



REQUEST FOR PANEL PARTICIPANTS Local Government Symposium - - September 24, 2026

The Local Government Commission is requesting proposals for panel participation for its 6th Annual Local Government Symposium. The Symposium, much like the overall mission of the Commission itself, will provide a platform where practitioners, policymakers, and researchers can connect, share research and policy proposals, spread awareness of local government issues and successes, and work towards increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of municipal government in Pennsylvania.

Municipalities provide the closest link between citizens and their government. The needs and expectations that citizens have are constantly evolving, and often that evolution creates a more complex environment in which local governments must operate. How have local governments adapted to these changes? What challenges do they still face? This year's Symposium will feature several panels on topics facing municipalities, both today and in the future. In addition to original panel topic submissions, we are particularly interested in panels discussing:

- Land Use and Planning (particularly in regard to data centers)
- Municipal Management
- Right to Know Law (particularly dealing with AI and malicious use issues)
- Stormwater Management (in the wake of *West Chester v. PASSHE*)
- Challenges, Strategies, and Opportunities of Hosting Major Events (from street fairs to international events)
- Blight Mitigation and Remediation
- Privacy Concerns in an Increasingly Technological Society

We look forward to hearing from experts, practitioners and researchers. We are anticipating panel participants to include local government officials, university faculty and students, state and regional professionals who study and work with local governments, state legislators, and other stakeholders. The Symposium will be a **fully online** event this year, with presentations livestreamed via Zoom. Video recordings of the panels, along with any supporting documentation, will be posted on the Local Government Commission website after the Symposium.

By **August 14, 2026**, please submit a brief abstract of your proposed panel participation. Proposals should include, in addition to identifying the topic from above in which you would like to participate (or propose your own panel), your background relevant to Pennsylvania local government. Successful participants will be notified by **September 1, 2026**. The symposium will take place on **Thursday, September 24, 2026**.

Please email abstracts, and any questions you may have regarding the event, to Julia Frey no later than **August 14, 2026**.

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