View this email in your browser

CCAP
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Association of Pennsylvania

July 10, 2026

Legislative Bulletin

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA
THE VOICE OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

IN THIS EDITION

STATE BUDGET PROCESS NEARING THE FINISH LINE

As of this writing, the FY 2026–27 state budget remains unresolved several days after the June 30 constitutional deadline. Both the House and Senate have scheduled voting sessions this weekend to finalize the state budget and related code legislation, after which they are expected to recess until the end of September.

Pennsylvania's counties administer a wide range of state-funded programs and essential local services, making the timely enactment of the state budget critically important. "Passing a timely and responsible budget is essential to ensuring counties have the resources needed to serve their communities without disruption," said Dr. Kyle Kopko, Executive Director of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP).

In addition to finalizing the state budget, counties continue to advocate for their top legislative priorities for 2026:

- Increasing the 911 surcharge from $1.95 to $2.20 to ensure the long-term sustainability of Pennsylvania's emergency communications system
- Providing $40
- Counties remain committed to working collaboratively with state leaders to enact a budget that equips them with the necessary resources to effectively serve residents across the Commonwealth.

For more information on CCAP's 2026 legislative priorities, please visit **CCAP's Priorities webpage.**

STRENGTHENING PENNSYLVANIA'S 911 SYSTEM

CCAP's top legislative priority for 2026 is strengthening Pennsylvania's 911 system through a modest surcharge increase and targeted statutory updates.

Counties are seeking to **increase the current statewide 911 surcharge from $1.95 to $2.20** to ensure emergency communication systems remain adequately funded. This investment will help support daily operations, modernize critical infrastructure, and keep pace with rapidly evolving technologies. In addition, updates to state law are needed to align with changing federal and state requirements and ensure Pennsylvania's 911 system remains efficient, reliable, and resilient.

Advancing this priority will help ensure that residents and visitors across the Commonwealth can depend on fast, reliable access to emergency services—anytime, anywhere, when every second counts.

Additional information on this legislative priority, including issue briefs, supporting materials, and the **911 Myth vs. Fact** sheet, is available on **CCAP's Priorities webpage**. These resources provide further context on the importance of sustainable 911 funding and the statutory updates needed to maintain a modern and effective emergency communications system.

DATA CENTER BILLS CONTINUE TO MOVE THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE

During the week of June 30, several key data center regulation bills advanced through the General Assembly. Notably, the Senate advanced two House bills, which now await consideration by the full Senate, while the House advanced an additional bill that now awaits consideration by the House.

On June 30, the Senate Local Government Committee advanced **House Bill 2496**, introduced by Rep. Paul Friel (D-Chester), which would amend the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code to give municipalities the option to temporarily pause the review of data center development applications for up to 180 days. The pause would allow municipalities to evaluate and update local land use ordinances related to data centers before considering new applications, with any ordinance changes applying to applications submitted during the pause. The bill now awaits consideration by the full Senate chamber.

The Senate Local Government Committee also advanced **Senate Bill 1345**, introduced by Sen. Jarrett Coleman (R-Bucks), which would amend the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code to give municipalities the option to enact a moratorium, by ordinance, on the filing or consideration of new applications for "high impact data centers" (data center facilities with a critical IT load of 25 megawatts or higher) for up to 18 months. The moratorium would allow municipalities to undertake planning activities—such as infrastructure, public safety, and environmental impact assessments—and update zoning and land use ordinances addressing data centers before considering new applications. The bill requires a public hearing prior to adoption, includes a waiver process for applicants facing substantial hardship, and does not apply to previously granted approvals or unrelated applications. The bill now awaits consideration by the full chamber.

The full House advanced **House Bill 2359**, introduced by Rep. Joe Ciresi (D-Montgomery), which would prohibit government agencies and data center developers from entering into nondisclosure agreements that prevent public access to project information. The bill would also establish public notification and engagement requirements, including municipal notification, public meetings, consultation with local officials, and reporting on energy use, water consumption, and environmental impacts. The bill heads to the Senate for further consideration.

CCAP will continue to monitor these proposals as they move through the legislative process and will provide timely updates on their progress and any potential implications for counties.

HOUSE PASSES SUNSHINE ACT LEGISLATION

On July 1, the House advanced **House Bill 2146**, introduced by Representative Robert Freeman (D–Northampton), which now awaits consideration by the Senate. House Bill 2146 stems from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's interpretation of amendments to the Sunshine Act enacted in 2021. In that decision, the Court determined that school boards and other governing bodies are permitted to add action items to a publicly posted meeting agenda by a simple majority vote during the meeting.

In response, HB 2146 would reverse that interpretation by requiring local governments to schedule and publicly advertise a separate meeting if an unexpected matter arises after an agenda has been published. House Bill 2146 does permit local governments, by majority vote, to add items to their agenda to address minor administrative matters when a delay would create hardship for a governing body. These include certain personnel decisions, time-sensitive legal filings, and purchases or bill approvals below the current **telephonic bidding threshold**.

