

League Link

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



September 2025



Executive Director's Report



Advocacy Action

Trending Legislative Topic – Data Centers

With the introduction of AI and surge in technological needs, data centers have taken center stage in the Commonwealth and General Assembly. Data centers are vital infrastructure for storing and sharing data

to run applications and services, varying in scope and size from a single one off building to an entire campus across thousands of acres of land. While data centers are not new to Pennsylvania, a recent heightened interest in hyperscale data center development has brought attention to the industry.

Senator Greg Rothman has introduced [Senate Bill 939](#) creating the Artificial Intelligence and Data Center Act to fast track the development high impact data centers that have a critical IT load of 50 megawatts or higher. However, the bill preempts local control over high impact data centers by prohibiting any local ordinance from imposing regulations for construction, appearance, or other zoning requirements that are stricter than those for other industrial uses. Additionally, the application review timelines are arbitrary and short, with only 30 days for permitted use or 120 days for conditional use. The League has expressed some concerns to the Senator and will continue to advocate for preserving local zoning authority and decision-making. Please view a list of data center related legislation [here](#).

Both the Senate Republican and Democratic Policy Committees held hearings to collect information about data center development and its impact. The recording for the Republican hearing can be found [here](#), and the recording for the Democratic hearing can be found [here](#).

Lastly, we held a well-attended Capitol Conference webinar on September 3, where we had data center experts discuss the opportunity for development in the state as well as how to plan and prepare for such development.

League's Latest

Municipal Reporter Topics — We would love to feature your municipality in one of our upcoming editions! Below is our 2025 Publication Schedule for the remainder of the year and themes for each issue:

1. October – The League's 125th Anniversary; copy due date October 1
2. December – Community Murals & Architecture; copy due date December 1

If you would like to provide an article in one or more of our *Municipal Reporter* editions, please contact Susan Schrack Wood, Director of Communications, at swood@pml.org.

We have upcoming Sustainable PA Fall Workshop and PELRAS Fall Workshop in November — Please click on below flyers for registration information.

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

2025 FALL WORKSHOPS

Two game-changing events you do NOT want to miss!



*Building Stronger Communities Together -
Highlighting collaboration and unity as
the foundation for sustainability.*

Across Pennsylvania, municipalities are proving that collaboration is a powerful tool for creating vibrant, sustainable communities. This fall, the Sustainable PA Workshops will showcase projects, partnerships, and programs that are making it happen.

These interactive, one-day events will connect municipal leaders, staff, and community partners to share proven strategies for working together—whether across municipal boundaries, with regional organizations, or directly with residents.

Western PA – Thursday, November 6 | Cranberry Township



PELRAS
Public Employer Labor Relations
Advisory Service

*Managing Labor and Employment
Essentials in Turbulent Economic Times*

We're shaking things up this fall – new format, more content, and the tools you need to tackle today's toughest personnel challenges.

In a volatile economy, how you manage your workforce can make or break your organization. This power-packed day covers:

- Collective bargaining + cost-saving contracts
- Act 111 arbitration for long-term sustainability
- Layoffs & staffing done right
- Recruiting & retaining talent in a tight market
- Leave management to reduce disruption

Why you can't miss this: You told us you wanted more – we listened. This year's format delivers deeper dives, real-world strategies, and more takeaways than ever before.

Western PA – Wednesday, November 5 | Cranberry Township

Registration for The 2025 Municipal Leadership Summit is closing on September 15, if you haven't already, make sure to register now! We have Michael Hingson, a fascinating keynote speaker lined up, who will provide us with his amazing story of survival at Ground Zero during the 9/11 terrorist attack in New York. We are also excited to have Lieutenant Governor, Austin A. Davis joining us for our Opening Ceremony on October 1! In addition, we have an excellent line-up of informative and entertaining sessions including: Artificial Intelligence in Public Safety; Evaluating and Optimizing Municipal Assets; City Revitalization: Practical Paths to Progress; Tackling Homelessness at the Local Level, just to name a few! [Click HERE](#) to register today!



Municipal Leadership Summit

CITY OF ERIE  OCTOBER 1-4, 2025



We are excited to announce Lieutenant Governor Austin A. Davis will join us at our Municipal Leadership Summit in Erie!

The Lieutenant Governor will be joining us for our Opening Ceremony on Wednesday, Oct 1!

As Lieutenant Governor, Austin presides over the Pennsylvania Senate, chairs the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons, leads the Local Government Advisory Committee and serves on the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Council. Gov. Josh Shapiro has also appointed Austin to chair the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

While serving as Lieutenant Governor, Austin is focused on combating the epidemic of gun violence, supporting small and minority-owned businesses, advocating for working-class Pennsylvanians and being a champion for communities that feel like they've been left behind.

The [Schuettler Center for Municipal Development - 2025 Silent Auction](#) – During the Municipal Leadership Summit, we are jointly hosting a special anniversary celebration for both The League and PSATC.

We invite you to support this important cause by donating a silent auction basket. This is a fantastic opportunity to highlight your community and promote local tourism. Baskets featuring locally made products, unique experiences, and regional specialties are always a hit with bidders!

It is so easy to donate a basket, just enter the information about the basket online and bring it with you to Summit. NOTE: Only baskets that were entered online previous to the Summit will be accepted. Donation deadline is September 15.

More basket ideas are [HERE](#)

Auction Begins: Monday, September 22 (8:00 a.m.)

Auction End: Thursday, October 2 (10:00 p.m.)

Reception: Thursday, October 2 (8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.)

Click below to watch a special message from Rick Schuettler himself!

[Rick Schuettler Message](#)

The Schuettler Center 2025 Silent Auction

In conjunction with



PA Municipal League & PSATC
Anniversary Celebrations

The League Learning Academy



The League Learning Academy is our brand new training program for all municipalities with special discounts and perks for members! It is more valuable than ever to be a member of The League!

Our Fall Learning Tracks and Courses
are Available on the Website





Resource Roundup

[State League Executive Directors eNetwork: Local Infrastructure Hub Upcoming Programming](#) – The Local Infrastructure Hub has some exciting workshops planned for this fall and winter that may be of interest to your municipality.

[PHFA issues RFP to Fund Mixed-Use Development Projects](#) – The Community Revitalization Fund Program (CRFP) opened this week and will close at 2:00 pm on Friday, October 31.

[Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority Announces Provisional Approval of Nearly \\$800 Million in BEAD Grants That Will Connect All Pennsylvanians with High-Speed Internet](#) – Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA) Executive Director Brandon Carson announced the PBDA Board of Directors has provisionally approved \$793.4 million in Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) grants that will universally connect all Pennsylvanians to high-speed internet once fully approved by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The federal funding will connect all remaining locations across the Commonwealth that currently lack high-speed internet service.

[PennDOT NEVI Program Updates](#) – PennDOT recently announced the opening of two additional National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) funded EV charging stations. There are now 19 operational NEVI-funded charging stations in Pennsylvania, which ties Pennsylvania with Ohio for the most number of NEVI stations in a state. See PennDOT's full [press release](#) for more details.

[Creating Jobs in York County: Sharpiro Administration Secures \\$6.2 Million Investment from Baltimore Fabrication to Expand Its Manufacturing Operation and Create 75 New Jobs](#) – The metal fabrication company will breathe new life into a vacant building in York, opening a second manufacturing operation in the area that will create 75 new jobs and retain 47 existing positions.

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



Pennsylvania Municipal League
414 N. 2nd St, Harrisburg
Pennsylvania 17101 United States
PML.org

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