CCAP
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Association of Pennsylvania

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LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

THE VOICE OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

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CCAP FALL CONFERENCE AND 2026 PRIORITIES

CCAP held its Annual Fall Conference at The Hotel Hershey, bringing members together for a full agenda of educational breakout sessions, a state agency house, and the annual vote on legislative priorities for 2026. Members participated in a wide range of informative sessions, including discussions on the growth of AI data centers across the nation and the Commonwealth, as well as presentations from the Department of Environmental Protection on permitting reform and agency updates.

During the conference, the Association voted to adopt its legislative priorities, which will be formally announced in late January 2026. These priorities will guide CCAP's advocacy efforts in the coming year and support counties as they advance policy objectives on behalf of their residents.

In addition to setting legislative priorities, the CCAP membership voted to update the Association's position on early in-person voting. Members repealed the previous plank opposing early in-person voting and adopted a forward-looking position. The updated platform expresses support for the concept of early in-person voting and commits the Association to developing recommendations to ensure that any early voting system is consistent, secure, and workable for county election administrators. The platform emphasizes that the General Assembly should not advance any early voting framework without meaningful county input. This updated position is reflected in the CCAP Platform, which guides the Association's legislative activities.

As the announcement of the 2026 legislative priorities approaches, counties look forward to working closely with the General Assembly to advance thoughtful public policy that strengthens county government and benefits residents across the Commonwealth.

SENATE ADVANCES FLEXIBLE BRIDGE FUNDING FOR COUNTIES

On November 8, the Senate advanced legislation to strengthen funding for county and municipal bridges, marking an important step toward improving local infrastructure. This critical legislation provides counties with a more flexible and diversified funding stream to support bridge repair and replacement projects.

Senate Bill 1070, introduced by Senator Greg Rothman (R–Cumberland), passed the Senate and now moves to the House of Representatives for consideration. The bill amends the Oil and Gas Act to allow a portion of unconventional gas well fee revenues to be used for bridge projects. This change would enable counties to make proactive investments in locally owned bridges, addressing structural needs before they reach critical deterioration rather than reacting after serious damage has occurred. The legislation also expands the allowable use of funds to include any county or municipal bridge, providing counties with greater flexibility to manage and prioritize infrastructure needs. Counties strongly support this bill, as it empowers local governments to more effectively maintain and rebuild critical infrastructure.

CCAP appreciates the bill sponsors for their leadership in advancing this flexible funding solution for counties. The sponsors include the following senators, who collectively represent 19 counties.

- Senator Greg Rothman – Cumberland, Dauphin, and Perry Counties
- Senator Wayne Langerholc – Cambria, Centre, and Clearfield Counties
- Senator Rosemary Brown – Lackawanna, Monroe, and Wayne Counties
- Senator Patrick Stefano – Bedford, Fayette, Somerset, and Westmoreland Counties
- Senator Elder Vogel – Butler, Beaver, and Lawrence Counties
- Senator Michele Brooks – Crawford, Lawrence, and Mercer Counties

Counties also thank the members of the Senate who voted in support of Senate Bill 1070, allowing it to advance to the House. Counties stand ready to work with the General Assembly to move this legislation forward and to continue strengthening sustainable funding streams for bridge and transportation infrastructure.

BILLS ADVANCING IN THE SENATE

This past week, the Senate was in legislative session while the House convened in a non-voting session. During this time, the Senate advanced several bills of interest to counties.

On November 8, the Senate further considered **House Bill 858**, introduced by Representative Jared Solomon (D–Philadelphia), which would require county chief assessors to establish and maintain a list of real property within each county. County assessment offices already maintain comprehensive property records, and this proposal would create a duplicative administrative requirement. Because counties do not conduct code enforcement, municipalities are better positioned to maintain this type of information, as code enforcement falls within their jurisdiction. The bill does not include a funding mechanism, resulting in an unfunded mandate. The current system, under which county assessment offices collect and maintain ownership and property information, remains the most effective and reliable framework. Counties remain prepared to work collaboratively with the General Assembly on this issue.

