

Published by the Pennsylvania Municipal League • Special Edition 2022



# Municipal Reporter



# ENVISION 2032

*Charting the Future for  
Pennsylvania's Municipalities*

*A Special Initiative Of  
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**SPECIAL EDITION**

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# Municipal Reporter



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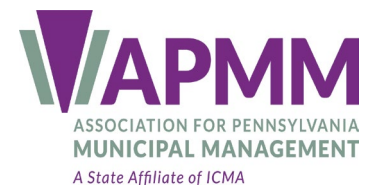
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The Pennsylvania Municipal League  
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# Our Mission

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.

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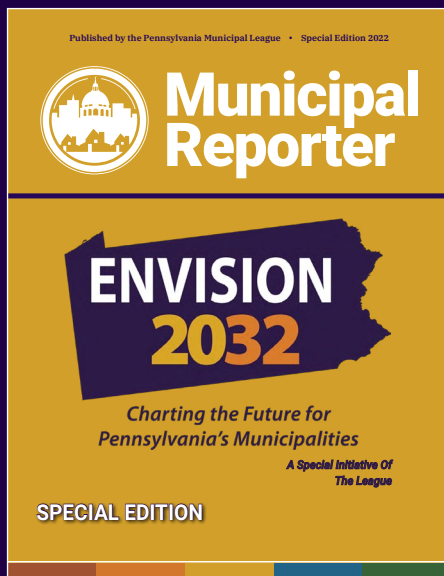
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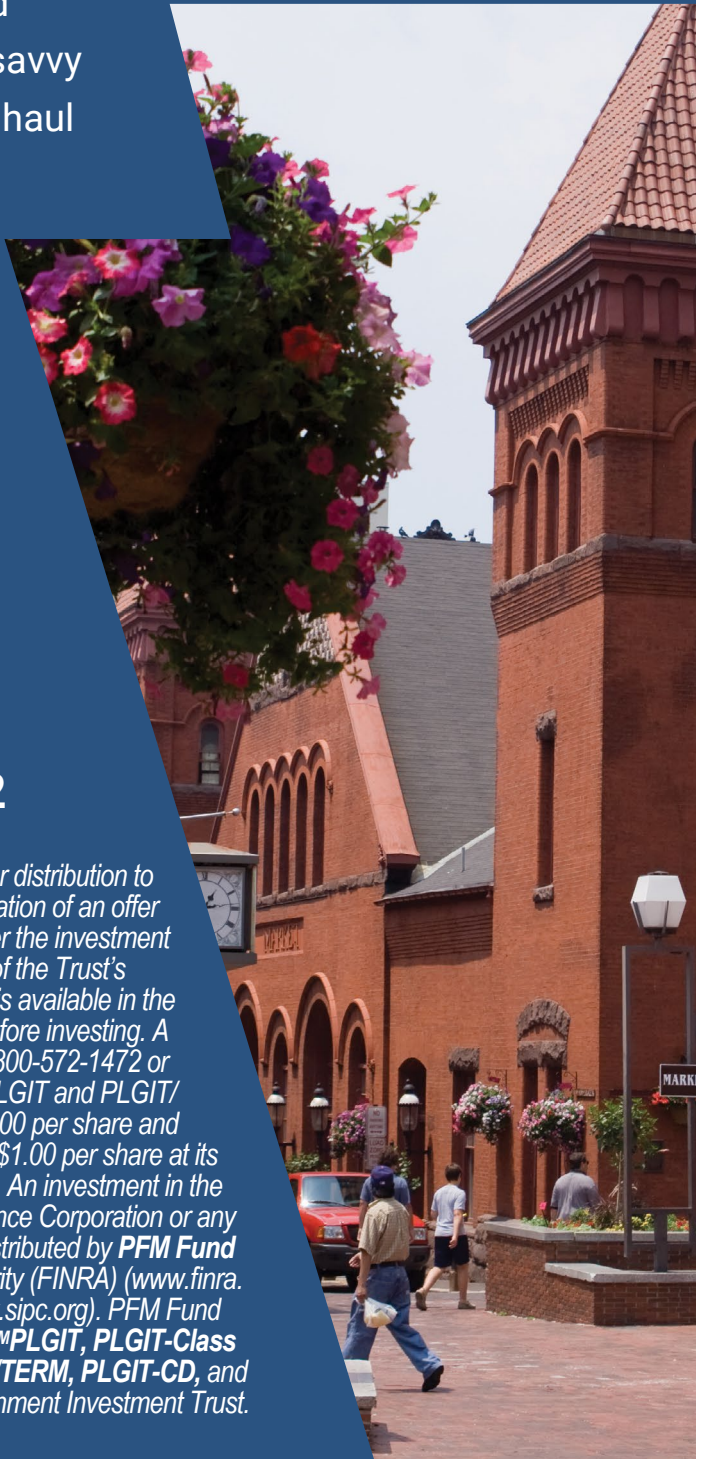
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# Mark Your Calendar

## **2022**

**PATH Training Course - Comprehensive Training for Elected Auditors**

**November 28**

*Hilton Garden Inn State College*

**PATH Training Course - Developing and Managing Your Municipal Budget**

**November 29**

*Hilton Garden Inn State College*

**PennPRIME Board of Trustees Subcommittee Meetings**

**December 1**

*Hilton Harrisburg*

**PennPRIME Board of Trustees Meeting**

**December 2**

*Hilton Harrisburg*

**PCCA Virtual Training Course - International Fire Code Essentials**

**December 5-8**

**Business Leaders Network Annual Meeting**

**December 6**

*Hilton Harrisburg*

## **2023**

**APMM Executive Development Conference**

**February 9-10**

*Hotel Hershey*

**PennPRIME Virtual Subcommittees and Board of Trustees' Meetings**

**February 24**

**U•COMP Board of Trustees' Virtual Meeting**

**March 3**

**Annual PELRAS Conference**

**March 15-17**

*Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College*

**NLC Congressional City Conference**

**March 26-28**

*Washington, D.C.*

**PSATC Executive Committee Meeting Day and Legislative Breakfast**

**April 24-25**

*Hilton Harrisburg and The Capitol Building*

**PennPRIME Subcommittees and Board of Trustees' Virtual Meetings**

**May 19**

**APMM Annual Conference**

**May 22-24**

*Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh*

**U•COMP Board of Trustees' Meeting**

**June 2**

*Omni Bedford Springs Resort*

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# The League President's Message



**MICHAEL LOMBARDO**  
**MAYOR**  
**CITY OF PITTSTON**



Pennsylvania Municipal  
**League**

*I am honored to be elected to serve as president of the Pennsylvania Municipal League and follow the great leadership of Lancaster Mayor Danene Sorace. I look forward to Mayor Sorace's continued engagement with The League. For the past several years, I have been fortunate to serve on the Executive Board of The League and learn from great past League presidents like Mayor Sal Panto, Mayor Matt Pacifico and Councilman Derek Green. Additionally, my tenure as Mayor of the City of Pittston has taught me the importance of collaboration. TOGETHER with First Vice President Mayor Doug Baker and Second Vice President Mayor Derek Slaughter we will lead and help The League continue to grow as we advance The League's mission to strengthen, empower and advocate for effective government for our members and all municipalities that make up our great Commonwealth. It is my commitment to lead in an inclusive, non-partisan manner as we begin down the path outlined in our ENVISION 2032 Forum.*

*Presently, there are many challenges we face in our current social, economic and political climate and I believe that in this very moment of time, collaboration and cooperation are the most important responsibilities and requirements of leadership necessary at all levels of government. We as municipal leaders need to demonstrate all that can be achieved when we focus on our constituents and make our cities, townships and boroughs financially sound, safe and the best places to live, work and play.*

*I look forward to working with League Executive Director John Brenner and the entire talented staff of our Pennsylvania Municipal League.*

*My challenge to each of you is: commit to engagement in this journey and I guarantee you that we will achieve our goals and lift all of our communities.*

*Let's do this TOGETHER!!*

*Best Regards,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael A. Lombardo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Michael A. Lombardo**  
**Mayor, City of Pittston**



# The League Executive Director's Message

Welcome to The League's *ENVISION 2032* special edition of the *Municipal Reporter* magazine. Over the past year, we have been on an amazing journey together. Our municipal survey late last year included League members, municipal managers from the Association for Pennsylvania Municipal Management (APMM) and Township Commissioners from the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC). Survey results were clear that the number one issue impacting local government now and over the next decade is infrastructure.

Local officials also highlighted numerous other important topics including economic vitality, community development, equity and civic engagement, municipal finance, public health and safety and sustainability. Several themes emerged from the survey and from our seven in-person regional forums held this past year:


- Preserving local autonomy and decision making
- Seeking and building more collaborations and partnerships
- Embracing technology and modernizing all aspects of local government operations
- Supporting a civic culture of innovation, equity and sustainability
- Fostering more diverse leadership
- Actively communicating with and nurturing positive working relationships between local government and the Commonwealth

Our [ENVISION 2032 publication](#), released during the *Municipal Leadership Summit* in Pittsburgh, shines a light on many innovative best practices local leaders are utilizing in their communities. It is our hope that this initiative will continue with an engaging platform to share new ideas as we work together to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Thank you to our immediate past League President, Mayor Danene Sorace, our new League President Mayor Mike Lombardo, Board members, officers and all member officials who stepped up and participated in this process. Special thanks to our League staff and the great work of our strategic plan consultant, 2B Communications & Strategy Group, for keeping us on track.

As we go forward together, please continue to stay involved and engaged in your League to help tell your successful stories and help us all make progress over the next decade. Together, we will build better communities and a better Commonwealth.

