



Bucks County Association of Township Officials

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*BCATO Program, "Answering the Call...What's Your Next Step?"
Northampton Township Fire Station*

BCATO Broadcast June 2024

"Answering the Call...What's Your Next Step?"

Elected officials, township managers, and Fire Service leadership gathered at the new Northampton Township Fire Station for the BCATO presentation, "Answering the Call...What's Your Next Step?" The program aimed to address current challenges in providing municipal fire services and present 21st-century strategies to township officials. Plans are underway for Part Two of this series. In the meantime check out the [program highlights](#) and [resources](#) from Part One.

Since the BCATO forum occurred, the Bensalem Council voted to unite all six volunteer fire companies serving the township into one department. Mayor Joe DiGirolamo and Bill McVey, Director of Public Safety detail this effort in this recent episode of [The Mayor's Show](#).





 **2024 BCATO Fall Event**

42 Peddler's Village, Lahaska, PA

HARVEST @
HEWN SPIRITS

Join us at the Hewn Spirits Tasting Room for locally sourced spirits and lite fare.

MON., SEPTEMBER, 30TH
5:30 pm - 7 pm
\$50 per person

RSVP Stacey Mulholland
with attendees at
executivedirector@bcato.org
Send checks to BCATO
PO Box 1200
Doylestown, PA 18901

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To register contact [Stacey Mulholland](mailto:Stacey.Mulholland@bcato.org). For more details please check BCATO.org.

In Other News

The Bucks County Association of Township Officials (BCATO) Executive Board, in alignment with the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS), has taken a firm stance against [HB 1976](#) and [HB 2045](#). If signed into law, these bills would impose statewide zoning mandates, significantly undermining municipal zoning authority.

Earlier this month, BCATO proactively reached out to Bucks County delegation members on the PA House Local Government Committee, including [Rep. Brian Munroe \(PA-144\)](#) and Rep. [Jim Prokopiak \(PA-140\)](#), to express their opposition to these bills. The organization emphasized the critical importance of local control in zoning decisions, which allows for consideration of each community's unique needs.

BCATO acknowledges the necessity of creating communities that are enjoyable and accessible for all residents, including the need for attainable housing. However, BCATO argues that imposing statewide mandates is not the solution. Instead, they recommend a more nuanced approach that

includes:

- Addressing blight: Focusing efforts on combating blight in communities to revitalize and make better use of existing spaces.
- Rehabilitating existing housing: Investing in the rehabilitation of current housing stock to provide more affordable and quality housing options.
- Managing construction costs: Addressing rising construction costs, particularly those related to stormwater and Uniform Construction Code (UCC) regulations, to make new developments more feasible.
- Funding for housing studies: Securing additional funding for municipalities to conduct thorough housing studies and develop long-term plans tailored to their specific housing needs.

BCATO believes that these strategies will be more effective in meeting the housing needs of Pennsylvania residents without compromising the authority and expertise of local municipal officials.

In light of these concerns, BCATO urges its member townships to reach out to their legislators and express their opposition to HB 1976 and HB 2045. BCATO has prepared a [draft resolution](#) for consideration by its member townships to support this effort, reinforcing the collective stance against these statewide zoning mandates.

By advocating for local control and targeted strategies, BCATO aims to ensure that zoning decisions remain in the hands of those who know their communities best.



2024 Executive Board

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[Most recent Executive Board Minutes](#)



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