

Overview

With this publication, the fifth edition of its *Pennsylvania Legislator's Municipal Deskbook*, together with all of the other resources available at www.lgc.state.pa.us, the Local Government Commission hopes to provide Members of the General Assembly with the following:

- Useful and concise observations on an assortment of basic topics that are fundamental to, or frequently arise in connection with, municipal government in the Commonwealth.
- A sample and a brief overview of some of the local government-related issues that may arise in constituent inquiries.
- Extensive online resources pertaining to municipal issues, and links to publications of the Governor's Center for Local Government Services in the Department of Community and Economic Development, contacts for government agencies and municipal associations, laws affecting municipalities, and other relevant websites.

The material presented in this publication should not be considered an exhaustive, complete, or all-inclusive treatment of issues relating to municipal government in Pennsylvania. Instead, the *Deskbook* is intended to offer an introductory collection or compilation of some of the recurring concepts, issues and resources that often are involved in providing assistance to Legislators and their constituents on matters involving local government.

In interacting with their government, including their municipal government, citizens often are faced with complex questions that are not susceptible to easy and swift resolution. The Local Government Commission recognizes this fact and knows that no single publication can be relied upon to resolve all municipal-related questions. Nevertheless, the information in this publication should provide support and assistance to Legislators and their staff in their attempts to serve the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Each article in this publication, as well as the publication in its entirety, is available on the Commission's website. Although the Commission may publish subsequent online editions of the entire Deskbook on a periodic basis, it may also update individual articles more frequently as changes in law or regulation, or new case law may warrant.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this publication is intended to assist Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly; it is not a legal opinion or a substitute for legal advice and does not constitute a binding determination of the rights or remedies of any individual, municipality, or other person or entity. The Local Government Commission does not render legal advice or consultation. If legal advice is sought, in all cases, a municipal solicitor or private attorney should be contacted to undertake an up-to-date, full and complete examination of pertinent statutes, court rulings, ordinances and regulations. Nothing herein is intended to be an official restatement of the contents of any law, and the contents of this publication may not reflect the current state of the law. Court rulings, later amendatory statutes, and various other factors must be considered. To this extent, the Local Government Commission issues a specific disclaimer.