food bank.

With the help of local businesses, Borough workers and the expertise of our local gardening community, we hope the garden will be a sustainable food source for our community for years to come.

Businesses that have supported the Garden include T & M Hardware, Blanks Concrete & Supply, Franus Architectural Associates, Inc., Amerikohl, Local Growing Green Gardeners and The Borough of Ellwood City. For more information on the Community Garden, please contact garden Director, Kelly Brack at garden@ellwoodcityborough.com. You may also obtain additional information by visiting the community garden on [Facebook](#).





Business Leaders Network



AT&T

David Kerr
dkerr@att.com
717-269-5872

AT&T
351 Stanley Drive
Palmyra, PA 17078



CAMPBELL DURRANT, P.C.
PUBLIC SECTOR, LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

Mike Palombo, Esq.
mpalombo@cdblaw.com
412-395-1280

Campbell Durrant, P.C.
535 Smithfield Street
Suite 700
Pittsburgh, PA 15222



Jennifer Frees
jennifer_frees@comcast.com
610-401-6482

Comcast Keystone Region
400 Riverfront Drive
Reading, PA 19602



Brian Weatherford
brian.weatherford@constellation.com
410-470-1852

Constellation
1310 Point Street
9th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21231



**Cornerstone Wealth Advisory
& Insurance Services, LLC**

Patrick Geary
pgeary@cwais.net
814-315-2000

**Cornerstone Wealth Advisory
& Insurance Services, LLC**
3910 Coughy Rd., Suite 220
Erie, PA 16506



**DELAWARE
VALLEY
TRUSTS**

Managed Risk. Collective Rewards.

Robert Solarz
bsolarz@dvtrusts.com
215-706-0101

Delaware Valley Trusts
719 Dresher Road
Horsham, PA 19044



**Government
Finance
Solutions**
A DIVISION OF DAWOOD

Tracey Rash
Trash@gfsdawood.net
717-514-2605

Government Finance Solutions
4250 Crums Mill Road
Suite 301
Harrisburg, PA 17112



Kathleen McKenzie
Kathleen.McKenzie@highmark.com
717-302-7836

Highmark Blue Shield
1800 Center Street, 1B/L4
Camp Hill, PA 17011



Ashley Shiwarski
Ashley.Shiwarski@homeserveusa.com
724-749-1097

Homeserve
4000 Town Center Boulevard
Suite 400
Canonsburg, PA 15317



Business Leaders Network

MaherDuessel

Jennifer CruverKibi, CPA
jcruverkibi@md-cpas.com
(717) 232-1230 x204

Maher Duessel
1800 Linglestown Road
Suite 306
Harrisburg PA, 17110



Municipal Benefits Services

Steve Solman
Steve.solman@mbgbenefits.com
412-394-9332

Municipal Benefits Services
One Gateway Center
Suite 1475
Pittsburgh, PA 15222



Fred Bean
fbean@benecon.com
717-723-4600

Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative
201 E. Oregon Road
Suite 100
Lititz, PA 17543



PennPRIME
INSURANCE TRUSTS | A Service Program of The League

Elizabeth Henry
ehenry@pml.org
717-236-9469 *250

PennPRIME
414 North Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

pfm asset management

John Molloy
molloyj@pfmam.com
717-232-2723

PFM Asset Management
213 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

PORTER & CURTIS, LLC
Specializing in achieving the impossible.

Ken Porter
kporter@portercurtis.com
610-891-9856

Porter & Curtis, LLC
225 State Road
Media, PA 19063

**SAUL EWING
ARNSTEIN
& LEHR^{LLP}**

William W. Warren, Jr., Esq.
William.warren@saul.com
717-238-7698

Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr
2 North Second Street
7th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101



U-COMP
Unemployment Compensation Trust

Elizabeth Henry
ehenry@pml.org
Deb Gross (Consultant)
dgross@pml.org

U-COMP
414 North Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-236-9469

verizon

Bill Carnahan
william.b.carnahan@verizon.com
412-633-3248

Verizon
15 Montgomery Pl
Pittsburgh, PA 15212



2022

**October
6 - 9**

MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Omni William Penn
Hotel Pittsburgh, PA

Special Guests:
Governor Tom Wolf

Attorney General
Josh Shapiro

Auditor General
Timothy DeFoor

Senate Majority Leader
Kim Ward

Senate Minority Leader
Jay Costa



Hotel booking and registration
are available at
www.pml.org.



A great playspace is coming soon!

West Penn Park | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania | October 3-5, 2022

Sponsored by



View A



Playground design by  landscape structures

Get involved at kaboom.org



This will be the 13th playground project The League has successfully built since 2010. This project will be made possible by generous contributions from the City of Pittsburgh, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), The Grable Foundation, Duquesne Light, Highmark Health and Allegheny Health Network, KABOOM!, the Pennsylvania Municipal League (The League), and community individuals.

KABOOM!'s model (pictured above) engaged the children in the community on a 'Design Day' where they gave their input on what they want the playground to include. This community engagement is key to the process – it helps build relationships, fosters trust, and creates collaboration between community members, the city, and its partners. It also leads to the community's increased usage of the playspace and their vested interest in the long-term maintenance of the park.

This year's project is located in West Penn Park in the City's Polish Hill neighborhood and was last renovated many years ago. It is in need of an update to bring it up to the city's current safety standards. Although the playground is ADA accessible, there are no amenities that can be used by someone with a physical disability. The playground is located in a park that also contains a ball field, a recreation center, a skate park, and a pool. The newly renovated playground will round out recreational opportunities for children, as well as visitors of all ages.

We will have volunteer opportunities for "Build Week" – October 3, 4 and 5, 2022 – the ribbon cutting will take place on Wednesday afternoon, October 5th!

Learn more at: PML.org/municipal-leadership-summit/west-penn-playground-build



Pennsylvania Municipal
League

Upcoming League Events

For more information, visit www.pml.org.

PELRAS Leadership Primer - Central

Hilton Harrisburg

September 2022

28



PELRAS Leadership Primer - East

Delaware Valley Trusts
Headquarters

November 2022

1

2022 Fall Sustainability Conference

The Inn at Villanova University

November 2022

15





PennPRIME
INSURANCE TRUSTS | A Service Program of The League



Cyber Risks: Ransomware and the Cyber Road Map

BY PAUL CORNELL, DIRECTOR OF TRUSTS

Cyber Security, the protection of networks, systems, data and operations has become a major concern for Government Agencies throughout the United States. Ransomware has become the most profitable Cyber Crime. Ransomware is now franchised as Software as a Service (SaaS) business model with groups called “Initial Access Brokers” (IABs) who specialize in breaching networks and selling access to hackers who encrypt and ransom the network. According to Cognyte, a cyber-protection software company, the United States accounted for more than 50% of Ransomware Attacks worldwide in 2021. Surefire Cyber Inc. told the National League of Cities in May of this year that 28% of those attacks targeted Cities and Townships.

The FBI recommends that victims not pay ransom because those payments are used to fund additional ransomware attacks and other types of crimes. Also, there is no guarantee that once the ransom

is paid, the hackers will release the encryption on the network. Some cybercriminals have begun double extortion. Once a victim has paid the ransom to remove the encryption, a second demand for payment is often made because the hackers have stolen the data from the system.

The City of Tulsa was hacked in 2021, but caught it early enough to

shut down their network. Recovery took many months and \$2 million dollars. The Ransomware attack on the City of Baltimore in 2020 originally demanded \$76,000. Baltimore didn't pay the ransom but spent \$18 million dollars to recover. A similar attack on the City of Atlanta in 2018 demanded \$51,000. Atlanta didn't pay the ransom but spent \$2.6 million to recover.



Ransomware attacks in 2021 occurred at an estimated rate of once every 14 seconds according to Cloud Ward. Data Prot predicts that ransomware attacks will occur once every 11 seconds in 2022.

Local Governments are generally easy targets because their information technology is frequently outdated and/or underfunded as the budget dollars are used to fund other priorities.

The National League of Cities Mutual Insurance Company, through their NLC RISC (Risk Information Sharing Consortium), introduced a “Cyber Roadmap” for Municipalities and other local governments.

Municipalities should consider implementation of each step while keeping in mind that five of the six steps are at no cost to your entity. Step six should be discussed with your IT staff, representative or network specialist to determine if you have the appropriate support and protection in place. The steps of the Cyber Road Map that are designed to help you avoid the attack are as follows:

1. Join the MS-ISAC; the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center which is housed within the Center for Internet Security. Membership is free for local government entities.
2. Connect with your CISA State Representative(s); The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency leads the effort to understand, manage and reduce the risk to our cyber and physical infrastructure. There are ten (10) regional offices of the CISA. Our local office (region 3) is headquartered in Philadelphia and can be reached via email at CIS-ARegion3@hq.dhs.gov or by calling 888-282-0870.
3. Complete the Nationwide Cybersecurity Review (NCSR); This is a free assessment sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security and used to gauge the strength of cybersecurity programs. The NCSR will provide metrics to identify gaps and develop a benchmark to gauge your progress. It will also provide resources and services for improvement. Finally, by working with NCSR, it can fulfill the requirement for the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP).
4. Determine the applicable CISA services for your needs available through membership in the CISA including Vulnerability Scanning, Remote Penetration Testing, Cyber Resilience Review, Cyber Infrastructure Survey, Phishing Campaign Assessments and Web Application Scanning.
5. Obtain a .gov web address; Using a .gov web address will improve your collective cybersecurity. Seeing a .gov web address will let people know that they are interacting with an official U.S. based government organization. Using .gov also provides security benefits like two-factor authentication on the .gov registrar and notification of DNS changes to Administrators over other top level domains (TLD). CISA will also endeavor to make the TLD more secure for the American public and harder for malicious actors to impersonate.
6. Implement Third Party Services as necessary; This step is up to you based upon what you garner from the previous steps after determining your needs.

