



2019 – 2020 COMMONWEALTH BUDGET

These links may expire:

July 8

[2 Berks-area senators' takes on Pennsylvania's \\$34 billion budget](#)

The Pennsylvania budget, arguably the state Legislature's biggest task each year, passed the House 140-62 on June 25, the Senate 42-8 on June 27 and was signed by the governor on June 28. Two senators representing parts of Berks County in the General Assembly had... - [Reading Eagle](#)

[Local lawmakers weigh in on state's proposed \\$34.1 billion budget](#)

WEST CHESTER – Some local lawmakers support Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed 2019-20 \$34.1 billion budget, but others say it doesn't go far enough to address education funding, poverty, and environmental issues. The proposed budget is a 4.3 percent increase in spending from last year.... - [Phoenixville News](#)

['Nobody is going to go to heaven.' Pa. budget deal divides Democrats](#)

HARRISBURG — When the state budget wrapped up recently, Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf could boast that he navigated yet another budget season without any major clashes with the Republican-controlled Legislature. Instead, it was the progressives within the governor's own party who... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

July 7

[New tax laws, new taxes produce surplus for Pa.](#)

New tax laws, new taxes produce surplus for Pa. Pennsylvania has had a very good year . likely a historic one . for tax collections, earning nearly \$1 billion more than anticipated in the fiscal year that ended June 30. That boost allowed lawmakers to put \$317 million into the state's so-called... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

[Letters to the Editor 7/7/2019](#)

Editor: Gov. Tom Wolf and Republicans in the General Assembly say that they are proud of the \$34 billion state budget for the new fiscal year, which was just signed into law. What is there to be proud of in the following? . State spending will rise 6%, far in excess of the rate of inflation.... - [Scranton Times](#)

July 5

[5 bills you may have missed during budget season](#)

Amid the crunch of budget negotiations, the General Assembly was busy passing dozens of bills

beyond the state's \$33.9 billion spending plan. Gov. Tom Wolf signed a number of them in recent days to much fanfare, but many others have flown under the radar. We took some time to profile five... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

July 2

\$2.5M allocated for state's colleges to replicate Misericordia program

A \$2.5 million allocation in Pennsylvania's budget provides startup funds for colleges interested in replicating Misericordia University's program for single women with children. During his budget address in February, Gov. Tom Wolf touted the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program at Misericordia, and while... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

Local legislators laud new state budget

Pennsylvania's 2019-20 fiscal year began Monday with a \$33.9 billion state budget package approved by local General Assembly members last week that holds the line on taxes, enhances aid to public universities and students seeking higher education and bolsters the state's budgetary... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)

Our view: Harrisburg gets budget done on time

Like when he first took office in 2015, Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf can claim something of an electoral mandate after his decisive reelection last fall. But Wolf has a better sense of the limits of his leverage than he did then, when the impasse between the new governor and the GOP-controlled... - [Erie Times-News](#)

As state's fiscal year dawns, let's wait and see

Pennsylvania's 2019-20 budget-preparation exercise will be remembered for the general silence that surrounded it. Even during most of the final days leading up to Monday's start of the new fiscal year, budget negotiations remained unusually quiet and subdued,... - [Lewistown Sentinel](#)

July 1

Pa. Budget Provision Blocks Plastic Bag Fees and Bans

Ferguson Township supervisors were scheduled to consider on Monday night advertising for public hearing a proposed, first-in-the-county ordinance that would impose an impact fee on single-use plastic bags at stores and restaurants, but now it appears that will be off the table.... - [State College News](#)

Will Pennsylvania help Lehigh, Northampton counties cover the costs of new voting machines?

