**A RESOLUTION**

A resolution of the county of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, supporting the 2024 priorities of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

**WHEREAS**, Pennsylvania counties have selected eight priority issues that will be the focal point of counties’ proactive agenda for 2024; 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 2024 is once again securing 911 funding and reauthorization; and

**WHEREAS,** current 911 funding revenues have not kept pace with the increasing costs of the system, which must support our needs into the future, including planning, development and support of Next Gen 911; and

**WHEREAS,** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County is funding \_\_\_\_%\_\_\_\_ of our 911 system costs, which are being used for <<what are your primary cost drivers?>>; and

**WHEREAS,** with an extension of the surcharge increase of $1.95 to 2026, counties are calling for discussion among policymakers and stakeholders well before the February 2026 surcharge sunset to ensure any changes to the 911 law or system can be implemented well in advance of the sunset; and

**WHEREAS,** achieving this priority would ensure all Pennsylvania residents and visitors will continue to have a quick and efficient connection to a 911 operator and services in any situation, regardless of geographic location or time of day; and

**WHEREAS,** counties’ second priority is advocating for county mental health base funding increase to ensure that residents are able to access the care that they need; 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**, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 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**, counties’ third priority is addressing county inmates with mental health issues aiming to find ways to better serve those incarcerated experiencing severe mental illness, making it very difficult to address their needs in the jail setting; and

**WHEREAS,** are seeking a much needed and long sought increase in the state prevailing wage threshold as their fourth priority, which has not been increased from $25,000 since 1961 and adjusted for inflation would be more than $250,000 in 2023; and

**WHEREAS,** this threshold applies to all levels of government, all of which are looking for ways to use limited resources to provide the maximum level of services possible; and

**WHEREAS**, Right-to-Know Law reforms are counties’ fifth priority, enabling counties to dedicate time and resources to key services for residents while maintaining integrity and transparency in government; and

**WHEREAS**, counties have seen an influx in large, complex record requests, as well as requests for records with the intent to burden and bog down the records request process, particularly around elections, which can negatively impact counties’ ability to appropriately respond to requests; and

**WHEREAS,** counties sixth priority continues to be seeking critical vote-by-mail reforms, including clarifications to current law surrounding drop boxes, ballot curing as well as expanded pre-canvassing time and moving back the mail-in ballot application deadline to 15 days before an election; and

**WHEREAS,** achieving this priority would give counties needed tools to run fair, secure, and accurate elections, restoring public trust in the election system; and

**WHEREAS,** counties chose broadband access and development as their seventh priority in light of the immediate need for infrastructure, partnerships and digital literacy programming 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,** counties eighth and final priority for 2024 is addressing the juvenile detention capacity crisis, providing justice-involved youth with timely community-based services and protection in detention for their safety and that of the community; 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 2024; 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 Shapiro, 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

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

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