

GNP Public Policy Summary February 10, 2017



Public Policy Summary February 10, 2017

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Below is a summary of key public policy issues impacting the Pittsburgh region's nonprofit sector. Key stories include:

[February 14: GNP Public Policy Committee Meeting](#)

- GNP's next Public Policy Committee meeting will be held on February 14, 2017 from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM. The Committee will be discussing the state budget along with important federal and state policy issues. If you are not already registered to participate in-person or by phone, please click [here](#) to register.
- The remaining GNP Public Policy Committee meeting dates are available [here](#).

[Advocacy Sections](#)

- Our [Health Care Advocacy Section](#) contains the latest activities regarding health care advocacy. Next Wednesday, the Consumer Health Coalition is convening its Health Committee for People with Disabilities.
- Many of your organizations are mobilizing around key issues, and we want to make sure that you can share your activities with GNP members. If you are hosting an event or meeting, seeking coalition partners, or organizing an advocacy campaign and need to get the word out, share your information with streeter@forbesfunds.org. Please share your activities with us so we can help you amplify your work!
- The American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania has joined GNP and is available to assist nonprofits on civil liberties issues. Click [here](#) to learn about their resources.

[Upcoming GNP Events](#)

- February 21: The Wilson Group and their nonprofit partners have designed a session for executives and office managers alike to show how making small changes now to your current workflow will yield big savings on time and money over the long term. You'll learn how to get the most out of your current technology to work smarter and save money. Click [here](#) to learn more.

[GNP News and Announcements](#)

- GNP is pleased to offer you a growing array of exclusive member services and discounts from our corporate sponsors! Click [here](#) to view the list of services.
- Foundation of HOPE is our February Member Spotlight!

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- The Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group is accepting proposals for its 2017 Summit.
- February 15: Congressional Management Foundation hosts "How to Be an Effective Advocate in Congress." Click [here](#) to learn more.
- March 28: Nonprofit Talent, The Forbes Funds, and Grantmakers of Western Pennsylvania present, "Lessons in Social Impact Investing With Tony Wells, President And Co-Founder Of The Wells Foundation."

[Pennsylvania Budget](#)

- Governor Tom Wolf delivered his budget address Tuesday and emphasized a "new way of doing business" that avoids deep cuts to important community programs or broad based tax plans. To balance the budget, the Governor proposed multiple cost saving tactics such as merging four separate departments into a new Department of Health and Human Services, finding efficiencies in government, and new fiscal management practices. He also emphasized a commitment to seniors, education, and addressing the opioid epidemic. Governor Wolf's budget also includes proposed funding reductions for line items that support community services such as job training, health programs, and STEM education, among others.
- If your organization receives state funding, please look for your line item in the [tracking run](#) and complete our [brief survey available here](#) so we understand the proposed budget's impact on GPNP members.
- Republican legislative leaders indicated that they view the Governor's budget as an acceptable starting point for budget negotiations. However, Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman (R-Centre) observed that the Governor omitted pension reform and a plan to address increased Medicaid spending from the budget proposal.
- The Independent Fiscal Office responded to the Governor's budget proposal by noting that some of the Governor's revenue projections to the fund the budget could be overly optimistic.
- The Wolf Administration further discussed its plan to consolidate agencies into a new Department of Health and Human Services. According to the administration, the merger will save \$90 million for the state.
- Importantly, the Governor's proposal includes a call to raise Pennsylvania's minimum wage to \$12 per hour.
- Statewide media reported on opposition to the Governor's proposal to tax natural gas extraction and close particular tax loopholes.
- *The Patriot-News* published a "Winners and Losers" series on how particular budget areas fared in the proposal.
- *The Patriot-News* reported that the Trump Administration could prove to be an obstacle in the effort to expand gambling to provide the state additional revenue.

[Additional State Government News](#)

- The Senate passed SB 10, which would withhold state funds from municipalities and counties that meet broadly defined "sanctuary city" criteria. According to the bill's [fiscal note](#), the bill could disrupt funding for several governments in our region: Butler County currently receives \$25 million in state funds; the city of Pittsburgh receives \$9 million; and Westmoreland County receives \$50 million. The bill is now under consideration in the House.
- Citing Bedford County's example, *The Washington Post* reported that "sanctuary city" criteria also poses problems for rural counties.
- The Senate passed SB 241, which prohibits gender discrimination in pay. However, the bill contains an amendment that preempts Philadelphia's law that bans employers from asking about salary history.

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- The Senate passed SB 181, which would implement performance-based budgeting for the state. The bill is now in the House.
- Representative Gene DiGirolamo (R-Bucks) introduced HB 398, which would ensure that essential services are paid for during a budget impasse.
- Representative Tony DeLuca (D-Allegheny) introduced two bills that impact nonprofits. HB 340 prevents board members from receiving compensation. HB 342 prohibits non-compete clauses in nonprofit employee contracts.
- Bills regarding limits on state spending, adoption, the Educational Improvement Tax Credit, immigration status for public benefit recipients, the children of incarcerated parents, and other key topics began moving through the legislative process this week.
- [The Pennsylvania Legislation Section](#) contains a roundup of this week's new and advancing bills.
- According to the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Department of Labor and Industry Secretary Katherine Manderino "sees no short-term funding fix" for the state's unemployment compensation program.

[Federal Policy](#)

- National and local media reported on President Donald Trump's pledge to remove the mandate for nonpartisanship from section 501(c)(3) of the tax code.
- Jeff Sessions was confirmed as Attorney General.
- Tom Price was confirmed as Secretary of Health and Human Services.
- Betsy DeVos was confirmed as Secretary of Education.
- Pittsburgh City Council members are concerned that the Trump Administration could cut funds that support key services in the city.

[Health Care](#)

- *The New York Times* reported on the difficulties President Trump and others are confronting regarding their pledge to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.
- *The Hill* reported on key proposals in the House of Representatives to replace parts of the Affordable Care Act.
- A report from the Pennsylvania Health Funders Collaborative estimates that 1 million Pennsylvanians could lose health insurance if the Affordable Care Act is repealed.
- Newsworks reported that mental health advocates have concerns about future access to services if the Affordable Care Act is repealed.

[Pittsburgh Region News](#)

- The Pittsburgh Black Elected Officials Coalition released its report on issues impacting the African-American community.
- *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported that local workforce agencies are being challenged by Pennsylvania's increasing unemployment rate.
- Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto announced key staffing changes in his administration.

[Nonprofit Sector](#)

- The Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management released its latest wage survey of nonprofit organizations. According to the report, the pay gap between women and men is closing slightly.

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- *The Washington Post* reported that the League of Women Voters is undergoing a resurgence, including in Pennsylvania, in response to the Trump Administration.

[Health and Human Services](#)

- Allegheny County is encouraging families to enroll in its home visit programs for young children.
- Citylab reported on a study from the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies about aging trends and housing.

[Education](#)

- *The New Pittsburgh Courier* profiled Pittsburgh Public Schools Deputy Superintendent Anthony Anderson.
- The Butler Area school district is currently addressing a lead issue in its schools.
- *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* published its "2017 Education Planning Guide."

[Housing and Community Development](#)

- *The Philadelphia Inquirer* reported on the impact of President Trump's executive order regarding FHA mortgage premiums.
- *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported that housing advocates are concerned about cuts to federal funding for affordable housing.
- The Urban Redevelopment Authority named Robert Rubinstein as its Executive Director.
- Jeannette passed a new ordinance to address blight.

[Water, Energy, and Environment](#)

- *The Pittsburgh Business Times* reported that solar advocates are optimistic about the solar industry's regional growth prospects.
- Next Pittsburgh profiled local residents addressing the city's water issues.

[Corrections and Public Safety](#)

- Scott Schubert was approved as Pittsburgh's new police chief.