Legislation to help Pennsylvania's counties afford new voting machines before next year's election is wrapped up in the politics of voting and election laws... - [AP](#)

Pennsylvania farm bills designate millions to combat lanternflies and the next big agricultural disaster

Legislation to help Pennsylvania agriculture was signed into law Monday, including measures to foster younger farmers, help clean water going into Chesapeake Bay and expand butchering services for small farmers. ... - [AP](#)

Right 2 Know Episode 13: Budget recap

This is how the budget ends, not with a bang but with Andrew and Justin discussing the finer points of the \$33.9 billion spending plan. We break down where the legislative debate heads from here (minimum wage anyone?), the meteoric rise of Sen. Katie Muth and what is on the menu for our 4th of... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

June 30

3 under 3!

Check out this week's 3 under 3! The budget deadline of June 30th has been inching closer this week, and as of Friday morning the budget and all of its code bills have passed both chambers and are headed to the Governor's desk. Also this week chaos broke out on the Senate floor over the General... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

Gov. Wolf signs Pennsylvania budget that's missing some of his priorities

Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf on Friday signed the state's \$34 billion budget, even though it lacks many of his key priorities . including a minimum wage hike . and forced him to sign off on several Republican-backed measures that his party opposes. The blueprint for the fiscal year that begins July 1 does not contain any... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

Gov. Wolf signs budget containing some items Democrats oppose

Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf signed the new \$34 billion state budget on Friday, though it lacks many of his key priorities . including a minimum wage hike . and forced him to sign off on several Republican-backed measures that his party opposes. The blueprint for the fiscal year that begins July 1 does not contain any... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

'Nobody is going to go to heaven'. Pa. budget deal divides Democrats

When the state budget wrapped up late last week, Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf could boast that he navigated yet another budget season without any major clashes with the Republican-controlled legislature. Instead, it was the progressives within the governor's own party who left... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf to sign \$34 billion .divided government. budget

Gov. Tom Wolf prepared Friday to sign a \$34 billion compromise budget after lawmakers wrapped up the week with a flurry of votes on hundreds of pages of legislation that in some cases drew angry protests from his fellow Democrats... - [AP](#)

Editorial: Budget behavior, childish tantrums

We don't have time for leaders to act like children. The people we have elected are there to do a job. We might not like the job they do, but that's why we get to shuffle the deck periodically. What we didn't do was send grown men and women to split off into their... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

Don't shift funds from environment

In terms of the overall size of the pending \$34 billion state budget, its shift of \$10 million from the Pennsylvania Environmental Stewardship Fund to general government operations is a relatively small piece. But it's still bad policy that creates uncertainty about the state's... - [Scranton Times](#)

New budget excludes major issues

It must be exhausting to pass a state budget. As soon as they did so Friday, members of the state House and Senate disembarked from the commonwealth's ship of state for rest and relaxation. The full, allegedly full-time Legislature won't return to the Capitol until well into September... - [Scranton Times](#)

State Sens. Vogel, Bartolotta vote for state budget

State Sens. Elder Vogel Jr. and Camera Bartolotta both voted for the \$34 billion state budget on Thursday, citing funding near and dear to their respective committees. Vogel, R-47, New Sewickley Township, a dairy farmer and chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, touted the budget's strength... - [Beaver County Times](#)

10 items that aren't in the Pa. budget package

When it comes to state budget-making, some things make the cut and are included in the final deal get all the glory. This year, though, some of the issues that didn't make the cut as part of the budget package also seem worth noting and likely to be resurrected... - [PAT](#)

10 key elements in the Pa. state budget package

Gov. Tom Wolf celebrated the increased investment in preschool included in the 2019-20 budget with some Harrisburg pre-schoolers. Maybe Pennsylvania is getting used to the divided government under which it has been operating for the past five years. Gov. Tom Wolf and state lawmakers reached agreement on a \$34 billion... - [PAT](#)

June 28

Let's get fiscal: 4 highlights from the 2019-2020 Fiscal Code bill

A wide-ranging Fiscal Code bill was sent to Gov. Tom Wolf's desk Thursday, bringing the 2019-2020 budget one step closer to enactment. The legislation, which helps outline specifics of the annual spending plan, passed the House and the Senate on Thursday, setting in place procedures... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

