

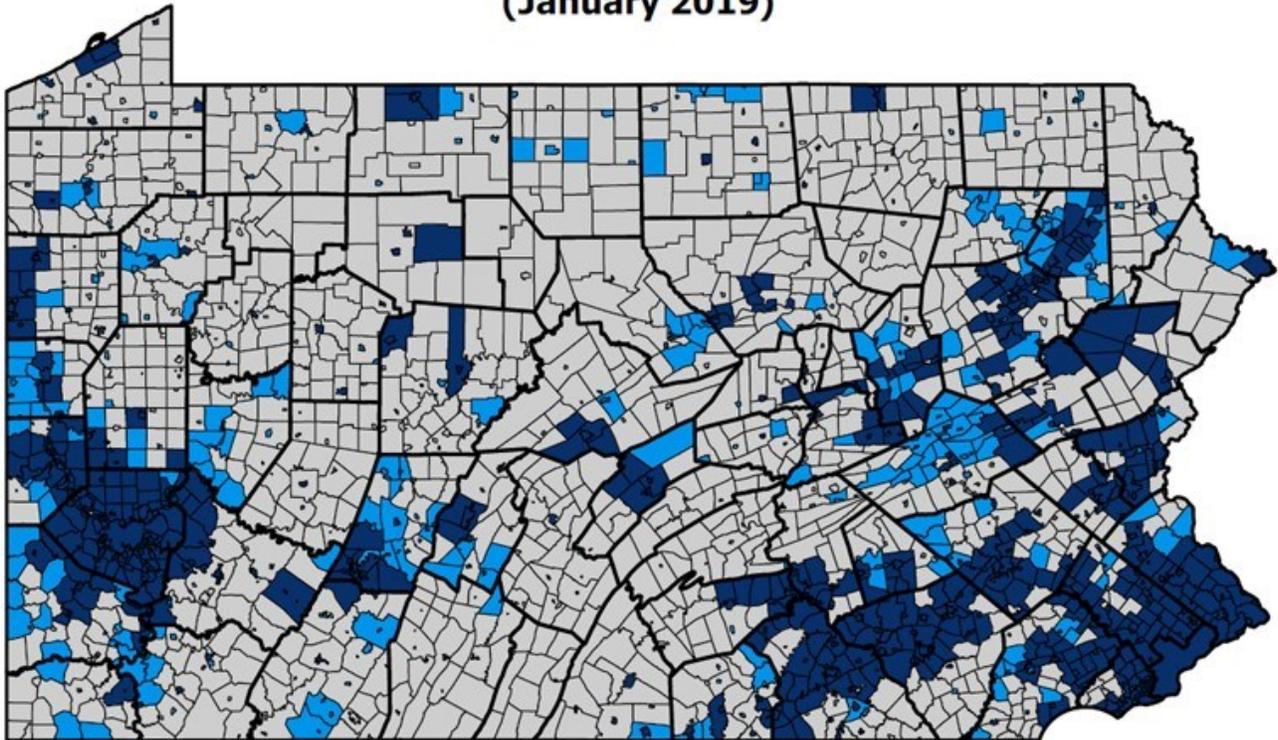
## State Police Coverage of Municipalities

Local police coverage in most parts of Pennsylvania is provided by state, not local, police. How the commonwealth funds state police to provide these services is a growing political concern. Two-thirds of Pennsylvania municipalities rely on state police for part- or full-time patrol services in lieu of a full-time local police force. The area covered by Pennsylvania State Police is mostly rural, and covers 82 percent of the commonwealth’s land mass but just 26 percent of residents.

In some years, 2017 for example, state police picked up numerous new municipalities. In others, like 2018, the net change in the area covered was close to zero. Over the long term, despite year-to-year changes, the total area for which state police provides coverage has remained relatively stable (see appendix for additional data tables).

While the coverage area is not radically changing, the cost is growing. Patrol costs increased 5 percent per year on average over the last 10 years, and Pennsylvania taxpayers – including those who live in areas with local police – pick up the tab for these state police services.

