**A RESOLUTION**A resolution of the county of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, supporting the 2022 priorities of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

**WHEREAS**, Pennsylvania counties have selected seven priority issues that will be the focal point of counties’ proactive agenda for 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, these priorities showcase counties’ commitment to the core services they provide to the people and communities of Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, achieving these even county priorities underscore the critical need to redefine, reinvigorate and emphasize the state-county partnership in service delivery; and

**WHEREAS**, the top priority for Pennsylvania counties in 2022 is advocating for appropriate funding to support the crumbling mental health system; and

**WHEREAS,** counties provide community-based mental health services, such as community residential programs, family-based support, outpatient care and crisis intervention, which are critical to the well-being of our constituents and our communities; and

**WHEREAS,** state funding has lagged far behind needs and caseloads for years, which has negatively affected services while also putting tension on communities and local budgets; and

**WHEREAS,** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County has invested in community-based mental health services that coordinate and invest in programs and services that meet the needs and challenges of local communities, including <<include examples of community mental health programs in your county as applicable>>; and

**WHEREAS,** a key objective under this priority is the preservation of the successful Behavioral HealthChoices program, which has allowed each county the flexibility to deliver mental health and drug and alcohol services to individuals enrolled in Medicaid that meet local needs and challenges; and

**WHEREAS,** counties will need collaboration between the legislature and administration to work closely with them on a targeted, strategic investment of dollars into community mental health services at the county level in order to continue the existing safety net and bolster the availability of mental health services to those who need them as vital steps in the right direction; and

**WHEREAS,** counties’ second priority is addressing the human services workforce crisis to continue to successfully deliver human services programs to our most vulernable citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, counties’ third priority is broadband expansion in light of the immediate need for infrastructure and partnerships critical to expanding access that will increase economic vitality and personal quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County, approximately \_\_\_\_\_# or %\_\_\_\_\_ of our residents do not have reliable internet service, missing opportunities to access educational tools, health care, emergency services and other key parts of their everyday lives; and

**WHEREAS**, appropriate funding and reform for the children and youth system is counties’ fourth priority, to address critical system needs including staffing shortages, increasing caseloads, a statewide response to complex cases and better cross-system collaboration and traning; and

**WHEREAS,** counties continue to seek to promote election integrity, including clear rules to enable consistent implementation statewide, resolving ambiguous matters such as drop boxes, signatures and curing ballots, continuing to request expanded pre-canvassing time and moving back the mail-in ballot application deadline to 15 days before an election; and

**WHEREAS,** counties have chosen 911 funding and reauthoroazation as their sixth priority, to ensure that a new funding formula be enacted prior to the January 2024 sunset of the current formula and seeking additional and sustainable funding sources that will meet the growing needs of residents and associated costs; and

**WHEREAS**, counties chose funding and resources for elections as their severth priority, recognizing that the significant changes to election administration resulting from Act 77 of 2019 have increased the costs and resources needed for counties to administer successful elections; and

**WHEREAS**,the state-county partnership across all areas of service delivery must again be prioritized, including a commitment to additional and sustainable funding for all human services and county-administered programs; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that \_\_\_\_\_\_ County stands ready to work with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania and counties throughout the commonwealth in support of these priorities for 2022; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that these priorities emphasize the important role \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County plays in improving our communities and the well-being of our residents; and

**RESOLVED**, that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County calls upon the General Assembly and the Administration to work together in partnership with counties to jointly determine the most effective ways to continue meeting the needs of Pennsylvanians; and

**RESOLVED**, collaboration between county government and the commonwealth on these priorities will lead to solutions that improve stewardship of taxpayer dollars, reduce cost, increase local flexibility and assure the quality of services counties provide; and

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County legislative delegation, to Governor Wolf, and to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

# ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS/
 COUNTY COUNCIL

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