

# **Bucks County Association of Township Officials**



## **Legislative Strategic Plan (2016-2018)**

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## **Charter Statement**

The Bucks County Association of Township Officials (“BCATO”) is chartered by Article XIV of the Second Class Township Code to be the unified voice of townships of the second class in Bucks County at the local, state and federal levels of government and to the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors.

## **Vision Statement**

BCATO’s vision is the following:

- serve as the premier county association for Townships of the second class in the State
- provide leadership and support to all member municipalities
- advocate supportive legislative policies, procedures and regulations on behalf of member municipalities

## **Mission Statement**

BCATO’s mission is to provide support and guidance to townships of the second class in Bucks County to assure the health, welfare and safety of its residents.

## **Legislative Strategic Objective Overview**

BCATO adopted a three-year strategic plan in 2015 to strengthen its presence and influence for its membership. The following Legislative Strategic Plan compliments that plan and has more specifics relating to influencing the legislative process.

BCATO should adopt the following strategic objectives to be achieved throughout the next three years (2016-2018) to compel local and state officials to provide support and pass legislation:

*Strategic Objective #1 – the Legislative Committee will be given target parts of the county (upper, central, lower) and will discuss PSATS-discussed legislative initiative and BCATO resolutions, letters of support and position papers with state and county officials on a monthly basis*

### Initial Steps and Tasks:

- Each committee member will receive a designated number of state representatives, state senators or county commissioners relevant to their own municipality to contact monthly to pitch the organization's ideas.

*Strategic Objective #2 – the Legislative Committee will have bi-monthly lunches, conference calls, or calls with the Executive Director to discuss updates*

### Initial Steps and Tasks:

- If feasible, the committee will meet as a group bi-monthly (6 meetings per year) to discuss pertinent legislation. If this is not feasible, the Executive Director will host conference calls instead to have the group updated.

*Strategic Objective #3 – the Legislative Committee will receive updates from state and county officials and relay their legislative needs to the Board for potential support in terms of positions papers and letters of interest on a monthly basis*

### Initial Steps and Tasks:

- As committee members reach out to their designated state or county official, they will also facilitate the needs of the official to create a two-way

communication stream. The member will bring back potential legislation ideas for discussion at the bi-monthly meetings.

*Strategic Objective #4 – the Legislative Committee will meet as a whole once per year in Bucks and once per year in Harrisburg with state officials*

Initial Steps and Tasks:

- The Legislative Committee will invite state and county officials to a luncheon in Bucks to discuss ideas and streamline communication more efficiently and will also meet in Harrisburg to reciprocate the respect.

*Strategic Objective #5 – the Legislative Committee will expand to 7 members to help with the implementation of the plan*

Initial Steps and Tasks:

- The need for seven members helps reduce the workload for the Committee and will take effect beginning in March 2016.

*Strategic Objective #6 – the Membership Outreach Committee will be given target parts of the county (upper, central, lower) and will discuss PSATS-discussed legislative initiatives and BCATO resolutions, letters of support and position papers with municipal officials on a monthly basis*

Initial Steps and Tasks:

- Once decisions have been made by the Legislative Committee and approved by the Executive Board, the Membership Outreach Committee will relay BCATO-sponsored legislation to individual municipalities for further support and to encourage follow ups with state and county officials.