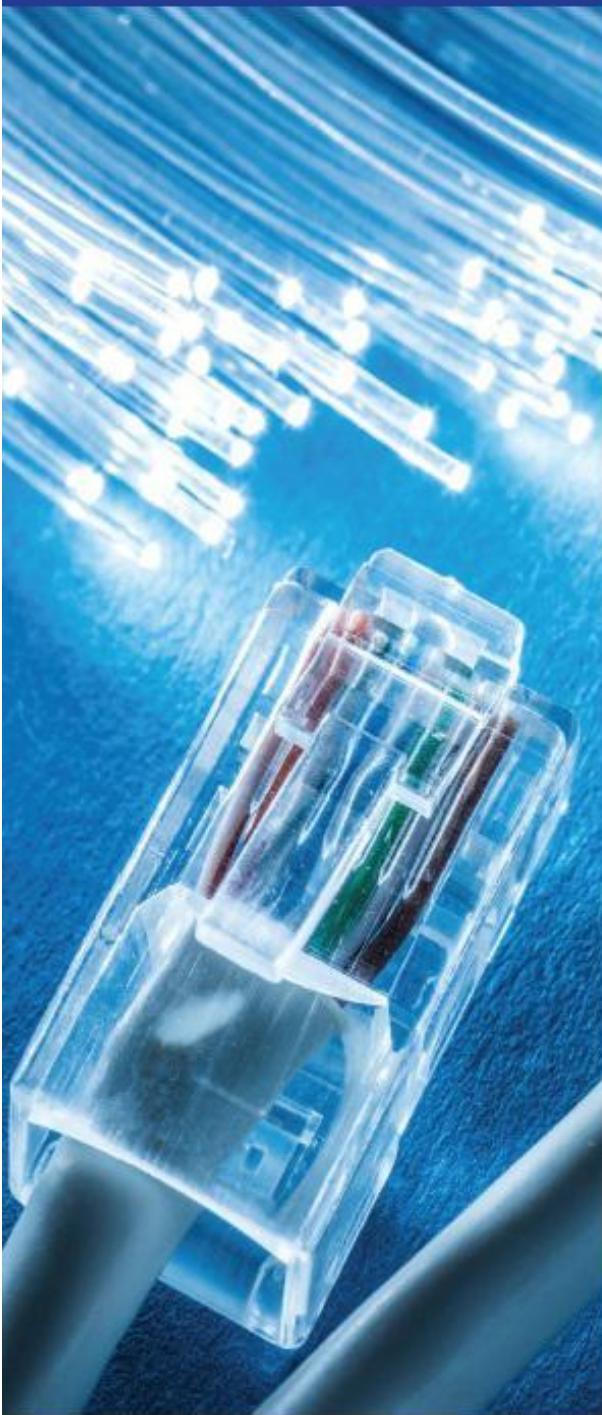


PA Townships Value Relationship with Cable Industry



The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors salutes a longstanding working relationship with BCAP that has benefited millions of our commonwealth's citizens.

PSATS members have had successful partnerships with the commonwealth's cable companies for decades. The result has been a Pennsylvania-born technology that continues to provide entertainment, education, and communications services for generations of our state's citizens and businesses.

If there was ever a template for blending technology providers with local government, our 70-year-old working relationship with BCAP members is it.

PSATS looks forward to continuing and growing its partnership with broadband cable companies in the years ahead to deliver services to ALL Pennsylvanians!



**Pennsylvania State Association
of Township Supervisors**

David M. Sanko, Executive Director

4855 Woodland Drive
Enola, PA 17025-1291
Phone: (717) 763-0930
www.psats.org

York Dispatch
York County officials say they're not done on broadband initiative

Fierce Video Charter, Discovery offer conflicting views on the pay TV bundle

Washington Post
The government has a program to cut your Internet bill.
Verizon is using it to force you onto a new data plan.

