

ANOTHER YEAR OF
SUCCESS
AT **PSAB**



Executive Director's Message

We offer this 2023 PSAB Annual Report as a summary of our many accomplishments this past year, that would not have been possible without your participation.



In 2024, PSAB will continue to emphasize that local governments are vital to Pennsylvania and seek opportunities that are beneficial to boroughs. It is with great pride that we represent your interests and partner in any way possible with local leaders across this Commonwealth.

The PSAB Strategic Plan was updated in 2023 in response to the ongoing needs of our members. This comprehensive blueprint tasks PSAB to serve as the primary governance resource and unified advocacy voice of Pennsylvania boroughs. We will be a catalyst for creating a future characterized by leadership, vitality, and prosperity for our local communities.

PSAB continues to emphasize six fundamental principles that have helped guide our operational efforts since 1911:

- Local self-governance is the cornerstone of American democracy
- Local decisions are best made at the local level
- Pennsylvania boroughs play a vital role in shaping the future of this Commonwealth
- The spirit of public service is what builds and maintains our communities
- Well-informed local officials are essential for effective and efficient borough operations
- PSAB's strength lies in the unity of our diverse communities

I wish to again thank you for your exceptional public service and invite you to continue participating in our dynamic association. Please also join us in helping to support those leaders that are new to borough government, as an effort to build a better Pennsylvania. We welcome your ideas that may assist us in achieving our goals, which will ultimately benefit the 955 borough communities that PSAB proudly represents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher Cap". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

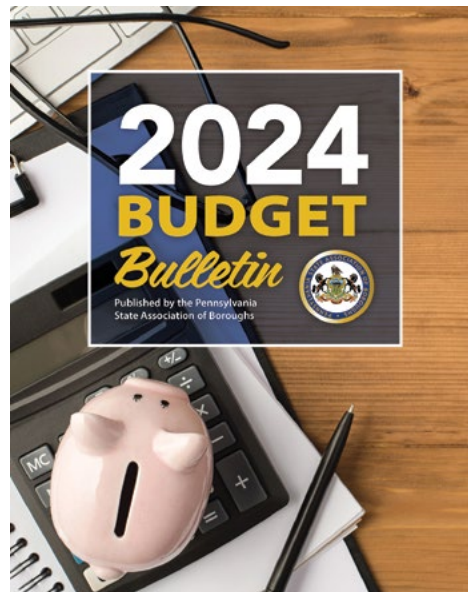
Chris Cap
PSAB Executive Director



For over 113 Years, We're Still Here for You.

Thomas F. Chrostwaite was the driving force behind PSAB for almost half a century. PSAB continues to offer legislative representation, advocacy, information, and education – all of which remain the core pillars of our foundation.

Although the scope of services provided to our membership has evolved over time from those first offered in 1911, the focus of the Association has been – and continues to be – advancing the interests of boroughs while providing tools to help officials effectively govern.



Research and Technical Assistance

Each year, thousands of officials contact the Association to ask questions about the Borough Code, Sunshine Act, employment issues, Open Records, meeting management, and so much more. In 2023, the Research Department was proud to help you navigate remote meeting governance and transparency, emergency declarations, and much more. In all, the Research Department fielded more than 2,000 inquiries over the past year.

Many frequently asked questions from the membership also appear in the Question & Answer column of the *Borough News* each month to help other officials too.

PSAB also produces the online Budget Bulletin, a resource that can help you navigate the borough's fiscal process, and includes a budget calendar, tax structure, and key state reporting deadlines. This information can also be found in the Borough Planner & Calendar and on boroughs.org.

Visit boroughs.org/research to find governing resources, sample resolutions and policies, sample ordinances, and information on recent court decisions.



Education and Professional Development

It was another busy year of PSAB training in 2023. Over the course of the year the training department continued to strive to meet its goal of providing relevant and accessible training and educational programs for municipal officials. Our training was provided through a combination of partnerships with local government professionals, subject matter experts, state and federal agencies, and PSAB staff. Training was offered in a variety of modes—online and in-person—and formats—full-day, hour-long, 90-minute, multi-part—designed to accommodate the busy schedules of municipal officials.

For the year, PSAB had more than 4,500 municipal officials register for its training.

