

2025 COUNTY GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA THE VOICE OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- **911 Surcharge Reauthorization and Statute Updates**
- **County Mental Health Base Funding Increase**
- **Vote-by-Mail Reforms**

County leaders from throughout Pennsylvania have selected their key county government priorities for 2025, which showcase some of the most essential services counties provide on behalf of the Commonwealth. These priorities emphasize the critical need to reinvigorate and better communicate the state-county partnership in service delivery.

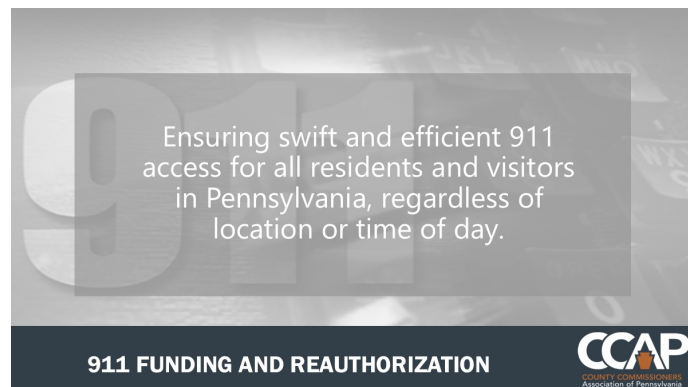
This special edition newsletter provides information on the three legislative priorities for counties in 2025. View the [2025 County Government Priorities](#) brochure for detailed information on each priority.

911 SURCHARGE REAUTHORIZATION AND STATUTE UPDATES

Counties are continuously working with PEMA, legislative committees, emergency management professionals, the communications industry, and

other interest groups on improvements to the 911 system. At the center of this effort is the forward movement and investment in Next Generation 911 (NG911). This includes considering current and future emergency communication methods, improving system efficiency through shared infrastructure and network connections for 911 public safety answering points statewide, accurate GIS information and data, and enhancing regional systems for better availability and reliability. A strong, connected 911 system is critical to ensuring services will still be provided efficiently in situations of mass emergency keeping pace with the ever-changing technological advances to maximize emergency services delivery

Currently, the 911 surcharge is set to expire at the end of January 2026. With 911 system costs continuing to rise, it is imperative that counties can rely on this surcharge revenue to support this life-saving service. As such, counties are going to be proactive in our efforts to reauthorize the surcharge and ensure the continuity of this critical funding source for the 911 system ahead of the impending January 2026 sunset deadline.





COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BASE FUNDING INCREASE

Counties currently administer direct services to support their community's mental health system. Thanks to the flexibility of the county mental health base

funding allocated by the state, counties have been able to continue to serve their residents but are stretching ever more limited state funding to its breaking point. With additional state funding for the county mental health base, counties would be able to address specific needs in more meaningful and impactful ways, such as child and older adult mental health, crisis intervention and capacity, peer supports, and other diversion services. If the commonwealth cannot commit to long-term, sustainable funding for mental health services, residents will continue to suffer as it becomes harder and takes longer to find the support they need. Additionally, the impacts of underfunding trickle down to more costly systems, including hospitals, law enforcement, and corrections.



VOTE-BY-MAIL REFORMS

Since the enactment of Act 77 of 2019, counties have identified areas of the Election Code that require clarification following multiple court decisions and appeals. Despite improvements in technology and county election operations, key chances- such as allowing pre-

canvassing and adjusting unrealistic mail-in ballot application deadlines- remain critical to enhancing election administration and ensuring efficient, accurate results without compromising ballot security or voter access.

Furthermore, 2024 saw an increase in voters using on-demand, in-person mail-in voting in the weeks leading up to Election Day. This led to a number of counties experiencing a significant influx of voters waiting in line to request, fill out, and return mail in ballots in one visit. Running what was effectively a third election, counties experienced significant delays and challenges due to the confusion this process caused and created additional stresses on county election administrators and staff while trying to prepare for Election Day. Counties need the support of the legislature and administration to update these and other key areas of the Election Code so that counties have clear rules to ensure the public remains confident in the integrity of our elections.

[Read More on the County Priorities Webpage](#)

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The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) is the voice of county government, a statewide, nonprofit, nonpartisan Association representing Pennsylvania's 67 counties.



CCAP membership includes the county commissioners, council members, county executives, administrators, chief clerks and solicitors. CCAP advocates as the unifying voice of all Pennsylvania counties and provides leadership and support for excellence in county government.

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