

Legislative Locator

The Legislative Locator is a Monthly Publication of The Pennsylvania Municipal League



**Legislative
Locator**

December 2022

Important Broadband Updates FCC Map Challenge Deadline January 13

The [FCC's broadband access map](#) shows all broadband serviceable locations across the United States where fixed broadband internet access service is or can be installed. ***The Commonwealth's allocation of federal funding for broadband deployment is dependent upon the map being accurate.*** Individuals and entities, including local governments, may challenge the accuracy of the map. Here is a list of resources to assist a local government in challenging the map:

- [PA Broadband Authority's letter to local officials](#)
- [Webinar/tutorial on submitting a map challenge](#)
- [FAQs on the map challenge process](#)
- [Local government bulk challenge data collection document](#) (if partnering with the PA Broadband Authority to submit a bulk challenge of data in hand)

Broadband in Pennsylvania Webpage

Please visit our [Broadband in Pennsylvania webpage](#) frequently for collected resources and links on broadband, the map challenge process and the federal BEAD and the Digital Equity programs.

A Look at the 2023/2024 Legislative Session

A new legislative session is set to start on January 3, 2023. The General Assembly will look very different this year, as many members resigned or lost reelection. Fifty-four new members are to be sworn in across the House and Senate, with 48 new members in the House alone.

Despite this turnover, the Republicans retained a majority in the Senate. There is no clear majority in the House at this time. Special elections will be held to fill three seats vacated by Congresswoman-Elect Summer Lee, Lieutenant Governor-Elect Austin Davis and Representative Anthony DeLuca (deceased).

In addition to swearing in new members, the Senate and House experienced a shakeup in leadership. Former Senate Majority Leader Kim Ward was elevated to President Pro Tempore of the Senate upon the resignation of Jake Corman, while Senator Joe Pittman became the new Senate Majority Leader. Additionally, in a historic election, both Senator Pat Browne and Representative Stan Saylor, long-serving Chairmen of their chamber's Appropriations Committee, lost their primary elections. The Senate Republicans have chosen Senator Scott Martin and the House Republicans have chosen Representative Seth Grove to lead the powerful committee in the new legislative session.

Senate and House leadership will determine the top legislative priorities to address during the next session; however, legislators have already expressed intention to introduce legislation of varying importance to local government. While January 3rd is still a few days away, over 800 co-

sponsorship memos have been introduced, including memos addressing the local use of radar, blight remediation, Right to Know Law updates, taxation and many other issues affecting our communities.

The League will continue to remain vigilant and proactive as session starts, and most importantly, we will continue to engage our members through our advocacy efforts in 2023.

General Assembly's 2023-2024 Leadership

Senate

Democratic Leadership (Minority)

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Leader | Jay Costa |
| Whip | Tina Tartaglione |
| Appropriations Chair | Vincent Hughes |
| Appropriations Vice Chair | Tim Kearney |
| Caucus Chair | Wayne Fontana |
| Caucus Secretary | Maria Collett |
| Caucus Administrator | Judy Schwank |
| Policy Chair | Katie Muth |

Republican Leadership (Majority)

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| President Pro Tempore | Kim Ward |
| Leader | Joe Pittman |
| Whip | Ryan Aument |
| Appropriations Chair | Scott Martin |
| Caucus Chair | Kristin Phillips-Hill |
| Caucus Secretary | Camera Bartolotta |
| Caucus Administrator | Lisa Baker |
| Policy Chair | Dan Laughlin |

House

Democratic Leadership

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Leader | Joanna McClinton |
| Whip | Jordan Harris |
| Appropriations Chair | Matt Bradford |
| Caucus Chair | Dan Miller |
| Caucus Secretary | Tina Davis |
| Caucus Administrator | Mike Schlossberg |
| Policy Chair | Ryan Bizzarro |

Republican Leadership

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Leader | Bryan Cutler |
| Whip | Tim O'Neal |
| Appropriations Chair | Seth Grove |
| Caucus Chair | George Dunbar |
| Caucus Secretary | Martina White |
| Caucus Administrator | Sheryl Delozier |
| Policy Chair | Josh Kail |

The League's 2023 Legislative Priorities

The League has updated its Legislative Priorities for 2023 as the new legislative session begins.

These priorities, broken down into three categories – public safety, municipal finance and community development and infrastructure – will serve as the top issues for our advocacy efforts in the next year.

Please view our 2023 Legislative Priorities [here](#).



Pennsylvania Municipal League

2023 Legislative Priorities

The Pennsylvania Municipal League is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1900. Today, The League represents participating cities, boroughs, townships, home rule communities and towns that all share The League's municipal policy interests.

The League is dedicated to advocating for and serving the interests of our membership.

