

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA
THE VOICE OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

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COUNTY PRIORITIES SPOTLIGHT: 911 STATUTE REAUTHORIZATION AWAITS GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE

On November 13, the Senate approved [House Bill 1304](#), which makes critical updates to Pennsylvania's 911 statute that will enable the implementation of Next Generation 911 (NG911) system and technologies. This legislation introduces vital changes, including targeted amendments to the Right-to-Know for NG911, stricter penalties for misuse of the 911 system, and new requirements for communications providers to report service outages. Additionally, HB 1304 extends the financial audit cycle for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) from every two years to every three years, streamlining oversight.

These reforms mark a transformative step to modernize Pennsylvania's 911 infrastructure, creating a resilient and fully integrated system capable of delivering faster, more effective emergency response services. For counties, the passage of HB 1304 is a significant milestone, as it reinforces our top priority of reauthorizing and securing sustained funding for 911 services. This legislation empowers counties to keep pace with technological advancements, enhancing public safety and strengthening emergency response capabilities in communities across the Commonwealth.

With just one year until the current 911 surcharge authorization is due to sunset, counties look forward to working with the General Assembly and our stakeholder partners to act swiftly in the new session to reauthorize the surcharge well ahead of the sunset date of January 31, 2026.

COMMISSIONERS AT THE POLLS

A number of former county commissioners and county officials appeared on the November 2024 General Election ballot. Results are based on those available as the *Bulletin* went to press. Complete [election results](#) are on the Department of State [web page](#).

In the Senate, Kim Ward (R), former Westmoreland County commissioner and current Senate President Pro Tempore, was successful in her re-election to the 39th District, while Scott Martin (R), former Lancaster County commissioner and current Senate Appropriations chair, won re-election in the 13th District. In addition, former Lycoming County solicitor Gene Yaw (R) was re-elected to the 23rd District, and former Berks County commissioner Judy Schwank (D), was re-elected in the 11th District.

PA House of Representatives

Former Centre County commissioner Scott Conklin (D) was successful in his re-election to represent the 77th District. Other CCAP alumni who ran unopposed for their House seats include former Bradford County commissioner Tina Pickett (R) in the 110th District, former Wayne County commissioner Jonathan Fritz (R) in the 111th District, and former clerk to Lehigh County Council Steve Samuelson (D) in the 135th District.

Rep. Donna Oberlander (R), former Clarion County commissioner, did not seek re-election for the 63rd District.

HOUSE AND SENATE MAJORITIES FOR 2025-26 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The November election brought several changes to the state House and Senate for the 2025-2026 legislative session, which begins in January. Results are based on those available as the *Bulletin* went to press.

Pennsylvania House of Representatives

In the House of Representatives, Democrats will maintain their slight majority of 102-101 heading into the 2025-2026 legislative session. The House will have 16 new legislators, due in large part to incumbents not running for re-election.

Pennsylvania Senate

Senate Republicans will maintain their 28-22 majority for the 2025-26 legislative session. The chamber will gain three new Senators from current members of the House of Representatives. Rep. Nick Pisciotano (D-Allegheny) was successful in his race for the 45th District, replacing Sen. James Brewster. Rep. Patty Kim (D-Dauphin and Cumberland) was successful in her bid for the 15th District, currently held by Sen. John DiSanto. Rep. Dawn Keefer (R-York) won her bid for the 31st District and will replace Sen. Mike Regan. All three state senators who currently hold these seats did not seek re-election this term. In addition, Joe Picozzi (R-Philadelphia) defeated incumbent Sen. Jimmy Dillon (D-Philadelphia) in the 5th Senatorial District.

Row Offices

Auditor General Tim DeFoor (R) and Treasurer Stacy Garrity (R), both incumbents, were successful in retaining their positions in their respective statewide offices. Dave Sunday (R), York County District Attorney, won his bid in the Attorney General race over Eugene DePasquale (D).

HOUSE AND SENATE ELECT NEW LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Following the 2024 General Election, the Republican and Democratic caucuses of the Pennsylvania Senate and House convened to elect their new leadership teams for the 2025-2026 legislative session, set to begin in January.

House Leadership

Current Speaker Joanna McClinton (D-Philadelphia) will retain her role as Speaker of the House for the 2025-2026 session.