New York Times
As Congress Dithers, States Step In to Set Rules for the Internet

Philadelphia Inquirer
What Sean Parnell, Liz Cheney, and Rudy Giuliani show about Trump's hold on Pennsylvania Republicans

Associated Press
Pennsylvania voters to decide if protection against racial discrimination should be in state constitution

Spotlight PA
A new wave of election directors step in to fill Pa.'s many vacancies — with little training and varying experience

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review
Editorial: All politics start local — so vote on Tuesday

Gov. Tom Wolf is recalling his nomination to the state's utility regulator after GOP senators promised to block his candidates. Wolf nominated [Hayley Book](#) to the Public Utility Commission's board, which has been short a member for over a year. Book, a Department of Environmental Protection climate adviser, is leading the administration's effort to have the state join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

Republicans oppose RGGI because they say it will hurt the state's coal industry and they don't like that the Wolf Administration is joining without legislative approval. Last month, they wrote to Wolf saying they would reject any nominee to the PUC unless he drops the RGGI effort. Wolf said he will continue to move forward with the effort. The PUC would have no role in administering RGGI, but GOP lawmakers said it has "significant oversight" of energy regulation.

Rather than let Book get voted down, the governor withdrew her nomination. A spokeswoman said, "The Senate made it clear that they would not confirm her." Asked to explain, a Senate GOP spokesman said only, "The Governor recalled Hayley Book." The Senate voted Wednesday to honor the recall.

That leaves the PUC with four members, who have deadlocked on several decisions in the last year. Another commissioner's term expired in April; David Sweet can serve for an additional six months, but will have to vacate the board this fall unless re-nominated and confirmed. A PUC spokesman says all operations are continuing. Wolf's office declined to comment on whether he'll nominate someone else.

The PUC provides economic, safety, and quality of service oversight for nearly 7,000 entities that deliver electricity, natural gas, and water to people's homes and that operate pipelines and railroads. Environmental and consumer protection groups say a short-staffed commission could make for poor policy outcomes for vulnerable Pennsylvanians. – **WITF-TV/FM, Harrisburg**

AT&T Inc. and Discovery Inc. reached a deal to combine their media assets into a new publicly traded company, [unwinding the telecom company's big bet](#) on entertainment after less than three years. The new business, which isn't yet named, will be led by current Discovery Chief David Zaslav. The companies said AT&T's Jason Kilar will retain his title as WarnerMedia CEO. AT&T shareholders will hold a 71% stake in the new entity, while Discovery shareholders own a 29% stake. In exchange, AT&T said it would receive \$43 billion of cash, debt securities and WarnerMedia's retention of certain debt.

The Dallas company spent about \$15 billion last year on the shareholder payouts, which many individual investors have long valued as a stable source of income. AT&T reported \$169 billion of net debt at the end of March, a level that has troubled some investors worried about the conglomerate's financial flexibility. WarnerMedia owns cable channels such as HBO, CNN, TNT and TBS as well as the Warner Bros. television and film studio. Discovery has a portfolio that includes its namesake network and HGTV.

The tie-up is a surprising U-turn by AT&T, which placed a massive bet on media [with its 2018 acquisition](#) of Time Warner Inc. for around \$81 billion. That deal made it the world's most indebted nonfinancial company. The companies said they expect to close the transaction in mid-2022. AT&T also said it would adjust its dividend policy to reflect the structure of the new media business. The company said it expects an annual dividend payout ratio of 40% to 43% from more than \$20 billion of expected free cash flow. – **Wall Street Journal**

[Lou Barletta](#), the Republican Party's Donald Trump-endorsed nominee for U.S. Senate in 2018, is running for governor of Pennsylvania. Barletta, 65, becomes the most prominent figure to enter a 2022 governor's race that Republicans have won every time in the past half-century when there is an outgoing Democratic governor and a first-term Democratic president.

Barletta, a former Hazleton mayor and four-term member of Congress, has far more electoral experience than any other potential challenger for the GOP nomination. That includes having introduced himself to voters in a statewide campaign in his 2018 loss to Democratic U.S. Sen. Bob Casey. "So people know me," Barletta said in an interview. "I'm starting out with that advantage as well as I had 2.1 million votes in 2018. And that's a good start as well."

