

## GNP Public Policy Summary February 2, 2017



### Public Policy Summary February 2, 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. Click [here](#) to register.
- The remaining GNP Public Policy Committee meeting dates are available [here](#).

#### [New Advocacy Sections](#)

- 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 and advocacy campaign and need to get the word out, share your information with [streeeter@forbesfunds.org](mailto:streeeter@forbesfunds.org). This week we've included advocacy sections on the [arts](#), [health care](#), [housing](#), and [hunger](#). 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 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.
- The Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group is accepting proposals for its 2017 Summit.
- February 9: Nonprofit Vote hosts "Creating a Voter Engagement Plan for Your Nonprofit" online. Click [here](#) to learn more.

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- February 15: Congressional Management Foundation hosts "How to Be an Effective Advocate in Congress." Click [here](#) to learn more.

### [Pennsylvania Budget and State Government](#)

- The Independent Fiscal Office estimates that Pennsylvania's budget shortfall is approaching \$3 billion.
- Governor Tom Wolf provided more information on his plan to consolidate four agencies into a proposed Department of Health and Human Services. He pledged that the consolidation would not bring service cuts and that the move would enable the state to continue focusing on the opioid epidemic.
- A report from the Pennsylvania Association of School Boards and Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officers says that school districts are "treading water" financially.
- The Pennsylvania Senate passed a bill allowing victims of child sexual abuse to sue until the age of 50. The bill is now in the House of Representatives.
- Senate Democrats have called for a special session to address property tax reform.
- The AP reported that the Republican majorities in the House and Senate could "test" whether or not they have the ability to fully override legislation vetoed by Governor Wolf.
- A group of former General Assistance recipients and certain human service organizations is challenging the elimination of General Assistance through Act 80 of 2012 based on the Pennsylvania constitution's single-subject rule.
- Representative Dan Frankel (D-Allegheny) pledged to reintroduce his LGBTQ protections bill.
- Certain House Democrats are advocating for an increase to Pennsylvania's minimum wage.
- A new Climate Change Caucus formed in the General Assembly.
- Governor Wolf's Chief of Staff stepped down to focus on the Governor's reelection campaign. Mike Brunelle will now serve as Chief of Staff.

### [Pennsylvania Legislation](#)

The following bills were introduced or voted on since our last update. If there is a bill missing that is relevant to your mission, please email [streeeter@forbesfunds.org](mailto:streeeter@forbesfunds.org) so we can add it to our tracking list.

#### *Voted On*

- SB 261- Allows Victims of Sexual Abuse to Sue Until the Age of 50

#### *New Legislation*

- HB 117- Mental Health Parity and Addiction Reporting Requirements
- HB 118- Community Hospital Emergency Drug and Alcohol Detoxification
- HB 200- Postpartum Depression: Early Intervention services for infants and their mothers
- HB 201- SMART Act: State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent Budgeting for the Commonwealth
- HB 253- Reduction in Size of House and Senate
- HB 304- Increase Pension for Blind, Amputee, and Paralyzed Veterans
- SB 216- Early Voting
- SB 225- Budget Impasse Legislation
- SB 226- Budget Impasse Legislation
- SB 232- Removing the Statute of Limitations for Sexual Abuse of a Minor
- SB 233- Removing the Statute of Limitations for Sexual Abuse of a Minor
- SB 236- Nursing Facility Accountability Act

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- SB 243- Redistricting Reform
- SB 263- Permanent Absentee Voter Status

### Federal Policy

- President Donald Trump reiterated his intention to remove the IRS provision that mandates nonpartisanship by nonprofits. There are currently three bills in Congress that would accomplish this.
- According to ABC News, a draft executive order from President Trump "would open the door for tax-exempt entities to speak out 'on moral or political issues from a religious perspective' without fear of losing favored tax status."
- Secretary of Health and Human Services nominee Representative Tom Price (R-GA) and Treasury Secretary nominee Steven Mnuchin advanced in their confirmation process by being voted out of committee. Democrats boycotted the committee votes and the votes occurred under a suspension of the rules requiring at least one Democrat to be present to conduct committee votes.
- Secretary of Veterans' Affairs nominee David Shulkin pledged during his confirmation hearing to keep the VA health system from becoming privatized.
- According to the Nonprofit Quarterly, congressional Republicans may try to pass tax reform through the reconciliation process, which could limit opportunities for bipartisan compromise.
- A column in *Forbes* warned that the charitable deduction could be in jeopardy because of tax reform.

### Health Care

- According to *The Washington Post*, certain Republicans expressed reservations about repealing the Affordable Care Act during last week's Republican retreat.
- *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported on advocates' concerns regarding proposals to block grant Medicaid.
- *The New York Times* and the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* reported that individuals are still signing up for health insurance despite the uncertainty surrounding the Affordable Care Act.

### Immigration

- Pittsburgh City Council passed a bill that would prohibit denying public services based on immigration status.
- *Pittsburgh City Paper* reported on the local impact of President Trump's immigration executive order.

### Elections 2017 and 2018

- Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties are purging inactive voters from their voter rolls.
- Cambria County approved three ballot initiatives for Johnstown that will be on this year's primary ballot. The primary election will be held on May 16, 2017.

