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

Key stories include:

FEDERAL NEWS

["Trump wants to cut back on food stamps for the poor and substitute with packaged food deliveries," CNBC, 2/13/18](#)

["Trump's budget guts affordable housing during an affordable housing shortage," Curbed, 2/13/18](#)

["Trump Administration Wants To Decide What Food SNAP Recipients Will Get," NPR, 2/12/18](#)

Hill Leaders Reach Agreement on Long-Term Budget Deal, Immigration Issue Remains Unsolved

Congressional leaders were able to come to a government funding agreement last Wednesday that would increase the budget spending caps by \$300 billion over two years, raise the debt limit for a year, include opioid funding and disaster relief, and fund the government for six weeks, giving the appropriators time to rework the fiscal year 2018 spending bills with the new spending levels. [According to NPR](#), "Senate leaders have reached a bipartisan budget agreement to increase military and domestic spending levels for two-years, paving the way for the first long-term spending pact since President Trump took office."

On Tuesday, the House passed a short-term funding deal—six weeks—as the first step to keeping the federal government open past tonight at midnight, when the current continuing resolution (CR) is scheduled to expire. However, there were promising signs that a larger budget deal would be reached by lawmakers. [According to POLITICO](#), "The House passed a stopgap bill Tuesday to prevent another government shutdown, as a broader budget deal appeared increasingly within reach on Capitol Hill. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) met privately on Tuesday to discuss lifting stiff spending caps as part of the short-term funding package, according to sources in both parties briefed on the talks. The top four congressional leaders believe they

are close to clinching a budget deal that significantly boosts defense and domestic spending and ends the cycle of temporary funding measures.”

It is likely that the Senate will use Tuesday’s House-passed bill as a vehicle to [pass the budget agreement](#). However, passage is not assured in the House. Fiscal conservatives will balk at the spending increases, while many Democratic members, [including House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi \(D-CA\)](#), threaten to oppose any deal that does not include—or get a firm commitment from Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) to take quick action on—a permanent solution for undocumented immigrants who were brought into the country as children, often referred to as Dreamers. The immigration piece of this package will likely be tougher to solve as “The White House signaled little flexibility on immigration on Tuesday, saying lawmakers must pass a bill on President Donald Trump’s terms and offering no relief on the tight timeline for Congress.” Sen. McConnell [previously promised his chamber](#) debate on legislation to protect Dreamers if the government was reopened three weeks ago and the government remained open—through the passage of another CR or long-term spending bill—after Feb. 8th.

Pay-for-Success Measure Passes with CR in the House

As part of the House-passed continuing resolution (CR) described above, there was a provision included that would allow the U.S. Department of Treasury to enter into contracts with state/local governments for social-impact partnership projects—a concept which is sometimes referred to as “pay-for-success.”

Under these pay-for-success programs, state/local government agencies—in cooperation with local service providers—seek private investments (including from philanthropy) to fund the upfront cost of an innovative approach to providing social services. Throughout the project’s duration, it is reviewed by independent evaluators. If pre-determined success metrics are met, then the private investors are repaid (with interest) by the responsible government agency—where the repayment is funded by the cost-savings to the government under the innovative approach.

This model has been touted as an innovative way to provide scalable funding to service organizations—for which philanthropic capital can be deployed in a number of ways, including: as an investment in the project, as a guarantee to attract other investors, as operating support for service providers, or as grants to fund evaluation.

The pay-for-success measure that passed with the House CR was introduced as the [Social Impact Partnerships to Pay for Results Act \(H.R. 576\)](#) early in this Congress by then-Representative Pat Tiberi (R-OH), and has since been championed by Ways and Means Committee member Jackie Walorski (R-IN), along with a myriad of other original cosponsors from both sides of the aisle. Shortly after this bill was introduced in the House, a companion bill was introduced in the Senate ([S. 963](#)) by Sen. Todd Young (R-IN), along with Sens. Michael Bennet (D-CO), Susan Collins (R-ME), and Cory Booker (D-NJ).

This provision was also included in [the Senate bill that was released yesterday](#), so it remains to be seen if it will survive as a part of whatever legislation ends up being signed into law.

Source: Washington Snapshot – February 8, 2018

["Five takeaways from Trump’s fiscal 2019 budget proposal," The Hill 2/12/18](#)

PA STATE POLICY NEWS

Cohen & Grigsby Public Affairs reminds our membership that the window for Round 2018/1 of the **Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP)** will be open for 30 days during the period from January 29, 2018 through February 27, 2018.

