

ADVANCING OUR

# Legislative Priorities



# Setting the Agenda for the 2019-20 Legislative Session

Since 1911, the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) has sought to preserve, promote, and advance legislation and public policy in the best interests of the Commonwealth's 956 borough communities.

Through past advocacy efforts, PSAB helped to enact a modernized Borough Code; promoted Prevailing Wage reform; sought relief for unfunded mandates; and supported legislation that established land banks to convert delinquent properties into productive use.

The following outlines the priorities for the 2019-20 legislative session.





## Borough Code Changes & Governance

PSAB will seek legislation to revise compensation schedules and rates for elected officials. These have not been raised in over 20 years. *Resolutions 2017-9 & 2016-3*

PSAB supports an amendment to Section 1141 of the Borough Code adding the ability of borough council to appoint a person, a partnership, association, or corporation as the borough manager. *Resolution 2014-5*

Boroughs having an at-large system with no wards and under 3,000 population can reduce the number of council members. PSAB will seek legislation that increases the threshold required to petition the Court of Common Pleas under Section 818 of the Borough Code from 5 to 15 percent. *Resolution 2017-7*

PSAB will seek legislation to raise the current cap on real estate property tax millage for general borough purposes from its ceiling of 30 mills to 35 mills. *Resolution 2014-6*

## 2019-20 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### Right-to-Know Law, Legal Advertising, & Sunshine Law

PSAB opposes any measures that would further restrict the use of executive sessions and require those sessions to be recorded.

PSAB supports measures to correct unintended consequences of the Right-to-Know Law on municipalities, including allowing boroughs to charge for commercial requests; allowing for a 10-day response time; and clarifying that municipal bank account numbers and passwords are private.

*Resolution 2014-9*

Because Newspapers of General Circulation are diminishing, PSAB supports allowing municipalities to electronically publish meeting notices on their website to comply with the Sunshine Law. *Resolution 2014-11*

### Recycling

PSAB seeks remedies to the Covered Device Recycling Act of 2010 to allow new options for recycling bulky electronic waste like TVs and computers. *Resolution 2016-7*

PSAB supports legislation authorizing counties and boroughs to levy reasonable fees to pay for mandated recycling programs under Act 101.

*Resolution 2017-12*



## Public Safety

PSAB will advocate for legislative remedies addressing recruitment and retention, training, and funding of local emergency service providers.

PSAB seeks legislation to increase the allocation of the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax returned to volunteer firefighter relief associations. *Resolution 2016-13*

PSAB supports legislation to charge municipalities larger than 3,500 in population a per-person fee for utilizing state police services. *Resolution 2018-3*

PSAB has long advocated the use of radar by municipal police and will continue to advocate for this tool as responsible speed timing technology. *Resolutions 2018-4; 2017-8; 2016-2; 2015-18; & 2014-2*

## 2019-20 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### Stormwater, Infrastructure, & Technology

PSAB seeks legislation to amend the PA State Highway Law to mandate PennDOT maintain all stormwater infrastructure servicing state roads in borough communities. *Resolution 2016-5*

PSAB supports legislation that would allow boroughs to assess fees for stormwater management activities, without the need to establish a municipal authority. *Resolution 2016-11*

PSAB opposes efforts to exempt utilities from municipal land use and right-of-way regulation or grant them utility status or the right to use eminent domain. *Resolution 2017-10*

PSAB seeks to amend the Municipal Claims and Tax Liens Law to clarify municipalities' authority to lien real property for unpaid utility rate bills including stormwater fees. *Resolution 2018-1*

PSAB seeks legislative remedies to expand broadband technology into rural and underserved areas.



## Labor Mandates

PSAB seeks legislation to amend Prevailing Wage Law to exempt roadway milling maintenance on local roads. PSAB also seeks to increase the threshold to \$200,000 with an annual indexing mechanism. *Resolutions 2018-11; 2016-12; & 2015-8*

PSAB supports legislation to reform the Policemen and Firemen Collective Bargaining – Act 111 – and split the cost of arbitration between parties and level the playing field in contract negotiations. *Resolutions 2015-10 & 2014-12*

PSAB advocates for legislation to address costs for municipal police court appearances and fine-associated labor expenses, which have not increased in years. These fines do not cover labor costs for officers to enforce these laws, especially if they go to court. *Resolutions 2018-6 & 2016-10*

### ***MEMBER ACTION ALERT SYSTEM***

Did you take action on a PSAB legislative alert? Let us know. Send an email to [actnow@boroughs.org](mailto:actnow@boroughs.org).

**Stay in the know.** Sign up for email alerts at <https://boroughs.org>.

# Make Your Voice Heard

Resolutions are a basis for public policy changes sought by PSAB advocates in Harrisburg and in Washington, D.C. Boroughs and County Borough Associations (CBAs) are a critical part of this process.

Boroughs or CBAs can put forth resolutions for consideration and can ask PSAB to advocate for or against an action. Language clearly expressing the intent to offer and establish an official policy resolution must be submitted in writing to PSAB offices by **April 10, 2019**. Sample resolutions are available on <https://boroughs.org/legislative>.

The Resolutions and Policy Committee, made up of appointees from CBAs, is the *only* reviewing body in the process which can reject, by majority vote, a resolution submitted by the membership. The Resolutions and Policy Committee will meet on Sunday, June 9, 2019 during the PSAB Annual Conference.