[Arts and Culture](#)

- *Pittsburgh City Paper* profiled new Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts CEO Germaine Williams.
- The August Wilson Center is searching for a new executive director.
- The Tull Family Theater will officially open in Sewickley on February 17th.
- *The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* highlighted the Westmoreland Museum of American Art's new exhibit on American labor.

These stories, and many others, follow below.

Sections

[GNPN The Forbes Funds Events](#)

* [February 14: GNPN Public Policy Committee Meeting](#) (Click to Register)

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- * [February 21: Working Smarter Means Big Savings](#)
- * [March 28: Good Ideas Forum: Lessons in Social Impact Investing With Tony Wells, President And Co-Founder Of The Wells Foundation](#)
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February 21: Working Smarter Means Big Savings

Please Join Us for a Special GNPN Member Education Event:

Working Smarter Means Big Savings

Learn how to increase your efficiency while reducing costs!

As an executive, you know that in today's volatile market, efficiency and effective cash flow management are essential for nonprofit organizations. The expectation is to provide more and more services while keeping administrative costs down. An easy way to reduce administrative costs is to get the most out of the current tools you use to create and distribute documents and information within your organization.

The Wilson Group and their nonprofit partners have designed a session for executives and office managers alike to show how making small changes now to your current workflow will yield big savings on time and money over the long term. You'll learn how to get the most out of your current technology to work smarter and save money.

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Who should attend:

Executives * Operations Managers * Office Administrators
IT Administrators * Finance Staff * Procurement Staff

**** All Attendees Will Be Entered to Win Special Prizes ****

Tuesday, February 21, 2016

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

The Forbes Funds and GPNP Office
5 PPG Place, 2nd Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

[register](#)



March 28: Good Ideas Forum: Lessons in Social Impact Investing With Tony Wells, President And Co-Founder Of The Wells Foundation



**LESSONS IN SOCIAL IMPACT INVESTING WITH TONY WELLS,
PRESIDENT AND CO-FOUNDER OF THE WELLS FOUNDATION**

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Presented by Nonprofit Talent, Grantmakers of Western Pennsylvania, and The Forbes Funds

Date: Tuesday, March 28th, 2017

Time: 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Location: Point Park University Ballroom downtown Pittsburgh

Cost: \$20 per person/delicious breakfast and beverages provided

This engaging session is designed for funders, investors, and nonprofits seeking to learn more about capital, financing strategies, and approaches to achieve greater social impact.

The Wells Foundation is a Columbus-based private family foundation created by Dana and Tony Wells. Pursuant to its mission, the foundation has a history of investing into social enterprises, developing new social innovation models, and advising local nonprofit organizations that are considering social enterprise since 2001. Tony is one of the most creative, and sought-after national speakers on the topic of Social Impact Investing, sharing his own stories, successes and lessons learned after taking the risk to make nearly ALL of his foundation's endowment available for impact in the nonprofit sector.

register



2017 Public Policy Committee Meeting Dates

GNP's Public Policy Committee will convene on:

- [Tuesday, February 14, 2017](#)
- [Tuesday, April 11, 2017](#)
- [Tuesday, May 30, 2017](#)
- [Tuesday, August 8, 2017](#)
- [Tuesday, November 14, 2017](#)

The meetings will be held from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM at The Forbes Funds/GNP offices located at 5 PPG Place, 2nd Floor, Pittsburgh, PA, 15222. Conference lines will be available for those who cannot attend in person. You can register for the meetings by clicking the meeting dates above.

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GNPN News

[Exclusive Services for GNPN Members](#)

GNPN is pleased to offer you a growing array of exclusive member services and discounts from our corporate sponsors! Services and discounts are currently available from:

- * **Association of Fundraising Professionals Western Pennsylvania Chapter**
- * **Bookminders**
- * **Multiscope**
- * **The Wilson Group**
- * **Your CFO**

Click [here](#) to view our current offering of services for GNPN Members!

[Foundation of Hope Member Spotlight!](#)

Foundation of HOPE is our Member Spotlight for February! The mission of the Foundation of HOPE is to empower incarcerated and released individuals to restore their relationship with their God, rebuild their lives, and reconcile to their communities. Thanks to its long-term, committed partnership with the Allegheny County Jail (ACJ), HOPE successfully carries out its mission through a three-tiered continuum of care for jail inmates and ex-offenders that includes Chaplaincy; a Pre-Release Program; and an Aftercare Program. Click [here](#) to read about their important work!

Announcements

[February 15: Congressional Management Foundation Webinar: How to Be an Effective Advocate in Congress](#)

With a new presidential administration officially in office, NGOs and citizens alike are grappling with how best to advocate for their causes and engage with lawmakers in an uncertain and contentious political climate. The Congressional Management Foundation's (CMF) forthcoming report, "Citizen-Centric Advocacy: The Untapped Power of Constituent Engagement," which surveyed staffers from all 535 Congressional offices, will be the most comprehensive and authoritative research to date on advocacy and elected officials. The report will be the first that includes multiple case studies showcasing tangible citizen-advocates's tactics, presenting replicable models of successful engagement strategies that are based on trainings for advocates that were tested with Congress members and their offices. This webinar, led by CMF President & CEO Brad Fitch, will delve into the research of the nonpartisan study to provide unique insights and identify proven strategies for influencing lawmakers and staff across the political spectrum. Click [here](#) to register.

[PCRG Summit Call for Presenters Deadline Extended!](#)

Submit Your Session By February 12, 2017

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PCRG's Seventh Annual Community Development Summit will take place this May 24-25, 2017 in downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Our call for presenters is now open, and we invite you to submit a session highlighting the work you've done over the past year. Read more about the 2016 Summit on our [conference website](#). This year, we hope to diversify our Summit even more. Our theme is CommUNITY: The Power of People in Action. Sessions and workshops will explore the theme as broadly defined below:

CommUNITY: The Power of People in Action examines how people take concepts, build support, and put them into action. Community development leaders across the spectrum want to know how to smartly effect change, in every area that impacts our communities and their people. We seek lasting change that pays dividends to residents, entrepreneurs, responsible developers and investors. We want to break the cycle of triage management and create true wealth and opportunity. At the 2017 Community Development Summit, we will lift up models that successfully achieve these goals.

Proposals will be accepted online at our Summit website between December 19, 2016 and February 12, 2017. Selected sessions and workshops will be diverse in subject matter, content, and format. This year, we are especially seeking presenters with different perspectives, nontraditional backgrounds, and experience working across boundaries. Visit our [Summit website](#) for more information about our theme and the kind of session we hope to feature. You can also contact Chris Sandvig at csandvig@pcrg.org with any questions you may have. Best of luck!

Health Care Advocacy

Many GNPN members are concerned about the anticipated changes to the Affordable Care Act, Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP. If your organization is conducting activities, please share them with streeter@forbesfunds.org so they can be included in this section. Below are announcements from GNPN members:

From Allies for Children:

Proposals to block grant Medicaid could undermine the key components of the program including: the guarantee of coverage for eligible children, the ability for children to have all the care they need covered, and the ability for families to get care for children at an affordable cost. We are looking to have a better understanding of how organizations benefit from Medicaid as well as the economic impacts of the Medicaid program. If you are able or willing to share stories related to clients who benefit from Medicaid or CHIP, please contact Heather Hopson, communications director, at heather.hopson@alliesforchildren.org.

From the Consumer Health Coalition:

The Consumer Health Coalition (CHC) is looking for volunteers to share their personal health insurance stories. Click [here](#) to download information. Additionally, the Consumer Health Coalition has published "Cover Me" resources for organizations and individuals mobilizing around health care. Click [here](#) and [here](#) to download them.

