



2024 Proposed PSATS Resolutions

The following resolutions will be considered by the membership at the PSATS' Annual Educational Conference and Exhibit Show. The sponsor and the Resolutions Committee's action is noted below each resolution. During the voting session on April 26, resolutions with "Support" will be treated as if they have a motion and a second and will be up for discussion and a vote. Resolutions with "Oppose" will need a motion and a second from voting delegates from two different county associations (not including the sponsor) to be brought up for discussion and a vote. When voting, a "yes" vote is to adopt the resolution as written as official PSATS policy. A "no" vote will be to oppose the resolution as written. Resolutions approved by the voting delegates will become Association policy for five years or until accomplished, whichever is shorter.

24-01 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to amend Section 1538 of the Second Class Township Code to authorize townships to maintain and repair memorials for first responders, including, but not limited to, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and emergency vehicle drivers.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY

SUPPORT

24-02 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to amend Section 601(f)(4) of the Pennsylvania Worker's Compensation Act to require coverage for volunteer emergency service providers who are "providing support for organized fundraisers" for a volunteer emergency services organization and are injured while performing these duties.

CUMBERLAND AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES

SUPPORT

24-03 RESOLVED, That PSATS continue to work on emergency services cooperative ventures (*including multi-municipal regional authorities*) and oppose a single or dominant county authority without financial and legal protections for townships.

OVER 10,000 POPULATION COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-04 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to amend Section 1802 (*Fire Hydrants and Water Supply*) of the Second Class Township Code to include "the installation and maintenance of rural water supplies provided by dry hydrants, ponds, and water tanks used for fire protection" and to assess the cost by equal assessment against all property owners who are serviced by mobile (*tanker*) distribution from these water supplies; AND FURTHER, to amend Section 3205(a)(5) of the Second Class Township Code (*Township and Special Levies*) to include "rural water supplies" as an allowable use of the fire hydrant tax, in addition to current uses for fire hydrants and fire hydrant water service.

BUCKS COUNTY

SUPPORT

24-05 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to amend the Right-to-Know Law (*Act 3 of 2008*) to protect townships from abusive or harassing records requests, including the following:

- repetitive requests;
- multiple concurrent and duplicative requests from the same requestor in the same timeframe;
- requests seeking information already in the possession of the requestor;
- untimely appeals, including those still within the timeframe for an agency's response; and
- appeals from denials based upon the non-existence of records.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

SUPPORT

24-06 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to amend Act 12 of 2016 to allow for-profit private utilities to only purchase distressed municipal or authority-owned water and sewer systems.

CHESTER COUNTY

OPPOSE

REASON FOR ACTION: *The committee felt that this resolution would restrict townships as it would only allow distressed municipalities to sell water and sewer systems to for-profit entities, removing decision-making authority from the board of supervisors or the authority board.*

24-07 RESOLVED, That PSATS urge the state Department of Environmental Protection to strictly enforce all laws and regulations governing the processing of sewage sludge (*biosolids*), AND FURTHER, that all new and existing sewage sludge (*biosolids*) processing facilities be required to have processes in place to prevent malodors from leaving the perimeter of the facilities.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

SUPPORT

24-08 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to balance timber harvesting against stormwater management to aid municipalities in meeting MS4 and other stormwater management requirements.

CHESTER COUNTY

OPPOSE

REASON FOR ACTION: *The committee expressed concerns that any legislation regulating timber harvesting would not comply with ACRE.*

24-09 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to create a plastic, can, and bottle deposit program for all types of beverage containers.

CHESTER COUNTY

OPPOSE

REASON FOR ACTION: *The committee felt that a one-size-fits-all program may not be the best avenue to address recycling. The committee also felt that this program could result in an unfunded mandate on townships.*

24-10 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to require commercial logging entities to plant five trees for every ten trees cut down in the same area unless the area is being used for farming.

CHESTER COUNTY

OPPOSE

REASON FOR ACTION: *The committee expressed concerns that any legislation regulating timber logging would not comply with ACRE. The committee felt that this resolution is not a township issue.*

24-11 RESOLVED, That PSATS supports legislative efforts for regulatory reform, including giving the General Assembly the ability to review and override department regulations with a simple majority vote.

