NOVEMBER 2026

PSATC PULSE

EMPOWERING FIRST CLASS LEADERSHIP

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR FIRST CLASS TOWNSHIPS

VOL. 3

Salisbury Township Commissioner Alok Patnaik Elected President of PSATC



Salisbury Township Commissioner Alok Patnaik was elected President of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC) during the association's Annual Business Meeting, held in conjunction with the 2026 Municipal Leadership Summit at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.

Patnaik has served as a Salisbury Township Commissioner in Lehigh County since 2020 and previously served as PSATC's First Vice President. He has been actively engaged with municipal officials representing Pennsylvania's 93 First-Class Townships, helping advance municipal leadership, legislative advocacy, and collaboration among local governments.

"It is a tremendous honor to serve as President of PSATC and to represent the commissioners and municipal leaders of Pennsylvania's First-Class Townships," Patnaik said. "I accept this responsibility with gratitude, humility, and deep respect for those who give their time, experience, and energy in service to their communities."

Patnaik said his presidency will focus on strengthening the identity and influence of First-Class Townships, increasing engagement among member communities, developing the next generation of municipal leaders, sharing successful practices, and ensuring that First-Class Township priorities are represented by a strong collective voice in Harrisburg.



"Being First-Class is more than our municipal classification. It represents the standard of leadership and public service we should strive to set," Patnaik said. "Our commissioners and municipal leaders make important decisions every day about public safety, infrastructure, development, municipal finance, land use, parks and recreation, and the responsible use of taxpayer dollars. Much of that work happens quietly, but its impact is felt every day by the people we serve."

READ MORE

Congratulations to PSATC's New Officers!

PSATC EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
Alok Patnaik
Salisbury Township

1st Vice-President
Liz McNaney
Upper Gwynedd Township

2nd Vice-President
Rebecca Sray
South Fayette Township

3rd Vice-President
Fred Faylona
Susquehanna Township

Secretary/Treasurer
Alex Karol
Salisbury Township



Annual Dinner Honors Commissioners for Innovation, Dedication and Years of Service

At the PSATC Annual Dinner on October 8, the Executive Committee celebrated the winners of the first-ever Impact Awards, honored leaders with the President's Award, and celebrated years of service.

Impact Awards

The Impact Awards recognize innovation, leadership, and measurable results achieved by PSATC member Townships. The award winners received a plaque at the annual dinner, are featured in a case study on PSATC's website and have the opportunity to present in a webinar for member Townships.



"First-Class Townships are all facing similar challenges and these awards bring success stories to the forefront," said Liz McNaney, 1st Vice-President of PSATC. "We hope these awards will inspire commissioners, so they can bring back new ideas and ways to implement them in their own townships."

The winners included:



Parks, Recreation & Community Quality of Life Award: *Abington Township for "A Place to Play" Inclusive Park*



Smart Growth, Zoning & Land Use Innovation Award: *Lower Merion Township for Ardmore House II Senior Affordable Housing*



Public Safety & Emergency Services Innovation Award: *Harrison Township for its creation of a regional EMS authority*



Next Gen Township Leader Award: *Amrinder Singh, Upper Darby Township's Director of Licenses and Inspections and Chief Building Official*

Read more about the winners and view the case studies. READ MORE

President's Award

President Todd Miller honored three outstanding local leaders for their exceptional dedication, leadership, and service with the President's Award:

- **Stacey Altman,** Scott Township
- **Alex Karol,** Salisbury Township
- **Jeremiah Woodring,** Lower Merion Township



Years of Service

Commissioners were also recognized for 12 and 24 years of service to their communities.

24 Years of Service honoree:

- **Al Bienstock,** Hampden Township

12 Years of Service honorees:

- **Jimmy DiPlacido,** Abington Township
- **Joseph Wiest,** Butler Township
- **Todd K. Miller,** Crescent Township
- **George L. Andrejko,** Hanover Township
- **Mary Waskevich,** Wilkes-Barre Township
- **Mark E. Wells,** Wilkins Township



Thank You to Our Corporate Marketplace Sponsors!

GOLD LEVEL

PennBid
eProcurement Evolutionized

SILVER LEVEL

M&T Bank
Understanding what's important®

RVE 1901
AN ARDURRA COMPANY

Pennoni

Routeware

BRONZE LEVEL

CS McKee

HRG

Become a Corporate Partner!

Free Resource: PA Data Center Proposal Tracker

As data center development accelerates across Pennsylvania, there's now a free tool to help track where projects stand: the Pennsylvania Data Center Proposal Tracker.

The site maps proposed, planned, approved, and under-construction data center projects statewide, pulling from public records, local news, and zoning filings, sortable by size, status, and electrical capacity.

For townships navigating zoning or public questions around data centers, it's a useful starting point for seeing how projects are unfolding elsewhere.

As always, verify project-specific details through official municipal and county records. It's an independent, privately run site, not a government or association product, and PSATC is sharing it as a helpful third-party tool.

Visit the PA Data Center Proposal Tracker Website:

PSATC Helps Advance First–Class Township Code Recodification

PSATC played a key role in the multiyear effort to revise and recodify the First–Class Township Code, helping ensure that the laws governing Pennsylvania's First-Class Townships reflect current municipal practices and legal requirements.

Enacted in 1931, the Code had not undergone a comprehensive revision since 1949. Recognizing the need for a thorough review, PSATC partnered with the Pennsylvania Municipal League and the Pennsylvania Local Government Commission, drawing on the Commission's experience with similar municipal code projects.

During the 2025-2026 legislative session, House Bill 1836 and Senate Bill 1036 were introduced to revise the code. On February 11, 2026, Governor Josh Shapiro signed Senate Bill 1036 into law as Act 7 of 2026, effective April 13, 2026.

However, the effort began ten years prior in March 2016. Commission staff joined a PSATC working group comprising township commissioners and managers from the Association's Central, Eastern and Western regions, along with PSATC staff and legal counsel. Meeting at least quarterly, the group reviewed the Code and developed proposed changes to clarify language, reflect court decisions and current practices, and improve consistency with other municipal codes. Only changes supported by stakeholder consensus were included.

The first major milestone came in 2020, when the revisions were introduced as House Bill 2073 during the 2019–2020 legislative session. Governor Tom Wolf signed the legislation into law as Act 96 on October 28, 2020, and it took effect on December 28, 2020.

The next phase involved placing the First–Class Township Code into Title 73 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. This followed similar efforts involving the Borough Code, placed in Title 8, and the Third-Class City Code, placed in Title 11.

Enacting the revisions separately through Act 96 before incorporating the Code into Title 73 helped ensure transparency for the General Assembly. Lawmakers could clearly identify and review the changes, which would have been less apparent had the revisions and codification occurred simultaneously.

The completion of this effort marks an important milestone for Pennsylvania's First–Class Townships. Through sustained collaboration with township officials, legal experts and state partners, PSATC helped advance a complex legislative project from initial review to final enactment. The result reflects the Association's commitment to representing its members and supporting effective local government throughout Pennsylvania.