A sample of topics covered in 2023 include the following:

- Your role as a municipal administrator
- Grant writing best practices
- Right-to-Know Law review
- Zoning and land-use regulation updates
- Parliamentary procedures
- Labor and employment issues
- Public works management
- Municipal budgeting and finance
- Police management
- Cyber security 101 for boroughs
- The Ethics Act
- Effective internal controls

In 2023, PSAB continued its partnership with the PA Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI) to provide learning opportunities on zoning, planning, and land development review. PMPEI offers a variety of planning and zoning courses both online and in-person. The department administered over 35 PMPEI courses throughout 2023.

Throughout the year, borough officials continued seeking out opportunities to earn the Certified Borough Officials (CBO) designation, which is a voluntary educational achievement program for both elected and appointed borough officials. The program is designed to promote continuing education for borough officials and excellence in local government service. Twenty-nine borough officials earned the CBO designation in 2023 and many of these recipients were recognized at the Association's annual conference.

PSAB was also proud to continue the PSAB Plus Training Subscription Program in 2023.

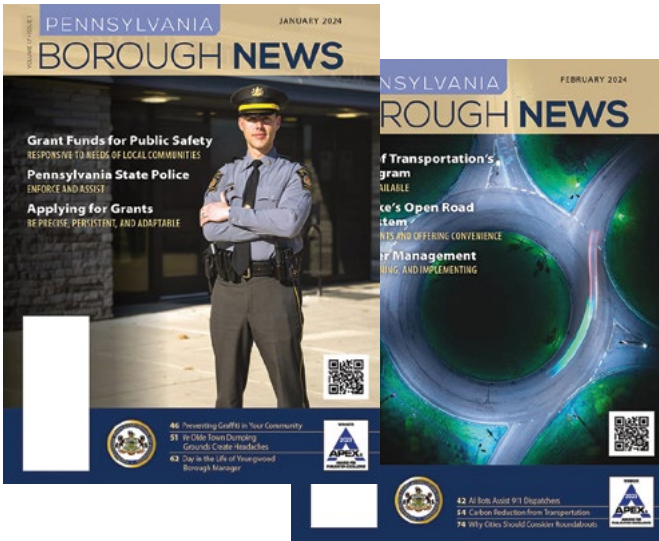
PSAB members that elect to enroll in PSAB Plus get free access to all PSAB webinars and a 50 percent discount on all traditional classroom and online course training. This program continues to grow in popularity for boroughs looking to invest in training and education.

For more information on PSAB training and education, including training schedules and to register for training, visit www.training.boroughs.org, or check out the training tab on www.boroughs.org, PSAB's home page.



Summary of PSAB Membership Benefits

- Online Membership Directory which includes a listing of PSAB members, business partners, municipal associates, and County Borough Associations
- Online Budget Bulletin
- Sample Ordinances, Policies, and RFPs
- Research and Technical Assistance
- Borough Planner & Calendar
- *Borough News* Magazine
- Training & Professional Development Opportunities and Conferences
- Access to Cost-Effective Group Programs
- Monthly PSAB Membership Update
- PSAB Website which includes Important News; legislative resources such as the Legislative Agenda and Sample Resolutions; Secure Online Registration for Training and Conferences; Member Spotlights; Municipal Classifieds; and much more.



Communication is Key.

The *Borough News* magazine continues to provide articles on labor and employment issues, transportation, community development, finance, environment, technology, and national trends.

PSAB continues to host *Inside Pennsylvania Boroughs* television program, which examines issues facing local governments such as blight remediation, police management, municipal budgeting, the future of fire service, and much more.

PSAB also publishes the monthly PSAB Update and the annual Planner & Calendar and distributes eblasts to stay in constant communication with members.



2023 Legislative Advocacy

Since 1911, advocacy has been critical to the mission of PSAB. Mr. Chrostwaite, in his creation of the organization, described the ability of an association to speak with one voice and exert collective influence on the General Assembly as a key benefit of membership. PSAB is the official instrument through which borough officials should make their needs known to Congress and the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and in turn, the formal spokesman to which the state and federal governments and their legislative bodies look for the official expression of those needs. The PSAB Department Government Affairs has sought to preserve, promote, and advance legislation and public policy in the best interests of the Commonwealth's borough communities.

