



Pennsylvania Municipal
League

About The League

Located at Second and State in Harrisburg

Founded in 1900

Pennsylvania's oldest municipal
association

Represent cities, boroughs, townships
and home rule communities

Affiliated with the National League of
Cities

Provides secretariat services to:
PSATC and APMM



Mission

**The mission of the Pennsylvania
Municipal League is to strengthen,
empower and advocate for effective
local government.**

League Staff

Advocacy – Membership – Operations

John Brenner, Executive Director

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Amy Sturges, Deputy Executive Director – Advocacy

asturges@pml.org

Kaitlin Errickson, Governmental Affairs Manager

kerrickson@pml.org

League Membership

134 Member Municipalities

Cities – Boroughs – Townships – Home Rule Municipalities

Full-service – Urban – Suburban

Board of Directors

- Officers: President, First Vice President and Second Vice President
- Executive Director: Secretary/Treasurer
- District Representatives: Northcentral, Northeast, Northwest, Southcentral, Southeast and Southwest
- Legislative Co-Chairs
- Elected officials of member municipalities over 70,000
- Directors-At-Large
- Past Presidents of the League
- Elected and Appointed Officials

2023 Officers

President – Mike Lombardo, Mayor, City of Pittston

First VP – Doug Baker, Mayor, City of Franklin

Second VP – Derek Slaughter, Mayor, City of Williamsport

Immediate Past President – Danene Sorace, Mayor, City of Lancaster

Legislative Co-chairs:

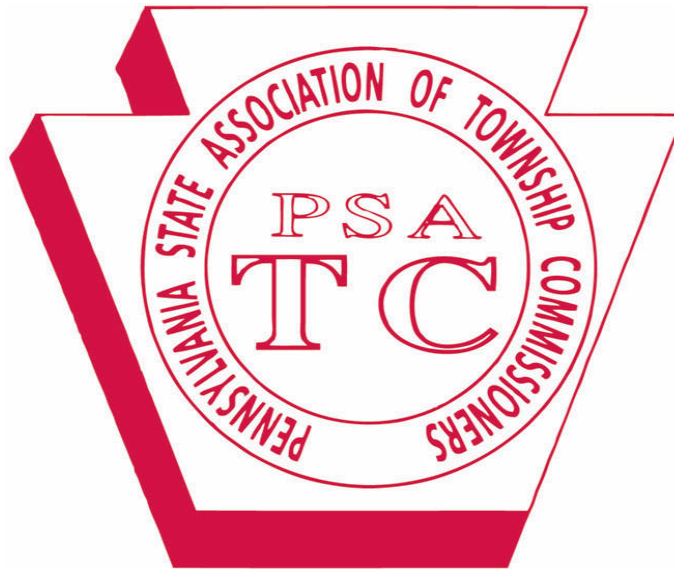
Peter Urscheler, Mayor, Phoenixville Borough

Doug Tusing, Council President, Ebensburg Borough

Programs and Services

- Advocacy
- Training for Elected and Appointed Officials
 - League Training
 - Contracted training
 - Construction Codes Academy
 - PA Training HUB
 - Floodplain Management
- Services
 - Labor Relations Advisory Service
 - Electricity Procurement
 - Property, liability and workers' compensation insurance trusts
 - Unemployment insurance trust
 - Sustainable PA Community Certification

PA State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC)



About PSATC

Founded in 1925

To distinguish between townships of the first and second class

93 First Class Townships

Located in urban areas around cities

Concentrated in Southwest, Southeast and Central PA

PSATC has Regional Affiliation – East, Central, West

For 40 years, The League has provided advocacy and administrative services to PSATC via a contract



Mission

PSATC's mission is to advance the interests of first class townships through advocacy and promotion of efficient methods of local governance.



