

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE CCAP 2002 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

August 6, 2002

Hershey, PA

RESOLUTION NO. 1 *(Submitted by the CCAP County Governance Committee)* -- The Association supports an amendment to the Election Code to require the Commonwealth to reimburse counties, in the same manner as is done for special elections for Pennsylvania House and Senate seats, for the cost of special elections for Congressional races.

The Election Code currently requires the Commonwealth to reimburse counties the costs of conducting special elections for Pennsylvania House and Senate seats, but not congressional elections, an omission highlighted by the potential for special elections caused by the legal dispute over the Commonwealth's 2002 Congressional reapportionment.

RESOLUTION NO. 2 *(Submitted by the CCAP Resolutions Committee and the County Governance Committee)* -- The Association opposes any requirement that voters furnish picture identification at the polling place, believing such a requirement is unnecessary and may inhibit voter participation, and cause voter and poll worker frustration.

The CCAP membership has raised concerns that a requirement for electors to present photo identification at the polls would place a new impediment to voter turnout, either by voters failing to return with identification, or in circumstances where the elector is turned away despite being well known to poll workers. It would increase training requirements for poll workers, and would subject them to voters' frustration with the requirement.

RESOLUTION NO. 3 *(Submitted by the CCAP Agriculture and Energy, Environment and Land Use Committees)* – The *Pennsylvania County Platform* is amended to include a new section to read:

H. Water

1. The Association supports water resources legislation to develop and implement an enhanced State Water Plan that takes into account the Commonwealth's economic, demographic, geologic, and geographic diversity, and that:
 - a. Provides for watershed-based plan development by regional water planning boards, which include county representation;
 - b. Provides for the collection of data on the location, quality, and productivity of new and existing water supplies and wells;
 - c. Integrates surface and ground water into a complete hydrologic picture for the decision-making process;
 - d. Provides for implementation through integration and consistency with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, specifically concerning county and municipal comprehensive plans and ordinances;
 - e. Provides incentives for water conservation;
 - f. Uses terms based on scientific definitions; and
 - g. Includes consumer protection measures designed to maintain a level playing field.

2. The Association supports legislation setting uniform, statewide standards for water wells and for the licensing of water well drillers.

3. The Association opposes legislation that would require additional water permits, metering of water wells, and water payments for agricultural use.

The resolution provides a comprehensive platform on water issues, fulfilling a resolution adopted at the 2000 Annual Conference.

RESOLUTION NO. 4 (Submitted by the CCAP Human Services Committee) -- The Association opposes any effort to establish a 2-1-1 system in Pennsylvania for information and referral of health and human services unless there is dedicated funding from the Commonwealth to cover the entire cost of the service.

The resolution is in response to a movement by the United Way and others to use Homeland Security funding to establish a 2-1-1 system in Pennsylvania, similar to our 9-1-1 system, for information and referral of health and human services. It is the view of the Association that the more important issue is the human services delivery system, and not information and referral. In addition, the Association fears that if a 2-1-1 system is established in Pennsylvania, it will not be fully funded and funds from existing services will be tapped to feed this initiative. The Association also believes that Homeland Security funds could be spent in better ways actually related to the provision of security such as to increase resources for our first responders.

RESOLUTION NO. 5 (Submitted by the CCAP Human Services Committee and the Pennsylvania Association of County Affiliated Homes) -- The Association supports changes to the HealthChoices program to provide that all future HealthChoices expansions and all renewals of HealthChoices managed care contracts delete the nursing facility 30 day coverage provision, and allow all Medicaid coverage in nursing facilities to be paid in the established fee-for-service manner.

The HealthChoices program contains a component that provides payment for the first 30 days coverage in a licensed Medicaid nursing facility that has proven to be very disruptive to both nursing facility providers and the managed care organizations assigned to implement and operate HealthChoices. This process has resulted in payment delays to nursing facility providers, because of complicated paperwork requirements in order to receive only 30 days maximum payment, making the program unproductive and cost ineffective.

RESOLUTION NO. 6 (Submitted by the CCAP Community and Economic Development Committee and the Courts and Corrections Committee) -- The Association supports a change in federal and state law and regulations to provide for the Department of Public Welfare to transfer public assistance payments and related benefits of previously eligible offenders to the county as reimbursement for county prison costs of housing that offender.

The resolution proposes that DPW transfer to the county the amount an offender who, prior to conviction, qualified for in public assistance and related benefits.

RESOLUTION NO. 7 (*Submitted by the County Governance Committee and the Courts and Corrections Committee*) -- The Association supports legislation requiring the Commonwealth to pay the costs for the public defenders office.

Pennsylvania and South Dakota are the only states that do not pay all or part of the costs of public defenders. Given the disparate fiscal capacity of the Commonwealth's 67 counties, a system that relies on counties' ability to pay results in unequal justice for indigent defendants.

RESOLUTION NO. 8 (*Submitted by the CCAP Community and Economic Development Committee*) -- The Association supports an amendment to Act 137 of 1992, which authorizes counties to increase the recorder fees to create affordable housing trust funds, to establish a further increase in the fees to create an economic development trust fund to support desirable economic development, land use planning and business objectives including the attraction of private and public investment, which in turn supports revitalization and infrastructure improvement.

The resolution proposes expanding the use of recording fees on deeds and mortgages to support economic development initiatives.

RESOLUTION NO. 9 (*Submitted by the CCAP Agriculture Committee*) -- The Association supports the maintenance and expansion of the Pennsylvania Produce Promotional Program and the Farmers Market Nutrition Program by the Federal Government and the Commonwealth in present and subsequent fiscal years.

