



League Link

December 2019

ADVOCACY ACTION

December Marks Halfway Point in Two-Year Legislative Session

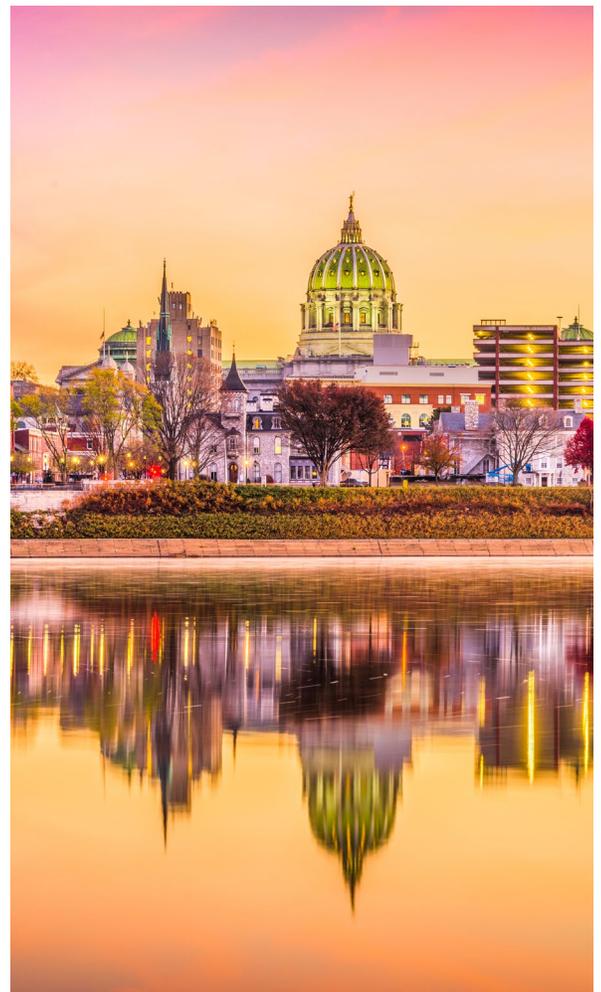
As we close out December, we are already midpoint in the 2019-2020 session. So where do we stand on some of the legislation we are following that will have an impact on local government? Here is a quick look:

Local Use of Radar – SB 607 (PN 1384) passed the House Transportation Committee and now awaits further action by the House. The bill, as it stands now, does not allow part-time police departments or part-time officers to use radar. While the distinction between full and part-time officers is not necessary in our minds because all officers receive the same training, The League does support the bill as amended. We believe the change was necessary to get the bill out of committee. We would not oppose adding part-time officers back into the bill on the House or Senate Floor. **Make sure your House member knows your municipality supports SB 607 and is looking for a House vote on the bill early in 2020.**

Wireless Infrastructure Siting – HB 1400 (PN 2072) remains in the House Consumer Affairs Committee. We are expecting the committee to take up the bill again in the new year. Local zoning preemption continues to be our number one concern with this bill. **Remind your House member of the importance of local zoning and the need to balance the placement of antennas and poles for wireless capacity with zoning.**

Post-Traumatic Stress Injury in First Responders – HB 432 (PN 2568) moved out of the House Veterans Affairs Committee this fall and awaits further action on the House Floor. We continue to provide comment on amendments to the bill. To date, however, we have not seen an amendment that would allow us to support the measure. The cost and insurability under Workers' Compensation are our main concerns. The House did pass HB 1459 putting the Department of Health in charge of a statewide plan to assist first responders with stress and PTSD prevention. We support HB 1459 and would like to see its implementation first before moving forward with HB 432. **Please make sure your House member knows of your municipality's concerns with the cost implications of HB 432.**

As always, we are available to help you prepare for a conversation with your House and Senate members on any, or all, of these issues. The importance of local communication cannot be overstated. As we proceed into 2020, make sure your House member knows you are paying attention to these issues and that their votes do have a local impact.



