



## CCAP 2022 RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were adopted at the CCAP 2022 Annual Conference. Under the Association's bylaws procedures, they were considered and voted on by the full CCAP membership at the Conference business meeting on August 9, 2022. The resolutions amend the *Pennsylvania County Platform*, the Association's cumulative policy statement. The *Platform* is available on the CCAP website, [www.pacounties.org](http://www.pacounties.org).

**RESOLUTION NO. 1** (*Submitted by the CCAP County Governance Committee*) – The Association supports an amendment to the County Pension Law to exclude any ancillary incentive payments to employees for retention or appreciation purposes from retirement contribution and benefit calculations.

*It is important to ensure that counties are not incurring additional pension cost requirements based on additional payments to employees for recruitment or retention outside of normal salary. While the law leaves some of the calculation to legal interpretation, the conclusion was that a legislative change of the nature proposed would be implementing a cost saving change to the current manner in which county pensions are calculated.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2** (The proposed resolution, which amended an existing Platform plank related to Act 77, was not adopted by the membership and the Platform is not amended.)

**RESOLUTION NO. 3** (*Submitted by the CCAP Elections Reform Committee*) – The Association supports election system certifications based on objective criteria established in conjunction with county commissioners and election directors, including the quality of the equipment, its utility to the electors, and its compliance with Pennsylvania statute and practice, supports legislation to allow expedited consideration of new and updated technologies, and supports limiting decertification of equipment to circumstances where there are demonstrated systemic flaws or there are material changes to statutes governing equipment features or operability.

*As part of the four-year review of this plank, an update was recommended to emphasize the need for counties to be included in discussions establishing criteria for election system certifications.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 4** (*Submitted by the CCAP Human Services Committee, as amended by the CCAP Resolutions Committee*) – The Association supports ongoing allocation of Commonwealth and federal resources to all counties at appropriate levels that continually assure that federal

entitlement programs such as early intervention and funding are adequate, allocations are timely and mental health, drug and alcohol, intellectual disabilities base dollars are sufficient to meet structural and programmatic administrative needs, even as sources that pay the cost of services evolve. Further, counties' impacts resulting from inflation, workforce shortages and necessary adjustments should be recognized through flexible contracting and partnership between state, federal and county agencies.

*Adequate and timely early intervention funding is critical for counties to be able to provide consistent quality programing for the most vulnerable children. Counties are challenged to meet demand with current allocations while experiencing the impacts of inflation and costs associated with efforts to address the workforce crisis.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 5** *(Submitted by the CCAP Emergency Management and Veterans Affairs Committee and the CCAP Human Services Committee)* – The Association recognizes the importance of efforts to implement a national suicide response and prevention initiative including a 988 hotline, and take counties' varied roles in this system very seriously. The Association strongly urges the Department of Human Services and PEMA to directly engage county commissioners and their key staff at the earliest possible stage in policy development in order to assure the most effective transition to implementation. Additionally, the Association supports funding and resources for any additional obligations counties may take on as a result of 988 program roll-out and build-up. Further, the Association opposes further movement of any legislative proposal to fund 988 using a fee that endangers counties access to 911 funding, other county funding obligations, or counties' ability to respond to crisis and any needed services that may arise from implementation of 988.

*In 2020, Congress designated the new 988 dialing code to be operated through the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by July 2022. As a part of future phases of rollout, each state has been required to develop plans for local crisis response, including bolstering call-taking capacity, development of crisis response units/mobile crisis units and development of local coordination with law enforcement as needed. Due to the county responsibility in mental health service provision and 911 call-taking and dispatch obligations, counties need to be an integral stakeholder in any 911 discussions, including planning, development, funding and implementation.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 6** *(Submitted by the CCAP Courts and Corrections Committee)* – The Association supports legislation to clarify the Vehicle Code and regulations to grant the option for county correctional vehicles to utilize lights and sirens in the performance of emergency transportation.

*There is a potential for traffic problems and public safety concerns that could result from additional opportunities to use lights and sirens, and the plank is amended to limit its application to only emergency transports.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 7** *(Submitted by the CCAP Technology Committee)* – The Association supports a requirement that counties be permitted to offer a concurrence or non-concurrence recommendation on grant applications to the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority, with that recommendation to be incorporated into the grant selection process.

*County governments are uniquely postured and organized to review and assess the impact of public or private entity proposed intra and inter-municipality broadband projects within their respective counties. Over the past several years, counties have invested a consequential amount of public funds, time, and effort to assess the state of broadband and enable broadband expansion and enhancement projects. Additionally, counties, working with their planning and development offices, oversee statutory comprehensive and greenway plans that provide vision for growth and development, and have unequalled understanding of their geographical area and political subdivision, development priorities, residents'/business' needs, and comprehension of the most current state of broadband in their respective counties. With that in mind, counties seek a strong, clear role for this critical county input to inform the grant process to be developed by the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority that will determine the allocation of federal infrastructure funding for broadband buildout in under and unserved locations within Pennsylvania's 67 counties.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 8** *(Submitted by the CCAP Agriculture Committee)* – The Association supports policies and programs that create parity and sustainability for the dairy industry and recognize actual costs of production. The Association further supports working with the Department of Agriculture to identify additional agricultural economic options and all alternative commodities in addition to dairy to assist the dairy industry in diversifying its operations.

