

League Link

A Newsletter of [The Pennsylvania Municipal League](#)



November 2025



This League Link Features....

- Executive Director John Brenner discusses League dues for 2026
- Exciting NEW classes and opportunities for members
- December's *Municipal Reporter* is entirely devoted to Preventing Political Violence

Executive Director's Report



Advocacy Action

Federal NLC Update: ROAD to Housing Bill

The Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream (ROAD) to Housing Act of 2025 is a bipartisan housing package that bundles together at least 27 previously introduced pieces of legislation, 23 of which were introduced with bipartisan cosponsors.

The bill seeks to boost housing supply by responding to housing-related needs across multiple sectors, including state and local governments, financial institutions, and federal regulatory agencies. No single provision in the bill stands out as a solution to the housing crisis on its own. But taken together, along with housing provisions included in the recently enacted tax bill such as Low-Income Housing Tax Credits enhancements and the permanent establishment of Opportunity Zones, the bill would modernize housing policies and enhance certain programs to account for changes in today's housing market.

The ROAD to Housing Act passed the Senate in October as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The House has also passed its own version of NDAA that does not include the housing provisions amended into the Senate bill. The House Financial Services Committee is expected to take up the Senate's housing provisions and make further additions and possible changes, including adding new flexibilities for grantees that receive CDBG and HOME grants. Once the differences between the House and Senate are reconciled, each chamber will need to pass their NDAA bills again.

The ROAD to Housing Act received endorsements from a wide array of associations including NLC, the US Conference of Mayors, and the National Association of Counties has also been supportive, stating A section by section summary of the bill is available on the Committee's website [here](#) and a breakdown of NLC's housing priorities found in the bill can be viewed [here](#).

League's Latest

Please welcome our newest member to The League – [Newtown Township, Delaware County](#). Welcome aboard!

Municipal Reporter December Edition – We would love to feature your municipality in our last edition for 2025! The theme for December is Preventing Violence: Staying Cool When the Temperature Rises; copy due date is December 1. If you would like to provide an article, please contact Susan Schrack Wood, Director of Communications, at swood@pml.org.

Municipal Reporter Themes for 2026 – Here is a sneak peek at our upcoming themes for 2026! If anything looks like a great fit for your municipality please mark down the below copy due dates and send us your ideas! Below is our 2025 Publication Schedule and themes for each issue:

1. February – Data Centers; copy/ad due date February 6
2. April – Tourism: How to Make it Work for You; copy/ad due date April 3
3. June – Disasters: Overcoming Extreme Challenges; copy/ad due date June 5
4. August – Public Health: Healthy Communities; copy/ad due date August 7
5. October – Financing: Creative Ways to Finance Projects; copy/ad due date October 2
6. December – The Changing Face of Communications; copy/ad due date December 4

The Pennsylvania Municipal League and the Pennsylvania Career Fire Chiefs Association are proud to announce the launch of a brand-new, program for firefighters across the state. The PA Fire Credentialing Program offers a new credentialing program open to all firefighters in Pennsylvania, including volunteer firefighters. This program allows for a universally accepted set of skills and standards that can transfer from city to city in Pennsylvania. This program is the first of its kind in Pennsylvania and registration is NOW OPEN! The program creates a standardized credential for participants that they can carry with them and transfer from department to department. It provides a standardized, objective benchmark that can help fire departments make informed hiring decisions to ensure that candidates meet the essential qualifications. The credential also signifies that a participant is willing to commit to a standard of

excellence, accountability, and ongoing professional development. The credentialing program is a partnership between the Career Fire Chiefs Association and The Pennsylvania Municipal League. As a part of its work with municipalities across the state, The League offers training opportunities designed to fit the special requirements and considerations of communities and local governments!

www.pafirecredentialing.org

We have upcoming PA Construction Codes Academy in December — Please click on below flyer for registration information.

Click the below flyers for the last two courses of the year being offered by [The League Learning Academy](#)!

For more information, see our [News & Announcements and newsfeed](#) on our homepage.

Register Now



DECEMBER 2025

Pennsylvania Construction Codes Academy

www.PAConstructionCodesAcademy.org

LEAGUE LEARNING ACADEMY

ELECTED AUDITORS MASTERCLASS: FROM FUNDAMENTALS TO EXCELLENCE

DECEMBER 9 – DECEMBER 10
9 A.M. TO NOON BOTH DAYS

From Election to Expertise

Build a strong foundation for your term with practical skills in oversight, reporting, and collaboration. Learn to reduce errors, ensure accurate audits, save time, and earn stakeholder trust through professionalism and accountability—all within Pennsylvania's municipal framework.

- Foundations of Municipal Auditing
- Navigating Local Government Finances
- Core Auditing Techniques
- Effective Audit Reporting
- Legal Tools and Practical Resources





LEAGUE LEARNING ACADEMY

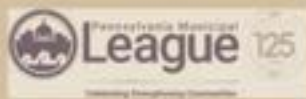
Spring 2026 Schedule

JANUARY

15 Lunch & Learn - Preparing for your Audit

FREE Webinar for Everyone
9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

21 Webinar: Public Service for Everyone
What Happens When All Are Welcome



DETAILS

- Courses are 9:00 a.m. to Noon
- Lunch & Learns are 12:10 to 1:10
- All sessions are online via Zoom
- Click [here](#) for details and registration or scan the QR code below

FEBRUARY

3 From Agenda to Action - Running Productive Municipal Meetings

18 Capital Budgeting and Planning

19 Lunch & Learn - topic TBD

24 & 25 Introduction to Local Government Accounting

APRIL

1 Foundations of Fiscal Management

7 & 8 HR Municipal Best Practices

15 Core Municipal Operations

16 Lunch & Learn - topic TBD

21 & 22 Public Procurement & Bidding Essentials for Municipal Officials

MARCH

4 Essentials of Municipal Administration

18 Unlocking Grant Success - Essential Skills for Winning Proposals

19 Lunch & Learn - topic TBD

MAY

5 Advanced Fiscal Management Strategies

12 & 13 Best Practices Municipal Performance Management

14 Lunch & Learn - Topic TBD



Resource Roundup

Relief Opinion Letter - Combination Fire Companies — Here is a copy of the [Opinion Letter](#) issued by the Fire Commission to the Auditor General's office regarding relief payments that support combination departments. This letter is the result of several conversations with the DAG to reach an agreement on how to handle the rise in Combination Departments within the Commonwealth Fire Service. We agreed that items purchased with Relief Funds for a combination department can be utilized

by career personnel as long as the equipment remains the property of the Relief Association. The exception to this opinion would be personally issued PPE and training expenses for career personnel. OSFC believes that this decision will help modernize Relief practices to better align them with the realities of today's Fire Service in Pennsylvania. As always if there are questions about Relief Expenses or Management Practices, please contact the OSFC via the contact form in the VFRA Database page or email at RA-EMFireRelief@pa.gov.

Remember, you can access all archived editions of The League Link as well as other member publications, forms and resources in your [Member Dashboard](#).



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