



## Public Policy Summary January 19, 2017

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

### [Upcoming Events](#)

- January 25: Allies for Children is convening stakeholders to discuss advocacy on CHIP, Medicaid, and health insurance. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- January 31: Is your charity ready for the new non-profit reporting standards? Would you like to learn how to build relationships with your legislators? Please join us on January 31 for the Washington County Community Foundation's Building Charitable Capacity Institute. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- January 31: The Forbes Funds' President Kate Dewey will be participating in the MIT Enterprise Forum: To B or Not To B...What It Means To Start or Invest In A For-Profit Social Enterprise Company. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- February 9: Nonprofit Vote hosts "Creating a Voter Engagement Plan for your Nonprofit" online. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- 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's Public Policy Committee meeting dates for 2017 are scheduled for 2017. Click [here](#) for the dates and registration information.

### [GNP News and Announcements](#)

- *The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* reported on nonprofits' preparations for the Trump Administration. The story explained that GNP and our members are actively monitoring the presidential transition because of anticipated disruptions to the policy landscape. The story also noted the increased involvement by GNP members in our Public Policy Committee. If your organization is interested in participating, the committee's next meeting will be on February 14th. Registration is available by clicking [here](#).
- 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.
- January 30: Senator Camera Bartolotta (R-Beaver, Greene, Washington) hosts a telephone town hall. Click [here](#) for information.
- The application period for RACP grants is open until February 3, 2017.

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- The National Multiple Sclerosis Society- PA Keystone Chapter is our Member Spotlight for January.

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

- The AP published a preliminary preview of Governor Tom Wolf's February 7th budget address. According to the AP, the Governor is planning to propose a budget without new sales or income taxes. According to State Impact, he is expected to push again for a Marcellus Shale severance tax.
- According to *The Patriot-News*, Pennsylvania's long-term demographic trends mean that the state lottery must increase its revenue in order to keep up with rising costs and demands for senior services.
- The Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials indicated that most school districts in Pennsylvania are planning to raise property taxes to meet increased costs.
- Pennsylvania received a record \$3.21 billion in gambling revenue in 2016.
- According to *The Patriot-News*, Senate Democrats are expected to push for gambling expansions this year.
- The Wolf Administration announced that it will be closing two prisons to cut costs. SCI Pittsburgh was among the four facilities mentioned as possible closures.
- Senate Republicans announced that they will increase their majorities on Senate committees due to the increase in the number of Senate seats they hold.
- *The Patriot-News* reported on the increase in callers receiving busy signals when contacting Pennsylvania's Unemployment Compensation Call Centers.
- Governor Wolf announced the state will save \$5.6 million by taking over the management of its investment funds.
- Public Source analyzed the impact of Pennsylvania's film tax credits.
- Newsworks reported on the trends in municipal budgets for 2017.
- Governor Wolf announced a new business fee exemption program for veterans and military reservists.

### [New Pennsylvania Legislation](#)

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

- HB 17- Age of Consent
- HB 44- Protection From Abuse Act as recommended by the Task Force on Child Protection
- HB 59- Appeal of Adoption Subsidy
- HB 72- Unannounced Inspections of Childcare Facilities
- HB 75- Early Voting and No-Excuse Absentee Balloting
- HB 92- Reducing the Size of the Legislature
- HB 106- Financial Literacy Capstone Course
- HB 110- Taxpayer Protection Act (Constitutional Amendment)
- HB 114- Medical Assistance/Child Support Legislation
- HB 153- Reducing the Size of the House of Representatives
- SB 44- Prohibiting Sexual Orientation Change or "Conversion" Therapy for Minors
- SB 45- Veterans' Down Payment & Closing Cost Assistance
- SB 59- Prison Industry Enhancement
- SB 61- Indigent Defense Legal Representation
- SB 62- Children of Incarcerated Parents
- SB 65- Child Welfare Workers Loan Forgiveness Act
- SB 73- Pennsylvania Office of Faith-Based and Non-profit Community Organizations
- SB 77- Funding for Natural Gas Drilling Health Research

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- SB 79- Child Care Tax Credit Act
- SB 90- Charities Code
- SB 99- Regulation of Donation Bins
- SB 111- Changes to the Child Protective Services Law

### Trump Administration

- President-elect Donald Trump said that his replacement plan for the Affordable Care Act will provide "insurance for everybody."
- President-elect Trump's advisors are planning significant cuts for several government departments. According to *The Hill*, "The departments of Commerce and Energy would see major reductions in funding, with programs under their jurisdiction either being eliminated or transferred to other agencies. The departments of Transportation, Justice and State would see significant cuts and program eliminations. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting would be privatized, while the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities would be eliminated entirely. Overall, the blueprint being used by Trump's team would reduce federal spending by \$10.5 trillion over 10 years."
- Senate confirmation hearings were held for Representative Tom Price (R-GA), Ben Carson, and Betsy DeVos.
- David Shulkin was selected to lead the Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported on the relationships between the Scaife Foundation and individuals connected to the incoming Trump Administration.

### Federal Policy

- Due to a new law, the IRS will be holding EITC refunds until February 15th.
- The Congressional Budget Office's latest report estimates that 18 million people will lose their health insurance under a complete repeal of the Affordable Care Act.
- Congress took preliminary steps toward repealing the Affordable Care Act.
- Newsworks reported that autism advocates are concerned about the Affordable Care Act's repeal.
- Representative Keith Rothfus (R-PA) was named chair of the House Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee.

### Elections 2017 and 2018

- Senator Scott Wagner (R-York) officially declared his candidacy for governor.
- *The Philadelphia Inquirer* reported on other individuals interested in challenging Governor Wolf in 2018.
- Reverend John Welch announced that he will challenge Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto in the upcoming primary election.
- Pat Catena was appointed to fill the vacant seat on Allegheny County Council.

### Nonprofit Sector

- Nonprofit Vote wrote about the importance of nonprofits bridging the voter contact gap to increase voter turnout.
- *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported on the Allegheny Foundation's recent increase in grantmaking.

### Pittsburgh Region News

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- Pittsburgh City Council Member Dan Gilman introduced a package of legislation to protect services for immigrants.
- *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported on Pittsburgh's new LGBT Advisory Panel.
- *The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* reported on a recent town hall that addressed racial issues in the Pittsburgh region.
- Westmoreland County's Commissioners are considering the sale of assets to raise county revenues.
- Westmoreland County is seeking more public input for its comprehensive county plan.
- Next Pittsburgh highlighted the Sprout Fund's "100 Days of Us" program.

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

- Pennsylvania announced insurance company participants for the HealthChoices program.
- Pennsylvania is implementing its Rural Health Model, which changes the way rural hospitals are reimbursed for services.
- Governor Wolf discussed the obstacles to fully addressing the opioid epidemic.
- Allegheny Health Network unveiled a new mental health program for new mothers.
- *The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* highlighted the work of the Westmoreland County Food Bank.
- The Pittsburgh Aids Task Force is offering free syphilis testing.
- Pennsylvania is participating in pilot program that allows food stamp participants to purchase groceries online.

### [Education](#)

- The U.S. Supreme Court will decide a case regarding school services for students with disabilities.
- Pennsylvania's Department of Education announced its new Future Ready PA Index, which will be used to rate schools.
- The Council of the Great City Schools issued its report on the Pittsburgh Public Schools.
- The Allegheny County Library Association and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh raised over \$500,000 to support their libraries.

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

- *The New York Times* reported that decreased crime can be an indicator of gentrification.
- The Urban Redevelopment Authority is expected to name Robert Rubinstein as its Executive Director.
- Local media reported on development in Pittsburgh's East Liberty, Hilltop, and Homewood neighborhoods.