For additional Information, please contact your regional Center for Internet Security, The National Institute of Standards and Technology, The FEMA Homeland Security Grant Program as well as your IT provider. Funding may be available through the State and Local Cyber Improvement Act. □



Is the Department of Labor and Industry Sending your Municipality Money?

BY DEBBIE GROSS, U·COMP PROGRAM CONSULTANT

There are between 7,500 and 8,000 reimbursable employers in the State of Pennsylvania. Reimbursable employers are those employers who pay for their unemployment claims on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Political subdivisions in Pennsylvania which are made up of municipalities, are required to reimburse Labor and Industry for all unemployment claims either on a monthly or quarterly basis. Labor and Industry is auditing and processing credits on these employer accounts, in many cases sending checks out representing these credits. The information below explains how these credits came to be.

There were four pieces of legislation during the pandemic which affected the amount of claim charges that reimbursable employers were to pay to Labor and Industry:

1. Act 9 was signed in April 2020 by the Governor. It provided automatic relief from charges for reimbursable employers for all COVID-related claims provided the employer paid the Solvency Fee for 2020. It also extended the length of time the employer had to pay for these claims. In many cases these employers had to pay 100% of the claim

charges. Act 9's changes were temporary and expired on January 1, 2021.

2. The CARES Act was intended to provide 50% relief for reimbursable employers' COVID-related unemployment claim charges. The employer had to pay 100% of their bill first and then they would receive the 50% credit. The results of this bill exacerbated the financial issues of many of our Commonwealth municipalities.
3. The Protecting Nonprofits from Catastrophic Cash Flow Strain Act, signed in August 2020 was created to ensure that non-profits, state and local governments and federally recognized Tribes that operate as reimbursable employers do not have to bear the financial strain of paying for COVID-related claims in full. Instead, these employers would be required to only pay 50% of claim charges as opposed to paying in full and then receiving a 50% credit.
4. The American Rescue Plan Act was signed in March 2021 and increased the amount

of compensation paid on reimbursable employer COVID unemployment claims to 75%.

The results of the above legislation are far reaching and the time it took to enact it caused "lag time" in our municipalities receiving these credits. The claim processing systems with PA Labor and Industry had to be changed a number of times to accommodate the legislation. As a result of this lag time, large credits on COVID-related claims built up for many municipalities.

Labor and Industry is currently auditing reimbursable employer accounts and issuing checks representing these credits. A check may have already arrived at your office. If you are a member of an unemployment program, such as U·COMP, you will have a representative in your corner interfacing with PA Labor and Industry for these credits.

Please contact Elizabeth Henry or Deb Gross for a non-binding proposal at: ehenry@pml.org or dgross@pml.org or by calling 1-800-922-8063, ext *250. □

Legislative Status Report STATE



PREPARED BY AMY STURGES, LEAGUE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – ADVOCACY – asturges@pml.org
KAITLIN ERRICKSON, GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE – kerrickson@pml.org

All legislation can be found on the General Assembly's website:

legis.state.pa.us

Recently Enacted Legislation

Act 41 of 2022
Senate Bill 477
Signed: July 7, 2022
Effective: September 5, 2022

Act 41 amends Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) consolidating existing processes and providing procedures for municipal boundary changes, as well as clarifying a property's assessed value and improvements.

Two or more abutting municipalities, upon the adoption of an ordinance, may transfer or exchange territory or clarify territorial boundaries. No boundary change may result in

territory not incorporated in any municipal corporation. Within 15 days of enacting such an ordinance, a municipality is required to: assign a distinctive designation to any impacted territory; file the ordinance and plot with the clerk of court and commissioners of each impacted county; and notify the record owner of each impacted property in writing.

Municipalities may enter into agreements regarding cost sharing, division of tax revenues and transfer of indebtedness if the adopted ordinance does not include such compromises. Within 15 days after a boundary change

has taken effect, the municipal governing bodies shall file a final report of the boundary change. All taxes assessed and levied against a property impacted by the boundary change prior to the effective date shall be paid to the municipality which levied the tax, and the collection and enforcement of taxes shall be as though the boundary change had not taken place.

The Act also provides for a process to establish disputed municipal boundaries, and it establishes a referendum process for residents to suspend a boundary change.

In addition to municipal boundary changes, this Act addresses property value assessments and improvements. Painting or normal repairs are not deemed cause for change in valuation by an assessor. Normal repairs include maintaining or updating existing structures or features of the property. Municipalities may provide for electronic building and demolition permits to the County Assessment Office, and the Act creates a noncompliance process for municipal failure to forward permits to the Assessment Office. It also increases the threshold for substantial property improvements from \$2,500 to \$4,000 and establishes an annual increase in the substantial property improvement value based on the Consumer Price Index.

Counties, by ordinance, may require all individuals making substantial improvements to their property to submit an improvement certificate whether or not the improvement requires a permit. An individual who fails to submit an improvement certificate may face a civil penalty of no more than \$100.

Act 42 of 2022
Senate Bill 563
Signed: July 7, 2022
Effective: September 5, 2022

Act 42 amends the Fire and Panic Act requiring family child care facilities licensed by the Department of Human Services to: install a fire alarm on each floor, including the basement; keep a portable fire extinguisher in the kitchen; and follow occupancy requirements. Installed fire alarms must be interconnected through Bluetooth or other hardware allowing for communication between alarms, and the alarms must be audible in all locations within the facility.

A family child care facility is required to implement these changes in no less than 12 months or upon the expiration of their license, whichever date comes later.

Act 57 of 2022
House Bill 430
Signed: July 11, 2022
Effective: October 9, 2022

Act 57 amends the Local Tax Collection Law regarding the waiver of penalties for non-payment.

A taxing district, by ordinance or resolution, shall require its tax collector to waive a penalty charged for non-payment of real estate taxes if the taxpayer provides a waiver request of any charges to the tax collector within one year of purchasing the property, and the taxpayer attests that the tax notice was never received.

The taxpayer seeking a waiver request must provide the tax collector with a copy of one of the following: the deed showing the date of property transfer; or the title of a mobile home or manufactured home subject to taxation; or a copy of an executed lease between the owner of the mobile or manufactured home and the owner of a parcel of land on which the home will be situated. The taxpayer must also pay the remaining real estate tax due when submitting the waiver request.

The Department of Community and Economic Development is responsible for developing and making available a waiver and attestation form. A tax collector that accepts a waiver and payment in good faith shall not be personally liable for any amount due.

Act 58 of 2022
House Bill 581
Signed: July 11, 2022
Effective: September 9, 2022

Act 58 establishes the Affordable Housing Unit Tax Exemption Act authorizing local taxing authorities, through ordinance or resolution, to abate property taxes in order to encourage the development of affordable housing. Eligible low-income taxpayers may be granted a tax-exemption; a 10-year tax exemption may be granted for new construction or improvements to affordable housing units in a designated deteriorated area; and a 2-year exemption may be granted for new construction or improvements to affordable housing units in other areas not designated as deteriorated. The Act provides for a definition of “affordable housing unit.”

Act 67 of 2022
House Bill 1615
Signed: July 11, 2022
Effective: Immediately

Act 67 amends the Liquor Code expanding the use of amplified sound on their property to all licensed entities, including restaurants, bars, hotels and wineries. The sound must not exceed 75 decibels and is limited to the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday. This only applies to licensees in Class 2A to Class 8 Counties.

Municipalities still retain their authority under Section 493.1(b) of the Liquor Code to petition the Liquor Control Board to enforce their own noise ordinances over the Liquor Code in regards to amplified sound.

Lastly, the Act also provides for the sale and distribution of malt and brewed beverages.

→

Act 72 of 2022
House Bill 2097

Signed: July 11, 2022

Effective: September 9, 2022

Act 72 amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) providing for a staffing exception at the time of transport for Basic Life Support ambulances requiring a driver and at least one EMS provider, who is an EMT or higher, to attend to the patient. This Act expires on April 29, 2027.

Act 74 of 2022
House Bill 2157

Signed: July 11, 2022

Effective: September 9, 2022

Act 74 updates the current fireworks law to address the illegal use of consumer fireworks.