### Nonprofit Sector

- The Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations provided an update regarding its efforts against Luzerne County's disclosure resolution for nonprofits.
- The 3 Rivers Workforce Investment Board has become Parner4Work.
- *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* highlighted Junior Achievement.

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- Next Pittsburgh reported on the merger between the Animal Rescue League and the Western Pennsylvania Humane Society.

### [Health and Human Services](#)

- PublicSource reported on homelessness among college students.
- Fayette County Community Action is conducting its annual homeless count.

### [Education](#)

- WESA reported on the lottery that determines the Pittsburgh Public Schools' magnet school enrollment.
- The State System of Higher Education is considering restructuring in order to adjust to Pennsylvania's current financial situation.

### [Housing and Community Development](#)

- *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported on the future of the SCI Pittsburgh site.
- Cambria County enacted new fees to pay for blight remediation.

### [Water, Energy, and Environment](#)

- WESA reported on the potential for failure among Pennsylvania's water systems.
- Lancaster Online reported that state legislators are planning to introduce new bills addressing lead issues.
- State Impact reported on recently released data regarding complaints to the Department of Environmental Protection about natural gas extraction.

### [Corrections and Public Safety](#)

- PublicSource reported that law enforcement agencies are noticing a connection between the opioid epidemic and illegal guns.
- According to the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, the closure of SCI Pittsburgh could lead to overcrowding at the Westmoreland County jail.

### [Arts, Parks, and Culture](#)

- The Green Building Alliance is hosting its Inspire Speaker Series.
- *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* previewed the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's upcoming season.

These stories, and many others, follow below.

### **Sections**

[GNPN The Forbes Funds Events](#)

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

\* [February 21: Working Smarter Means Big Savings](#)

\* [2017 GNPN Public Policy Committee Meeting Dates](#)

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[Advocacy](#)

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[Constituent and Town Hall Events](#)

### February 21: Working Smarter Means Big Savings

*Please Join Us for a Special GNP 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 GNPN Office  
5 PPG Place, 2nd Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

[register](#)



### 2017 Public Policy Committee Meeting Dates

GNPN'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/GPNP 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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### GPNP News

#### [Exclusive Services for GPNP Members](#)

GPNP 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 GPNP Members!

### Announcements

#### [February 9: Nonprofit Vote Webinar: Plan Ahead 2017: Creating a voter engagement plan for your nonprofit](#)

Join us for a free, hour long webinar on how to create a voter engagement plan for 2017 from scratch. Learn about what's at stake in 2017, the role of municipal elections and their importance to nonprofits and their clients, and, most importantly, what you will need to think about as you plan your activities. We'll walk you through the six steps you'll need to take to ensure your voter engagement work is a success. Click [here](#) to register.

#### [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*

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

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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](mailto:csandvig@pcrg.org) with any questions you may have. Best of luck!

### Arts Advocacy

Many GPNP members are concerned about the anticipated changes to arts funding. If your organization is conducting activities, please share them with [streeeter@forbesfunds.org](mailto:streeeter@forbesfunds.org) so they can be included in this section. Below are announcements from GPNP members:

#### From the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council

Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council has verified through Americans for the Arts, the foremost arts advocates at the federal level, that Trump advisors have called for the elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the privatization of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. This is not the first time in recent history that incoming administrations have sought to eliminate these entities, under the guise of budget reductions. In reality, the NEA's budget is a minuscule portion of the federal budget. The arts comprise 4.2% of the GDP, rivaling the construction industry and more than the legal and medical sectors, combined. For every \$1 in federal funding invested in the arts, there is a \$9 return - a terrific return on investment in the form of jobs, tourism, economic development, healthcare, education, and quality of life. GPAC will continue to make these points, and asks you to do the same with the following action steps:

- Call your Senators and Congressperson and share the value of the arts to you and to your community. [Find their contact info, here](#).
- [Sign the Americans for the Arts official petition](#) to support the NEA, NEH, and CPB. Bob Lynch, CEO and President of Americans for the Arts, plans on taking a second letter to President Trump with the signatures of 100,000 Americans - let your name be counted.
- Sign up to receive Action Alerts from Americans for the Arts, [right here](#) with the Arts Action Fund (it's free), follow them on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, and get your friends to sign up, too. This is the source for the latest information and to know what actions to take.

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They have created a Response Team ready to send you the latest information and action steps to take.

- Locally, on Thursday, March 2 at 3pm the public is invited to join Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council for a briefing on federal policy issues concerning the arts in Pittsburgh at the event "Federal Arts Policy: a Time for Action!" [Registration, here.](#)

Americans for the Arts' National Arts Advocacy Day, March 20-21 in Washington, D.C., is a further opportunity to strategize and meet directly with elected officials, we are an active part of this convening, too. Early Bird registration ends on Tuesday, here, and please contact David Pankratz should you have any questions. [Registration and information, here.](#)

Inform Americans for the Arts of any specific actions impacting the arts in your community as a result of the President's new executive order on sanctuary cities. Please send an e-mail to Ruby Harper at [rharper@artsusa.org](mailto:rharper@artsusa.org).

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:heather.hopson@alliesforchildren.org).

#### **From the Consumer Health Coalition:**

The Consumer Health Coalition 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.