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

- Allegheny County's Health Department voted to post its proposal for mandatory lead testing of children up for public comments.
- Public Source reported on the work of charter schools to address lead in their facilities.
- PennFuture and Conservation Voters of PA announced that they are combining advocacy efforts.

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

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- Public Source analyzed possible reasons for half of Pittsburgh's murders going unsolved.
- Pennsylvania's State Police are receiving technology upgrades to fight crime.

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

- Pittsburgh's Office of Public Art is seeking artists to work with nonprofits serving immigrants.
- *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported on the current state of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.
- City of Asylum opened its new bookstore.
- The Schenley Park golf course clubhouse, which is managed by The First Tee of Pittsburgh, is expected to be replaced with a new facility.

### [Transportation](#)

- *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported on the implementation of the Port Authority of Allegheny County's new fare system.
- *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported that Pittsburgh's proposed Bike Lane Advisory Board could be a model for other parts of the state.

These stories, and many others, follow below.

### **Sections**

#### [GNPN Events](#)

- \* [January 31: Washington County Community Foundation Building Charitable Capacity Institute](#)
- \* [February 21: Working Smarter Means Big Savings](#)
- \* [2017 GNPN Public Policy Committee Meeting Dates](#)

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### [Constituent and Town Hall Events](#)

#### **January 31: Washington County Community Foundation Building Charitable Capacity Learning Institute Winter Seminar**



Is your charity ready for the new non-profit reporting standards?

Would you like to learn how to build relationships with your legislators

Please join us on January 31 for the BCCLI - Winter Seminar to learn more about these important topics.

#### Event Details

- Tuesday, January 31, 2017
- 2:00 - 4:30 pm
- Southpointe Golf Club, 360 Southpointe Boulevard, Canonsburg, PA 15317
- The Seminar is FREE, but Registration is REQUIRED.

[register](#)

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2:00 - 3:00 pm

Featured Presenter: Sandra Guthrie, WCCF Trustee, CPA, Guthrie, Belczyk, & Associates

Learn how your organization will be impacted by the new non-profit financial reporting model and what you should be doing now to prepare.  
In this workshop, we will cover:

- Net Asset Classification
- Understanding the new disclosure requirements regarding liquidity and availability of resources



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- Expenses and Investment Return

Sandy has many years' experience in public accounting for nonprofits and for-profit businesses. She holds a bachelor's in accounting from California University of Pennsylvania and is both a certified public accountant and certified fraud examiner.

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3:00 - 4:30 pm

Featured Presenter: Samantha Balbier, Executive Director, Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership



Getting to know your legislator and local elected officials is an important aspect in advocating for the missions of your organization. Nonprofit organizations are uniquely positioned to communicate their community's needs to the politicians who write public policy and appropriate funds.

We are offering an opportunity to learn how to make the most of legislative visits and meetings with elected officials. These meetings will be very important in the coming months as we approach another very difficult state budget process for 2017-2018.

Join us along with the regional Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership to prepare for better communications with your local officials.

Samantha is a long-time Pittsburgh resident with a demonstrated track record in policy analysis, development, strategic communications, and building collaborations to mobilize policy makers and the public to take action. Samantha has an MSW from the University of Pittsburgh in Community Organizing and Public Policy, as well as bachelors degrees from Mercyhurst College in Social Work and Business & Marketing.

### January 31: MIT Enterprise Forum: To B or Not To B...What It Means To Start or Invest In A For-Profit Social Enterprise Company



Entrepreneurs are starting and investors are funding companies that generate profit AND make a social impact. But what does it actually mean to start, invest in and operate a for-profit social enterprise? An expert panel representing investors, economic development groups, foundations, the legal community and social entrepreneurs will discuss the various structures and funding sources for for-profit social venture enterprises, what to expect as an investor or founder, and how for-profit social enterprises operate. Click [here](#) to register.

[register](#)

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### Moderator

- Center for Women's Entrepreneurship, Chatham University: Rebecca U. Harris, Executive Director

### Panelists

- Idea Foundry: Nicole Muise-Kielkuki, Social Director, Social Enterprise Initiative
- The Forbes Funds: Kate Dewey, President
- Stonecipher Law Firm: Jeanne Lofgren, Business Law and Restructuring Attorney
- Folia Water: Jonathan Levine, Ph.D. CEO and Cofounder

### February 21: Working Smarter Means Big Savings

*Please Join Us for a Special GPNP 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.

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



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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/GNPN 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.

### GNPN News

["Nonprofits brace for change under Trump." Joyce Gannon. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. January 16, 2017.](#)

"Public policy meetings at the Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership typically attract about 20 people who show up in person and another 10 who connect by phone. But when the organization held its end-of-year public policy gathering in December, 60 attendees filed into the partnership's offices in Five PPG Place, Downtown - and 25 more called in from remote locations. Samantha Balbier, executive director of the Pittsburgh organization, wasn't surprised. Coming on the heels of Donald Trump's stunning election as president, the nonprofit leaders who packed the room were grappling for answers about how their sector might be upended under a new administration in

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Washington, D.C. 'Nonprofits expect significant disruption,' Ms. Balbier said. 'So our members have become very engaged in public policy to stay on top of what's going on.' ... The Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership brings together more than 400 nonprofits in 12 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania. It provides education and networking opportunities for members; it also advocates for the sector with local, state and federal elected officials. In a survey on public policy issues that the organization conducted after the election, health care topped the list of concerns. In second place was the potential for repeal of the Johnson amendment - a 1954 revision to the Internal Revenue Service tax code that prohibits nonprofits from endorsing or opposing political candidates. Mr. Trump has urged repeal of the amendment, a move observers say would allow church leaders in his large, white evangelical base to engage in political organizing. The National Council of Nonprofits said repeal would allow nonprofits to provide campaign funds for political candidates, thus diverting money from programs for the underserved. 'And that changes the game,' Ms. Balbier said."

### [The National Multiple Sclerosis Society- PA Keystone Chapter is our Member Spotlight for January!](#)

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society exists because there are people with MS. Its vision is a world free of MS. Everything it does is focused so that people affected by MS can live their best lives as we stop MS in its tracks, restore what has been lost and end MS forever. It is more than an organization. It is a movement. United in our collective power to do something about MS now and end this disease forever. The gathering place for people with MS, their family and loved ones, healthcare providers, volunteers, donors, fundraisers, advocates, community leaders and all those that seek a world free of MS. A place to connect and take action. In order to change the world, it mobilizes all possible human and financial resources to achieve results. Click [here](#) to learn more about their work.

### [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!

## **Announcements**

### [Allies for Children Convening for CHIP, Medicaid, and Health Insurance Advocacy](#)

Allies for Children is convening stakeholders to coordinate advocacy efforts around protecting children's health insurance programs, Medicaid and CHIP during this critical time. Any organizations

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interested in participating in a January 25th, 9 a.m. meeting to develop next steps and begin advocacy efforts, please contact Alicia Moore at [alicia.moore@alliesforchildren.org](mailto:alicia.moore@alliesforchildren.org).

### [RACP Grant Application Period Open Until February 3](#)

"The Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) is a Commonwealth grant program administered by the Office of the Budget for the acquisition and construction of regional economic, cultural, civic, recreational, and historical improvement projects. RACP projects are authorized in the Redevelopment Assistance section of a Capital Budget Itemization Act, have a regional or multi-jurisdictional impact, and generate substantial increases or maintain current levels of employment, tax revenues, or other measures of economic activity. RACP projects are state-funded projects that cannot obtain primary funding under other state programs. ... The new window for Round 2017/1 will be open for 30 days during the period from January 4, 2017 through February 3, 2017."