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CHC's Health Committee for People With Disabilities (Hcpd) is meeting Wednesday, February 15th from 4 pm - 5:30 pm at the Western PA School for Blind Children, 201 N. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Our group is cross-disabilities in structure and advocacy and we have an "open sandbox" mindset where all are welcome, all contribute and all make a difference. We have a full agenda for the meeting that features:

- Continued strategy around defense of the ACA and healthcare as we have known and benefited from it --- with a particular focus on defense of Medicaid. If you've not yet seen or signed our Valentine to Senator Toomey please sign it and encourage friends, colleagues, family, everyone who likes those candy hearts with the messages by going to the link: <https://goo.gl/forms/MqkL7sfPXHJya2rJ2>
- Review and response to Governor Wolf's proposed 2017-2018 PA State Budget
- Introduction and implementation of HCPD's new TOUCHSTONES program
- Regional Photo Voice event on Tuesday, 21 March 2017, 6 pm - 8 pm at CLP: East Liberty

From the PA Health Access Network and Insure PA:

Join a statewide movement to protect all Pennsylvanians' access to affordable, high-quality healthcare coverage, preserve life-saving consumer protections, and ensure Medicare, CHIP, and Medicaid remain available for those who need them. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Resources from the ACLU

The American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania has joined GNPN and is available to assist nonprofits on civil liberties issues. In particular, the ACLU offers a number of "Know Your Rights" guides available [here](#) along with its Speakers' Bureau.

The ACLU often provides speakers for educational events, panels, conferences, and school programs. It has an active speakers' bureau consisting of attorneys, community leaders, ACLU-PA staff, and board members who are well versed in a variety of civil liberties topics, including (but not limited to):

- Free speech
- Immigrants' rights
- LGBT rights
- Police practices
- Religious liberty
- Reproductive freedom
- Security & civil liberties
- Student & youth rights
- Voting rights

Click [here](#) for more information.

Pennsylvania Budget

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["Gov. Wolf's 2017 Pennsylvania budget at a glance." Nick Malawskey. *The Patriot-News*. February 7, 2017.](#)

"Below is a series of charts that provide basic information about the budget."

["GOP legislative leaders like the starting point of Gov. Tom Wolf's 2017-18 budget proposal." Jan Murphy. *The Patriot-News*. February 7, 2017.](#)

"'We view this as a 180-degree turn for the governor,' said House Majority Leader Dave Reed, R-Indiana County, noting that two years ago, Wolf proposed \$12 billion in new tax increases and increases to over 100 different taxes. 'It's a step in the right direction and now we want to continue moving in direction with our caucus, hopefully the House Democrats, the Senate and the administration in the months ahead,' Reed said. Despite liking some of the choices Wolf made in putting his budget plan together, Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati, R-Jefferson County, said, 'we have a long way to go with moving this budget and making sure that what we do is in the best interest of working Pennsylvanians and taxpayers.' Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman, R-Centre County, however, focused in on what he didn't hear Wolf talk about, namely two significant cost drivers for state government - public pension contributions and the growing Medicaid long-term care costs the state will face as its population age out of the workforce. 'We applaud the attempt at some of the reform the governor put out there,' he said. 'Still the most telling part to me was what was not in this proposal.'"

["IFO says some revenues in Wolf's budget would be volatile." WITF. February 8, 2017.](#)

"Governor Tom Wolf's budget plan relies heavily on \$2 billion in cuts and savings, as well as a slew of new tax revenues the administration says will add up to about \$1 billion. Like any initial plan, those numbers are estimates. Some GOP leaders in the legislature have already raised early concerns about the accuracy of Wolf's projections. Independent Fiscal Office director Matthew Knittel said some concerns might be valid. The IFO puts out a formal budget report in April, but Knittel said based on some cursory analysis, there are a few areas where revenues could definitely be inconsistent."

["Officials: New state Department of Health, Human Services would save \\$90 million." Kate Giammarise. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. February 8, 2017.](#)

"Gov. Tom Wolf's administration estimates about \$90 million in budget savings from merging four cabinet agencies into a Department of Health and Human Services, state officials said Tuesday. ... Much of the savings, about \$45 million, in Mr. Wolf's plan to combine the Departments of Health, Aging, Drug and Alcohol Programs and the Department of Human Services would come from the consolidation of several programs across agencies that purchase, dispense or monitor prescription drugs, budget secretary Randy Albright said Tuesday. State officials also have emphasized they believe the benefits of such an agency would be better managed and more streamlined services, as well as financial savings. The plan would need to be approved by the Legislature. Mr. Albright said the governor's proposal assumes the new, unified agency would be in place as of July 1."

["Lawrence County officials: Governor's health merger proposal shouldn't impact programs." Eric Poole. *Ellwood City Ledger*. February 6, 2017.](#)

["Gov. Tom Wolf kick-starts Pennsylvania minimum wage debate with bold budget proposal." Charles Thompson. *The Patriot-News*. February 7, 2017.](#)

"Wolf, in one of the most aggressive planks of his 2017-18 state budget proposal, called for taking Pennsylvania's minimum wage from the federally-established \$7.25 per hour to \$12 per hour."

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["Wolf proposes a familiar shale gas tax and gets a familiarly cold response." Laura Legere. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. February 7, 2017.](#)

"Gov. Tom Wolf is again trying to raise revenue for the state budget by proposing a tax on shale gas production identical to the one he pitched and eventually dropped from budget negotiations last year. Republican legislative leaders were quick to reject the idea on Tuesday while the drilling industry, which opposes the tax, answered with its own familiar refrain."

["Report: gas impact fee revenue will hit record low this year." Marie Cusick. State Impact. February 2, 2017.](#)

"Revenue from Pennsylvania's natural gas drilling impact fee is expected to hit a record low this year, according to a report from the state's Independent Fiscal Office. The IFO projects the fees will bring in \$174.6 million-down 7 percent compared to last year. It's a 23 percent decline since peaking at \$225 million three years ago. The drop is largely driven by a decline in new drilling, due to depressed gas prices."

["Wolf's budget rekindles partisan differences over infamous tax loophole." Katie Meyer. WITF. February 9, 2017.](#)

"Part of Governor Tom Wolf's new budget plan targets a contentious tax strategy known as the Delaware loophole. The administration says Pennsylvania would save over \$80 million by clamping down on businesses that funnel revenue to subsidiaries in places without corporate taxes. But Republicans claim Wolf's proposal is misleading."

["Is it time for municipalities to pay up for state police protection?" Wallace McKelvey. The Patriot-News. February 8, 2017.](#)

"Nearly half of Pennsylvania's 2,500 municipalities rely solely on Pennsylvania State Police protection. Historically, those communities paid nothing for those services. Mounting pressure from a budget deficit and the prospect of a trooper shortage in 2017 could soon change that. Gov. Tom Wolf's proposal would generate \$63 million from those predominantly rural municipalities--the equivalent of \$25 per person--to help fund the state police's \$1.3 billion budget."

["State funding for municipal pension plans remain essentially flat in proposed budget." Terrie Morgan-Besecker. The Times-Tribune. February 7, 2017.](#)

"Officials in municipalities with severely distressed pension plans, including Scranton, had hoped the state would earmark more money to help get the plans back on track."

["Gov. Wolf's 2017 budget plan: Winners and losers." Teresa Bonner. The Patriot-News. February 7, 2017.](#)

"Here's a look at the winners and losers in his proposed \$32.3 billion budget for 2017-18..."

["Wolf's proposed \\$100 million boost to Pa. education welcome but not enough, some say." Jamie Martines. Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. February 8, 2017.](#)

"Members of the education community are pleased to see that Gov. Tom Wolf hopes to increase education funding next year. But some worries remain about how lawmakers will move forward with addressing mandated costs - expenses related to pensions, employee benefits, special education and charter schools, for example - that keep climbing."