Executive Committee

Officers

Legal counsel

Past presidents currently in office

Delegates from each region

Meets four times a year



2022 - 2023 Officers

President - Sam Juliano, North Versailles Township, Allegheny Co

First VP - John Jablowski, Wilkes Barre Township, Luzerne Co

Second VP - Dennis Arthur, Tinicum Township, Delaware Co

Third VP - Todd Miller, Crescent Township, Allegheny Co



2023 Legislative Priorities

Local Use of Radar

- A modern **public safety tool** for speed enforcement
- Senate Bill 459 (Rothman)
- Numerous motorist protections
 - Including a local ordinance, signage, warning period, police officer training and equipment calibration, officers must be visible to motorists, no points, and fine revenue is limited



2023 Legislative Priorities

Post-traumatic Stress Injury for First Responders

- Seeking a compromise that provides a fiscally responsible benefit
- Senate Bill 365 (Bartolotta)
- Amends the Workers' Comp Act making it easier for first responders to prove an injury
- Current language is broad and uninsurable
- Narrow language would help control costs



2023 Legislative Priorities

Local Revenue Reform

- Modernize the 1965 local taxing structure so that local revenue can appropriately meet today's expenses and help prevent fiscal distress
- PA Economy League Report – *It's Not 1965 Anymore, State Tax Laws Fail to Meet Municipal Revenue Needs*
 - Case studies illustrate the short-comings of the current system
- Alleviate the stress on the resident and the municipality of over- reliance on the Property Tax
 - Eliminate or raise rate the caps on the earned income tax
 - Authorize current options for *All* – county sales tax, drink tax, payroll tax and non-resident EIT
 - Allow flat taxes to grow with inflation – local services tax
 - Perform regular property assessments
- Smith-Wade-El and Madsen proposal



2023 Legislative Priorities

Public Notice Advertising Modernization

Transparency – Accessibility – Flexibility – Efficiency

- Senate Bill 231 (DiSanto)
- The only authorized method is the newspaper
 - Going out of business
 - Not publishing daily
 - Charging high fees to municipalities
- Options for local governments



2023 Legislative Priorities

Delivery of Fire and EMS Services

- An on-going crisis in communities across the state
- Daily risk that first responders will not arrive in time
 - Volunteer recruitment and retention
 - Response times
 - Reimbursement for services
- Support efforts to address this crisis



2023 Legislative Priorities

Blight Tools

- Continue to achieve tools to help on-going efforts to prevent and remediate blight in our communities, such as
 - increasing the 1994 fire escrow amount to reflect today's dollars
 - providing a simplified process to clear tangled titles
 - strengthening local code enforcement efforts and funding

Blight Report published in 2023





Current and Future Priorities:

Public Health & Safety

Municipal Finance

Community Development & Infrastructure

Equity and Civic Engagement

Transparency and Accountability

Local Government Modernization

2023 Municipal Leadership Summit

Municipal Leadership Summit

BETHLEHEM  OCTOBER 5-8, 2023



www.pml.org

- PSATC webpages
- Advocacy issues and policy
- PEL Report: *It's Not 1965 Anymore*
- Envision 2032 report
 - League Member presentations
- Municipal Leadership Summit information

Questions?



PSATC 2023 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.

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 publically 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.

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 Volunteer Fire and EMS Services

The delivery of the basic public safety services of volunteer fire and EMS is in crisis. As volunteer organizations struggle to survive, townships and their residents who rely on these services are at risk of ambulances that don't arrive in time and too few fire fighters available to adequately respond and protect lives and property.

PSATC supports legislation that will assist in the delivery of emergency services, including state tax credits for volunteer first responders; recruitment and retention efforts; incentives that support voluntary consolidation or coordination of services; and direct payment to EMS for services rendered.

Post-Traumatic Stress Injury for First Responders

First responders impacted by a traumatic work event should be afforded a benefit to assist them in the assessment and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI). Whether through workers' compensation or some other means, such a benefit must be narrowly tailored, fair to the employee, and fiscally sustainable for the employer.

PSATC supports a fiscally responsible compromise in any effort to expand the provision of a PTSI benefit to first responders.

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