### [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.

## **Pennsylvania Budget and State Government News**

### ["Wolf facing tough choices to balance Pennsylvania state budget." Marc Levy. AP. January 17, 2017.](#)

"Most details of the Democratic governor's proposal, to be released Feb. 7, are still under wraps. But Mr. Wolf says it will be the first he has proposed without a sales or income tax increase that, in his first two years, he viewed as necessary to offset a long-term deficit he inherited and help fix huge disparities between public schools."

### ["Wolf hoping third time's the charm on severance tax." Kate Colinari. State Impact. January 10, 2017.](#)

"Following an event at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia Tuesday evening, Wolf said he plans to ask for a tax on Marcellus Shale drillers during his 2017/2018 fiscal year budget address next month. However, he was mum on the details, which he said are still being worked out with legislators and the natural gas industry."

### ["Older Pennsylvanians lose from lawmakers' raid on lottery fund." Jan Murphy. The Patriot-News. January 13, 2017.](#)

"Despite the lottery's record-breaking performance in recent years - including ticket sales of \$4.1 billion last year generating \$1.1 billion for senior programs -- Ray Landis, AARP Pennsylvania's advocacy director, points out nothing about that revenue stream is guaranteed. ... between those [demographic] factors and the increased cost of providing services, the pressure is on the Pennsylvania Lottery to grow its revenues and turn bigger profits."

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["Most school districts to raise taxes as state money doesn't cover rising costs." Brian Rittmeyer. \*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*. January 13, 2017.](#)

"Most school districts can be expected to raise property taxes for the 2017-18 school year, the leader of a statewide school business officials group says. 'I think what you'll see is fairly consistent tax increases,' said Jay Himes, executive director of the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials. 'Even with new state money, we're still going backward in terms of additional costs versus additional revenue.'"

["Pennsylvania has another record-breaking year for gambling." Mark Belko. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 17, 2017.](#)

"Combined gross revenue from table games and slot machines hit \$3.21 billion last year - the most ever - the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board announced Tuesday. The \$3.21 billion is 1.25 percent higher than in 2015, when combined gross revenue totaled \$3.17 billion, the previous record. It also marks the sixth straight calendar year that the combined revenue has topped \$3 billion. Table games were legalized in 2010."

["Gambling expansion in Pennsylvania gets a fresh push from Senate Democrats." Charles Thompson. \*The Patriot-News\*. January 10, 2017.](#)

"Because of historic troubles in getting GOP-only majorities for gambling bills, if Costa can deliver even as many as eight to 10 members of his outgunned caucus, it may be enough to get a long-stalled 2016-17 budget goal to the finish line."

["Budget woes lead Pennsylvania to close two state prisons in 2017." Wallace McKelvey. \*The Patriot-News\*. January 6, 2017.](#)

"Prisons being considered include SCI Frackville in Schuylkill County, SCI Mercer in Mercer County, SCI Pittsburgh in Allegheny County, SCI Retreat in Luzerne County and SCI Waymart in Wayne County"

["Economics of prisons closures part of discussion surrounding state plan." Eric Malewsky. \*The Patriot-News\*. January 17, 2017.](#)

"Regardless of which of the five state prisons being considered for closure are shuttered later this year, the closures will have an impact on the local communities that host those facilities. That fact isn't lost on state Department of Corrections Secretary John Wetzel, who said the economics of a prison closure are one of the factors -- but by no means the only factor -- being considered as the state moves to announce which prisons will be closing this year."

["Senate Republicans increase committee majorities." Ryan Briggs. \*City and State\*. January 17, 2017.](#)

"...staffers for Senate President Joe Scarnati confirmed that he would, indeed, use those powers to increase Republican majorities on 21 of 22 legislative committees."

["Search for fix to 'crippled' unemployment compensation system leaves jobless waiting." Jan Murphy. \*The Patriot-News\*. January 17, 2017.](#)

"Since the state Department of Labor & Industry's unemployment compensation call centers were downsized, those looking to reach an agent find busy signals are more the rule than the exception."

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["Wolf: Pa. to save \\$5.6 million by managing own investment funds." Philadelphia Inquirer. January 12, 2017.](#)

"Pennsylvania will take over management of three of its investment funds from private firms to save about \$5.6 million annually, Gov. Wolf and Treasurer Timothy Reese said Thursday."

["Pittsburgh looks good on camera. But is Pennsylvania blowing taxpayer funds on film tax credits." Eric Holmberg. Public Source. January 12, 2017.](#)

"The tax credit program was intended to grow the state's film and TV industry. The goal was to bring in large- and small-budget productions, establish a corps of experienced workers and spur private investment. Pennsylvania workers earned nearly \$320 million on these productions, compared to more than \$490 million for out-of-state workers. It's undisputed that there are economic benefits for the state and workers by bringing the film industry to Pennsylvania, but all that seed money, fronted by taxpayers, hasn't been used in ways that would've had the most benefit. In fact, nearly every single film tax credit dollar has been used in unexpected ways, subverting how taxpayers likely envision the system working."

["City budgets in Pennsylvania face their own brand of uncertainty in 2017." Emily Previti. Newsworks. January 11, 2017.](#)

"More than 2,500 municipalities and 67 counties just released their budgets for the upcoming year. So what are the trends? What rises to the top?"

["Governor Wolf announces business fee exemptions for Military Veterans and Reservists." Press Release. Governor Tom Wolf. January 12, 2017.](#)

"The business fee exemption, which became effective January 2, is a result of Act 135 of 2016. The Act eliminates the requirement for fees to start or open a new small business if the business is veteran- or reservist-owned."

[Commentary: "Here's why we need to eliminate school property taxes." Senator Mike Folmer \(R-Dauphin, Lebanon, York\). The Patriot-News. January 5, 2017.](#)

["Two Sides to the Valley \[Pension Reform\]." Representative Peter Schweyer \(D-Lehigh\) and Michelle Young. Lehigh Valley Magazine. January 2017.](#)

[Commentary: "A case for Philly's neediest cases." John Baer. Philadelphia Inquirer. January 9, 2017.](#)

[Commentary: "Taxing businesses even more is not a good solution." Sam Denisco. The Patriot-News. January 9, 2017.](#)

[Commentary: "A modest proposal for lawmakers to help small business in 2017." Kevin Shivers. The Patriot-News. January 11, 2017.](#)

[Commentary: "More low-wage workers would escape poverty if tax credit included childless." Marc Stier and John Whiten. Newsworks. January 6, 2017.](#)

## GPNP Public Policy Summary January 19, 2017

### **New Pennsylvania Legislation**

Below are bills introduced since our last update. If there is a bill relevant to your mission that you do not see listed, please email [streeeter@forbesfunds.org](mailto:streeeter@forbesfunds.org) so we can add it to our tracking list.

