

Date

Recipient Name

Title, Entity

Address

City, State Zip Code

Dear Recipient Name

On behalf of [YOUR COUNTY], we write today to urge you to support reauthorization of the 911 surcharge ahead of the January 2026 sunset date. **Furthermore, we are requesting an increase of the 911 surcharge rate from \$1.95 to \$2.20 to ensure there is sufficient funding for this essential service provided by counties.**

[YOUR COUNTY] is proud to provide one of the key functions in public safety—the operation of the 911 call-taking and dispatch system. Under counties' administration, Pennsylvania's system is by all measures one of the most effective, efficient and technologically compliant systems in the nation. The 911 fee, reauthorized and set at \$1.95 by Act 34 of 2023, is the primary funding source for the critical 911 system and pays for personnel, equipment, and future technologies to enhance the emergency services process.

However, the surcharge provisions of Act 34 are set to expire on January 31, 2026 – just nine months away. Without prompt action from Governor Shapiro and the General Assembly to reauthorize and increase the surcharge to meet current need, counties like ours will effectively be forced to prepare for funding cuts to the 911 system as we prepare our budget for 2026 and have to pass on the burden of that cost to property tax payers across the board as county general funds are the other source of funding for the 911 system.

[DISCUSS YOUR COUNTY-SPECIFIC DETAILS HERE. PROVIDE CALL VOLUME DATA, COST OF 911 FOR YOUR COUNTY, INCLUDING HOW MUCH THE COUNTY SPENDS IN ADDITION TO 911 FUNDING RECEIVED. ALSO CONSIDER NOTING RECENT OR UPCOMING MAJOR PROJECTS OR EXPENDITURES. OTHER AREAS TO FOCUS ON ARE STAFFING AND TECHNOLOGY/CYBERSECURITY]

[YOUR COUNTY] needs to be able to rely on consistent and sustainable funding to maintain our responsibility as the first line of emergency response. To do that, [YOUR COUNTY] joins all Pennsylvania counties in calling for the reauthorization of the 911 surcharge ahead of the January 31, 2026, sunset date. Furthermore, we join all counties in calling on the legislature to

increase the current \$1.95 rate to \$2.20 to adequately supports current county needs and also ensure that funding meets the needs of [YOUR COUNTY] into the future.

[LOCALIZE IMPACT OF A FEE INCREASE OR WHAT HAPPENS WITHOUT A FEE INCREASE.]

[YOUR COUNTY] is joining every county in Pennsylvania in urging the Shapiro Administration and the General Assembly to take immediate action. Counties and the residents of Pennsylvania who depend on this critical public safety need investment now.

[IF APPLICABLE] To offer you a greater perspective of how we deliver 911 service to our mutual constituents here in [YOUR COUNTY], we are pleased to invite you to visit our 911 center to meet with us and our dedicated 911 staff and see firsthand how we serve our community during critical moments. This opportunity would provide you with a valuable opportunity to observe the essential role our 911 center plays in public safety and to better understand the challenges and successes our team experiences while providing life-saving services to residents in their time of need.

Thank you for consideration of this request. Feel free to reach out to us [OR INPUT OTHER POINT OF CONTACT WITH CONTACT INFORMATION] with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,