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



John S. Brenner



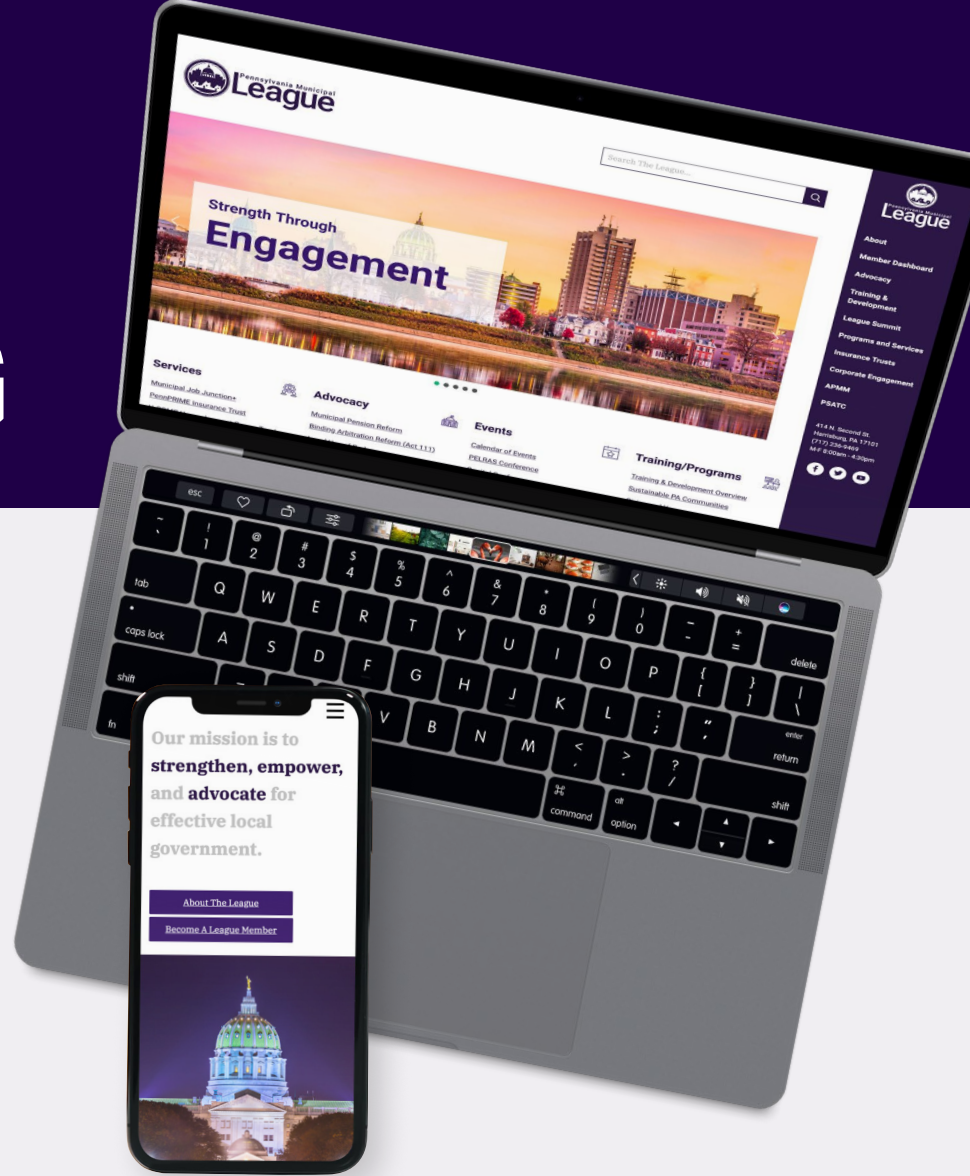
[JOHN BRENNER](#)



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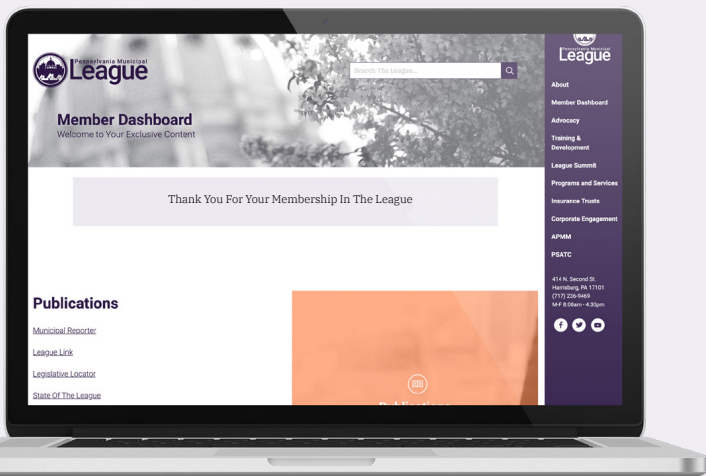
PML.org was built with our membership in mind. It's **easy to navigate** with the important information just a click away. **See upcoming League Events, Services, Training Programs** and have **access to the information your community needs.**

### 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**

*During politically challenging times, division has become too prevalent which creates greater obstacles for municipalities. With the elections in the rear-view mirror, leaders have an opportunity to pause, reflect on changes in the political landscape and pivot to ways that benefit their constituents. As was unveiled during the recent Summit in Pittsburgh, The League will be introducing a toolkit for its Civility Campaign.*

*Leaders don't have to wait until the New Year to begin thinking of ways to reach those that they serve in more efficient ways. Examples of best practices on communicating better with taxpayers and residents were recently discovered and highlighted by the [ENVISION 2032 Initiative](#) which began last fall and culminated with the participation of 115 League members, municipal managers and township commissioners.*

*Six municipalities were highlighted in their efforts to provide more information for those they serve with initiatives that provide greater engagement opportunities including reaching out to underserved populations. In Lancaster, for instance, Mayor Danene Sorace created the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Engagement in 2018. Its platform, Engage Lancaster, is not only user friendly but is also offered in Spanish to accommodate the fastest-growing population in Pennsylvania.*

*The Borough of Doylestown became one of the commonwealth's first municipalities to establish a Human Relations Commission (HRC) that addresses the importance of dealing with and eventually eradicating discrimination. It uses education and activism to also support organizations and events that promote inclusion, belonging and acceptance. Since it was established in 2010, the local HRC has been able to elevate the importance of diversity to make communities vibrant and more livable.*

*In 2021, the City of St. Marys launched a mobile app that allows for greater communication and engagement with its 12,000 residents. This two-way communication tool allows for residents to stay current on topics that range from snow and graffiti removal to doing business with St. Marys. It also allows for users to pay their bills, provide feedback on surveys and comes with interactive Geographic Information Systems maps.*

*These are just a handful of examples listed in the document under "Equity and Civic Engagement" which I encourage all of you to read from our website at [www.pml.org](http://www.pml.org).*

*Remember, it's not too early to begin planning or revamping your communications tools for 2023. Take a look at those best practices highlighted in the [ENVISION 2032 publication](#) and reach out to those decision makers who have made great strides in the way they interact with constituents. After all, everyone benefits from greater interaction which leads to better understanding and efficiency in providing the very best public services.*

From Inside The League,

*Abe Amorós*

Abe Amorós





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*Charting the Future for  
Pennsylvania's Municipalities*

In October 2021, The League launched [ENVISION 2032](#), an initiative to engage members and stakeholders in a 10-year visioning process. Since then, The League has:

- Conducted a survey of municipal leaders throughout the Commonwealth to identify the issues they view as most important to address in the next ten years and to understand their current priorities. We received responses from 115 individuals representing 84 municipalities of all sizes and types.
- Convened seven forums across Pennsylvania that brought together more than 200 municipal leaders and stakeholders

to share promising practices, learn from their fellow local leaders, and discuss what the future potentially holds.

• Published the [ENVISION 2032](#) leadership publication, which debuted at the October 2022 Municipal Leadership Summit. The publication covers the topics of highest concern that municipal leaders identified in the survey and forums:

- Infrastructure
- Municipal Finance
- Equity and Civic Engagement
- Community Development
- Sustainability
- Public Health & Safety
- Economic Vitality



Each topical section within the publication contains context regarding current realities and future challenges for municipalities in Pennsylvania, municipal leaders' suggestions for how we should move forward, examples of actions municipalities are taking now, and policy recommendations for Commonwealth lawmakers.

### **Moving Forward Together**

Over the coming months and years, The League will continue advancing the ENVISION 2032 initiative by:

- Featuring the latest information and resources on our website.
- Keeping our finger on the pulse of changing dynamics and needs.
- Facilitating the ongoing sharing of ideas and solutions during our District Meetings and other League activities.

We look forward to your participation as we continue this journey together!

### **Share Your Municipalities Projects and Solutions**

If your municipality has an interesting approach or project to share as part of the ongoing [ENVISION 2032 initiative](#), we want to hear about it! Please complete the form [here](#). Thank you!

click graphic

**ENVISION 2032  
Presentation**

**\*Turn the page to see several related articles from member presenters at our regional ENVISION forums...**

# Venango County STOP Violence Against Women Coalition



*Charting the Future for  
Pennsylvania's Municipalities*

**BY DOUGLAS BAKER, FRANKLIN CITY MAYOR, LEAGUE 1ST VICE PRESIDENT**

**PRESENTER AT THE NORTHWEST ENVISION 2032 REGIONAL MEETING**

The Venango County STOP Violence Against Women Coalition represents a community-based response to violence in Venango County. We strive to build and maintain a positive alliance between crime victims, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, victim service providers, medical professionals and others, to combat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assaults and stalking throughout the county. The coalition seeks to mitigate the effects of crime on victims, reduce the incidence of these crimes and hold offenders accountable through affective investigation and prosecution of these crimes when they occur.

The Coalition is a project of the Venango County

District Attorney's Office and is funded by the Federal Violence Against Women Act, administered by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. Commonly referred to as the STOP Grant, the project brings \$125,000 annually to support Victims Services, Training, Law Enforcement Officers and Prosecutors.

The STOP Grant coordinating team is chaired by Franklin Mayor Doug Baker and includes required members: the Director of the local Victim Services Program, the Police Chiefs from the Cities of Franklin and Oil City, the Station Commander of the local State Police Barracks, the District Attorney, and the Director of County Court Supervision Services. Other members of the Coordinating

Team include: the Sheriff, County Detective, Victim Services Police Liaison, Victim/Witness Coordinators, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, Older Adult Services Program Specialist, Pennsylvania Probation/Parole Agent, a Citizen at-large and a representative from Northwest Legal Services. The STOP team maintains Required County Protocols related to our Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence, Sexual Assaults and Stalking.

The STOP Grant provides \$43,750 annually to support Victim Services. PPC Violence Free Network is a comprehensive victim service program of Family Service & Children's Aid Society. They work to prevent

violence, protect victims and advocate for change in attitudes about victimization by providing prevention education programs, supportive services and by promoting social change in the community. The Law Enforcement Liaison from PPC coordinates our Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). LAP is a series of questions asked by responding police officers, designed to assess the potential danger in Domestic Violence Cases.

Our project provides Victim Resource Kits to victims who do not have a cell phone or to victims who we suspect that their phone use is being monitored by the perpetrator. Each kit contains a cell phone with two months' pre-paid service, a flashlight, whistle, ink pen and a small notebook.

Multi-disciplinary training is an important part of our project. Law Enforcement and allied professionals are offered relevant training one or more times a year. Recent subjects have included Trauma Informed Interview Techniques, Identifying the Dominant Aggressor, Human Trafficking, Sexual Assault Response, Search Warrant Preparation, Stalking and Securing Digital Evidence.

The Law Enforcement portion of our STOP budget provides \$40,000 annually to support a part-time Law Enforcement Coordinator/Project

Implementation Coordinator, two part-time County Detectives and partially supports a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator.

In addition, \$41,250 is provided annually to support positions in the District Attorney's Office. The funds partially support one Assistant District Attorney (ADA) who specializes in Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Cases and one ADA who specializes in Protection Orders Violations and Stalking. A Victim/Witness – Early Outreach is also partially supported with STOP funds.

Our Coordinating Team meets every other month throughout the year. We are a collaborative group of problem solvers that recognize the benefits of working together to identify and solve problems as they emerge.

The STOP Grant is a competitive application process. The next solicitation is expected in 2024 and should be announced by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency at that time. □



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# A Blueprint for Success: The Renaissance of Pittston Blight Impact and Remediation



*Charting the Future for  
Pennsylvania's Municipalities*

**BY MICHAEL LOMBARDO, PITTSTON CITY MAYOR, LEAGUE PRESIDENT**

**PRESENTER AT THE NORTHEAST ENVISION 2032 REGIONAL MEETING**

For the past 25 years, the City of Pittston has been focused on a comprehensive, long-term plan for revitalization, financial stabilization and sustainability. The “Plan” is driven by eight strategic initiatives including: Downtown Development, Neighborhood Stabilization and Development/Blight Remediation, Infrastructure Improvements, Operations Restructuring, Public Art/ Programming in Parks and Public Facilities, Prioritizing and Expanding Code Enforcement/ Safety, Short- and Long-Term Plan Evaluation and Municipal Cooperation.