Pa. Senate sends \$34 billion budget bill to Gov. Tom Wolf

The state Senate Thursday approved a budget bill that provides hundreds of millions more for schools, makes another investment in school security, provides help to the state's sputtering agricultural industry, and all without a tax increase. The Senate voted 42-8 to approve the spending bill; the House passed it by... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

Pennsylvania budget passed, school spending plan up in the air

HARRISBURG — The state Senate sent Gov. Tom Wolf a \$34 billion state budget Thursday night, but lawmakers in the state House will return to the Capitol today to take up a budget measure dealing with school law. In a late Thursday vote, the House refused to concur on changes made by the... - [Meadville Tribune](#)

Waynesburg to receive federal money for wastewater treatment plant

Waynesburg will benefit from a federal investment in rural water infrastructure improvements. In a Wednesday news release, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it will spend \$192 million on 71 water infrastructure projects across 29 states as part of the Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program.... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)

Local legislators support state budget bill | The Daily Courier

Local Republican legislators said Thursday they support the \$34 billion Pennsylvania budget bill for 2019-20 that holds the line on taxes and creates a \$250 million Rainy Day Fund. .This is a solid budget that keeps spending in check while also increasing investments in core function of... - [Connellsville Daily Courier](#)

Dems cry foul over school code, as bipartisan vote sinks last remaining piece of budget puzzle

A perfect storm of grievances sunk the final remaining piece of the state budget Thursday evening, as the House voted down the School Code bill over what Democrats called broken promises, while Republicans expressed concern over a provision to alter the compulsory school enrollment age.... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

Here's why I voted against the budget | Daylin Leach

We passed the budget Thursday, two days before our constitutionally mandated deadline. All budgets are a mixed bag. We spend too much on some things, not enough on others, while other line items are just right. Each negotiation results in some victories, some defeats and some battles left... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

Pennsylvania budget highlights for 2019-20

Highlights of the spending package that passed the state Legislature for Pennsylvania state government's 2019-20 fiscal year starting Monday, as well as the fate of key initiatives proposed by Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf: ... - [AP](#)

Pennsylvania House wraps up state budget votes; Gov. Tom Wolf plans bill signings

The final pieces in the legislative puzzle that makes up a \$34 billion compromise state budget package were on their way Friday to Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf after the Pennsylvania House wrapped up work with a flurry of votes... - [AP](#)

June 27

Bucking colleagues, state Rep. Aaron Bernstine votes against state budget

While the \$34 billion state budget passed by the House on Tuesday drew bipartisan support from local legislators, at least one Republican blasted the process for ignoring taxpayers. "I didn't come here to be a copy-paste legislator. I came here to lead on real issues," state Rep. Aaron Bernstine, R-10, New Beaver,... - [Beaver County Times](#)

Budget passes first hurdle

The 2019-20 state general appropriations bill, otherwise known the state budget, made it through its first hurdle Tuesday, as it passed the state House of Representatives with a vote of 140-62. The \$33.997 billion spending plan was met with some opposition from... - [Huntingdon Daily News](#)

Editorial: State budget a missed opportunity

The Issue: A House-passed \$34 billion spending plan appears likely to win Senate approval soon. Our Opinion: It's too bad our leaders passed up the chance to correct mistakes of the past. The unanimous backing of a \$34 billion state budget by Berks County's nine-member delegation to the state House is understandable.... - [Reading Eagle](#)

Pa. Senate sends \$34 billion budget bill to Gov. Tom Wolf for enactment

A \$34 billion state budget bill is heading to Gov. Tom Wolf for enactment that provides hundreds of millions more for schools, makes another investment in school security, provides help to the state's sputtering agricultural industry, and all without a tax increase.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