Barletta said that, if elected, he would focus on boosting the state's economy, while also aiming to overhaul Pennsylvania's election law and fight illegal immigration, a long-time pet issue for Barletta that helped build his political reputation. Barletta's only declared primary opponent is Joe Gale, a Montgomery County commissioner. After that, several others are seriously considering it. That includes U.S. Rep. Dan Meuser — who succeeded Barletta in Congress — and William McSwain, the top federal prosecutor in Philadelphia under Trump.

Barring something unforeseen, state Attorney General Josh Shapiro will seek the Democratic nomination. Gov. Tom Wolf, a Democrat, is constitutionally term-limited. Besides being at ease in front of a microphone, Barletta has another strength in a Republican primary: a relationship with Trump. Barletta was one of the first members of Congress to endorse Trump in 2016's Republican presidential primary. He went on to serve as Trump's campaign co-chair in Pennsylvania that year and on Trump's transition team before becoming one of the former president's biggest allies on Capitol Hill.

Barletta ran for U.S. Senate in 2018 at Trump's urging, and drew two Trump visits to Pennsylvania to help rally support for his candidacy, including one where Trump called Barletta a "star" and a "legend." Still, Barletta struggled to gain traction with voters, raise money or attract outside help, and got beaten by 13 percentage points in an otherwise difficult electoral year for Republicans. It was personally difficult for Barletta: his brother died and his 18-month-old grandson was diagnosed with cancer in the final weeks of the campaign.

Trump has made no endorsement in the governor's race, a year out from the primary. "I would love his endorsement and I'm going to try to earn it," Barletta said. Barletta will likely be considered the front-runner in a GOP primary. As mayor of Hazleton for more than a decade, Barletta gained national prominence for injecting immigration hawk politics into local government.

Barletta was mayor at a time when Hazleton's Hispanic population was surging. He argued that many of the recent arrivals were in the country illegally, bringing drugs, crime and gangs to his city of 25,000 and overwhelming police, schools and hospitals. Accusing the federal government of failing to enforce immigration laws, Barletta got City Council to approve a pair of measures that would have denied permits to businesses that hired people in the country illegally and fined landlords who rented to them. His strategy was copied by dozens of other cities across the country, but the laws were never enforced before the U.S. Supreme Court struck them down in 2014.

Barletta's visibility on the immigration issue helped him politically, and he defeated 26-year incumbent Democratic Rep. Paul Kanjorski — on his third try — during the Republican midterm wave of 2010. Following Trump's loss to Democrat Joe Biden, Barletta — like most in the GOP — has not disputed Trump's baseless claims that the election was stolen from him, despite no evidence of widespread fraud. As one of Trump's 20 hand-picked electors in Pennsylvania last year, Barletta told the Associated Press in December that "there's no question there was fraud."

Barletta still maintains that he doesn't know for sure if the election was stolen from Trump: "No one knows that," he said. "Who can say for certain how much the election was changed to the difference that would have made? Nobody." Trump's baseless claims mail-in ballots are rife with fraud have also stoked opposition among Republicans to Pennsylvania's 2019 mail-in voting law. Barletta said that, as governor, he would consider signing legislation to repeal universal mail-in voting, leaving only the constitutionally authorized absentee ballot for voters who meet a narrow set of excuses. "I would consider signing it because I believe it's ripe for fraud," Barletta said. "I think it encourages the chances."

Prosecutors have turned up a handful of cases in Pennsylvania of people trying to vote by mail for a dead mother or wife, but nothing even remotely approaching Trump's false claims that have been thrown out of court for lack of evidence. Barletta would also bring the governor's office into the fight against illegal immigration, he said, pitching it as a way to protect American workers' jobs and wages. "As the mayor (of Hazleton), I was sued for wanting to enforce federal laws, and now we have mayors who literally are thumbing their nose and have created sanctuary cities, inviting literally people who were in the country illegally to those towns," Barletta said. "That would not happen if I'm governor." — **Associated Press**

