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To: Leaders of the House and Senate  
From: Amy Sturges, Deputy Executive Director for Advocacy, The League  
Re: Support for Increasing the 911 Fee and Adopting the Next Generation 911 Reauthorization  
Date: June 12, 2023

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On behalf of the Pennsylvania Municipal League, I am writing in support of increasing the 911 fee and adopting the Next Generation 911 reauthorization as the current 911 statute will sunset January 31, 2024.

Public safety is the primary function of local government. While municipalities provide police, fire and EMS services, our counties manage the 911 centers for the entire Commonwealth. The operation of 911 centers is vital to public safety serving as the first line of emergency response. These centers and their operators must have reliable technology and efficient funding in order ensure the effective and timely dispatch of police, fire, EMS and other first responders to emergencies.

Unfortunately, the communications technology and costs have outpaced the improvements and capabilities of the existing 911 system. Currently 911 centers are operating on old, less flexible analog technology that is ultimately not keeping up with modern communication in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Additionally, the 911 fee has not been increased since 2015, leaving counties to make up for the underfunding with taxpayer dollars. As technologies continue to evolve and funding streams no longer align with current realities, counties need to be able to rely on consistent and sustainable funding to maintain their responsibility as the first line of emergency response.

The League supports the 911 fee and reauthorization policy of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. With the sunset date approaching, we must ensure our 911 centers are adequately funded by increasing the 911 fee. We must make sure the reauthorization provides our counties with the resources, tools and technologies necessary to implement the Next Generation 911 capabilities. A properly funded and technologically up to date 911 system benefits all Pennsylvanians.

Thank you for your consideration.