THE LEAGUE'S LATEST

- **Executive Director's Report** – [Watch Rick Schuettler's](#) latest video as he discusses the upcoming training opportunities in 2020 and wishes everyone happy holidays!
- **Please welcome our newest member to The League!** – [Ellwood City Borough](#). Welcome aboard!
- See our [2020 Invest Brochure](#) which you can share with businesses and associations you feel would be a good partner with The League; in doing so, you can earn a **10% discount** on your 2020 membership dues when you secure a new Business Leader during 2020. See also our [Business Leaders 10 for 10 program](#) and help strengthen the statewide organization that serves your municipality.

Check out the section on our website dedicated to member communities titled, [Meet a Member!](#) This month's focus is on the **CITY OF BETHLEHEM!**

- **Do you have any newly elected or appointed officials?** Please let us know! The elections are over which means it's that time of year again to update your municipality's Elected and Appointed Officials information. You can see what we currently have in our database by signing in to your member dashboard and reviewing The League's [Membership Directory](#). If you see any discrepancies with the officials listed, please [fill out this form](#). Questions can be directed to Marcia Cavanagh at mcavanagh@pml.org or 717-236-9469, x *256. Don't forget to pass along the information about our [Newly Elected Officials Orientation Program](#) being held in State College from January 31 to February 1. We look forward to seeing you there!
- **Register now for these upcoming League events** – [Newly Elected Officials Orientation Program](#) at the Wyndham Garden, State College, January 31 – February 1; [APMM Winter Workshop](#) at the Hilton Harrisburg, January 24; [APMM Executive Development Conference](#) at the Omni Bedford Springs, February 6 – 7.
- **Message from PennPRIME Insurance** – Seconds count when an active shooter is in your vicinity. Be prepared to RUN/HIDE/FIGHT. Remember that others are likely to follow someone who takes the lead during an active shooter situation, so learn and share these critical tactics from the [Office of Homeland Security](#) with your family, friends, and coworkers. [Options for Consideration](#) is a brief eight minute video which demonstrates possible actions to take if confronted with an active shooter scenario. The video also shows how to assist authorities once law enforcement enters the scene. Many local police departments also provide this training.

RESOURCE ROUNDUP

- **Newly Elected Official Affidavits of Residency** – Prior to taking the Oath of Office, each newly elected official in a third class city, borough, or first class township, must present a signed affidavit to the city clerk, secretary, or manager attesting to continuous residency for one year preceding the individual's election. This affidavit is a qualification for office. [Click here to see the sections of](#)

[codes](#). Each municipality should reach out to its newly elected officials and provide notice of this requirement well in advance of January's swearing-in ceremonies. [Click here for a sample residency affidavit](#). Your solicitor should approve prior to its use.

- **NLC's New City Guide on Preemption** – [Click here to read the report](#) on: how to talk about preemption to constituents and to legislators; how to build coalitions with new partners that can advocate affirmatively for local power; and how to use legal challenges if necessary.

- **2020 All-America City Award** – application deadline is February 19. In June of 2020, the [National Civic League](#) will recognize 10 communities as All-America Cities for enhancing health and well-being through civic engagement. Over 500 communities have been named an All-America City since the program began in 1949, including 14 from Pennsylvania. There is great work happening in Pennsylvania and we would like to see even more towns, cities and counties from Pennsylvania join the All-America City ranks.

- **An Update from PA Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) on Provisional Hiring and Act 47 – ACTION ALERT** – A new law that takes effect on December 31 may dramatically impact the ability of both public and private park and recreation programs in Pennsylvania to hire seasonal employees, especially for the summer of 2020. PRPS is closely monitoring this development.

- Our Business Leader, **NLC Service Line Warranty Program has reconfigured their corporate social responsibility program, the HomeServe Cares Foundation**. Under this Foundation, they do pro bono repair jobs for disadvantaged homeowners, offer grants to cities looking to improve quality of life for their citizens, provide veterans with post-military career opportunities, and make charitable donations in local communities. [Check out this video](#) that shows the impact of their work!