Local lawmakers approve of House budget plan

State House Republicans from the area predict next year's budget will soon be passed, unlike most recent years when putting together a spending plan became a contentious issue. "The talk down here (Harrisburg) is that both houses and the governor are in agreement," state Rep. Jeff Wheeland, R-Loyalsock Township,... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

June 26

Pennsylvania House OKs budget after stiff criticism by Democrats

Pennsylvania's House of Representatives passed the main bill in a just-unveiled \$34 billion compromise budget plan on Tuesday, despite hard criticism by rank-and-file Democrats that included a floor fight over whether they could criticize the package for lacking a minimum wage... - [AP](#)

Pa. House passes \$34B state budget with no tax increase; Democrats blast failure to raise minimum wage

Pennsylvania's House of Representatives passed a \$34 billion budget for 2019-20 on Tuesday that includes more money for schools, new investments in agriculture, and a healthy deposit in the state's Rainy Day Fund. By a 140-62 vote, the chamber sent the spending bill to the Senate. That... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

PA House passes \$34 billion budget

HARRISBURG — The state House voted 140-62 to approve a \$34 billion state budget for 2019-20, sending the measure to the Senate, which is expected to approve the plan later this week. Gov. Tom Wolf has already signaled that he supports the measure. Tuesday's vote came after more than three hours of debate — with... - [New Castle News](#)

State House Approves New Budget; Borowicz Votes No

HARRISBURG – The state House Tuesday overwhelmingly approved a \$34 billion budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. The vote was 140-62 in favor. State Rep. Stephanie Borowicz (R-Clinton/Centre), in her first budget vote, was among those voting no. The measure goes to the Senate where approval is expected on Thursday, then... - [Lock Haven Record](#)

Local lawmakers say budget increases savings, cuts spending

Local state representatives sounded upbeat Tuesday following the House of Representatives vote to adopt a \$34 billion no-tax-increase budget. Reps. Carl Walker Metzgar, R-Berlin, and Jesse Topper, R-Bedford, both voted to approve the spending plan, which passed 140 to 62.... - [Bedford Gazette](#)

Oberlander votes for no tax increase with state budget

HARRISBURG . Rep. Donna Oberlander (R-Clarion/ Armstrong/Forest) today gave her support to a bipartisan \$33.997 billion state budget that does not increase taxes or fees and spends less than the governor initially requested. It passed the House today by a vote of 140-62 before going to... - [Kittanning Leader-Times](#)

June 25

Lawmakers unveil \$33.99 billion state spending plan that doesn't raise minimum wage

HARRISBURG – State lawmakers unveiled a \$33.99 billion spending plan Monday afternoon with an aim toward getting the bill to the governor by the end of the week. The plan would increase state spending about 1.8 percent over the 2018-19 budget, said state House appropriations committee chairman Stan Saylor,... - [Meadville Tribune](#)

Lawmakers cosign \$34 billion budget, but negotiations aren't over

(Harrisburg) -- House Republicans have begun moving the main spending bill for next year's state budget, and it seems likely the Senate and Governor will support it. The plan passed the chamber's appropriations committee with minimal debate Monday, setting the stage for what leaders hope will be a smooth final week... - [WITF](#)

Pennsylvania budget deal boosts education spending, holds line on minimum wage, taxes

Pennsylvania lawmakers said Monday they have struck a compromise on a spending plan that uses surplus dollars to spread around modest spending increases, hold the line on taxes and make a substantial deposit into a relatively bare budgetary reserve... - [AP](#)

No increase in Pennsylvania's minimum wage in this state budget; what happened?

