



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16, 2026

FAYETTE COUNTY RECEIVES KEYSTONE ENTERPRISE ZONE DESIGNATION

Uniontown, PA – Fayette County has taken another step forward in economic development with its recent designation as a Keystone Enterprise Zone.

The designation was approved by the Shapiro Administration after more than three years of work by the Department of Community and Economic Development, Fay-Penn Economic Development Council, the Fayette County Commissioners and the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette.

The Keystone program is a state-designated economic development tool that uses targeted geographic zones to encourage business investment and job creation. Companies that locate or expand within these zones may qualify for significant tax incentives, including credits that can offset state tax liability. The goal is to make it more competitive for communities to attract new businesses while helping companies reduce costs as they grow and create jobs locally.

Commissioner Chairman Scott Dunn noted, "This designation is a major step forward for Fayette County. It positions us to better compete for new investment, support the growth of our existing businesses, and continue building a stronger economic future for our communities."

"I'm glad to see that this is approved on a state level now," Commissioner Vince Vicites added. "It not only gives the county another tool in the toolbox for economic development; it also gives a tax credit to businesses. (There was) a lot of work involved in designating the zones in the county and getting approval, but this is good news. It will help our economic development efforts."

The goal of the program is to assist with investments by approved private, for-profit companies. Eligible projects include those that involve rehabilitation, improvements to land or buildings, expansion, architecture, engineering and acquisition.

Fayette County Economic Development Coordinator Mark Rafail said the county had received an enterprise zone designation in the past, but when applying this time, officials wanted to accomplish more than simply earning that designation again.

"We wanted to do more than reinstate it; we wanted to expand it," Rafail said, noting previous Keystone Enterprise Zone designations within the county had focused on the Route 119 corridor.

Rafail said the county commissioners played a large role in that decision.

"We determined that it was best to do all the major corridors in the county, all the major roads," he said.

This most recent designation includes 24 of the county's 43 municipalities: North Union Township, Franklin Township, South Union Township, Georges Township, German Township, Smithfield Borough, Brownsville Township, Menallen Township, Redstone Township, Bullskin Township, Luzerne Township, Uniontown City, Perry Township, Perryopolis Borough, Connellsville City, Connellsville Township, Dunbar Township, Point Marion Borough, Upper Tyrone Township, Masontown Borough, Henry Clay Township, Wharton Township, Belle Vernon Borough and Brownsville Borough.

"It provides municipalities and the county with an additional resource to help attract new businesses to the area," Rafail said. "At the same time, it offers a direct benefit to companies through available tax credits."

Rafail explained that the business can then either pay its state tax or, if it is in need of some quick capital, opt to sell its tax credit to another company who could then use it for the same purpose.

Fay-Penn Director of Business Development Lori Scott explained that the designation also qualifies the municipalities as "distressed areas" under the guidelines of the Neighborhood Assistance Program, making projects potentially eligible for Special Program Priorities.

"It gives businesses who are looking to do a project in Fayette County that kind of leg up – that little boost," she said.

County Commissioner Harry Kaufman said the designation will help Fayette County not only attract new businesses but also retain existing ones because of the tax credit.

"This is a win-win situation because this does not affect the county or municipality's tax revenue, yet it helps to attract new businesses and aids existing businesses in their growth," he said.

The Keystone Enterprise Zone designation will remain in effect until May 1, 2031. Businesses interested in discussing this program further are welcome to contact Rafail at mrafail@fayettepa.org or Scott at Loris@faypenn.org.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.fayettecountypa.org.

###

This communication is part of the Fayette County PR Initiative, which is funded through the Fayette County Local Share Account (LSA) and Hotel Tax Grants in cooperation with the Fayette County Board of Commissioners, Fayette Chamber of Commerce, The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, The Redstone Foundation and other partners. This funding has been designated for the continued promotion and marketing of Fayette County, PA.

For more information, contact Rick Fike, Director of Discover Fayette & Fayette TV, at 724-437-4571, rfike@fayettecountypa.info