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["How would Tom Wolf's Pa. budget hit your pocket book? 5 highlights." Wallace McKelvey. *The Patriot-News*. February 7, 2017.](#)

"...with growing deficits and a revenue shortfall looming overhead, the state's leaders will be faced with a lot of tough decisions. Wolf, who kicked off the budget process with his address Tuesday, has pitched a modest budget that emphasizes cuts and consolidation without any broad-based tax increases."

["How the Trump administration could affect Pennsylvania's gambling expansion debate." Charles Thompson. *The Patriot-News*. February 2, 2017.](#)

"Everybody's interested in seeing how President Donald J. Trump, a one-time Atlantic City casino operator, steers the future of national policy on issues such as online gaming and sports betting."

[Commentary: "Needed: A new way to do Pennsylvania's budget." House Speaker Mike Turzai \(R-Allegheny\). *Meadville Tribune*. February 3, 2017.](#)

Additional State Government News

["Pa. Senate moves to block state grants to Philly, other 'sanctuary cities.'" Karen Langley. *Philadelphia Inquirer*. February 7, 2017.](#)

"A Senate fiscal analysis says the proposal could mean the loss of up to \$1.3 billion to places known to be sanctuary municipalities. That tally includes \$638 million for Philadelphia and \$9 million for Pittsburgh, which the analysis says has not declared itself a sanctuary city but has adopted policies and practices consistent with sanctuary status."

["What happened when pro-Trump Bedford County discovered it was a 'sanctuary city.'" Todd Frankel. *The Washington Post*. February 9, 2017.](#)

"How Bedford County ended up on the sanctuary city lists highlights the difficulty with the broad-brush labels used to identify immigration attitudes and how much fear surrounds the topic, even in places where immigration would hardly appear to be a pressing topic."

["Senate bill aims to preempt Philadelphia's new wage equity law." Tricia Nadolny. *Philadelphia Inquirer*. February 8, 2017.](#)

"The law, which will ban employers from asking job applicants for their salary history, would be preempted under a bill passed by the state Senate Wednesday. The preemption language was added at the eleventh hour to a related piece of legislation that aims to expand wage equity protections for women."

["Labor secretary sees no short-term funding fix for Pa. unemployment program." Daniel Moore. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. February 9, 2017.](#)

"A push by state officials and lawmakers to end a two-month-long funding crisis at Pennsylvania's unemployment compensation program has stalled in recent days - extending service delays on jobless claims during the busiest time of year. During a visit to Pittsburgh on Wednesday, Kathy Manderino, secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, said her agency is working daily toward resolving the issues. But she could not say there is an end in sight for out-of-

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work residents who have endured long wait times and busy signals since the Republican-controlled state Senate left Harrisburg in November without approving \$57 million in funding for the program."

Pennsylvania Legislation

Below are key bills introduced or voted on since our last update. If there is a bill relevant to your mission that you do not see listed, please email streater@forbesfunds.org so we can add it to our tracking list.

Voted On

[HB 17- Age of Consent](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Marcia Hahn (R-Northampton)

Current Status: Passed the House; Now in the Senate

"The legislation will amend the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Act to specify that a parent or guardian is authorized to provide consent for treatment of their minor child." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 44- Protection From Abuse Act as recommended by the Task Force on Child Protection](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Sheryl Delozier (R-Cumberland)

Current Status: Passed the House; Now in the Senate

"In its 400-plus page report, the Task Force on Child Protection recommended changes to the primary mechanism for reporting and investigating child abuse, the Child Protective Services Law. In addition, the task force recommended changes to the Crimes Code, the Domestic Relations Code, and the Protection From Abuse Act. From a legal perspective, conforming amendments are needed in the Crimes Code, the Domestic Relations Code and the Protection From Abuse Act so that the body of law affecting child abuse is workable and will enhance the protection of children. Hence, my legislation amends the Protection From Abuse Act in a way that supports the new provisions recommended by the task force with respect to the Child Protective Services Law." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[SB 10- Municipal Sanctuary and Federal Enforcement \(SAFE\) Act](#)

Prime Sponsor: Senator Guy Reschenthaler (R-Allegheny, Washington)

Current Status: Passed the Senate; Now in the House

"... legislation that will address the issue of sanctuary cities in the Commonwealth. This bill is designed to prevent municipalities and counties from designating themselves as "sanctuary cities" in order to thwart federal efforts to combat illegal immigration." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[SB 181- Performance Based Budget Legislation](#)

Prime Sponsor: Senator Bob Mensch (R-Berks, Bucks, Montgomery)

Current Status: Passed the Senate; Now in the House

"... legislation that would streamline and justify discretionary and state government spending. This type of policy is called "performance based budgeting" and would require all departments and agencies to justify their budget requests beginning with dollar one, for all existing as well as

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proposed programs for each fiscal year, before they can receive consideration for budget funding." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[SB 241- Amending the Equal Pay Law](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Thomas McGarrigle (R-Chester, Delaware)

Current Status: Passed the Senate; Now in the House

"Senate Bill 241 allows employers to determine wages based on the level or amount of education, training or experience, and prohibits employer discrimination against an employee who files a complaint. ... McGarrigle said the bill also prohibits employers from requiring that workers not disclose their salary." ([Press Release](#))

Moving

[HB 56- Adoption-Related Counseling Services](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Katherine Watson (R-Bucks)

Current Status: Second Consideration in the House; Referred to Appropriations Committee

"...legislation designed to ensure that birth parents, if they so desire, have access to adoption-related counseling services when they are considering relinquishing parental rights and placing a child for adoption, or when they have relinquished parental rights and have consented to place their child for adoption." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 59- Appeal of Adoption Subsidy](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Dan Moul (R-Adams)

Current Status: Second Consideration in the House; Referred to Appropriations Committee

"I soon will introduce legislation to allow parents who adopt a child or children to appeal to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services the amount of an adoption subsidy provided by local authorities." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 250- Educational Improvement Tax Credit and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Increases](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny)

Current Status: Second Consideration in the House; Referred to Appropriations Committee

"... legislation that will increase the amount of tax credits available under the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program by \$50 million (to \$175 million) and the amount of tax credits available under the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) program by \$25 million (to \$75 million), to grow school choice opportunities and help more students escape from failing schools." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[SB 9- Proof of Citizenship for Receipt of Public Benefits Act](#)

Prime Sponsor: Senator Pat Stefano (R-Fayette, Somerset Westmoreland)

Current Status: Cleared State Government Committee; Now on Senate Calendar

"...legislation which would ensure that illegal immigrants residing in Pennsylvania do not receive public benefits like Medicaid, welfare and unemployment compensation." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

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[SB 62- Children of Incarcerated Parents](#)

Prime Sponsor: Senator Stewart Greenleaf (R-Bucks, Montgomery)

Current Status: Cleared Judiciary Committee; Now on Senate Calendar

"The Domestic Relations Code section (23 Pa.C.S. § 2511) that lists the grounds for involuntary termination of parental rights includes a provision stating that 'The court in terminating the rights of a parent shall give primary consideration to the developmental, physical and emotional needs and welfare of the child. The rights of a parent shall not be terminated solely on the basis of environmental factors such as inadequate housing, furnishings, income, clothing and medical care if found to be beyond the control of the parent.' The advisory committee recommended and my bill includes a sentence that says 'The rights of a parent shall not be terminated solely on the basis of parental incarceration.' In the section of the Judicial Code (42 Pa.C.S. § 6351) that discusses the disposition of a dependent child, specifically the matters which a judge must determine at a permanency hearing, the advisory committee recommended and my bill includes language giving the court the authority when determining whether the rights of an incarcerated parent should be terminated to consider if the parent is making an effort, to the extent feasible, to comply with the family service plan requirements and otherwise maintaining a meaningful role in the child's life during the time of incarceration. Finally, the advisory committee recommended and my bill includes a new chapter (44 Pa.C.S. Ch. 25) that provides for training law enforcement officers to ensure child safety upon the arrest of a parent or guardian; establishing guidelines for the identification of minor or dependent children upon arrest; and giving the Pennsylvania State Police and Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission the responsibility to develop and maintain arrest protocol training programs." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[SB 128- Pre-emption of Local Employer Leave Mandates](#)

