

# LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA  
THE VOICE OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

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## COUNTIES PREPARE FOR MAY 19 PRIMARY ELECTION

The May 19 Primary Election is less than a month away. Counties are currently preparing absentee and mail-in ballots, mailing and receiving military and overseas ballots, educating voters on timelines and rules, and recruiting and training poll workers. The voter registration deadline for the Primary election is May 4, 2026. The last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot is May 12, 2026.

As a part of educational efforts, counties are reminding voters to:

- Place their completed ballots into the privacy envelope;
- Then place that envelope into the second outer envelope; and
- Sign the declaration

Furthermore, counties are reminding voters that mail-in ballots should be returned promptly, either by mail, in person at the county election office, or via an official drop box where available, prior to the deadline. Voters may continue to choose to vote at their polling place but should verify their polling location. Accurate information can be found at county election offices and on their website. To register, check a voter registration status, find a

county election office, verify a polling location or review other election information, visit the [Pennsylvania Department of State's website](#).

## HOUSE RETURNS TO SESSION; KEY BILLS ADVANCE

This past week, the House returned to session and advanced several key pieces of legislation of interest to counties.

[House Bill 586](#), introduced by Rep. Paul Friel (D-Chester), would amend the Solid Waste Management Act to establish a regulatory framework for Food Processing Residuals (FPRs). The bill directs the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and the State Conservation Commission, to develop and maintain a manual outlining best practices for the processing, characterization, storage, and application of FPRs. This includes the creation of a tiered system based on FPR content and guidance to mitigate potential environmental impacts.

The legislation also permits the use of FPRs in normal farming operations through a land application system. As part of this process, operators would be required to provide detailed information on storage facilities, including construction, location, capacity, and operations, as well as established setbacks to protect natural resources.

Counties support this legislation, as it establishes a clear and consistent regulatory framework for Food Processing Residuals and sets needed standards for their management and use. The bill has passed the House and now advances to the Senate for further consideration.

The House also advanced two bills focused on the responsible development of data centers and providing technical support to local governments:

- [House Bill 2150](#), introduced by Representative Kyle Mullins (D-Lackawanna), known as the Data Center Energy and Water Reporting Act, would require data centers to submit annual reports to the Department of Environmental Protection. These reports would include monthly and total energy usage, water consumption for cooling, and measures taken to improve efficiency.
- [House Bill 2151](#), introduced by Representative Kyle Donahue (D-Lackawanna), would amend the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code to authorize the Local Government Commission to provide guidance to municipalities on regulating data centers. The bill also directs the development of a model zoning ordinance to promote consistency in local oversight of data center development.

Both bills passed the House and now head to the Senate for consideration.

Looking ahead, only the Senate will be in session next week in Harrisburg. With the state budget deadline approaching, counties continue to play a leading role in advocating for their priorities.

# COUNTIES RECOGNIZE NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

This week counties across Pennsylvania are celebrating [National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week](#), observed from April 12 to 18, 2026. The observance dedicated to recognizing the unsung heroes behind the scenes—911 telecommunicators—the “first first responders” whose voices are often the first link in the chain of emergency response.

Counties across the Commonwealth take pride in providing 911 services, operating Pennsylvania’s 61 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), which handle more than 14 million service calls each year. At the heart of these operations are the 911 telecommunicators—dedicated professionals who answer every call, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They are highly trained professionals who manage high-stress calls, provide life-saving instructions, and coordinate responses with police, fire, and emergency medical services.

Whether it's guiding a caller through CPR, dispatching help during a fire, or supporting officers during dangerous situations, these communicators remain calm and focused under pressure. Their responsibilities demand not only technical expertise and fast decision-making but also compassion, patience, and resilience. Often working long hours, weekends, and holidays, they ensure that communities have 24/7 access to emergency help—no matter the situation.

As residents across the Commonwealth recognize the importance of this work, it is a reminder that the voice on the other end of the line is a lifeline in moments of crisis. This week—and every week—Pennsylvania counties say **thank you** to their 911 telecommunicators for their service to their communities and to our counties.

CCAP’s top priority for 2026 is strengthening Pennsylvania’s 911 system through a surcharge increase and targeted statutory updates. Counties are seeking to **raise the current \$1.95 surcharge to \$2.20** to better support ongoing operations, make critical investments in system infrastructure, and keep pace with advancing technologies. In addition, updates to state law are needed to align with evolving federal and state requirements and to ensure the system remains modern, efficient, and resilient.

Advancing this priority will help guarantee fast, reliable access to 911 services for residents and visitors across Pennsylvania—ensuring that, anytime and anywhere, emergencies receive an immediate and effective response. For more information, please visit [CCAP's priorities webpage](#).

## HOUSING BILLS ADVANCE TO HOUSE CHAMBER

On Tuesday, April 14, the House Housing and Community Development Committee considered two key pieces of housing-related legislation.