*The plank is broadened to include all agricultural commodities, to be able to assist in identifying other options to assist the dairy industry.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 9** *(Submitted by the CCAP Community and Economic Development Committee)* – The Association supports, and incorporates by reference, the comprehensive transportation and infrastructure platform offered by the National Association of Counties, including provisions relating to implementation and renewal of any surface transportation reauthorizations, as well as transportation philosophy, comprehensive planning, national highway program, surface transportation, public transportation, airport development, railroads, and research and development provisions.

*With the recent passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, several of the specific references in the plank are no longer relevant. This amendment updates the plank to make it more universal and generally applicable to NACo's transportation platform.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 10** *(Submitted by the CCAP Community and Economic Development Committee)* – The Association supports, in recognition of the critical role of transportation for our communities, our industries, and our quality of life, prompt legislative action, in coordination with counties, on a comprehensive set of durable funding and administrative solutions to Pennsylvania’s infrastructure and transit needs without diverting those funds to other purposes, and including options for local revenue generation as long as it is in tandem with, and not a substitute for, generation of state resources that augment those local resources. As the state explores transportation funding options, the Association encourages the commonwealth to focus on more equitable options for commonwealth residents that result in responsible rehabilitation and maintenance of infrastructure and transportation systems in the commonwealth.

The Association supports public-private partnerships for transportation programs, but opposes their use to toll interstate bridges where sufficient detail has not been presented to evaluate impacts, where these plans are not part of a comprehensive transportation funding solution and where the public safety impacts and support to counties for the additional wear and tear on county bridges from diversion of traffic have not been addressed.

*The resolution memorializes an interim policy resolution adopted by the CCAP Board in May 2022, stating that while counties have seen P3 projects be successful, counties could not support the Major Bridge P3 proposal to toll interstate bridges as the available details did not offer the necessary comprehensive solutions developed in coordination with county and municipal plans or consider the resultant impacts of such a program on county resources and infrastructure. The resolution also recognizes that the Major Bridge P3 proposal was not created in coordination with counties and could harm counties’ transportation funding by diverting funds from other purposes to fund the plan.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 11** *(Submitted by the CCAP Community and Economic Development Committee)* – The Association supports county involvement in any evaluation of the potential impact of a Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) change of service model on county transportation systems and clients who rely upon them. The Association further supports county right of first opportunity where any alterations to the structure of the MATP, Shared Ride or Shared Ride Lottery programs are being considered.

*The study required under Act 19 of 2019 has been completed. Counties would want to ensure any further studies or efforts to shift away shared ride programs take into consideration the county role and maintain the right of first opportunity.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 12** *(Submitted by the CCAP Community and Economic Development Committee)* – The Association supports development and expansion of funding sources to assist counties in preserving their architectural and cultural heritage.

*Often in the tourism industry, the rich history of Pennsylvania is critically important and marketable. This amendment reflects counties' support of not only architectural heritage preservation, but also cultural preservation.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 13** *(Submitted by the CCAP Community and Economic Development Committee)* – The Association supports legislation to aid county and municipal government in preventing or rehabilitating blighted properties as long as there are not additional burdensome or costly mandates to counties to support those programs and initiatives.

*Recent legislative proposals considered by the General Assembly aim at addressing blight concerns from a variety of angles, including proposals of blighted property databases and fee programs. Counties would want to ensure that any proposals or programs aid local governments in addressing blighted property concerns without causing undue burden or unfunded mandates to counties to administer or implement.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 14** *(Submitted by the CCAP Emergency Management and Veterans Affairs Committee)* – The Association supports collaboration with the Office of Homeland Security, PEMA and DCED to provide training for commissioners, and supports education of state and local elected officials of their responsibilities and prerogatives regarding emergency management functions.

*The technical amendment is reflective of a policy position rather than a working statement on behalf of the Association.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 15** *(Submitted by the CCAP Emergency Management and Veterans Affairs Committee)* – The Association supports a collaborative effort with the Department of Health, PEMA, the Office of Administration, Department of Human Services, other state and federal agencies, and stakeholders to provide technology tools to municipalities, counties and first responders, as well as ongoing investments in these resources, to enable them to better assess current strengths and vulnerabilities, to improve technology services and security, dispatch efficiencies, and to plan for current and future needs. To this end, the Association opposes the development of any dispatch or crisis response services that do not coordinate and plan current 911 and emergency response best practices, technologies and procedures, such as geolocation, and Next Generation (NG911) system access, to ensure timely and appropriate response. Further, the Association opposes the implementation of any crisis response and dispatch efforts without consideration for coordinating and planning operations with current and future emergency response systems.

