



Pennsylvania Municipal
League

Celebrating Strengthening Communities



2025 Legislative Priorities

Municipal Finance

Modern Options for Revenue

The Commonwealth's 1965 local tax structure no longer meets today's expenses. To prevent fiscal distress, the General Assembly must expand proven taxing options to all municipalities.

Specifically:

- authorize an increase in the Local Services Tax to \$156 a year.
- eliminate the rate cap on the Earned Income Tax.
- authorize the Payroll Tax.

Modern Methods for Public Notice Advertising

The archaic mandate to advertise public notices in print media no longer promotes transparency and good government. The high cost of placing ads, the reduction in daily print newspapers and the shuttering of newspapers has resulted in less transparency, unworkable deadlines and wasted taxpayer dollars. A menu of advertising options is a far more efficient way to serve the public in today's online news environment.

Community Development and Infrastructure

Affordable Housing

The League commends Governor Shapiro for elevating the housing crisis to a statewide priority. The League views housing as a statewide issue with localized solutions from both the public and private sector. Local government must be at the table as solutions are developed through the Housing Action Plan and through legislation.

Reliable Local Transportation Infrastructure Funding

The 2021 Transportation Revenue Options Commission identified a \$4 billion funding gap for local roads and bridges. As gas tax revenue and, in turn, municipal liquid fuels funds decline, the Commonwealth must develop new funding sources to reliably and adequately support transportation infrastructure. The condition of local roads and bridges impacts not only public safety, but also the local and state economy. Any new funding sources must maintain the historic local share of 20 percent.

Public Safety

Modern Speed Timing Technology

The current technology that municipal police officers are authorized to use to control vehicular speed on local roads is obsolete and wholly ineffective. Radar, LIDAR and automated cameras are proven technologies that if authorized for all municipalities, can curb speeding and save lives.

Sustainable Public Safety Services

Public safety is an essential service of local government. The ability to recruit and retain first responders is an ongoing crisis that jeopardizes the health, safety and welfare of all.

Police officer candidates are steadily decreasing. This impacts public safety and the safety of the officers themselves. State level incentives to bring qualified people to the profession are needed.

Volunteer Fire and EMS services have been at crisis levels for years, and there is still a valid concern that when needed, no one will respond. State level incentives are needed, including incentives to achieve voluntary consolidation. It is also important to properly fund, reimburse and support ambulance services so they can continue to serve our communities.