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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FY 2025-2026 BUDGET ENACTED: KEY COUNTY IMPACTS

On November 12, the General Assembly and Governor reached a final agreement to pass the state budget, officially ending a nearly five-month impasse. Both chambers approved the spending plan, **Act No. 1A of 2025**, and the accompanying fiscal code, **Act 45 of 2025**, which provides the framework for implementing appropriations across programs.

The enacted budget, contained in Act No. 1, totals $50.1 billion, representing a 4.7% increase over last year's budget and roughly $1 billion less than the Governor's original proposal. Lawmakers emphasized that the plan was balanced without drawing from the state's Rainy Day Fund, raising taxes, or introducing new revenue sources.

MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING

The fiscal code provides an additional $20 million increase in county base funds for FY 2025-2026, completing the Governor's three-year commitment to raise county mental health funding by $60 million overall. Prior to this three-year initiative, counties had received little to no funding increase for mental health services. The full $60 million secured represents progress in addressing decades of chronic underfunding. It provides counties with resources to strengthen and expand mental health services, creating lasting improvements across the commonwealth.

911 SURCHARGE REAUTHORIZATION

The fiscal code reauthorizes the 911 surcharge of $1.95 through 2028, ensuring continued support for local emergency communications. Counties appreciate the General Assembly's timely action to extend this critical funding stream; however, the legislature did not approve the proposed increase to $2.20, which counties have long supported to help close the growing funding gap for 911 system maintenance and upgrades.

While reauthorizing the surcharge at $1.95 avoids the worst-case scenario, there remains a growing gap between county costs and available revenues. With each passing year, counties fall further behind the funding curve as technology, staffing, and infrastructure costs continue to rise. Because counties have limited ability to raise revenue outside of property taxes, they are reliant on the 911 surcharge to fund these operations.

Counties look forward to continued, meaningful dialogue with legislative leaders and 911 stakeholders in the months ahead to establish a sustainable 911 funding stream that better reflects the true cost of maintaining reliable, modern emergency communications across Pennsylvania.

TREASURY LOAN INTEREST WAIVED

Under the fiscal code, counties and eligible entities that obtained loans through the State Treasury Department will have interest, costs, and fees waived. This provision offers financial relief to those counties that were previously required to pay interest on Treasury-issued loans, ensuring they are no longer responsible for those obligations.

COMMISSIONERS AT THE POLLS

A number of current CCAP members appeared on the November 2025 Municipal Election ballot. This election included the primary races for home rule counties and the **unofficial results** have been compiled. Complete **election results** are available on the **Department of State webpage**.

TRUMP SIGNS FUNDING BILL ENDING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

On Wednesday, November 13, President Trump signed a continuing resolution and funding package (CR) to end the 43-day federal government shutdown. The measure, which passed the U.S. Senate on November 10 and the U.S. House of Representatives shortly thereafter, extends funding for most federal agencies, including those administering food assistance programs, the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program, and veterans' services, through January 30, 2026. It also includes three full-year appropriations bills that provide permanent funding for certain parts of the federal government.

The package restores pay for federal employees furloughed during the shutdown, guarantees back pay, and protects against additional layoffs through the end of January. Notably, one of the included appropriations bills fully funds the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) through September 30, 2026.

However, the measure does not extend subsidies for Affordable Care Act health insurance premiums, which are set to expire at the end of this year.

For additional details on the CR, please refer to the analysis available on the **National Association of Counties website**.

FCC, CONGRESS WEIGH LOCAL AUTHORITY PREEMPTION IN BROADBAND PERMITTING

On September 30, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued Notices of Inquiry (NOIs) on **Accelerating Wireline Infrastructure Buildout** and **Eliminating Barriers to Wireless Deployment**. The NOIs explore whether the FCC should implement the preemptions of local authority in wireless and wireline telecommunication deployments.

The FCC is accepting public comments through November 17, with a reply comment period running until December 16. The National Association of Counties (NACo) intends to submit comments opposing the FCC's premise that preemption of local authority is necessary for telecommunications infrastructure deployment.

These proceedings come as Congress considers legislation aimed at streamlining broadband deployment, including measures that could preempt state and local authority over

telecommunications infrastructure. Counties, as vital participants in broadband buildout efforts, strongly urge Congress not to advance any legislation that would limit their role in telecommunications infrastructure decision-making. For additional context and analysis, please refer to the **detailed review** prepared by NACo.

SENATORS RECOGNIZE SMITH AS CCAP COMMISSIONER OF THE YEAR

Senators Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne) and Rosemary Brown (R-Lackawanna) honored Wayne County Commissioner Brian Smith with a Pennsylvania Senate citation in recognition of his being named Pennsylvania Commissioner of the Year by CCAP. At the CCAP Annual Conference this past August, Commissioner Smith was recognized as an outstanding County Commissioner for his dedication and significant contributions to the association. Serving as Chair of the Agriculture Committee and as the District 7 Representative, Smith has played a key role in advancing the association's mission, shaping policies, and strengthening the responsibilities and impact of CCAP on counties across the commonwealth.

IFO ISSUES OCTOBER REVENUE UPDATE

The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) released its **monthly revenue** update for October 2025, reporting General Fund collections of $3.46 billion, an increase of $81 million (+2.4%) compared to October 2024.

Personal income tax (PIT) revenues totaled $1.56 billion, up $57 million (+3.8%) from the prior year. Corporate net income tax revenues amounted to $157 million, a decrease of $9 million (-5.2%) from October 2024. Sales and use tax revenues totaled $1.34 billion, an increase of $79 million (+6.3%) compared to last year, driven by non-motor vehicle collections of $1.21 billion (+6.1%) and motor vehicle collections of $124 million (+8.5%).

Fiscal year-to-date collections for FY 2025-26 stand at $13.52 billion, which is $54 million (+0.4%) higher than the same period in FY 2024-25.

THE NEXT EDITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN WILL BE PAUSED FOR THE HOLIDAY.

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