

911 Surcharge Reauthorization & Statutory Updates FALL 2025

Counties are proud to provide one of the key functions in public safety—the operation of the 911 call-taking and dispatch system. As technologies continue to evolve and funding streams no longer align with current realities, counties need to be able to rely on consistent and sustainable funding to maintain their responsibility as the first line of emergency response.

PENNSYLVANIA'S 911 FUNDING AT RISK

- **The current surcharge expires soon.** Act 34's current \$1.95 surcharge is set to expire on January 31, 2026—just months away.
- **Counties call for a modest increase to \$2.20.** Counties are calling for an increase in the 911 surcharge from the current \$1.95 to \$2.20 to ensure reliable funding for this essential service.
- **County funding needs remain.** Despite a 14% increase in 2024, revenues totaled just \$375 million, leaving an \$80 million shortfall against the \$455 million needed annually.
- **The 911 surcharge is primary source of funding.** The \$1.95 surcharge is the primary funding source for 911 operations, staffing, equipment, and future technology and system upgrades, like NG911 and cybersecurity.
- **Counties are doing their part.** Counties continue to work closely with PEMA and stakeholders to contain costs and improve system efficiency, including system consolidations and regionalization of services.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION

- **Tens of millions in costs will shift to counties...**If the statute is not reauthorized, the surcharge will automatically revert to \$1.65, shifting nearly one-third of Pennsylvania's 911 system costs to counties.
- **...And ultimately taxpayers.** County budgets must be balanced, causing any funding shortfalls to force counties to divert local tax dollars from other essential services such as public safety, human services, and infrastructure, or pass those costs on to property taxpayers.

The Governor and General Assembly must come together now to finalize a plan to enact a reauthorization that provides reliable, long-term funding for Pennsylvania's 911 system.



For more details on Pennsylvania counties' 911 surcharge reauthorization priority, scan the QR code below or visit

www.pacounties.org/advocacy/priorities.