#### [HB 17- Age of Consent](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Representative Marcia Hahn (R-Northampton)

*Current Committee:* Not Yet Assigned; No Bill Text

"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 Committee:* Not Yet Assigned; No Bill Text

"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](#))

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

*Prime Sponsor:* Representative Dan Moul (R-Adams)

*Current Committee:* Not Yet Assigned; No Bill Text

"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 72- Unannounced Inspections of Childcare Facilities](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Representative Robert Godshall (R-Montgomery)

*Current Committee:* Not Yet Assigned; No Bill Text

"...provides for unannounced inspections of children's daycare facilities. This bill is about protecting the safety and welfare of our most vulnerable citizens, our children. This bill has passed the House unanimously in previous sessions and has been agreed upon by several stakeholders and by the Department of Human Services." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

#### [HB 75- Early Voting and No-Excuse Absentee Balloting](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Representative Pam Snyder (D-Greene)

*Current Committee:* Not Yet Assigned; No Bill Text

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"This legislation would amend the Pennsylvania Election Code by authorizing early voting eight days prior to Election Day and would end on the day directly preceding Election Day. Early voting would take place at specific polling locations that have been designated as early voting sites and established by a county's board of elections. In addition, this legislation would provide for no-excuse absentee balloting by extending eligibility to any qualified elector regardless of the reason they are unable to vote on Election Day." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [HB 92- Reducing the Size of the Legislature](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Representative Robert Godshall (R-Montgomery)

*Current Committee:* Not Yet Assigned; No Bill Text

"...legislation that would reduce the House of Representatives to 150 representative districts and the Senate to 40 senatorial districts after the 2020 Federal census reapportionment." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [HB 106- Financial Literacy Capstone Course](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Representative Michael Driscoll (D-Philadelphia)

*Current Committee:* Not Yet Assigned; No Bill Text

"...legislation to create a financial literacy capstone course requirement for public schools in Pennsylvania." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [HB 110- Taxpayer Protection Act \(Constitutional Amendment\)](#)

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

*Current Committee:* Not Yet Assigned; No Bill Text

"... legislation which would amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to establish spending limits that the Commonwealth must abide by each fiscal year. The proposed constitutional amendment would limit the range at which the Commonwealth's spending may increase, based on either the Consumer Price Index or a change in population." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [HB 114- Medical Assistance/Child Support Legislation](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Representative Matthew Baker (R-Bradford, Potter, Tioga)

*Current Committee:* Not Yet Assigned; No Bill Text

"Currently, the Human Services Code is silent on the subject of medical support for children receiving Medical Assistance. My legislation will require the non-custodial parent of children for whom Medical Assistance is sought to enroll their children in their own health insurance plan before the Commonwealth would pay for medical care for them. This legislation is intended to ensure that Medical Assistance is the payer of last resort." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [HB 153- Reducing the Size of the House of Representatives](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Representative Jerry Knowles (R-Bucks, Carbon, Schuylkill)

*Current Committee:* Not Yet Assigned; No Bill Text

"... legislation identical to what passed last session (HB 153) to reduce the size of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 203 members to 151 members. This legislation passed both the House and Senate last session and became Pamphlet Laws Resolution 1. Once this legislation passes both Chambers it will go to the voters for a vote." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))



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### [SB 44- Prohibiting Sexual Orientation Change or "Conversion" Therapy for Minors](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Senator Anthony Williams (D-Delaware, Philadelphia)

*Current Committee:* Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure

"I am introducing this legislation to prohibit state-licensed mental health professionals in Pennsylvania from engaging in sexual orientation change efforts with a person under the age of 18. Sexual orientation change efforts will include therapies, counseling or other means of practice seeking to change a minor's sexual orientation. Please note that this bill would not prohibit counseling for gender transition or otherwise relating to understanding a person's coping, social support or identity exploration and development. Furthermore, this legislation does not include language to prevent parents from teaching their children whatever they wish regarding sexual orientation, nor does it prohibit the practice or study of a family's personal religious beliefs."

[\(Cosponsor Memo\)](#)

### [SB 45- Veterans' Down Payment & Closing Cost Assistance](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Senator Anthony Williams (D-Delaware, Philadelphia)

*Current Committee:* Urban Affairs and Housing

"... down payment and/or closing cost assistance would be available to a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran killed in action who is a first-time home buyer, regardless of VA loan participation. The financial assistance would take the form of a grant, forgivable loan or deferred no interest loan and will be capped at \$10,000. While eligibility for the assistance is not limited by income or any type of 'means test,' the applicant's financial circumstances would be a factor in determining the type of assistance rewarded. The legislation includes a \$2,500,000 annual appropriation, and includes a \$250,000 set aside for administrative costs. Based on this level of funding, this program could help as many as 250 veterans purchase a home." [\(Cosponsor Memo\)](#)

### [SB 59- Prison Industry Enhancement](#)

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

*Current Committee:* Judiciary

"The legislation will provide prisoners with work while assuring that prisoner labor does not replace work opportunities for Pennsylvania residents. Prisoners who volunteer for this program will be paid a regular wage. As a result, they will be better able to develop positive work habits that will assist them in securing and holding employment upon their release; pay a reasonable portion of the cost of room and board to the correctional facility; accept responsibility for their actions by compensating victims; and provide financial assistance to their dependents." [\(Cosponsor Memo\)](#)

### [SB 61- Indigent Defense Legal Representation](#)

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

*Current Committee:* Judiciary

"... to establish the Pennsylvania Center for Effective Indigent Defense Legal Representation. A board of directors which is representative of the criminal defense bar will oversee the operation of the center. The center may exist as an independent agency or be affiliated with a Pennsylvania school of law. The center will perform the following duties ..." [\(Cosponsor Memo\)](#)

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

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

*Current Committee:* Judiciary



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"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 65- Child Welfare Workers Loan Forgiveness Act](#)

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

*Current Committee:* Education

"...establishing a loan forgiveness program for members of the child welfare workforce who have qualified outstanding loan balances and have at least an undergraduate degree." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [SB 73- Pennsylvania Office of Faith-Based and Non-profit Community Organizations](#)

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

*Current Committee:* State Government

"...legislation that would establish the Pennsylvania Office of Faith-Based and Non-profit Community Organizations within the Office of the Governor." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [SB 77- Funding for Natural Gas Drilling Health Research](#)

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

*Current Committee:* Environmental Resources and Energy

"Our legislation would allocate \$3 million annually from the shale gas impact fee to the Department of Health. The funds would be used to: (1) Conduct health services research to determine if health services are adequate in areas where drilling occurs. It would also include the collection and reporting of health data in areas of drilling and provide training in occupational and environmental medicine to health care providers; and (2) Conduct research on the effects of air quality on health and disease in areas where wells are drilled. The research shall examine impacts of short, intermediate and long-term exposure to air contaminant emissions from natural gas production has on respiratory-related hospital admissions, emergency room visits and premature deaths. To translate population studies to personalized medicine, a portion of these funds will be allocated to support research to identify biomarkers of exposure to determine susceptibility of disease." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

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### [SB 79- Child Care Tax Credit Act](#)

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

*Current Committee:* Finance

"The legislation gives employers a tax credit if they provide a workplace child-care program or provide financial support for an off-site child-care program." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [SB 90- Charities Code](#)

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

*Current Committee:* State Government

"... legislation amending Title 10 (Charities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, consolidating the Solicitation of Funds for Charitable Purposes Act and the Institutions of Purely Public Charity Act. Title 10 will be known as the Charities Code." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [SB 99- Regulation of Donation Bins](#)

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

*Current Committee:* State Government

"...legislation would require that donation bins be clearly and conspicuously labeled with the organization's name, address, phone number, electronic mail address and a statement expressing the purpose (charitable or non-charitable) for which the organization exists. The measure also requires that, prior to placing any collection or donation bin, the person placing the bin must obtain notarized written permission from the owner or lessee of the property. In addition, the bill provides that the owner of the container shall maintain the donation bin in a structurally sound, clean and sanitary condition and empty the bin at least every two weeks. The property owner may request removal of the bin by submitting a written request to the address listed on it and the organization responsible for the bin must remove it within 30 days. If the organization fails to comply, the owner or leaseholder of the property shall have the right, without additional notice, to take possession of, remove and dispose of the bin without incurring any civil or criminal liability." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

### [SB 111- Changes to the Child Protective Services Law](#)

*Prime Sponsor:* Senator John Sabatina (D-Philadelphia)

*Current Committee:* Health and Human Services

"This legislation would make changes to the Child Protective Services Law background check requirements for hospital personnel and doctors." ([Cosponsor Memo](#))

## **Trump Administration**

["Trump vows 'insurance for everybody' in Obamacare replacement plan." \*The Washington Post\*, January 15, 2017.](#)

"President-elect Donald Trump said in a weekend interview that he is nearing completion of a plan to replace President Obama's signature health-care law with the goal of 'insurance for everybody,' while also vowing to force drug companies to negotiate directly with the government on prices in Medicare and Medicaid."