The Act moves the current fireworks law from the Tax Code back to Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Statutes where it was housed prior to the 2017 legalization of consumer fireworks. While much of the underlying law remains unchanged, there are updates aimed at curbing the illegal use of consumer fireworks. The Act also includes updates to display fireworks provisions and fireworks sales.

Following are provisions related to consumer fireworks:

- Adds clarifying language to the prohibition of use on public property by enumerating examples of public property. It clarifies that the 150-foot clearance rule is from any structure or vehicle, including a structure or vehicle owned by the firework's user.
- In dense municipalities where the 150-foot clearance rule makes discharging consumer fireworks illegal throughout, the Act contains clear language that a

municipality may adopt an ordinance prohibiting use.

- Authorizes municipalities to require a permit to use consumer fireworks and charge a reasonable fee. The exception to municipal permitting are the holidays of July 4, December 31, Labor Day and Memorial Day holidays and immediately preceding and following weekends.
- Municipalities have the option to restrict the hours of use. This option is limited, however, to the following: no use between the hours of 10 p.m. and 10 a.m. with the exception of July 4 and December 31 when use is allowed until 1 a.m. When July 4 falls mid-week, use is allowed until 1 a.m. on the immediately preceding and following Friday and Saturday.
- Adds a conditional use provision stating no person may use consumer fireworks within 150 feet of an animal housing facility or fenced area for livestock. The owner or manager of the livestock must be given written notice 72 hours in advance of use within 150 to 300 feet of the animal facility.
- Authorizes municipalities to enact limitations on the sale or use of consumer fireworks that do not conflict with the law. Pending solicitor guidance, possible limitations could include regulations through noise and nuisance ordinances.
- Authorizes confiscation of any unused fireworks if being used in violation of the law.
- Requires sellers to conspicuously post or provide

notice to purchasers of the prohibitions on consumer fireworks use including notice that individual municipalities may have additional restrictions.

- Increases the penalty to no more than \$500 for a first offense. For subsequent offenses within three years of a prior conviction, the fine is increased to no more than \$1,000. Consumer fireworks use offenses are summary offences only. There are also increases in fines and penalties for illegal use of display fireworks and illegal sales.
- Finally, the full 12% tax collected on consumer fireworks will be directed annually to public safety as opposed to the \$2 million cap in current law. In fiscal year 2020/2021, revenue was \$14 million. Pending the legislative enactment of various programs and State Fire Commissioner guidelines, the revenue would be distributed as follows:
 - » \$1.5 million for Emergency Medical Service Grants;
 - » \$250,000 for the Online Training Educator and Training Reimbursement Account for delivering, developing and sustaining training programs for both volunteer and career firefighters. This was previously limited to volunteer firefighters only;
 - » \$1 million for PA Higher Education Assistance Agency to provide loan forgiveness and tuition assistance to students or graduates who are active volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel;

- » \$1 million for the Department of Health to train EMS personnel;
- » \$500,000 for the Office of the State Fire Commissioner to provide emergency services training center capital grants;
- » \$500,000 for the Office of the State Fire Commissioner to provide career fire department capital grants;
- » \$250,000 for the Office of the State Fire Commissioner to provide for a public education and safety campaign around the safe use of consumer fireworks;
- » \$500,000 to the Office of the State Fire Commissioner to be used for reimbursement to a Pennsylvania bomb squad for costs associated with removal, storage, and destruction of fireworks; and
- » Any remaining money shall be divided equally, 50% for the Emergency Medical Services Grant Program and 50% for the Fire Company Grant Program.

Act 92 of 2022
Senate Bill 1183
Signed: July 11, 2022
Effective: September 9, 2022

Act 92 amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and Title 75 (Vehicles) prohibiting the operation of an ATV or dirt bike on a highway or its shoulder, a sidewalk or bike lane in any First Class, Second Class, Second Class A or Third Class City in the Commonwealth. The Act lays out an exception for the direct crossing of a highway. An individual in violation of this Act commits a summary offense, with the first offense resulting in a \$50 to \$200 fine or 10 days

imprisonment for failure to pay the fine. All subsequent offenses would result in a \$100 to \$300 fine or 30 days imprisonment for failure to pay the fine. Additionally, the individual's ATV or dirt bike is subject to impoundment pending final disposition of the case and forfeiture if convicted.

Lastly, this Act adds definitions for "dirt bike," "dual sport motorcycle" and "electric pedalcycle.

Vetoed Legislation


Local Preemption Regarding Utility Services
Senate Bill 275
Vetoed: July 11, 2022

Senate Bill 275 (PN 1163), introduced by Senator Gene Yaw, would have amended Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) preempting municipalities regarding utilities and sources of energy.

A municipality would have been prohibited from adopting a policy that: restricts, or has the effect of restricting or prohibiting, the connection or reconnection of a utility service based on the source of energy; the ability of an individual or entity to use an authorized utility provider; or discriminates against a utility service provider based on the nature or source of the service.

The bill would have preserved a municipality's authority to: manage or operate a publicly owned utility; to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from municipal facilities and operations; and to exercise land use authority in accordance with the Municipalities Planning Code.

The Governor vetoed the bill because it would have preempted local government, opened local governments to litigation and unintended consequences and limited the tools available to local governments in regard to energy and climate matters. The League requested a veto from the Governor's office as the bill progressed through the General Assembly.



Pennsylvania Municipal
League

**We have created a
 new ARPA Investment
 Tracking Form and ask
 that you please fill out
 this brief form so we
 can share the great
 ways you are using
 your ARPA dollars with
 all members.**

Thank you!



2022/2023 State Budget Overview

After being delayed for a week, the General Assembly passed the state budget with little public discussion or debate. The House passed the measure 180-20 on July 7; and the Senate agreed to the House budget the following day 47-3. The Governor signed the budget bill and its corresponding legislation on July 8.

In negotiating this year's budget, the Administration and General Assembly had a multibillion dollar surplus to work with including \$2.16 billion in unspent ARPA funds. The 2022/23 spending plan is a 3% increase over last year and comes in at \$42.8 billion. In addition to ARPA allocations, there are funding increases across most, if not all, state agencies, as well as \$2 billion for the state's rainy day fund. There are also unspent funds totaling \$3.6 billion.

Following are some highlights of interest to local government.

Basic education received \$750 million, an 11.4% increase, with \$525 million distributed through the fair funding formula and an additional \$225 million distributed to the 100 lowest-spending districts. Districts are also receiving over \$200,000 each for mental health grants and physical safety grants. Early childhood education, public libraries and career and technical education also received increases. The State System of Higher Education received a \$200 million increase, as did the state's higher education grant programs.

The PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency received ARPA funds for several programs: \$135 million for Local Law Enforcement

Support grants; \$50 million for Gun Violence Investigation and Prosecution grants; and \$75 million for Violence Intervention and Prevention grants. Additionally, community violence reduction programs received \$30 million.

Under Community and Economic Development, ARPA funds are providing the Commonwealth Financing Agency with \$320 million for water and sewer projects under the existing H2O PA Program and the PA Small Water and Sewer Program. A new program called Whole Home Repairs will receive \$125 million in ARPA funds for a comprehensive approach to updating current housing stock making available grants for homeowners and loans for small landlords. The Keystone Communities Program will receive a nearly 25% increase for a total of \$36.9 billion. Of that, \$6.37 million supports the Main Street, Elm Street and Enterprise Zone and accessible housing programs.

Under Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources, \$100 million in ARPA funds are supporting the State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Program, as well as a \$220 million infusion into the Clean Streams Fund.

Under the Motor License Fund, there is a \$25 million increase in local road maintenance and construction payments. And, a \$5 million increase in municipal traffic signalization grants with no matching fund requirement. There is also a continued reduction in funds taken from the Motor License Fund to pay for the State Police.

A new provision in the Tax Code updates and stabilizes the Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) revenue, a portion of which is transferred to the Fire Insurance Tax Fund and the Municipal Pension State Aid Fund annually. Beginning with the 2022/23 fiscal year, The Fire Insurance Tax Fund will receive the greater of \$85 million or 8.5% of the IPT. The Municipal Pension State Aid Fund will receive the greater of \$345 million or 38% of the IPT revenue. This change locks in a minimum amount of annual funding and allows for growth through the percentages, and the distribution of these funds to municipalities does not change.

Finally, ARPA funds are being used for a \$140 million supplement for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. Recipients will receive an additional payment at 70% of their 2021 payment. There is a rate reduction of the Corporate Net Income Tax from the current 9.9% down to 4.9% by 2031. Lastly, the budget includes a new tax child care tax credit equal to 30% of the federal child care tax credit.

For more details on the state budget, please visit: houseappropriations.com

Legislation of Interest

Local Government Continuity and Remote Meetings During Emergencies

House Bill 2253 (PN 3053), introduced by Representative Jerry Knowles, would amend Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) revising local emergency powers under Chapter 11 concerning temporary seats of government, remote meetings and succession of officers.