As part of The League's ENVISION 2032 sessions, I presented the Neighborhood Stabilization and Development/ Blight Remediation component of the aforementioned plan.

Blight is a major challenge that all municipalities face in some magnitude. Recognizing the pervasiveness of this problem, Pennsylvania enacted Act 79 of 2019 clearly defining blight and providing a foundation for future legislation to combat

blight’s negative community impact. The “Act” defines blight as “encompassing vacant lots, abandoned buildings and houses in derelict or dangerous shape. Environmental contamination can be included as blight. Blight can refer to smaller property nuisances including overgrown lawns, uncollected litter, graffiti, inadequate street lighting and general lack of concern for appearance of a structure or neighborhood element.”



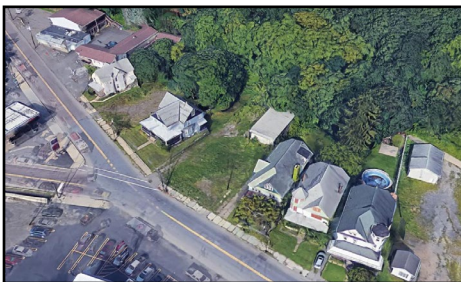
The impact of blight is profound and measurable across various domains. Blight has been described as an “economic crime.” Studies have shown that blight: decreases surrounding property values, erodes the general health of housing markets, creates safety hazards, reduces tax base, results in lower assessed property values across neighborhoods, impacts surrounding insurance premiums, drives negative community perceptions, is linked to adverse health conditions, negatively affects the cognitive and behavioral



functions (especially in children), increases crime rates and ultimately impacts neighborhood scores on residents' overall satisfaction measures (emotional costs). Analytics have shown that the overall annual cost of blight is several billion dollars. This article will utilize a case study model and focus on two of the above impacts: reduction of tax revenue and lower assessed property values. Analysis, remediation strategies and measurable outcomes will be discussed.

**Case Studies: The Measurable Impact of Blight**

The first case study utilizes the Pittston South Gateway Project to illustrate the impact of blight on municipal revenue/taxes. For



the purpose of the presentation, only city property tax revenue was examined but similar impacts are noted for county and school district tax revenue.

The case study/project area includes nine properties in various states of blight/condemnation and includes both structures and vacant properties. In their existing conditions, the combined city property tax equaled \$3,900.

The project involved demolition of the structures and development of two commercial pad sites and eventually the construction of a regional bank branch and a national retail discount store. The total new construction represented \$3,500,000 of improvements and \$11,345 in city tax revenue. Additionally, the City's Redevelopment Authority also received \$200,000 in property sales which was utilized for Streetscape enhancement (\$140,000) and for additional acquisition and blight mitigation activities (\$60,000). The city also realized over \$23,000 in permit fees.



The second case study utilizes twin properties; one located within the city limits and one located in the neighboring West Pittston Borough. The study illustrates the pervasive impact blight has on municipal property valuation and its relationship to property tax rates. The City of Pittston has had one of the highest tax rates in Luzerne County and concurrently one of the lowest overall municipal property valuation rates in the county. This fact is important as the city has made increased home ownership a goal.

**Pittston :**

Land:	\$20,200
Improvements:	\$60,800
Total Valuation:	\$81,000
Millage Rate:	6.85
1 Mill Generates:	\$81.00



→

**West Pittston:**

Land:	\$24,000
Improvements:	\$84,700
Total Valuation:	\$108,700
Millage Rate:	4.295
1 Mill Generates:	\$108.78



Analysis of the data reveals that although the city tax rate is almost 60% higher than the borough rate; the revenue realized per Mill is 25% less in the city versus the borough.

**The Plan: Strategies**

The City of Pittston has developed a dynamic comprehensive strategy in its blight arsenal. This strategy is driven by identification and mapping of blight and subsequent responses including: rehabilitation, demolition, infill, prevention, community building initiatives, community education, legislative advocacy and ultimately measurement and metrics validating the effectiveness of each action step. The city energized its revitalization/blight response by focusing initial development on the central business corridor recognizing the real estate was underutilized and presented

the most opportunity for return on investment. A portion of the gains realized from the central business district improvements (taxes, etc.) were reinvested into façade enhancement and the neighborhoods. Specific strategies included: land bank, blight board, comprehensive code enforcement review and update, information dissemination, specific local, state and federal grants and homestead tax exemption.

**The Results: What Gets Measured, Gets Done**

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the remediation strategies, the city tracks and analyzes critical data sets and associated metrics. The following results have been recorded: reduction in overall blight, increased housing opportunities, increased permits and decreased code violations, abatement of environmental hazards, increased business growth, improved public safety, increased private development opportunities, conservation of neighborhoods, increased property tax, increased earned income tax, property tax reduction in the form of homestead exemption, growth in lower age demographic census groups (i.e., under 35), increased community pride and spirit and an investment grade credit rating. Collectively, these positive results have allowed 12 consecutive years without a property tax increase and the 2023 proposed budget has no tax increases. The battle against blight requires

a long-term commitment and evolving strategies that keep pace with new legislation and emerging challenges. It is also recommended that a municipality examines the full continuum of housing ranging from homelessness, emergency shelters, transitional housing, affordable rental housing, affordable home ownership, market rate rental housing, market rate home ownership and luxury rentals and homes. □



# Upper Chichester Township - A Heart & Soul Community



*Charting the Future for Pennsylvania's Municipalities*

**BY GEORGE NEEDLES, UPPER CHICHESTER TOWNSHIP MANAGER**

**PRESENTER AT THE SOUTHEAST ENVISION 2032 REGIONAL MEETING**



Starting in early 2018, Upper Chichester Township set out on a mission to find its Heart & Soul. Along with the assistance of the Orton Family Foundation, PA Humanities and a group of dedicated volunteers, Upper Chichester has spent four years getting to know its community members and what matters to them the most. Through a robust community engagement program that consisted of small group stakeholder meetings, large community events, online and in-person surveying and a whole lot of listening, these volunteers known as the Heart and Soul Committee helped change the way the staff and Board of Commissioners go about decision making in Upper Chichester Township.

The voice of the community was clear that they value access to community resources, focus on

creating economic opportunities, education for all, leveraging our location and accessibility, expansion of recreational activities and preservation of open spaces, public safety, and celebrating our sense of community. These values formally adopted by

the Board of Commissioners now serve as a litmus test to determine the future direction of the township. The values were also turned into a Community Action Guide which is exciting for community members and gives them the tools to be part of the positive change that has been happening in Upper Chichester Township.

Community engagement has been a priority of the current Board of Commissioners for over 12 years. Serving together for an extended period of time, together as a whole and independently, they have hosted hundreds of town halls, taskforces and listening sessions in an effort to keep Upper Chichester an inclusive community. The

Community Heart & Soul program opened their eyes to an even better way of engaging the public. When in the past most of the conversations were subject driven, the conversations now are value driven. The future is bright in Upper Chichester Township.

To download a copy of the Community Report, [click here](#). □



# How One Department is Using Virtual Reality to Practice De-Escalation



*Charting the Future for Pennsylvania's Municipalities*

**BY MADELINE LEWIS, OFFICER, LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**PRESENTER AT THE SOUTHEAST ENVISION 2032 REGIONAL MEETING**



In the Spring of 2021, officers of the Lower Merion Township Police (LMPD) were dispatched to a report of a man with a gun. The caller advised that his son was armed with a 9mm handgun. One of the first officers to arrive on scene was Officer Eric Curcio, a K9 handler and former member of the department's Emergency Response Team, who has over 25 years of experience. With his firearm drawn, Officer Curcio gave verbal commands, from behind the engine block of a Ford F150 parked nearby. It

quickly became apparent to responding officers that the male was in crisis. For several minutes, Officer Curcio spoke to the subject from his position of cover, reassuring him that officers were there to help him, while maintaining lethal coverage and mentally rehearsing for the worst-case scenario. From his experience, Officer Curcio knew a peaceful resolution was dependent upon his ability to build a rapport with the male and talk him into surrendering. After 12 minutes and 48 seconds, the male placed the weapon down and placed his hands in the air, surrendering to police.

The successful outcome of this incident was due largely to Officer Curcio's ability to engage with and offer reassurance to the subject while remaining

tactically aware. This was a culmination of 25 years of experience. Unfortunately, the majority of officers do not have this level of experience but will be called upon to answer similar situations and resolve them with the skills demonstrated by this 25-year veteran.

Understanding that adults retain only 10% of what they see; 30% – 40% of what they see and hear; and 90% of what they see, hear and experience, LMPD endeavored to create a program centered on de-escalation techniques when assisting a person in crisis. While practical training scenarios would certainly help prepare officers for such events, it can be costly and difficult on time and manpower.



Enter Virtual Reality (VR). VR systems have been found to be particularly useful in delivering an efficient, convenient and cost-effective means of providing active engagement through experiential learning. It is the perfect medium between less effective static classroom training and traditional, reality-based training.

VR also has the ability to break down traditional training silos. We conduct firearms training one day, taser training the next day, and classes like de-escalation and emotional intelligence in yet another separate course. The reality though, is that officers are expected to display a near-perfect multidisciplinary response; show empathy and effectively de-escalate while simultaneously providing lethal coverage. This blending of skills takes training and experience and relies heavily upon the officer's ability to think critically.

## **Bridging the Gap**

It's no secret to any of us in law enforcement that unaddressed social problems have vastly expanded the demands on officers. In fact, these noncriminal calls for service take up around a third or more of total on-call time in most departments (Karma, 2020), with at least 20% of police calls for service involving a mental health or substance use crisis (Abramsom, 2021).

By default, police have been assigned the difficult task of trying to bridge the gap between a person in crisis and the dwindling availability of long-term mental health resources. While we may have been voluntold to address the need, law enforcement agencies across the Commonwealth are rising to the occasion with the implementation of various training programs such as the one established by Lower Merion.

## **The Program**

The training program consists of two phases: initial classroom training and quarterly practical training using the VR system. During the initial classroom training, officers were taught the basic principles of de-escalation, active listening, mental health laws, available community resources and trauma informed policing. Upon completion of the initial classroom training, officers were required to participate in quarterly practical training scenarios using the VR system; with many of the scenarios built upon real life incidents that officers have responded to in the past. At the conclusion of the year-long training program, officers were provided with an opportunity to complete an anonymous survey to gauge their thoughts on the training program and use of VR.

