



JUNE 2020

More counties choose
Simplifile for e-recording.

Find out why.

COVID 19 Proves the Essential Nature of Government
excerpted from [Government Technology June 2020](#)

The pandemic and the widespread closures it has wrought have brought a few ideas into sharp focus. One of the biggest is the fact that government cannot close. While there has rightly been much deliberation over critical versus less-critical services, government for the most part has had to figure out how to adapt and quickly stand up new ways to do its work and deliver services to citizens.

It hasn't been easy. The most obvious example has been the enormous strain put on state unemployment systems, both by the massive spikes in pandemic-related claims and changes to eligibility rules that have been ushered in right alongside them.

Government functions in every city, county and state have had to quickly enable remote work for large segments of their workforce. And not all had pre-pandemic foundations to start from. Telecommuting, after all, is a relatively new concept for the public sector. Will people work as hard without bosses nearby? How can we measure productivity? Will we lose the spirit of teamwork that comes with regular in-office interaction? ([Read complete article.](#))



PRIA Hosts JUNE 11 Webinar on "Modernized Land Records Part 1 - Land Records and GIS Overview"

There is still time to register for the June 11 PRIA hosted webinar entitled:

Modernized Land Records Part 1 - Land Records & GIS Overview
Thursday, June 11

3 p.m., ET

Complimentary for PRIA Members
and Nonmembers

presented by

Jodi Helgeson, Adams Co., WI;
Lisa Schaefer, Pro-West & Associates;
Brandon Tourtelotte, Pro-West & Associates;
Dr. Nancy von Meyer, Fairview Industries

Learning objectives for this webinar include:

1. Understanding how the recorder is at the heart of the land records management process
2. Sharing how you can play a key role in supporting digital transformation through GIS at your organization
3. Explaining the process of efficient parcel editing and maintenance, and the connection back to recorded documents

To register for this webinar, [click here](#).

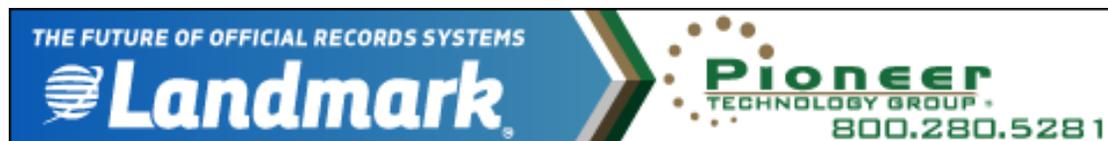
Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until all seats are filled.



PRIA LOCAL News

We held a well attended **PRIA Local webinar** on May 21. We discussed how to set up a PRIA Local Chapter, how to keep it going, and why it's beneficial to stay in touch with your colleagues at the local level. Scott Moore, Fidlar Technologies, and also the Business Co-chair from the Greater Wisconsin and Pure Michigan PRIA Local Chapters, also talked about his experience starting these Chapters. You can access his most recent virtual meeting on PRIA's **Michigan** and **Wisconsin** webpages. You are welcome to watch the **PRIA Local Webinar** anytime.

And if you're curious about how to start your own Chapter, you can always review the resources on the **PRIA website**, including a **PRIA Local Map** to help you find existing contacts in your area. And as always, you can **contact Carolyn Ableman**, PRIA Local Coordinator, at any time to get assistance.



PRIA'S 2020 Virtual Annual Conference - August 18 - 20, 2020

The PRIA Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to postpone the in-person August Annual Conference until 2021. With the uncertainty of COVID-19, and many states under shelter-at-home orders with no definitive expiration dates, the board determined that right now the safety and well-being of our members is tantamount.

The 2020 Annual Conference, however, will be held virtually over three days, August 18-20, with all the in-depth program content you have come to expect from PRIA. There will be two to three programs offered each day, including both general sessions and break-outs for a more intimate conversation on specific topics. A tentative program will be posted on the PRIA website by the end of June.

If you have a suggestion for a conference presentation or have a program you would like to present, please contact **Mallory Robinson**.