It was one of the highest-profile asks in the newly re-elected Democratic governor's February budget address: A raise in the state's \$7.25 per hour minimum wage to \$12 per hour, effective July 1. And now, on the cusp of passage of the first budget of Gov. Tom Wolf's... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)

Pennsylvania to OK \$60M school security program for 2nd year

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania lawmakers say they'll authorize a second year of school and community security grants, a \$60 million program spurred by last year's Florida school shooting that killed 17 people... - [AP](#)

June 24

Lawmakers prepare for final push to pass state budget

HARRISBURG — A proposed state budget is expected to be unveiled Monday, lawmakers from both sides of the aisle said in Friday interviews. Gov. Tom Wolf in February asked lawmakers to approve \$34.1 billion in general fund spending. His plan didn't call for any increase in taxes... - [Meadville Tribune](#)

Schlegel-Culver expects budget vote Thursday

WATSONTOWN . Rep. Lynda Schlegel-Culver (R-108) expects the House to approve Pennsylvania's 2019-2020 \$34 billion budget on Thursday. She believes Gov. Tom Wolf will also sign off on the budget. Schlegel-Culver spoke on the budget during a Greater Susquehanna Valley... - [Milton Standard](#)

Should Pennsylvania's 2019-20 budget include a minimum wage hike?

The push is on for the Pennsylvania Legislature to increase the state's minimum wage in the next budget. Last week, Human Services Secretary Teresa Miller made a case for lawmakers to increase the minimum wage, noting child care workers and direct-care workers who serve seniors and the disabled make so little many of them are... - [Meadville Tribune](#)

Pennsylvania budget deal boosts education spending, holds line on minimum wage, taxes

Pennsylvania lawmakers said Monday they have struck a compromise on a spending plan that uses surplus dollars to spread around modest spending increases, hold the line on taxes and make a substantial deposit into a relatively bare budgetary reserve... - [AP](#)

Pa. legislative leaders agree on \$34B state budget plan: more for schools, no new taxes and no minimum wage hike

Legislative leaders have reached a deal on a \$34-billion state budget proposal that contains no new taxes and fees and more money for schools, but the agreement lacks some key Democratic

priorities, including a minimum wage hike and a cash assistance program for the poor.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

Cash assistance program for Pa.'s poorest residents appears to be on brink of elimination

The Senate is planning to vote on Wednesday on a bill that would eliminate a program that provides roughly \$200 a month to the state's poorest residents who don't qualify for or are awaiting approval for other assistance, starting Aug. 1. This cash assistance program provided what advocates call a bridge to... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

Editorial: Budget dance spins on low expectations

It's June 23. Do you know where your state budget is? It's a trick question. It's where it always is this time of year. In the works. Harrisburg is a funny place. Every year the governor and Legislature do this budget dance. The state constitution mandates that a new spending plan... - [Phoenixville News](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf says proposed Pennsylvania state budget meets his objectives

In a reflection of the divided government that Pennsylvania has lived with since 2014, Gov. Tom Wolf's press secretary says that the \$34 billion budget proposal introduced in the state House Monday is a spending plan that meets his objectives. And, at this point, the Democratic governor would sign it in its current... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

Pa. budget deal doesn't include 2020 Census funding that state commission recommended

The \$34 billion state budget deal announced Monday does not include the more than \$12 million that a state commission said Pennsylvania needs to ensure that residents are counted in the 2020 Census. "We just can't go into this with no funding," said Micah Sims, a member of... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

June 23

Lawmakers must not roll back tobacco prevention: Letters to the editor

Tobacco prevention and control programs are at risk in Pennsylvania. Tobacco prevention and control programs are at risk in Pennsylvania. Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable illness and death in the United States. It costs Pennsylvania \$6.38 billion a year in health care... - [Erie Times-News](#)

Budget pressure, policy agendas collide ahead of deadline

Toil on a \$34 billion budget package in Pennsylvania's Capitol is barreling into the final week of the fiscal year, as top lawmakers rush to wrap up closed-door budget talks, score some pet victories and send rank-and-file home for the summer... - [AP](#)

Guest op-ed: State must close education spending gap

Pennsylvania is enjoying a strong economy, with unemployment near all-time lows. However, too many Pennsylvanians lack the skills for family-sustaining jobs, and area businesses struggle

to fill positions with qualified candidates. Part of this problem is rooted in inequitable school funding that compounds... - [Reading Eagle](#)