*"Valuable, safe training that has the ability to offer dynamic scenarios."*

*"It has allowed me to think quickly and react appropriately to a variety of scenarios."*

*"The training allows us to respond to realistic situations without being tied to static answers and responses."*

## **A New Reality**

Personally, I'm not a fan of the adage practice makes perfect. Perfection is subjective in any world, let alone law enforcement. The goal of our VR program is not perfection, but to provide officers a controlled environment to experiment with a multidisciplinary approach to de-escalation and to utilize critical thinking so they are better prepared when called upon. □

\*MADELINE LEWIS HOLDS A MASTER OF ARTS IN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF VALLEY FORGE AND A BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN HISTORY FROM WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

# "My St. Marys" App



*Charting the Future for Pennsylvania's Municipalities*

**BY JOSEPH FLEMING, CITY OF ST. MARYS MANAGER, LEAGUE DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE**

**PRESENTER AT THE NORTHWEST ENVISION 2032 REGIONAL MEETING**



The City of St. Marys, PA is the 2nd largest city by land throughout the entire state of Pennsylvania, spanning across 100 square miles. What comes with this ranking is the challenge of connecting with individual citizens. How can 13,000 residents feel connected to their city government? How can those residents efficiently receive the information and tools they need to continually improve their community?

As technology continues to develop, the way people receive and transmit information continues to change. It is becoming more and more popular for individuals to use their mobile phones for news, information, communication, engagement and resources. With the increase in the use of mobile phones for many parts of everyday life, the City of St. Marys decided why not use it to provide a unique approach to improving our local government communication with our residents?

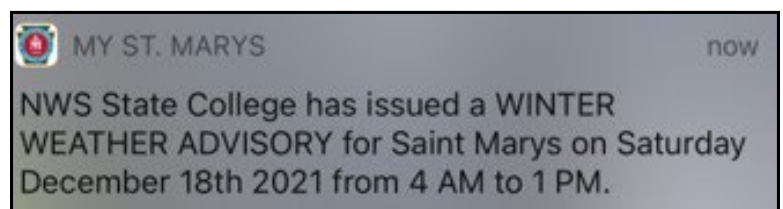
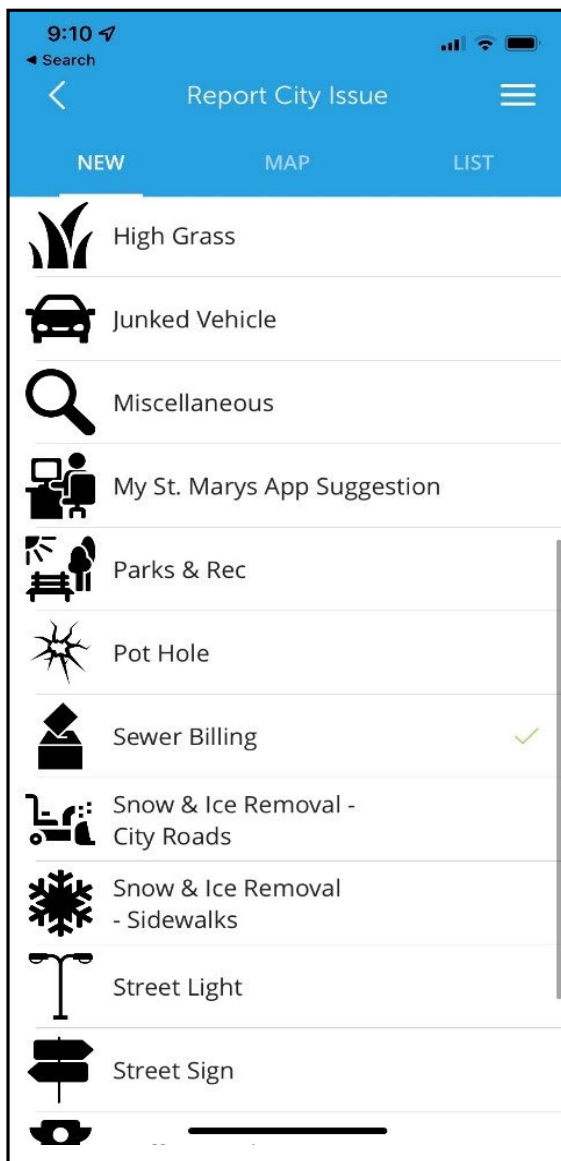
In November of 2021, the city launched the "My St. Marys" mobile app, transforming

communication methods between residents and City Hall. Available through both the iTunes Store and Google Play, over 1,300 residents have downloaded the app since its launch.

Through the “My St. Marys” app, residents are able to report issues occurring throughout the city, such as: street lighting, street signs,

drainage, traffic signals, garbage, high grass, snow and ice removal, etc. The app supports city staff by providing a work order management system, allowing them to track requests and collect data on response times, locations and the types of issues being reported. Citizens using the issue-reporting feature is revolutionizing

codebook, right-to-know requests, local business directory, and viewing a live camera of downtown St. Marys. Using a push notification feature, the city is able to put out immediate notifications in real-time, such as: road closures, street lighting issues, office closures and weather emergencies.



the way the city collects data and reports, influencing critical decisions about the deployment of resources.

In addition to the “Report an Issue” feature, the app also offers a variety of other options for residents to access including paying sewer bills, purchasing a parking permit, obtaining building and code permits, job openings, facility rentals, city department contact information, city

It has been a great asset in increasing citizen engagement and streamlining internal administrative workflows. □



# The New Forest Hills Borough Building - A Net Zero Energy Solution



*Charting the Future for  
Pennsylvania's Municipalities*

**BY PATRICIA M. DEMARCO, VICE PRESIDENT, FOREST HILLS BOROUGH COUNCIL,  
LEAGUE DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE**

**PRESENTER AT THE SOUTHWEST ENVISION 2032 REGIONAL MEETING**

Forest Hills Borough is a community of about 6,500 people located seven miles east of Pittsburgh. The Forest Hills Borough Building on Ardmore Boulevard stood as the center for borough functions since 1922 but faced the limitations of an inefficient and costly energy system, and other structural problems.

### **Needs Assessment:**

In August of 2014, a general annual review of borough properties revealed significant cost escalations in several Borough buildings: the magistrate building and the borough building on Ardmore Boulevard, and the Library and Senior Center on Avenue F. The magistrates' offices moved to a larger office space with better parking and access, vacating the building, and Allegheny County consolidated the Senior Services Center to Turtle Creek, closing the Forest Hills location and two other small centers. Removal of Senior Services from this location left a 20-hour per week C.C. Mellor Library function in a building that was expensive to operate and had limitations with accessibility and functional services.

The borough building on Ardmore Boulevard had significant limitations in storage, space for citizen services and accessibility to the second floor council chambers, even with an elevator. The police functions had significant limitations in space and security arrangements, and parking and pedestrian access to the building were limited. Most concerning was the increasing cost of operations and the unsuccessful adjustments to the heating and cooling system in the interior space. Even with repairs and adjustments over recent years, inefficiencies and space pressures were unlikely to be resolved in the existing space.

A plan emerged to build a New Forest Hills Borough Building on property the borough owns on Greensburg Pike, adjacent to the Westinghouse Lodge and Park. Goals for the new building were:

- Fiduciary responsibility to taxpayers for the life of the building;
- Co-locating functional uses;

- Accessibility for citizens and workers; and
- Environmentally efficient for energy and water.

The new building consolidates the borough administrative and council functions, police offices, and the library/community space into one efficient building to serve the needs of the community.

### **Financing:**

By moving the New Forest Hills Building to an existing borough property location, the sale of the existing properties would contribute to the financing, and the existing property on Ardmore Boulevard was returned to a taxable business use. The goal of council was to achieve a new building for 50 years into the future without increasing the tax mill rate (currently 8 mills). A target cost of \$5.2 million was set as a goal.

Financing came from a variety of resources:

1. Availability of land for a new building + sale of existing properties to add to tax base (\$550,000)

2. Favorable bond environment and capacity to borrow a portion of the cost (\$3.58 million)
3. Allocated some costs to Corrective Action budget for storm water management (\$350,000)
4. Allocated a portion of the dedicated paving budget for the new paving requirement (\$340,000)
5. Capital Budget and Budget Reserves (\$700,000)
6. CITF Grant for the Library (\$200,000)

Public presentations on the concept of a New Forest Hills Borough Building began in February 2015 with concept discussions presented by Town Center Associates. Soon after, the borough retained Pfaffmann & Associates to work with council to define a plan for the new building. In addition to monthly public meetings at council sessions, two community planning meetings were held in September 2015, focusing on the site plan for the building, and in April 2016, focusing on the functionality and design.

### Site Planning

The New Forest Hills Borough building site is on a gravel parking area on Greensburg Pike. The site was evaluated for a passive solar building design, and was deemed suitable, if the building could be oriented on the property to allow a south-facing roof. To include geothermal earth heating and cooling system, soils testing and evaluation of the site for coal shafts under the area was necessary. This site sits at the top of the Turtle Creek watershed, therefore, the area was also evaluated to address

storm water management with bio-swales and green management techniques to control storm water runoff. The location already had direct access to Greensburg Pike with ease of traffic movement and is served by a public transit bus line. The site is large enough to accommodate parking, and has sidewalks for safe pedestrian access from multiple directions. Its proximity to the Westinghouse Lodge and park create a campus of Forest Hills Borough public services.

### Functionality and Design

At the community planning workshop, groups of citizens drew concept plans for the functions to be served in the new building. Imaginative proposals included a coffee shop/internet café, a history walk capturing images of Forest Hills over the last century and interpretive exhibits explaining the features of the building. The Forest Hills Borough administrative staff, police department and council had an opportunity to add thoughts and participated in all stages of the building design planning.

A rough outline of the building emerged on the wall, and discussion turned to how to meet the needs for the next century. The group quickly agreed that sustainability and cost efficiency take high priority in the design. Citizens familiar with the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens Living Building features and the Chatham University planning for the Eden Hall sustainable design added credibility to the concept. People were concerned that such an ambitious sustainable goal would be too expensive for the community.

Focus on the building envelope with an emphasis on sustainability took the approach to “Reduce Consumption before Renewables.” Design parameters were set around energy, water, materials and indoor air quality. Considerations included the need for adequate storage and natural daylight in work spaces; areas for serving the public both in borough administrative functions and in public service in the police department. The spaces for library and community gathering were discussed in terms of how they would relate to the council chamber under different configurations of uses. The preference for natural materials and locally sourced materials gave guidance in the design for the building envelope and interior treatment.

### Forest Hills Borough Building Sustainable Features - The Building

The building is a 12,746-square-foot, one-floor structure aligned with a south facing roof and a clear story of translucent recycled plastic to filter incoming light into the interior space.



*Forest Hills Municipal Building - Volpatt Construction - January 2018*

→

### **Energy Features:**

The first principle is to design the building to conserve energy as much as possible. Therefore, the building is super-insulated with the roof at R50 (conventional is R38), R40 walls (Conventional is R19). This design has an operating cost of \$0.97/ft<sup>2</sup>, compared to the current building cost of \$2.21/ft<sup>2</sup>, or the cost of operating a building designed to the conventional 2009 building code standard of \$1.42/ft<sup>2</sup>. Thirty-nine 100-foot deep geothermal wells provide heating and cooling and require 118,555 kWh annually to operate. The 145 kW photovoltaic array on the roof provides 151,947 kWh annually which covers the geothermal HVAC plus the other electrical loads in the building for a Net Zero Energy operation. The windows are of insulated glass set in wooden frames and have sashed sections to open for ventilation in season. The southern roof overhang allows shading in the summer and sunlight to enter in the winter. The building is connected to the utility grid with a net metering tariff for electric service. A gas line is connected to a gas powered generator to support emergency operations.

