



Pennsylvania
**Commission on Crime
and Delinquency**

**2025
ANNUAL
REPORT**

**Constables'
Education and
Training Board**

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The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

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Constables' Education and Training Board

2025 Annual Report

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A Message from the Chairman of the Constables' Education and Training Board:

This report, which provides details on activities pertaining to the Constables' Education and Training Board (CETB) during the calendar year 2025, serves as a review of the CETB's accomplishments and future goals. It is my pleasure to present this report to you.

The CETB was established by Act 1994-44, known as the Constables' Education and Training Act, to oversee the training and certification of constables and deputy constables in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The CETB operates under the oversight and with staff support of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). On October 9, 2009, Act 1994-44 (Title 42 Pa.C.S.) was amended by Act 2009-49 and is now codified in 44 Pa.C.S. Chapter 71 (relating to constables). The CETB continues to implement and enhance the training and certification processes outlined in 44 Pa.C.S. Chapter 71, Subchapter E (relating to training).

In 2025, the CETB provided 20 hours of continuing education, consisting of three online courses—*Civil Review and Levies*, *Domestic Violence*, and *Human Trafficking*—and one classroom course: *Mechanics of Arrest*.

Additionally, the Constables Education and Training Program (Training Program) offered an eight-hour Annual Firearms Qualification Course, which included a safety and administration briefing, a written examination, and the Constables' Qualification Course of Fire. In response to identified training needs, the CETB approved an expansion of the course to eight hours. The revised course incorporated foundational firearms instruction prior to the qualification component.

Program staff continue to revise and update the Training Program by initiating an analysis of trends related to services provided by Constables, particularly those that generate Constables' Education Training Act fees. To support this effort, the Training Program received data from the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) detailing the types of work assigned to constables and the services that generate the fees funding the Training Program.

Despite continuing financial shortfalls and building on the progress made over the past 30 years, the CETB remains committed to meeting the training needs of the Commonwealth's constable population and advancing the development of online training.



Constable Joshua Stouch
Board Chairman

CONSTABLES' EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Craig Westover, Chair (Former)
Constable, Venango County

Joshua Stouch Chair (Current)
Constable, Montgomery County

Patricia Norwood-Foden, Vice-Chair
Court Administrator, Chester County

Wilden H. Davis
Judge, Chester County

Harry Albert
Constable, Lebanon County

Gerard McShea*
Major, Pennsylvania State Police

Albert Abramovic
Venango County Commissioner

*Representing Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner Colonel Christopher L. Paris

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

Lt. Gov. Austin A. Davis
Chair, PCCD

Kirsten Kenyon
Executive Director, PCCD

Jacqueline Weaknecht, Director
Office of Justice Programs

Kathy Clarke, Deputy Director
Bureau of Training Services

Tracy Beaver, Supervisor
Constables' Education and
Training Program

Nicholas Hartman
Constables' Education and
Training Program

2025 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

The 2025 Annual Report marks the 26th report submitted by the CETB to the Governor and the General Assembly, in accordance with 44 Pa.C.S. § 7144 (relating to program established). This report outlines the administration of the Constables' Education and Training Program, the activities of the CETB, program costs, and proposed changes to constable training and education.

For over 30 years, PCCD's Bureau of Training Services has worked to enhance the delivery of services to the citizens of the Commonwealth. These efforts have included the development and delivery of state-of-the-art curriculum, timely and accurate constable certification and recertification, and the coordination of two regional training delivery contractors and one curriculum development contractor.

The following accomplishments were achieved in 2025:

- 33 newly elected and appointed constables and deputy constables successfully completed the 80-hour Basic Training Course and obtained certification.
- 716 constables successfully completed 20 hours of combined classroom and online training to fulfill the Continuing Education Training requirement to maintain certification.*
- 26 constables successfully completed the 40-hour Basic Firearms Training course and attained firearms certification.
- 540 constables successfully completed the 8-hour Annual Firearms Qualification course required to carry a firearm while performing judicial duties.