2023 was as tumultuous of a year in the Pennsylvania General Assembly as ever. From a new Democratic Majority in the House of Representatives for the first time since 2010, to a new Governor taking office with an overwhelming victory in the previous election, there were many changes to the status quo in Harrisburg and created a very slow start to the legislative session. In fact, just over half of the 66 bills the General Assembly passed this calendar year were signed into law between December 11th and 13th.

Even amidst the slow start to session, PSAB was able to advocate and gain legislative victories in different areas of the law including:

- **Act 10 of 2023** – This Act gives the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission statutory authority to conduct fingerprint-based criminal history checks on municipal police officer applicants to ensure that municipalities are accepting and training qualified individuals.
- **Act 15 of 2023** – This Act addresses the needs of the EMS community by increasing reimbursement rates for services and ensuring providers are compensated for all loaded miles. Act 15 will drive \$63.1 million in new revenue and new resources into the EMS network statewide beginning January 1 through the end of the 2023-24 Fiscal Year (or \$126.2 million on a full-year basis).
- **Act 34 of 2023** – This Act was the budget implementation vehicle for the Fiscal Code. Included in this bill is the reauthorization of funding for county 911 systems. Beginning March 1, 2024, the 911 surcharge will increase to \$1.95 from the \$1.65 from the previous budget.

As this was the first year of the two-year legislative session, PSAB has advocated on many other legislative matters that we hope to get across the finish line this session including:

- **HB 1567** (Rep. Malagari) – This bill would permit tenants who are currently residing in a property to remain in the property, dependent on the property's safety and habitability and approval of the municipal code enforcement officer.
- **SB 459** (Sen. Rothman) – This bill would give municipal police the use of radar to enforce the maximum speed limits on local roads. *Resolution 2022-12*

- **HB 1207** (Rep. Freeman) – This legislation would remove the minimum population requirements to create a land bank, allowing all municipalities, including smaller municipalities, to establish land banks on a voluntary basis. *Resolution 2021-04*
- **HB 1232** (Rep. James) – This bill would make four changes to the borough code including changes such as: adding language providing that an elected or appointed official of a borough may not be surcharged if the official acting in good faith on a written or publicly-disclosed opinion of the borough solicitor; authorizing a borough to appoint a partnership, limited partnership, association or professional corporation as the borough manager, permitting the civil service commission of a borough to reorganize within 30 days of the first Monday in January of each even-numbered year, and removing a requirement that a preliminary budget be prepared beginning at least 30 days prior to the adoption of the budget.
- **SB 501** (Sen. Baker) – This bill would allow for the creation of county-wide Public Safety Authorities for EMS services. *Resolution 2023-14*
- **SB 753** (Sen. Kearney) - The legislation provides for the reduction of council membership from 7 to 5 or 3 members regardless of borough population, and conversely increase council size, repeals current provisions in the Borough Code regulating the accumulation and collection of garbage and other refuse materials and creates a new chapter 25B "Solid Waste Collection and Disposition."

Over the next year, PSAB will continue our efforts advocating for the issues of the utmost importance to our members which include:

- Requiring PennDOT to pay and maintain stormwater facilities on state highways in boroughs.
- Authorizing local police officers to use radar and lidar to enforce the speed limit.
- Addressing reforms to the Motor License Fund recognizing unique municipal needs.
- Reforming the Policemen and Firemen Collective Bargaining Law (Act 111) to ensure communities can afford public safety services.
- Increasing the maximum allowable compensation for council members and mayors in boroughs.
- Eliminating the public notice provision requiring advertising in newspapers of general circulation.
- Amending Act 65 to add statutory protection to the "catch-all" provision allowing any item to be added to an agenda by majority vote, which was overturned by the Commonwealth Court.
- Repeal the archaic civil service mandates in the Borough Code, which complicate the hiring process of borough police.
- Increasing the Prevailing Wage threshold.

Programs & Membership Resources

PSAB offers cost-effective group programs that deliver significant savings and improve the bottom line for borough communities.

Visit boroughs.org/programs to learn about the programs that can help your community.

Borough Elected Officials Program (BEOP)

Provides up to \$10,000 in term life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance for borough elected officials; up to \$2,000 spouse coverage; and up to \$1,000 for each dependent. The program is provided through Keystone, PSAB's endorsed insurance provider, and underwritten by Guardian Life.