*With the implementation of 988 in the commonwealth, counties want to ensure response services are poised in a position that can account for current best practices in 911 and emergency response, including technologies like geolocation, and use of NextGen capabilities, for timely and accurate response. To help achieve this goal, the 988 system and*

*any further crisis and dispatch response service should have a degree of integration with the current 911 system to ensure counties can accurately, effectively and uniformly respond to public emergencies, ensure safety of county staff and the public, as well as minimize county liability. This plank also uses language to clarify these provisions would apply to cybersecurity emergency response and mitigation.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 16** *(Submitted by the CCAP Emergency Management and Veterans Affairs Committee)* – The Association supports collaborative implementation of the current 911 statute, which provides a uniform set of planning, accounting, eligibility, reporting, and fee levy, collection and distribution provisions across technology platforms, an increase in fees and expansion of eligibility of expenditure of fees, and readiness for transition to Next Generation 911. The Association further supports study and planning requirements in anticipation of the 911 statute’s 2024 sunset, and calls for any adjustments to the fee system to maintain a nexus with the communications system, adapt to new technologies, markets, and billing strategies, and assure fee revenues meet system needs on an ongoing and permanent basis. Further, the Association supports a funding and distribution formula for the ongoing maintenance and support of 911 that is fair and equitable to counties of all classes. Absent a fair funding formula, the Association supports additional funding to those counties to ensure equitable support of their 911 systems, ensuring no county receives decreased funding.

*With the passage of Act 17 of 2019, which extended the current 911 statute to January 31, 2024, the amendment reflects those changes and is more generally related to ongoing 911 system maintenance and renewals. Additionally, the amendment captures recent discussions and concerns about disparities with the current 911 funding formula ahead of the statute’s renewal to help guide county positions on any new formula proposals.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 17** *(Submitted by the CCAP Emergency Management and Veterans Affairs Committee)* – The Association supports funding to cover emergency management agency costs for replacement and/or disposal whenever a regulatory body finds the substance to be contrary to public health.

*Emergency management agencies have been required to purchase and store certain substances that are later found to be inappropriate or unsafe. In those circumstances, the body mandating the change should cover the costs to counties to dispose of and/or replace the substance.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 18** *(Submitted by the CCAP Emergency Management and Veterans Affairs and the Assessment and Taxation Committee)* – The Association supports amendment of the property tax exemption available to disabled veterans and surviving spouses to exclude USDVA disability income from the program calculations that are used to determine financial need, to remove the requirement for a veteran to have served in a war or conflict, to extend the benefit to spouses of

members of the armed forces who are killed in the line of duty or declared missing in action, or veterans who would have been declared disabled but died from that disability before a determination was made, and to allow veterans residing in a long-term care facility to remain eligible for the exemption if they still own their residence. Further, the Association opposes amendments to provide partial exemptions to veterans or surviving spouses based proportionately on partial disability or to remove the requirement for a surviving spouse to demonstrate need to continue to receive the exemption.

*Past versions of this plank have reflected the recommendations of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. DMVA recently updated its white paper on the real estate tax exemption to include veteran residents of long-term care facilities. This amendment would align this plank with DMVA's latest position.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 19** *(Submitted by the CCAP Emergency Management and Veterans Affairs Committee)* – The Association opposes implementation of recommendations from the United States Veterans Administration Asset and Infrastructure Review report which would remove access to veterans' facilities and services from certain communities without full collaboration with counties and the community to understand the impacts reduced or eliminated access would cause.

*The VA has released a review report that seeks to consolidate and eliminate certain facilities currently available to veterans for health care and support services. The resolution is intended to assure that this is done in a manner that doesn't cause unintended negative harm to veterans and their families as well as our communities.*

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## RETENTION RESOLUTIONS

The following retention resolutions, under the Association's bylaws procedures, were considered and voted on by the full CCAP membership at the 2022 Annual Conference Business Meeting on August 9, 2022.

**RETENTION RESOLUTION NO. 1** – The Association opposes mandates for generation and procurement of specific levels of alternative energy in the commonwealth. However, the Association supports development of alternative and renewable energy sources in Pennsylvania for electric generation and fuel, including wind, solar, hydropower, clean coal and alternative coal, hydrogen, biomass, natural gases including methane, liquid propane and nuclear technologies.

**RETENTION RESOLUTION NO. 2** – The Association supports legislation authorizing the county governing body to abolish the office of constable.

**RETENTION RESOLUTION NO. 3** (The proposed retention resolution, which related to sheriff powers and duties, was not adopted by the membership and the plank is removed from the *Platform*.)

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### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda, which contains primarily proposed repeals from the Platform, existing Platform elements scheduled for periodic review and minor technical or editorial changes, was adopted by the full CCAP membership pursuant to the Association's bylaws procedures at the 2022 Annual Conference Business Meeting on August 9, 2022.