### **Water Features:**

The design for storm water management reduces the peak discharge rate into Turtle Creek watershed by more than 64% over the 100-year storm level. The volume of water from 2-year and 5-year storms is entirely infiltrated into the ground as will nearly all of the 10-year storm volumes. A system of sand and limestone infiltration beds reduces runoff acidity and temperature, and rain

gardens and plantings provide additional water filtration benefits. The site is planted with trees and drought tolerant and native plants in bio-swales surrounding the building and as features in the parking area. Paved surfaces are graded to direct water into the bioswales. Water management includes water-conserving plumbing fixtures with automatic controls to reduce water use.

### **Indoor Quality:**

Natural daylight and views to the outdoor plantings enhance the ambiance and provide attractive workspaces. The clearstory along the roofline is of translucent plastic formed material that allows light but prevents glare to the interior. Sustainable non-toxic materials are used throughout for walls and structural materials. All the wood is from sustainably grown sources. Materials were selected for recycled content, locally sourced and environmentally beneficial performance. Lighting is designed to use natural daylight, with LED lighting and daylight sensing controls. The lobby and reception area has an interpretive display to explain how the building functions and allow visitors to understand the special energy and water conserving features.

The design plans were approved in November of 2016, and a General Contractor, Volpatt Construction, was hired.



*Groundbreaking for Forest Hills Borough building. December 3, 2016.*

The new Forest Hills Borough Building performs at the level of a LEED Gold building, although certification was not sought due to the cost. The energy system produces more energy than it uses on an average annual basis under a Net Metering tariff. The design accommodates the addition of electric vehicle charging stations for the police fleet. This New Forest Hills Borough building reflects the history of innovation that has shaped this town and shows the way forward for resilience in a changing world. □



*Forest Hills Net Zero Borough Building completed December 2018*



# Municipal Leadership Summit 2022

BY MARY COSTIK, CMP, LEAGUE MEETING MANAGER

The Pennsylvania Municipal League, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC) and the Pennsylvania Career Fire Chiefs Association convened for the Municipal Leadership Summit. The event provided professional development and best practice sharing opportunities in addition to numerous educational sessions and the opportunity to hear from state and national dignitaries.

Over 250 participants enjoyed continuous opportunities to network, collaborate and even build a playground at West Penn Park. This year marked the 13th playground project The League has organized for Pennsylvania communities

since 2010. Many thanks to our partners, KABOOM!, the City of Pittsburgh, the PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR), The Grable Foundation, Duquesne Light, and Highmark Health and Allegheny Health Network in addition to the numerous community volunteers.

The exceptional lineup of educational topics included: Climate Action Plans and Modernizing Infrastructure; Sustainable Transportation; Equity, Inclusion and 21st Century Public Service; a Level 4 Autonomous Vehicle Demonstration; Cyber Security, Difficult Managing Issues; Healthy Communities; Leveraging GIS for Asset Management; Digital Equity;

Energy Sustainability Solutions; Update on First Net National Public Safety Broadband Network; The Impact of Inflation on Health Care costs; HomeServe Water Infrastructure Solutions; PA Fire Service of the Future; Labor and Employment Lessons Learned; Sustainable Program and Equity Sprint; Police De-Escalation Training Using Virtual Reality; and a Legislative Update.

League President Mayor Danene Sorace, PSATC President Commissioner Sam Valenza, and the Mayor of Pittsburgh, Ed Gainey, kicked off the Summit on Thursday afternoon. Auditor General Tim DeFoor provided remarks and The League's Executive Director, John

*continued on [page 29...](#)*







**Summit Video**  
**Play Now ▶**



Brenner, announced the release of the ENVISION 2032 publication. Thank you to Carlos Carter and the Vietnam Veterans, Inc. for providing the National Anthem and the Presentation of the Colors.

Throughout the Summit, video presentations were provided by Governor Tom Wolf, State Treasurer Stacy Garrity and the National League of Cities CEO and Executive Director, Clarence Anthony. Additional dignitaries providing remarks included: Attorney General Josh Shapiro; Senator Jay Costa; Rick Vilello, Deputy Secretary for Community Affairs and Development, DCED; and Toni Murphy, Sr. VP of Sales and Marketing, Comcast Central Division.

During the Awards Ceremony, the membership recognized the Easton Voting Award winner: the City of DuBois and the 39th Annual John A. Garner, Jr. Civic Engagement Essay Scholarship High School Essay Contest Winners: First Place – Mary Frances McNulty, Villa Joseph Marie High School, Doylestown Borough; Second Place – Alina Keshodkar, Liberty High School, City of Bethlehem; and Third Place – Ella Farrer, North Penn-Mansfield Jr./Sr. High School, Mansfield Borough. Thank you to this year's essay judges: David Green, Esq., PA Local Government Commission;

Dr. G. Terry Madonna, Millersville University; and Rick Vilello, DCED. Comcast was recognized with the Business Leaders Network 2022 Community Partnership Award.

Former Philadelphia Councilmember and League Past President Derek Green received the Distinguished Service Award for his service to The League and the City of Philadelphia.

Saturday afternoon attendees had an opportunity to participate in the Rivers of Steel tour aboard the world's first green riverboat – designed and built to LEED standards to host STEM-based education programs.

The Summit wrapped up with a successful silent auction in support of the Richard J. Schuettler Center for Municipal Development.

PSATC held their annual meeting and elected the following officers for 2022-2023: Commissioner Sam Juliano, North Versailles, President; Commissioner John Jablowski, Wilkes-Barre, 1st Vice President; Commissioner Dennis Arthur, Tinicum, 2nd Vice President; Commissioner Todd Mill, Crescent, 3rd Vice President; and Commissioner Rich Withee, Crescent, Secretary/Treasurer.

The League adopted policy and elected officers for 2022-2023. Congratulations to

The League's new President Mayor Michael Lombardo, Pittston; 1st Vice President Mayor Douglas Baker, Franklin; and 2nd Vice President Mayor Derek Slaughter, Williamsport.

Thanks to Comcast Newsmakers for providing video opportunities throughout the Summit for local officials to discuss issues important to their communities.

Don't forget to visit The League's website and support the sponsors and Business Leaders Network members who provided the financial assistance needed to make this event a success. While you are at the website, please be sure to check out the Summit video [here](#).

Save the date for next year's Municipal Leadership Summit – tentatively scheduled for October 5-8 at the Wind Creek Bethlehem Hotel in Bethlehem, PA. □





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## Are You Prepared for Possible Workers' Compensation Claims as We Enter Into the New Year?

BY PAUL CORNELL, DIRECTOR OF TRUSTS

Everyone hopes that none of their employees will suffer work related injuries, but being prepared to support your employees helps them recover sooner and return to work sooner.

Preparation starts with having a Workers' Compensation Panel. If you have a panel, when was the last time you updated your Workers' Compensation Panel? An up-to-date and well thought out panel is your first step in assisting anyone who suffers a work-related injury. The Pennsylvania Department of Labor says that panel should include "at least six health care providers, with no more than four of who may be a coordinated care organization and there should be at least three providers who must be physicians. The panel should include geographically accessible provider types used to treat the type of injuries your employees might experience. Each provider's name, address, phone number and area of medical specialty must be included on your panel."

Having an up-to-date panel does not guarantee success in rehabilitation unless your employees are all aware of the process. Make sure your employees all know the steps if they suffer a work related injury. A Workers' Compensation Employee Notification form should have been signed at the time of hire and a form should be signed when someone is injured to make sure that the employee understands their rights under the law. This notification should provide clear written notice of the Workers' Compensation process to the employee and this notification can be included on the posted panel list:

- During the initial ninety (90) days from the date of the first visit for a claim, the employee will have the right to switch from one health care provider on the list to another and that treatment will be paid for by the employer.
- If a designated health care provider (from the panel) refers the employee to another health

care provider for treatment who is not on the panel, the employer will pay for treatment rendered by the provider to whom the employee was referred.

- Employees have the right to seek treatment or medical consultation from a non-designated health care provider during the initial ninety (90) day period following that first visit, but they (the employee) are personally responsible for payment for those services.
- Employees have the right to seek treatment from any health care provider at the expiration of the ninety (90) day period from the date of the first visit. Such treatment will be paid for by the employer unless the treatment is found to be unreasonable or unnecessary by a utilization review organization pursuant to the utilization review process contained in the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Act.

continued on [page 34...](#)



## Unemployment Deadlines

BY DEBBIE GROSS, U•COMP PROGRAM CONSULTANT

If you have ever expressed concern about missing the opportunity to request an unemployment hearing, some of the information below may help you as the employer.

The PA Department of Labor and Industry is clear about what employers are entitled to when they send you a claim determination. There are three levels of unemployment appeals once the claim determination has been received:

1. Request a Hearing – Labor and Industry provides a period of 21 calendar days during which you may request a hearing once you have received a claim determination. The 21-day period begins the day after the date on the top of the claim determination. Please be sure to check at the top of the claim determination for this date.
2. Request a Board of Review Determination – Once you have received an unfavorable (unfavorable to you, the employer) hearing referee's decision on a claim, you may appeal this also.

You again have 21 days after the date at the top of the hearing decision to request a review by the Labor and Industry Board of Review.

3. Appeal to the Commonwealth Court – If the Board of Review upholds the Hearing Referee's unfavorable decision, you have one final recourse and that is to appeal to the Commonwealth Court. You have 30 days from the mailing date of the Board of Review's determination in order to file your appeal.

While most appeals don't go beyond the hearing level, it's good to know there is still some recourse if the outcome is unfavorable to you. Guidance and representation at hearings are available to U•COMP members. Proposals are free and non-binding.

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

- The employer will be responsible for the cost of that treatment after the initial ninety (90) day period has ended but only if the employee notifies the employer that they are receiving treatment from a non-designated health care provider and only if that notice is provided within five (5) days after the first visit to that provider.
- If the employee provides notice to employer of treatment by a non-designated provider more than five (5) days after the first visit to that provider, the employer will not be responsible to pay for treatment rendered by that non-designated provider until it receives notification from you that you are receiving such treatment.

The Workers' Compensation Panel list should also be posted in "common" areas that all employees have access to in each of the buildings from which employees operate.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me and please stay safe.

Paul Cornell, Director of Trusts  
[pcornell@pml.org](mailto:pcornell@pml.org)  
(717) 236-9469, ext. \*258 □

# Legislative Status Report STATE



PREPARED BY AMY STURGES, LEAGUE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – ADVOCACY – [asturges@pml.org](mailto:asturges@pml.org)  
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*All legislation can be found on the General Assembly's website:*

[legis.state.pa.us](https://legis.state.pa.us)

*The General Assembly wrapped up the 2021/2022 legislative session on November 15. The Legislature sent a flurry of bills to the Governor's desk, and those impacting local government are outlined below. Additionally, both the House and Senate saw many retirements and shake ups, including leadership positions, with this year's general election. The League is working to set new legislative priorities and preparing to educate new members of the General Assembly about issues important to local government for the 2023/2024 legislative session.*

## General Updates

### **A Legislative Session in Review**

November 15 marks the end of a busy 2021/2022 legislative session. The General Assembly was able to return to business as usual and focus on an array of issues after passing several bills addressing the residual effects of the pandemic in the beginning of the session. Throughout these two years, the General Assembly introduced more than 4,000 bills, of which The League tracked 1,166 bills affecting local governments. In addition to bill

tracking, The League's Governmental Affairs staff advocated for issues important to our members, and opposed legislation that would preempt or decrease the efficiency of local government. Several key League priorities were signed into law or gained traction through the legislative process, while other detrimental legislative efforts were stalled.