Borough Management Caucus (BMC) Program

Provides up to \$5,000 in term life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance for the borough manager/appointed administrator and/or secretary. The program is provided through Keystone, PSAB's endorsed insurance provider, and underwritten by Guardian Life.

Employee Drug and Alcohol Testing Program (DOT/CDL & Non-DOT/Non-CDL)

Provides all the DOT/CDL drug and alcohol testing required by federal and state law, including random, pre-employment, post-accident, reasonable suspicion/cause, return-to-duty, and follow-up testing. This program is administered through Vault Health, PSAB's endorsed testing provider.

Energy Procurement Program

Provide data-driven procurement solutions that reduce and manage electricity and natural gas supply costs for members on an ongoing basis. It includes free analyzation of energy costs; evaluation of current supply contracts; and proprietary price analytics. This program meets the exemption from typical bidding requirements found in the Borough Code. This program is offered through APPI Energy, PSAB's endorsed energy provider.



Learn from our partners.

Get connected to companies who choose to be business partners of our Association.

If your borough is looking to improve efficiency, obtain legal advice, or modernize your business operations, our business partners can help.

Be sure to connect with them at the PSAB Annual and Fall conferences where you can talk to these professionals and learn about existing and new products and services.

Visit boroughs.org/business to connect with a business partner online.

Junior Council Person Program (JCP)

Engages youth in borough government and provides mentoring opportunities through public engagement, meeting management, team building, and collaboration. PSAB also recognizes Junior Council Person(s) by presenting them with a Distinguished Junior Council Person Award.

Keystone Municipal Insurance Program

Offers workers' compensation and property and casualty insurance. The program is provided through Keystone, PSAB's endorsed insurance provider.

Keystone Municipal Insurance Trust (KMIT)

Provides a competitive self-insured workers' compensation alternative for municipalities and authorities. It offers access to professional risk improvement services to increase workplace safety. The program is administered by the Kilmer Group, and provided through Keystone, PSAB's endorsed insurance provider.

Municipal Retirement Trust (MRT)

Specializes in full-service municipal pension planning. This program offers superior customer service, affordable fee structures, and impressive rates of return.

Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT)

Owned and operated by participants, PLGIT is a short-term investment option with a number of convenient cash management services that exclusively serves more than 3,000 local governments and other types of governmental agencies in PA. PLGIT is the endorsed investment provider for PSAB members.

Procurement Card Program (P-Card)

Allows boroughs to maintain control of spending to manage municipal finances more effectively. There are no annual fees or revolving lines of credit. The program is offered through PLGIT, PSAB's endorsed investment provider.

Special Event Liability Insurance

Provides special event coverage for parades, festivals, & other events and includes optional weather insurance, event cancellation, and prize indemnity insurance. The program is provided through Keystone, PSAB's endorsed insurance provider, with Tokio Marine HCC as the underwriter.

The Employment Alliance of Municipalities (TEAM)

Provides legal advice on labor and employment issues including eight free non-complex telephone or email sessions each year. A credit of up to \$150 on PSAB online labor and employment law training; Services are provided by Eckert Seamans, PSAB's endorsed provider.

Unemployment Compensation (UC) Plan

Offers full-service administration and claims management of UC activity, lower contribution rates, and hearing representation and/or consultation, and secure online reporting.

Website Program

Provides a low-cost program to help your municipality develop and gain a basic online presence.

Learn more about PSAB's Programs at: boroughs.org/programs.



Serving communities with distinction.

Many borough officials have served their communities for many years, often dedicating 10, 20, 30 or more years to public service.

The PSAB Awards Program honors the achievements of elected and appointed borough officials during the PSAB Annual Conference each year.

Borough officials are honored for years of service; distinguished service to the community or to PSAB, as well as outstanding contributions to legislative advocacy awards.

The Association also recognizes how you communicate with your residents through your borough newsletters, websites, and other marketing pieces.



Majovie Bland receives the Cecil K. Leberknight Award from PSAB President Ed Child.

Those who have achieved their Certified Borough Officials designation are also honored.

The following are a list of award recipients:

Cecil K. Leberknight Award

This award is named after Cecil K. Leberknight, a former PSAB President, in honor of his faithful service to PSAB for more than four decades. This award is given annually to promote interest in borough government and to recognize faithful and effective service by borough officials. This award is given to mayors, council members, secretaries, managers, and treasurers who have completed 10 or more years of borough service.

