

Pennsylvania Priorities

Pension Reform

PA State Grange strongly supports efforts by the General Assembly to address the insolvency of the state pension funds with a strategy for long term reform and actuarial stability. Higher pension costs for school districts directly affect farmers and homeowners with higher property tax rates.

Legal Notices

PA State Grange supports legislation to authorize local governments to publish legal notices electronically as an optional alternative to newspaper advertising. Many citizens do not subscribe to newspapers but receive all their news via computer sources. Transparency of local government requires legal notices to be accessible on the web.

Gas Royalties



PA State Grange supports legislation to require natural gas companies to pay the full contracted royalty to lessees with no deductions. PA law requires 12.5% royalty to be paid to the owner of the gas rights, but some drillers have been deducting expenses from this royalty check so that the owner receives much less.

Federal Priorities

Immigration Reform

PA State Grange supports immigration reform to establish an effective and fair policy that provides a sensible path to citizenship while providing necessary farm labor at an affordable rate. Growers and producers across the country are heavily dependent on immigrant workers for harvesting crops and performing other farm activities.

Waters of the U.S.

PA State Grange calls on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers to



abandon their proposed regulations on "Waters of the U.S." The new regulations are a serious overreach of EPA's authority under the Clean Water Act to control only "navigable waters". They will empower the EPA to regulate nearly every body of water, from rivers to puddles.

Power Plants

PA State Grange opposes EPA's proposed greenhouse gas rule to impose stricter and more expensive regulations on existing coal burning power plants. Reliable electricity is the lifeblood of every business, community, and home in America. The rule will result in higher electricity costs, power plant closures, and job losses, as well as higher fertilizer and machinery costs for farmers.

"Giving a voice to rural America, and specifically rural Pennsylvania, has been a priority of the Grange since it was founded in the mid-1800's. Our members work together to advocate for policies that benefit rural America and make our communities better places to live and work."

-Elizabeth Downey, PA State Grange President

"The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is fortunate to have a long-standing, rewarding relationship with the Pennsylvania State Grange. Similar goals allow us to promote and support our state's leading industry - agriculture - to ensure a viable future for our farm families and businesses."

-George Greig, Past Secretary of Agriculture & Grange Member

What is the Grange?



The Grange is a family organization, dedicated to improving the American way of life through community service, education, and legislation.

In 1867 the National Grange became the first nationwide fraternal farm organization. It is the first national organization to give full voice and vote to women.

Each year, Grange policies affect local, state, and national legislation. The development of Grange policy starts at the local level, making us truly a grass roots organization.

Pennsylvania's number one industry is agriculture, and the Pennsylvania State Grange is proud to continue supporting farms and farm families. In addition to that support the Grange gives all its members a voice in every aspects of the legislature. Throughout the Commonwealth our members are involved in setting Grange policy.

*American Values.
Hometown Roots.*

Setting Grange Policy

One of the basic fundamentals of the Grange is its adherence to "grass roots" policy development. Nearly every policy statement issued by the National or State Grange, begins at a Community Grange meeting. These local Granges have been the foundation and strength of the organization since its inception in 1867.

Resolutions can also come to the State Grange through the Pomona or county level. All approved resolutions from the local and county levels are submitted to the Pennsylvania State Grange for discussion and action by the delegates at their annual convention.

The priorities in this brochure are identified from the resolutions adopted at the 2014 annual convention. A complete listing of PA State Grange policy statements can be found in our Legislative Summary handbook, available at www.pagrange.org or by contacting the State Grange office.

Resolutions to be considered at the 2015 annual convention are due to the State Grange in September. More information and deadlines will be in *The Advocate*.

For More Information About Granges In Your Area, Contact:

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Legislative Priorities



Pennsylvania State Grange



The Grange is a fraternal family organization dedicated to the betterment of rural America through community service, education, legislation, and fellowship.