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["Trump team prepares dramatic cuts." Alex Bolton. \*The Hill\*. January 19, 2017.](#)

"Staffers for the Trump transition team have been meeting with career staff at the White House ahead of Friday's presidential inauguration to outline their plans for shrinking the federal bureaucracy, *The Hill* has learned. The departments of Commerce and Energy would see major reductions in funding, with programs under their jurisdiction either being eliminated or transferred to other agencies. The departments of Transportation, Justice and State would see significant cuts and program eliminations. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting would be privatized, while the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities would be eliminated entirely. Overall, the blueprint being used by Trump's team would reduce federal spending by \$10.5 trillion over 10 years."

["Ben Carson Urges Ending Reliance on Welfare in Bid to Be Housing Chief." \*The New York Times\*. January 12, 2017.](#)

"Ben Carson, the nominee for secretary of housing and urban development, presented himself on Thursday as a credible manager for a sprawling federal bureaucracy, navigating an unlikely transition from celebrated neurosurgeon and genial conservative presidential candidate to the steward of American housing policy."

["Ben Carson, Shaped by Poverty, Is Likely to Bring Tough Love to HUD." Yamiche Alcindor. \*The New York Times\*. January 11, 2017.](#)

"Mr. Carson has no experience running a large federal bureaucracy, and aside from a failed run for the presidency, has no background in government. But if confirmed by the Senate, he would enter public service with a background like few other cabinet officials in history, shaped profoundly by a childhood when public assistance meant survival and public housing was all around him."

["Betsy DeVos, Trump's education pick, lauded as bold reformer, called unfit for job." \*The Washington Post\*. January 17, 2017.](#)

"Democrats attacked Betsy DeVos, President-elect Donald Trump's education nominee, calling her unfit for the job during a contentious confirmation hearing Tuesday evening, while Republicans defended her as a bold reformer who would disrupt the status quo in U.S. education."

["HHS nominee Price pressed hard on health policy positions, financial dealings." \*The Washington Post\*. January 18, 2017.](#)

"Rep. Tom Price, President-elect Donald Trump's choice to head the Department of Health and Human Services, faced a contentious Senate hearing Wednesday as Democrats questioned his ideas for the future of Americans' health coverage and whether his personal investments in health-care companies presented conflicts during his years in Congress."

["Trump chooses Veterans Affairs insider to lead troubled agency." AP. January 12, 2017.](#)

"President-elect Donald Trump on Wednesday tapped the Department of Veterans Affairs' top health official to lead a beleaguered agency struggling to meet the health needs of millions of veterans. David Shulkin's nomination signals a more modest approach to change at the VA after Trump repeatedly pledged an overhaul."

["From Scaife To Trump." \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 15, 2017.](#)

"The Pittsburgh-based Sarah Scaife Foundation has quietly built the conservative movement's infrastructure for 50 years. Now bigger than ever, it's plugging into Washington at a time of

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unprecedented change and Republican control of the White House, Congress and soon the courts. Through its own board members and the organizations it funds, the foundation suddenly has dozens of inroads into Washington, thanks to Donald Trump's election and transition. It's the untold story of the incoming president: Though he's a maverick, the people to whom he's turning have been preparing for decades to steer Washington, and the nation, firmly rightward."

[Commentary: "Six astonishing things Betsy DeVos said - and refused to say - at her confirmation hearing." Valerie Strauss. \*The Washington Post\*. January 18, 2017.](#)

### Federal Policy

["Tax filers claiming earned income tax credit to face refund delay this year." Kate Giammarise. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 9, 2017.](#)

"Low-income families who typically receive the federal Earned Income Tax Credit - and a tax refund of several thousand dollars - will have to wait longer than usual this year to receive those funds, officials say. Due to a law that was enacted at the end of 2015, the IRS will hold the refunds of taxpayers claiming the EITC until Feb. 15, and is telling those who claim the credit not to expect a refund until the week of Feb. 27. 'This allows additional time to help prevent revenue lost due to identity theft and refund fraud related to fabricated wages and withholdings. The IRS will hold the entire refund,' according to a statement on the agency's website."

["CBO: 18 million could lose coverage after ObamaCare repeal." Jessie Hellman. \*The Hill\*. January 17, 2017.](#)

"Repealing portions of ObamaCare without enacting a replacement could leave 18 million people without health insurance the following year, according to a [report](#) released Tuesday by the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO)."

["Early win on budget pressures GOP to deliver on health care." Alan Fram. \*AP\*. January 14, 2017.](#)

"With a near party-line 227-198 House vote, Congress gave final approval Friday to a budget that will ease passage of a still-unwritten bill replacing Obama's overhaul with a GOP edition. The budget - the Senate approved it Thursday - bars Democratic senators from blocking that future legislation with a filibuster."

["Obamacare repeal threatens to hit Pa. at worst time -- in the midst of a heroin addiction crisis." David Wenner. \*The Patriot-News\*. January 12, 2017.](#)

"As they finally prepare to dismantle it, they face another grave possibility in Pennsylvania: disrupting access to drug addiction treatment during the most deadly overdose crisis in the state's history."

["Angst grows in GOP over ObamaCare repeal plan." Peter Sullivan. \*The Hill\*. January 7, 2017.](#)

"Concerns are growing among Republicans about moving forward with their plan to repeal ObamaCare without putting forward a replacement at the same time."

["Uncertainty over ACA future worries autism activists." Anne Hoffman. \*Newsworks\*. January 18, 2017.](#)

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"Advocates for those with autism feel uncertain about what the future will hold if the Affordable Care Act is repealed."

["Rothfus to chair consumer credit." Tracie Mauriello. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 6, 2017.](#)

"U.S. Rep. Keith Rothfus, R-Sewickley, has been named vice chairman of the Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit subcommittee, which operates under the House Financial Services Committee."

["Murphy to continue on Energy and Commerce Committee." Tracie Mauriello. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 6, 2017.](#)

"U.S. Rep. Tim Murphy, R-Upper St. Clair, will retain his leadership role on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Chairman Greg Walden, R-Ore., asked him Friday to continue as chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, a role he has served in for the last two years."

[Commentary: "The Major Potential Impact of a Corporate Tax Overhaul." Neil Irwin. \*The New York Times\*. January 7, 2017.](#)

[Commentary: "Social policies don't always help women and men equally. Which ones work best?" Sidita Kushi and Ian McManus. \*The Washington Post\*. January 10, 2017.](#)

[Commentary: "It will only get harder for Republicans aiming to repeal Obamacare." Mike DeBonis. \*The Washington Post\*. January 13, 2017.](#)

[Commentary: "Who will really win in an Obamacare repeal." Steve Pearlstein. \*The Washington Post\*. January 6, 2017.](#)

[Analysis: "How States Use Funds Under the TANF Block Grant." Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. January 10, 2017.](#)

[Commentary: "Even As Insurance Market Improves, GOP's ACA Repeal Would Kill It." Sarah Lueck. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. January 17, 2017.](#)

### **2017 and 2018 Elections**

["Scott Wagner: 'I am going to be the next governor. Take that to the bank.'" Jan Murphy. \*The Patriot-News\*. January 11, 2017.](#)

"Sen. Scott Wagner on Wednesday became the first Republican to formally jump into the next governor's race that is more than a year away. Some see the timing of his announcement is intended to scare off some of his possible competition for the GOP nod to take on incumbent Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf in 2018."

