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NEWS RELEASE

DATE

CONTACT:

County Contact

Phone number and email address

[Your County] joins counties statewide in push for 2025 legislative priorities

United at the Pennsylvania Capitol Building, county leaders across the state unveiled three key legislative priorities for 2025, led by a call for swift reauthorization of the 911 surcharge that includes an increase in the surcharge to provide adequate, sustainable funding for the 911 system across the commonwealth.

A strong, connected 911 system is critical to ensuring services can be provided efficiently in situations of mass emergency and can keep up with the pace of ever-changing technological advances to maximize emergency services delivery.

[QUOTE ABOUT LOCAL 911 SYSTEM OR NEED FOR FUNDING/REAUTHORIZATION]

In addition to 911 funding and reauthorization, counties have also prioritized:

- County Mental Health Base Funding Increase
- Vote-by-Mail Reforms

The 2025 priorities were selected by county commissioners, council members and chief clerks across Pennsylvania as the issues with the greatest significance and the most potential for positive impact to counties in the coming year.

[QUOTE ABOUT YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ENHANCING THE LIVES OF ALL RESIDENTS, FROM THEIR MENTAL HEALTH TO THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES]

NOTE: The following capsules can be used as they are, altered to be more localized or deleted entirely.

More on Pennsylvania Counties' 2025 Priorities:

On County Mental Health Base Funding Increase

Counties are asking for substantial investment of state dollars to rebuild and strengthen community crisis services, residential mental health programs, and other locally provided care that will stabilize mental health services and assist hospitals with capacity concerns. Sustainable, annual investments in the state's mental health community-based system will help counties maintain and rebuild the existing safety net of services.

On Vote-by-Mail Reform

Counties are calling for a resolution for the ambiguities and gaps in the Election Code that need clarity and uniformity, including provisions related to the law on counties' authority to use drop boxes for mail-in ballots as well as clear and concise guidelines for curing ballot defects and third parties sending in mail-in ballot applications.

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