

# Municipal Leadership Summit Wrap-Up

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With over 300 municipal officials, vendors and countless speakers, the Municipal Leadership Summit was the definitive training event of the year!

The playground build kicked off this year's conference at Fairview Park in Bethlehem. Volunteers from the community and Summit attendees stepped up to provide another open space equity project in conjunction with KABOOM! Thank you to the continued support of the [playground build sponsors](#) for providing funds to keep this program growing.

From the opening ceremonies where guests were welcomed by the leadership of The League, the PA State Association of Township Commissioners, and the PA Career Fire Chiefs Association, to the color guard and National Anthem provided by Liberty High School Grenadier Band and Freedom High School Anthem Singers, all was keeping with the upbeat vibe that carried through the entire event.

Important topics that were addressed repeatedly during the Summit included state funding, revitalization, sustainability, affordable housing, public safety and helping local leaders think boldly and progressively about how to make their communities better.

Remarks were provided by Governor Josh Shapiro thanking the membership and the local leaders from across the commonwealth for helping build strong communities. He also mentioned numerous partnerships with the administration and the support of local government investments and resources.

Rick Vilello, Deputy Secretary Community Affairs and Development for the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and essay judge for the John A. Garner, Jr. Civic Engagement Scholarship provided remarks about working together with local government officials and the services provided by the department.

We were honored to have Auditor General Tim DeFoor address upcoming pension and financial burdens in local government and solutions to address them.

Tim Shriver, founder of UNITE and leader of the Special Olympics International Board of Directors, spoke on a diverse collective of Americans working to ease divisions, prevent violence and solve problems in our country. Tim gave a moving discussion about how promoting a forward-looking mindset and focusing on your wellbeing can create change in your community. He encouraged attendees to reflect on their own communities and how they could foster positive change.

During the PSATC annual banquet, John Jablowski, Councilman, Wilkes-Barre Township, was recognized as the new president of the association. Followed by the evening's festivity by Philadelphia Freedom Concert, an Elton John Tribute Band, attendees enjoyed social networking and singing along with Elton John classics.

During The League Annual Business meeting, Mayor Doug Baker, City of Franklin, was sworn in as The League President.

During the historic walking tour of Bethlehem, attendees visited the Kemmerer Museum, the Sister House and the Moravian Museum.

Thank you for the generosity and support of the Richard J. Schuettler Center for Municipal Development at our Summit Royale Reception. The second annual silent auction was held on Saturday evening and continues to be a major success. This 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity continues to grow and assist local elected and appointed officials in obtaining knowledge and leadership skills necessary to meet the challenges of their office.

If you did not have an opportunity to participate, please feel free to visit [The League's website and complete the pledge form](#).

Please be sure to consider working with the [Business Leaders Network](#) and the [Summit sponsors](#) and thank them for their generous support of the conference. □

Fairview Park Rebuild (Bethlehem Video)



Main Summit Video



Fairview Park Playground Build

