

House Local Government Committee

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Call of the Chair

60 East Wing

AGENDA

Call to Order

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Legislation to be Considered

- **HR 431 (Guzman)** – Designates March 11, 2026 as “Berks County 274th Anniversary Day” in Pennsylvania.
 - **Amendment A-02856 (Freeman)** – Would revise the resolution to designate the period of March 11, 2026 through March 11, 2027 as “Berks County 275th Anniversary Year.”

- **HR 455 (Radar)** – Recognizes the week of April 19 through 25, 2026, as “National Library Week” in Pennsylvania.

- **HR 465 (Freeman)** – Designates the week of April 13 through 17, 2026, as “Local Government Week” and April 22, 2026, as “Local Government Day” in Pennsylvania.

Any Other Business

Adjournment



Local Government Committee

State Representative Robert L. Freeman
Majority Chairman

207 Irvis Office Building • P.O. Box 202136 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2136 • 717-783-3815

April 8, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House Local Government Committee
FROM: Rep. Robert L. Freeman, Majority Chairman
SUBJECT: Voting Meeting Notification – April 15, 2026

Please be advised that the House Local Government Committee will hold a voting meeting on **Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at the Call of the Chair in 60 East Wing.**

The agenda will consist of the following legislation as well as any other business that may come before the committee:

- **HR 431 (Guzman)** – Designates March 11, 2026 as “Berks County 274th Anniversary Day” in Pennsylvania.
- **HR 455 (Radar)** – Recognizes the week of April 19 through 25, 2026, as “National Library Week” in Pennsylvania.
- **HR 465 (Freeman)** – Designates the week of April 13 through 17, 2026, as “Local Government Week” and April 22, 2026, as “Local Government Day” in Pennsylvania.

If you have any questions, please contact Jon Castelli, Executive Director at 717-783-3815 or jcastell@pahouse.net.

Please notify Christina Consylman at cconsylim@pahouse.net with your attendance plans. If you will not be physically present at the meeting, please submit the applicable Vote by Designation Form or Official Leave Request Form to your respective chairman prior to the meeting. For those planning to participate virtually, a Teams link will be forthcoming.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 431 Session of
2026

INTRODUCED BY GUZMAN, MARCH 11, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MARCH 11, 2026

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 11, 2026, as "Berks County 274th Anniversary
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Berks County has a rich cultural, historical and
4 natural heritage, dating back to its founding communities and
5 early settlers; and

6 WHEREAS, Reading, the county seat of Berks County, was
7 founded in 1748 and incorporated as a city on March 16, 1847;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Reading long served as a center of growth and
10 development assisting in the growth of Berks County; and

11 WHEREAS, Berks County has grown from a modest early
12 settlement to a thriving community with a diverse population and
13 a vibrant economy, including industries such as manufacturing,
14 agriculture, health care, tourism, education and services; and

15 WHEREAS, The county has long honored its history through
16 historical societies, archives, markers and community events,
17 highlighting its contributions to this Commonwealth; and

18 WHEREAS, Berks County will soon celebrate its 275th

1 anniversary, marking nearly three centuries since its
2 establishment; and

3 WHEREAS, Berks County formally kicks off its yearlong 275th
4 anniversary celebration on March 11, 2026, continuing throughout
5 the year until 2027, commemorating its heritage, achievements
6 and community spirit; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate March
8 11, 2026, as "Berks County 274th Anniversary Day"; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend the
11 residents, leaders and organizations whose dedication and
12 contributions have made Berks County a vibrant and welcoming
13 place to live, work and raise a family.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	HR0431 PN2985	Prepared By:	Fernando Dysico (717) 783-3815
Committee:	Local Government	Executive Director:	Jon R. Castelli
Sponsor:	Guzman, Manuel		
Date:	3/12/2026		

A. Brief Concept

Recognizes March 11, 2026, as Berks County 274th Anniversary Day.

C. Analysis of the Bill

The resolution would recognize March 11, 2026, as Berks County 274th Anniversary Day and March 11 through December 31, 2026, as Berks County's yearlong 275th anniversary celebration. Further, the resolution commends the residents, leaders, and organizations of Berks County whose contributions make it a vibrant and welcoming place to live, work, and raise a family.

The resolution sets forth the following:

- The county seat of Berks County, Reading, was founded in 1748 and incorporated as a city on March 16, 1847.
- Reading serves a center of growth and development for Berks County.
- Berks County has developed into a thriving community with a diverse population and vibrant economy which includes manufacturing, agriculture, health care, tourism, education, and services.
- Berks County has contributed to the history of Pennsylvania through its historical societies, archives, markers, and community events.

Effective Date:

Upon adoption by the House.

G. Relevant Existing Laws

N/A

E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

N/A

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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 431

Sponsor: *Rep. Freeman*

Printer's No. 2985

1 Amend Resolution, page 1, lines 1 and 2, by striking out all
2 of said lines and inserting

3 Designating March 11, 2026, through March 11, 2027, as "Berks
4 County 275th Anniversary Year" in Pennsylvania.

5 Amend Resolution, page 2, lines 7 through 9, by striking out
6 all of said lines and inserting

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate March
8 11, 2026, through March 11, 2027, as "Berks County 275th
9 Anniversary Year"; and be it further

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 455 Session of
2026

INTRODUCED BY RADER, KUTZ, PICKETT, MERSKI, VENKAT, ISAACSON,
VITALI, FREEMAN, HARKINS, MALAGARI, GREINER, SHUSTERMAN,
HOHENSTEIN, JAMES, CONKLIN, RIVERA, ZIMMERMAN AND KUZMA,
MARCH 20, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MARCH 23, 2026