Prime Sponsor: Senator John Eichelberger (R-Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon)

Current Status: Cleared Local Government Committee; Now on Senate Calendar

"...legislation which would clarify local municipalities may not mandate a local leave policy."
([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[SB 173- Taxpayer Protection Act - Constitutional Amendment](#)

Prime Sponsor: Senator Camera Bartolotta (R-Beaver, Greene, Washington)

Current Status: Cleared Finance Committee; Now on Senate Calendar

"My bill seeks to limit the growth of state spending by indexing it to two objective standards of measure, with the lower of the two determining the rate of spending. The standards of measure are: The average change in personal income for the three preceding calendar years, OR; The average inflation rate plus the average percentage change in state population over the three preceding years (with exceptions for certain extraordinary circumstances). The 'Taxpayer Protection Act' would also require revenues collected in excess of amounts determined by this formula to be reallocated in the following manner: 25% of any moneys in excess of these limits be returned to the taxpayers; 25% be allocated to the Rainy Day Fund to help balance state budgets during trying economic times; and 50% to help pay down the unfunded liabilities of the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) and the State Employees' Retirement System (SERS)." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

New Legislation

[HB 87- Issuing a Photo Card for Volunteers Who Have Passed a Background Check](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative John Lawrence (R-Chester, Lancaster)

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Current Committee: Not Yet Assigned

"...legislation that would permit, but not require, DHS to issue a volunteer card with a photograph to an individual who has received the necessary background clearances. An individual could elect to simply receive a paper clearance as is standard practice, or for a nominal additional fee could receive the photo card." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 325- Long-Term Care Consumer Relocation Coordination Act](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Karen Boback (R-Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wyoming)

Current Committee: Aging and Older Adult Services

"My legislation would require long-term care facilities where residents transfer from one facility to another to provide notification of such move not only to the other facility, but also to the affected local area agencies on aging." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 330- Common Carriers Providing Paratransit Services](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Dom Costa (D-Allegheny)

Current Committee: Consumer Affairs

"My proposal requires the presence of a third party in these instances. A health care practitioner, an agent of the county agency, another individual permitted to drive under the common carrier, or an individual approved by the Department of Human Services may serve as a permissible third party." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 338- Long Term Care Rate Increase Notification](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Tony DeLuca (D-Allegheny County)

Current Committee: Insurance

"...legislation that will finally require the issuer of a long term care insurance policy to notify the policy holder when submitting a filing to the department for a rate increase." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 340- Prohibition of Nonprofit Board Compensation](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Tony DeLuca (D-Allegheny County)

Current Committee: Finance

"... legislation ... prohibiting the compensation of board members who serve on Executive Boards for not-for-profit Blues insurance entities, as well as Executive Boards for purely public charities and other nonprofit organizations." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 342- Prohibiting the use of Restrictive Covenants Not to Compete by Institutions of Purely Public Charity](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Tony DeLuca (D-Allegheny County)

Current Committee: Finance

"... prohibiting the use of non-compete clauses in all employment contracts with purely public charities. Entities currently designated as purely public charities would still have the ability to enter into non-compete clauses, however they would have to forfeit their designation as a purely public charity." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 355- Certified Recovery Residence Act](#)

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Prime Sponsor: Representative Tina Davis (D-Bucks)

Current Committee: Human Services

"This proposal will establish the State Board of Recovery Residences within the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. The Board will be charged with developing and administering a voluntary certification program and code of ethics for recovery residences, which are defined as peer-supported, alcohol-free, and drug-free living environments." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 380- Adding eye disorders to newborn screening](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Mark Rozzi (D-Berks)

Current Committee: Health

"...legislation that would add eye disorders to the list of genetic diseases that hospitals must screen newborns for in Pennsylvania." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 384- Involuntary commitment for D&A treatment](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Harry Readshaw (D-Allegheny)

Current Committee: Human Services

"Legislation which would allow for involuntary commitment for drug and alcohol abuse." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 390- Solicitation of Funds for Charitable Purposes Act](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Paul Schemel (R-Franklin)

Current Committee: State Government

"Currently, a non-profit organization that receives gross contributions totaling \$25,000 or less is exempt from registering with the Department of State's Bureau of Charitable Organizations. My legislation will increase the exemption threshold to \$50,000." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 393- Legislation to Broaden Availability of Film Tax Credit](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Paul Costa (D-Allegheny)

Current Committee: Finance

"The legislation would 'uncap' the film tax credit." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 398- Budget Impasse](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Gene DiGirolamo (R-Bucks)

Current Committee: Human Services

"Last year's budget impasse left many of our providers on the verge of bankruptcy while some selected ones were maintained with funding by the Commonwealth. Those decisions were not based on any determination of need but merely of whim. It is my firm belief that if the Executive Branch opens the door to funding groups and activities during a period in which the previous Commonwealth budget has expired and a new one has not yet been enacted, there needs to be fair and equal access by all of the Commonwealth's partners. My legislation would remedy this issue by clearly establishing the policy of equality and the procedures to ensure that equal access. Specifically, my legislation would: Define essential services under very specific categories limited to those for domestic violence, mental health services, behavioral health services, intellectual disabilities, payments and services to counties for children and youth programs, the Human Services Development Fund, addiction treatment services, as well as other services for which

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counties provide services on behalf of the Commonwealth; Require the Secretary of the Budget to certify to the State Treasurer the amounts paid for essential services during the previous fiscal year and allow the appropriate departments to submit requisitions for payments for essential services; and, Ensure that the amounts appropriated for each program are subtracted from that amount included in the enacted appropriation." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 410- "Performance Based Budgeting" legislation](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Ryan Warner (R-Fayette, Westmoreland)

Current Committee: State Government

"My bill will require all state departments and agencies to justify their budget requests for all existing and proposed activities before they can receive consideration for budget funding. Budget requests will include itemized expenditures for all activities required by state and federal statutes at minimum and current levels." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 414- Bill of Rights for People with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Tom Murt (R-Montgomery)

Current Committee: Human Services

"...legislation that will establish a bill of rights for individuals with intellectual disabilities or autism. ... This legislation requires the Department of Human Services to develop and submit a plan to address the waiting list for community based services for people with intellectual disabilities or autism. In the development of this plan, the Department is required to conduct public hearings and obtain public comment from individuals with intellectual disabilities or autism, their families and guardians and providers of services to the intellectual disability and autism community." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 427- Early Voting](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Eddie Pashinski (D-Luzerne)

Current Committee: Not Yet Assigned

"My legislation would establish a period of early voting beginning 30 days before an election or primary and lasting until the Friday before the election. Early voting locations would include the main offices of county election boards and other sites designated by the boards. Finally, it would allow boards to set uniform days and times for early voting so long as they are open at least eight hours per weekday and eight hours total each weekend." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 436- Voter ID](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Will Tallman (R-Adams, Cumberland)

Current Committee: Not Yet Assigned

"... my proposal will require each voter who casts a vote in person to present one of the following forms of ID. Voters who do not possess a form of photo ID listed below may present one of the forms of non-photo ID listed below, so long as the ID includes the name and address of the voter.

- Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT ID card
- Any photo or non-photo ID issued by a Commonwealth agency
- Any photo or non-photo ID issued by the U.S. Government
- U.S. passport
- U.S. Armed Forces ID
- Student ID

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- Employee ID
- Firearm permit
- Current utility bill
- Current bank statement
- Current paycheck
- Government check

You may recognize this listing of ID as the list of acceptable ID that may be used by a voter who casts his or her vote for the first time in a particular election district. This requirement, which was first enacted into law in 2002, as required by the Help America Vote Act, has proven to be workable. Thus, it makes sense to expand the use of this list of ID to each voter casting an in-person vote at each election." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 437- An Act Amending MH/MR Funding for Counties](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Will Tallman (R-Adams, Cumberland)

Current Committee: Not Yet Assigned

"Funding for our counties over the last 30 or so years may not represent the actual needs occurring in counties today. There is no perfect funding formula, but I feel my proposal will more closely match the needs to actual dollars available. Population demographics need to be part of any funding formula changes. The following will be contained in my proposal:

- 75% based on county population
- 5% population growth (2000-2011)
- 5% poverty
- 5% unemployment
- 5% county square miles
- 5% contingency

This closely matches option #2 of the Funding Formula Options by DPW dated 12/31/2012. There will be some counties negatively impacted by this change." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 440- Parity Coverage for Mental Health](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Tom Murt (R-Montgomery)

Current Committee: Not Yet Assigned

"... legislation that strengthens the ability of the Department of Insurance to enforce the Mental Health Parity and Addictions Equity Act of 2008 ('Parity')." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[HB 445- Amending the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act](#)

Prime Sponsor: Representative Nick Miccarelli (R-Delaware)

Current Committee: Not Yet Assigned

"The primary changes that my bill will make are: To amend the definition of the "practice of clinical social work" to add the term "diagnosis" which is included in the scope of practice of clinical social workers in 44 other states. To require anyone practicing clinical social work independently, that is in a private practice not affiliated with any other practice, health care facility, government agency or government regulated social service agency, to be licensed." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

[SB 12- Raising the Minimum Wage and Modernizing the Minimum Wage Act](#)

Prime Sponsor: Senator Christine Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia)

Current Committee: Labor and Industry

"... my legislation would incrementally raise the state's minimum wage rate to \$15.00 per hour by 2021, after which it would be adjusted automatically with inflation each year. Further, it would allow municipalities to set higher minimum wage rates, if desired. Finally, it would strengthen employer

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requirements and penalties to ensure they are keeping accurate payroll records and paying the correct wages to employees." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

Federal Policy

["Trump vows to 'totally destroy' restrictions on churches' support of candidates." *The Washington Post*. February 2, 2017.](#)

"Repeal of the amendment - which is part of the tax code and would require action by Congress - has been sought primarily by conservative Christian leaders, who argue that it is used selectively to keep them for speaking out freely. But several experts said Thursday that the effect of a repeal could be far broader, allowing churches of any political leaning to pour their financial resources into campaigns of like-minded candidates."

["Trump says he would 'totally destroy' a barrier to pulpit politicking." Peter Smith. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. February 3, 2017.](#)

"His statement still has legal scholars waiting to see the fine print. Does Mr. Trump mean removing the part of the ban that gets the most attention - explicitly endorsing a candidate from a tax-exempt pulpit, even though that's rarely enforced even when it happens? Or does he want to blow up the whole law, which could enable churches - and non-religious charities - to turn into full-throttle political action committees if they wanted to? In the latter case, donors could funnel tax-deductible donations into political campaign coffers. Donors can't get a tax deduction by giving directly to a campaign or PAC."

["Senate confirms Sessions for attorney general." AP. February 8, 2017.](#)

"The Senate on Wednesday confirmed Sen. Jeff Sessions to be attorney general in the Trump administration despite fierce Democratic opposition to the Alabama Republican over his record on civil rights and immigration. The 52-47 nearly party-line vote capped weeks of divisive battles over Sessions, an early supporter of President Donald Trump and one of the Senate's most conservative lawmakers."

["5 big issues where Sessions may have an immediate impact." William Cummings. *USA Today*. February 8, 2017.](#)

"Here are five controversial issues where the Justice Department is likely to take a radically different approach under Sessions..."

["Polarizing HHS nominee confirmed by Senate on party-line vote." *The Washington Post*. February 10, 2017.](#)

"A polarized Senate voted early Friday morning to confirm Tom Price, the conservative Georgia congressman who has been one of Congress's most vehement opponents of the Affordable Care Act, as secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. The 52-47 vote made Price the latest in a series of controversial Cabinet nominees whom the Senate's Republican majority has been strong enough to muscle through on party-line votes. Price did not draw a single vote from Senate Democrats, who argued that the intersection of the nominee's personal investments and legislative behavior warranted deeper scrutiny of his ethics."

["Education boss gets first assignment - mend fences with foes." AP. February 9, 2017.](#)

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"On her first day on the job, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos plunged into her initial assignment: mending fences with her opponents following a bruising confirmation battle."

["Pa's two U.S. Senators had very different reactions to the Betsy DeVos vote." John Micek. *The Patriot-News*. February 7, 2017.](#)

"Now that Veep Mike Pence has cast a historic tie-breaking vote to confirm new Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, here's what Pennsylvania's two United States senators had to say about it."

["Pittsburgh council members fear Trump administration will cut block grant funding for community groups." Dale Shoemaker. *PublicSource*. February 9, 2017.](#)

"The Trump administration is [reportedly](#) accepting guidance on its federal budget from two conservative groups who place little importance on a block grant program that supports more than 50 community groups in Pittsburgh..."

["As Trump fears fraud, GOP eliminates election commission." AP. February 7, 2017.](#)

"The vote in the House Administration Committee underscored, once again, the political differences between the Republican president and the party's rank-and-file. The GOP majority on the committee eliminated the Election Assistance Commission, which was created by Congress after the 2000 Florida recount to upgrade voting technology and provide election-related information to federal entities, state officials and election administrators. Republicans, who lead the effort to terminate the agency, say it's a prime example of government waste. They've been introducing legislation to end the commission for years with little success."

["The Pentagon found \\$125 billion in waste. Now a GOP chairman is asking other agencies what they've found." Mike DeBonis. *The Washington Post*. February 10, 2017.](#)

"Letters from Rep. Greg Walden (R-Ore.), the Energy and Commerce Committee chairman, and Rep. Tim Murphy (R-Pa.), chairman of the Oversight and Investigations subcommittee, were sent Friday to the Cabinet-level departments under the panel's jurisdiction: The departments of Commerce, Energy, and Health and Human Services, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency. The letters cite *The Post's* reporting on the Pentagon waste study, and asks each of the departments for answers to a series of requests by March 10."

["Initial Infrastructure Proposals Emerge." Enterprise Community Partners. *The Housing Alliance of PA*. February 6, 2017.](#)

"Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has introduced [A Blueprint to Rebuild America's Infrastructure](#), which includes proposals to increase investments in affordable housing to create 'places for people to live, work, and thrive.' ... President Trump has identified infrastructure as a top priority as well, though housing investments are not part of the [Administration's initial infrastructure priorities list](#)."

[Commentary: "The Johnson What?" Cath Thompson. *Independent Sector*. February 9, 2017.](#)

[Commentary: "How Much Politicking Could Churches Do If Trump 'Destroys' The Johnson Amendment?" Andrew Gleckman. *The Tax Policy Center*. February 9, 2017.](#)

[Commentary: "The Biggest Loser From Repealing the Johnson Amendment? Philanthropy." John Levine and David Callahan. *Inside Philanthropy*. February 6, 2017.](#)

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Health Care

["From 'Repeal' to 'Repair': Campaign Talk on Health Law Meets Reality." *The New York Times*. February 6, 2017.](#)

"In a brief aside in an interview with Bill O'Reilly of Fox News broadcast before the Super Bowl on Sunday, Mr. Trump went further than he ever has in acknowledging the reality that any hope of quickly replacing the Affordable Care Act has been dashed. ... That admission is sure to be a serious disappointment for the president's most fervent supporters, who sent him to Washington believing that he would move quickly to dispatch the health law."