**State Police Coverage in Municipalities  
(January 2019)**



Data Source: PSP, Municipality coverage as of Jan. 2019  
House Appropriations Committee (D), Feb. 2019

Full-Time PSP Coverage
  Part-Time PSP Coverage
  Full-Time Local Coverage

## Fees for State Police Services

In 2017/18 (the most recent full fiscal year) state police spent \$677 million on patrol services in municipalities. This largely supports part- and full-time patrol services in municipalities that do not have a full-time local, regional, or contracted police force. Almost three quarters of incident responses by PSP in 2018 occurred in municipalities with part- or full-time state police coverage, excluding traffic stops.

PSP provides numerous specialized services such as crime labs, amber alerts, and others, which are not included in patrol costs. All municipalities benefit from these services regardless of local or state police coverage.

The state police's role as primary law enforcement in certain areas, and not in others, has long raised questions of equity. In response, policy makers have proposed various remedies including studies on efficiency, fees on municipalities with state police coverage, and policies to incentivize participation in regional police departments.

## Gov. Wolf's New Proposal

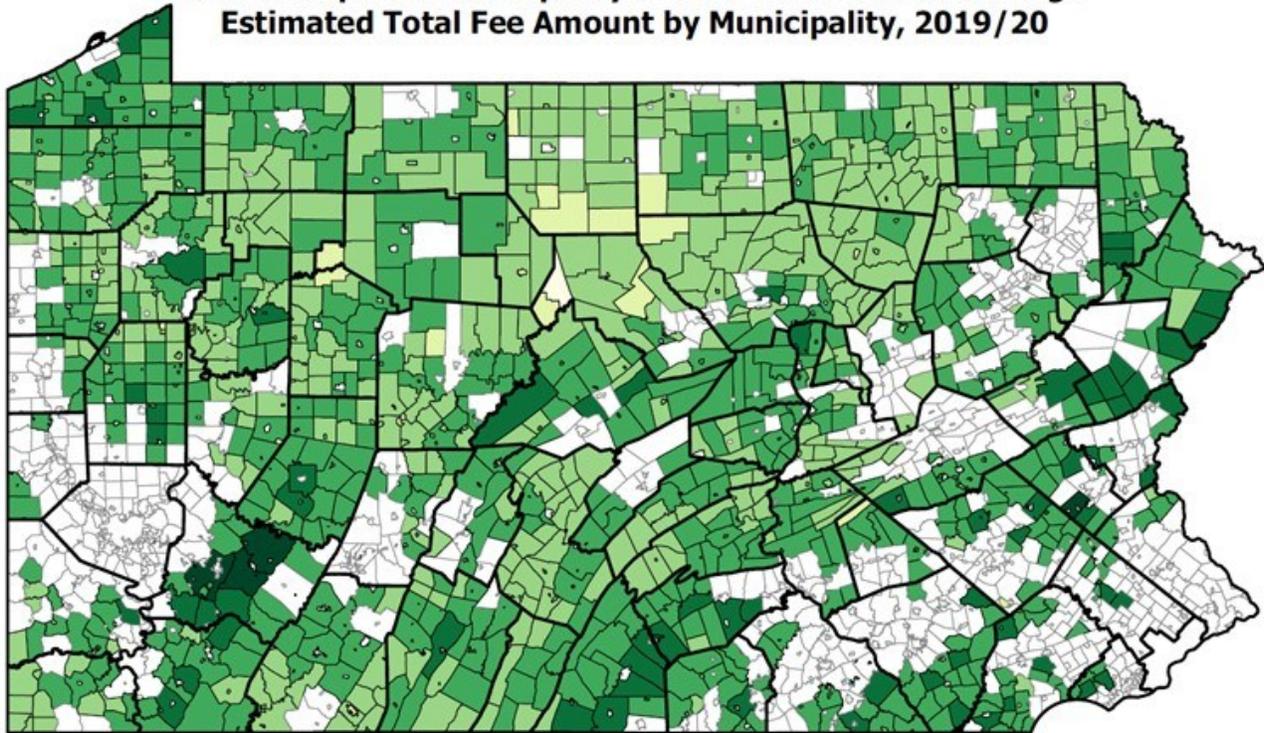
Gov. Wolf proposed a fee on municipalities that rely on the state police for full-time coverage again in his 2019/20 Executive Budget. If implemented, the governor's new fee proposal would raise an estimated \$103.9 million.