TOWNSHIPS WITH POPULATIONS 5,000 TO 10,000 COMMITTEE **OPPOSE**

REASON FOR ACTION: *The committee felt that this resolution was not addressing a township issue.*

24-12 RESOLVED, That PSATS request that the General Assembly provide solutions to the unreasonable interpretations and unfair enforcement of state law by the state Department of Environmental Protection that both Pennsylvania citizens and township officials have experienced.

TOWNSHIPS WITH POPULATIONS 5,000 TO 10,000 COMMITTEE **OPPOSE**

REASON FOR ACTION: *The committee agreed that enforcement and interpretations of permitting processes by state agencies are of genuine concern to townships. However, the committee raised concerns with an open-ended request for the General Assembly to provide solutions. Additionally, the committee noted that townships encounter these issues with other agencies beyond DEP. The committee adopted an alternative resolution, 24-13, to address this issue.*

24-13 RESOLVED, That PSATS urge state agencies to provide for an appeals board process or option to escalate the permitting process as solutions to unreasonable or inconsistent interpretations and unfair enforcement of state law.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-14 RESOLVED, That PSATS oppose any legislation which would preempt local regulation and control of solar decommissioning, including oversight of the level of bonding needed.

BRADFORD COUNTY

SUPPORT

24-15 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to amend the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Law (*Act 442 of 1961*) to increase the threshold for compliance based on the cost-of-living increase from the Act's passage in 1961 to 2023 and, thereafter, to increase the threshold annually based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.

BUTLER COUNTY

SUPPORT

24-16 RESOLVED, That PSATS urge the state Department of Transportation to eliminate grant requirements across its programs that inflate project costs, delays the start of projects, and duplicates services.

FAYETTE COUNTY

SUPPORT

24-17 RESOLVED, That PSATS urge the state Department of Transportation to amend Title 67 (*Vehicles*) of the Pennsylvania Code to create an exemption from the commercial drivers' license requirements for municipal employees operating trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of up to 33,000 lbs. owned or leased by the municipality.

BRADFORD COUNTY

SUPPORT

24-18 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to require the state Department of Transportation to provide townships near where road work is occurring with the first opportunity to accept or decline reclaimed asphalt millings from state highway projects at no cost to the township.

WAYNE COUNTY

SUPPORT

24-19 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to increase the state Department of Transportation's annual maintenance payment rate for all turnback roads transferred to a municipality.

BUTLER COUNTY

SUPPORT

24-20 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to allow municipalities to use automated speed enforcement cameras to enforce the posted speed limit on certain roads within the municipality, whether the municipality is served by local police or the Pennsylvania State Police.

LEHIGH COUNTY

SUPPORT

24-21 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to require that all traffic lights be solar powered by 2030.

CHESTER COUNTY

OPPOSE

REASON FOR ACTION: The committee felt that a requirement to update traffic light infrastructure to solar would be an unfunded mandate on townships.

24-22 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to require that power lines in areas of frequent power disruption be buried.

CHESTER COUNTY

OPPOSE

REASON FOR ACTION: The committee felt that the requirement to bury power lines conflicts with federal law and would be a mandate on utility companies that would lead to higher prices for residents.

24-23 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to make buried power lines the default distribution method for new service lines and to permit above-ground power lines only by exception.

CHESTER COUNTY

OPPOSE

REASON FOR ACTION: The committee felt that the requirement to bury power lines by default would be a mandate on utility companies that would lead to higher prices for residents.