Majovie Bland, East Lansdowne Borough
Brent Boyer, Millersburg Borough
Christine Eshleman, Mountville Borough
Cathy Hawk, Parryville Borough
Lenwood Heisey, Mountville Borough
Tammy Impiccini, Centerville Borough
Tim Jansante, Bentleyville Borough
Thomas Lloyd, Avalon Borough
Lee Nelson, Avalon Borough
William Pascale, Avalon Borough
Thomas Reinhold, Ephrata Borough
Donald Smith, Parryville Borough
Ross Swords, Jr., Brownsville Borough
Rebecca Smith Witmer, Millersburg Borough

Carol Sambol Award

This award is named in honor of Carol Sambol, who admirably served Baden Borough as a council member and represented PSAB for 25 years as a distinguished leader. This award is given to mayors, council members, secretaries, managers, and treasurers who have completed 25 or more years of borough service.

Loretta F. Allen, Thompsontown Borough
George J. Celli, Ellwood City Borough
Edward Child, CBO, Trumbauersville Borough
Lindsay S. Crosby, East Lansdowne Borough
Steven A. Dunmire, Petersburg Borough
Henry Eberle, Ridley Park Borough
Michael George Trumbauersville, Borough
Ann Bowman Jackson, CBO, Millersburg Borough
Linda List, Ellwood City Borough



Thomas F. Chrostwaite Award

Initiated in 1956, the Thomas F. Chrostwaite Award is given annually to promote interest in borough government and to recognize faithful and effective service by borough officials. Named in honor of the founder and first president of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, this award is given to mayors, council members, secretaries, managers, and treasurers who have completed 20 or more years of borough service.

- Dana Brubaker, Parryville Borough
- Sandra Conrad, CBO, Littlestown Borough
- Douglas Diehl, Milton Borough
- Don Hall, II, Westmont Borough
- Lisa Hiltz, Pennsburg Borough
- Timothy A. Houck, Petersburg Borough
- Philip Kresge, Mountville Borough
- Judith S. Montell, Baden Borough
- Robert Myers, Birdsboro Borough
- Patrick Narcisi, Avalon Borough
- Michelle Sandstrom, Milton Borough
- David Trzcianka, Baden Borough



Diane Schaefer receives the Board of Directors' Award from PSAB President Ed Child.



PSAB President Ed Child presents the Carol Sambol Award to Ann Bowman Jackson.

Board of Directors' Award

The Board of Directors' Award is given to promote interest in borough government and to recognize faithful and effective service by mayors, council members, secretaries, treasurers, and managers who have completed 30 or more years of borough service.

- Victoria Donnelly, Avalon Borough
- Janet Gliem, Biglerville Borough
- Cathy Jones, Emsworth Borough
- Daniel B. Palfey, West Newton Borough
- Frederick J. Potter, Trumbauersville Borough
- Diane Schaefer, CBO, Youngwood Borough
- Lawrence G. Stevens, Hatfield Borough

Donald E. Carman Award

The award is named in honor of Donald E. Carman, who served Elkland Borough as a council member and represented PSAB as President. This award is given to mayors, council members, secretaries, managers, and treasurers who have completed 35 or more years of borough service.

- Gene Breznay, Swoyersville Borough
- Robert Callahan, Westmont Borough
- Jacqueline C. Hardy, Petersburg Borough
- John R. Henry, Jr., West View Borough

President's Award

The President's Award is given to recognize exceptionally long and faithful service by borough officials. This award is given to mayors, council members, managers, secretaries, and treasurers who have completed 40 or more years of public service.

- Kathleen Horwatt, Langhorne Borough

Trustees' Award

This award is named in honor of the PSAB Trustees who have represented PSAB and provide distinguished leadership. This award is given to mayors, council members, secretaries, managers, and treasurers who have completed 45 or more years of borough service.

- Stephen J. DelleDonne, Vandergrift Borough
- James S. Perry, Chalfant Borough

A.C. Scales Award

This award recognizes service to the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. It is given to an individual who has performed exceptionally outstanding service to PSAB. Prior to 1995, the award was known as the Association Award.