#### **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.

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### **Housing Advocacy**

Many GNPN members are concerned about housing issues at the local, state, and federal level. If your organization is conducting activities, please share them with [streeter@forbesfunds.org](mailto:streeter@forbesfunds.org) so they can be included in this section. Below are announcements from GNPN members:

#### **From the Housing Alliance**

As advocates we are all aware of the many benefits of housing and services and the need for adequate funding for these vital programs. As times change the need for safe, decent, and affordable housing and supportive services remains the same. We are collecting stories in order to keep people, including Pennsylvania legislators, informed on the importance of the availability and funding of housing and services programs. We would like to spread our message through sharing the stories of real life people who have been positively impacted by your programs and supports. If you or someone you know or work with would be willing to share their personal story, please fill out the name and contact information [here](#) so we can follow up.

### **Hunger Advocacy**

Many GNPN members are concerned about hunger issues. If your organization is conducting activities, please share them with [streeter@forbesfunds.org](mailto:streeter@forbesfunds.org) so they can be included in this section. Below are announcements from GNPN members:

#### **From the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank**

The President and Congress are considering proposals that would have a devastating impact on people at risk of hunger. Now is the time to insist that the President and Congress commit to a strong and effective nutrition safety net for all Americans. All major national anti-hunger organizations have signed on to a letter calling upon our federal officials to protect and defend food and nutrition programs. Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank has signed on to this letter, as well as a state specific letter, and we ask that your organization join us in this effort. Please help us demonstrate the deep and diverse support for these important programs. Will you join us?

Click [here](#) to sign the federal letter

Click [here](#) to sign the state letter.

### **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

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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 and State Government News**

["Grim new forecast puts Pennsylvania's budget gap at nearly \\$3 billion." AP. January 26, 2017.](#)

"Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf and the Republican-controlled Legislature are facing a potential shortfall of nearly \$3 billion through next summer, based on new projections by the state Legislature's Independent Fiscal Office. With an approved state budget this year of \$31.5 billion, the projected deficit is among the state's largest post-recession gaps as it struggles to keep up with rising costs for health care for the poor, prisons, state police and overdue pension obligation payments."

["Gov. Tom Wolf proposing to consolidate four departments into one." Jan Murphy. \*The Patriot-News\*. January 27, 2017.](#)

"Gov. Tom Wolf's administration alerted employees of four departments on Friday that he was proposing to consolidate their agencies into one unified agency called the Department of Health and Human Services. This move, which Wolf will announce formally on Monday, will impact employees of the departments of Human Services, Health, Drug and Alcohol Programs, and Aging."

["Wolf administration: Merger of health agencies won't bring cuts in service." \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 30, 2017.](#)

"In their first public statements on the plan, officials said the proposed merger of the Departments of Aging, Health, Drug and Alcohol Programs, and Human Services would save the state money and result in more efficient delivery of services. But they declined to estimate the size of the savings or the number of jobs that might be lost."

["Gov. Tom Wolf vows to keep substance abuse a priority in department consolidation." Jan Murphy. \*The Patriot-News\*. January 31, 2017.](#)

"Gov. Tom Wolf disagrees with a Bucks County Republican lawmaker when it comes to how state government can best serve the needs of those struggling with substance addictions. Moving drug and alcohol services housed in other departments to the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs as Rep. Gene DiGirolamo, R-Bucks County, suggested 'would be inefficient,' said Wolf spokesman J.J. Abbott."

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["Facing a budget crunch, Wolf pays consultants -- to help find savings." Philadelphia Inquirer. February 1, 2017.](#)

"For \$1.8 million, he's hoping McKinsey & Co. can tell him how the state can save some money. The six-week contract promises a little more. The global consulting firm is expected to deliver a report that not only identifies cost savings but new revenue sources at a time the commonwealth desperately needs them."

["Pa. school administrators say cash-strapped districts are 'treading water.'" Philadelphia Inquirer. February 1, 2017.](#)

"Pennsylvania public schools continue to 'tread water' in the face of rising mandated costs and decreasing or stagnant revenues that have forced them to raise taxes, cut programs and staff, and borrow money, according to an annual report released Wednesday by two school administrator organizations. The report from the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA) and the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO), which surveyed 361 districts, was not entirely bleak. It noted that the financial picture for many districts improved this year after the Pennsylvania legislature signed into law a new student-weighted funding formula and passed an on-time budget with \$200 million in new Basic Education Funding."

["Pennsylvania state Senate passes bill modifying statute of limitations on child sex abuse cases." Charles Thompson. The Patriot-News. February 1, 2017.](#)

"The Pennsylvania Senate has voted 48-0 to pass a bill extending the paths to justice for future victims of child sex abuse. The bill, which essentially reopens an old debate with the state House in the new legislative session, would give child victims until age 50 to bring civil lawsuits against abusers or those employers who were allegedly negligent in failing to stop them. At present, the window to sue expires at age 30. It would also eliminate any statute of limitations on criminal prosecutions for child sexual abuse. The key question now is whether the Senate-passed bill - which only applies to future cases - can be reconciled with the House, which also added a two-year window for past victims to file suits under the new deadlines."