24-24 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to require the commonwealth to provide townships with new revenues to replace all lost revenues caused by the reduction, restriction, or elimination of any tax or fee.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-25 RESOLVED, That PSATS oppose any legislation that would reduce, limit, or eliminate the taxing authority of municipalities.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-26 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to allow municipalities to designate a collector for their property tax and promote continuing education for designated tax collectors.
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE **SUPPORT**

24-27 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to amend The Preserving Land for Open Air Spaces Act [32 P.S. § 5005(c)(1)] to authorize local government units to acquire open space property interests for the purpose of developing active, outdoor recreational facilities with low developmental and environmental impacts including, but not limited to, sports fields, playgrounds, and athletic courts.
LEHIGH COUNTY **SUPPORT**

24-28 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to amend Section 1503 of the Second-Class Township Code to:
(i) allow the board of supervisors to average an appraisal provided by a landowner with an appraisal paid for and obtained by the board of supervisors;
(ii) limit the requirement to average more than one appraisal to those obtained six months or less from a subsequent appraisal; and
(iii) allow the board of supervisors to pay twenty percent (20%) above the appraisal price for open space property interests acquired pursuant to The Preserving Land for Open Air Spaces Act 32 P.S. § 5001, et seq.
LEHIGH COUNTY **SUPPORT**

24-29 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to expand access to landslide and sinkhole insurance coverage for at-risk homes and businesses by creating an efficient, state-administered insurance program to reduce property loss and emergency response costs for local governments.
ALLEGHENY COUNTY **SUPPORT**

24-30 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to amend Title 34, Section 721, of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to give townships and counties the authority to regulate the acquisition, control, management, and disposition of government-owned and funded lands.
WARREN COUNTY **OPPOSE**
REASON FOR ACTION: The committee agreed with concerns regarding government-owned lands but raised concerns over the inclusion of counties in this language. The committee approved an alternative version of this resolution, 24-31, without counties listed.

24-31 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to amend Title 34, Section 721, of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to give townships the authority to regulate the acquisition, control, management, and disposition of government-owned and funded lands.
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE **SUPPORT**

24-32 RESOLVED, That PSATS urge the commonwealth to maintain real property in private ownership to the maximum extent possible.
VENANGO COUNTY **OPPOSE**
REASON FOR ACTION: The committee felt that this resolution would limit the authority of townships. The committee also voiced concerns that some townships actively work to preserve

farmland and open space through conservancies and this resolution would remove decision-making authority from the board of supervisors.

24-33 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to require that at the time of any acquisition of real property from private ownership, the acquiring governmental body simultaneously sell or otherwise transfer real property of equivalent value to private ownership.

VENANGO COUNTY

OPPOSE

REASON FOR ACTION: *The committee felt that this resolution would limit the authority of townships to purchase property.*

24-34 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to require that when real property is no longer of use to the commonwealth or federal government or any of their departments or agencies, prior to transferring any such property to another government department or agency, the property shall first be offered for acquisition by a private party or parties.

VENANGO COUNTY

OPPOSE

REASON FOR ACTION: *The committee felt that this resolution would limit the authority of townships to buy property from another government entity and impose additional restrictions when selling property.*

24-35 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to enable the Commonwealth to purchase and oversee struggling medical centers when no other entity will buy or take over the facility.

CHESTER COUNTY

OPPOSE

REASON FOR ACTION: *The committee felt that this resolution was not addressing a township issue.*

24-36 RESOLVED, That PSATS urge the state Department of Health to enforce the process for medical facility closures and make every effort to delay or stop all hospital closures according to the Health Care Facilities Act of 1979 and 28 Pa. Code, Chapter 51, where the closure will significantly affect the quality of local health care.

CHESTER COUNTY

OPPOSE

REASON FOR ACTION: *The committee felt that this resolution was not addressing a township issue.*

24-37 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to create a procedure to help give communities more time to prepare for a hospital closure that would significantly impact healthcare for a community or area in the Commonwealth.

CHESTER COUNTY

OPPOSE

REASON FOR ACTION: *The committee felt that this resolution was not addressing a township issue.*

24-38 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to require all purchased and adopted dogs and cats owned in residential, high density, multi-family, and agricultural zoning areas to be chipped.

CHESTER COUNTY

OPPOSE

REASON FOR ACTION: *The committee felt that this resolution was not addressing a township issue.*

24-39 RESOLVED, That PSATS urge the Local Government Records Committee to amend the Municipal Records Manual to direct townships to retain County Associations records for a period of ten years.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY

OPPOSE

REASON FOR ACTION: *County Associations are non-profit entities and do not fall under the Municipal Records Manual. County Associations can follow existing non-profit recommendations, which would include keeping certain records, such as minutes and bylaws, permanently.*

The following resolutions are identical to standing resolutions that would have otherwise gone off the books in 2024 and were previously considered by the delegates. The committee sponsored and supported these resolutions.