Grants for site development, land acquisition and construction are available for non-profits, municipalities and private developers. The

program requires that projects have a total cost of at least \$1 million and requires a 50% match. Grant amounts typically range from \$250,000 up to \$5 million.

[Click Here: For Information regarding the new e-RACP and application submission is available on the RACP website at:](#)

If you need assistance or have questions, please email publicaffairs@cohenlaw.com

Capitolwire: Gov. Wolf rejects GOP leaders' congressional map proposal as too partisan.

The state congressional district map saga took another turn Tuesday as Gov. Tom Wolf rejected the map submitted to him Friday evening by legislative Republican leaders. Wolf said in a press release, "As non-partisan analysts have already said, their map maintains a similar partisan advantage by employing many of the same unconstitutional tactics present in their 2011 map." As written in the court's [Jan. 22 order](#), a map must meet the following criteria: "congressional districts composed of compact and contiguous territory; as nearly equal in population as practicable; and which do not divide any county, city, incorporated town, borough, township, or ward, except where necessary to ensure equality of population."

The governor's paid consultant, Mathematics Professor Moon Duchin of Tufts University, determined the GOP map to be "extremely, and unnecessarily, partisan" which she said was "extremely unlikely to have come about by chance."

"I examined the proposed Joint Submission Plan using a mathematical method that took into account only the factors set forth in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court order: respect for political boundaries, compactness, and population parity," said Duchin in her [summary of conclusions](#). "My goal was to assess the partisan performance of the proposed Joint Submission Plan in the context of the universe of Pennsylvania plans that could have been created within the Court's constraints."

According to information supplied by the GOP leaders, the proposed map:

- Includes only 15 split counties (13 less than the 2011 map);
- Includes only 17 split municipalities (49 less than the 2011 map);
- For population equality purposes, splits only one precinct per municipality for a total of 17, and represents a significant reduction from the 27 precincts split in the 2002 map and the 26 precincts split in the 2011 map;
- Complies with federal law with respect to population deviations, as no district is over or underpopulated by more than one person;
- Complies with the Voting Rights Act and the concerns recently expressed by the NAACP, with the state's 1st and 2nd congressional districts substantially similar in racial composition to the 2011 map's 1st and 2nd districts;
- Does not pair any incumbent member of Congress seeking re-election in 2018 with any other incumbent member of Congress, although this matter was subordinate to the districting principles as outlined in the court's order; and
- Retains 68.8 percent of the populations of existing districts in the same districts (with the retention nearly the same for districts represented by both Republican - 68.3 percent - and Democratic - 69.8 percent - members of Congress), intended to help reduce overall voter confusion.

In a letter sent to GOP leaders Tuesday, Wolf identified his primary concerns as

packing, cracking, splitting and maintaining unconstitutional districts. He argued "the map squeezes densely populated areas into the small districts with no respect for municipal lines" and irrationally connects cities, like Reading and Erie, to rural areas to dilute their interests. He added that "key areas" are divided up against the court's order, particularly Montgomery County (which is split four times) and the Greater Wilkes-Barre area.

Wolf left open the possibility of further discussions with the Legislature, but his deadline to act on something from the General Assembly is Feb. 15.

Source: Capitolwire: "Gov. Wolf rejects GOP leaders' congressional map proposal as too partisan" by Chris Comisac

["Gov. Wolf rejects GOP map of congressional districts as court deadline nears," Post Gazette, 2/13/18](#)

["New congressional map would kick Conor Lamb out of 18th District," Post Gazette, 2/11/18](#)

["Wagner wins Republican state committee endorsement for Gov., Turzai suspends campaign," Post Gazette, 2/10/18](#)

Pittsburgh exits from Act 47 oversight

For some municipalities that have entered Act 47 oversight, extricating themselves from it has been elusive, but on Monday, Pittsburgh celebrated doing just that. Act 47 of 1987, called the Financially Distressed Municipalities Act, empowers the state Department of Community and Economic Development to declare certain municipalities as "financially distressed," with the goal of providing a broad-based program of fiscal management oversight, technical assistance, planning and financial aid to help municipalities recover from severe fiscal distress. Pittsburgh becomes the largest municipality to exit the Act 47 program, doing so 14 years after being designated as "financially distressed." A total of 13 other Pennsylvania municipalities have emerged from Act 47 oversight since the law took effect, while 17 municipalities remain in the program.