["Pennsylvania Senate Democrats seek special hearings on property tax reform." Steve Esack. The Morning Call. February 1, 2017.](#)

"Most of the caucus' 16 members joined Wednesday to ask Gov. Tom Wolf to call a special joint session, in which the Senate and House can publicly pitch ideas and legislation to eliminate or reduce property taxes, the main funding stream for Pennsylvania's 500 school districts, and a partial funding stream for municipalities and counties."

["Pennsylvania's huge GOP majorities could test a Wolf veto." AP. January 30, 2017.](#)

"The largest Republican majority in the Pennsylvania state Senate in nearly 70 years is wasting no time in flexing its conservative muscle, advancing bills that ultimately could test whether a veto by Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf can withstand an override vote. In the Senate's first full week of the new two-year session, a Senate committee advanced legislation that would kill Philadelphia's sick-leave law, and any other municipal law like it, and punish sanctuary cities by withholding state grant dollars. More committee votes are planned, including on legislation to make it harder for public-sector labor unions to collect member contributions through paycheck deductions."

["Pa. Supreme Court may examine demise of General Assistance program." Kate Giammarise. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. January 26, 2017.](#)

"The lawsuit, which was brought by several former assistance recipients and a number of human service groups, alleges that the bill that became Act 80 was passed in an unconstitutional way -

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crammed full of various subjects in violation of the so-called 'single-subject rule,' which says a bill can only deal with one topic. In addition to ending General Assistance, the same bill created a pilot program for 20 counties to consolidate a number of human service programs into a single block grant, changed the timing of a work requirement for Pennsylvanians applying for welfare, and imposed a tax on nursing homes, among other things."

["Pittsburgh rep will again introduce LGBTQ protections bill, wants it to get 'fair hearing.'" Sarah Anne Hughes. The Incline. February 1, 2017.](#)

"One of Pittsburgh's representatives in the Pennsylvania house will again introduce a bill that would extend the state's discrimination protections to LGBTQ people. But unless Rep. Dan Frankel and other legislators can convince Speaker Mike Turzai to refer the bill to a committee that will put it up for a vote, it's likely to suffer the same fate."

["House Democrats return to lobbying for minimum wage hike." Katie Meyer. WITF. January 30, 2017.](#)

"After holding a hearing on raising the minimum wage, members of the Democratic Policy Committee are preparing to introduce new legislation."

["In a sign of the changing times, Pennsylvania Legislature adds a Climate Change caucus." Charles Thompson. The Patriot-News. January 25, 2017.](#)

"Rep. Steve McCarter, from Montgomery County, said a core group of 15 members have signed on to the new group thus far, and all lawmakers from both parties will be invited to attend the group's initial meeting in February."

["Governor Wolf's chief of staff goes on campaign duty." Charles Thompson. The Patriot-News. January 31, 2017.](#)

"Wolf announced Tuesday that Mary Isenhour is stepping out of Wolf's inner circle at the Capitol to join the inner circle of his re-election effort. Mike Brunelle, the current executive deputy chief of staff, will succeed Isenhour effective Feb. 13."

["The grassroots movement to eliminate property taxes in Pennsylvania." Ryan Briggs. City and State. January 26, 2017.](#)

"...the Pennsylvania Taxpayers Cyber Coalition, and its mission to eliminate the state's largest source of school funding, once elicited eye rolls in Harrisburg when they first began lobbying legislators 13 years ago. Today, politicians are calling..."

["Beaver County school administrators express funding concerns." Katherine Schaeffer. The Times. January 26, 2017. Subscription Required\)](#)

[Commentary: "Gov. Wolf's challenge: How to balance Pa. budget without broad tax increase." Charles Thompson. The Patriot-News. January 27, 2017.](#)

[Commentary: "Eliminating school property taxes will hurt poorer districts." Michael Churchill. The Mercury. January 29, 2017.](#)

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[Commentary: "Pa. must approve online gaming." John Pappas. Philadelphia Inquirer. January 30, 2017.](#)

### **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](mailto:streater@forbesfunds.org) so we can add it to our tracking list.

#### *Voted On*

#### [SB 261- Allows Victims of Sexual Abuse to Sue Until the Age of 50](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Senator Joe Scarnati (R-Cameron, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter, Tioga)

*Latest Action:* Passed the Senate. Now in the House

#### [Fiscal Note](#)

"The Pennsylvania Senate has voted 48-0 to pass a bill extending the paths to justice for future victims of child sex abuse. The bill, which essentially reopens an old debate with the state House in the new legislative session, would give child victims until age 50 to bring civil lawsuits against abusers or those employers who were allegedly negligent in failing to stop them. At present, the window to sue expires at age 30. It would also eliminate any statute of limitations on criminal prosecutions for child sexual abuse. The key question now is whether the Senate-passed bill - which only applies to future cases - can be reconciled with the House, which also added a two-year window for past victims to file suits under the new deadlines." ([The Patriot-News](#))

#### *New Legislation*

#### [HB 117- Mental Health Parity and Addiction Reporting Requirements](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Representative Aaron Kaufer (R-Luzerne)

*Current Committee:* Insurance

"My legislation will require insurers to disclose to the Insurance Department the number of insureds, the number of insureds receiving addiction treatment and a breakdown of the treatment, including denials based on types of treatment. The department will use this information to prepare a public report that will be further reviewed by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs for compliance with the federal parity law and other laws of the Commonwealth." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