### **Enacted Legislation Highlights**

Act 74 of 2022 updates the Fireworks Law by providing local governments

with greater ability to regulate consumer fireworks while also redirecting generated revenue to various public safety grants. Act 50 of 2021 provides for the deployment of small cell wireless facilities while preserving local authority over public rights-of-way. This Act is a big win for the Commonwealth's local governments, as it is the most municipal friendly small cell legislation in the country. Lastly, Act 41 of 2022 consolidates and substantially



updates the existing procedures for municipal boundary change.

### **Bills on the Move...**

While these bills did not make it to the Governor's desk, they gained traction and greater attention in the General Assembly. Updating the Right to Know Law to address vexatious and commercial requests, as well as other issues and updates to the Law, became a large topic of conversation for the legislature and the Senate State Government Committee. Blight legislation was a main focus this session, with the House Bill 1791, an ambitious bill to address code enforcement issues and vacant property registries. Additionally, the Whole Home Repairs Program received a one-time allotment of \$125 million to help homeowners and small landlords tackle deferred maintenance projects by prioritizing home repair, ultimately preventing blight through

proactive property maintenance. Permanent funding for the Program is needed to address current and future needs of our communities. Local use of radar was just one vote shy of passing the House. Finally, several hearings were held and many bills were introduced regarding the fire and EMS crisis. The League will continue to engage our members on these issues through our advocacy efforts in the next session.

### **Stalled Bills: Dead but Not Gone**

Senate Bill 775, House Bill 2237 and Senate Bill 669 regarding post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) in first responders, a cost of living adjustment for retired municipal police officers and providing pension credit for prior law enforcement service respectively, died with the end of session after failing to make any legislative traction. The League proactively opposed these

three bills due to unfunded mandates placed on local governments and the detrimental financial impacts such legislation would have on municipalities across the state. The League supports increasing the awareness of PTSI in first responders and providing for our local police and looks forward to continuing conversations next session to achieve those goals without financially impairing local governments.

Senate Bill 275, regarding energy choice, made it to the Governor's desk but was ultimately vetoed. This bill would have preempted municipalities' ability to promote residential or commercial policies and incentives regarding utilities and sources of energy. It's likely that this bill will be introduced again and The League will remain vigilant to ensure local government authority is not preempted.

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## **Recently Enacted Legislation**

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### **Act 104 of 2022**

#### **House Bill 397**

**Signed: November 3, 2022**

**Effective: January 2, 2023**

**Act 104** amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) regarding the Fire and EMS Grant Program and enabling funding for public safety grant programs.

Under current law, if two or more fire or EMS companies receiving grants merge, the newly formed company shall continue to receive each individual's grants in the aggregate amount for up to 10 years after the merger. This Act increases the ten-year limit and allows merged companies to receive the aggregate grant amount for up to 20 years. The maximum amount of a grant for a fire company is increased from \$15,000

to \$20,000, and the maximum amount of a grant for an EMS company is increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000. The Fire Relief Formula Study deadline is also extended to December 31, 2023. Currently, a local governing body may only provide by ordinance for a process to reject a volunteer firefighter or EMS local tax credit. The Act allows for the use of a resolution to proscribe a process to reject claims that do not satisfy program criteria.

Additionally, the Act enables the funding authorized by Act 74 of 2022, which amended the Fireworks Law and redirected fireworks revenue to public safety. The revenue will be distributed as follows:

- \$1.5 million for the EMS Grant Program;

- \$250,000 for the online training education of firefighters;
- \$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 training EMS personnel;
- \$500,000 for EMS training center capital grants;
- \$500,000 for fire department capital grants;
- \$250,000 for a public education and safety campaign around the safe use of consumer fireworks; and
- \$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.

Furthermore, the Act requires the Fire Commissioner to maintain an online training database, referred to as the Training and Education Certification Management System, for fire and EMS personnel to ensure easy access to accredited training courses, training materials and transcripts. The Commissioner may charge a fee of no more than \$1 for each training course to be used for administrative purposes. A pilot program for high school students to receive EMS education is also established under the Act.

Finally, the Act allows the Fire Commissioner and Bureau of Emergency Medical Services of the Department of Health to use some funds for administrative purposes, as well as requiring annual reports for certain grant programs.

**Act 126 of 2022**  
**House Bill 2210**  
**Signed: November 3, 2022**  
**Effective: January 2, 2023**

**Act 126** amends the Abandoned and Blighted Property Conservatorship Act adding land banks to the definition of “Party in Interest” as an eligible entity that may petition the court for appointment as a conservator under the Act.

**Act 130 of 2022**  
**House Bill 2398**  
**Signed: November 3, 2022**  
**Effective: Immediately**

**Act 130** amends Title 75 (Vehicles) allowing for the operation of highly automated vehicles (HAV) and platoons with or without a human driver. This Act only applies to vehicles for commercial use, not

vehicles for personal use. Current law prohibits HAVs from operating without a licensed driver in actual physical control of a vehicle. Act 130 removes this barrier by authorizing the operation of a HAV by either a human driver, a human driver in a remote location or exclusively through automation.

In order to operate a HAV, a self-certification must be completed and submitted to PennDOT. A certificate holder, as defined in the Act, includes a firm, copartnership, association, corporation or educational or research institution. Unless the self-certification is rejected by PennDOT within 30 days, the certification is considered approved. A certification renewal is not required for successful applicants. PennDOT has limited ability to suspend or revoke a certificate for false statements made in the self-certification, operation of a HAV in violation of this bill or for certain convictions. Ten days before commencing HAV operations, the certificate holder must provide written notice to any affected municipalities of the intent to operate a HAV within their borders. Municipalities may also request certificate and accident information from PennDOT for any HAVs operating within their jurisdiction.

The Act also specifies how law enforcement would cite a HAV with or without a driver. The automated system of the vehicle is considered the driver if there is no human driver present, and the HAV certificate holder would be cited following physical or electronic proof of license and registration. If there is a human driver present either in the car or remotely, then that driver would be cited following physical or electronic proof of license and registration.

PennDOT is the regulatory authority over HAVs and is responsible for establishing policies and regulations regarding the operation of HAVs. PennDOT must develop temporary regulations for the first two years and then publish final guidelines to facilitate continued implementation in consultation with the HAV Advisory Committee. Before adopting the temporary regulations or publishing guidelines, PennDOT must hold a public meeting and provide for a 10-day public comment period. PennDOT must follow the public comment period under the Regulatory Review Act before adopting the final regulations.

PennDOT is required to publish a list of all certificate holders on their website, including the location where the vehicle is expected to be operated and the name and contact information for accident claims. PennDOT must also periodically collect information regarding the process for emergency service response to a HAV without a driver, training certifications for HAV operators, whether the HAV will transport goods or passengers and a list of municipalities where the HAV is expected to operate. The HAV Advisory Committee is required to provide an annual report evaluating the impact of HAVs on the state’s workforce, economy and mobility and accessibility to the House and Senate Transportation Committee chairs and post it on PennDOT’s website.

In alignment with Section 6109 of the Vehicle Code, this Act supersedes all local ordinances, policies and rules regarding HAVs. It does not prohibit local police from enforcing the Vehicle Code as long as the exercise of their

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police power does not treat HAVs differently than other vehicles.

Before operating a HAV with or without a driver on a highway, the vehicle is required to maintain a minimum of \$1 million for liability for any accidents. Additionally, the Act provides requirements for reporting accidents involving a HAV, ability to enter into interstate agreements, standards regarding platooning and HAV work zone vehicles, as well as specific authority for the Public Utility Commission and transportation network companies in a City of the First Class.

Lastly, HAVs are not to be subject to the same equipment laws as vehicles with a driver physically present that are not relevant to an HAV's operation – for example, windshield wipers.

**Act 149 of 2022**  
**Senate Bill 439**  
**Signed: November 3, 2022**  
**Effective: January 2, 2023**

**Act 149** amends the Recorder of Deeds Fee Law continuing support for the County Demolition Funding Program. Act 152 of 2016 provides counties with the option to charge a \$15 fee by ordinance, which is collected through the Recorder of Deeds Office for each deed and mortgage to fund a demolition program for a 10-year period. This Act removes the 10-year sunset date.

**Act 151 of 2022**  
**Senate Bill 696**  
**Signed: November 3, 2022**  
**Effective: May 2, 2023**

**Act 151** amends the 2005 Breach of Personal Information Notification Act. Among other updates, it adds new language regarding

notification requirements of counties, schools and municipalities of a breach.

The Act requires notice be provided within seven days following a determination of a breach to those impacted. Notification to the district attorney of the county where the breach occurred is required within three business days following the determination. In the case of a breach of information containing a username and password or security question, notice may be by email directing the impacted parties to protect their account by changing their password and security questions.

The Act sets similar notification standards for a breach at the state level, as well as setting encryption and data storage guidelines for entities storing data on the Commonwealth's behalf.

**Act 155 of 2022**  
**Senate Bill 1027**  
**Signed: November 3, 2022**  
**Effective: January 2, 2023**

**Act 155** amends the Child Labor Act permitting a minor, who must be at least 17 years old, to enter a burning structure in order to conduct live burn volunteer firefighter training. The minor must have permission from both the fire chief and their parent or guardian. Lastly, the minor must be supervised by a credentialed PA State Fire Academy instructor during the live burn training exercise. □



Pennsylvania Municipal  
**League**

On our website, we have created an [ARPA Investment Tracking Form](#) and ask that you please fill it out so we can share the great ways you are using your ARPA dollars with all members.  
Thank you!



**Legislative  
Locator**

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





# Legislative Status Report FEDERAL



## How Cities & Counties Expanded ARPA Commitments

BY CHRISTINE BAKER-SMITH, RESEARCH DIRECTOR  
FOR CITY SOLUTIONS AT NLC

*Written with Alan Berube, Interim Vice President and Director of Brookings Metro, and Teryn Zmuda, Chief Research Officer and Chief Economist at the National Association of Counties (NACo).*

March 2022 marked the first anniversary of the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). It also marked nearly one year from when U.S. states, counties, cities, and tribal governments began to receive their respective shares of \$350 billion ARPA provided toward public sector fiscal recovery. We have been monitoring how large cities and counties are using those flexible State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) dollars through our [Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker](#).

The Tracker now includes projects to which these cities and counties allocated SLFRF dollars through March 31, 2022, the most recent reporting period for which data are available. This update highlights a few key trends from those data.