Local governments routinely encounter important issues that emerge after meeting agendas are finalized. While these matters are often not emergencies, they are frequently time-sensitive and could be addressed appropriately during the scheduled meeting. Despite best efforts to plan ahead, it is not always possible to anticipate every issue that may require governing body action.

Without the ability to amend an agenda during a public meeting, local governments would face delayed decision-making, increased administrative burdens, and the need to convene additional special meetings at taxpayer expense, potentially limiting their ability to respond promptly to immediate community needs.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ADVANCES HOTEL TAX REFORMS

On June 30, the House Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee approved two bills that address long-standing county concerns regarding hotel tax remittance by third-party booking platforms. Counties support both measures, as they provide greater clarity on the information counties may request from short-term rental platforms to help ensure hotel taxes are accurately collected and remitted.

House Bill 2082 amends the Tax Reform Code to build upon the provisions of Act 109 of 2018, which established that third-party booking platforms are responsible for remitting hotel occupancy taxes on short-term rentals booked through their websites. The bill clarifies that counties may request information from these platforms—including the operator's name, accommodation fees, room rates, and applicable hotel tax rates—to verify that the correct amount of hotel tax has been collected and remitted.

House Bill 2083 adds similar provisions to Title 16 (Counties), expressly authorizing counties to request short-term rental information from third-party booking platforms. The bill also directs the Department of Community and Economic Development, in consultation with stakeholders, to develop a standardized reporting form for use in providing hotel tax remittance information.
Since the enactment of Act 109 of 2018, counties have sought additional authority to verify that hotel taxes collected by third-party booking platforms are being properly remitted. While the law established the responsibility of these platforms to collect and remit hotel taxes, it did not provide counties with clear statutory authority to obtain the information necessary to confirm compliance.

Together, House Bills 2082 and 2083 clarify existing hotel tax law, strengthen counties' ability to verify compliance, improve the accuracy of hotel tax reporting, and support more consistent collection and remittance of local hotel occupancy taxes.

FCC ADOPTS NG911 RELIABILITY STANDARDS

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved **new rules** to improve the reliability of Next Generation 911 (NG911) systems as states continue transitioning from traditional emergency call infrastructure to internet-based networks.

The new rules require companies that operate NG911 systems to implement measures aimed at reducing service disruptions. The Commission will also require providers to report on their progress toward ensuring that NG911 systems can reliably transfer emergency calls and data between networks. These requirements are intended to strengthen the resilience of internet protocol-based emergency communications systems and reduce the risk of 911 service outages.

For more information on the new rules, please visit the **FCC's website**.

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS MAIL-IN BALLOT DEADLINE

On June 29, the **U.S. Supreme Court upheld** a Mississippi law allowing election officials to count mail-in ballots that are postmarked by Election Day and received up to five days afterward. As a result, Mississippi's law, along with similar provisions in **13 other states**, will remain in effect ahead of the November midterm elections.

As election-related legislation and court decisions continue to shape election administration at both the state and federal levels, counties will continue to monitor developments and provide timely updates on issues that may affect county governments and election operations.

FCC CONSIDERS PREEMPTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN BROADBAND PERMITTING PROCESS

In September, the FCC issued a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) on Accelerating Wireline Infrastructure Buildout and a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on Eliminating Barriers to Wireless Deployments. During its June 25 meeting, the FCC approved another NPRM to streamline local permitting for wireline infrastructure projects.

The proposal has raised concerns about increasing administrative burdens for local governments that manage telecommunications permits. The FCC is also considering additional measures to hold internet service providers accountable for acting on permits once they are approved.

As part of its Eliminating Barriers to Wireless Deployments and Wireline Deployments proceedings, the FCC continues to seek comment on provisions of the Spectrum Act, the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the 2018 Small Cell

Order as it considers additional actions to reduce barriers to broadband deployment.

Counties have been engaged with the FCC as rulemaking continues and develops. For a more detailed breakdown, visit to **NACo's website**.

BEAD DEPLOYMENT EFFORTS CONTINUE

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program implementation continues across Pennsylvania with recent community projects and regional roundtable discussions.

The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA), in partnership with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission and the Northwest Commission, co-hosted BEAD Roundtables to bring together local governments, internet service providers, and other stakeholders. The roundtables provided updates on BEAD deployment efforts, ongoing projects, and implementation activities within each region.

Two recent BEAD-funded projects were also highlighted. At the Murrysville Public Library, funding supported the addition of three private rooms for telehealth appointments, virtual meetings, and studying, as well as furniture and accessibility improvements. Downtown Shenandoah Inc. established a new Center for Education, Business & Arts to support education, workforce development, and entrepreneurship.

CCAP will continue to monitor BEAD deployment activities and share updates as implementation progresses.

CCAP
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Association of Pennsylvania

County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania

PO Box 60769 | Harrisburg, PA 17106-0769