

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

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

The meeting of the Local Government Commission (Commission) was called to order by Senator Scott Hutchinson at 9:00 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 Robert Freeman
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
Joshua Walker, Senator Keefer's Office
Abreham Kittel, Senator Kim's Office
Ryan Carpenter, Representative Freeman's Office
Jon Castelli, House Local Government Committee (D)
Kyle Schaeffer, House Local Government Committee (R)
Emma Henry, House Local Government Committee (R)
Sophia Eyer, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
Rebekah Hayner, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
Rick Vilello, PA Department of Community and Economic Development
Matthew Buck, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association
Jan Murphy, Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association
Ron Grutza, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
Logan Stover, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
Dawn Blauch, Pennsylvania State Association of Elected County Officials
Tirzah Christopher, PennLive
Nate Reagle, Sierra Club**

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

Page 2 – August 19, 2026

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 Tuesday, July 28, 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. The meeting agenda was posted on the Commission's website, www.lgc.state.pa.us, on Monday, August 17, 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.

At 9:01 a.m., the Members resolved themselves into Executive Session in Room 503 Irvis Office Building to discuss Commission staff reorganization.

At 10:12 a.m., the Members returned to public session in Room 515 Irvis Office Building.

As a result of the Executive Session, the Members voted unanimously on a motion by Representative Freeman and a second by Senator Kim to accept the resignation of David Greene, Executive Director, for purposes of retirement and to promote Assistant Director Kristopher Gazsi to the position of Executive Director with a starting salary of \$138,000, effective October 1, 2026. The Members also unanimously agreed to bifurcate the position of Assistant Director/Legal Counsel, with Senior Research Analyst Julia Frey promoted to Assistant Director, with a starting salary of \$90,000 and Associate Legal Counsel Martin Toth promoted to Legal Counsel with a starting salary of \$85,000. Ms. Frey and Mr. Toth will receive the pay adjustments commencing October 1, 2026. The Members thanked Mr. Greene for his 25 years of service.

The Chairman also announced the retirements of Karen Bear, Executive Assistant, and Sonya Ebersole, Fiscal Administrator/Code Coordinator, both effective the end of the day on September 30, 2026. Ms. Bear has been with the Commission for over 38 years, and Ms. Ebersole has been employed by the Commission for over 36 years. As a result of the retirements, the Members unanimously agreed on a motion by Senator Kim and a second by Representative James to combine the positions into a single Office Manager position and to amend the Commission's Personnel Policy to reflect the change. The Executive Director was also granted authorization to hire a suitable candidate at a salary not to exceed \$65,000 annually. Research Associate Rex Burman will be delegated the responsibility of code administrator with a salary adjustment to \$63,000 beginning October 1, 2026.

The Members reviewed the minutes of the June 17, 2026, meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Miller and a second by Representative Freeman. The financial reports for the months of June and July 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 Freeman.

As the last order of business, Senior Research Analyst Julia Frey announced the submitted panel topics for this year's Local Government Symposium. The proposed subjects pertain to stormwater, data centers, municipal management, short-term rentals, and bulk electricity purchasing by municipalities. Ms. Frey stated that Senator Keefer has volunteered to host a panel, and that if any other Member is interested to please contact her. This is the sixth year for the Local Government Symposium with the event occurring fully online and presentations livestreamed via Zoom. Video recordings of the panels, along with any supporting documentation, will be posted on

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

Page 3 – August 19, 2026

the Local Government Commission website a few weeks after the Symposium. The 2026 Local Government Symposium is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Thanks to the efforts of Commission Associate Legal Counsel Martin Toth the Commission has been granted the continuing legal education (CLE) designation, so all attorneys attending the Symposium can earn CLE credits.

The next business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 515 Irvis Office Building. At that meeting, the Members will be presented with the proposed fiscal year 2027-2028 Commission budget, which is due to be submitted to the Budget Secretary by September 30, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

ATTESTED: _____
September 9, 2026