

RESOLUTION 2026-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE PENNSYLVANIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL OF RIGHTS.

WHEREAS, more than 2500 Pennsylvania municipalities are the backbone of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but are treated like subsidiaries of the State rather than partners; and

WHEREAS, it is time for Commonwealth State Government to move from the “one-size-fits” all mandates to local realities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Wrightstown Board of Supervisors do hereby support the **Pennsylvania Local Government Bill of Rights** as follows:

1. Plan Our Future. Local communities should guide local decisions. The people who live and work in a community know it best.

Local decisions belong to local leaders – not to statewide mandates disconnected from ground-level realities.
2. Protect Our Backyards. Land use and zoning belong in local hands – not statewide zoning schemes that ignore local realities.
 - a. Local land use decisions. Townships and local municipalities should take the lead in zoning, subdivision, and land-use planning based on comprehensive plans they create with their residents. These decisions should stay in local hands.
 - b. Local oversight of infrastructure. Townships and local municipalities manage the systems the people rely on every day: roads, stormwater, and water and sewer services. The State should support this work with funding that helps maintain and modernize these systems.
3. Freedom From Unfunded Mandates. Harrisburg and Washington must stop sending bills to communities that have never placed an order. Taxpayers deserve fairness.
 - a. Predictable and sufficient revenue options. Municipalities should have access to revenue tools that fit their size, service, and tax base – modern, flexible, and able to keep up with inflation, not limited to property taxes alone.
 - b. Protection from unfunded mandates. The State or Federal government should not require municipalities to carry out new responsibilities without providing full, reliable funding.

- c. Fair distribution of State funds. State grants and shared revenues should be distributed using fair formulas that consider real community needs – population, rural challenges, aging infrastructure, and local economic conditions.
- 4. The Modern “Town Crier”. Transparency means accessibility. Local governments should have the flexibility to use what fits best for their community – websites, email, social media, and/or newspaper legal advertisements.
 - a. Modern, clear State rules. State laws on procurement, public meetings and records should be up-to-date, easy to understand, and compatible with current technology.
 - b. Effective ways to publish public notices. Local governments should have the ability to use electronic advertisements, designated websites, and community papers of mass dissemination, where the public can view important public notices for free.
- 5. A Seat at the Table. A partnership between the Commonwealth and its municipalities will help move Pennsylvania forward, encourage regional cooperation, and improve quality of life. Municipalities must be treated as true partners.
 - a. Consultation before State action. State agencies should talk with local governments before adopting policies that affect municipalities. This includes reviewing local impacts and potential financial consequences so decisions are informed by on-the-ground realities.
 - b. Support for voluntary regional cooperation. State laws and funding should encourage municipalities to work together through shared services, regional planning, or intermunicipal agreements. Cooperation should be voluntary, not forced consolidation.
 - c. Fair and clear appeal processes. Municipalities must have straightforward ways to challenge or appeal State decisions that affect their authority, operations, or local autonomy. The process should be transparent, timely, and respectful of local decision making.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that signed copies of this declared Bill of Rights be posted to the Wrightstown Township website and sent to the Governor of the Great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, every member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the Pennsylvania Senate representing the great County of Bucks, the Commissioners of the County of Bucks, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS), and the Bucks County Association of Township Officials (BCATO).

RESOLVED AND ENACTED this 18th Day of May in the 250th year of the founding of the United States of America and the 334th anniversary of the founding of the Township of Wrightstown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP**

Chester S. Pogonowski

Chester S. Pogonowski, Chair

ATTEST:

Stacy E. Crandell

Stacy E. Crandell, Township Manager

Jane B. Magne

Jane B. Magne, Vice Chair

Robert S. Lloyd

Robert S. Lloyd, Treasurer/Member