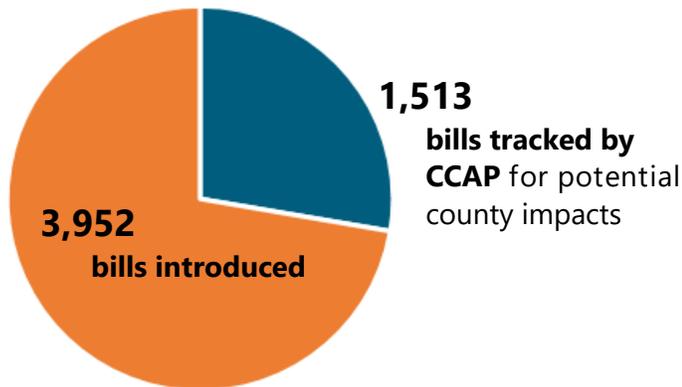


2017–2018 Legislative Session in Review



Sharing the County Message

CCAP and its members provide input and testimony on legislation to a wide variety of committees, explaining how a bill might affect counties or how counties are involved in a particular issue area.

CCAP sent legislative memos on **54** bills to **11** Senate committees and **13** House committees, as well as the full House and Senate.

CCAP and its affiliates also testified at **9** hearings over the two-year period, and submitted written comments for **9** other hearings, covering policy issues like assessment and property taxes, civil service, elections, human services, criminal justice, sheriff powers, recycling and more.

38 acts affecting county government signed into law, including:

- Act 40 of 2017: Administrative Code amendments including reauthorization of senior judge support grants
- Act 38 of 2018: Clarifies liability on properties in county repository to address *Sprock v Commonwealth*
- Act 71 of 2018: Civil service modernization
- Act 91 of 2018: Clarifies \$5 optional vehicle registration fee
- Act 154 of 2018: County Code update/rewrite
- Act 155 of 2018: Clarifies assessment appeals

Counties also stopped or fixed several bills that would have had negative impacts on services and taxpayers:

- SB 10: Imposed liability on counties related to immigration detainer requests
- SB 1089: Undermined the successful Behavioral HealthChoices program
- HB 1846: Updated the Breach of Personal Information Notification Act; worked with the Office of Administration on amendments to improve notification timeframes

FY 2017-2018 Budget

In FY 2017-2018, counties were faced with a state budget proposal that would have significantly cut, and in some cases eliminated, key county line items amounting to millions of dollars in funding for human services, criminal justice and administrative programs that counties perform on the Commonwealth's behalf. They successfully advocated to maintain these investments in the final budget agreement.

Counties' advocacy was also critical in educating legislators on the impacts of proposals to fund the FY 2017-2018 budget, which included about \$1.2 billion in proposed one-time transfers in special funds they claimed had surpluses. The transfers, if enacted, would have included \$40 million from the 911 Fund, \$27 million from state farmland preservation funding, \$75 million from the Recycling Fund and more.

2017-2018 General Assembly At A Glance

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New members of the Senate

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New members of the House

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Policy committees in the House and Senate with typical jurisdiction over legislation impacting counties

CCAP government relations staff make an effort to meet with every new legislator and every committee chair—both Republican and Democrat—with jurisdiction over county-related legislation each session.

County Participation Matters

CCAP members and county staff testified before legislative committees on several occasions:

- Kevin Barnhardt (Berks): HB 1092, House Democratic Policy Committee
- Kevin Boozel (Butler): HB 1810, House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee
- Deb Crawford (Tioga assessment): Assessment reform, House Finance Committee, and SB 1099, Senate Local Government Committee
- Jerry Feaser (Dauphin elections): Voting systems and election security, Senate State Government Committee and House State Government Committee
- George Hartwick (Dauphin), Tiffany Bloyer (Franklin HR) and Adelaide Grace (Monroe C&Y): SB 1037, Senate State Government Committee
- Ben Kafferlin (Warren): Statewide radio system, Senate Veterans Affairs and Senate Communications and Technology committees
- Rod Ruddock (Indiana): Property tax reform, House Finance Subcommittee on Tax Modernization and Reform



Special projects

CCAP involvement in special legislative projects included:

Assessment Reform Task Force:

Created by the Local Government Commission, CCAP and AAP worked together on projects and legislation to address the efficiency, transparency, modernization and fairness of the property assessment process; see CCAP's *Assessment Reform Task Force* web page for more details.

Senate election roundtable: On Sept. 5, CCAP hosted a roundtable with Sen. Mike Folmer, chair of the Senate State Government Committee, legislators and staff, and election directors to discuss voting systems and election reforms.

Alumni interviews: CCAP interviewed four former members for the Summer 2018 *County News* to get their take on life in the General Assembly and their insights on how counties can work better with the state legislature.

New priorities engagement: For 2018, priorities were announced at the 2017 Fall Conference, and counties took an active role in collectively promoting them to legislators, the media and their constituents.