24-40 RESOLVED, That PSATS support the safe and orderly deployment of both wired and wireless broadband services throughout all areas of the Commonwealth to provide reliable, high-speed internet access, which is a critical component for economic development, student achievement, quality healthcare, and the efficiency of local governments and that local government be recognized as a partner in these efforts.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-41 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to exempt municipalities from any fees levied by a state agency when applying for a stormwater permit.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-42 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to require the state Department of Environmental Protection to streamline the stormwater permitting process for local government, taking into consideration existing conditions pertaining to a project, its cost, and the potential negative impact on the public traveling the roads.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-43 RESOLVED, That PSATS oppose any legislation that would amend Act 13 of 2012 to reduce the allocation or amount of impact fees being distributed to townships affected by gas exploration activities or otherwise made available to municipalities under this act.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-44 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to require the state Department of Environmental Protection to allow the use of salt brine from conventional oil and gas wells for road maintenance activities, including dust control and winter maintenance.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-45 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to require recycling of waste tires at the point of sale for new tires, AND FURTHER, that the dealers picking up the waste tires be regulated to ensure proper disposal.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-46 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to expand Act 28 of 1984 (*Automobile Lemon Law*) to include defective road equipment purchased by townships.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-47 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to require switches at the main service disconnect for all solar panel electrical system installations that will rapidly stop the solar panels from supplying electricity to the structure and that these switches be clearly marked.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-48 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to authorize townships to levy a 1 percent hotel tax.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-49 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to restore municipalities' option to adopt and collect a mercantile or business privilege tax in those townships that specifically elect to adopt such a tax.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-50 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to amend the Sterling Act (*Act 45 of 1932*) to authorize municipalities and school districts that levy the earned income tax to collect and retain earned income taxes from municipal residents who work in Philadelphia, AND FURTHER, to require Philadelphia to provide offsetting credits for income taxes paid to an individual's home municipality.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-51 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to amend Section 8811(b)(4) of the County Consolidated Assessment Law to authorize counties to assess billboards as taxable real estate.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-52 RESOLVED, That PSATS and the National Association of Towns and Townships seek legislation to require the federal government to provide funding sufficient to implement and administer any mandate that it imposes on local government.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-53 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to require the state to provide funding sufficient to implement and administer any mandate that it imposes on local government.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-54 RESOLVED, That PSATS urge the Commonwealth to consider local governments as partners in the provision of services to our residents, AND FURTHER, to not threaten local governments with the withholding of state funds to force compliance with unfunded mandates.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

24-55 RESOLVED, That PSATS oppose legislation that would place increased emphasis on the comprehensive plan relative to the zoning ordinance, AND FURTHER, that would require a municipality to make findings of fact that its ordinances are generally consistent with its comprehensive plan before the municipality could take any action on land use issues.
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE **SUPPORT**

24-56 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to hold municipalities harmless for actions they are required to take regarding the designation of airport hazard areas.
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE **SUPPORT**

24-57 RESOLVED, that PSATS seek legislation to provide a regulatory environment for siting pipelines not currently administered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, including a notification framework that would require pipeline companies to provide written notice to municipalities, counties, easement-holding non-government entities, and property owners where pipeline activities are planned, AND FURTHER, that such written notice shall be provided to these entities before submittal to a regulatory agency for review or approval.
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE **SUPPORT**

24-58 RESOLVED, That PSATS oppose any federal or state legislation, executive order, or regulation that would preempt the existing authority of local government.
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE **SUPPORT**

24-59 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to amend the Second-Class Township Code to authorize townships to annually appropriate township funds to recognize township employees and township committee members for their service to the township (*e.g., recognition dinner or party, flowers, plaque, etc.*).
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE **SUPPORT**

24-60 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to amend Section 606 of the Second-Class Township Code to increase the compensation for the elected office of township supervisor; AND FURTHER, that the legislation provide for regular adjustments for this compensation based on the increase in the consumer price index.
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE **SUPPORT**