#### [HB 118- Community Hospital Emergency Drug and Alcohol Detoxification](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Representative Aaron Kaufer (R-Luzerne)

*Current Committee:* Health

"... this bill will encourage existing health care facilities to convert beds to provide medically supervised detoxification and create a staging area for people who are in need of developing a high quality treatment program who may still be in search of an available bed." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

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### [HB 200- Postpartum Depression: Early Intervention services for infants and their mothers](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Representative Tarah Toohil (R-Luzerne)

*Current Committee:* Children and Youth

"...legislation to include postpartum depression as an At Risk Category for Early Intervention Tracking under Pennsylvania Law (Act 212)." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [HB 201- SMART Act: State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent Budgeting for the Commonwealth](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Representative Seth Grove (R-York)

*Current Committee:* Appropriations

"The commonwealth's current incremental budget process coupled with the Great Recession has led to major budgetary issues in the commonwealth. In order to address this, we will be introducing legislation to mandate the use of performance data in budgeting modeled after Colorado's SMART Act authored by former House Speaker Mark Ferrandino (D-Denver)." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [HB 253- Reduction in Size of House and Senate](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Representative Rob Kauffman (R-Franklin)

*Current Committee:* Not Yet Assigned

"This bill would amend the Constitution by reducing the size of the House of Representatives to 153 members and the Senate to 38 members." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [HB 304- Increase Pension for Blind, Amputee, and Paralyzed Veterans](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Representative Neal Goodman (D-Schuylkill)

*Current Committee:* Not Yet Assigned

"Currently, Pennsylvania veterans who suffered service-connected injuries or diseases that caused blindness, paralysis, or the loss of two or more limbs are eligible to receive a pension of \$150 per month. My legislation would increase the pension to \$200 per month." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [SB 216- Early Voting](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Senator Daylin Leach (D-Philadelphia)

*Current Committee:* State Government

"This bill will provide for polling places to be open across the commonwealth for the two weeks prior to Election Day. No excuse would be required to vote early and the polling places would be public, centrally located and well published, just as they are on Election Day." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [SB 225- Budget Impasse Legislation](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Senator Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming)

*Current Committee:* Appropriations

"The first bill would amend the Constitution to require the Commonwealth to maintain state appropriations at 80 percent of the prior year level if a general fund budget is not enacted by the constitutional deadline of June 30 of any year." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [SB 226- Budget Impasse Legislation](#)

## GNPN Public Policy Summary February 2, 2017

*Prime Sponsor:* Senator Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming)

*Current Committee:* Appropriations

"...bill would provide for certain actions/deadlines by the General Assembly to move the process forward." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [SB 232- Removing the Statute of Limitations for Sexual Abuse of a Minor](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Senator Lisa Boscola (D-Lehigh, Northampton)

*Current Committee:* Judiciary

"...bill would eliminate the statute of limitations for sexual abuse of a minor for criminal prosecution." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [SB 233- Removing the Statute of Limitations for Sexual Abuse of a Minor](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Senator Lisa Boscola (D-Lehigh, Northampton)

*Current Committee:* Judiciary

"...bill would eliminate the statute of limitations for sexual abuse of a minor for civil action." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [SB 236- Nursing Facility Accountability Act](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Senator Daylin Leach (D-Philadelphia)

*Current Committee:* Health and Human Services

"This legislation would establish the Living Wage Certification Program to encourage facilities to provide \$15 per hour base wages to all of their employees, whether directly employed or subcontracted. It would also penalize those facilities that force their employees to receive healthcare coverage through Medical Assistance or other fully and partially publicly funded programs through the payment of a Nursing Facility Employer Responsibility Penalty. This will help recover some of the costs of providing health insurance that Nursing Facilities are currently shifting to the state." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [SB 243- Redistricting Reform](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Senator Daylin Leach (D-Philadelphia)

*Current Committee:* State Government

"The purpose of the legislation is to reduce the opportunity for gerrymandering and to increase the possibility of again having competitive elections in our Commonwealth." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [SB 263- Permanent Absentee Voter Status](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Senator Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming)

*Current Committee:* State Government

"... legislation amending Title 25 (Elections) to eliminate the requirement for disabled voters with permanent absentee voter status to submit a written statement every four years asserting that they remain disabled and continue to qualify for permanent absentee voter status." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

## GNPN Public Policy Summary February 2, 2017

### Federal Policy

["Trump Pledges to Kill Law Limiting Nonprofits' Political Activities." \*Chronicle of Philanthropy\*. February 2, 2017.](#)

"President Trump said Thursday he would work to end a 63-year-old law that limits nonprofits' political activities. 'I will get rid and totally destroy the Johnson Amendment and allow our representatives of faith to speak freely and without fear of retribution,' President Trump said. 'I will do that.' The comments came during the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington."

["The Johnson Amendment, Which Trump Vows to 'Destroy,' Explained." Jeremy Peters. \*The New York Times\*. February 2, 2017.](#)

"When President Trump told an audience of religious leaders on Thursday that he would 'destroy' the Johnson Amendment, he declared his intention to sign a bill that would fundamentally alter a major aspect of the church-state divide that has been a constant in American politics for generations. But what exactly is the Johnson Amendment?"

