

Legislative Locator

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



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November 2025

2025/2026 Budget Summary... Finally

Pennsylvania finally has a budget nearly five months after the June 30 deadline. While it is not quite as much as his initial proposal, Governor Shapiro signed the \$50.1 billion 2025/2026 budget on November 12.

Both Republicans and Democrats made concessions - the Republicans agreed to spend more than desired, and the Democrats agreed to withdraw from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). RGGI is a cooperative effort among eastern states to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants within each participating state. The rainy day fund remains untouched and will stay at about \$7.4 billion going into the next budget cycle. Also to note, both skill games and legalizing recreational marijuana were not included in the final budget. It passed the House 156-47 and passed the Senate 40-9.

A large portion of the budget is dedicated to education, with \$526 million obligated to meet the adequacy gap for our 500 school districts. The budget also includes cyber charter reform, resulting in a savings of \$175 million for public schools. Outside of education, a new Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit is established with \$193 million, \$61 million is allocated to PCCD Violence and Prevention Program to reduce gun violence and crime, and the Main Street Matters program will receive \$20 million. An Affordable Housing Tax Credit Program is also established with a maximum of \$10 million in tax credits available on an annual basis.

Lastly, permitting reform took center stage in negotiations, as the budget places strict permit application review timelines on the Department of Environmental Protection.

For a more detailed summary of the budget, please view the [press release](#) from the Governor's Office.

Webinar - What to Expect from the Current Supreme Court Term: Cases Impacting Local Government

December 4th, 2025, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Hosted by the Local Government Legal Center (LGLC), join legal experts in a discussion of the new Supreme Court term and what decisions local governments should watch. The Supreme Court will rule on several major cases this term, including issues related to:

- Whether providing a former homeowner with the difference of the sales price and the tax debt after a tax foreclosure on real property instead of the fair market value and the tax debt constitutes either a Taking under the Fifth Amendment or an Excessive Fine under the Eighth Amendment
- The standard under the Fourth Amendment for warrantless entries into a home for non-criminal emergencies

- A Second Amendment challenge to state laws that ban conceal carry permit holders from bringing firearms onto private property absent the property owners express consent
- Presidential authority to fire independent heads of agencies

The LGLC is a coalition of national local government organizations formed in 2023 by the National Association of Counties (NACo), National League of Cities (NLC) and International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) to provide education to local governments regarding the Supreme Court and its impact on local governments and local officials and to advocate for local government positions at the Supreme Court in appropriate cases.

[Register Here](#)

Cosponsor Memos

Local Control Over eBikes

Representative Jill Cooper has announced her intention to introduce legislation allowing municipalities to limit or prohibit eBikes on roads or sidewalks, impose fines for violations, and fine operations exceeding current legal limits.

Prohibiting Municipal Parking Minimums

Representative Greg Scott has announced his intention to introduce legislation prohibiting municipalities in Pennsylvania from having minimum vehicle parking requirements.

Municipalities Planning Code Study

Senator Judy Schwank has announced her intention to introduce legislation directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a comprehensive study into the effectiveness of the Municipalities Planning Code in addition to identifying areas of conflict and opportunities for necessary change.

Legislation Affecting Local Government

Environmental Liability Exemption for Land Banks Redeveloping Brownfields

Passed the House, November 19, 2025

[House Bill 1713](#) (PN 2110), introduced by Representative Bob Freeman, would amend the Economic Development Agency, Fiduciary and Lender Environmental Liability Protection Act. The Act provides exemption for certain entities from liability to the Department of Environmental Protection if they do not contribute to or exacerbate contamination on the property. The bill would amend the “economic development agency” definition by adding land banks to the list of entities eligible to receive exemption.

Expanding the Red Light Camera Program

House Transportation Committee, November 12, 2025

[House Bill 2021](#) (PN 2580), introduced by Representative Ed Neilson, would amend Title 75 (Vehicles) expanding the red light program to all classes of municipalities, and removing the accreditation requirement. The bill would also set a minimum and initial fine of \$125 for violators, which can climb up to no more than \$200 for failure to pay the fine in a timely manner.

Right to Know: Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence

First Consideration in the Senate, October 28, 2025

[Senate Bill 431](#) (PN 1281), introduced by Senator Tracy Pennycuick, would amend the Right to Know law allowing local governments, among other agencies, to deny certain requests. This bill would allow municipalities to deny Right to Know requests under two circumstances, if: a municipality believes downloading a document or opening a hyperlink within a request would pose a cybersecurity threat; or a municipality reasonably suspects the request was generated using AI. A requestor may follow the existing appeals process to challenge one of these denials.

The bill includes exceptions for requestors from a newspaper or other news outlet, as well as a nonprofit seeking information for educational research.

Public Safety Authorities - EMS

First Consideration in the Senate, October 27, 2025

[Senate Bill 737](#) (PN 1278), introduced by Senator Lisa Baker, would amend the Municipality Authorities Act allowing for the creation of public safety authorities for EMS.

A county may establish a public safety authority for EMS services, and its municipalities may join the authority by opting into a contract by ordinance. Additionally, if a county does not intend to create an authority, the bill provides municipalities with a process to initiate and establish one on their own. An EMS authority would be able to fix, alter, charge and collect reasonable and uniform rates and other charges for the services the authority provides. Under the bill, an existing public safety authority would be permitted to continue to operate without any limitation.

Lastly, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, in consultation with the Director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services of the Department of Health, would develop guidance and contract with partners to aid counties in the creation of public safety authorities.

Process to Suspend a Municipal Merger

First Consideration in the House, November 19, 2025

[Senate Bill 764](#) (PN 1322), introduced by Senator Cris Dush, would establish a process to allow a municipality to back out of a merger or consolidation. The governing body of a municipality participating in the merger or consolidation may, by resolution, petition the court of common pleas to suspend the merger or consolidation due to an alleged or apparent fraud, error or material loss impacting the finances that were undisclosed by a participating municipality prior to the initial referendum vote.

After holding a hearing, the court may order a new referendum to be held if the governing body's petition is supported by substantial evidence. If a new referendum is ordered, the original merger or consolidation agreement would be suspended until the new referendum vote occurs.

House and Senate Session Days 2025

House

Senate

December 15-17

December 8-10

**reminder - session dates are subject to change*



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