Andy Carter: Pa. health care dollars at risk

A lot has changed since 1998, the year that Pennsylvania and 45 states stood up to big tobacco and helped create the Tobacco Settlement Fund (TSF) . We may have moved on from CD-ROM, dial-up internet and the Y2K bug frenzy ; but a few things have stood the test of time: .Pokémon,. .Toy Story. and... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

June 21

Disagreements remain as Pennsylvania's budget deadline nears

HARRISBURG — Top Pennsylvania lawmakers are assembling a budget package that's due ahead of the July 1 start of the fiscal year, but behind-the-scenes disagreements remain and rank-and-file lawmakers are awaiting details... - [AP](#)

June 20

State must resist getting reckless with budget

The state's economy is as strong as it has been in years, leading to tax collections of \$800,000 above budgeted revenue projections in the current budget year. That should make passage of a new state budget easier than normal, correct? Well, sort of. Unfortunately, Gov. Tom Wolf has proposed spending of \$34.1 billion, plus... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

Guest column: Pennsylvania's largest workforce crisis

Two out of five workers who care for people with an intellectual disability or autism (called direct support professionals, or DSPs) leave their jobs every year, largely due to the cripplingly low wages they are paid through government funding. Recently, the 2019 version of the Fix the DSP Crisis video was released... - [Phoenixville News](#)

June 19

Gov. Tom Wolf vetoes major expansion of Pennsylvania's tax credits-for-private school scholarships program

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf has vetoed a bill that is near and dear to Speaker of the House Mike Turzai's heart. Wolf used his veto pen to strike down a Turzai-sponsored proposal that would have nearly doubled the amount of tax credits the state makes available to businesses and other donors who make gifts to scholarship... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

June 18

Rep. Shusterman won't draw paycheck until state budget passes

State Rep. Melissa Shusterman, D-Chester/Montgomery, announced Monday she will suspend her paycheck until a budget is passed as the state Legislature commences budget season. "If my constituents don't go to work, they don't get paid, and I hold myself to the same expectation. I do not deserve to get paid unless... - [Phoenixville News](#)

Governor vetoes \$100M private schools bill in Pennsylvania

Gov. Tom Wolf is vetoing budget-season legislation to substantially ramp up taxpayer support for private and religious schools in Pennsylvania... - [AP](#)

Wolf vetoes increase in tax credits for Pa. private-school scholarships

Gov. Tom Wolf on Tuesday vetoed a dramatic expansion of a program that awards tax credits to businesses that donate to scholarships that help Pennsylvania students pay for private schools. "It is my job as the leader of this commonwealth to ensure fairness and... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

June 17

Toomey wades into fight over \$100M private schools bill

U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey waded into a budget fight in Pennsylvania on Monday over substantially expanding state taxpayer support for private and religious schools that is stoking pushback from public school advocates.../ - [AP](#)

Wolf still pushing plan to slap fee on towns that rely on state police

Gov. Tom Wolf is once again pushing for a fee on residents of municipalities that use Pennsylvania State Police for full-time police coverage as the budget cycle for the next fiscal year enters the homestretch, and two of his Democratic colleagues in the general assembly are trying to make it... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)

What is it about the poor? | Opinion

The Ethic of Reciprocity -- often called the Golden Rule -- simply states that we are to treat other people as we wish to be treated. It's a core principle of most all world religions. And it's basic human decency. So, one might wonder why both the state and federal governments try with... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

Paul Muschick on state budget: Gov. Wolf should use new bargaining chip to get severance tax

State budget negotiations are wrapping up, and stubborn lawmakers still are refusing to consider sensible proposals that would help taxpayers. Here's an idea to get their attention. Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf has been unable to convince the Republican-controlled Legislature to impose a severance tax on natural gas... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