The Pennsylvania Produce Promotional Program and the Farmers Market Nutrition Program assist a wide range of Pennsylvania residents. The programs support less fortunate residents with the purchase of Pennsylvania-grown produce, and directs economic benefits to the State's growers.

RESOLUTION NO. 10 (*Submitted by the CCAP Community and Economic Development Committee*) -- The Association supports federal reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act, including ensuring full funding of the Workforce Investment Act formula and integrating and consolidating funding streams and programs to support the workforce development system.

The Association strongly urges federal restoration of funding in Fiscal Year 2003 of at least the 12 percent cut sustained by the Workforce Investment Act.

The Association supports the establishment of the Governor's Statewide Stakeholders Group to study and consider changes to the state's workforce investment system, which are designed to:

- a. Align workforce resources among agencies within the Commonwealth;
- b. Ensure resources are targeted locally according to priorities and policies established by local Workforce Investment Boards' strategic plans;
- c. Integrate and consolidate workforce development programs and funding streams to ensure the workforce development system is responsive to local needs; and

- d. Ensure that local Workforce Investment Boards remain the gatekeepers in terms of delivery of funds to the appropriate providers to meet local workforce development needs.

The resolution calls for reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act in 2003, advocates full funding in the face of the Administration's 12% funding cut, and recognizes that, while the state legislation for workforce development is now in place, it lacks some program elements that would increase its effectiveness.

RESOLUTION NO. 11 (Submitted by the CCAP County Governance Committee) -- The Pennsylvania County Platform is amended to add a new Article XII, Emergency Management, to read:

ARTICLE XII. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

A. Intergovernmental Cooperation

1. The Association and counties will work toward improved coordination on policy and practice issues, including lines of responsibility and communication, among emergency responders from federal, state, PEMA, DEP, Health, EPA, municipalities, law enforcement, emergency medical services, hazardous materials teams, coroners, private sector, hospitals, and others.
2. The Association supports collaborative establishment of state-level standards for first responder and emergency management capabilities so that state and local personnel can be trained, equipped and exercised to those standards.
3. The Association supports federal, state, and local efforts to enhance emergency and disaster response and recovery capabilities for all hazards, including specialized planning and response for bioterrorism, chemical terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and nuclear events.
4. The Association supports, and adopts by reference, the National Association of Counties Policy Agenda to Secure the People of America's Counties, as its statement of homeland security objectives.
5. The Association calls on the state and federal government to recognize that counties and municipalities have disparate fiscal capacities and that dedicated and permanent funding sources are needed for training, all-hazard planning, communications, and response capability (including staffing, supplies, general and specialized equipment, and specialized response such as urban search and rescue, dive teams, and mass casualty incidents).
6. The Association opposes FEMA distribution of funding based solely on capability and relation to performance standards, believing it also necessary to recognize levels of fiscal capacity and levels of risk.
7. The Association will work with PEMA and DCED to provide training for commissioners, and support education of state and local elected officials of their responsibilities and prerogatives regarding emergency management functions.

8. The Association opposes National Fire Protection Association proposed fire staffing levels, which do not recognize volunteer staffing issues.

9. The Association supports general public education on disaster management and response issues.

B. County Emergency Management

1. The Association seeks legislation amending the Emergency Management Services Code authorizing proper local officials to order and enforce mandatory evacuations when lives are in jeopardy.

2. The Association supports legislation to recognize the inability of smaller counties to meet the high initial cost of installation of Enhanced 911 systems by providing funding from the state general fund or some other dedicated source for this purpose. (Existing Article XII, Section D)

3. The Association supports an amendment to the Public Safety Emergency Telephone Act to remove the cap for the telephone subscriber surcharge and allow counties to levy rates, with PUC approval, sufficient to fund county 911 operations.

4. The Association supports legislation to extend the 911 telephone subscriber surcharge to wireless telephone subscribers, for the purpose of funding locator systems and county 911 operations serving these clients.

C. Communications

1. The Association urges federal and state government to assist county and local government by providing the broadest possible interoperability between public safety agencies across voice, data and geo-data, and wireless technologies, and by providing additional spectrum to address interoperability and dead zone problems created by congestion and interference with commercial services.

2. The Association supports legislation to require all responders to use the Incident Command System.

3. The Association supports development of security clearance protocols to enable communications between designated local responders and specific state and federal agencies.

4. The Association supports development of a communication network capable of delivering information in a timely manner between federal, state and local governments, and the general public.

5. The Association supports development of, and funding for, reverse 911 systems as a tool to provide timely notice to the public.

6. The Association supports legislation to require radio stations to transmit emergency messages, including development of systems to allow automated transmission of emergency message over stations set to operate automatically or functioning as repeating stations.

D. Local Emergency Management

1. The Association recognizes our strong reliance on fire and emergency services volunteers, and supports innovative state and local incentives and other efforts toward recruitment and retention.
2. The Association supports efforts to assure that all emergency services volunteers are adequately covered by workers' compensation.
3. The Association supports county involvement, and urges counties to find ways to support locals, in the Fire Incident Reporting System (PennFIRS).
4. The Association supports legislation or regulations giving municipalities specific and exclusive responsibility for, and clear guidance standards for, the selection of primary Emergency Medical Services responders.

E. Miscellaneous

1. The Association seeks legislative and regulatory relief from laws and rules that unnecessarily or disproportionately restrict the provision of emergency medical services in rural areas.
2. The Association supports legislation to amend the Radiation Protection Act to increase nuclear utilities' annual fee to \$300,000, to make funds available to counties in the ingestion pathway on a 75% state/25% local match basis, and to require cooperation among the state, counties, municipalities, and school districts.

The resolution is a comprehensive platform statement on emergency management. It creates a new Article in the Platform that incorporates existing Platform elements, and adds a number of other subsections dealing with the breadth of county emergency management issues.