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PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jackson Township Supervisor Elected Secretary-Treasurer of Pa. State Association of Township Supervisors

Members of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors have elected John “Jay” Wilkes Jr., chairman of the board of supervisors and roadmaster for Jackson Township in Luzerne County, to a one-year term as secretary-treasurer.

The election took place during PSATS’ 96th Annual Educational Conference and Exhibit Show, held April 22-25 in Hershey. This is the largest municipal event of its kind in the state, with close to 4,000 attendees. The conference attracted township officials from every county in Pennsylvania except Philadelphia, which has no townships.

The secretary-treasurer is a member of the association’s Executive Board with full voting rights. The board, which is made up of PSATS’ five officers, seven Executive Committee members, and the immediate past president, is responsible for managing the affairs of the state association. It meets frequently throughout the year to oversee association business and plan new projects that will benefit member townships.

The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors represents Pennsylvania’s 1,454 townships of the second class and is committed to preserving and strengthening township government and securing greater visibility and involvement for townships in the state and federal political arenas. Townships of the second class cover 95 percent of Pennsylvania’s land mass and represent more residents — 5.5 million — than any other type of political subdivision in the commonwealth.

Wilkes is a member of the association’s Grassroots Advocacy Network, which addresses legislative issues that affect every Pennsylvanian who lives in a township of the second class. He

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previously served as a member of PSATS' Executive Committee, chairman of the association's Townships With Populations Greater Than 2,000 But Less Than 5,000 Committee, and a member of the Nominations, Legislative, and Conference Planning committees. He has also served as a sergeant-at-arms and workshop moderator during PSATS' Annual Educational Conference. He was a 2017 recipient of the Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence.

Wilkes, a firefighter and engineer for Edwardsville Borough, currently serves on Jackson Township's recreation board and in the past was as an elected auditor, the emergency management coordinator, and a planning commission member. He is first deputy chief of the Back Mountain Regional Emergency Management Agency and fire chief and board member of the Back Mountain Regional Fire and EMS.

He also is president of the Luzerne County Association of Township Officials and previously served as first and second vice president and on its Convention Planning Committee.

Wilkes is a member of the Interstate Action Committee and 911 Advisory Board for the Pa. Emergency Management Agency. He is chairman of the Back Mountain Community Partnership and vice chairman of the Luzerne County Conservation District Board of Directors.

In addition, Wilkes is a fire/emergency services instructor at Dallas and Lake Lehman school districts and a member and past chairman of the State Correctional Facility Dallas Citizens Advisory Committee. He previously was a Pennsylvania state constable and served on the Luzerne County Planning Commission's Agricultural Security Committee and the West Side Compost Commission. He was an executive board member of the Pa. State Conservation Commission and a member of the advisory board for the Pa. Department of Agriculture. He also was an annual speaker for the Dallas Rotary Club.

Wilkes and his wife, Debbie, live in Shavertown.

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