["Proposed Trump Executive Order Could Curtail LGBT Rights." Rick Klein. \*ABC News\*. February 1, 2017.](#)

"A draft of an executive order on 'religious freedom' is circulating in the Trump administration, outlining a possible weakening of protections designed to shield LGBT individuals from discrimination, according to a copy of the proposed order obtained by ABC News. The order - which may never become administration policy, depending on internal deliberations - would also free some private companies from being forced to provide contraceptive coverage as part of the health plans they offer employees. And it would open the door for tax-exempt entities to speak out 'on moral or political issues from a religious perspective' without fear of losing favored tax status. White House officials told ABC News that the draft appears to be among the hundreds of possible executive orders that are circulating - drafted by the Trump transition team, the White House policy team or by outside groups - and that not all reflect administration thinking or likely policy. One official did not say who drafted this possible order but did not dispute its authenticity."

["Republicans aggressively push approval of Trump Cabinet nominees." \*The Washington Post\*. February 1, 2017.](#)

"Republicans lashed out angrily at Democrats trying to stall the president's nominees at the committee level, suspending the rules to approve two nominees, Rep. Tom Price (R-Ga.) for secretary of health and human services and Steve Mnuchin to lead the Treasury. Republicans also advanced the nomination of Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) for attorney general, and they finalized confirmation of former ExxonMobil chief executive Rex Tillerson for secretary of state by a vote of 56 to 43."

["VA 'will not be privatized under my watch,' Cabinet nominee says in clash with Trump team." Lisa Rein. \*The Washington Post\*. February 1, 2017.](#)

"David Shulkin, President Trump's nominee to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs, said at his confirmation hearing Wednesday that he would seek 'major reform and a transformation of VA' - but would not privatize the federal health care system for veterans. 'There will be far greater accountability, dramatically improved access, responsiveness and expanded care options,' Shulkin told the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. 'But the Department of Veterans Affairs will not be privatized under my watch.'"

## GNPN Public Policy Summary February 2, 2017

["GOP-only Tax Reform Plans May Be Enacted in 2018." Michael Wyland. \*Nonprofit Quarterly\*. January 27, 2017.](#)

"If the GOP adopts the legislative strategy [of reconciliation] Meadows mentioned, two things happen. First, major changes to the federal tax code become much more likely, assuming that all Senate Republicans sign on to the tax package and support budget reconciliation. Second, Congressional Democrats lose the ability to block tax reform and, therefore, are less able to negotiate compromises that will address their concerns and the needs of their core constituencies.

["We'll deliver lowest tax rates in modern times, chief GOP tax writer says." CNBC. February 1, 2017.](#)

"Overhauling the nation's tax code for families and business will happen this year, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady promised on CNBC on Wednesday."

["Trump administration issues temporary media blackout at EPA, freezes grants." \*State Impact\*. January 24, 2017.](#)

"The Trump administration also imposed a freeze on new grants and contracts. A spokesperson for Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection says it's too early to know what this could mean for the state's environmental protection programs."

[Commentary: "This may be the last year you get a charitable tax deduction." Ashley Ebeling. \*Forbes\*. February 1, 2017.](#)

[Commentary: "Signs Suggest Trump Budget Will Feature Unprecedented Cuts Plus Large Tax Cuts Favoring Wealthy." Robert Greenstein. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. January 31, 2017.](#)

[Commentary: "Trump's VA pick shows agency under Obama wasn't broken - badly bent, yes." Joe Davidson. \*The Washington Post\*. February 2, 2017.](#)

### Health Care

["Behind closed doors, Republican lawmakers fret about how to repeal Obamacare." Mike DeBonis. \*The Washington Post\*. January 27, 2017.](#)

"The recording reveals a GOP that appears to be filled with doubts about how to make good on a long-standing promise to get rid of Obamacare without explicit guidance from President Trump or his administration. The thorny issues with which lawmakers grapple on the tape - including who may end up either losing coverage or paying more under a revamped system - highlight the financial and political challenges that flow from upending the current law."

["Advocates concerned about proposals to block grant Medicaid." Kate Giammarise. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 30, 2017.](#)

"The threat to the health care safety net for the vulnerable comes not just from the planned rollback of the Affordable Care Act, advocates say, but from proposed changes to Medicaid. Medicaid is one of the largest programs providing health insurance for children, the poor, the elderly and those with disabilities."

## GNPN Public Policy Summary February 2, 2017

["Talk of repeal sends people running to, and from, Affordable Care Act." \*The New York Times\*. February 1, 2017.](#)

"A flurry of actions by President Donald Trump and Congress against the Affordable Care Act injected confusion and uncertainty into the final weeks of the annual period to sign up for coverage, and many, but not all, enrollment groups were reporting a drop in people seeking insurance as the deadline loomed on Tuesday."

["Period of uncertainty begins for Pennsylvanians who signed on for Obamacare coverage." \*Wes Ventreicher. Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*. January 31, 2017.](#)

"Enrollment groups and Pennsylvania health officials encouraged people to sign up for plans despite uncertainty surrounding the health law - including whether the fines will be enforced - as President Trump and Republicans in Congress pursue plans to repeal the law."