["House considers elements of ObamaCare replacement." Jessie Hellmann. *The Hill*. February 2, 2017.](#)

"The House Energy and Commerce Committee, a key player in the fight over ObamaCare, is considering legislation that will likely serve as guidance for the GOP as lawmakers seek to dismantle the healthcare law they vowed to repeal. The drafts would change ObamaCare provisions related to pre-existing conditions and the age rating, which determines how much older people can be charged for insurance. Another measure would shorten the 'grace periods' for people who fail to pay their premiums. ... A measure proposed by Rep. Greg Walden (R-Ore.) would prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage to those with pre-existing conditions but does not limit what insurers can charge. It also contains a placeholder for a proposal that would encourage 'continuous coverage.' The aspect of continuous coverage is a common feature of Republican plans and provides an alternative incentive to get insurance without ObamaCare's mandate. ... Democrats also dismissed a measure that would change ObamaCare's age rating. Currently, insurers can charge older people no more than three times as much as younger people. The new measure would change the ratio to five times as much, which supporters argue would allow younger people to get access to cheaper plans."

["ACA repeal could spell insurance loss for 1 million Pennsylvanians: Report." Lydia Nuzum. *Pittsburgh Business Times*. February 8, 2017.](#)

"A repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act would equal loss of insurance coverage for more than 1 million Pennsylvanians, according to a study released by the Pennsylvania Health Funders Collaborative on Wednesday."

[Report: "Impact to Pennsylvania of Repealing the Affordable Care Act." Pennsylvania Health Funders Collaborative. February 2017.](#)

["Mental health advocates fear ACA repeal will reduce access for addiction treatment." Anne Hoffman. *Newsworks*. February 2, 2017.](#)

"Psychiatrists and mental health advocates are worried that repealing the Affordable Care Act will reverse progress on mental health and addiction treatment. Several aspects of the Affordable care act affected access to mental health and addiction treatment. The law mandated that insurance companies cover people with pre-existing conditions -- like a substance abuse disorder or a mental illness. And it expanded Medicaid which meant more people were able to get health insurance."

["Two top Republicans open to repairing Obamacare ahead of repeal." *The Washington Post*. February 2, 2017.](#)

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"Coming one week after a closed-door strategy session in which Republicans expressed frank concerns about the political ramifications of repealing the law and the practical difficulties of doing so, statements this week by Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah) and Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) brought into public view the political and policy challenges the GOP is facing."

[Commentary: "ACA Repeal Would Jeopardize Treatment for Millions with Substance Use Disorders, Including Opioid Addiction." Peggy Baily. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. February 9, 2017.](#)

Pittsburgh Region News

["A new report highlights the needs of Pittsburgh's vulnerable communities. It's only the first step." Sarah Anne Hughes. The Incline. February 2, 2017.](#)

"Meetings with more than 400 Pittsburgh residents informed a new report on the needs of the city's most vulnerable communities and recommendations about how to address the issues. The report, commissioned by the Pittsburgh Black Elected Officials Coalition and compiled by the Homewood Children's Village's Office of Research and Evaluation, covers six topic areas: public safety, affordable housing, family outcomes, businesses and organizations, education and employment."

[Report: "Pittsburgh Peace And Justice Initiative: Phase 1." Pittsburgh Black Elected Officials Coalition. February 2017.](#)

["Coalition Calls Itself The 'Eyes, Ears & Voice' Of Pittsburgh's Black Community." Virginia Alvino Young. WESA. February 7, 2017.](#)

"Politicians from the local and state level are partnering in a new way to find out what issues are most important to Pittsburgh's black residents and how to address them. The Pittsburgh Black Elected Officials Coalition, which includes Allegheny County Councilman DeWitt Walton, Pittsburgh City Councilmembers Daniel Lavelle and Ricky Burgess and state representatives Jake Wheatley and Ed Gainey, just completed its first project."

["Rise in Pa. unemployment tests workforce agencies." Daniel Moore. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. February 6, 2017.](#)

"Last year, something remarkable happened to the Pittsburgh region's workforce: As much of the country saw jobless rates decline, unemployment here swelled with roughly 12,100 more people looking for work. While that may not sound like good news, the forces driving higher unemployment appear to be positive. More of the people who had given up on finding a job started sending out resumes again, according to a Post-Gazette analysis of labor data. It's a trend that workforce officials have noticed. This year, those charged with linking unemployed people with jobs will confront challenging questions: Who are these people who are feeling optimistic about the economy? Are they qualified for the available jobs? Are these the jobs they want? The crowded labor force heightens a workforce problem that has nagged at the region for years as Pittsburgh transitions away from the industrial-based economy that sustained it for decades. Though the region has been effective in embracing health care, education and technology, government-supported workforce agencies that help connect job-seekers with employment are still struggling to reach everyone."

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["Pittsburgh Mayor Peduto makes staffing changes, 4 new positions." Bob Bauder. *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*. February 6, 2017.](#)

"Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto's office on Monday announced 10 staffing changes designed to better reflect job duties or make departments operate more efficiently."

Nonprofit Sector

["Report: Gender pay gap shrinks, but remains, among Pittsburgh-area nonprofits." Joyce Gannon. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. February 10, 2017.](#)

"A new report on wage and benefit data at Pittsburgh-area nonprofits shows that while there's still significant pay disparity between men and women leading the organizations, the gap is shrinking. The report from the Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management at Robert Morris University showed that women in the top jobs at nonprofits earned 81 percent of what their male counterparts were paid. But that's an increase from the last survey in 2015 when women executives earned only 75 percent of male executives' salaries."

["Why this nearly 100-year-old organization is seeing a resurgence thanks to Trump's election." Colby Itkowitz. *The Washington Post*. February 9, 2017.](#)

"The nearly 100-year-old organization [League of Women Voters] - which began during women's suffrage to give new female voters a way to organize around their new civic right - has seen a massive resurgence since the election, and even more so since the women's marches last month. Across the country, the league added thousands to its membership and inspired individuals like Gauthier to start new chapters in towns from Utah to Georgia to Pennsylvania. It's a level of interest that national president Chris Carson has never seen in her 33 years with the league. She thinks people are drawn to it because it is nonpartisan - it doesn't weigh in on party politics, but it does take a stand on issues, usually progressive ones. Its main purpose, though, is to engender the kind of active citizenship that is in sudden demand since the election. It encourages voting and champions civil discourse, putting out voting guides in communities and sponsoring political debates at all levels of government."

[Commentary: "The Art of Advocacy Strategy." Jim Shultz. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*. February 6, 2017.](#)

Health and Human Services

["Allegheny County encouraging enrollment in home visitor programs." Kate Giammarise. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. February 7, 2017.](#)

"Officials Monday announced the launch of 'Open Doors to Home Visiting,' a campaign to raise awareness and encourage moms and families to enroll in one of the county's free home visiting programs. Such programs send a nurse, social worker or fellow parent to visit the home of a mom-to-be or mom of a child under age 6."

["Can America's Aging Stay in Their Homes?" Mimi Kirk. *Citylab*. January 3, 2017.](#)

"The Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies recently published a [report](#) with stunning statistics on housing and aging. By 2035, one in three U.S. households, versus today's one in five, will be headed by someone 65 or older. This will also mean an American population with one in five people

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over 65-almost 80 million people-up from one in seven today. That's an increase of more than 30 million people over the next 20 years."

Education

["New deputy superintendent focuses on student success." Mercedes Howze. *New Pittsburgh Courier*. February 2, 2017.](#)

"It has only been four months since Anthony Anderson made the move to Pittsburgh to serve as the school district's deputy superintendent, but in that short time, Anderson has made his mark engaging with students, even at the executive level."