On Tuesday, November 12, the House Democratic Caucus confirmed the following leadership team:

- Rep. Matt Bradford (D-Montgomery) will continue to serve as Majority Leader;
- Rep. Mike Schlossberg (D-Lehigh) was elected to succeed Rep. Dan Miller (D-Allegheny) as Whip;
- Rep. Rob. Matzie (D-Allegheny) was selected as Caucus Chair, filling Rep. Schlossberg's former position; and
- Rep. Jordan Harris (D-Philadelphia) will continue to serve as Majority Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

The House Republican Caucus also announced a new leadership team for 2025-2026:

- Rep. Jesse Topper (R-Bedford) will become the new Republican Leader, replacing Rep. Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster);
- Rep. Tim O'Neal (R-Washington) will remain as Whip;
- Rep. Jim Struzzi (R-Indiana) will take on the role of Republican Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, replacing Rep. Seth Grove (R-York); and

- Rep. Martina White (R-Philadelphia) will serve as Caucus Chair.

Senate

In the Senate, Senator Kim Ward (R-Westmoreland) will remain the President Pro Tempore.

Senate Republicans will maintain their leadership team from the prior session:

- Sen. Joe Pittman (R-Indiana) as Majority Leader;
- Sen. Ryan Aument (R-Lancaster) as Whip;
- Former CCAP member Sen. Scott Martin (R-Lancaster) as Majority Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee; and
- Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-York) as the Caucus Chair.

Senate Democrats made some changes to their leadership slate for the 2025-2026 session:

- Senator Jay Costa (D-Allegheny) will retain his position as Democratic leader;
 - Sen. Christine Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia) will remain as Whip;
 - Senator Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia) will continue to serve as the Democratic Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee; and
- Senator Maria Collett (D-Montgomery) will serve as Caucus Chair, replacing Sen. Wayne Fontana.

PENNSYLVANIA RACES SHIFT CONGRESS, SENATE RECOUNT PENDING

Much as they did in the presidential election, Pennsylvania's voters played a significant role in shaping the future composition of Congress, which ultimately helped change the leadership from a Democratic majority to a Republican majority.

In a notable change in the 8th Congressional District, six-term U.S. Rep. Matt Cartwright (D), was defeated by Republican challenger Rob Bresnahan. Meanwhile, in the 7th Congressional District, Republican challenger and current state Rep. Ryan Mackenzie (R-Lehigh), defeated incumbent Congresswoman Susan Wild (D). This means Pennsylvania's congressional delegation will now stand at 10 Republicans and 7 Democrats in the 119th Congress.

As this *Bulletin* goes to press, the margin in the U.S. Senate race between Republican Dave McCormick and incumbent Democrat Senator Casey was within the 0.5% threshold, triggering an automatic statewide recount. Secretary of the Commonwealth Al Schmidt **announced** the recount on November 13, which must be completed by November 26 and certified by November 27.

IFO ISSUES OCTOBER REVENUE UPDATE

The State's Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) released the monthly revenue **update** for October 2024, showing that General Fund collections for the month totaled \$3.38 billion, which was \$71 million (2.1%) less than the IFO's official estimate. October 2024 collections were \$137 million (4.2%) higher than during the same month of the previous year.

Despite October revenues falling short of the IFO's estimate for the month, year-to-date state revenues for FY 2024-2025 through the end of October are exceeding the IFO's official estimate by \$128 million (1.0%) for a total of \$13.47 billion. This is the result of higher-than-expected collections from the corporate net income tax and inheritance tax relative to the IFO's predictions. Additionally, year-to-date collections are \$385 million (2.9%) higher compared to this time last year.

PENN STATE EXTENSION'S BROADBAND MAP WEBINAR

Penn State Extension is hosting a webinar on their national broadband map, "*BEAD: Broadband Navigator, Empowering Data-Driven Local Projects*," on December 5 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The webinar will explore how Penn State Extension's broadband spatial analysis and mapping secured more than \$500 million in additional funding for broadband expansion across the Commonwealth.

This session will provide a comprehensive overview of the \$42 billion in federal funding available for broadband development and highlight actionable steps that state and local communities can take to access these resources. Attendees will learn how spatial analysis and mapping are powering Extension's broadband efforts and strategies for bridging the digital divide in rural areas. The webinar will also cover opportunities to enhance economic growth, health outcomes, educational access, and workforce development through digital equity initiatives

Register for the webinar [here](#).

CCAP FALL CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

The 2024 CCAP **Fall Conference** will be held at The Hotel Hershey in Dauphin County November 24-26, 2024. The CCAP policy committees have met to develop their work plans and determine what issues should be advanced as part of the Association's 2025 county legislative priorities list. During the business meeting at the conference, CCAP members will vote, both in person and virtually, on the 2025 county legislative priorities and consider the Association's 2025 action plan and other association business. Information on the voting matters will be emailed to the CCAP membership in advance of the conference.

**Note: The CCAP Legislative Bulletin will pause for November 29 in recognition of the Thanksgiving holiday. The next publication will return on Friday, December 13.*

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