["Western Pa. businessman eyeing GOP governor run." Thomas Fitzgerald. \*Philadelphia Inquirer\*. January 9, 2017.](#)

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"Paul Mango, a Western Pennsylvania businessman and former paratrooper in the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, is weighing a campaign for the Republican nomination for governor in 2018, according to a well-connected party operative in the state. ... The Great Mentioner of the political rumor mill has several other Republicans also thinking about running for governor, including: former Lt. Gov. Jim Cawley (R., Bucks), now head of the United Way of Greater Philadelphia; House Speaker Mike Turzai, (R., Allegheny); House Majority Leader Dave Reed, (R., Indiana); Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman (R., Centre)."

["Peduto to face challenger in May primary." Chris Potter. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 18, 2017.](#)

"Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto appears to be drawing his first election challenge, not from a political foe but from an activist and past supporter, the Rev. John Welch. ... The 56-year-old Homewood resident is dean of students at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He has a history of social activism, having served as the president of the Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network, an association of faith groups that addresses social justice issues. He currently chairs the Gamaliel Foundation, a national network of such groups, and he is on the board of the Sports and Exhibition Authority."

["Former Carnegie councilman tapped for Allegheny County Council appointment." Theresa Clift. \*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*. January 16, 2017.](#)

"Allegheny County Council Democrats plan to appoint recently resigned Carnegie Council President Pat Catena to fill the District 4 seat Michael Finnerty vacated last month, Council President John DeFazio told the Tribune-Review on Monday evening. If the full council approves the appointment Tuesday, Catena will serve at least until the November general district election."

["Sumpter will not seek re-election for Pittsburgh Public Schools board." Molly Born. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 5, 2017.](#)

"Since December 2005, Mr. Sumpter, 66, of Schenley Heights, has represented District 3, which includes the Hill District, Garfield, East Liberty and parts of Oakland, Stanton Heights and Bloomfield. He was board president from 2013 to 2015."

["Sala Udin announces run for Pittsburgh Public School board." Molly Born. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 6, 2017.](#)

"Sala Udin, the former Pittsburgh councilman and co-chairman of the Hill District Education Council, announced Friday that he will run for the District 3 seat on the Pittsburgh Public Schools board."

["Who's Next: Politics; These 19 people are shaping Pittsburgh's political scene." The Incline. January 5, 2017.](#)

"These under-40 professionals include consultants, finance directors, chiefs of staff for city council members, even a county council member."

[Commentary: "The trashman cometh." John Baer. \*Philadelphia Inquirer\*. January 10, 2017.](#)

### **Nonprofit Sector**

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### ["Why People Didn't Vote: The Voter Contact Gap." Nonprofit Vote. January 2017.](#)

"In a year with a presidential race that was hard to miss, four in ten of the nation's 232 million eligible voters stayed home. One often overlooked reason so many voters stayed home is that, in spite of pervasive coverage in traditional and new media, the majority of eligible voters were never personally contacted about voting by a candidate or campaign. ... For nonprofits that want their communities to have political voice and reap the benefits of civic engagement, the voter contact gap has particular salience. Partisan campaigns have limited time and resources, and for that reason will continue to target a relatively small universe of likely voters, to the exclusion of groups with lower propensity to vote. Community-based organizations and peer-based efforts rooted in local communities may be these low propensity voters' best hope."

### ["Enlarged Allegheny Foundation gushes with grants." Rich Lord. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 15, 2017.](#)

"Long overshadowed by founder Richard Mellon Scaife's national, ideological philanthropy, the 60-year-old Allegheny Foundation had \$67.2 million in assets, and made \$2.1 million in mostly local grants in the year before his death. Based Downtown and considered a minor player in Pittsburgh charity, it would annually give to some three dozen human services, arts, educational, preservationist and conservative groups. That changed after Mr. Scaife died in 2014 and left assets worth \$364 million to the Allegheny Foundation. In 2015, it gave or pledged more than \$25 million to 81 organizations. The biggest pledge: \$7.5 million to Point Park University for the Pittsburgh Playhouse and the Center for Media Innovation."

### ["Local group has found a simple way to give." Kathleen Ganster. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 6, 2017.](#)

"Debra Dion Krischke has founded an organization called Inspired Women - Paying It Forward, which describes its mission as 'simple, fast philanthropy at its best.' The way it operates is, indeed, simple: The group meets four times a year when each member donates \$100 to an agreed-upon nonprofit organization."

### [Commentary: "What's Next for the Charitable Deduction." Dan Cardinalli. \*Independent Sector\*. January 18, 2017.](#)

### [Commentary: "Shifting Philanthropy from Charity to Justice." Dorian Burton and Brian Barnes. \*Stanford Social Innovation Review\*. January 2017.](#)

## **Pittsburgh Region News**

### ["Pittsburgh councilman proposing safeguards for refugees, immigrants." Adam Smeltz. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 17, 2017.](#)

"Six bills by Councilman Dan Gilman would ban the city from withholding public services based on a person's immigration status, spur a 'language access plan' and declare Pittsburgh a welcoming community, among other provisions."

### ["LGBT panel to advise Peduto." Adam Smeltz. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 14, 2017.](#)



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"City Council President Bruce Kraus promised the 16 panel members full recognition and support. Their input could range from health care and education to drugs and legal concerns, he said."

["Pittsburgh town hall tackles racially charged issues." Natasha Lindstrom. \*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*. January 18, 2017.](#)

"About 160 Western Pennsylvania residents convened with more than a dozen public officials to discuss racially charged issues at a town hall-type gathering at The Union Project, a former church on Negley Avenue. Residents shared their experiences and concerns with representatives from city and county governments, the Legislature, Gov. Tom Wolf's office and law enforcement."

["Westmoreland commissioners could raise revenues by selling assets." Rich Cholodofsky. \*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*. January 12, 2017.](#)

"Westmoreland County will explore selling some assets this year as a way to raise revenue to improve its struggling financial outlook, commissioners said Thursday. ... Commissioners declined to reveal what could be sold."

["Westmoreland wants greater public input on comprehensive plan." Rich Cholodofsky. \*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*. January 5, 2017.](#)

"A \$50,000 state grant will be used to help attract greater public participation in drafting a comprehensive plan to outline future improvements in Westmoreland County. Work to gather public input on the county's needs started in October and is expected to continue through March, said Brian Lawrence, deputy director of the county's planning department."

["Pittsburghers respond to 100 Days with 150+ ideas for change." Michael Machovsky. \*Next Pittsburgh\*. January 13, 2017.](#)

"The Sprout Fund invests money through small grants in early-stage, grassroots initiatives and projects-nearly 1,000 since 2001-to help improve life in Pittsburgh and surrounding communities. This time, they decided to put up \$100,000 for '100 Days of US,' projects beginning in the first 100 days of the new administration. ... Now, there are more than 150 proposals logged on the 100 Days website. The public is invited to watch the video proposals, 'like' their favorites, and donate to their Crowdrise crowd-funding campaign. Likes, crowd-funding numbers, and a special committee of community leaders selected by Sprout will determine which projects ultimately get funding. Grants up to \$5,000 for an individual project will be awarded."

### **Health and Human Services**

["Pa. makes new picks for HealthChoices Medicaid program." Harold Brubaker. \*Philadelphia Inquirer\*. January 5, 2017.](#)

"Two of the nation's largest health insurance companies, UnitedHealthcare and Aetna, have lost bids to manage Medicaid benefits in Pennsylvania under contracts worth a total of \$12 billion over three years. The contracts, which cover physical health under Pennsylvania's HealthChoices program, were first awarded in April, but had to go through a second procurement process after Aetna, which last year won only one of the state's five zones, was granted a preliminary injunction blocking the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services from implementing its choices. The big winners in the selections announced Thursday were Gateway Health, a joint venture of Highmark



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Inc. and Trinity, and UPMC for You, part of the giant University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Gateway will cover the entire state. UPMC for You will be in four zones, up from two now."