Current law only allows municipalities to designate a temporary meeting location and implement emergency succession of officers if under “enemy attack.” House Bill 2253 would expand this response by defining “emergency” as a disaster emergency declared by the Governor or municipality that directly impacts a municipality's ability to provide services or hold a regular or special meeting of the governing body. Therefore, local governments would be permitted to hold public meetings at temporary locations during emergencies declared by the Governor or local government.

Additionally, the bill would authorize a local governing body to meet remotely via an authorized telecommunications device during a declared emergency that has rendered the physical presence of officials unsafe, hazardous or impossible. An authorized telecommunications device is defined as any device which permits, at a minimum, audio communication between individuals.

In order to meet remotely, a municipality would be required to

provide 24 hours of advance notice by posting an advertisement on their municipal website and/or in a newspaper of general circulation while following other Sunshine Law requirements to the greatest extent practicable and allowing remote public participation to the extent possible. Under the bill, a local governing body may not meet remotely for more than 21 consecutive days unless it adopts a resolution establishing the need to continue remote meetings in order to comply with an emergency declaration by the Governor and as extended by the General Assembly.

During a declared emergency, a municipal officer may appoint an emergency successor to carry out the duties of the office. The emergency successor may carry out such duties until the officer, or authorized deputy, is available; the vacancy is filled; or the emergency declaration expires or is rescinded.

Except in cases where it is unsafe or hazardous to human health, a municipality would be required to post information at the regular location where the governing body meets regarding how to access the meeting's alternative location or how to access the meeting remotely.

Location: Passed House; Senate Local Government Committee, June 1, 2022

Meeting Broadcasts and Remote Public Comments

Senate Bill 1130 (PN 1827), introduced by Senator Cris Dush, would amend The Sunshine Act creating rules for political subdivisions and authorities

should they choose to provide online broadcasts of meetings and remote public comment.

Under the bill, a political subdivision or authority may adopt rules governing the broadcast of meetings. The term “broadcast” as defined would not include a recording of a meeting, but rather the transmission of a meeting via radio, television, telecommunications, Internet or other electronic means. A website, mobile application or social media platform may be used to broadcast a meeting. The bill would exclude executive session from broadcast. If the meeting recording is made available for later viewing, the recording's web address must be entered into the meeting minutes. A posted recording shall not omit or mute any portion of the broadcast unless it is essential to exclude speech not protected by the First Amendment or if the governing board would be exposed to legal liability if the speech were not excluded. All omitted speech must be explained in the meeting minutes. An unedited version of the video must be maintained for at least one year.

The bill would also authorize the adoption of local rules permitting the acceptance of remote public comment. If accepting remote public comments, they must be through an authorized telecommunications device which is defined as a device that permits, at a minimum, audio communication between individuals. Nothing in this bill would authorize a municipality or authority to exclude public

→

participation at a meeting's physical location or require the acceptance of remote comment.

Political subdivisions and authorities accepting remote public comment may create a contingency plan to ensure the public can still participate over speaker phone if there is a technical issue impacting the device's operation. If remote public comment becomes impossible, official action must be postponed until the next meeting.

Lastly, if a political subdivision or authority intends to offer a broadcast of its meetings and/or provide for remote public comment, it must include information regarding the broadcast and phone number for the public to provide remote comments on any public notices and meeting agendas.

Location: First Consideration in the Senate, June 28, 2022

Electric Low-Speed Scooters Pilot Program

Senate Bill 892 (PN 1765), introduced by Senator Daniel Laughlin, would create an electric low-speed scooter pilot program while preserving local authority and ability to regulate.

A Second A or Third Class City may authorize an electric low-speed scooter program through an ordinance, which may include, but would not be limited to, approved and restricted scooter deployment and parking locations, data sharing and reporting requirements and means to educate the public.

Each local government with a pilot program would be required to prepare an interim report, in coordination with PennDOT, evaluating the pilot program. Additionally, a report detailing the number of rides, accidents, frequency of use, economic impacts and any ordinances

adopted must be provided to the chairs of the Senate and House Transportation Committees 60 days prior to the expiration of the pilot program.

Commercial electric scooter companies would be required to obtain commercial general liability insurance coverage with a limit of at least \$2,000,000 each occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate, as well as automobile insurance coverage with a limit of at least \$1,000,000 each occurrence and \$1,000,000 aggregate. The scooter company would be required to provide proof of this insurance to the local government, or a local government may impose a fine of no more than \$1,000 a day until proof of insurance is provided.

Lastly, this bill would grant users of electric low-speed scooters all of the rights of a bicycle user, and law enforcement officers would be able to regulate the use of electric low-speed scooters consistent with the regulation of bicycles under the current law. The bill would further set safety standards, including age use and speed restrictions, as well as providing PennDOT with the authority to restrict access to certain state roadways for safety reasons.

Location: Passed Senate; House Transportation Committee, June 24, 2022

Pension Credit for Prior Law Enforcement Service

Senate Bill 669 (PN 1674), introduced by Senator Mike Regan, would amend Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) requiring municipalities to provide full-time vested police officers the option to purchase up to five years of their previous part-time or full-time employment for pension benefit purposes. This bill would not apply to Cities of the First Class.

The bill would provide for the calculation to determine the purchased pension benefit amount. Lastly, a police officer would be ineligible to receive this benefit if the officer receives or is entitled to receive a pension benefit from another fund, or if the officer's military service credits when combined with past police service credits exceeds five years.

Location: Passed Senate; House Local Government Committee, June 16, 2022

Municipal Recreation Programs

House Bill 1155 (PN 3020), introduced by Representative Barry Jozwiak, would amend the Human Services Code clarifying that the term "child care center" does not include a municipal recreation program that is operated under an ordinance or resolution complying with the health and safety standards of the PA Recreation and Park Society Protocol for Public Preschool Recreation Programs.

Location: Passed House; Senate Aging and Youth Committee, June 7, 2022



Legislative Locator

Be sure to read the electronic Legislative Locator for monthly updates on legislation.

Capitol Conference and Radar Rally

The League hosted members at our annual Legislative Capitol Conference held in Harrisburg, June 8-9.

The packed Conference agenda welcomed experts to present on several pertinent legislative issues arising from the 2021/2022 legislative session. Sessions included presentations on local guidance for the deployment of autonomous vehicles through Senate Bill 965 and House Bill 2398; national and state trends of legislation preempting local government; what role local governments play in broadband deployment according to Act 96 of 2021; and how the pandemic has impacted downtowns throughout the Commonwealth.

Throughout the Conference, attendees engaged in meaningful dialogue and discussion with the speakers and their peers about the issues impacting local governments. In addition to the speaker program, Conference attendees joined the PA Radar Coalition for a Local Use of Radar Rally at the Capitol on the morning of June 9th.

Mayor Danene Sorace, City of Lancaster and League President, and John Jablowski, Councilmember, Wilkes-Barre Township and PSATC Second Vice President, spoke during the rally urging the PA House of Representatives to pass House Bill 606 authorizing local use of radar. Many League and PSATC members were also in attendance. Additionally, there was a substantial law enforcement presence, including the State Police, in support of bringing the bill to the House Floor for a final vote before summer recess. View highlights from the rally [here](#).

The Conference closed with keynote speaker Dr. Terry Madonna providing an analysis of the 2022 primary and detailing how the anticipated November election may impact local governments in the short and long-term.



[View Capitol Conference Photos](#)

[View Radar Rally Photos](#)



Legislative Status Report FEDERAL



Welcome Refugees & Immigrant Cultures in Public Spaces & Parks

BY ABYGAIL C. MANGAR, PROGRAM MANAGER, NLC'S CENTER FOR CITY SOLUTIONS
VERA FEENY, SENIOR PROGRAM SPECIALIST, CHILDREN AND NATURE, IYEF

As cities across the country have seen shifts in demographics for a wider spectrum of cultures and backgrounds, local leaders must ensure public spaces and programs are reflective of residents' cultures. Local leaders are also encouraged to pursue strategic efforts to not only create inclusive programs but also ensure public spaces act as safe spaces to enjoy freely without fear of threat or harassment.

Anti-immigrant and refugee sentiments have visibly intensified over the past 10 years. This has included push back in response to the US accepting asylum-seekers from the Middle East, increases in anti-Asian hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic and derogative attitudes toward Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) generally. These growing attitudes come with a rise in hate crimes and harassment. In 2020 alone, the U.S. Department of Justice reported [more than](#) 15,000 reported hate crimes. This level of crime and harassment has also heightened immigrants' fear when in the public realm reducing their likelihood to engage in public spaces, amenities and programs or feeling welcome to enjoy them.

City leaders across the country are already taking action in their communities.

Public Space Design with Somali and Hmong Residents (Saint Paul, MN)

The State of Minnesota reported [the highest number of refugees per capita in the U.S. in 2018](#). The state, including the City of Saint Paul, continues to welcome many refugees, with about 20 percent of Saint Paul residents identifying as immigrants. In 2016, Saint Paul joined the [Cities Connecting Children to Nature Initiative](#), a partnership between the National League of Cities and the Children and Nature Network. Saint Paul is recognized as having one of the most connected people-to-park cities in the country, with [99 percent of residents living within half a mile of a park](#).