Senate Bill 1096, introduced by Senator Judy Ward (R–Blair), was also considered on the Senate floor and now awaits further action by the full chamber. The legislation authorizes $600 million in state bond issuances to support rural bridge projects. These funds would supplement existing transportation funding and direct the Department of Transportation to prioritize bridge projects based on their overall condition statewide.

This past week marked the Senate's final session week of the year. The House will return to session next week, which will be its final session period of the year. The Senate is scheduled to reconvene during the first week of January, and the House will return later that month.

U.S. HOUSE ADVANCES SLCGP REAUTHORIZATION

On November 17, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation to reauthorize the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP). The bill, known as the **PILLAR Act**, would extend the program's authorization through 2033.

SLCGP provides cybersecurity planning and implementation grants that help states and local governments monitor, detect, and respond to threats across their information technology systems. The program was originally authorized and funded for four years under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and was set to expire on September 30, 2025. That expiration date was temporarily extended to January 30, 2026, through a continuing resolution signed into law in early November.

On December 1, the U.S. Senate introduced a companion bill to extend the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program.

The National Association of Counties (NACo), in collaboration with CCAP, supports reauthorization of the SLCGP and continues to urge Congress to provide reliable, flexible funding to meet county cybersecurity needs. NACo has published a detailed overview of the proposed legislation on its **website**.

U.S. EPA PROPOSES NEW WOTUS DEFINTION

On November 17, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a proposed rule redefining what constitutes "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) subject to federal regulation under the Clean Water Act. The proposal adopts a narrower definition than previous rules and codifies the U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 decision in Sackett v. EPA.

The definition of a jurisdictional water body under WOTUS directly determines whether county projects must obtain federal permits for construction, maintenance, or capital improvements.

A detailed breakdown of the proposed rule is available on the **National Association of Counties website**.

IFO ISSUES 2025 IMPACT FEE ESTIMATES

The Pennsylvania Independent Fiscal Office estimates that calendar year 2025 **natural gas impact fee collections** will total approximately $239.9 million, representing an increase of about $75 million, or 46 percent, compared to 2024. These fees are assessed annually on unconventional shale gas wells and are distributed to local governments and state agencies to address infrastructure, environmental, and public safety impacts associated with natural gas development. Of the total projected collections, approximately $131.6 million will be distributed to counties, municipalities, and the Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund, with an additional $87.7 million allocated to the Marcellus Legacy Fund.

The increase in projected revenue is mainly due to higher natural gas prices and more drilling in Pennsylvania. In addition, a required 3.1 percent inflation adjustment and the expected drilling of about 450 new wells in 2025 have raised the overall fee amount. There are an estimated 12,588 wells that will pay the fee, averaging $19,056, about 41 percent higher than last year.

The 2025 impact fee forecast presents a favorable short-term fiscal outlook for counties that host or are adjacent to unconventional gas development. The increased revenue is expected to strengthen local capacity to maintain infrastructure, enhance public safety services, and support environmental mitigation efforts. At the same time, counties must continue to plan cautiously for future years, recognizing that collections are driven by market conditions and drilling trends that remain inherently unpredictable.

IFO ISSUES NOVEMBER REVENUE UPDATE

The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) released its monthly revenue update for **November 2025**, reporting General Fund collections of $3.02 billion, an increase of $90 million (+3.1%) compared to November 2024.

Personal income tax (PIT) revenues totaled $1.14 billion, up $47 million (+4.3%) from the prior year. Corporate net income tax revenues amounted to $164 million, a decrease of $19 million (-10.2%) from November 2024. Sales and use tax revenues totaled $1.22 billion, an increase of $43 million (+3.7%) compared to last year, driven by non-motor vehicle collections of $1.14 billion (+5.0%) and motor vehicle collections of $77 million (-12.6%).

Fiscal year-to-date collections for FY 2025-26 stand at $16.54 billion, which is $144 million (+0.9%) higher than the same period in FY 2024-25.

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