PSAB encourages CBAs to submit their annual appointees to the Resolution and Policy Committee by **May 10, 2019** to Stephanie Drake at [sdrake@boroughs.org](mailto:sdrake@boroughs.org). Without participation on this committee, your borough and CBA lose vital influence in public policy developments facing boroughs.

These resolutions are then voted on by delegates during the business meeting at the PSAB Annual Conference each year. Each borough can appoint one voting delegate to represent it during the voting process. Voting delegate forms can be found on <https://boroughs.org/conferences>. **Forms are due to PSAB by May 24, 2019.**

Adopted resolutions at the PSAB Annual Conference are included in the PSAB Municipal Policy Statement, which is PSAB's public policy position document of record.

# End of 2017-18 Legislative Session Successes



**Act 35 of 2018** shortens the timeframe for actions of adverse possession in certain circumstances to help prevent blight. The law reduced the timeframe from 21 years to 10 years.

**Act 38 of 2018** clarifies property maintenance responsibilities when properties are exposed at an upset sale. The law clarifies that ownership responsibilities for the delinquent property will remain with the owner of record until the property is sold and the deed transferred to the new owner.

**Act 99 of 2018** allows boroughs to make contracts or purchases without advertising, bidding, or price quotations during an emergency. At its next public meeting, council must adopt a resolution stating the actual emergency and the terms of the procurement.

**Act 135 of 2018** amends the Borough Code to provide for a shorter concise publication of annual financial reporting information in a newspaper of general circulation.

**Act 150 of 2018** raised the bidding threshold for the sale of borough personal property from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

**Act 156 of 2018** allows an agency to hold an executive session to discuss, plan, or review matters and records that are deemed necessary for public safety, emergency preparedness, or security of property.

# PSAB Conferences & Education

## **PSAB 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

*Investing in the Leaders of Tomorrow*

June 9-12, 2019

Hershey Lodge

## **PA Municipal Legal Update**

Aug. 7-8, 2019

Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey

## **PSAB Fall Leadership Conference**

Oct. 11-13, 2019

Nittany Lion Inn, State College

## **Newly Elected Municipal Officials Boot Camp**

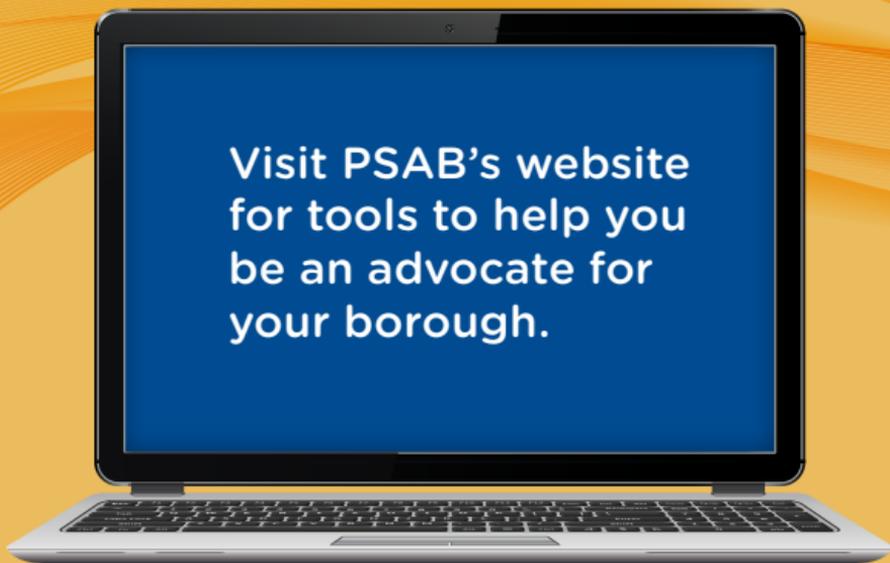
January & February 2020

# Classroom Training & Webinars

PSAB offers topics on labor and employment, meeting management, municipal administrators training, police management, budgeting and finance, Open Records, Ethics, and much more.



# Get Connected ONLINE



**Bills to Watch** – Learn about legislation moving through the legislature that could impact your borough.

**Contact Your Legislator** – Get contact information for state and federal lawmakers.

**Legislative Priorities** – Read more about resolutions adopted at PSAB's Annual Conference.

**Legislative Resources** – Read more about issues and priorities facing borough communities.

**Links of Interest** – Get connected to state and federal agencies and programs that can help your borough.

**Testimony** – Read what PSAB staff and members had to say about legislative measures before the General Assembly.

**Resolutions Process** – Find out about your role in the resolutions process, including how your borough or County Borough Association can submit resolution and how your borough can nominate a voting delegate.

**Get Connected Online at**  
<https://boroughs.org/legislative>

# PSAB Department of Government Affairs

## Chris Cap

Executive Director

717-236-9526, Ext. 1043 • [ccap@boroughs.org](mailto:ccap@boroughs.org)

## Ed Troxell

Director of Government Affairs

717-236-9526, Ext. 1021 • [etroxell@boroughs.org](mailto:etroxell@boroughs.org)

## Ron Grutza

Assistant Director of Government Affairs  
& Regulatory Affairs Coordinator

717-236-9526, Ext. 1044 • [rgrutza@boroughs.org](mailto:rgrutza@boroughs.org)

## Stephanie Drake

Executive Administrator & Government Affairs Liaison

717-236-9526, Ext. 1017 • [sdrake@boroughs.org](mailto:sdrake@boroughs.org)



## PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHS

2941 North Front Street • Harrisburg, PA 17110

Phone: 717-236-9526

<https://boroughs.org>