Despite this exceptional achievement, research has found racial disparities in park usage. Follow-up studies with communities discovered that people of color preferred to enjoy park and nature amenities as families, so the city launched ["Nature Smart Libraries,"](#) a hub for nature learning and exploration for families, youth and



adults that includes nature-based programs, access to natural features and nature backpack lending for outdoor exploration. The City, YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities and the National Park Service ensured Hmong, Latino, Black and teen community liaisons were a part of the planning team that developed goals and strategies to better promote connection. The efforts led the team to learn that Somali residents have connections to animal husbandry from their cultural traditions. Hmong residents expressed the importance of agriculture and vegetable gardening, allowing for both to be integrated into park and nature programming.

Ensuring Community Engagement in Multiple Languages (San Francisco, CA)

The City of San Francisco, understanding that children having opportunities to connect with nature was a fundamental right, adopted a [Childrens' Outdoor Bill of Rights \(COBOR\)](#) in 2014. A COBOR is a list of specific outdoor experiences that every child deserves. Knowing their city hosts a plethora of residents of various backgrounds, the City of San Francisco developed multi-language paper and online surveys in English, Spanish and Chinese for input from residents and partners to decide which nature-based experiences to prioritize for a San Francisco COBOR. The city narrowed down the list to 100 rights drafted originally from the public. [The final San Francisco COBOR can be found here.](#)

Formed in 2017, the [San Francisco Children & Nature Collaborative](#) is comprised of more than 30 government agencies, non-profit institutions, and community-based

trails for Spanish and English-speaking families with infants, toddlers, and young children through direct service, policy, and infrastructure change. Launched by the City of Prescott, Yavapai County Community Health Services, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Agency-Yavapai, it is now composed of over 19 community partners from First Things First, Arizona's early childhood agency, to Arizona Children's Association, to environmental non-profits, and more.

A core aspect of [Nature Niños Prescott](#) is the free, bilingual, Spanish and English community programs for families with children ages 0-8 in the Greater Prescott Arizona Area. City Park Rangers and community partners with a strong understanding of child development lead child-centered outdoor programs and family education activities at a different family-friendly trail each month. Every Nature Niños event includes take-home freebies, developmentally appropriate nature activities, story times, site-specific scavenger hunts, lessons Leave No Trace, and healthy trail snacks.

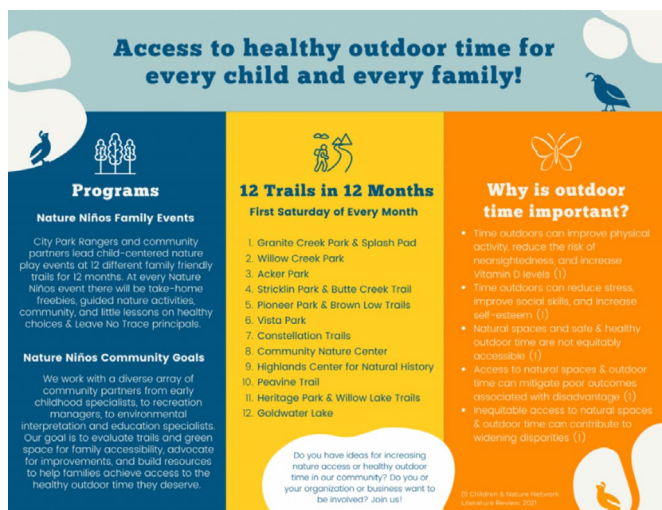


Photo Credit: City of Prescott and the U of A Cooperative Extension Yavapai



organizations and establishes a joint vision for advancing equitable access to nature for children. The collaborative and organizations work to ensure that children have opportunities to the rights laid out in the San Francisco COBOR.

Normalizing Multi-Language Programming & Marketing (Prescott, AZ)

[Nature Niños Prescott](#) is a bilingual intergovernmental initiative to improve equitable access to parks and

The City's website on [Nature Niños](#) is also the first bilingual website the City has published. The City hopes this is the beginning of more linguistic accessibility across all municipal departments.

For more information about [connecting children with nature and park programming](#), contact the Cities Connecting Children to Nature Team at ccnteam@nlc.org.

Photo credit: María Durana, SF Children & Nature

Public Finance

A Good Time to Connect

A brief walk-through of PLGIT's new client account portal

BY MATT CONLIN, PLGIT SENIOR MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE

As of June 1, 2022, among PLGIT's 3,100 participants, over 5,000 individuals had online access through PLGIT's Easy Online Network (EON), and the efficiency, organization and security that came with it. Knowing that there are always ways to make a good thing better, especially in the rapidly changing area of online applications and technology, PLGIT and PFM Asset Management LLC (PFMAM), PLGIT's investment advisor and administrator, set out to improve this online resource. To that end, we are pleased to introduce **Connect**, our new web-based client account interface.

The new portal, which launched in May 2022, combines all the tools from EON that made working with your municipality's PLGIT accounts more efficient, plus a number of upgrades, added functions, and design improvements. Connect incorporates user input from local government managers throughout the design and testing process. In

this article, we will offer a brief summary of this important online resource – including what has changed and what has stayed the same.

Why The Update?

EON has served local governments well for nearly 20 years, but as with any web-based tool, there are ways to improve design and functionality, plus adapt and incorporate different tools into online applications based on how people use them. PLGIT and PFMAM decided that it was time to take the best features of EON and develop an upgraded application.

What's New?

Updated Account Dashboard

Connect users will instantly notice the new graphic design and organizational elements throughout the portal. Users can see balances, recent activity, and metrics of all active accounts in

one screen, all with a more user-friendly and intuitive portal.

Interactive Graphics

New graphs and charts give users an easy to understand visual representation of their PLGIT relationship and investment allocation and provide instant access to portfolio holdings and composition over time.

Current Yields at Your Fingertips

Daily liquid fund rates (PLGIT-Class, PLGIT/Reserve-Class and PLGIT/PRIME) and fixed fund rates (PLGIT/TERM) are available as part of a user's account access. In the older online interface, liquid rates were only available through PLGIT.com, (which made it necessary for users to exit their account access) and fixed rates were not accessible without contacting a PLGIT representative.

More Data

Users have quick access to key data points such as Pending Activity, Recent Activity, and

much more. This historical account activity can be filtered by transaction type, investment type, account and/or date. A new search feature allows users to search for specific activity with ease.

Transaction Module

Connect gives users the same ability to transact that they had in EON, but does so using a new module that has fewer menu items, and guides users through the transaction process in a logical manner. *Connect's* transaction module is where users transfer funds between their accounts and share classes and initiate transactions (by ACH and wire) to and from other financial institutions.

What's The Same?

Connect users will notice these familiar, dependable features from EON:

Detailed reporting capabilities and functionality:

Connect users can still access monthly statements and daily confirmations, send and receive documents, and more. The difference? Documents are available in a new streamlined 'Statements & Documents' section.

View account activity and initiate transactions

Users can query and download historical account activity and the ability to initiate wire and ACH transactions and internal transfers remains intact.

Streamlined acceptance of funds

Connect users can easily accept receipts of grant money, subsidies, or liquid fuels funds.

Security features

Existing security measures remain unchanged, including Multi-factor Authentication (MFA), the Notification Center, and the Check Verification Process (Reverse Positive Pay).

Even your access information has stayed the same: to log in to *Connect*, simply go to the PLGIT website and click on the "Sign In" button on the Home page. Use your former EON login and password to enter.

We encourage you to log in to *Connect* and take a look around. As pleased as we are with this new client interface, and as certain as we are that local government employees will begin to use and like *Connect*, PFMAM and PLGIT will continue to look for ways to evolve and develop it in newer versions.

If you have questions about *Connect* or any of its features, call your PLGIT representative.

Matt Conlin is a Senior Marketing Representative with PLGIT, working with investors in the central and western regions of the Commonwealth. He can be reached at conlinm@pfmam.com.



This information is for institutional investor use only, not for further distribution to retail investors, and does not represent an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any fund or other security. Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in any of the Trust's portfolios. This and other information about the Trust's portfolios is available in the current Information Statement, which should be read carefully before investing. A copy of the Information Statement may be obtained by calling 1-800-572-1472 or is available on the Trust's website at www.plgit.com. While the PLGIT and PLGIT/PRIME portfolios seek to maintain a stable net asset value of \$1.00 per share and the PLGIT/TERM portfolio seeks to achieve a net asset value of \$1.00 per share at its stated maturity, it is possible to lose money investing in the Trust. An investment in the Trust is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. Shares of the Trust's portfolios are distributed by **PFM Fund Distributors, Inc.**, member Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) (www.finra.org) and Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) (www.sipc.org). PFM Fund Distributors, Inc. is an affiliate of PFM Asset Management LLC.

