



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact

Leslie Suhr
PSAB Director of Public Affairs
717-756-8703
lsuhr@boroughs.org

Statewide Organizations Release Local Government Educational Video

Program aims to connect to youth across the state

Harrisburg – The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) and the Borough Councils Association (BCA) have released an educational video, *By the People, For the People: Understanding Local Government in PA*, to help youth and others understand the role of borough government in Pennsylvania. The Chrostwaite Institute also provided support for this educational program.

As part of its outreach efforts, PSAB will be distributing the video to more than 1,500 schools and community organizations across the Commonwealth.

“Local government can be difficult to understand as there is a limited supply of learning resources available on this topic,” said PSAB President William Rossey, of Sharpsburg Borough, Allegheny County. “That is why we felt it was essential to provide an effective educational resource to help examine the role of local government in our daily lives.”

The program explores the roles and responsibilities of the borough council, mayor, and secretary; the election process; governance tools including the Borough Code; municipal budgeting; challenges facing local governments; and getting youth involved in local government through the Junior Council Person Program or student government. It also outlines the structure of the state and federal government, as well as county, school, and other municipal entities.

The Junior Council Person Program allows youth to have a seat on borough council. Students participate in borough business deliberations, however cannot vote or attend executive session.

“The Borough Councils Association partnered with the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs on this project to ensure we are educating the leaders of tomorrow,” said Patricia Rinebolt, BCA Past President and a council member from Saxonburg Borough, Butler County.

“These students will be our future municipal leaders so it’s imperative that they understand how decisions made today will affect the future.”

While most people pay close attention to state and federal issues, it’s local government that provides the most services and interaction to residents on a daily basis. Services include police protection; fire and emergency response; infrastructure management such as sidewalk and pothole repairs; and other services such as snowplowing and maintaining parks.

“Pennsylvania local government officials are essential to the continued success of our communities across this Commonwealth. The future of Pennsylvania directly correlates with a well-informed youth that must be equipped with the civic knowledge necessary to lead our communities toward continued prosperity,” said PSAB Executive Director Chris Cap.

To view the video online, visit www.boroughs.org.

###

About PSAB

The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) is a statewide, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to serving 956 borough governments. Since 1911, PSAB has represented the interests of boroughs and helped to shape the laws that laid their foundation. The Association improves and assists local governments through legislative advocacy, research, education, and other services. With more than 2.6 million Pennsylvanians residing in borough communities, our members strive to deliver quality leadership and service to citizens across the Commonwealth. For more information, visit www.boroughs.org.

About BCA

The Borough Councils Association (BCA) represents more than 6,000 borough council members across Pennsylvania. The BCA provides educational programming to its members.

About the Chrostwaite Institute

The Chrostwaite Institute is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to research and analysis. It focuses on such key areas as government efficiency, community investment, transportation, water infrastructure, economic development, and the promotion of civic engagement in local communities. Visit www.chrostwaite.com for more information.