



PSATC 2026 Legislative Priorities

The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC) is a non-partisan association representing the Commonwealth's first class townships. Over 1.5 million citizens live in first class townships throughout the Commonwealth.

Public Safety

Local Use of Radar

Speeding in neighborhoods is a paramount public safety concern for local elected officials, as it is the number one complaint from residents. Radar is a reliable, accurate and efficient public safety tool, unlike the antiquated VASCAR and ENRADD systems currently in use by local police. PSATC strongly supports the authorization for local police to use radar.

Delivery of Fire and EMS Services

The delivery of the basic public safety services is in crisis. As organizations struggle to survive,

townships and their residents who rely on these services are at risk of ambulances that don't arrive and too few firefighters to adequately respond and protect lives and property. PSATC supports legislation that will promote sustainable delivery of emergency services, including state funding; authorization for EMS authorities; state tax credits; recruitment and retention initiatives; incentives for voluntary coordination of services; and direct payment to ambulance companies for services rendered.

Affordable Housing

Pennsylvania is facing a growing shortage of housing that our workforce can afford. Living in a safe, stable and affordable home is out of reach for many Pennsylvanians, including essential workers such as police officers, healthcare aides, teachers, and municipal employees. This lack of affordable housing impacts not only families, but also employers who struggle with recruitment and retention, and it constrains local economic

growth by limiting workforce availability and delaying development opportunities.

PSATC supports legislation that encourages the building of new, affordable housing, as well as preservation of our current housing stock. PSATC also supports local solutions through housing incentives, flexible development, and funding tools. Finally, the preservation of local zoning and land use authority is a top priority for township officials.

Mandate Relief

Public Notice Advertising

Making public information accessible should be efficient and affordable for those seeking the information, as well as for those providing it. As printed newspapers continue to decline in number and frequency, the current mandate to exclusively use print media for advertising public notices is inefficient and wasteful.

PSATC supports use of modern methods of public notice. Whether through a publicly accessible statewide depository, a municipal website or a newspaper with county circulation, the emphasis must be on increasing access to public information while saving tax dollars.

Municipal Fiscal Health

Modernization of Municipal Revenue Tools

Revenue tools authorized in the 1960's are not meeting the needs of twenty-first century municipalities. While the expense of providing necessary and expected services has risen over the last 50 years, the tools to meet those expenses have remained unchanged. This friction creates fiscal pressures leading to fiscal distress. Modern townships need modern tools and the flexibility to put those tools into action.

PSATC supports updating Act 511, The Local Tax Enabling Act, to give all municipalities a level playing field of a menu of local taxing options.

Please contact Amy Sturges, Deputy Executive Director - Advocacy at asturges@pml.org with any questions.