

## What is the Local Government Commission?

The Local Government Commission is a bicameral, bipartisan legislative service agency. Created in 1935 by an Act of Assembly,<sup>1</sup> it is one of the oldest agencies of its kind in the United States. The Commission is comprised of five Senate Members and five House Members, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively. A small staff, consisting of professional and clerical personnel, assists the Commission with its administrative and statutory duties.

Among the functions and responsibilities of the Local Government Commission are the following:

- Conducting or facilitating research projects on matters considered important by the Commission for all levels of local government. Examples include studies on Municipal Police Training Law; Real Estate Tax Sale Law; municipal tort liability; tax-exempt property; police classification and categorization; cable TV impacts upon municipalities; Local Government Unit Debt Act; state mandates placed upon local governments; county row officer fees; personnel practices, contracting procedures, and ratemaking and operation of large municipal authorities; revisions of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code; real estate assessment uniformity and equity; and municipal fiscal distress.
- Offering a resource for Legislators who need various types of assistance in the field of local government, including assistance with constituent inquiries.
- Providing a forum at which statewide local government associations present their concerns, possible amendments to municipal codes, and other legislative proposals, including resolutions adopted at the annual conventions, which they deem important to local government.
- Assisting, on request, standing committees in both the House and Senate.
- After the conclusion of each legislative session, updating and printing certain municipal codes for distribution to Legislators and municipal officials throughout the Commonwealth.
- Providing a *Summary of Acts Signed into Law by the Governor*, published at periodic intervals, for distribution to Members of the General Assembly.
- Providing a Quarterly Legal Update summarizing important case law related to municipal governance and local government related issues.

The Commission's five-year *Report to the Pennsylvania General Assembly*, available on the website, provides a comprehensive overview of the agency's ongoing assignments, periodic work products, recent and current projects, and prospective projects.

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<sup>1</sup> 46 P.S. § 431.1 *et seq.*