*The Pennsylvania Powercard Program (the "Program") offers a Procurement Card (a "P-Card"), issued by Harris Bank, N.A., and marketed by PFM Financial Services LLC. PLGIT is a Program sponsor and the Program is marketed to PLGIT Investors. PLGIT receives no compensation for its sponsorship and the Trust is indemnified against any liabilities or costs relating to the Program.

LEGAL NOTES

Supreme Court for Local Governments 2021-22

BY LISA SORONEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
STATE AND LOCAL LEGAL CENTER



*Indicates a case where the SLLC has or will file an *amicus* brief.

The U.S. Supreme Court's 2021-22 docket, which included abortion and guns, was historic. These most significant cases of the term impact local governments but will likely have a greater impact on states and ordinary Americans. This article summarizes four local government cases all of which will impact the day-to-day operations of local governments. All, remarkably, involve the First Amendment.

In [*Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*](#),* the U.S. Supreme Court held 6-3 that the First Amendment protects an assistant football coach who “knelt at midfield after games to offer a quiet

prayer of thanks.” The Supreme Court also overruled *Lemon v. Kurtzman* (1971).

Public school coach Joseph Kennedy had a long history of praying alone and with students at midfield after football games and praying with students in the locker room pregame and post-game. When directed to, Kennedy stopped the latter practice. But he told the district he felt “compelled” to continue offering a “post-game personal prayer” midfield. The district placed Kennedy on leave for praying on the field after three particular games.

Justice Gorsuch, writing for the Court, concluded Kennedy was able to make the initial showing that the school district violated his free exercise of religion and

free speech rights by not allowing him pray on the field after games.

Regarding Kennedy's Free Exercise Clause claim, the Court concluded the school district burdened his sincere religious practice pursuant to a policy that is neither “neutral” nor “generally applicable.” The district's actions weren't neutral because “[b]y its own admission, the District sought to restrict Mr. Kennedy's actions at least in part because of their religious character.” The district's actions weren't “generally applicable” either the Court concluded. While the district stated it refused to rehire Kennedy because he “failed to supervise student-athletes after games,” the district “permitted other members of the

coaching staff to forgo supervising students briefly after the game to do things like visit with friends or take personal phone calls.”

Regarding Kennedy’s Free Speech Clause claim, the Court first had to decide whether Kennedy was speaking as a government employee (who isn’t protected by the First Amendment) or as a citizen (who receives some First Amendment protection). The Court determined Kennedy was acting as a citizen. “When Mr. Kennedy uttered the three prayers that resulted in his suspension, he was not engaged in speech ‘ordinarily within the scope’ of his duties as a coach.” “He was not instructing players, discussing strategy, encouraging better on-field performance, or engaged in any other speech the District paid him to produce as a coach.”

The district explained it suspended Kennedy because it was concerned a “reasonable observer” would conclude it was endorsing religion by allowing him to pray on the field after games. In response the Court overturned the so-called *Lemon* test.

Lemon “called for an examination of a law’s purposes, effects, and potential for entanglement with religion. In time, the approach also came to involve estimations about whether a ‘reasonable observer’ would consider the government’s challenged action an ‘endorsement’ of religion.” In its place the Court stated it has adopted a view of the Establishment Clause that “accor[ds] with history and faithfully reflec[ts]

the understanding of the Founding Fathers.”

The Court also found insufficient evidence students were coerced to pray.

In *City of Austin, Texas v. Reagan National Advertising*,* the Court held 6-3 that strict (fatal) scrutiny doesn’t apply to Austin allowing on-premises but not off-premises signs to be digitized.

Austin’s sign code prohibits any new off-premises signs but has grandfathered such existing signs. On-premises signs, but not off-premises signs, may be digitized.

Reagan National Advertising argued that this distinction violates the First Amendment’s Free Speech Clause. Per *Reed v. Town of Gilbert* (2015), a regulation of speech is content based, meaning strict scrutiny applies, if the regulation “applies to particular speech because of the topic discussed or the idea or message expressed.”

According to the Fifth Circuit because the City’s on-/off premises distinction required a reader to determine “who is the speaker and what is the speaker saying,” the distinction was content based. According to the U.S. Supreme Court the lower court’s interpretation of *Reed* was “too extreme.”

In *Reed*, the Town of Gilbert’s sign code “applied distinct size, placement, and time restrictions to 23 different categories of signs.” For example, ideological signs were treated better than political signs and temporary directional signs were most re-

stricted. The Court reasoned these categories were content based because Gilbert “single[d] out specific subject matter for differential treatment, even if it [did] not target viewpoints within that subject matter.”

Justice Sotomayor, writing for the Court, opined: “Unlike the sign code at issue in *Reed* . . . the City’s provisions at issue here do not single out any topic or subject matter for differential treatment.” “A given sign is treated differently based solely on whether it is located on the same premises as the thing being discussed or not. The message on the sign matters only to the extent that it informs the sign’s relative location.”

In *Shurtleff v. City of Boston*,* the Court held unanimously that Boston’s refusal to fly a Christian flag on a flagpole outside city hall violated the First Amendment.

On the plaza, near Boston City Hall entrance, stands three 83-foot flagpoles. Boston flies the American flag on one (along with a banner honoring prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action) and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts flag on the other. On the third it usually flies Boston’s flag.

Since 2005 Boston has allowed third parties to fly flags during events held in the plaza. Most flags are of other countries, marking the national holidays of Bostonians’ many countries of origin. Third-party flags have also been flown for Pride Week, emergency medical service workers, and a community bank.

→

When Camp Constitution asked to fly a Christian flag Boston refused, for the first time ever, citing Establishment Clause concerns. The flag has a red cross on a blue field against a white background.

Camp Constitution sued arguing that Boston opens its flagpole for citizens to express their views in which case it can't refuse to fly Camp Constitution's flag based on its (religious) viewpoint. Boston argued it "reserved the pole to fly flags that communicate governmental messages" and was "free to choose the flags it flies without the constraints of the First Amendment's Free Speech Clause."

The Supreme Court held that Boston's flag-raising program doesn't constitute government speech, meaning the First Amendment applies and it couldn't reject Camp Constitution's flag based on its viewpoint.

Justice Breyer, writing for the majority, conducting a "holistic inquiry" which considered "the history of the expression at issue; the public's likely perception as to who (the government or a private person) is speaking; and the extent to which the government has actively shaped or controlled the expression."

According to the Court, the "general history" of flying flags "particularly at the seat of government" favors Boston. But "even if the public would ordinarily associate a flag's message with Boston, that is not necessarily true for the flags at issue here" where "Boston allowed its flag to

be lowered and other flags to be raised with some regularity."

While neither of these two factors resolved the case, Boston's record of not "actively control[ing] these flag raisings and shap[ing] the messages the flags sent" was "the most salient feature of this case." Boston had "no written policies or clear internal guidance—about what flags groups could fly and what those flags would communicate."

In a unanimous opinion in [*Houston Community College v. Wilson*](#), the Court held that when a government board censures a member it doesn't violate the First Amendment.

As Justice Gorsuch describes David Wilson's tenure on the Houston Community College board was "stormy." He accused the board of violating its bylaws and ethics rules in the media, he hired a private investigator to determine whether another board member lived in the district which elected her, and he repeatedly sued the board.

The board censured him stating his conduct was "not consistent with the best interests of the College" and "not only inappropriate, but reprehensible."

The Court held that *Wilson* has no actionable First Amendment free speech claim arising from the Board's purely verbal censure. It noted that "elected bodies in this country have long exercised the power to censure their members. In fact, no one before us has cited any evidence suggesting that a purely verbal censure

analogous to Mr. Wilson's has ever been widely considered offensive to the First Amendment."

Conclusion

The most significant doctrinal change from any of these cases is the overruling of *Lemon*. Every time a local government faces an issue involving Establishment Clause concerns it now has to apply the Court's new historical test. The Court has offered little guidance as to how this test is to be applied and no guidance as to the status of all the precedent which relied in whole or in part on *Lemon*. □



Proactive *beats* reactive.

Taking steps to prevent labor and employment issues is a far better strategy than trying to mitigate them after the fact. We partner with municipalities in every corner of the Commonwealth, helping them address potential risks and create work environments where people and public service can thrive. We'd like to do the same for you.