PCCD's [CETB](#) and [Training Program](#) webpages provide comprehensive information on constable training, including:

- Annual Reports of the CETB
- Applicable statutes and regulations
- Recent editions of the Constables' Training Bulletins
- Current schedule of all training courses
- Calendar of CETB meetings and approved minutes
- Relevant training forms
- The "Constable Finder" tool, which enables website visitors to locate certified constables across the Commonwealth.

The CETB looks forward to enhancing the administration and delivery of its programs to ensure they effectively meet the needs of constables and deputy constables and the justice system they serve.

*Please note that due to the continual turnover of constables' and deputy constables' terms of office and professional liability insurance lapses, the number of certified constables and deputy constables certifying and re-certifying each year changes. The training numbers represented in this Annual Report are based upon a snapshot in time of initial certifications and annual re-certifications.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF CONSTABLES' TRAINING

The Commonwealth's Comptroller maintains the training funds in a special restricted account (Fund Account) as required by 44 Pa.C.S. §7149 (relating to restricted account). In coordination with the Comptroller, PCCD is responsible for disbursements from the account to support the development, delivery, and administration of the training program.

The sole source of funding for the CETB Training Program is a \$5 surcharge assessed for each service provided by a constable or deputy constable. This surcharge has remained unchanged since the Training Program's inception in 1994.

The CETB and PCCD staff have reviewed and discussed the status of training surcharge collections, which have plateaued and slightly declined over the past few years. Since revenue generation is dependent on the surcharge being accurately assessed and fully collected, and PCCD is not responsible for this assessment or collection, the CETB has expressed concerns about the long-term sustainability of the Training Program. In response, Board members have considered potential legislative solutions to address this longstanding issue.

As an administrative measure to mitigate revenue decreases and rising training costs, the CETB reduced the required annual training hours in 2019. This allowed for a strategic reallocation of funds toward the development and introduction of online continuing education. Online training has proven to be more cost-effective and offers the CETB greater flexibility in delivering high-quality training to the constable population. As a result, funds were redirected to support the design and development of three online training courses.

The CETB and PCCD will continue cost-control efforts and will monitor and evaluate both the collection of the training surcharge and the number of certified constables performing judiciary duties.

CONSTABLES' EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACCOUNT COMBINED STATEMENT

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY CONSTABLES EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACCOUNT COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES for Calendar Year 2025 - January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

REVENUE:

Fee Collections	\$1,622,516.31
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EXPENDITURES:

Administrative	\$574,616.83
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Education

Training	\$1,178,225.82
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Online Training	\$100,645.99
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Curriculum Development	\$444,399.59
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Curriculum Manager	<u>\$58,151.47</u>
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Total Education Expenditures	<u>\$1,781,422.87</u>
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Total Expenditures	<u>\$2,356,039.70</u>
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Revenue Over Expenditures and Other Uses	-\$733,523.39
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PROGRAM BALANCE