Source: Capitolwire: Under the Dome

["Pittsburgh is back': City officially drops its financially distressed status," Post Gazette, 2/12/18](#)

More State Legislators Announce Plans to Retire

We already have a fairly sizable group of state lawmakers who have announced they won't be seeking re-election, and we've got four more - all long-time members of the state House of Representatives - to add to that list. On the Republicans' side, Reps. Matt Baker (Tioga County-68th District) and John Maher (Allegheny-40th District); on the Democrats' side, Reps. Joe Markosek (Allegheny-25th District) and Mike Hanna (Clinton-76th District). Markosek is the longest serving out of the group, serving in the House since 1983; As for the rest, Hanna has been in the House since 1991, Baker since 1993, and Maher since 1997. All four currently hold important positions, with Markosek being the minority chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Hanna being the House Democratic Caucus' whip, Baker being the majority chairman of the House Health Committee and Maher being the majority chairman of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. Interestingly, the sons of both Markosek and Hanna have declared their candidacies for the seats their fathers currently hold.

Source: Capitolwire: Under the Dome

GOP gubernatorial candidate Mango

chooses his own 'running mate

Republican gubernatorial candidate and state Sen. Scott Wagner, R-York, has already named his own "running mate" – despite the fact that the posts of governor and lieutenant governor are elected separately – but Tuesday's similar announcement by one of Wagner's rivals is even more interesting. That's because GOP gubernatorial candidate Paul Mango's choice of "running mate" wasn't even an announced candidate for lieutenant governor up to Tuesday: Long-time Republican Washington County Commissioner Diana Irey Vaughan. "If the past three years of dysfunction in the Wolf-Stack debacle have taught us anything, it's that our Governor needs a strong partner as Lieutenant Governor," said Mango in a statement. "I can think of no better governing partner than Diana. "As I have said since the start of this campaign, Harrisburg needs to empower our local and county governments and Diana brings over two decades of success as a county commissioner to help lead this effort. Just as important, she shares our goals of promoting a Culture of Life, bringing our jobs and children back to Pennsylvania, and Restoring the Dream for the hardworking families of the Commonwealth. I am excited to have Diana join our growing team and I look forward to campaigning with her across Pennsylvania." Irey Vaughan, who endorsed Mango's campaign a year ago, said she's running "to do my part to ensure that my family and every Pennsylvania family, for generations to come, can live, work, and raise their families in a climate of conservative family values, plentiful jobs, a low crime rate, with an opportunity to live a better life than my generation has. I choose to run with Paul Mango because we have shared values and a vision for the Commonwealth." And as the lieutenant governor race added a new candidate, it also lost one: Lancaster County's Gordon Denlinger ended his candidacy Tuesday, having not received the state GOP's endorsement over the weekend.

Source: Capitolwire: Under the Dome

LEGISLATION

- [HB 84 Birth certificate requests with the implementation of REAL ID](#)
- [HB 2050 Amends Title 18 re abortions](#)
- [HB 2069 Amends Independent Living Services Act](#)
- [HB 2070 Amends Administrative Code re budget procedure](#)
- [HB 2071 Act re workplace violence prevention](#)
- [HB 2072 Act re caretaker investigation data mgmt.](#)
- [HB 2073 Amends Pharmacy Act re drug receptacles](#)
- [HB 2075 Amends Title 66 re water service lines](#)
- [HB 2092 Amends Health Care Facilities Act re staffing](#)
- [SB 1014 Act re PA Health Care Fund](#)
- [SB 1033 Act re net neutrality](#)
- [SB 1036 Amends Titles 42 and 75 re fines](#)
- [SB 1037 Amends Titles 42 and 75 re fines](#)
- [SB 1038 Amends PA Election Code re funds](#)
- [SB 1039 Amends Title 68 re solar energy](#)
- [SB 1040 Amends Title 51 re civilian licensure](#)
- [SB 1041 Amends Title 51 re logo for veteran businesses](#)
- [SB 1042 Amends Title 18 re arson](#)
- [SB 1043 Amends Title 18 re criminal records](#)
- [SB 1044 Amends Minimum Wage Act re raising the wage](#)
- [SB 1045 Amends Minimum Wage Act re preemption](#)
- [SB 1046 Amends Title 34 re furtaking](#)

- [SB 1048 Amends PA Election Code re polling places](#)

Prepared By:



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