[House Bill 2109](#), introduced by Rep. Tarik Khan (D-Philly), would amend Pennsylvania’s

Consolidated Statutes to limit how municipalities regulate occupancy in single-family homes. Specifically, the bill would prohibit local governments from restricting the number of individuals who can live in a dwelling based on whether those individuals are related by blood, marriage, or legal status. In effect, the legislation reduces local discretion over how households are defined, while maintaining their authority to enforce occupancy limits based on health and safety standards.

**[House Bill 2186](#)**, introduced by Rep. John Inglis (D-Allegheny), would amend the PA Consolidated Statutes, addressing the use of accessory dwelling units (ADUs). This bill creates statewide rules requiring Pennsylvania municipalities to allow at least one accessory dwelling unit on any lot with a single-family home. Municipalities may still adopt regulations, but only using the least restrictive approach necessary, and ADUs that meet the bill's requirements must be treated as conforming accessory uses that do not increase allowable density on the lot.

Both bills were passed by the House Housing and Community Development Committee and now advance to the full House for consideration.

## HOUSE COMMITTEE MOVES KEY ELECTION BILLS FORWARD

On Tuesday, April 14, the House State Government Committee considered two key pieces of election-related legislation.

**[House Bill 37](#)**, introduced by Rep. Scott Conklin (D-Centre), would amend the Election Code to allow county boards of elections to begin pre-canvassing ballots no earlier than seven days prior to Election Day. This change provides needed clarification to Act 77 and supports counties in fulfilling their election administration responsibilities. By allowing earlier pre-canvassing, counties would have more time to prepare mail-in and absentee ballots for counting, better manage workloads and resources, and help ensure the timely reporting of results.

This bill reported out of the House State Government Committee and now advance to the full House for consideration. Counties support this reform and encourage swift passage of the bill as written so it can be implemented ahead of what is expected to be a high-turnout General Election in November.

**[House Bill 1278](#)**, introduced by Rep. Nate Davidson (D-Dauphin), amends the Election Code to eliminate the requirement for a notarized affidavit on nomination petitions and instead allow candidates to submit an unsworn statement. In addition to clarifying nomination petition requirements, the legislation removes a barrier for potential candidates who may not be able to afford a notary.

CCAP supports this legislation as it reduces unnecessary obstacles for those running for office. By simplifying the process, the bill would cut down on paperwork and confusion while maintaining the integrity and security of the nomination process.

The passed the House chamber and now moves to the full Senate for consideration. Counties urge timely passage of both measures to ease administrative burdens and strengthen election preparedness ahead of the General Election.

## WIOA REAUTHORIZATION INTRODUCED

U.S. House Committee on Education and Workforce Chairman, Rep. Tim Walberg (R-Mich.) introduced the [A Stronger Workforce for America Act of 2026](#) to reauthorize the [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#) on April 6.

WIOA formula funding is used by counties and local workforce systems to connect job seekers and businesses with critical workforce services. WIOA's initial introduction, more than a decade ago, now leaves room for reauthorization that would modernize program features and provide long-term funding certainty.

Several provisions reflect concerns counties raised about the 2024 bill and may limit local flexibility while redirecting funding away from community workforce systems.

The bill is expected to be discussed in the U.S. House Committee on Education and Workforce in the coming weeks. Head to [NACo's website](#) for further analysis.

## IFO RELEASES MARCH REVENUE UPDATE

The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) released the monthly revenue update for [March 2026](#), showing that General Fund collections totaled \$6.52 billion, which was \$19 million (0.3%) above the IFO's official estimate. The modest increase was driven by stronger-than-expected personal income tax, sales and use tax, and gross receipts tax collections. Year-over-year, March 2026 General Fund collections were \$279 million (4.5%) higher than March 2025.

Fiscal-year-to-date General Fund revenues through the end of March total \$34.94 billion, exceeding the IFO's official estimate by \$365 million (1.1%). Compared to the same point last fiscal year, year-to-date collections are \$1.72 billion (5.2%) higher. While corporate net income tax collections continue to lag both estimate and prior-year levels, overall revenue growth is being driven by personal income tax, non-motor vehicle sales and use tax, and strong performance in nontax revenue categories.

## CCAP RESOLUTIONS PROCESS

Beginning in May, CCAP policy committees will be holding their annual virtual meetings to consider resolutions amending the [Pennsylvania County Platform](#), CCAP's comprehensive policy document determined by counties. All CCAP members are invited to review the Platform and to send any proposed resolutions for additions, changes or deletions to CCAP Government Relations staff or to discuss them with CCAP policy committee chairs. A

membership discussion and vote on the resolutions will take place during the [CCAP Annual Conference](#), scheduled for August 2–5 at Kalahari Resort in Monroe County. An overview of the process, timeline and related materials can be found on the CCAP Policy [webpage](#).



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