**Large cities and counties had committed half of their total flexible ARPA dollars to specific eligible projects by March 2022.**

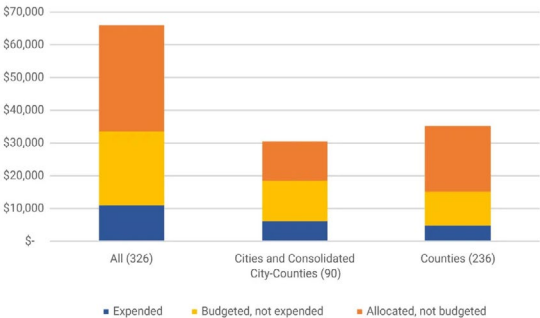
By the end of 2021, large cities and counties (90 cities/consolidated city-counties and 236 counties with populations of at least 250,000) had committed SLFRF dollars to nearly 4,600 specific projects across a range of eligible uses. They expanded those commitments significantly in the first three months of 2022. By the end of March of this year, large cities and counties had committed funds to more than 6,200 projects, a 35% increase from the prior reporting period.

As the number of committed projects increased, the committed share of total SLFRF dollars grew as well. By the end of March 2022, large cities and counties had budgeted 51% of their combined total allocation (\$34 billion of \$66 billion overall). Because the U.S. Treasury Department delivered the dollars to local governments in two roughly equal tranches in

May 2021 and May 2022, this 51% figure reflects that cities and counties had, in the aggregate, budgeted their entire first tranche of funding, plus a small share of their second tranche. This figure was up considerably from the 40% of SLFRF dollars they had budgeted through December 2021.

FIGURE 1  
**Cities and counties had committed 51% of their total SLFRF allocation by March 2022**

SLFRF dollars expended, budgeted, and allocated through March 2022, cities and counties with populations over 250,000



Source: NLC, NACo, and Brookings Metro analysis of U.S. Treasury data covering 236 counties and 90 cities and consolidated city-county governments



City and county ARPA expenditures grew as well. Through the first quarter of 2022, large cities and counties had expended \$11 billion in SLFRF resources, roughly one-sixth (17%) of their total combined allocation. This was up from 10% in December 2021, signaling that the pace of local ARPA budgeting continues to run ahead of ARPA spending itself.

**Government operations remain the single largest expenditure category in large cities and counties.**

When we last analyzed large city and county SLFRF spending commitments, we saw that government operations—replacing lost revenue, rehiring laid-off workers, and investing in public facilities and systems for a post-pandemic world—accounted for 42% of budgeted projects through December 2021. This figure increased slightly through March 2022, by which time government operations projects represented 44% of cities’ and counties’ combined budgeted SLFRF dollars. However, it reflected a decline in the share of city funds committed to those purposes (from 50% to 48%) and an accompanying rise in county government operations projects (from 32% to 38%).

More recent city and consolidated city-county SLFRF commitments seem to have focused on two areas: economic and workforce development, and housing. By March 2022, these governments had budgeted \$2.0 billion toward economic and workforce development projects, 11% of their total allocation. Support for small businesses, workforce development, and tourism and hospitality industries represent-

ed the largest commitments in that spending group. Housing projects accounted for \$1.9 billion in city and consolidated city-county SLFRF commitments through March 2022, with support for homeless individuals and affordable housing development each totaling more than \$500 million.

Some large counties, meanwhile, significantly expanded their investments in government operations. Counties including Broward (Fla.), Cuyahoga (Ohio), Greenville (S.C.), Miami-Dade (Fla.), and Sacramento (Calif.) classified substantial portions of their SLFRF allocations as revenue replacement in the first few months of 2022. By March 2022, fiscal health recovery represented \$3.2 billion of large counties’ combined \$35 billion SLFRF allocation. Public health (17%) and infrastructure (12%) continue to represent the largest county investment priorities after government operations.

**Large cities and counties have directed 29% of their budgeted SLFRF dollars toward projects that aim to combat social/economic disadvantage.**

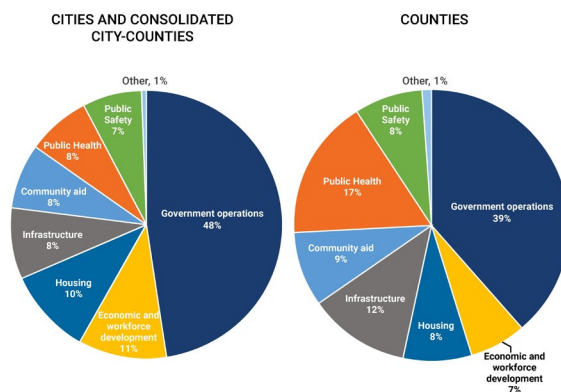
A [recent analysis](#) examined how large cities and counties are using SLFRF dollars to address the needs of populations and communities that suffered the most during the pandemic. It found that through December 2021, these jurisdictions had committed 28% of their budgeted dollars toward projects in areas primarily intended to benefit economically disadvantaged households and communities.

That proportion ticked up slightly through the first few months of 2022. By March, large cities and counties had committed 29% of their budgeted SLFRF dollars toward these uses, which include several subcategories of community aid, economic and workforce development, and housing uses. The largest commitment areas

were support for homeless populations (\$1.4 billion) and small businesses (\$1.3 billion). Workforce development, youth and family support, and mental health each accounted for more than \$750 million in combined city and county commitments.

With significant SLFRF dollars still uncommitted as of March, however, many cities and counties retained considerable opportunity to deploy funds toward some of the deeper equity challenges their communities face. Even jurisdictions that had committed most of their budgeted dollars toward such uses—Madison, Wisc. (98%), Ramsey County, Minn. (95%), Raleigh, N.C. (95%), San Jose, Ca-

**FIGURE 2**  
**Government operations remained the largest expenditure category in both cities and counties**  
 SLFRF dollars budgeted through March 2022 by spending group, cities and counties with populations over 250,000



Source: NLC, NACo, and Brookings Metro analysis of U.S. Treasury data covering 236 counties and 90 cities and consolidated city-county governments



continued on [page 50...](#)

*The Treasury Department altered its SLFRF expenditure classification system between the December 2021 and March 2022 reporting periods, and the Brookings/NLC/NACo team likewise modified its coding methodology. As such, changes in expenditure group/subgroup spending shares may reflect the reclassification of some existing 2021 projects, as well as the addition of new projects in the first quarter of 2022.*

# Public Finance

## A FRESH LOOK

***Now is the time to review your PLGIT investment options***

**BY PAUL ROBINSON, PLGIT SENIOR MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE**

Local government officials are responsible for the financial health of their municipalities, and they take that job seriously. There's a lot to know: managing cash flow, planning for ongoing expenditures (like payroll) and one-time projects (like major infrastructure repair), understanding investment options, and earning solid yields — all while maintaining an overarching focus of seeking safety for public funds.

The Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT or the Trust) was formed over 40 years ago expressly to help local governments manage those difficult tasks. Over the years, PLGIT have designed investment options exclusively to help achieve the goals of these specific investors, and continues to improve and update products and services based on those investors' needs and feedback.

In this article, we'll take a look at PLGIT's investment options — some that have been available for years, and some that are new — and you can consider how they might aid in your municipality's successful financial planning.

### **A Declaration of Trust**

As you probably know from previous articles, PLGIT operates under a Declaration of Trust (the Declaration) that was adopted in 1981 and amended over time. That Declaration states that PLGIT's primary purpose will be to offer Pennsylvania's entities a way to pool temporary cash reserves to gain "greater advantage under the daily supervision of professional investment advisers." Moreover, the Declaration limits participation in the Trust to "municipal entities of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." Unlike institutions with multiple customers and varied investment goals, PLGIT's had a singular focus on investing solely for member governments from the beginning.

In addition, the Declaration created a structure that clearly and unmistakably gives control of the Trust to local government officials.

With this Declaration as its bedrock, PLGIT has created a mix of investment products and services designed to help optimize

local governments' returns while maintaining a focus on key goals like preserving safety and liquidity.

### **PLGIT Investment Options — Products With A Purpose**

By understanding each PLGIT investment option, municipalities can better achieve specific goals. Here are details on several key investment options, and how investors may consider using them:

**PLGIT/PRIME<sup>SM</sup>** portfolio is the newest investment option available to local governments. Updated in May 2016 in response to the expansion of permitted investments for municipal entities and school districts statewide, the PLGIT/PRIME portfolio includes newly permitted investments like commercial paper and negotiable certificates of deposit. The benefit: it enables municipal investors access to potentially higher-yielding fixed income securities that the PLGIT/PRIME portfolio can invest in through its broader investment policy. As of September 30, 2022, PLGIT/

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PRIME offers a higher yield than any other liquid PLGIT investment option and is a distinct investment portfolio, rated AAAM by Standard & Poor's.<sup>1</sup> Investment requires no minimum balance and no minimum initial investment, however this option limits redemptions or exchanges to two per calendar month, so it's more appropriate as a short-term, savings-like option for idle funds.

**The PLGIT<sup>SM</sup>** portfolio consists of two classes of shares that each stress safety of principal as their primary objective — a fact underscored by the portfolio's AAAM<sup>1</sup> rating from Standard & Poor's:

- **PLGIT-Class Shares<sup>SM</sup>** offer daily liquidity, no minimum balance requirements and unlimited checking with no out-of-pocket fees or service charges. Because of these features, municipal investors tend to use PLGIT-Class Shares like they would a standard checking account. However, investors keeping more funds than necessary in a PLGIT-Class account may want to consider investment options like PLGIT/PRIME, where those funds have the potential to earn higher yields.
- **PLGIT/Reserve-Class Shares<sup>SM</sup>** is an option with liquidity but limited services enabling investors who have a limited investment policy with a way to potentially increase their earnings over PLGIT-Class. PLGIT/Reserve-Class Shares carry no waiting period prior to redemption, but redemptions are limited to two per month. The increased yield potential versus PLGIT-Class makes PLGIT/Reserve-Class Shares an attractive option for funds like short-term reserves. Again, investors may want to weigh this option

against PLGIT/PRIME, which offers the potential for a higher yield.

**PLGIT/TERM<sup>SM</sup>** is a competitive fixed-rate product — your rate is locked in for the entire term of the investment and maturity dates range from 60 days to one year. PLGIT/TERM requires a minimum initial investment of \$100,000, a minimum investment period of sixty (60) days, and has a premature withdrawal penalty. Investors typically consider PLGIT/TERM for funds needed at a specific time or for a specific purpose. For example, if a municipal investor knows it needs to make a payment for salt, fuel, insurance premium, or debt service payment on a specific date, it can invest those funds in PLGIT/TERM to mature on that date. That enables a municipality to earn a potentially higher yield than with savings-like accounts, like PLGIT-Class.

**PLGIT-CD<sup>SM</sup> Purchase Program** enables PLGIT investors to purchase FDIC-insured CDs via a separate agreement with PLGIT's, investment adviser, PFM Asset Management LLC (PFMAM). Individual CDs may be purchased in amounts such that the principal and interest will not exceed insured limits. Minimum investments for CDs is around \$100,000, and the maximum CD purchase would be in an amount such that the total value of the CD including interest would not exceed \$250,000. With the PLGIT-CD Purchase Program, municipalities can gain access to a range of competitive fixed-rate CDs, with flexible terms, from banks across the nation that may have higher yields than some Federal Agency discount notes. Investments in the PLGIT-CD Purchase Program are direct investments of the Investor, not assets of the Trust or under control of the Board of Trustees.

For details, visit [www.PLGIT.com](http://www.PLGIT.com), or call for a specific quote.

### **PLGIT Services – Focused on Saving You Time and Money**

#### **On-Site Electronic Deposit:**

PLGIT's On-Site Electronic Deposit Service allows investors to make deposits into their PLGIT-Class account using either dedicated scanning equipment or the camera on a mobile device.