However, the governor's proposal differs from previous versions in its use of a sliding fee scale that reduces the burden on smaller municipalities, while making the largest municipalities pay a rate closer to the actual cost of services. The proposed fee would charge municipalities (not individuals) between \$8 and \$166 per capita based on their total population. The design is similar to past legislative proposals that would exempt small municipalities from a fee, but uses gradual steps rather than a blanket exemption for smaller municipalities.

If Gov. Wolf's proposal is implemented:

- **49 percent of municipalities, where 80 percent of Pennsylvanians reside, would pay no fee.** These areas already have at least part-time local police coverage.
- **Municipalities with 10,000 or fewer residents and full-time state police coverage**, which make up 50 percent of municipalities, and 17 percent of the state population, would pay fees between \$8 and \$75 per capita. These municipalities would contribute half of the fee revenue.
- **Municipalities with more than 10,000 residents and full-time state police coverage**, which make up 1 percent of municipalities and 3 percent of Pennsylvania residents, would pay fees between \$83 and \$166 per capita. These municipalities would contribute the second half of fee revenue.
  - Within this group, there are three municipalities that would pay the maximum per capita fee, meaning they have over 20,000 residents and rely on PSP for full-time coverage. They are Hempfield and Unity townships, Westmoreland County; and Lower Macungie Township, Lehigh County. Together, these three municipalities would contribute 15 percent of the total estimated fee revenue.

**Gov.'s Proposed Municipality Fee for State Police Coverage  
Estimated Total Fee Amount by Municipality, 2019/20**



Data Sources: PSP, Municipality coverage as of Jan. 2019; GBO, Proposed fee schedule; US Census, 2010 Census House Appropriations Committee (D), Feb. 2019



## Other legislative proposals

In addition to the governor’s fee proposal, two other legislative proposals are being reintroduced this session. Sen. Kim Ward has reintroduced her proposal to allow municipalities to contract with Pennsylvania State Police (SB 46). She has introduced a version of this proposal each session since 2009. Rep. Mike Sturla plans to reintroduce his own fee proposal, HB 959 of 2017.

The governor’s new municipality fee proposal has not yet been introduced as legislation.

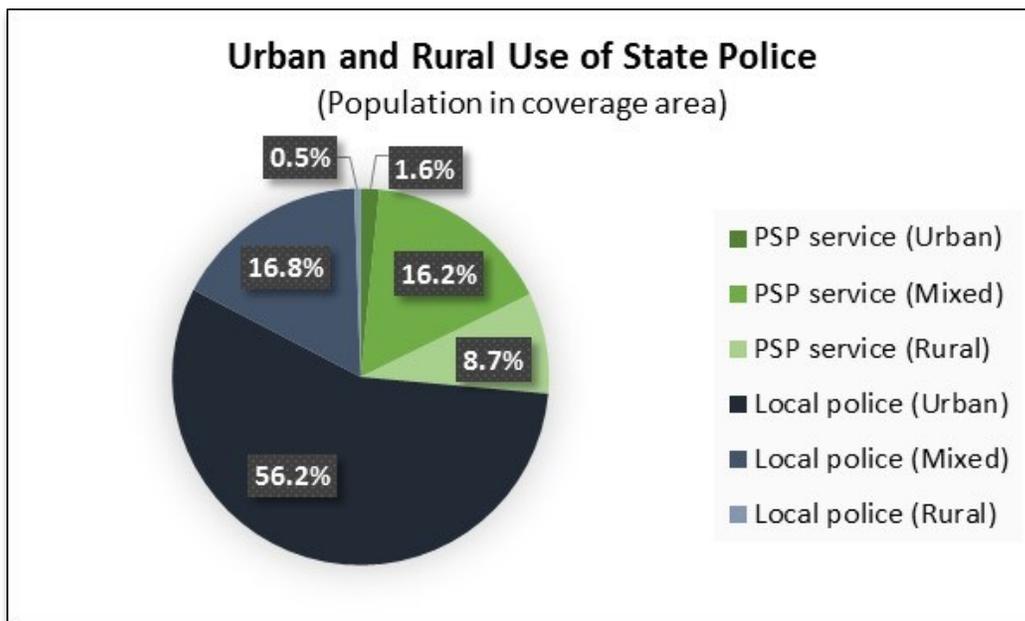
Other proposals from the past legislative session include Rep. Seth Grove’s proposal for state police contracts with municipalities, Sen. Judy Schwank’s proposal to subtract the cost of patrol services from the municipality share of liquid fuels tax allocations, and Rep. Stan Saylor’s proposal for a fee on certain municipalities with state police coverage.