CD **CAMPBELL DURRANT, P.C.**
PUBLIC SECTOR, LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

- Collective Bargaining & Interest Arbitration
- Personnel Counseling & Training
- Grievance Arbitration
- Labor Contract Administration
- Retirement Benefits
- EEO, PHRC & Civil Rights Litigation
- Civil Service, Police Tenure Act
- Local Agency Law Proceedings
- Appellate Representation

Pittsburgh

535 Smithfield Street, Suite 700
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 395-1280

Philadelphia

One Belmont Avenue, Suite 300
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
(610) 227-2591

cdblaw.com

PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL HEALTH INSURANCE COOPERATIVE

PMHIC

Using the Power of Group Purchasing to Lower Your Health Benefit Costs

To learn more about PMHIC, please contact:
The Benecon Group
888.400.4647 | PMHIC@benecon.com | www.PMHIC.com

Professional DIRECTORY



AT&T Inc.
351 Stanley Drive
Palmyra, PA 17078

David Kerr
Vice President
External Affairs-Pennsylvania

T: 717.269.5872
dkerr@att.com



Proud Sponsor of the
U.S. Olympic Team



**Cornerstone Wealth Advisory
& Insurance Services, LLC**

3910 Caughey Rd.
Suite 220
Erie, PA 16506
Phone: 814-315-2000

Patrick Geary
pgeary@cornerstonewais.com



**DELAWARE
VALLEY
TRUSTS**
Managed Risk. Collective Rewards.

719 Dresher Road
Horsham, PA 19044
Phone: 215-706-0101

Carol Bigham
cbigham@dvtrusts.com



**Government
Finance
Solutions**
A DIVISION OF DAWOOD

**Government Finance
Solutions – Dawood**
4250 Crums Mill Road
Suite 301
Harrisburg, PA 17112
(717) 732-8596

Tracey Rash
Manager
trash@gfsdawood.com

www.dawood.net

Proactive *beats* reactive.

Taking steps to prevent labor and employment issues is a far better strategy than trying to mitigate them after the fact. We partner with municipalities in every corner of the Commonwealth, helping them address potential risks and create work environments where people and public service can thrive. We'd like to do the same for you.



CAMPBELL DURRANT, P.C.
PUBLIC SECTOR, LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

Pittsburgh (412) 395-1280 | **Philadelphia** (610) 227-2591 | cdblaw.com

Jennifer Frees
Senior Manager
Government & External Affairs



Comcast Cable
400 Riverfront Drive
Reading, PA 19602
jennifer_frees@comcast.com
610-401-6482

**Proudly supporting the
Pennsylvania Municipal League**



HIGHMARK

HIGHMARKBLUESHIELD.COM

Highmark Blue Shield is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.



Constellation
An Exelon Company

Brian S. Weatherford
Vice President

100 Constellation Way
Suite 1200C
Baltimore, MD 21202-6302

410 470 1852 Office
443 213 3563 Fax
443 695 4302 Mobile
www.constellation.com

brian.s.weatherford@constellation.com

**NLC Service Line
Warranty Program**
by
HomeServe

Ashley Shiwarski
Director, Regional Water

724.749.1097
412.874.9454
ashley.shiwarski@homeserveusa.com

www.NLC.org/serviceline
4000 Town Center Blvd, Ste 400, Canonsburg, PA 15317

Professional DIRECTORY

Jennifer CruverKibi, CPA

Partner

Maier Duessel

1800 Linglestown Road Suite
306
Harrisburg, PA 17110
jcruverkibi@md-cpas.com
717-232-1230 x204

MaierDuessel



Fred Bean

VP, Program Management
888-400-4647
fbean@benecon.com
201 E. Oregon Road
Suite 100 | Lititz, PA 17543



**Municipal Benefits
Services**

Steve Solman
steve.solman@mbgbenefits.com

One Gateway Center
Suite 1475
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Phone: 412-394-9332

PORTER & CURTIS
www.portercurtis.com

Kenneth F. Porter, ARM

PORTER & CURTIS, LLC

225 State Road
Media, PA 19063-1537

Email: kporter@portercurtis.com

Direct: 610.891.9856
Fax: 610.891.6936
Home: 610.891.9912

Elizabeth Henry
Trust Member Services Manager



PennPRIME
INSURANCE TRUSTS | A Service Program of The League

ehenry@pml.org
800-848-2040 (In-State)
o 717-236-9469, ext. *250
c 717-576-3517
f 717-231-9296



U-COMP
Unemployment Compensation Trust

414 North Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

PennPRIME.com
PML.org

**SAUL EWING
ARNSTEIN
& LEHR^{LLP}**

William W. Warren, Jr.
Partner

2 North Second Street, 7th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1619

717-238-7698 • fax 717-257-7584
wwarren@saul.com

pfm asset
management

**PFM Asset
Management LLC**

John W. Molloy, CFA
Managing Director
molloyj@pfmam.com

213 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2141
(717) 231-6248

pfmam.com

Frank P. Buzydlowski, Esq.

Director
State Government Affairs

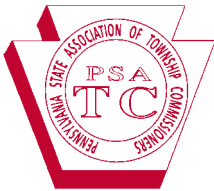
Verizon
210 Pine Street
7th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
f.p.buzydlowski@verizon.com
O 717.777.5858

verizon ✓

PSATC President's Message



[SAM VALENZA](#)
[COMMISSIONER](#)
[UPPER MORELAND](#)
[TOWNSHIP](#)



[**PML.org/PSATC**](http://PML.org/PSATC)

My fellow friends, colleagues and elected officials,

As I undertake my final message, I just wanted to thank everyone for their dedication and support for local government. Local Government has many purposes such as public health and safety, finance, administrative, community development and maintaining our township roads and park systems. Local government and its officials are the backbone of this organization and the embodiment of what it represents.

Commissioners spend countless hours doing what they think is needed to strengthen and support their townships. They take great pride and dedication to do what they feel is best for their constituents and their communities. Most of all they really enjoy what they do and they do it with passion.

This year we find our municipalities facing financial and employment issues. Retention and recruitment for basic township services has been difficult to manage. This year, inflation and labor costs have made it even harder to try to balance our budgets which can and will cause additional problems for balancing next year's budget.

In 2022, we have seen this organization begin to get back to normal by conducting all of our meetings (in-person) and our first in-person Lobby Day since 2019. The key topics and concerns were the Local Use of Radar, Consumer Fireworks, Municipal Pension Reform and making a central location for municipal government to post Public Notices in a more efficient, affordable and cost effective manner.

Leadership is the ability of an individual or a group of individuals to influence and guide followers or other members of an organization. (*Google*). I strongly believe that this organization is very special. We all work together as ONE unit for the benefit of all of our Townships across the state regardless of political affiliation. These leaders, all work towards one common goal. We all do what needs to be done for the benefit of our residents and our communities.

I hope all of our fellow commissioners will join us in person for our joint PML/PSATC Municipal Leadership Summit, on Thursday, October 6 through Sunday, October 9 at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC) this year as your President. I want to thank everyone involved for their help and support in making this a successful year for our organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Valenza'.

Sam Valenza

PSATC Lobby Day

On April 25, the PSATC Executive Committee held its first lobby day at the Capitol Complex in two years due to the pandemic. Leaders of PSATC met with House and Senate members and committee staff to discuss the association's legislative priorities, with specific emphasis on local use of radar, consumer fireworks and legal notices modernization.

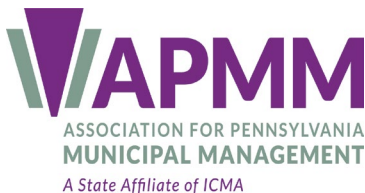
Following a successful and busy day in the Capitol building, PSATC hosted a well attended reception for the General Assembly.



APMM President's Message



GREGORY A. PRIMM
MANAGER
ALLEGHENY TOWNSHIP



APMM.net

Greetings from Western PA!

It is truly my honor to be serving this year as the President for APMM. As we emerge in a post-COVID world where for two years we didn't have "in-person" training and Zoom meetings emerged as our No. 1 means to communicate and interact as professional managers, we learned a great deal about managing in crisis and we proved yet again what we have all known about ourselves: "Municipal Managers take problems head on and we solve them." This was particularly hard during COVID as here was a situation that none of us had ever dealt with before. There was no calling a colleague and asking hey how did you handle this when this happened to your community. No ladies and gentlemen, we were flying blind and leading like we always do and this time into the face of the unknown. We have always known we were essential but this time essential had a dual meaning, not only do we need to steer our ships but we also had to provide a continuity of services to our residents that addressed ensuring the safety of our employees who were asked to carry out those services. Congratulations to all of you. I have heard so many war stories from those two years and every one I hear makes me prouder and prouder to be walking alongside some of the very best municipal managers I will ever have the privilege to know and they are Pennsylvania's finest public servants.

Another concern that surfaced for many of us during that time was sometimes the overwhelming pressures we felt in doing our jobs. For the first time, we were making decisions that literally could have meant life and death. We were in a new reality and the realization hit home that our mental health is something that we don't pay attention to nearly as much as we should. So my friends and colleagues, let me use this platform to remind you that you need to take care of "YOU" and remind yourself that "YOU" matter and people depend on you to be at your best which means taking care of yourself when things seem overwhelming and impossible. Remember to stop and take a couple of days off if you need to, talk to colleagues, talk to clergy, a counselor, whatever you need to take care of yourself needs to be a priority. Take a moment to breathe and understand that your mental health is equally as important as the services you provide and the next contract you negotiate. There is a lot of bravery and courage in recognizing that your mental health needs to be a priority.