Statistics on Title Agencies Offering Versions of Digital Closings During COVID-19 Pandemic

excerpted from ALTA Blog 5/20/20

Title and settlement companies across the country have implemented new processes, including digital closings, to help consumers complete their real estate and mortgage transactions, according to a survey conducted by the American Land Title Association (ALTA).

In April, ALTA surveyed title professionals to better understand how the COVID-19 crisis has affected business and employee practices. Nearly 400 title and settlement companies participated in the survey.

To conduct safe closings for customers, an overwhelming majority are limiting access between customers and employees (74 percent) and expanding cleaning and notifications to customers (70 percent). Regarding the different types of closings, 60 percent reported offering drive-up closings, 21 percent offer remote online notarizations (RON) where documents are eSigned and eNotarized and another 16 percent provide emergency video notarization using services such as FaceTime or Skype to watch the signing. ([Read complete article.](#))



Carl Ernst Award Scholarship Application Period is Still Open

Consider applying for [Black Knight's Carl Ernst Award Scholarship](#) for the 2020-21 membership year, which begins on August 1, 2020. This scholarship program in memory of Carl R. Ernst, has been established to provide a one-year membership and a single conference registration for one government and one business sector organization each year. Organizations that have not previously been members of PRIA are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

Scholarships will be for a 12-month period beginning August 1 of the membership year for which the scholarship is awarded.

To learn more about the scholarships and submit a scholarship application, click [here](#).

The scholarship deadline for the 2020-21 membership year closes on June 30, 2020. Selections will be made on or before July 15, 2020.

More Productive from Home

excerpted from Governing June 2020

The sudden shift to remote work has changed the way governments operate across the country. The pandemic caused governments to shut their doors quickly, sending workers home and managers scrambling to figure out who would need what tools and what sort of supervision.

There have certainly been some problems, but most administrators say it's gone better

than initially expected. And with states and localities having furloughed thousands of workers due to budget pressures, many employees are more concerned about whether they'll still have a job than whether they can work remotely.

For managers, there are extra challenges in measuring productivity when you can't see your workers. Some workers love remote work, while others miss the sociability of the office, as well as the ease of getting questions answered by dropping by someone's desk. For many functions that involve direct interaction with the public, it's still easier to take care of business in person than via computer.

Despite all that, governments that had long resisted remote work have found that it can work well. It might represent a permanent change in how they do business — or at least certain types of business. Depending on adoption levels, it might also allow them to save a good amount of money on leased space. ([Read complete article.](#))

ALTA NEWS - Title Action Network Issues Alert on SAFE Banking Act *excerpted from ALTA Advocacy Update by ALTA CEO/COO Diane Tomb, 6/1/20*

House Democrats included the Secure And Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2019 as part of its proposal for a fourth stimulus package in response to COVID-19 (aka the HEROES Act).

The SAFE Banking Act (HR 1595) provides a legal safe harbor for financial institutions doing business with state-legal marijuana businesses. Championed by Reps. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO) and Denny Heck (D-WA), the bill passed the House 321-103 in September 2019.

The SAFE Banking Act prevents federal regulators from taking enforcement actions against financial institutions and insurance companies that do business with the cannabis industry in states where it is legal. It also provides protection from prosecution for handling marijuana funds. The goal of the bill is to move those businesses away from cash and into the banking system. It has broad support from the financial services industry.

Over the last few years, ALTA has worked closely with sponsors to broaden the bill to protect insurance companies and settlement providers. This includes securing a provision that protects cannabis business service providers, including title and settlement companies, by insulating the proceeds of cannabis businesses from criminal or civil forfeiture. It also includes broadening the protections of the bill to provide a safe harbor for the insurance business.

Any Other Topics You'd Like to See in the PRIA Local Newsletter? Please Contact us Anytime

PRIA Local Coordinator - Carolyn Ableman

PRIA Local Business Co-chair - Elizabeth Blosser

PRIA Local Government Co-chair - Susan Kramer

PRIA Local LinkedIn

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