

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA
THE VOICE OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

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CCAP PRESIDENT HESS REFLECTS ON 2025 SESSION

As my term as CCAP President comes to a close, I have been reflecting with great pride on the significant legislative progress counties achieved in 2025. This has truly been a year defined by partnership, persistence, and the collective strength of county leaders, CCAP staff, and our affiliates. Together, we advanced policies that strengthen county government and protect the essential services our residents depend on every day.

Over the past year, counties played an active and influential role in the legislative process—engaging with dozens of bills in both chambers. County officials, staff, and affiliates provided testimony or submitted comments in eight legislative hearings, offering insight and expertise on issues ranging from the Right-to-Know Law and transparency laws to mental health, data centers, community assistance, and more. We also reinforced county priorities through more than 15 communications to the General Assembly, the Governor, and administration officials, ensuring county voices remained central in policy discussions.

One of our most important accomplishments was the reauthorization of the 911 surcharge at \$1.95 through 2028, safeguarding a lifeline that counties rely on to deliver reliable, high-quality emergency communication services. With the surcharge set to expire on January 31, 2026, counties moved swiftly and strategically to secure reauthorization. Although we did not achieve an increase this year, we elevated the conversation—and I am confident that counties will continue pressing for the resources needed to maintain and advance Next Generation 911 in the year ahead.

Counties also made meaningful progress on election policy. In 2025, the association took a thoughtful and forward-looking step by rescinding the long-standing plank opposing early

in-person voting. In its place, we committed to developing practical, uniform, and secure recommendations to ensure that any early voting system can be successfully administered at the county level. This reflects our ongoing commitment to modern, accessible, and well-resourced elections.

Our ability to identify emerging challenges and advocate for solutions remains central to CCAP's mission. This year, counties strengthened relationships with legislators, the Shapiro/Davis Administration, and agency partners, ensuring that county priorities, whether in the state budget or legislative proposals, were clearly understood and strongly represented.

Throughout 2025, counties engaged deeply with CCAP policies that shape the day-to-day operation of local government. County officials provided feedback on legislation, shared expertise during hearings, and lifted up the budget needs that directly impact communities across the Commonwealth. Your dedication to doing what is best for your residents is the foundation of CCAP's work, and it has been an honor to help carry that collective voice forward.

As we look to a new year, counties remain united and committed to advancing policies that strengthen local government and improve the lives of Pennsylvanians. It has been a privilege to serve as your CCAP President in 2025, and I look forward to the important work we will continue together in 2026.

Have a safe and wonderful new year!

Sincerely,

Sherene Hess, Indiana County Commissioner, 2025 CCAP President



COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: YEAR-END UPDATE

At the outset of the 2025 legislative session, CCAP members announced three county legislative priorities for the year: reauthorization and statutory updates to the 911 surcharge, adequate funding for mental health services, and vote-by-mail reforms. An end-of-year update highlighting progress made on these priorities is available [here](#).

Additional information on county legislative priorities for 2026 will be shared in the coming weeks.

ACTS AFFECTING COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The current legislative session began this past January, during which several new bills were introduced and signed into law. A comprehensive list of 2025 acts affecting county government, including bill numbers, enactment dates, and brief summaries, is available on the [CCAP Legislative Action Center](#).



Happy Holidays & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM CCAP



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