["Pennsylvania to try new payment model for rural hospitals." \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 12, 2017.](#)

"Pennsylvania will be testing what state officials termed a historic new payment model for rural hospitals designed to improve the health of Pennsylvania's rural residents and help the hospitals they depend on stay financially solvent. With \$25 million in funding from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, the Pennsylvania Rural Health Model will try an innovative payment structure in which hospitals will be paid a set amount each month, instead of being reimbursed for services provided."

["Gov. Wolf: Too many roadblocks in state's battle against opioid addiction." Patrick Varine. \*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*. January 13, 2017.](#)

"Establishing state-designated centers of excellence is a start, but not enough, Wolf said. 'If we don't do something, we're going to pay for it through death, or through the \$40,000 per year that it costs to incarcerate someone,' he said."

["Westmoreland Drug, Alcohol Commission takes over distributing Narcan to police." Renatta Signorini. \*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*. January 17, 2017.](#)

"Greensburg police officers have begun handing out information to drug overdose survivors about community treatment resources, according to Chief Chad Zucco. The paper bears information about drug screenings, insurance and a phone number to call for help. It was created by the Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol Commission, modeled after information officers give to domestic violence victims."

["Intensive Outpatient Program Hopes To Fill Gap In Mental Health Care For New Moms." Virginia Young. \*WESA\*. January 9, 2017.](#)

"Allegheny Health Network hopes to fill a gap in coverage for new moms with an Intensive Outpatient Program. Clinical psychologist Rebecca Weinberg said treatment for mothers suffering from pregnancy-related depression often jumps between regular outpatient care and expensive in-patient care. A new three-hour intensive outpatient program at Western Pennsylvania Hospital three days a week will offer intensive group therapy, medication management and allow women to bring their babies with them."

["Westmoreland County Food Bank gauges need in rural, eastern areas." Stephen Huba. \*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*. January 17, 2017.](#)

"The problem of food insecurity in Ligonier, Donegal and other rural communities is getting a closer look now that the Westmoreland County Food Bank is conducting a two-year study of the area. Food bank officials want to know whether food needs in the eastern part of the county are being met and, if necessary, enroll more qualifying households - in a manner similar to what they have done elsewhere over the past 10 years."

["Free testing for syphilis now offered at PATF office." Jill Daly. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 12, 2017.](#)

"Taking action to find people at risk of a sexually transmitted disease that is on an alarmingly upward trend in Allegheny County, the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force on Wednesday announced free

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rapid syphilis testing six days a week at its East Liberty location and other testing events in the region."

["AIDS Free Pittsburgh helps ramp up HIV prevention." Heather Boerner. \*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*. January 9, 2017.](#)

"The Jewish Healthcare Foundation launched AIDS Free Pittsburgh last December to slash HIV infections by 75 percent and to eliminate new cases of AIDS by 2020. AIDS often is the result of late HIV diagnosis and delayed treatment, said Dr. Ken Ho, assistant professor of medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. Today, it can be avoided - but it requires a multi-pronged approach, one AFP is taking."

["Pa. and N.J. residents can soon buy groceries online with food stamps." Emily Babay. \*Philadelphia Inquirer\*. January 17, 2017.](#)

"Under a soon-to-start pilot program, food stamp recipients in Pennsylvania and New Jersey will be able to buy groceries online from Amazon and ShopRite. The U.S. Department of Agriculture said the two-year test program, which rolls out this summer, is meant to increase access to healthy foods. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants in New Jersey will be able to order food from Amazon and ShopRite. Pennsylvania SNAP recipients can order from ShopRite only."

### Education

["Supreme Court may boost public schools' responsibilities to children with disabilities." \*Tribune News Service\*. January 12, 2017.](#)

"Supreme Court justices were seen as ready Wednesday to clarify and strengthen the rights of the nation's 6.7 million children with disabilities, perhaps by requiring public schools to offer a special education program that will ensure they can make significant progress. The case of a Colorado boy with autism, *Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District*, could have a far-reaching impact on millions of children and their parents as well as the budgets of school districts nationwide."

["New school rating system will have less emphasis on PSSAs, keystones." \*Jacqueline Palochko. The Morning Call\*. January 19, 2017.](#)

"On Wednesday, the state Department of Education outlined indicators it is recommending for use in the Future Ready PA Index, which would replace the School Performance Profile scores. The new system is expected to be in place in fall 2018."

["Report on Pittsburgh Schools lays out daunting challenges." Molly Born. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 11, 2017.](#)

"The third-party review was part of Mr. Hamlet's transition plan and 'acts as a blueprint' to transform the district, he said. The analysis reviewed the district's organization structure, staffing levels, instructional programs, financial operation and business services, disciplinary policies and research and data functions."

[Report: "Review of the Pittsburgh Public Schools." Council of the Great City Schools. January 2017. \(pdf\)](#)

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["First-of-its-kind campaign raises more than \\$500,000 for libraries." \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 6, 2017.](#)

"The Allegheny County Library Association and Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh have raised \$530,910 through their fall 'Love Your Library' fundraising effort, a first-of-its-kind, countywide campaign that encouraged residents to donate to their local libraries."

["Local vocational schools flagged for failing federal benchmarks." Natasha Lindstrom. \*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*. January 10, 2017.](#)

"Nine Western Pennsylvania for-profit colleges failed a new federal test aimed at measuring whether their vocational programs' typical graduates make enough money to handle paying off student debt."

[Commentary: "Children, parents, U.S. suffer because quality, affordable child care is lacking." Joe Davidson. \*The Washington Post\*. January 5, 2017.](#)

### **Housing and Community Development**

["How to Predict Gentrification: Look for Falling Crime." Emily Badger. \*The New York Times\*. January 5, 2017.](#)

"New research that she has conducted alongside Keren Mertens Horn, an economist at the University of Massachusetts in Boston, and Davin Reed, a doctoral student at N.Y.U., finds that when violent crime falls sharply, wealthier and educated people are more likely to move into lower-income and predominantly minority urban neighborhoods."

["Remaking Vacant Lots to Cut Crime." Martha Moore. \*Stateline\*. January 6, 2017.](#)

"Many cities are finding that something as simple as installing a split rail fence around a cleared and mowed vacant lot not only fights urban blight, it can help fight crime."

["URA seems poised to make permanent hire for director post." Mark Belko. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 16, 2017.](#)

"After facing criticism from city Controller Michael Lamb, the Pittsburgh Urban Redevelopment Authority board finally may be moving to hire a permanent executive director to head up the agency. The board could vote as early as next month to tap Robert Rubinstein to serve in the top post, member Jim Ferlo said."

["The 'new Pittsburgh' takes root on the Hilltop. But gun violence remains." Jeffrey Benzing. \*Public Source\*. January 5, 2017.](#)

"Allentown mirrors Pittsburgh's rebirth. The Hilltop neighborhood has been lauded with glossy press cheering its new growth and all the innovative opportunities after years of disinvestment. The main drag was once a strip of busted pavement. Now there are tech startups, new boutiques and restaurants (as well as our newsroom). It's a welcome change from negative attention for crime and violence that has stigmatized the area, along with neighboring Beltzhoover and Knoxville. Yet the Hilltop hasn't been able to shed its history of violence as the community has been revitalized."

## GPNP Public Policy Summary January 19, 2017

["Pittsburgh's Planning Commission didn't approve this controversial project in East Liberty. Here's why." Sarah Anne Hughes. The Incline. January 11, 2017.](#)

"At issue: the demolition of Penn Plaza, home to low-income and Section 8 tenants in a part of Pittsburgh that is seeing rapid growth, and the buildings' proposed replacement, a mixed-use development with market rate apartments anchored by a Whole Foods ... about two blocks from another Whole Foods."

