

## **Pennsylvania Joint State Government Commission Releases Report on Common Interest Communities**

In December 2011, the Joint State Government Commission of Pennsylvania released a detailed study outlining the relationship between Common Interest Ownership Communities (CIOCs) and municipal governments in the Commonwealth. The commission report was ordered after the adoption of HR 350 in 2009, which directed the commission to study the relationship between state and local governments and homeowners associations. The report analyzed the impact of CIOCs in Pennsylvania by collecting information from communities and their residents to better determine how infrastructure development, the municipal tax burden on residents of CIOCs and potential access to state funding sources affects CIOCs as well as local government.

The commission study includes suggestions of how municipalities and CIOCs can better work together for the benefit of all stakeholders. It also recommends how the state may better serve CIOCs while advocating for better and more detailed record keeping and statistical information gathering regarding CIOCs in the Commonwealth. Specifically, the report offers 11 recommendations that focus on a spirit of cooperation between municipalities and CIOCs. The report addresses the interest of three primary stakeholders in CIOCs including building developers, municipal officials and homeowners. A total of 39 counties participated in supplying the commission with data for the report. This equates to 60% of counties in Pennsylvania providing data to the commission for the study. The study covered 2,097 CIOCs containing 121,679 residential units. The complete report can be found [here](#).