- Ralph Stewart, Bellefonte Borough

Anthony J. Defilippi Award

Recipients of this award have displayed a high level of dedication to the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs' (PSAB) legislative mission through support of its Government Affairs Department and Resolutions and Policy Committee initiatives. Eligible recipients include individuals from all levels of government service. This award is named for Anthony J. Defilippi, a Councilman in Leechburg Borough, Armstrong County, whose tireless dedication and service have advanced PSAB legislative initiatives.

Beverly Morris, CBO, Coudersport Borough
Gerald Yob, CBO, Freemansburg Borough

Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes borough officials who provide distinguished service to their community.

Osman Awad, Leetsdale Borough
Sharon Badman, Selinsgrove Borough
Dr. Timothy Campbell, Bethel Park Borough
Jennifer Daywalt, Modena Borough
Joseph M. Fragale, Emporium Borough
Kathleen Horwatt, Langhorne Borough
Lisa Mack, Freemansburg Borough
Raymond McCutcheon, Coraopolis Borough
Mark J. O'Brien, Bethel Park Borough
John C. Stevens, Huntingdon Borough
Heather Zink, Columbia Borough

Lifetime Service Award

Given to officials who have dedicated their lives to public and community service.

Ron Evanko, Blairsville Borough

Council Member of the Year Award

Each year, the PA Borough Councils Association presents the Council Member of the Year Award to individuals who are nominated by their fellow council members. Considerations include outstanding accomplishments, honors, length of service, community participation, and involvement in civic organizations.

Mark J. O'Brien, Bethel Park Borough

Mayor of the Year Award

Each year, the Association of Mayors of the Boroughs of PA presents the Outstanding Mayor of the Year Award to recognize outstanding contributions and leadership.

Tim Burke, Berwick Borough

Certified Borough Officials Program Certificate of Achievement

The certificate is given upon completion of the Certified Borough Officials (CBO) Program a voluntary professional development leadership course.

Christopher Betz, Trumbauersville Borough
Diana Campbell, Mayfield Borough
David Carson, Eagles Mere Borough
Kathleen Chvala, Vandergrift Borough
Deborah Cleeton, Bellefonte Borough
Katheryn Cloyd, Oxford Borough
Allen Coffman, Chambersburg Borough
Fran DeAngelo, Taylor Borough
Mike Deelo, Beaver Borough
Brenda Detweiler, Sellersville Borough
Mindy Dugger, Everson Borough
Debi Ealer, Wormleysburg Borough
Barbara Gioffre, Koppel Borough
Tammy Gore, Fleetwood Borough
Eric Gratz, Fountain Hill Borough
Nancy Harris, Ephrata Borough
Doug Johnson, Bellefonte Borough
Jeff Kovaleski, Dickson City Borough
Brenda Maleski, West Newton Borough
Christine Mason, Millbourne Borough
Dean Murray, West Reading Borough
Matthew Peoria, Youngwood Borough
Joseph Reali, Parkesburg Borough
Karen Repino, Media Borough
Donald Rosenberger, Quakertown Borough
Dana Solida, Rimersburg Borough
John Stinner, Jefferson Hills Borough
Kelly Theiss, Pleasant Hills Borough
Heather Zink, Columbia Borough

Borough News Communications Contest

Each year, the *Borough News* presents awards to boroughs to highlight effective communication in their communities. Member boroughs will be recognized in the categories of websites and newsletters.

NEWSLETTER WINNERS

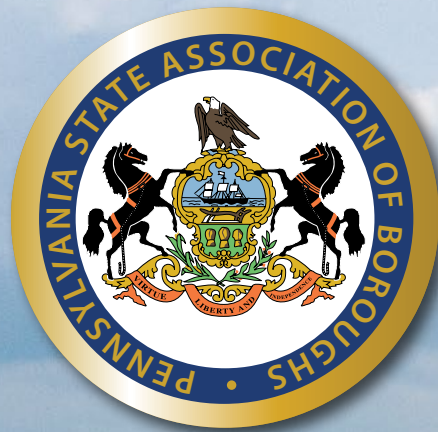
Bridgeville Borough — First Place
New Freedom Borough — Second Place
Hatfield Borough — Third Place

WEBSITE WINNERS

New Freedom Borough — First Place
Hollidaysburg Borough — Second Place
Hatfield Borough — Third Place



PSAB will continue on our mission to advance the interests of boroughs.



Aerial view of Somerset Borough, Somerset County