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of April 19 through 25, 2026, as "National
2 Library Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The first "National Library Week" was observed in
4 1958 with the theme "Wake up and Read!"; and

5 WHEREAS, In the mid-1950s, research showed that Americans
6 were spending less money on books and more on radios,
7 televisions and musical instruments; and

8 WHEREAS, Due to this shift, the American Library Association
9 and the American Book Publishers formed an organization in 1954
10 called the National Book Committee; and

11 WHEREAS, The committee's goals were aimed at encouraging
12 people to read and the individuals involved developed a plan
13 that led to the first "National Library Week"; and

14 WHEREAS, "National Library Week" is an annual celebration
15 that highlights the valuable role of libraries, librarians and
16 library workers; and

17 WHEREAS, Libraries across the United States observe and

1 celebrate this week dedicated to libraries and the impact they
2 have; and

3 WHEREAS, Libraries and the individuals who work there are
4 dedicated to working on transforming lives through the power of
5 reading and strengthening the communities they serve; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition to providing books to the community,
7 libraries also provide technology such as computers that can be
8 used for research; and

9 WHEREAS, Libraries in Pennsylvania serve millions of visitors
10 and conduct programs for children, parents, entrepreneurs,
11 senior citizens and students; and

12 WHEREAS, Librarians and library workers vigorously work to
13 ensure that libraries across this Commonwealth are well equipped
14 to promote learning in their communities; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
16 week of April 19 through 25, 2026, as "National Library Week" in
17 Pennsylvania.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No:	HR0455 PN2985	Prepared By:	Fernando Dysico (717) 783-3815
Committee:	Local Government	Executive Director:	Jon R. Castelli
Sponsor:	Guzman, Manuel		
Date:	3/12/2026		

A. Brief Concept

Recognizes March 11, 2026, as Berks County 274th Anniversary Day.

C. Analysis of the Bill

The resolution would recognize March 11, 2026, as Berks County 274th Anniversary Day and March 11 through December 31, 2026, as Berks County's yearlong 275th anniversary celebration. Further, the resolution commends the residents, leaders, and organizations of Berks County whose contributions make it a vibrant and welcoming place to live, work, and raise a family.

The resolution sets forth the following:

- The county seat of Berks County, Reading, was founded in 1748 and incorporated as a city on March 16, 1847.
- Reading serves a center of growth and development for Berks County.
- Berks County has developed into a thriving community with a diverse population and vibrant economy which includes manufacturing, agriculture, health care, tourism, education, and services.
- Berks County has contributed to the history of Pennsylvania through its historical societies, archives, markers, and community events.

Effective Date:

Upon adoption by the House.

G. Relevant Existing Laws

N/A

E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 465 Session of
2026

INTRODUCED BY FREEMAN, B. MILLER, HILL-EVANS, JAMES, SAMUELSON,
GREINER, WAXMAN, BRENNAN, HARKINS, PICKETT, SANCHEZ, RIVERA,
VITALI, MAYES, VENKAT, NEILSON, MENTZER, COOPER, SAPPEY,
FLEMING, ZIMMERMAN, MALAGARI, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, CIRESI,
DONAHUE, HANBIDGE, MERSKI, GALLAGHER AND BELLMON,
MARCH 31, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, APRIL 1, 2026

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of April 13 through 17, 2026, as "Local
2 Government Week" and April 22, 2026, as "Local Government
3 Day" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Local government in this Commonwealth consists of
5 more than 4,600 individual units, including 67 counties, 56
6 cities, 93 townships of the first class, more than 1,400
7 townships of the second class, 950 boroughs, one incorporated
8 town and more than 1,500 municipal authorities; and

9 WHEREAS, Nearly 140,000 employees work on behalf of local
10 governments to provide services, programs and facilities for
11 nearly 13 million residents of this Commonwealth, ranging from
12 the special purpose functions of counties and municipal
13 authorities in the areas of education, judicial administration,
14 social welfare and the provision of water and sewer services to
15 more general purpose functions of cities, townships, boroughs
16 and towns such as the maintenance of roads and streets, police

1 and fire protection, emergency medical services as well as the
2 enforcement of ordinances and land-use controls; and

3 WHEREAS, Local government relies on thousands of dedicated
4 hardworking citizen officials, many of whom work without reward,
5 including more than 1,700 volunteer firefighters; and

6 WHEREAS, Residents of this Commonwealth rely upon the
7 dedication of their local officials in meeting many of the
8 residents' most fundamental needs in virtually all facets of
9 daily life; and

10 WHEREAS, Local government stands as the level of government
11 closest to the people, positioning itself as a keystone to our
12 democracy and political system; and

13 WHEREAS, "Local Government Week" and "Local Government Day"
14 focus attention on the need for a strong, independent and
15 responsive local government in this Commonwealth and recognize
16 the valuable contributions made by residents serving their
17 communities; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
19 week of April 13 through 17, 2026, as "Local Government Week"
20 and April 22, 2026, as "Local Government Day" in Pennsylvania;
21 and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend and thank
23 local government officials for their crucial efforts and
24 significant contributions to this Commonwealth as the unsung
25 heroes of government.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	HR0465 PN2985	Prepared By:	Fernando Dysico (717) 783-3815
Committee:	Local Government	Executive Director:	Jon R. Castelli
Sponsor:	Guzman, Manuel		
Date:	3/12/2026		

A. Brief Concept

Recognizes March 11, 2026, as Berks County 274th Anniversary Day.

C. Analysis of the Bill

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