June 16

Wolf tells group he'll fight for cash assistance program

Gov. Tom Wolf is telling demonstrators that he'll fight Republican resistance to a Depression-era program in his budget proposal that provides a \$200-a-month cash benefit for the poor who are disabled or otherwise unable to work... - [AP](#)

It's turkey season at the Capitol when all manner of fowl fly | Opinion

This time of year, the machinery of state government is reviewed and adjusted according to the needs of the people and the whims of their elected leaders. There are certain mandates like

human service costs, debt service, and emergency needs that must be met. Beyond that, any and all... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

June 14

Size of Pennsylvania budget surplus may be less important than whether it actually exists

While state leaders are heading into budget season with a projected general fund surplus of \$866 million, some who follow state budgeting say the number paints a too rosy picture. The projection of the extra revenue came last month from the Independent Fiscal Office, which cited unanticipated major inflows of corporate net... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

Guest column: Pennsylvania budget can build on tax reform boom

Pennsylvania state lawmakers are heading into budget negotiations with wages rising, record low unemployment, and state revenues surpassing projections — an economic windfall largely due to federal tax reform. With all this great economic news, it would be easy to grow complacent.... - [Phoenixville News](#)

June 12

As 'Energize PA' bills move out of committee, Republicans hint at including some in the budget

House Republicans aren't closing the door on including components of their tax-free alternative to Gov. Tom Wolf's "Restore Pennsylvania" plan in this year's budget. As lawmakers reported two bills from the House GOP's "Energize PA" package out of committee on Tuesday, House Appropriations Chairman... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

Pennsylvania budget season fight opens over \$100 million increase in taxpayer support for private schools

Legislation to substantially expand taxpayer support for private and religious schools in Pennsylvania won passage Tuesday in the Republican-controlled Legislature, although Gov. Tom Wolf is signaling that he will block it... - [AP](#)

Gov. Wolf to veto \$100M private and religious schools bill in Pennsylvania

Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf plans to veto legislation passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature to substantially expand taxpayer support by \$100 million for private and religious schools in Pennsylvania... - [AP](#)

June 11

Democrats considering discharge resolution to move 'Restore Pennsylvania' bill past committee

(This story has been updated to include a comment from Wolf Administration spokesperson J.J. Abbott.) Just days after lawmakers unveiled legislation mirroring Gov. Tom Wolf's Restore Pennsylvania infrastructure plan, House Democrats are eyeing a workaround that could push the bill onto the House floor without a... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

Despite bipartisan backers, chances of minimum teacher salary raise appear slim

A push to raise the state's minimum teacher salary has become a bipartisan effort, but it appears to not be enough to ensure a key piece of Gov. Tom Wolf's budget proposal will make it into the final version of the spending document. House Appropriations Chair Stan Saylor (R-York) said he would be "very... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

June 10

Will Pa. pass a budget on time? Battles loom over raising minimum wage, spending increases

Gov. Tom Wolf could find the first budget of his second term to be the easiest one yet. The state's revenue picture looks rosier than it has in recent years with revenues now standing at \$813 million above what was anticipated. Even when adjusted for the unplanned spending and revenue sources that... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

It's Pa. budget season. All Philly can do is hope for the best | John Baer

Our "full-time" legislature's annual rush to start its long vacation of 2½ months is underway in Harrisburg. Knowing how much taxpayers love and respect (and pay for) our legislature — this year, \$340 million — now seems a good time for a progress report on passing a new state budget... - [Philadelphia Daily News](#)

Strong cash flow smooths budget work, but not Wolf's agenda

HARRISBURG — With strong tax collections oiling the gears, Gov. Tom Wolf and leaders of the Republican-controlled Legislature are working under the hood of a new spending plan as they head into the final weeks of voting sessions before lawmakers break for summer... - [AP](#)

Minimum wage plan faces uncertain future

HARRISBURG — With three weeks until the deadline to pass a new state budget, Republicans in the state Legislature are giving little hint that a minimum wage hike sought by Democrats will be part of the deal. Gov. Tom Wolf proposed a minimum wage hike in his February budget proposal... - [Meadville Tribune](#)