["URA grants initial approval to Homewood development." Mark Belko. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. January 13, 2017.](#)

"A proposed 58-unit residential development that one city councilman called the 'single most important thing to happen in Homewood' in 60 to 70 years won the initial approval of the Pittsburgh Urban Redevelopment Authority board Thursday over the objections of some residents."

["Pittsburghers want to fight food deserts with urban farms, mobile markets and community." Sarah Anne Hughes. The Incline. January 6, 2017.](#)

"But changes to federal policy could threaten the good being done locally."

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

["Allegheny County moves forward with proposal to test children for lead." Theresa Clift. Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. January 11, 2017.](#)

"A proposal that would require lead testing for all young children in Allegheny County - possibly the first of its kind in the state - edged forward Wednesday. The Allegheny County Board of Health voted to move the proposal to a 30-day public comment period, though some members expressed concerns about the details of the draft legislation. The proposal would require children to undergo mandatory blood testing for lead at 9 to 12 months and again at 2 years of age. Children designated as 'high risk' would undergo annual testing from ages 1 to 6. The legislation would go into effect Jan. 1, 2018, and apply to children who are the ages for testing at that time, said Dr. Karen Hacker, the health department's executive director."

["Some Pittsburgh-area charter schools active in lead reduction, others standing still." Kerry Nix. Public Source. January 6, 2017.](#)

"...in Pennsylvania, schools operating within public water systems are not required to test for the contaminant, and many don't. PublicSource recently [reported](#) that many of the school districts that educate more than half of Allegheny County students are not testing for lead (or radon) regularly or at all. The case is much the same for publicly funded charter schools."

["PA Environmental Groups Join Forces To Increase Advocacy." Marie Cusick. State Impact. January 10, 2017.](#)

"PennFuture and the Conservation Voters of PA will combine policy, advocacy, and legal resources to mobilize voters around environmental issues and hold lawmakers accountable."

### **Corrections and Public Safety**

## GNPN Public Policy Summary January 19, 2017

["Half of 2016 murders in Pittsburgh are unsolved. How does the city stack up, and what needs to be done?" Jeffrey Benzing. Public Source. January 11, 2017.](#)

"Pittsburgh police investigated 59 killings in 2016, one of the most violent years in recent history. Only 29 murders were solved, and all but two of the unsolved cases had black victims."

["New technology to help state police track crime trends." Chuck Biedka. \*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*. January 9, 2017.](#)

"State police say a \$7 million technology upgrade that's being phased in will allow troopers to get a better handle on where crime is more likely to happen based on crime reporting trends. The upgraded computer system, which is expected to be fully functional next year, will help troopers perform their jobs more effectively, officials said. It also will help provide a level of safety by allowing troopers to receive better information, such as photographs, about suspects and individuals they detain."

["Pittsburgh public safety job aims to fill gaps in victim aid, while a local leader says it's a 'duplication of services.'" MJ Slaby. \*The Incline\*. January 18, 2017.](#)

"Laurie MacDonald, president and CEO of the Pittsburgh-based Center for Victims said the new role sounded like a 'duplication of services.' That center provides support services and education to anyone impacted by a crime in Allegheny County. MacDonald said the center has done this work for more than 40 years and has a staff of 75 working with more than 15,000 crime victims and their family members each year."

[Commentary: "The incarceration rate is falling - and Trump's law-and-order politics likely won't stop that." Christopher Ingraham. \*The Washington Post\*. January 4, 2017.](#)

### **Arts, Parks, and Culture**

["Office of Public Art calls for artists to work with immigrant-serving organizations." Brian Conway. \*Next Pittsburgh\*. January 9, 2017.](#)

"A \$200,000 Our Town grant from the National Endowment for the Arts will help fund the Office of Public Art's newest Artist Residency in the Public Realm. The OPA, in conjunction with Welcoming Pittsburgh, is searching for four artists to participate in a two-year artist residency program that will pair each artist with a local organization that serves immigrant communities: Northern Area Multi-Service Center, United Somali Bantu of Greater Pittsburgh, Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council, and Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh."

["PSO emerges from strike with challenges ahead." Elizabeth Bloom. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 12, 2017.](#)

"Now that the musicians have a five-year contract, the organization has a renewed urgency to dig itself out of its financial hole."

["City of Asylum bookstore opens Saturday." Marylynne Pitz. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 11, 2017.](#)

"When City of Asylum opens its distinctive new bookstore on Saturday, visitors to the North Side will be able to browse a carefully curated selection of 8,000 volumes by authors from all over the world in a renovated Masonic hall now called Alphabet City. For a dozen years, the nonprofit City of

## GPNP Public Policy Summary January 19, 2017

Asylum has offered refuge to writers in exile. Now, the diverse work of those authors will receive prime display."

["Shabby Schenley Park golf clubhouse is facing replacement." Andrew Goldstein. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 9, 2017.](#)

"...according to The First Tee of Pittsburgh, which holds the lease to the property, is the state of disrepair that the 104-year-old clubhouse is in, necessitating a demolition and complete rebuild of the facility. The First Tee, Mr. O'Connor and the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition hosted a meeting Thursday in Squirrel Hill to discuss the proposed construction of the clubhouse at the golf course. The First Tee, which aims to teach children and teenagers how to play golf as well as life lessons and leadership skills, runs the golf course and recently renewed its lease for 20 more years."

["Public schools' art collection coming back together piece by piece." Kurt Shaw. \*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*. January 7, 2017.](#)

"With 325 paintings, sculptures and other works of art, the Pittsburgh Public School's art collection is one of the largest of its kind in the country."

["Fences' film shoot generated \\$9.4 million for Pittsburgh businesses, hires." Sharon Ebersson. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 5, 2017.](#)

"The filming of August Wilson's 'Fences' in Pittsburgh generated \$9.4 million locally, including the hiring of more than 900 local workers and the payment of \$5.6 million in wages, according to Paramount Pictures."

[Commentary: "It's Time to Break Arts Philanthropy Out of Its Silo." Ian Moss. \*Stanford Social Innovation Review\*. December 22, 2016.](#)

### **Transportation**

["Riders adjusting to Port Authority fare changes, policy shifts." Ed Blazina. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 18, 2017.](#)

"Port Authority says it may make some minor changes at the end of the month, but overall riders have adjusted to the agency's new fare system. Senior community relations officer Dan DeBone said during a committee meeting Wednesday that only about 1 percent of questions and complaints the agency is receiving concern the change in fare policy that began Jan. 1."

["Official: Advisory board on bike lanes could influence statewide guidelines." Adam Smeltz. \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*. January 12, 2017.](#)

"A proposed advisory group could give Pittsburgh a voice in shaping the state's guidelines on bike lanes, Councilwoman Theresa Kail-Smith said Wednesday. Introduced last week, her plan would create a city board to review planned bike lanes and develop policies for their installation. The idea is to strengthen public involvement as the city grows the sometimes-controversial lanes, Mrs. Kail-Smith has said. At a meeting Wednesday, she said the would-be panel could collaborate with a similar group in Philadelphia to influence state standards for the infrastructure. The state Department of Transportation confirmed it's looking into design policies."

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["Studies show bike lanes can reduce congestion, contrary to Pittsburgh residents' criticism." Ryan Deto. Pittsburgh City Paper. January 6, 2016.](#)

"... the assertion that bike lanes cause more congestion actually runs contrary to studies in multiple big cities across the country."

### 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 \(R-Beaver, Greene, Washington\) Telephone Town Hall](#)

When: January 30, 2017 at 6:00 PM

Registration: <http://www.senatorbartolotta.com/tele-town-hall/>

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