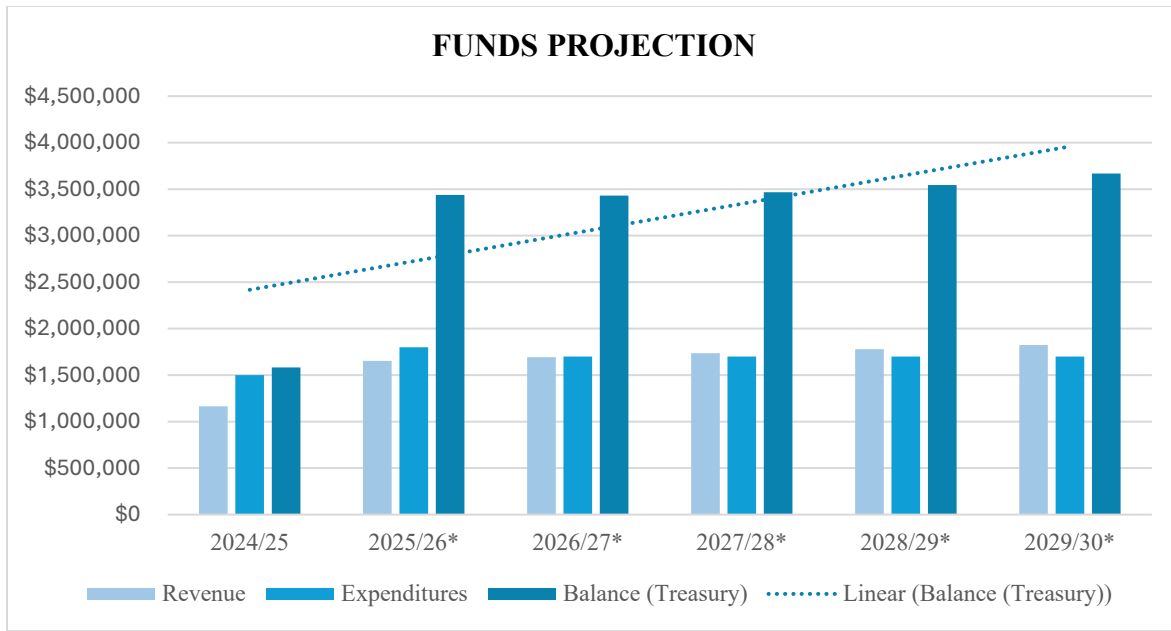
Cash balance at December 31, 2025	<u>\$4,010,473.83</u>
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Cash balance at December 31, 2025	\$3,276,950.44
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Commitments at December 31, 2025	-\$3,315,895.80 *
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Program Balance at December 31, 2025	<u><u>-\$38,945.36</u></u>
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* Includes multiple commitments in excess of one year



Year	Revenue	Expenditures	Balance (Treasury)
2024/25*	\$1,165,113	\$1,500,000	\$1,582,143
2025/26*	\$1,652,162	\$1,800,000	\$3,436,648
2026/27*	\$1,693,300	\$1,700,000	\$3,429,948
2027/28*	\$1,735,633	\$1,700,000	\$3,465,851
2028/29*	\$1,779,024	\$1,700,000	\$3,544,605
2029/30*	\$1,823,500	\$1,700,000	\$3,668,105

Source: Fiscal projections 2/12/2026 CETB packet

TRAINING CURRICULUM AND DELIVERY

As part of its statutory responsibility to establish, implement, and administer basic training and continuing education requirements for constables and deputy constables, the CETB consults, cooperates, and contracts with institutions of higher education to develop both basic and continuing education courses.

The Penn State University Justice and Safety Institute serves as the regional training delivery contractor for the Northwest and Southwest Regions of the Commonwealth, while Temple University fulfills this role for the Northeast and Southeast Regions. These partnerships ensure consistent, high-quality training delivery across all geographical areas.

In 2025, the CETB and Program staff partnered with Temple University to create training curricula for both the Constables' and Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Programs. In 2026, the Training Program plans to leverage its online training platform to introduce new subject matter across various training types.

The CETB and Program staff will continue efforts to implement credit and debit card payment options for processing fees associated with the Basic Training and Basic Firearms Training courses. This initiative aims to modernize the payment process by reducing reliance on postal mail and enabling more accurate and timely accounting and auditing of course payments.

Throughout 2025, the CETB conducted a comprehensive review of existing Board Regulations with the goal of integrating current Board Policies, implementing general updates, and addressing inconsistencies within the regulatory framework. The CETB anticipates submitting these proposed revisions to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) in 2026, representing a significant step toward regulatory modernization and improved alignment of the Training Program.

