

IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM BUSINESS MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

The meeting of the Local Government Commission (Commission) was called to order by Senator Scott Hutchinson at 9:02 a.m. in Room 515 Irvis Office Building with the following Commission Members, staff and guests participating in-person and remotely:

MEMBERS

**Senator Scott E. Hutchinson, Chairman
Senator Cris Dush
Senator Dawn Keefer
Senator Timothy Kearney
Senator Patty Kim
Representative Christine D. Sappey
Representative R. Lee James
Representative Brett R. Miller**

STAFF

**David A. Greene, Executive Director
Kristopher J. Gazsi, Assistant Director
Martin A. Toth, Associate Legal Counsel
Julia E. Frey, Senior Research Analyst
Rex Burman, Research Analyst
Karen S. Bear, Executive Assistant
Sonya I. Ebersole, Fiscal Administrator**

GUESTS

**Justin Leventry, Senator Hutchinson's Office
Isaac Evans, Senator Hutchinson's Office
Sam Arnold, Senator Kearney's Office
Luc Miron, Senator Kim's Office
Teresa Leitner, Representative James' Office
Kyle Schaeffer, House Local Government Committee (R)
Terri Cunkle, PA Department of Community & Economic Development
Larry Gerrity, Pennsylvania Fraternal Order of Police
Jennie Shade, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association
Amy Sturges, Pennsylvania Municipal League
Kaitlin Errickson, Pennsylvania Municipal League
Jan Murphy, Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association
Ron Grutza, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
Logan Stover, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
Holly Fishel, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
Amanda Settelmaier, Turtle Creek Valley Council of State Governments**

The Executive Director made a statement that the in-person and virtual meeting was being recorded and conducted with both Member and Commission staff participation. On Thursday, June 4, 2026, notice of the meeting was posted on the committee meeting pages of the Senate of Pennsylvania and the House of Representatives through the Legislative Data Processing Center.

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The meeting agenda was posted on the Commission's website, www.lgc.state.pa.us, on Monday, June 15, 2026, and outside of the Commission's office located at 506 Irvis Office Building. Any questions on agenda items for consideration by the Commission were addressed during the meeting. The recording of the Commission's business meeting may be found on YouTube.com.

As the first order of business, the Members reviewed the minutes of the May 27, 2026, meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Representative James and a second by Representative Sappey. The financial reports for the month of May 2026 were presented, and an explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial reports were unanimously approved on a motion by Representative James and a second by Representative Sappey.

Two possible additions to the Commission's 2025-2026 legislative package were discussed by the Members.

Item 4(a) on the agenda proposes to amend Act 47 of 1987 by changing the date for municipal filing of the Statement of Financial Condition form from March 15 to January 31. The Survey of Financial Condition is a legislatively mandated annual report every municipality and county is required to submit to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) by March 15. The DCED has an agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) that liquid fuels disbursements are not disbursed to any municipality or county that has not filed pertinent forms with the DCED. Previously, PennDOT's Liquid Fuels disbursement date was April 1, meaning there was never a conflict with the form's due date, which was two weeks prior. However, a few years ago, PennDOT moved their disbursement date to March 1, which caused confusion among municipalities. DCED does advertise the date discrepancy, but it would alleviate confusion if the legislative due date of the form is changed. PennDOT suggests that January 31 be the preferred date for municipalities and counties to submit the form to the DCED so municipalities may receive their liquid fuels disbursement by March 1. Holly Fishel, representing the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, stated the proposed date of January 31 could create challenges for municipalities due to the plethora of federal and state forms required to be submitted during that time. Representative Miller offered that perhaps a comprehensive review of all municipal form filing dates is warranted. The Executive Director confirmed that Commission staff, with the assistance of the municipal associations and the DCED, could compile a list of municipal form deadlines. After a discussion, the Members unanimously agreed with Representative Miller's suggestion and directed the Commission staff to perform a comprehensive review of all municipal form filing deadlines. The review will be presented to the Members at a future meeting.

Item 4(b) would broaden the definition of "neighborhood organizations" authorized to receive funds from the Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit by including a council of government, consortium, or other similar entity established by two or more municipalities. The goals of the DCED Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) are to provide resources to assist low-income and distressed neighborhoods and communities, encourage positive health outcomes, and address the safety and welfare of their residents. The NAP helps nonprofits achieve their goals by supporting projects that revitalize and energize Pennsylvania communities. Tax credit programs like the NAP foster vital relationships between nonprofits and the private sector. The NAP is a potent way for nonprofits to offset project costs while also empowering businesses to make meaningful contributions to their communities. Eligible neighborhood nonprofits apply for tax credits based on pending contributions from for-profit companies. The NAP makes it easy for businesses to

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support their communities while getting valuable tax benefits. By contributing to a local project, businesses can receive up to 95 percent in Pennsylvania state tax credits, reducing the financial cost of their donation. An Lewis, Chairperson of the Pennsylvania Council of Governments (PACOG), and Kim Wheeler, Executive Director of SEDA-Council of Governments, shared letters of support authorizing Councils of Governments (COGs) to serve as eligible applicants under the DCED NAP. Amanda Settelmaier, Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments, echoed the sentiments expressed by Ms. Lewis and Ms. Wheeler that extending eligibility to COGs would preserve the NAP's public-private partnership model, by giving municipalities, particularly smaller communities with limited administrative capacity, a practical regional vehicle to pursue community development, neighborhood investment, multi-municipal revitalization strategies, and would help to connect local priorities with nonprofit and business partners. Due to a lack of consensus by the Members regarding the introduction of the language, the proposed legislation will be offered to the Members for individual sponsorship.

As the last order of business, Senior Research Analyst Julia Frey announced that a request for panel participants for the sixth annual Local Government Symposium was e-mailed to individuals on June 12, 2026, resulting in a positive response. The Symposium is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, and Ms. Frey stated that Commission Members are welcome to share topic ideas with the staff.

The next business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 515 Irvis Office Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

ATTESTED: _____
June 29, 2026