

Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues **October 4, 2005**

FYI

Upcoming Events

Water Resources Planning and Management in Pennsylvania – Friday, October 21, 2005 – 2004 Pennsylvania Section American Water Resources Association Annual Fall Conference held at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA. [For more information.](#)

Sewage Facilities and Land Use: Collaborating for a Sustainable Future – Monday, October 24, 2005 - 10,000 [Friends of Pennsylvania](#), the [Environmental Law Institute](#), and the Environment and Natural Resources Institute at Penn State University are hosting a conference and inviting all sectors to discuss Pennsylvania sewer and land use policies with expert panelists, and help identify strategies to support sound land use, development, and economic practices in Pennsylvania. [For more information.](#)

Interesting Articles/Websites

[Economics and Historic Preservation: A Guide and Review of the Literature](#)

[The United States of Wal-Mart](#)

[Twenty Lessons From Maryland's Smart Growth Initiative](#)

[Form-Based Codes: Implementing Smart Growth](#)

Number of PA Legislators
253

Individual Salary \$
Pre-Raise Post-Raise
\$64,638 \$81,027

Total Salary Cost
Pre-Raise Post-Raise
\$16.353 M \$20,500 M

No. of Legislative Staff
2,947 – In 2003

Staff/Legislator
11.6

Legislative Staff Increase 1979-2003
106.1%

Population/Legislator
49.037

THE COST OF PENNSYLVANIA'S LEGISLATURE:

Assessing the Dollars and 'Sense' – In July, the legislature and Governor Rendell raised the pay for legislators, judges, the Governor, and certain appointed officials who work directly for the Governor. Not surprisingly, it's been a hot topic in the news and on the editorial pages statewide, where the focus has been on the pay raise for legislators - totaling **at least \$11,403 per member** or a **16% increase** - and the perks that go along with the job. Pennsylvania's legislators now **rank second in terms of base pay in the United States**, trailing only the \$99,000 salary for California legislators. New York is slightly behind Pennsylvania at \$79,500. The only other state that's close is Michigan (\$77,400). [IssuesPA](#), of the [Pennsylvania Economy League](#) looked beyond just salaries to the [cost implications for taxpayers](#) using data supplied by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and other published sources. It becomes readily apparent that while the increase in each legislator's base pay irks a lot of people, **the size of the legislature is an even bigger driver of cost.**

NORTHERN LANCASTER COUNTY GROUNDWATER STUDY: A Resource Evaluation of the Manheim-Lititz and Ephrata Area Groundwater Basins – [The Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#), in partnership with the [Lancaster County Conservation District](#), performed a groundwater resources evaluation of northern Lancaster County and has now released the [results of this study](#).

The study area has experienced rapid growth and the anticipated growth and development area are expected to result in increased water demand. **Population projections from 2000 through 2025 represent a 26 percent increase.** The study area includes **parts of 8 townships and 5 boroughs** and had a population of approximately 61,000 in the year 2000. **Water supply needs are met almost entirely by groundwater.** This carbonate valley was **once largely agricultural**, but is rapidly changing to a mosaic of urban, suburban and agricultural areas.

The amount of water available is limited. Historic changes in land use have led to increased impervious areas, increased stormwater runoff, and reduced infiltration. Read the [recommended actions](#) developed by the commission to address the issues affecting this area of the County.

*Enabling informed growth management
decision-making for Lancaster County*

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