At its August 11, 2022 meeting, the CETB approved a motion to eliminate the Basic Training Waiver for law enforcement officers. This action was subsequently approved by the Commission at its September 2022 meeting. As part of the ongoing regulatory revision process, all references to the waiver procedure will be removed from the Board's regulations to reflect this policy change and ensure consistency throughout the regulatory framework.

A summary of the Basic Training curriculum used during 2025 begins on page 10 of this report and the summary of the 2025 Continuing Education curriculum begins on page 12.

2025 CONSTABLES' BASIC TRAINING: 80-HOUR CURRICULUM

Role of the Constable in the Justice System (3 hours online, 1 hour in person)

This block of instruction provided an overview of the evolutionary development of the constable in Pennsylvania. It clarified the constable's legal responsibilities, as well as identified civil liability issues that may affect the office of the constable. In addition, constables were presented with a working knowledge of the Pennsylvania justice system.

Professional Development I – Formal Communication (4 hours)

Formal communications are an important skill in any profession. Given the position of the constable in Pennsylvania's judicial system, it is especially important for constables to understand the importance of formal communications and how it impacts their day-to-day operations. This course included an introduction to basic interview skills along with the basic principles of report writing.

Professional Development II – Professional Conduct (4 hours)

This course was developed to facilitate constables' understanding of the issues of professional conduct and how they impact their day-to-day operations. An introduction to the development of moral standards and the importance of ethics for constables was presented. Other specific areas that were discussed included individual responsibility and standards, relationships with the community, and cultural diversity.

Civil Law and Process (12 hours)

This instruction focused on many of the constable's duties of civil procedure, including service of process. The topic considered procedural rules that are applicable throughout the Commonwealth under Title 246, Minor Court Civil Rules, while directing constables to be cognizant of local rules and customs. Specific emphasis was placed on the citation of rules of Chapters 200, 300, 400, 500, 800, and 1200. Additionally, Title 42, Chapter 62A, Protection of Victims of Sexual Violence or Intimidation (Act 25 of 2014, which became effective July 1, 2015) was reviewed.

Criminal Law and Process (8 hours)

This course introduced constables to the history and development of criminal law in Pennsylvania. Constables' specific duties within the criminal process were highlighted, as well as their authority and responsibilities in the areas of arrest, accountability for property and monies, and the most current law addressing constable authority.

Use of Force (4 hours)

This training reviewed the legal issues associated with the proper application of force and when the use of force is justified by law and authorized under the provisions of the Crimes Code. Additionally, the subject explored the use of force continuum and less-lethal force options.

Mechanics of Arrest (8 hours)

This course covered proper techniques for the arrest of both compliant and non-compliant persons, applying subject control and takedowns when necessary, and handcuffing techniques. It also consisted of practical exercises performing the tactics, as well as classroom lecture.

2025 CONSTABLES' BASIC TRAINING: 80-HOUR CURRICULUM CONTINUED

Defensive Tactics (10 ½ hours)

Defensive Tactics introduced concepts and techniques for defense against armed and unarmed attackers and weapon retention while under attack. It included basic patterns of movement, reactionary gap and interview stance, ground fighting, blocks and kicks, controls and arm locks, basic techniques against knife and club attacks, and checking threats of attack from behind.

Prisoner Transport (4 hours)

This course provided Pennsylvania constables with the procedures to properly handle prisoners in correctional facilities, in a transport vehicle, during movement, and throughout escort into court. The training also addressed numerous variables of prisoner transport, including constable safety, prisoner movement preparations, proper control and restraint, and special considerations such as pregnant or suicidal prisoners. It also provided constables with actions and precautions that they can employ to reduce the possibility that a prisoner will escape their custody or that a problem will occur during transport.

Court Security (4 hours)

This block of instruction provided an overview of the constable's role in courtroom security. It provided an overview of courtroom security intended to increase awareness of potential issues that may arise, including threatening behavior, search procedures, and response to emergencies.