## Urban versus rural

The question of state police coverage is often framed as an urban-rural divide. This is generally true, particularly in terms of the physical land area patrolled by state police, however there are more than 2 million Pennsylvanians who live in areas that have a mix of urban and rural characteristics that rely on state police for part- or full-time coverage.

While there are many different ways to differentiate between urban and rural areas, the U.S. Census Bureau’s methodology considers total population, population density, and other measures to define urban areas. Using similar methodology and the same population thresholds (at least 2,500 residents and at least 1,000 people per square mile to be considered an urban municipality), each municipality can be classified as either urban, rural, or mixed.

Based on this classification schema, two-thirds of Pennsylvanians live in predominantly urban or rural municipalities. In the urban municipalities, state police services cover less than 3 percent of the population. In rural municipalities, on the other hand, state police services cover 94 percent of the population. The remaining one-third of Pennsylvanians live in areas that are between urban and rural, and in these areas, state and local police coverage is split about 50/50.



## Appendix

### Data Tables and Additional Maps

#### 1. Current state police coverage, January 2019

Pennsylvania State Police Coverage, Jan. 2019						
	Municipalities		Area		Population	
<b>Full-Time PSP</b>	1,298	50.49%	32,647	72.82%	2,567,149	20.21%
<b>Part-Time PSP</b>	414	16.10%	4,132	9.22%	782,867	6.16%
<b>Full-Time Local</b>	859	33.41%	8,054	17.96%	9,351,945	73.63%
<b>Total</b>	2,571	100.00%	44,833	100.00%	12,701,961	100.00%

*Data Sources: PSP, Municipality coverage as of Jan. 2019; US Census Bureau, 2010 Census*

#### 2. Changes in state police coverage, 1996 to 2019

Change in state police coverage, 1996 to 2019									
	PT or FT State Police Service			Full-Time Local Police			Percent PSP		
	Muni.	Area	Pop.	Muni.	Area	Pop.	Muni.	Area	Pop.
<b>1996</b> <sup>[1]</sup>	1,795	38,076	3,294,657	776	6,921	8,956,270	70%	85%	27%
<b>2019</b>	1,712	36,779	3,350,016	859	8,054	9,351,945	67%	82%	26%
<b>Change</b>	-83	-1,297	55,359	83	1,133	395,675	-3%	-3%	-1%

