



PSATC 2023 Legislative Priorities

The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC) is a non-partisan association representing the Commonwealth's first class townships. Over 1.5 million citizens live in first class townships throughout the Commonwealth.

Mandate Relief

Public Notice Advertising

Making public information accessible should be efficient and affordable for those seeking the information, as well as for those providing it. As printed newspapers continue to decline in number and frequency, the current mandate to exclusively use print media for advertising public notices is inefficient and wasteful.

PSATC supports use of modern methods of public notice. Whether through a publically accessible statewide depository, a municipal website or a newspaper with county circulation, the emphasis must be on increasing access to public information while saving tax dollars.

Municipal Fiscal Health

Modernization of Municipal Revenue Tools

Revenue tools authorized in the 1960's are not meeting the needs of twenty-first century municipalities. While the expense of providing necessary and expected services has risen over the last 50 years, the tools to meet those expenses have remained unchanged. This friction creates fiscal pressures leading to fiscal distress. Modern townships need modern tools and the flexibility to put those tools into action.

PSATC supports updating Act 511, The Local Tax Enabling Act, to give all municipalities a level playing field of a menu of local taxing options.

Public Safety

Local Use of Radar

Speeding in neighborhoods is a paramount public safety concern for local elected officials, as it is the number one complaint from residents. Radar is a reliable, accurate and efficient public safety tool, unlike the antiquated VASCAR and ENRADD systems currently in use by local police.

PSATC strongly supports the authorization for local police to use radar.

Delivery of Volunteer Fire and EMS Services

The delivery of the basic public safety services of volunteer fire and EMS is in crisis. As volunteer organizations struggle to survive, townships and their residents who rely on these services are at risk of ambulances that don't arrive in time and too few fire fighters available to adequately respond and protect lives and property.

PSATC supports legislation that will assist in the delivery of emergency services, including state tax credits for volunteer first responders; recruitment and retention efforts; incentives that support voluntary consolidation or coordination of services; and direct payment to EMS for services rendered.

Post-Traumatic Stress Injury for First Responders

First responders impacted by a traumatic work event should be afforded a benefit to assist them in the assessment and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI). Whether through workers' compensation or some other means, such a benefit must be narrowly tailored, fair to the employee, and fiscally sustainable for the employer.

PSATC supports a fiscally responsible compromise in any effort to expand the provision of a PTSI benefit to first responders.