

# Legislative Locator

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



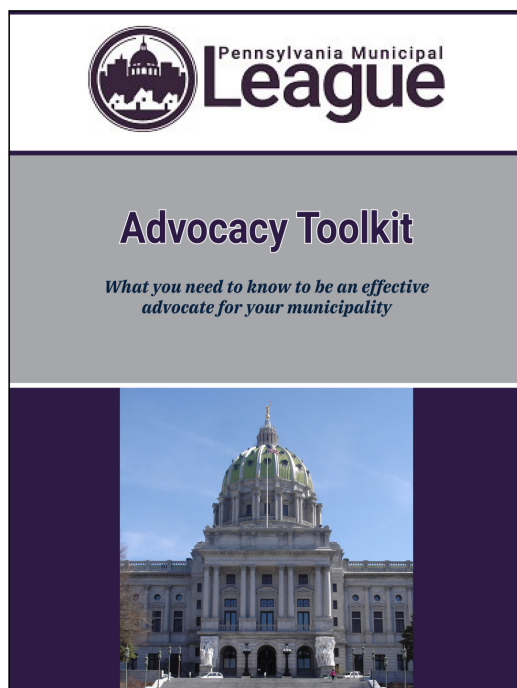
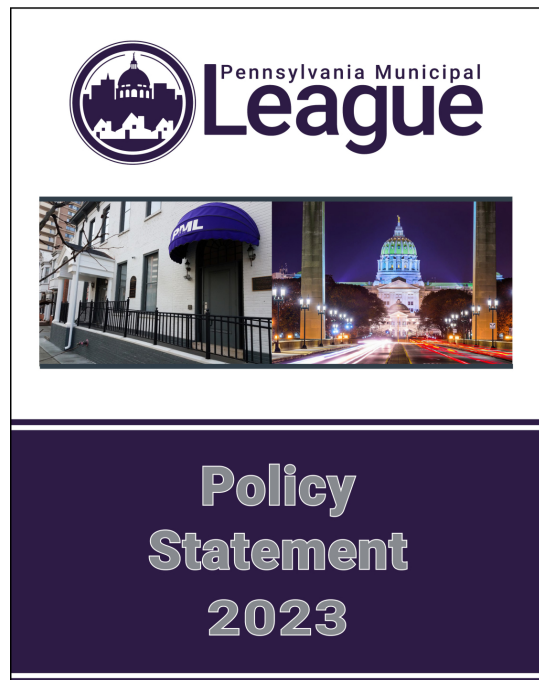
January 2023

## The League's 2023 Policy Statement

Each year, League membership adopts policy resolutions during the Municipal Leadership Summit. The adopted resolutions are then incorporated into The League's Policy Statement.

The Policy Statement serves as a guide when representing our members before the legislative and executive branches in Harrisburg, and it is a living, comprehensive statement of goals and policies developed by consensus of The League's members.

Please view the 2023 Policy Statement [here](#).



## The League's Advocacy Toolkit

As a local official, you are in a unique position to represent your community's interests not only locally, but also at the state level.

Whether you are writing a letter, making a phone call or meeting with your state representative about an issue important to your municipality or the greater League membership, you need the right tools to communicate effectively.

The League encourages local officials, elected or appointed, to review our Advocacy Toolkit and use the resource to prepare for your own local advocacy efforts in the year ahead.

Please view the Advocacy Toolkit [here](#).

## The General Assembly is Off to a Shaky Start

January 3 marked the beginning of the 2023/2024 legislative session, and while the Senate easily organized leadership, rules and committees for the next two years, the same cannot be said of the House.

The PA House of Representatives still faces uncertainty in which party holds the majority, leaving the work of the House at a standstill. While a House speaker, Mark Rozzi, was elected with bipartisan support, he has not been able to create consensus between Democrats and Republicans to set the rules for the chamber for the next two years. Additionally, on January 6, then Governor Wolf called for a special session of the General Assembly for a final vote on a constitutional amendment that would increase the statute of limitations for survivors of childhood sexual abuse. The lack of House rules has prevented the chamber from considering the amendment.

To break the gridlock in the House, Speaker Rozzi formed a bipartisan work group of six members charged with finding consensus in developing the House rules, as well as coming up with an agreement to address the constitutional amendment. In order to appear on the May primary ballot, the General Assembly must pass the bill no later than January 27.

While the House continues searching for a solution, the Senate met in their special session and passed the constitutional amendment along with two other amendments concerning voter identification and legislative power to override regulations. Senate Democrats opposed placing all three subjects into one piece of legislation.

While it remains to be seen if the House can adopt rules and the constitutional amendment in time, the House majority could be decided come February 7 when three special elections will be held to fill the three vacant, traditionally democratic, seats in Allegheny County. Once the majority is established, the margin will be extremely small, ultimately impacting the work of the House moving forward.

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### Shapiro Administration Cabinet Nominees

Governor Shapiro has nominated the following individuals to fill the various cabinet positions in his administration. Most of these individuals must first be confirmed by the Senate.

