



July 2009

Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs

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PSAB Update

From the Desk of the Director of Communications

Are you interested in receiving the PSAB Update each month to your email address? Contact Courtney Accurti at 800-232-7722 ext.12 or caccurti@boroughs.org to let us know. You can also download the fax from the PSAB web site at www.boroughs.org.

Fall Leadership Conference

Come to the Ambassador Conference Center in Erie from October 16-18 for the fall meeting of borough officials. Gannon University's Dr. David Kozak and Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper will both speak during the general session. Watch your mail for more information.

Upcoming Training Courses

Webinars

How to Conduct Effective Negotiations with Your Police Union – July 15
How to Prepare for an Interest Arbitration – Aug 5

Grant Preparation

Aug 4 – Montgomery County
Aug 12 – Dauphin County
Aug 13 – Clarion County
Aug 19 – Luzerne County

PA Municipal Legal Update

Aug 18 – Dauphin County

Basic Budgeting

Aug 20 – Luzerne County
Aug 25 – Dauphin County
Aug 27 – Delaware County

*For specific details visit the
Training page at
www.boroughs.org/training.*

County Optional Sales Tax Bill

A recent legislative proposal was introduced that would generate additional revenue for local government to reduce property taxes in addition to providing general revenue. House Bill 1682 would give counties the option to enact a one percent levy in addition to the six percent already levied by the Commonwealth. Proceeds from the extra one percent would stay in the county that elects to levy the tax with 50% of the funds collected being reimbursed to the county, 40% going to municipalities within that county and 10% going to municipal collaborative efforts. The bill mandates 60% of the revenues directed to the county and municipalities must be used to reduce local property taxes. Initial estimates peg the total statewide revenue from an additional one percent sales tax at just over one billion dollars. House Bill 1682 is currently in the House Local Government Committee. You are encouraged to contact your legislator and ask for House Bill 1682 to be brought to the floor for a vote. If you would like more information about the bill, contact the PSAB Department of Government Affairs at 800-232-7722 or etroxell@boroughs.org and rgrutza@boroughs.org.

The PLGSA Turns 50 – We are Golden

The PA Local Governmental Secretaries Association (PLGSA) is a non-profit association that educates municipal administrators from all classes of government. Join us for the PLGSA Annual Conference which is scheduled for August 19-22 at the Desmond Hotel in Malvern. Topics include UCC Update, Top Ten Things for Improving Your Municipalities' Operation, Earned Income Tax, Legislative Update, Open Records Act, Situational Leadership, Balancing Work and Life plus more. First time attendee grants are available. For more information on the Conference or PLGSA, contact Mary Weller, Director of Conferences & Meetings, at 800-232-7722 ext. 26 or mweller@boroughs.org.

Deadline Extended for Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

The deadline to apply for Pennsylvania's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program for older adults and residents with disabilities has been extended from June 30 to Dec. 31. The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians who are 65 years old and older; widows and widowers who are 50 years old and older; and people with disabilities who are 18 years old and older. The PA Department of Revenue automatically calculates supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners. As specified by law, rebates will begin to be distributed on July 1. After June 30, rebates will be distributed as claims are received and processed. Property Tax/Rent Rebate claim forms (PA-1000) and information are available online at www.PaPropertyTaxRelief.com and by calling 888-222-9190. Forms and assistance also are available at PA Department of Revenue district offices local Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers and state legislators' offices. The status of claims filed can be checked online at www.PaPropertyTaxRelief.com or by calling 888-PATAXES.

Home Improvement Contract Registry

In 2008, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed the Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act. The law requires that all contractors who perform \$5,000 or more in home improvements in a year must register with the Attorney General's Office. Beginning July 1, Pennsylvania consumers will be able to verify a contractor's registration with the Attorney General's Office by visiting www.attorneygeneral.gov or by calling a toll-free hotline. The Office of Attorney General is encouraging consumers to use only registered contractors when making home improvements. Contractors can download forms and register online at www.attorneygeneral.gov.