[1] LBFC, "Study of the Statutory Cap on the Pennsylvania State Police", 1996

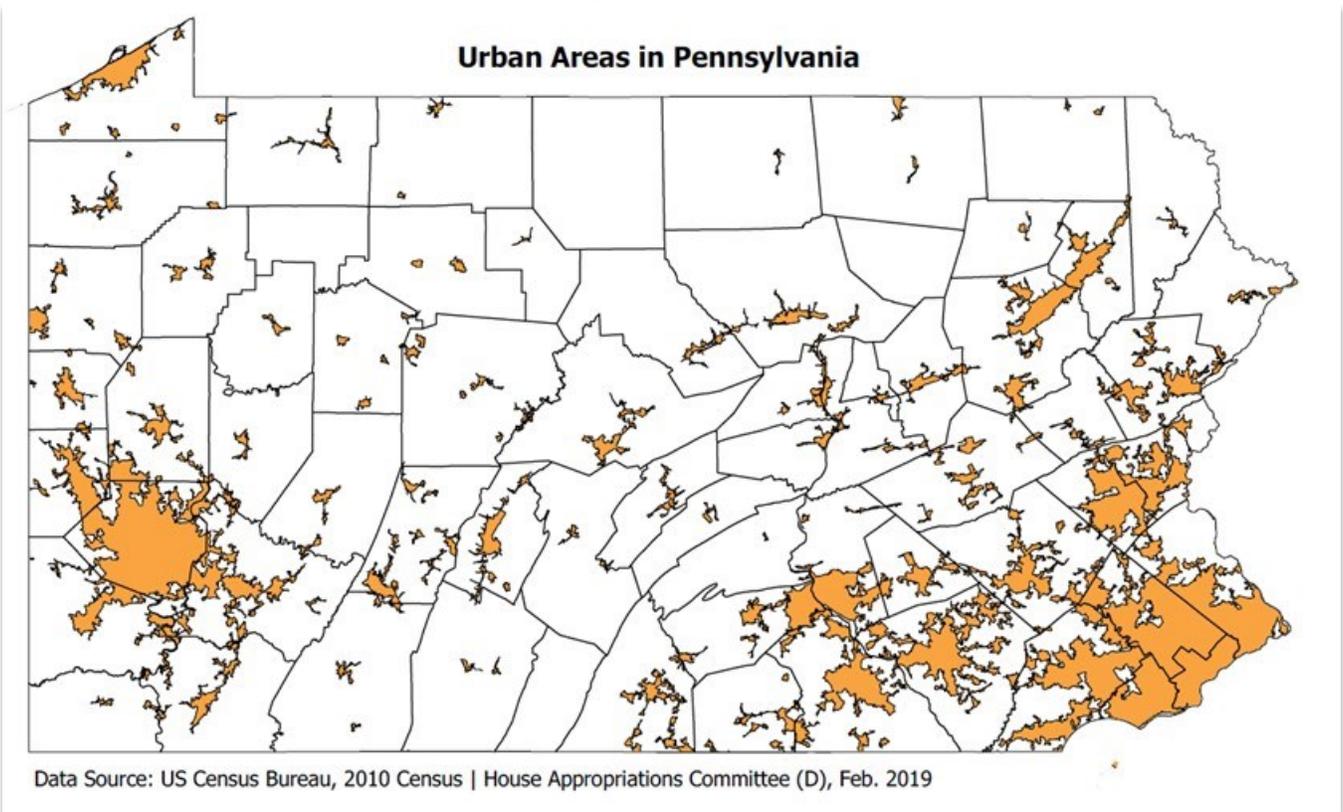
### 3. Governor's proposed fee schedule for municipalities

Proposed Fee Schedule						
Population	Per Capita Fee	Municipalities	%	Population	%	
FT or PT Local	\$0	1,271	49.4%	10,131,952	79.8%	
0 – 2,000	\$8	908	35.3%	765,296	6.0%	
2,000 – 3,000	\$17	166	6.5%	404,779	3.2%	
3,000 – 4,000	\$25	78	3.0%	270,350	2.1%	
4,000 – 5,000	\$33	45	1.8%	201,037	1.6%	
5,000 – 6,000	\$42	32	1.2%	174,668	1.4%	
6,000 – 7,000	\$50	18	0.7%	116,836	0.9%	
7,000 – 8,000	\$58	15	0.6%	112,814	0.9%	
8,000 – 9,000	\$66	4	0.2%	33,216	0.3%	
9,000 – 10,000	\$75	7	0.3%	66,347	0.5%	
10,000 – 11,000	\$83	5	0.2%	53,145	0.4%	
11,000 – 12,000	\$91	3	0.1%	34,014	0.3%	
12,000 – 13,000	\$100	3	0.1%	37,073	0.3%	
13,000 – 14,000	\$108	1	0.0%	13,715	0.1%	
14,000 – 15,000	\$116	4	0.2%	58,589	0.5%	
15,000 – 16,000	\$125	4	0.2%	63,328	0.5%	
16,000 – 17,000	\$133	1	0.0%	16,700	0.1%	
17,000 – 18,000	\$141	3	0.1%	51,621	0.4%	
20,000 +	\$166	3	0.1%	96,481	0.8%	

