



# League Link

January 2019

## ADVOCACY ACTION

### 2019-2020 Legislative Session Underway

A new two-year legislative session began this month with the swearing-in of the new and re-elected members of the General Assembly, the Governor and the Lt. Governor. There are a record 49 freshman legislators this term. There is also a record number of 63 women serving. While republicans remain in the majority, democrats gained seats in both Chambers.

Leadership in the House and Senate has largely remained unchanged. One exception, a new House Majority Leader has been named – Bryan Cutler from Lancaster County. There are a number of changes in committee chairs. Most notably for local government, there is a new majority chair for House Local Government – Dan Moul of Adams County. Bob Freeman, Northampton County will continue as minority chair. The Senate Local Government Committee will now be chaired by Scott Martin of Lancaster County and freshman senator Tim Kearny of Delaware County.

The League's governmental affairs staff is tracking co-sponsorship memos and bills as they are introduced. Our [2019 Legislative Priorities](#) are complete and we will use them as a starting point in meetings with legislators.

If you are interested in following legislation, you can access the General Assembly's [website](#). We are always looking for municipal officials interested in legislative matters to serve on our Legislative Committee. Contact Amy Sturges, Director of Governmental Affairs, at [asturges@pml.org](mailto:asturges@pml.org) if you would like to learn more.



## THE LEAGUE'S LATEST

- **Executive Director's Report** – [Watch Rick Schuettler's](#) latest video on new happenings in 2019!
- Save the Date! [The 2019 Capitol Conference](#) is Monday, April 1 at the Hilton Harrisburg.

# THE LEAGUE'S LATEST (CONTINUED)

• **2019 District Meetings are just around the corner!** – Dates and locations have been posted to the [League website](#). Please mark your calendars and plan on attending! Agendas, and additional meeting details will be emailed to each member in their respective districts approximately six weeks in advance of their meeting date. Please contact Harry Krot, Director of Marketing and Member Services at [hkrot@pml.org](mailto:hkrot@pml.org) with any questions.

• **Is your League Membership information up to date?** Did you hire a new manager, appoint a new police chief or have there been any changes with your elected officials? We would like to know! Please help us keep our records accurate and up to date by completing the [League Municipal Official Contact Form](#). It is easy to do and only takes a few minutes. Keeping your records up to date ensures that everyone in your municipality is included on important League information that is sent out. If you're interested in viewing our complete League Membership Directory please [click here](#) and use your League username and password to login.

• **Message from PennPRIME – Know the Signs of Cold Weather Injuries.** We don't normally think of layered clothing as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). However, during the winter, that's exactly what they are for municipal employees who work outside and are exposed to prolonged periods of cold. [Read more](#) about the leading cold-related injuries, frostbite and hypothermia.

**Check out the section on our website dedicated to member news titled, [The Buzz!](#) This month's focus is on **LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP** for being named the [The Best Place to Live in Pennsylvania by Money Mag!](#)**

• **As part of our rebranding, we are excited to share our newly designed website**, which will be making its debut very soon! Be on the lookout for more information.

• We value you as a member of the League and ask that you proudly display this [New League Member logo](#) as a quick link on your website which will allow your municipal officials to easily obtain member resources and website visitors to see how local government works for them.

• [Cut Your Electric Bill in Half](#), provided by our Business Leader, NJM Insurance Group.

## RESOURCE ROUNDUP

• [Community safety grants available to municipalities, colleges, community-based organizations](#) – local municipalities, colleges and community groups should apply for these grants to boost safety and reduce the risk of violence. The grants are part of a new program included in this year's state budget to improve school safety and combat community violence. A total of \$7.5 million will be awarded statewide during this fiscal year to support community violence prevention programs. Applications accepted until February 7.

- **As Federal Government Remains Mired in Shutdown, 20+ City Leaders Convene in Washington to Find Solutions to Nation's Housing Crisis** — As the federal government enters into the second month of a partial shutdown, more than 20 leaders from America's cities, towns and villages gathered in Washington to take action to solve one of the toughest challenges facing the nation: the housing crisis. The National League of Cities (NLC) National Housing Task Force held its inaugural meeting, ratifying five policy priorities that will be key to addressing the national housing crisis in 2019. [Click here](#) to read the full press release.
- The National League of Cities, in partnership with NeighborWorks America, invites cities together with their community partners to apply to be a part of our upcoming [Mayors' Institute on Affordable Housing and Health: Advancing City-Level Strategies to Generate Sustainable Solutions](#) on April 2-4 in Detroit, Michigan. Interested cities should submit a Letter of Interest by January 28 and full application by February 4 to Leah Ettman at [ettman@nlc.org](mailto:ettman@nlc.org). Selected cities will be notified by the end of February.
- **Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Webinar** — February 4 at 1 p.m. (EST), hosted by the National Association of Counties. "Waters of the United States" is a controversial regulatory term used in the Clean Water Act (CWA) to define the geographic scope of federal jurisdiction over rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands, and other aquatic features. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently proposed a new regulation that seeks to withdraw the 2015 definition finalized during the Obama Administration and replace it with a new and narrower definition of "waters of the United States." The public comment period on this proposed rule will be opening soon and Samuel Brown, a partner with Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP and a former attorney with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will provide a summary of the proposed regulation and the potential practical implications on state and local governments. [Click here](#) to register for the webinar.