



**BUCKS COUNTY
ASSOCIATION *of*
TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS**

**Proposed Resolutions for 2021 Virtual Annual Convention
February 20, 2021**

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DECRIMINALIZATION OF CANNABIS:

Whereas, the enforcement of marijuana laws has not had an impact on marijuana usage and has created additional costs for communities and individuals; and

Whereas, an arrest for possession of marijuana can have an impact on housing, student loans, future employment, child custody determinations and many other circumstances.

Resolved, that PSATS seek legislation to decriminalize cannabis usage in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennifer Herring, CPA, Doylestown
Township Supervisor

John B. Lewis, Lower Makefield Township
Supervisor

Anna Payne, Middletown Township
Supervisor

Dan Wood, Doylestown Township
Supervisor

Michael Ksiazek, Middletown Township
Supervisor

Amy C Strouse, Middletown Township
Supervisor

John Mack, Newtown Township Supervisor

Eileen Albillar, MSW, LSW, Warrington
Township Supervisor

MaryBeth McCabe, Esq., New Britain
Township Supervisor

Fred R. Gaines, Warrington Township
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John S. Francis, Solebury Township
Supervisor

Dr. Kimberly Rose, Northampton Township
Supervisor

Kevin M Morrissey, Solebury Township
Supervisor

Keith DosSantos, Lower Makefield
Township Auditor

Robert A. McEwan, Solebury Township
Supervisor

Dawn Quirple, Middletown Township
Supervisor

Jeffry Dence, Falls Township Supervisor

Tom Merchant, Upper Makefield Township
Tax Collector

Ruth Shemm, Warrington Township
Supervisor

Cynthia Jones, New Britain Township
Supervisor

Jesse Sloane, Bensalem Township
Councilman

Bill Connolly, Warrington Township
Supervisor

Mark Baum Baicker, Solebury Township
Supervisor

Thomas Tosti, Middletown Township
Supervisor



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A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGALIZATION OF RECREATIONAL USE OF CANNABIS BY ADULTS OVER THE AGE 21:

Whereas, the enforcement of marijuana laws has not had an impact on marijuana usage and has created additional costs for communities and individuals; and

Whereas, many states, including New Jersey, have legalized recreational adult use of cannabis with positive social outcomes and increased tax revenue.

Resolved, that PSATS seek legislation to legalize use of cannabis by adults over the age of 21 provided that such legislation requires compliance with land use ordinances and allows for municipal land use decision making on manufacturing, distribution, and retail facilities as well as a mechanism to share tax revenue with municipalities.



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A RESOLUTION ON ADDRESSING GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE:

Whereas, the residents and municipalities of Bucks County have already experienced the negative impacts of Global Climate Change; and

Whereas, heavy rainfall caused in part by Global Climate Change have poured into our sewer systems, further compromising their ability to function properly and limited revenue from municipally owned recreation services leading to increases in sewer rates and property taxes; and

Whereas, Bucks County Municipalities have faced historic flooding along the Delaware River, putting lives at risk and property in danger; and

Whereas, according to the American Lung Association, Bucks County suffers from “life-threateningly” polluted air quality receiving an “F” rating; and

Whereas, Bucks County, along with 70 other major U.S. counties (according to a Washington Post analysis of more than a century of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration temperature data across the Lower 48 states and 3,107 counties) has already surpassed the limit of 2 degrees Celsius set by the United Nations.

Resolved, that PSATS seek legislation to urge the legislature to provide funding for all municipalities that choose to: complete Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification; review existing municipal land development ordinances to enact legislative changes that will reduce carbon emissions and greenhouse gasses; and conduct a review of municipal operations to implement policies that reduce carbon emissions and greenhouse gasses.

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Bill Connolly, Warrington Township Supervisor
Mark Baum Baicker, Solebury Township Supervisor

Thomas Tosti, Middletown Township Supervisor

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROTECTIONS FROM DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION:

Whereas, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act prohibits discrimination in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodations based on an individual's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, education status, handicap, or disability.

Whereas, the Act is silent on protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. This results in the members of the Commonwealth's LGBTQ+ community still facing discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations.

Whereas, no Pennsylvanian should be fired from a job, or denied housing, or excluded from public spaces because of who they are.

Whereas, there has been an increase in the number of Pennsylvania municipalities that have passed non-discrimination ordinances, without a statewide law, thousands of individuals not residing in one of those towns are not covered. Further, although the U.S. Supreme Court's June 2020 decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County* applied federal civil rights protections to LGBTQ people in matters of employment, significant gaps in the coverage of federal law – *e.g.*, it does not protect those who work at businesses with fewer than 15 workers – make it necessary for Pennsylvania to provide state-level protections.

Whereas, it is our belief that it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to foster the employment of all individuals in accordance with their fullest capacities regardless of actual or perceived race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, education status, handicap, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and to safeguard their right to obtain and hold employment without such discrimination, to assure equal opportunities to all individuals and to safeguard their rights to public accommodation and to secure housing accommodation and commercial property regardless of actual or perceived race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, education status, handicap, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and to have equal access to postsecondary educational institutions without regard to actual or perceived race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, education status, handicap, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

Whereas, more than 400 companies in Pennsylvania, including some of our largest employers, have non-discrimination policies in place that include sexual orientation and gender identity. Additionally, all Fortune 500 companies headquartered in the Commonwealth have non-discrimination policies that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and most have a gender identity or expression policies as well. These employers recognize that by respecting diversity, they can attract and retain the best workers and maintain a competitive advantage – a key factor in stimulating economic growth.



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Whereas, other states have recognized that need and have acted and Pennsylvania has the dubious distinction of being the only state in the Northeast that has yet to do so.

Resolved, that PSATS seek legislation to prohibit discrimination in areas of employment, housing and public accommodations based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

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RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE TO A LIVING WAGE

Whereas, the Pennsylvania minimum wage has remained at \$7.25 per hour since 2009, while actual costs of living have continued to rise; and

Whereas, in 2021, employees in 20 states are enjoying an increase in their minimum wage; and

Whereas, the minimum wage in our neighboring states is between 21% to 72% higher than in Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, in the world's wealthiest country, millions of essential, full-time workers continue to earn poverty-level wages, putting their children and themselves at risk for health concerns, including, but not limited to, COVID-19, poor nutrition, unsafe or inadequate housing, and lack of access to medical aid when needed; and

Whereas, studies show that an increase in the minimum wage corresponds with an increase in jobs and has little or no negative effect on the employment of minimum wage workers, regardless of the strengths or weakness in the economy, and that an increase in the minimum wage could generate billions of dollars in new consumer spending, adding a needed stimulus to the American economy.

Resolved, that PSATS seek legislation to increase the Pennsylvania minimum wage to \$15 per hour and thereafter provide annual increases to the Pennsylvania minimum wage equal to the percentage increase of the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers.

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