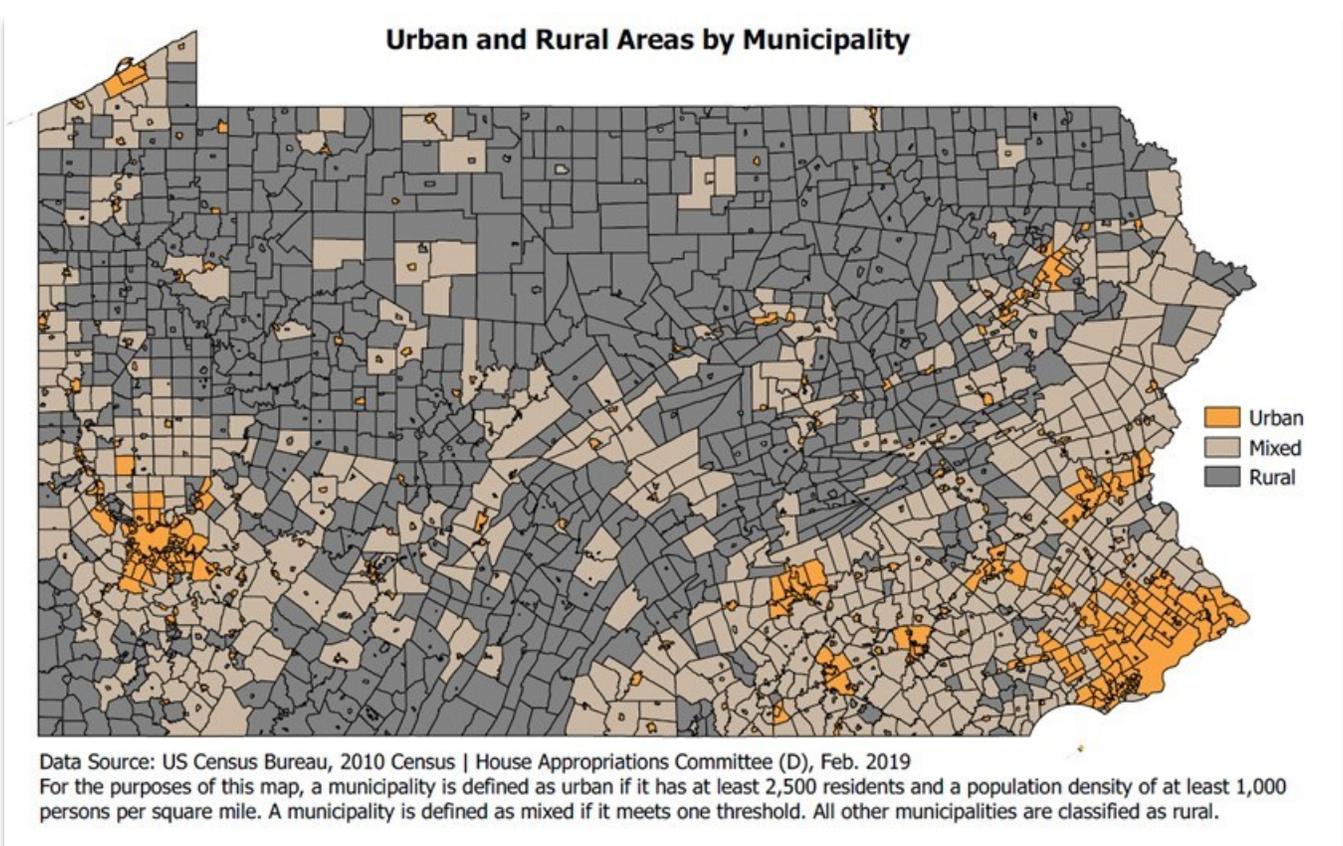
### 4. State Police Coverage in urban and rural municipalities, 2019

Part-Time or Full-Time PSP						
	Municipalities		Area (Sq. Miles)		Population	
<b>Urban</b>	43	2.5%	107	0.3%	202,365	6.0%
<b>Mixed</b>	618	36.0%	11,427	31.1%	2,054,743	61.2%
<b>Rural</b>	1,055	61.5%	25,248	68.6%	1,099,570	32.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>36,782</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3,356,678</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Full-Time Local Police						
	Municipalities		Area (Sq. Miles)		Population	
<b>Urban</b>	422	49.4%	2,286	28.4%	7,142,054	76.4%
<b>Mixed</b>	370	43.3%	5,284	65.6%	2,135,507	22.9%
<b>Rural</b>	63	7.4%	482	6.0%	67,722	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>8,051</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>9,345,283</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 5. Urban areas in Pennsylvania, U.S. Census designations



## 6. Urban and rural areas by municipality in Pennsylvania



### House Appropriations Committee (D)

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