Crisis Intervention (5 ½ hours)

This course presented an understanding of basic approaches to defuse confrontations that could evolve into life-threatening situations, with emphasis on understanding the signs of aggression, recognizing behavioral signals, avoiding potentially dangerous situations, and minimizing risk. The course also discussed the advantage of developing and maintaining acute listening skills as they relate to possible confrontational situations and de-escalation.

OCAT Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) (4 hours)

This block of instruction covered the practical applications of OC spray. The class was divided into lectures and practical exercises. Lectures covered the characteristics, effects, proper usage, and decontamination of OC spray, as well as a review of the use-of-force continuum. Practical exercises reviewed proper carrying and drawing techniques, body positioning, proxemics, patterns of movement, and spraying. Scenarios covered spraying a combative subject in a variety of settings, including single-constable, contact/cover, and constable-down situations.

Baton Tactics (4 hours)

This course provided training for both straight and expendable baton techniques as a method of controlling non-compliant or violent individuals, in circumstances constables may encounter during the execution of their duties. The content of the training covered identification of threat recognition, threat reduction, and the execution of a myriad of tactical measures to render compliance and/or to mount defensive techniques for constable safety.

2025 CONSTABLES' BASIC TRAINING: 80-HOUR CURRICULUM CONTINUED

Management of Aggressive Behavior (MOAB) (4 hours)

MOAB presented principles, techniques, and skills for recognizing, reducing and managing violent and aggressive behavior. The program also provided humane and compassionate methods for dealing with aggressive behavior.

Every Constable's Worst Nightmare (1 hour)

Constables, when performing their assigned duties, face risk every day. Constables are trained to recognize and minimize risk whenever possible. However, there are situations in which a constable can follow the law, effectively use their training, take reasonable precautions, and still have a situation degrade suddenly and lead to a disastrous outcome. This class examined a situation wherein a constable who was performing an eviction pursuant to an Order for Possession faced a sudden and violent threat from an armed subject that led to the death of an innocent 12-year-old girl. Factors that led up to the incident; what the constable knew prior to the incident; and his actions before, during and after the encounter were examined. This course examined the legal aspects of the incident, the necessity of having a plan, and the importance of training and skill development. This course also reviewed the support mechanisms that were made available to the constable in the aftermath of the incident and how the constable interacted with law enforcement, prosecutors, and the media. It also addressed the personal and psychological impacts that followed.

2025 CONTINUING EDUCATION: 20-HOUR CURRICULUM

To maintain certification for the 2026 calendar year, constables and deputy constables were required to successfully complete 20 hours of continuing education. Upon fulfillment of this requirement during the 2025 training cycle, certification cards were issued to eligible constables and deputy constables in December 2025, indicating their compliance with the CETB's education requirements.

Civil Review and Levies (4 hours online)

This course reviewed constable-involved civil actions relating to levies, including the enforcement of monetary judgments and the recovery of possession of real property, as well as civil law updates, including amended statutes and new rules. Lastly, legal reminders of remaining constable-involved civil actions were covered.

Domestic Violence (4 hours online)

Constables may come upon different issues while performing their court-ordered assignments. Many times, victims or defendants will ask constables for advice while they are serving a court civil complaint or searching for a defendant who has a warrant for them. First and foremost, the constable should never give legal advice, but the constable can guide the victim of domestic abuse to the proper agencies. This course educated constables on what domestic violence is, explained protection orders, described their responsibilities when observing domestic violence, and assisted them in guiding victims to appropriate resources.

Human Trafficking (4 hours online)

This course offered an in-depth overview of the crime of human trafficking. The course dispelled myths and misconceptions on who trafficking victims are and where they live. The

course provided information on the various forms of human trafficking and indicators of trafficking. The goal of the course was to help constables recognize potential labor and sex trafficking situations they may encounter in the course of their duties and to respond appropriately.