[Fact Check: "Paul Ryan's claim that 'more and more doctors just won't take Medicaid.'" \*The Washington Post\*. February 1, 2017.](#)

### Immigration

["Pittsburgh City Council passes bills to help safeguard immigrants, refugees." \*Adam Smeltz. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. February 1, 2017.](#)

"Pittsburgh City Council united Tuesday behind a half-dozen proposals meant to help immigrants and refugees, voting 9-0 to pass the bills. A spokesman said Mayor Bill Peduto plans to sign the legislation, which will ban the city from withholding public services based on a person's immigration status. Other provisions include a 'language access plan' to help English learners and people with disabilities use city services."

["What do Trump's executive orders mean for Pittsburgh's immigrants and refugees?" \*Ryan Deto. Pittsburgh City Paper\*. February 1, 2017.](#)

"According to data compiled by the Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition (PICC), Allegheny County has about 8,000 undocumented immigrants, which is less than 1 percent of the total county population. There are even fewer refugees; the county has taken in about 4,000 between 2003 to 2015. But even with such small numbers, some actions by Trump will immediately affect Pittsburghers."

### 2017 and 2018 Elections

["Inactive voters in Westmoreland, Allegheny counties notified of pending purge." \*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*. January 26, 2017.](#)

"The letters issued this week to more than 5,700 Westmoreland County and more than 11,100 Allegheny County voters about their potential removal from the voting rolls are not connected to Trump's initiative; rather, they are part of standard practice in Pennsylvania, where state law

## GPNP Public Policy Summary February 2, 2017

mandates that county election officers perform voter registration list maintenance at least once a year."

["Cambria elections board approves 3 Johnstown referendums for primary vote." Jocelyn Brumbaugh. \*Tribune-Democrat\*. January 27, 2017.](#)

"Preparations have already begun for this spring's primary election, with Cambria County's Board of Elections approving three referendums for Johnstown residents to decide in May."

["'Unprecedented' numbers of Pa. women from both parties looking to run for office." Kate Colinari. \*Newsworks\*. January 26, 2017.](#)

"These women are the second class brought together by Emerge Pennsylvania, the state chapter of a national organization devoted to helping Democratic women run. It offers an intense, six-month training in every aspect of campaigning from door-knocking to fundraising."

### **Nonprofit Sector**

["Luzerne County - R-2016-57." PANO. January 2017.](#)

"In late summer 2016 the Luzerne County Council adopted R-2016-57, a resolution compelling nonprofits receiving the County's discretionary funding to disclose certain information on their own websites or the Luzerne County's website such as copies of board minutes and other information already included in their Form 990s. Because the requirements were unduly burdensome, exceeded the bounds of accepted best practices and those required by nonprofit corporate law, and were in some cases an invasion of privacy, PANO wrote a letter to the County Solicitor responding to the resolution. The County responded by requesting more information regarding PANO's Standards for Excellence. After meeting with local nonprofit leaders, they have also taken a step back to reevaluate the stated requirements."

["Partner4Work connects employers to jobs seekers with 40,000 for 40,000 campaign." Amanda Waltz. \*Next Pittsburgh\* January 27, 2017.](#)

"The 3 Rivers Workforce Investment Board has a new name and a new mission-to connect the region's unemployed and underemployed with jobs. Now known as Partner4Work, the organization continues serving businesses and job seekers in the region with 40,000 for 40,000, a yearlong campaign aimed at getting people back to work."

["Junior Achievement: One hundred million success stories and counting." Janice Crompton. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 27, 2017.](#)

"Junior Achievement has done much for the 100 million students it has served since its inception in 1919."

["Animal Rescue League and Western PA Humane Society merge, open new shelter." Brian Conway. \*Next Pittsburgh\*. January 27, 2017.](#)

"Effective January 1, the Animal Rescue League and Western PA Humane Society merged to form one of the largest open-door animal shelters in Pennsylvania, serving around 50,000 animals per year. Both the new ARL facility and the WPHS's North Side shelter belong to the Animal Rescue League/Western PA Humane Society."

## Health and Human Services

["Homelessness in college is a problem. And we barely know the scope of it." Mary Niederberger. PublicSource. January 26, 2017.](#)

"Joseph Lagana, the founder of the Homeless Children's Education Fund, says his Pittsburgh-based organization has begun to see not only a need for food and shelter among students in elementary, middle and high schools, but increasingly among those pursuing a higher education. Lagana is working with the Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education and local college and university leaders to identify and help homeless students..."

["Community Action Conducts Annual Homeless Count." Mike Tony. Herald Standard. January 26, 2017.](#)

Fayette County Community Action is conducting its annual homeless count.

## Education

["How A Lottery Determines The Path For Many Pittsburgh Students." Sarah Schneider. WESA. January 31, 2017.](#)

"There are nearly 25,000 students in the district. This year almost 3,500 applied for a magnet and about 1,300 were accepted. A student can apply for up to three schools. The district uses a lottery to keep the system fair. But, there are some weights, including sibling preference, program continuation, economic disadvantage and the geographic region of the school. A Supreme Court decision three years ago determined weight could not be contingent upon race. This year's applicants reflect the district's demographic makeup."