<b>Cabinet Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>
Adjutant General	Major General Mark Schindler, current serving Adjutant General
Secretary of Administration	Neil Weaver, current serving Acting Secretary of DCED
Secretary of Agriculture	Russell Redding, current serving Secretary of Agriculture
Secretary of Aging	Jason Kavulich, Lackawanna County Director of Agency on Aging
Secretary of Banking and Securities	Sarah Hammer, Managing Director of the Stevens Center for Innovation in Finance and Senior Fellow of the Harris Alternative Investments Program at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania
Budget Secretary	Uri Monson, Deputy Superintendent for Operations at Philadelphia School District
Secretary of Corrections	Laurel Harry, Superintendent at SCI-Camp Hill
Secretary of DCED	Rick Siger, Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to the President of Carnegie Mellon University
Secretary of DCNR	Cindy Adams Dunn, current serving Secretary of DCNR
Secretary of Drug and Alcohol Programs	Latika Davis-Jones, Senior Director of Behavioral Health at Highmark Wholecare
Secretary of Education	Khalid Mumin, Superintendent of Schools at Lower Merion

	School District
Secretary of Environmental Protection	Rich Negrin, Vice President of Regulatory Policy and Strategy and Head of External Affairs at Commonwealth Edison
State Fire Commissioner	Tom Cook, current serving Acting State Fire Commissioner
Secretary of Health	Dr. Debra Bogen, Director of Allegheny Health Department
Secretary of Human Services	Dr. Val Arkoosh, Chairwoman of Montgomery County Commissioners
Insurance Commissioner	Mike Humphreys, current serving Acting Insurance Commissioner
Secretary of Labor and Industry	Nancy Walker, current serving First Chief Deputy Attorney General
Secretary of Legislative Affairs	Mike Vereb, former Director of Government in the Attorney General's Office
Director of PEMA	Randy Padfield, current serving Director of PEMA
State Police Commissioner	Major Christopher L. Paris, Commander of Area III
Secretary of Revenue	Pat Browne, former State Senator and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman
Secretary of State	Al Schmidt, President and CEO of the Committee of Seventy
Secretary of Transportation	Mike Carroll, former State Representative and House Transportation Committee Chairman

## 2023/2024 Cosponsor Memos

### Stormwater Fees

Representative James Struzzi has announced intention to reintroduce legislation, formerly House Bills 1287 and 1288, amending the Third Class City, Borough and First Class Township Codes authorizing municipalities to plan, design and construct storm water management systems, to direct surface water runoff through municipalities and create a dedicated funds system to pay for the projects.

### Low-Impact Home Business

Senator Tracy Pennycuik has announced intention to reintroduce legislation, formerly House Bill 2286, amending the Municipalities Planning Code to allow for temporary low-impact home business relocation.

### Post-Traumatic Stress Injury

Senator Camera Bartolotta has announced intention to reintroduce legislation, formerly Senate Bill 775, the Workers' Compensation Law expanding the post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) benefit for first responders.

### Cost Study: State Police Services for Municipalities

Senator Christine Tartaglione has announced intention to reintroduce legislation, formerly Senate Bill 207, requiring the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study on the budgetary effects of the state police providing services to municipalities that do not have their own police departments among other things.

## State Payment of Stormwater Fees

Senator John DiSanto has announced intention to reintroduce legislation, formerly Senate Bill 1360, providing specific authorization for municipal authorities to assess stormwater fees at a reasonable and uniform rate against the Commonwealth and its instrumentalities, as well as allow appropriate exemptions or credits for state property within its own MS4 permit.

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## PennDOT Survey: Drones for Local Roadway Maintenance and Safety

To learn more about how local agencies in Pennsylvania are currently using or could potentially use Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) or “drones” for local transportation, PennDOT created a brief survey for municipal leaders. UAS is an [FHWA Every Day Counts 5 innovation](#).

PennDOT aims to better understand what training and technical support municipalities may need to begin or increase safe and effective use of this rapidly emerging technology. Additionally, PennDOT wants to know of any potential barriers, such as a lack of funding or staff, so such barriers may be taken into account when considering ways to support any municipality, regardless of size.

The survey is open until February 1<sup>st</sup> and any questions may be directed to Chris Metka, PennDOT Transportation Planning Manager, at [cmetka@pa.gov](mailto:cmetka@pa.gov).

Take Survey

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## The League's NEW 2023 Publication Schedule

We are pleased to bring you six editions of the *Municipal Reporter* magazine in 2023. In recognition of the topics of highest concern facing local government over the next 10 years as identified in our ENVISION 2032 Initiative, the themes for the *Reporter* will be as follows:

- February – Infrastructure
- April – Municipal Finance
- June – Equity and Civic Engagement
- August – Community Development
- October – Sustainability and Economic Vitality
- December – Public Health and Safety

Our Legislative Locator newsletter will now be published bimonthly on the opposite months -- January, March, May, July, September and November.

We want to feature your great projects, programs and solutions. Please contact Debbie Bitting, Director of Communications, at [dbitting@pml.org](mailto:dbitting@pml.org) to discuss how we can highlight your community through our publications.

## Congress Gives Cities More Flexibility for Recovery Funds

In the late days of December, Congress passed the final budget package for 2023, setting funding levels for every federal agency and grant program for the year and averting a government shutdown. The package also included a significant provision the National League of Cities actively supported to make

each city's current funding from the American Rescue Plan's State and Local Fiscal Relief Funds (SLFRF) more flexible, known as ARPA Flex.

[Read More](#)



## HOUSE AND SENATE SESSION DAYS 2023

### House:

February – TBD

March – TBD

April – TBD

### Senate:

February – 1, 27-28

March – 1, 6-8

April – 24-26

*\*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](#).



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