Mechanics of Arrest (8 hours in person)

This course was designed to provide constables with the proper procedures for pre-planning and the physical operations involved in executing an arrest. Constables also completed a refresher on de-escalation and use-of-force. A variety of scenarios and drills were incorporated to support both learning and assessments.

FIREARMS TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION

Pursuant to 44 Pa.C.S. §7148, which pertains to the use of firearms, the CETB and PCCD are authorized to establish standards for the certification or qualification of constables and deputy constables to carry or use firearms in the performance of official duties. In alignment with this statutory mandate, the CETB and PCCD have designated firearms qualification as an annual requirement, consistent with the structure of Continuing Education. Constables who successfully complete firearms training within a given calendar year are certified to carry firearms in the performance of their duties during the following calendar year.

Constables who have obtained and maintained certification pursuant to 44 Pa.C.S. §7142, which governs conduct and insurance requirements, are eligible to attend firearms training and qualification courses. After achieving initial certification to carry a firearm in the performance of their duties, constables are required to attend and successfully complete the CETB approved Annual Firearms Qualification Course each calendar year to maintain their firearms certification status.

For those constables who wish to be firearms certified, Program staff verifies if individuals are legally eligible to possess, use, control, sell, transfer, or manufacture a firearm—or to obtain a license to do so—within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This determination is made in accordance with the prohibitions outlined in 18 Pa.C.S. §6105 and 18 U.S.C. §922(g), which set forth disqualifying conditions for firearm possession under state and federal law. Accordingly, program staff conduct a comprehensive criminal history background check, including a review for active Protection from Abuse (PFA) orders.

For several years, the Training Program explored potential updates to the firearms qualification course-of-fire. A revised course-of-fire was developed and first implemented in the 2010 Constable Firearms Qualification Course. While it retains the dual-phase qualification, the more simplified NRA TQ-19 center mass target was utilized which duplicates “real world” scenarios while ensuring range safety. The course-of-fire also includes the use of barricades, moving to cover, and using verbal challenges at some stages.

In 2025, two Basic Firearms Training classes were conducted, and 28 constables achieved their initial firearms certification. During the same period, 36 Annual Firearms Qualification classes were held with a total of 568 constables successfully maintaining their firearms certification in accordance with the mandates of Act 49.

The 40-Hour Basic Firearms Training Course was designed to provide newly elected or appointed constables and deputy constables with essential instruction in accepted law enforcement firearms techniques. The course includes training on marksmanship, the five-count draw, re-holstering, loading and unloading, and reduced-light shooting. For the past 18 years, judgmental shooting has been a part of the curriculum using Laser Shot® Judgmental Shooting scenarios.

The 2025 8-Hour Annual Firearms Qualification Course consisted of a written test, administrative procedures, a safety briefing, and the Constable Qualification Course (CQC) of fire. In both the basic and annual firearms training courses, participants are required to pass a written exam and a qualification course-of-fire that tests the skills taught during the course. To achieve certification, individuals must attain a minimum score of 75% on both the written exam and the range qualification.

CONSTABLE CERTIFICATIONS

Since the inception of the Training Program, a total of 4,894 individuals have been certified by the CETB. Of these, 4,206 successfully completed the 80-Hour Basic Training Course, while 688 successfully completed the waiver examination. Certification is granted upon completion of the 80-Hour Basic Training Course, which is established by the CETB. Constables who fail Basic Training are afforded two additional attempts to attend and pass the training course under the current CETB Regulation on Basic Training. The constable or deputy constable bears the financial responsibility for the two additional attempts to attend and pass the 80-Hour Basic Training Course.