Benefits include:

- Rapid availability of scanned funds
- Saves time by eliminating trips to financial institutions
- Helps organization and record keeping via access to check images
- Reduced risk of loss or theft
- Lower check processing costs at financial institutions
- No limitations on daily deposits

A dedicated scanner is ideal for frequent deposits — we recommend it if your entity typically deposits five or more checks on a daily basis. There are multiple scanners to choose from based upon a municipality's volume and needs.

Even if a local government doesn't deposit a high volume of checks, it can still take advantage of the benefits of this new service. Using a camera-enabled mobile device on the scanning/depositing app, local governments can achieve fast, and efficient check processing and receive full credit in your PLGIT account on the next business day.

### Direct deposit of funds:

Municipalities may elect to have regular subsidies from the state or federal government, such as State Liquid Fuels payments, sent directly into a designated PLGIT account (or different accounts for audit purposes). These funds begin earning interest on the day they are deposited and eliminate timing challenges from traditional check printing and mailing.

### Next Day Transfer:

Using this process, municipalities can transfer funds to be made available in the designated account the next business day via the Federal Reserve's Automated Clearing House (ACH) system. Funds can be transferred to a financial institution, or even from one municipality's PLGIT account to another municipality's account that invests with PLGIT. PLGIT offers unlimited ACH transfers at no out-of-pocket cost, though fees could apply at the institution receiving funds.

### Connect:

PLGIT's new portal, Connect, which launched in May 2022, combines all the tools from the prior portal, the Easy Online Network (EON), plus a number of upgrades, added functions, and design improvements, including:

- **Updated Account Dashboard** New graphic design and organizational elements highlight balances, recent activity, and metrics of all active accounts in a 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 over time.
- **Current Yields at Your Fingertips** Access to daily liquid portfolio rates (PLGIT-Class, PLGIT/Reserve-Class

and PLGIT/PRIME) and fixed rates (PLGIT/TERM).

- **More Data** 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.

Previous features from EON like detailed reporting capabilities and functionality, streamlined acceptance of funds, and security features remain unchanged. Having the ability to access and customize financial information in real time gives local governments an important tool designed to make money management more efficient.

This is just a sample of the investment options offered by PLGIT. For more details, contact PLGIT today. We will be happy to help you with your review and help you chart a course for your particular situation.

*Paul Robinson is a Senior Marketing Representative with PLGIT, working with investors in the central and western regions of the Commonwealth. He can be reached at [mrobinsonp@pfmam.com](mailto:mrobinsonp@pfmam.com). □*

*Standard & Poor's fund ratings are based on analysis of credit quality, market price exposure and management. According to Standard & Poor's rating criteria, the AAAM rating signifies excellent safety of invested principal and a superior capacity to maintain a \$1.00 per share net asset value. However, it should be understood that the rating is not a "market" rating nor a recommendation to buy, hold or sell the securities. For a full description on rating methodology, visit Standard & Poor's website ([http://www.standardandpoors.com/en\\_US/web/guest/home](http://www.standardandpoors.com/en_US/web/guest/home)).*

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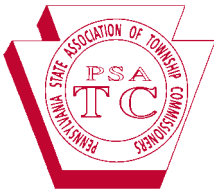
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# PSATC President's Message



[SAM JULIANO](#)  
[COMMISSIONER](#)  
[NORTH VERSAILLES](#)  
[TOWNSHIP](#)



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

*Hello and Thank You,*

*I would like each and every one of you to know how excited and honored I am to be the President of PSATC for this coming year. We had a great year last year under the leadership of Sam Valenza and I want to thank him for his hard work and dedication to this organization.*

*As I start this journey, I know I alone cannot move this organization in the right direction without the assistance of all involved. I will be leaning on many of you to help me keep this association growing and becoming even stronger throughout the year.*

*Communities have faced many challenges over the past couple of years. We went through and still are in the effects of the pandemic. Economic challenges are now being felt with the ongoing war in the Ukraine. Communities are being forced to find ways to do more with less. This is when townships do their best to continue to provide their residents with the services they expect. We work with neighboring communities, League officials and others to assist us in arriving at the best solutions to problems townships are facing.*

*Attending educational conferences is one of the best ways for elected officials and others to gain the knowledge your township needs to solve problems they may be facing. You will learn ideas you may have never thought of, talk to others who may have gone through the same problems you are facing and be brought up to date on changing legislation.*

*It will be my goal to find ways to help us better serve our communities. By working together, we will overcome any challenge we are faced with. Local officials have the will, strength and strong commitment to serve their communities.*

*Lastly, I am grateful for the opportunity to represent this great organization. I look forward to seeing what we are able to achieve by all working together.*

*Sincerely,*

**Sam Juliano**

# PSATC Annual Business Meeting

On October 7, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners held its Annual Business Meeting at the Municipal Leadership Summit in Pittsburgh.

Following a successful meeting, PSATC hosted a well attended Annual Banquet that evening.

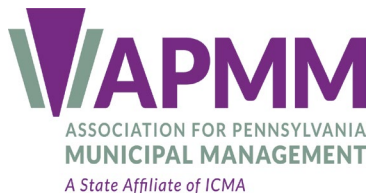




# APMM President's Message



**GREGORY A. PRIMM**  
**MANAGER**  
**ALLEGHENY TOWNSHIP**



**APMM.net**

*Fellow APMM Members and Colleagues:*

*I thought this special ENVISION 2032 edition of The League's Municipal Reporter was a really good time to remind our members of the critical role we play in the visioning process of our municipalities. The League has embarked on this 10-year initiative as part of their strategic planning process, very similar to APMM's adoption of our strategic plan. Municipal managers are the driving force behind moving these initiatives forward. Elected officials depend on us to keep our teams motivated, keep them focused and make them part of the process as we address the challenges that face us over the next 10 years.*

*Every priority area of the [ENVISION 2032 document](#) will require us to be involved and engaged if it is to have any value at all and those priority areas are critical to the future success of our communities. From infrastructure and community development to equity and civic engagement, we will be knee deep in keeping these issues at the forefront of our operations. The priority areas outlined are essential if we are to remain relevant and successful in delivering services to our residents at the highest levels of confidence and success.*

*Remember what we are to believe in the ICMA Core Beliefs: public service, ethics, stewardship, equity and inclusion, the continuous pursuit of excellence, leadership, and most of all professional management. We all know that the best leaders are lifelong learners, those people that lead with the wisdom and experience they have gained along the way, but are also open to new innovative ideas that stretch our thinking, understanding there may be a better way. Those that we lead look to us and watch us as we react to challenges and how we keep calm in the middle of a storm, so it is essential that we react in ways that send motivation and positive reinforcement to them. In doing that, it makes them want to follow us as we steer the ship through rough waters yet remain humble and determined. We set the example they will follow.*

*In other Board news, the APMM Executive Board met via zoom on September 8. There were new committee appointments discussed as well as appointing a Chair for the 2024 ICMA Conference to be held in Pittsburgh. I want to thank Kevin Flannery for taking on this challenge as we commence hosting this event again. Kevin will be appointing his own team but will be needing lots of volunteers for the event as thousands of municipal managers embark on Western PA and we want to leave the very best impression of Pennsylvania while they visit our state.*

*Events coming up to mark your calendars are the Executive Development Conference at the Hotel Hershey February 9-10, 2023 and the APMM Annual Conference May 22-24, 2023 at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh.*

*Best of luck to all of you adopting your 2023 budgets and have the best holiday season with your families and loved ones.*

*Sincerely,*

**Gregory A. Primm**

# APMM Membership Update

## New/Reinstated Members

*Ms. Cindy Schweitzer*

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Lancaster County  
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717-898-3100

[manager@easthempfield.org](mailto:manager@easthempfield.org)

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## Upcoming 2023 APMM Events

### APMM Executive Development Conference

*February 9-10*

*Hotel Hershey*

*Mark your calendar!*

### APMM Annual Conference

*May 22-24*

*Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh*

lif. (92%), and Nassau County, N.Y. (89%)—had yet to budget more than half of their total SLFRF allocations. Other jurisdictions that “parked” significant SLFRF sums in revenue replacement may, in future reports, specify programs and services those dollars will support, including those benefiting economically disadvantaged households and neighborhoods.

City and county ARPA spending patterns through March 2022 may represent the “end of the beginning” of the multi-year process in which local governments will put

these flexible funds to work through 2026. These patterns thus provide a partial picture of local priorities, but with many jurisdictions waiting before committing the second SLFRF payment they received in May 2022, the next couple quarters of data should provide an even fuller picture of how cities and counties are meeting this important moment. □

TABLE 1  
**Large cities and counties devoted 29% of budgeted dollars to project areas benefiting economically disadvantaged people and communities**

SLFRF funds budgeted toward economic disadvantage by sub-category, and notable city/county commitments, through March 2022

Equity category	All large cities and counties (millions)	Notable commitment	Amount (millions)	Project description
Homelessness	\$1,351	New York, N.Y.	\$125	Supporting Unhoused Persons project
Small Business Support	\$1,281	Maricopa County, Ariz.	\$50	Small Business Resilience Program
Workforce Development	\$842	Detroit, Mich.	\$75	Training and career readiness for unemployed/underemployed adults
Mental Health	\$793	Collin County, Texas	\$134	Construction of specialized mental health unit in adult detention center
Youth and Family Support	\$793	Tarrant County, Texas	\$50	Expanding access to high-quality childcare
Affordable Housing	\$739	Washington, D.C.	\$358	Contribution to affordable housing production trust fund
Rental Assistance	\$674	New York, N.Y.	\$329	Rental assistance vouchers for low-income individuals and families
Nutrition and Food Assistance	\$547	Alameda County, Calif.	\$50	Emergency food distribution and meal program
Violence Reduction and Prevention	\$482	Washington, D.C.	\$121	Extensive range of services for populations at risk of/affected by violence
Direct Payments Or Subsidies	\$482	Nassau County, N.Y.	\$100	Cash assistance for eligible households
Other Community Aid	\$444	Chicago, Ill.	\$39	Community-based navigation services to access public support
Broadband	\$404	Dallas, Texas	\$49	Digital equity initiative
Nonprofit Support	\$378	Lee County, Fla.	\$20	Support for local United Way
Other Housing	\$267	Pittsburgh, Pa.	\$41	Assistance for homeowners
Youth Workforce Development	\$149	Chicago, Ill.	\$54	Connecting youth with early career opportunities
Eviction Prevention	\$71	Pima County, Ariz.	\$4	Emergency legal services for vulnerable tenants
Substance Abuse and Addiction	\$33	King County, Wash.	\$7	Divert low-level public order offenders from local jails
Refugees and Migration	\$10	Portland, Ore.	\$4	Cash assistance and legal services for immigrants and refugees
Veterans	\$10	Phoenix, Ariz.	\$5	Financial assistance for veterans experiencing/at risk of homelessness
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,750</b>			

SOURCE: NLC, NACo, and Brookings Metro analysis of U.S. Treasury data covering 236 counties and 90 cities and consolidated city-county governments



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- Statewide Municipal Administrative Resources Team (SMART)
- Civics and You: Your Key to Pennsylvania Local Government E-Book

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

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