["Butler schools maintenance director resigns amid lead contamination controversy." Elizabeth Behrman. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. February 9, 2017.](#)

"The director of maintenance for the Butler Area School District is the latest person to resign amid a controversy surrounding lead and E coli contamination in an elementary school well. Glenn Terwilliger resigned today, according to a statement posted to the district website. Superintendent Dale Lumley resigned Sunday night. No explanation was given in either case. The contaminants were discovered in the water well serving Summit Elementary School in Summit Township, and many have expressed concerns about timely reporting of the problem."

["2017 Education Planning Guide." *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. February 2017.](#)

- ["Many college scholarships go unused."](#)
- ["Best time to start saving for education? At birth."](#)
- ["Diversity in post-secondary education choices important for students."](#)
- ["Guidance counselors try to help students with variety of post-high school options."](#)
- ["Parents should talk with their children early about post-graduation plans."](#)
- ["Earlier deadline on FAFSA helps families get a start on college aid."](#)

[Commentary: "Pittsburgh schools able, seeking to improve." Regina Holley. *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*. February 2, 2017.](#)

Housing and Community Development

["What the FHA mortgage-premium cut actually meant." Caitlin McCabe. *Philadelphia Inquirer*. February 5, 2017.](#)

"Yet lost in the initial noise of Trump's action, it seemed, was one important thing: Reversing Obama's decision did not mean costs were going up. The cut had not yet taken effect, meaning the FHA insurance rate - currently 0.85 percent of the loan amount - will stay exactly where it has been since January 2015. What that means: If you were eligible for an FHA-insured mortgage before, there's a strong chance you are eligible again."

["Election threatens tax credits for low-income housing." Kate Giammarise. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. February 6, 2017.](#)

"The low income housing tax credit is the primary program for creating new affordable housing in the United States. Created in the 1980s, various state entities - in Pennsylvania it's the

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Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency - allocate a certain limited amount of tax credits to developers every year through a competitive process. Investors then buy these credits. In July, the agency allocated more than \$40 million in tax credits for projects statewide, including seven developments in Allegheny County. The program is critical for funding housing for low-wage workers, seniors, and people with disabilities, said Cindy Daley, policy director for the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania. ... Donald Trump's unexpected election victory in November, coupled with Republican majorities in Congress that are expected to lower corporate taxes, has lowered the market value of the credits."

["Rubinstein named Pittsburgh URA executive director." Bob Bauder. *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*. February 9, 2017.](#)

"The Pittsburgh Urban Redevelopment Authority on Thursday removed the 'interim' from Robert Rubinstein's title of executive director."

["East Liberty developer ordered to halt work at former Penn Plaza site." Mark Belko. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. February 8, 2017.](#)

"In a letter sent Monday, city solicitor Lourdes Sanchez-Ridge accused Pennley Park South Inc. of taking actions, such as cutting trees, that are in violation of the city code and ignoring the recent decision by the planning commission rejecting the developer's amended preliminary land development plan."

["Jeannette ordinance allows \\$25 fines without notice to combat blight." Renatta Signorini. *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*. February 8, 2017.](#)

"Council unanimously approved an ordinance Wednesday that will fine property owners \$25 for each 'quality of life' violation and eliminate the need for notices to be sent prior to citations. Examples of violations include furniture in yards, high grass or junk vehicles. The current system for property maintenance violations involves a written notice and a waiting period for a remedy that may or may not occur, in addition to administrative time and costs spent in the judicial system. Those methods still exist, but the new rule could allow for a quicker response in some cases and correction of the problem, officials said."

["Allegheny County Sells 8 Properties To Habitat For Humanity To Build Low-Cost Homes." Sarah Schneider. *WESA*. February 9, 2017.](#)

"The Allegheny County Housing Authority sold five homes in Penn Hills and three lots in Duquesne to the nonprofit Habitat for Humanity. Frank Aggazio, Executive Director of the Allegheny County Housing Authority, said the partnership is a way to offer homeownership to low-income county residents who no longer need housing assistance."

Water, Energy, and Environment

["Solar advocates see hope for the future after industry jobs grow in Pennsylvania." Daniel Moore. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. February 7, 2017.](#)

"After seeing declines for three consecutive years, jobs in Pennsylvania's solar industry grew 23 percent in 2016, according to a report due out today from The Solar Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit promoting solar energy."

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["Frustrated Pittsburghers are taking the lead crisis into their own hands." Brian Conway. Next Pittsburgh. February 7, 2017.](#)

"Amidst so many unknowns, some city residents, frustrated with a lingering public health problem, have taken the matters into their own hands to educate and empower their neighbors and their city to take action against an invisible neurotoxin and invisible crisis whose extent is not fully known."

["Trump's first days fuel optimism among drillers, angst for environmentalists." Marie Cusick. State Impact. January 31, 2017.](#)

"In less than two weeks in office, President Donald Trump is working to usher in a new era for American energy companies. He's begun rolling back efforts to combat climate change and is pushing for federal approval of controversial, new infrastructure projects - such as the Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipelines. There is guarded optimism among fossil fuel companies as they wait and see, along with everyone else, how Trump will deliver on his promises to boost American energy production. But his win has also been a major blow to many environmental groups, climate scientists, and others who worry about the administration's disregard for science and policies aimed at protecting public health and the natural world. They're now steeling themselves for a long, hard fight."

Corrections and Public Safety

["City Council makes it official: Schubert named Pittsburgh police chief." Bob Bauder. Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. February 7, 2017.](#)

"Pittsburgh City Council on Tuesday unanimously approved Scott Schubert as police chief. Mayor Bill Peduto appointed Schubert, 50, of Brookline acting chief in November after former Chief Cameron McLay announced his resignation."

Arts and Culture

["Checking in with Germaine Williams, the new head of Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts." Bill O'Driscoll. Pittsburgh City Paper. February 8, 2017.](#)

"'We're no longer thinking about just stabilizing, just operating in safe mode,' says Williams. 'We are really out in the community, we're vibrant, we're taking risks, we're firing on all cylinders. That's where I want the staff to feel like it's going.'"

["August Wilson Center seeking executive director." Natasha Lindstrom. Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. February 2, 2017.](#)

"The August Wilson Center for African American Culture is searching for the first executive director to run the Downtown Pittsburgh nonprofit property since it thwarted foreclosure more than two years ago."

["Sewickley's new theater to open Feb. 17." Shellie Petri Budzeak. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. February 3, 2017.](#)

"The Tull Family Theater, Sewickley's long-awaited independent movie house, will open its doors on Feb. 17. The theater on Walnut Street will offer two screening rooms - one with seating for 77 patrons and the other with seating for 169. The bigger of the two will include a stage available for

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presentations. In addition, the theater will contain a flexible space known as the Esmark and Bouchard Family Community Room available for events like comedy and musical acts, classes, and private rentals."

["The Westmoreland Museum of American Art pays homage to American workers." Kurt Shaw. Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. February 4, 2017.](#)

"Featuring images of steel workers, coal miners and farmers, the exhibit is a tribute to American labor, past and present, says the museum's chief curator, Barbara Jones."

Constituent and Town Hall Events

Below is a list of public and constituent events held by legislators.

If you know of an event not listed, please email streeter@forbesfunds.org

[Representative Bud Cook \(R-Washington\) Hosts House Majority Policy Committee Hearing on the Opioid Epidemic](#)

When: February 13, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Where: Donora Municipal Building, 603 McKean Ave., Donora, PA, 15033

Click [here](#) for more information, including live stream information. Please call Representative Cook's office at (855) 271-9380 to RSVP.

[Senator Camera Bartolotta \(R-Beaver, Greene, Washington\) Town Hall Event on Postpartum Depression](#)

When: March 2, 2017 at 12:00 PM

Where: Cameron Wellness Center, 240 Wellness Way, Washington, PA 15301

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