["Status quo for state universities 'unsustainable,' leaders say." Jan Murphy. The Patriot-News. January 26, 2017.](#)

"A grim future faces the 14 state universities unless some "solid changes" are made and a hard look at what those changes entail will start soon, said leaders of the State System of Higher Education on Thursday. ... This talk of restructuring comes at a time that state officials at the Capitol are weighing decisions about closing State Correctional Institution at Pittsburgh, consolidating departments, and downsizing the General Assembly. Funding concerns and avoidance of broad-based tax increases are the reason behind this government shake-up that has left some convinced the status quo can't continue."

## Housing and Community Development

["Officials envision new life for riverfront site of SCI Pittsburgh." Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. January 26, 2017.](#)

"After more than a century housing inmates, the riverfront State Correctional Institution at Pittsburgh has a new life ahead of it, Pennsylvania and local officials believe."

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["Cambria commissioners enact fees on deeds, mortgages to support blight demolition." Jocelyn Brumbaugh. Tribune-Democrat. January 27, 2017.](#)

"In an effort to address the growing number of blighted properties in the area, Cambria County officials have opted to begin assessing a fee that will go toward demolition of dilapidated structures. Act 152, also referred to as the Recorder of Deeds fee law, was signed by Gov. Tom Wolf in November and allows counties to add a \$15 user fee to deeds and mortgages. By approving a resolution to enact this fee beginning March 1, Cambria County will use those fees to create a demolition fund to raze blighted properties."

["Developer Says 'Big, Bold' Actions Needed For Affordable Housing Solutions." Marcus Charleston. WESA. January 30, 2017.](#)

"Developer Jonathan Rose said 'big and bold actions' are needed to address the city's affordable housing needs. Rose is founder of the investment, development and urban planning firm Jonathan Rose Companies and wrote *The Well-Tempered City: What Modern Science, Ancient Civilizations, and Human Nature Teach Us About the Future of Urban Life*, which talks about affordable housing. His company has an affordable housing preservation fund and is currently acquiring five Pittsburgh-area properties to provide affordable options for seniors."

["Bridge building: Cambria-Johnstown chamber hosts Pittsburgh tech council." Ronald Fisher. Tribune-Democrat. January 28, 2017.](#)

"The virtual bridge to Pittsburgh is quickly becoming a reality for the Greater Johnstown area."

["To Keep Their Artists, Cities Explore Affordable Housing." Teresa Wiltz. Stateline. February 1, 2017.](#)

### **Water, Energy, and Environment**

["Pa. water systems will fail. All systems do." Margaret Kraus. WESA. February 2, 2017.](#)

"Across the commonwealth there are more than 8,000 water systems, and any number of things could create an advisory like the one in Pittsburgh, said Department of Environmental Protection press secretary Neil Shader."

["Pa. lags behind other states on protecting children from lead poisoning." Susan Baldrige. Lancaster Online. February 2, 2017.](#)

"Legislators concerned about lead are getting ready to reintroduce the bills that gained bipartisan support during the last session."

["Data trove offers new details on complaints to DEP during shale boom." State Impact. January 31, 2017.](#)

"Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection received 9,442 public complaints about environmental problems in areas where unconventional natural gas development occurred from 2004 to the end of November 2016, an investigation reported, unveiling a trove of documents from the state's natural gas boom."

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### Corrections and Public Safety

["Law enforcement sees troubling link between opioid crisis, illegal guns in Pittsburgh area." Jeffrey Benzing. PublicSource. January 31, 2017.](#)

"If you're addicted, trading guns for drugs means you'll avoid crippling withdrawal for lack of heroin or opioid painkillers. If you're a dealer, a trade means you'll be armed, even if a prior conviction bans you from buying a gun yourself. So what seems like an innocuous swap puts illegal guns on the street."

["Officials: SCI Pittsburgh closure may lead to overcrowding at Westmoreland County Prison." Rich Chlodofsky. Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. January 30, 2017.](#)

"Westmoreland County officials said Monday the planned closing of SCI Pittsburgh could lead to overcrowding at the county jail."

### Arts, Parks, and Culture

["7 people tell stories about loving and improving Pittsburgh at Inspire Speaker Series." Amanda Waltz. Next Pittsburgh. January 31, 2017.](#)

"For the second year in a row, the GBA will [present stories](#) via their Inspire Speaker Series meant to engage listeners in conversations about ways they can improve their communities. Under the theme Loving Your Place, the evening will feature seven local speakers telling short, five- to seven-minute long stories about working to create a healthy, vibrant, and just Pittsburgh region."

["Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre lineup for 2017-18 includes new works, classical masterpieces." Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. February 1, 2017.](#)

"For its 2017-18 lineup, the company plans to stretch its artists with a mix of classical masterworks and PBT premieres by legendary choreographer Jerome Robbins. It will also showcase its own crop of budding choreographers in a mixed repertory program featuring new works by company dancers."

["Allegheny River, Montour Trail hailed for drawing attention to state's natural assets." John Hayes. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. January 26, 2017.](#)

"During the last three weeks, the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has designated the Allegheny River as Pennsylvania's River of the Year, and the Montour Trail was dubbed the state's Trail of the Year."

### 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](mailto:streeter@forbesfunds.org)

[Senator Camera Bartolotta Town Hall Event on Postpartum Depression](#)

When: March 2, 2017 at 12:00 PM

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

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