

GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY

APRIL 2017

ADVANCING THE MANUFACTURING AND SMALL BUSINESS

Minimum Wage Survey Your Input Requested

Deadline Friday, April 7

Governor Wolf has called for an increase from \$7.25 to \$12.00 per hour starting July 1, 2017 with no phase-in period, which made the minimum wage issue climb to the top of the small business agenda.

There's still time to complete this survey if you missed it the first time around. We've had an overwhelming response from other organizations who have joined together to send the survey to their members. Together we now have more than 400+ responses, but SMC would like to grow that number even more. There is power in numbers! The results and comments will be compiled to determine where small employers stand.

SURVEY

Pennsylvania's New Tax Amnesty Program Plan Now For Peace of Mind

By Joseph P. Nicola, Jr., JD, CPA, CVA, Tax Partner, Sisterson & Co. LLP

On July 13, 2016, Governor Tom Wolf signed Act 84 of 2016 authorizing the Pennsylvania Tax Amnesty Program. This program presents a nice opportunity for taxpayers to become fully compliant with their Pennsylvania tax obligations while minimizing or eliminating the pain associated with penalties and interest. The amnesty period is short, beginning on April 21, 2017 and ending on June 19, 2017, and generally covers all delinquent Pennsylvania state taxes as of December 31, 2015. As such, taxpayers should begin planning immediately by reviewing their records to determine whether any potentially outstanding tax liabilities exist. [Read More>>](#)

Harrisburg Grassroots Lobbying Trip

Monday, May 8, 2017, 7:00 am - 10:00 pm.



This is a wonderful opportunity to travel with your colleagues and walk the halls of the State Capitol. The day includes a luncheon and dinner with guest speakers, and an afternoon of visits

to lawmakers' offices. Travelers are trained on talking points and divided into 5 teams led by captains. They lead the office discussion and focus on SMC's key agenda items. Team members are strongly encouraged to join the conversation. It is democracy in action.

Registration Deadline - April 14, 2017 [Read More>>](#)

RECAP

State of the Association 2016

SMC's Mission is to build a pro-business environment in Pennsylvania

By Eileen Anderson, Director, SMC Government Relations

LOBBYING

Goal: Educate lawmakers about the issues of top concern to small business.

Reform Pennsylvania's State and Municipal Pension Systems – Pension-related costs are the state's number one fiscal problem. At the end of 2015, the state employee and teachers' pension systems had an unfunded liability of more than \$63 billion. Mandated cost growth is outstripping revenue growth and crippling the state's ability to invest. Lawmakers were unable to reach consensus on reform. The PA House was 3 votes short for the final attempt at passage of pension reform legislation thus kicking the issue into the next legislative session. [Read More>>](#)