With a mission to strengthen, empower and advocate for effective local government, The League supports the following 2023 legislative priorities.

| | |
|---|--|
| Public Safety | <p>Local Use of Radar: Achieve authorization for municipal police officers to use radar as a modern public safety tool for speed enforcement.</p> <p>Post-Traumatic Stress Injury (PTSI) for First Responders: Achieve a compromise on legislation granting first responders an expanded PTSI benefit. The League supports language that will result in a benefit that is narrowly tailored, fiscally responsible and insurable.</p> |
| Municipal Finance | <p>Local Taxation Reform: Educate the General Assembly on the need to modernize the 1965 local taxing structure, commonly referred to as Act 511, so that local revenue can appropriately meet today's expenses and help prevent fiscal distress.</p> <p>Recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate or raise tax rate caps on EIT • Perform regular property assessments • Allow flat taxes to grow with inflation • Offer local/regional revenue option to all municipalities – such as a county sales tax, drink tax, payroll tax and non-resident tax |
| Community Development and Infrastructure | <p>Blight Remediation: Achieve tools to help in the on-going efforts to prevent and remediate blight in our communities.</p> <p>Specifically, The League supports increasing the 1994 fire escrow amount to reflect today's dollars, providing a simplified process to clear tangled titles and strengthening local code enforcement efforts and funding.</p> |

For more information, please visit pml.org.

For questions, please contact Amy Sturges, Deputy Executive Director for Advocacy, at asturges@pml.org

414 N. Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-236-9469 • pml.org

2023 Governor's Awards For Local Government Excellence

Nominations for the 2023 Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence are now open. Each year, these awards are presented to local government leaders who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to improving public services through innovative projects or initiatives. [Submit your nominations](#) through January 17, 2023.

2023 Bid Limits Announced

The PA Department of Labor and Industry has announced increases to the base amounts triggering the requirement for public bids, telephonic bids, or separate bids, for certain contracts. Although the inflationary rate is 8.2%, the authorizing legislation caps annual increases at 3%. Therefore, the base amount for public bids is \$22,500 and the base amount for written or telephonic bids is \$12,200, effective January 1, 2023. [Click here](#) for the full announcement in the PA Bulletin.

2023/2024 Cosponsor Memos

Insurance Coverage for All Police Officers

Representative Dan Miller has announced intention to introduce legislation requiring all police officers in the Commonwealth, including part-time officers, to be provided health insurance, disability coverage and survivor benefits no matter how many hours they work per week.

Capping the Automatic Gas Tax Increase

Representative Joseph D'Orsie and Senator Wayne Langerholc have announced intention to introduce legislation capping the automatic gas tax adjustment, which is modified on a yearly basis by the Department of Revenue.

Taxpayer Funded Lobbyist Prohibition Act

Representative Aaron Bernstine has announced intention to introduce legislation prohibiting the use of taxpayer money to pay for lobbyists.

Local Use of Radar

Senator Stephen Santarsiero has announced intention to introduce legislation permitting local use of radar by trained officers in counties of the first, second, second A and third class. It would also require a municipality to adopt a local ordinance permitting radar usage, as well as erecting signs 500 feet outside the boundary of the political subdivision notifying motorists of radar usage within the municipality.

Local Government Advertising Flexibility

Senator John DiSanto has announced intention to reintroduce legislation, formerly Senate Bill 252, providing local governments with various methods to advertise notices, including both print and online media.

OSHA for Public Sector Employees

Senator Christine Tartaglione announced intention to introduce legislation establishing the PA Occupational Safety and Health Review Board within the Department of Labor and Industry while also extending OSHA safety rules to all public employers, including the Commonwealth, political subdivisions, public schools, public transit systems and non-profits



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES UPDATE

New Grant Program to Connect More Households to Discounted Broadband

It has been nearly a year since the Federal Communications Commission launched the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) – a \$14.2 billion dollar opportunity created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The ACP aims to close the digital divide by assisting qualifying low-income households with affording broadband service. Qualifying households can receive a \$30 monthly discount on internet service and up to a \$75 monthly discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands. The FCC reported more than 15 million households nationwide have enrolled in the program.

[Read More](#)

HOUSE AND SENATE SESSION DAYS 2023

House:

January – TBD

February – TBD

March – TBD

Senate:

January – 3, 9-11, 17-18, 23-25, 30-31

February – 1, 27-28

March – 1, 6-8

**reminder - session dates are subject to change*

Remember, you can access all archived editions of the Legislative Locator as well as other member publications, forms and resources in your [Member Dashboard](#).



Pennsylvania Municipal League
414 N. 2nd St, Harrisburg
Pennsylvania 17101-1342 United States

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