I also would like to take some time here to recognize and thank my dear friend and Past-President Amy Farkas for a job well done and pulling off our first "in-person" event in two years without even a hiccup as we held the APMM State Conference at the Hotel Hershey this past May. Not only was the training top-notch, we had great speakers and quality programming at one of the most beautiful facilities in the state. It was a joyous occasion to see colleagues in person again. The event also allowed the association to appropriately recognize Amy Rockwell and Rick Mellor for their presidencies which also experienced so many challenges as we entered the COVID era. These fine people kept our leadership strong and the association moving forward in the face of great adversity. Thank you for your leadership, all three of you.

continued on [page 60...](#)

APMM Annual Conference

Another successful conference, held this year at the Hotel Hershey, May 23-25, was enjoyed by all!



APMM Membership Update

New/Reinstated Members

Mr. Jim Bobeck

Manager
Township Manager
Muhlenberg Township
Berks County
210 George Street
Reading, PA 19605
610-929-4727
jbobeck@muhlenbergtp.com

Full Member

Ms. Samantha Bryant

Borough Manager
Narberth Borough
Montgomery County
100 Conway Avenue
Narberth, PA 19072
610-664-2840, ext. 103
sbryant@narberthpa.gov

Full Member

Ms. Michelle Carroll

Assistant to the Manager
Narberth Borough
Montgomery County
100 Conway Avenue
Narberth, PA 19072
610-664-2840
mcarroll@narberthpa.gov

**Affiliate/Municipal Government
Employee**

Ms. Alison Dobbins

Deputy Chief Administrative
Officer
Upper Darby Township
Delaware County
100 Garrett Road
Upper Darby, PA 19082
610-352-4103
adobbins@upperdarby.org

Full Member

Mr. Harry Faulk

Township Manager
North Huntingdon Township
Westmoreland County
11279 Center Highway
North Huntingdon, PA 15642
724-863-3806, ext. 125
hfaulk@nhtpa.us

Full Member

Mr. Robert Grimm

Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.
220 West Kensinger Drive,
Suite 100
Cranberry Township, PA 16066
724-779-4777
rgrimm@hrg-inc.com

Associate Member – Retired

Ms. Pam Gural-Bear

Township Manager
West Whiteland Township
101 Commerce Drive
Exton, PA 19341
610-363-9525, ext. 3217
pguralbear@westwhiteland.org

Full Member

Ms. Venus Hanlin

Borough Manager
Deemston Borough
Washington County
1622 Morey Road
Fredericktown, PA 15333
724-267-3656
deemston@atlanticbbn.net

Student

Ms. Diane Hegele

Borough Manager
Borough of Hatboro
Montgomery County
414 South York Road
Hatboro, PA 19040
215-443-9100
dhegele@myhatboro.org

Full Member

Mr. Ethan Imhoff

Manager
City of Johnstown
401 Main Street
Johnstown, PA 15901
814-539-2504, ext. 102
eimhoff@cojtw.com

Full Member

Mr. Jay Jarrett

Council Manager
Berwick Borough
Columbia County
501 E. Tenth Street
Berwick, PA 18603
570-538-1000
jayjarrett@ptd.net

Full Member

Keystone Municipal Solutions

David Kratzer
Managing Consultant
Dauphin Borough
100 Pine Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-514-3982
dkratzer@keystonemunicipalsolutions.com

Sponsoring Member

Ms. Elizabeth Logan

Assistant Township Manager
Susquehanna Township
Dauphin County
1900 Linglestown Road
Harrisburg, PA 17110
717-901-6050

blogan@susquehannatwp.com

Full Member

Mr. Richard Manfredi

Township Manager
Township of Abington
Montgomery County
1176 Old York Road
Abington, PA 19001
267-536-1000

rmanfredi@abingtonpa.gov

Full Member

Ms. Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson

Borough Manager
Borough of Homestead
Allegheny County
221 East 7th Avenue
Homestead, PA 15120
215-443-5414

manager@homesteadborough.com

Full Member

Mr. Joe Mench

Assistant Township Manager
Berks County
Muhlenberg Township
210 George Street
Reading, PA 19605
610-781-0438

jmench@muhlenbergtwp.com

Full Member

Mr. Randall Miller

Borough Manager
Schuylkill County
Borough of Orwigsburg
209 North Warren Street
Orwigsburg, PA 17961
570-366-3103

rmiller@orwigsburg.gov

Full Member

Mr. Jaymes Progar

Assistant Township Manager
Township of Ferguson
Centre County
3147 Research Drive
State College, PA 16801
814-238-4651, ext. 7041

jprogar@twf.ferguson.pa.us

Full Member

Mr. Vincent Rongione

Chief Administrative Officer
Upper Darby Township
Delaware County
100 Garrett Road
Upper Darby, PA 19082
610-734-7622

vrongione@upperdarby.org

Full Member

Mr. Omar Strohm

City Manager
City of Altoona
Blair County
1301 12th Street
Suite 104
Altoona, PA 16601
814-949-2408

ostrohm@altoonapa.gov

Full Member

Ms. Erin Trone

Assistant Manager
Lower Allen Township
Cumberland County
2233 Gettysburg Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011
717-975-7575

etrone@latwp.org

Full Member



Baldwin Equalization Tank
Baldwin Borough

Professional Services

- Municipal
 - GIS / Mapping / Asset Management
 - Grants Procurement and Administration
 - Green Infrastructure
 - Landscape Architecture
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Planning
 - Roadway and Pavement
 - Site Design
 - Stormwater / MS4
 - Surveying
 - Water
 - Wastewater
 - Utilities



Garage Floor
Ohio Township



CTWA Permanent Plant Construction
Center Township

846 Fourth Avenue
Coraopolis, PA (Headquarters)
Greensburg, PA (Branch Office)
Albion, PA (Branch Office)
Dublin, OH (Branch Office)
Center, PA (Branch Office)
412-264-4400 | www.lsse.com

Managing Principals:
Kevin A. Brett, P.E.; Ned Mitrovich, P.E.; Jason E. Stanton, P.E.

The APMM Executive Board will be meeting in September with a full agenda of items to cover including addressing two new committees that were created with the update of our association bylaws: Promotions and Membership. We will be seeking members to serve on these committees, so if you know anyone interested including yourselves contact me through email or contact our Managing Director, Harry Krot at The League.

ICMA will be held in Columbus, Ohio this year from September 17-21 and is a short drive away for anyone who has ever wanted to go but couldn't because of distance. This is close enough for many Pennsylvania Managers to carpool and experience a world-class conference dedicated to the municipal management profession. Please be aware that in 2024 the ICMA Conference will be held in Pittsburgh and as the host state we have obligations to fill including fundraising and event planning. We will need a lot of help as the host city and will need members to step forward to assist in meeting our obligations and show off Pennsylvania in all its glory.

Finally, I want to take a moment to remind everyone of the upcoming professional development opportunities APMM offers throughout the year so that you can get them on your calendars. Executive Development will be held February 9-10 at the Hotel Hershey and the Annual Conference will be held May 22-24 at the Omni William Penn in downtown Pittsburgh. Please plan to attend both amazing events, they promise to provide high-quality professional development opportunities for all in attendance.

If you would like to get more involved in your association, please do not hesitate to reach out and let us know. Here's wishing you a successful budget season and I look forward to a successful year for APMM!

Sincerely,



Gregory A. Primm



Creating Safer Roads

Powerful Speed Trailers

Proactive Life-Saving Devices

Critical Data Collection Tools

Trusted by more State Police than all other radar brands combined.

STALKER | 1800-STALKER | StalkerRadar.com



THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE PROVIDES SUPPORT THROUGH ITS MANY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

- PA Construction Codes Academy (PCCA)
- PA Training Hub (PATH)
- Floodplain Management
- Energy Code Compliance
- Municipal Planning
- Land Use Law in PA Resource Website
- Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification
- Online Training

INSURANCE TRUSTS

- PennPRIME Liability Trust/PennPRIME Workers' Compensation Trust
- Unemployment Compensation Trust (U-COMP)

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- Public Employer Labor Relations Advisory Service (PELRAS)*
- Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT)
- Municipal Utility Alliance (MUA) Electricity Procurement Program
- Local Public Procurement Program (L3P)
- EfficientGov GrantFinder Program
- Municipal Job Junction+ (MJJ+)
- Statewide Municipal Administrative Resources Team (SMART)
- Civics and You: Your Key to Pennsylvania Local Government E-Book

NETWORKS

- Home Rule Network (HRN)
- University-Community Network (UCN)

Members of these programs and services also receive newsletters and/or special publications designed to keep them up to date on the latest developments pertaining to these topics. For information on any of the above services, please contact us at 800-922-8063 or 717-236-9469 or visit www.pml.org.

*Members of League enjoy reduced membership fees when joining these programs.

We **HELP YOU** **MANAGE RISK 24/7.**

So you can
FOCUS
on the 9-5.

With all the tasks that challenge you on a daily basis, we understand that risk management is only one of the many responsibilities on your “to do” list.

That’s why **PennPRIME** is here to help you manage the risk, even when you can’t.

Armed with our Trusts’ municipal entity-specific coverage, educational support, and other specialized services, we’re ready to be an extension of your team, whenever and however you need us.



PennPRIME
INSURANCE TRUSTS | A Service Program of The League

800.848.2040 www.pennprime.com