CERTIFIED CONSTABLES BY COUNTY IN 2025

County Name	Certified	Not Certified	Has Valid Term Dates	Firearms Certified
Adams	17	8	25	15
Allegheny	100	49	149	76
Armstrong	5	5	10	5
Beaver	17	9	26	14
Bedford	5	2	7	5
Berks	33	16	49	24
Blair	8	5	13	7
Bradford	11	5	16	10
Bucks	33	15	48	23
Butler	9	8	17	7
Cambria	7	5	12	7
Cameron	0	1	1	0
Carbon	9	2	11	4
Centre	14	5	19	12
Chester	35	23	58	17
Clarion	3	2	5	3
Clearfield	5	3	8	5
Clinton	4	2	6	3
Columbia	4	8	12	4
Crawford	3	4	7	3
Cumberland	15	4	19	14
Dauphin	14	10	24	9
Delaware	38	23	61	27
Elk	1	0	1	1
Erie	15	6	21	16
Fayette	21	10	31	18
Forest	0	1	1	1
Franklin	11	3	14	10
Fulton	0	0	0	0
Greene	4	2	6	4
Huntingdon	2	5	7	1
Indiana	4	3	7	4
Jefferson	2	3	5	1
Juniata	0	0	0	0
Lackawanna	16	13	29	10
Lancaster	36	13	49	32
Lawrence	6	6	12	3
Lebanon	16	1	17	15
Lehigh	12	9	21	7

Luzerne	37	21	58	26
Lycoming	5	5	10	5
McKean	4	3	7	3
Mercer	11	11	22	9
Mifflin	1	3	4	1
Monroe	20	4	24	18
Montgomery	37	13	50	24
Montour	1	2	3	1
Northampton	19	11	30	18
Northumberland	7	3	10	5
Perry	12	2	14	12
Philadelphia	0	0	0	0
Pike	2	9	11	2
Potter	0	1	1	0
Schuylkill	4	5	9	2
Snyder	3	3	6	3
Somerset	4	7	11	1
Sullivan	0	0	0	0
Susquehanna	9	1	10	7
Tioga	3	3	6	3
Union	3	3	6	3
Venango	7	4	11	7
Warren	5	1	6	4
Washington	32	16	48	21
Wayne	9	2	11	8
Westmoreland	23	17	40	15
Wyoming	4	3	7	3
York	34	12	46	31
Total	831	454	1285	649

* Due to changing term dates, insurance dates, and certification dates, this list is valid only on the day it is generated. Reporting Date: 12/31/2025.

CONSTABLES' TRAINING BULLETINS

Since its inception, the Program has issued [Constables' Training Bulletins](#) to disseminate information to constables, magisterial district judges, court administrators, clerks of courts, and other members of the Commonwealth's justice system. Contents of the bulletins issued during 2025 are summarized below and are also located on PCCD's website. In addition, each December, the Program issues a schedule of constable training classes and curriculum for the following training year.

Constables' Training Bulletin Number 120, January 2025

Training Bulletin 120 announced the opening of the 2025 Online Training opening on January 21, 2025, and outlined the 2025 Continuing Education requirements needed for recertification. The Bulletin also informed constables of the change of updated hours and ammunition requirements for the annual firearms class and reminded them to update their liability insurance. Additionally, it included the 2025 Board meeting schedule, noted revisions to Title 246, and provided guidance for resolving Keystone Login issues.

Constables' Training Bulletin Number 121, April 2025

Training Bulletin 121 welcomed Major Gerard McShea as the newest member of the Board and introduced Kathy Clarke as the new Deputy Director of the Bureau of Training Services. Constables were reminded to submit their Statements of Financial Interest before the May 1st deadline. The bulletin also provided information on the enrollment process for Basic Training and Basic Firearms enrollment, along with guidance on where to locate Board Meeting agendas.

Constables' Training Bulletin Number 122, November 2025

Training Bulletin 122 welcomed Venango County Commissioner Albert Abramovic as the newest member to the Board. The bulletin included reminders for the deadline to complete online subjects required for recertification. It also announced the date the 2026 Training Schedule would be released and provided weapon safety reminders. In addition, constables were reminded to verify the accuracy of their mailing addresses to ensure proper delivery of their 2026 identification cards.