

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA
THE VOICE OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

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CCAP PRESIDENT EMPHASIZES THE VALUE OF A STRONG STATE-COUNTY PARTNERSHIP

As I begin my term as president, I am focused on reinforcing the collective strength of Pennsylvania's counties while thinking back to my motto when you all elected me as 2nd Vice President two years ago.

"5WT" was the motto I shared which stands for "We Win When We Work Together." CCAP plays a vital role in bringing counties together around shared priorities, providing leadership, coordination, and support that helps all 67 counties meet the needs of their residents. That commitment to collaboration and excellence will shape my work throughout the year ahead.

Pennsylvania's counties play a central role in delivering the services that shape daily life for residents across the Commonwealth. Counties support public safety, deliver critical human services, administer elections, maintain infrastructure, and much more. In brief, counties operate at the intersection of state policy and community needs. As fiscal pressures evolve and service demands grow more complex, CCAP members offer practical insight grounded in first-hand experience to advance effective public policy. When that perspective is incorporated early in the policymaking process, outcomes are stronger, more efficient, and

better aligned with the realities on the ground.

On **Wednesday, January 28**, counties will outline their 2026 legislative priorities. These priorities are shaped by input from counties of every size and region and highlight the issues that most directly affect counties' ability to meet their responsibilities. Advancing these priorities is not about advancing county government alone—it is about sustaining the services and programs that communities across Pennsylvania depend on. If we work together to share these priorities, we can make strides to accomplish our goals.

Counties are eager to work with the General Assembly, Governor Shapiro, and state agencies to shape policies that strengthen the state-county relationship and ultimately strengthen the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Joe Kantz, Snyder County Commissioner, 2026 CCAP President



A NEW YEAR AT THE CAPITOL: CCAP GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OUTLOOK FOR 2026

As the General Assembly returns to Harrisburg for a new legislative year this month, CCAP's Government Relations team is once again focused on advancing policies on behalf of

Pennsylvania's 67 counties that strengthen county government and protect the essential services counties deliver every day. Early session activity already points to a busy year ahead, with numerous bills under consideration that could have significant impacts on county services, administration, and local decision-making. CCAP is closely reviewing these proposals and engaging early to ensure county perspectives are understood as legislation takes shape.

At the same time, CCAP is preparing to roll out its 2026 Legislative Priorities on January 28, reflecting the issues counties have identified as most critical in the year ahead. These priorities will guide CCAP's advocacy efforts and serve as the foundation for conversations with legislators, the administration, and key stakeholders throughout the session.

Looking ahead, CCAP remains committed to constructive, collaborative engagement. Whether working with legislative partners, administration officials, or allied organizations, our goal is to be a trusted resource and a clear voice for counties. As 2026 unfolds, CCAP will continue to monitor developments, communicate impacts, and advocate for practical, workable solutions that support strong county government across Pennsylvania.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENES FOR 2026 SESSION

The General Assembly returned to Harrisburg this week, marking the first session week of the 2026 legislative year. The Senate convened for a voting day, while the House returned for a non-voting session. Both chambers are scheduled to return during the last week of January.

Hearing schedules for the upcoming budget season have also been released. Both chambers will begin hearings the week of February 23, with Senate hearings concluding on March 5 and House hearings wrapping up on March 12. The Senate Department of Human Services hearing is scheduled for February 25, followed by the House Department of Human Services hearing on March 4.

In addition, the General Assembly announced a series of special elections to fill four vacant seats in the House of Representatives. The affected districts include:

- 22nd District (Lehigh County)
- 42nd District (Allegheny County)
- 193rd District (Cumberland and Adams Counties)
- 79th District (Blair County)

With the House currently divided by a one-seat margin, the outcome of these elections could impact the chamber's leadership and control.

As the legislature turns its attention to FY 2026–2027 budget negotiations and related hearings, counties remain committed to serving as constructive partners throughout the budget process. Counties stand ready to provide on-the-ground insight and work collaboratively with policymakers to advance shared priorities.

COUNTY RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MILITARY AND VETERAN CAREGIVERS

The Elizabeth Dole Foundation works to support and elevate the nation's military and veteran caregiver—individuals who provide vital care for wounded, ill, or injured service members and veterans, often while balancing work, family, and other responsibilities. To recognize the challenges these caregivers face and to provide communities a way to show support, counties can adopt the Hidden Heroes Resolution. This resolution allows a county to formally identify and acknowledge local military and veteran caregivers, raise awareness about their unique needs, promote supportive environments through government, community organizations, and employers, and connect caregivers with resources. It also encourages counties to designate a local point of contact, plan recognition events or resource fairs, and engage with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's national Hidden Heroes campaign.

The county resolution document is available [here](#) for reference.

BID LIMITATIONS THRESHOLD UPDATE

The 2026 annual adjustments to the bid limit thresholds and telephonic quote thresholds under the County Code and Second-Class County Code were published in a recent issue of the [Pennsylvania Bulletin](#).

Act 86 of 2011 increased bid limit thresholds and telephonic quote thresholds under the County Code to \$18,500 and \$10,000, respectively, with an annual adjustment for inflation thereafter; the thresholds were increased to the same levels in the Second Class County Code under Act 89 of 2011. The State Department of Labor and Industry has advised that the consumer price index percentage change for the 12-month period ending September 30, 2025, is 3.0% and thus the bid limit thresholds and telephone quote thresholds that took effect on January 1, 2026, will be \$24,500 and \$13,200, respectively.

IFO RELEASES DECEMBER REVENUE UPDATE

The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) released the monthly [revenue update](#) for December 2025, showing that General Fund collections for the month totaled \$4.97 billion, which was \$184 million (3.8%) above the IFO's official estimate. Strong performance was driven primarily by higher-than-expected sales and use tax collections and corporate net income tax payments, as well as elevated nontax revenues that included a one-time transfer from other funds.

Year-over-year, December 2025 General Fund collections were \$1.20 billion (31.7%) higher than December 2024, reflecting growth across major tax categories, including personal income tax, sales and use tax, and gaming revenues.

Fiscal-year-to-date General Fund revenues through the end of December total \$21.52 billion, exceeding the IFO's official estimate by \$215 million (1.0%). Higher-than-projected receipts from sales and use taxes and personal income taxes are the primary drivers of the year-to-date surplus. Compared to the same point last fiscal year, year-to-date collections are \$1.34 billion (6.6%) higher, indicating continued revenue growth midway through FY 2025–26.

NACo ACCEPTING INTERIM POLICY RESOLUTIONS

The National Association of Counties (NACo) will hold its 2026 Legislative Conference in person in Washington, D.C., from February 21–24, 2026. During the conference, NACo's ten policy steering committees will meet to consider and vote on interim policy resolutions that will guide the association's advocacy efforts until the Annual Conference in July. NACo is accepting submissions for interim policy resolutions via email at resolutions@naco.org. Additional information is available on the [NACo Legislative Conference webpage](#).



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