Push to boost minimum wage a battleground issue in Pa. budget talks

Topping the bill for Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf in budget negotiations this year is a raise in the state's minimum wage, currently set at \$7.25 per hour. Wolf and Democrats in the state House and Senate have offered plans to increase the state minimum to \$12 an hour beginning July 1, with gradual... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)

Democrats considering discharge resolution to move 'Restore Pennsylvania' bill past committee

(This story has been updated to include a comment from Wolf Administration spokesperson J.J. Abbott.) Just days after lawmakers unveiled legislation mirroring Gov. Tom Wolf's Restore Pennsylvania infrastructure plan, House Democrats are eyeing a workaround that could push the bill onto the House floor without a... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

June 9

Legislators: 'Stop me from spending'

State legislators are endowed with the power to control state government spending. They don't need a constitutional amendment to bestow upon them the power that they already possess. Yet the state Senate Finance Committee this week, on a party-line vote with... - *Scranton Times*

Natural gas industry should accept severance tax in exchange for easing of regulations | Opinion

Pennsylvania is the second biggest gas-producing state behind Texas. The state is blessed with a geological formation of shale basins (Marcellus and Utica) that is already producing about 18 billion cubic feet per day. In a relatively short time, Pennsylvania has grown to be an industry leader on... - *Penn Live, Patriot-News*

Gov. Wolf's proposals to tax natural gas are irresponsible and counterproductive | Opinion

Before he was elected governor, Tom Wolf was calling for an ADDITIONAL tax on the development of natural gas in Pennsylvania. He's never slowed down. He's worn out the phrase "Pennsylvania is the only state without an extraction tax," despite the fact that he's fully aware that the... - *Penn Live, Patriot-News*

Strong cash flow smooths budget work, but not Wolf's agenda

With strong tax collections oiling the gears, Gov. Tom Wolf and leaders of the Republican-controlled Legislature are working under the hood of a new spending plan as they head into the final weeks of voting sessions before lawmakers break for summer... - *AP*

June 7

Right 2 Know Episode 10: Budget season is here

Cash rules everything around the latest episode of Right 2 Know, as Justin and Andrew dig into the latest updates on the state budget. Justin also schools us on the prospects of Gov. Tom Wolf's Restore Pennsylvania initiative and we school Justin on the wonder that is the Farm Show... - *Pennsylvania Legislative Services*

June 6

Sen. Boscola: Antiquated basic education funding formula is hurting homeowners, students

The Basic Education Funding Formula is the single largest education funding stream in Pennsylvania's budget. Until 2014, each year when the General Assembly passed a budget it distributed basic education funding dollars to our school districts based on what they received the year before — regardless of whether the... - *Phoenixville News*

June 5

Pa. considers bill to get children to start their school years earlier and stay longer

In Pennsylvania, some children enter kindergarten at 5-years-old. Some start school at 6 or 7. And some wait until age 8 to begin their education. Currently, Pennsylvania does not require

children to attend school before age 8, and students can drop out at age 17 without parental consent. But... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

Minimum wage, General Assistance top Dems' budget wish-list

(Harrisburg) - The Republicans who control the House and Senate have a lot of the power when it comes to state budget negotiations. But as the June 30th deadline approaches, Democrats are trying to hold out on a few key issues--among them, saving General Assistance and raising the... - [WITF](#)

Republican spending limit plan reported out of committee

A proposal to limit state government spending passed the Senate Finance Committee along party lines Wednesday, as Senate Republicans look to resurrect a proposal that ties state spending to economic growth. Sen. Camera Bartolotta (R-Washington) is the prime sponsor of Senate Bill... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

June 4

Sen. Hughes proposes funding school repairs with surplus

Sen. Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia) plans to introduce two bills for repairs at "toxic schools" statewide. His idea is to offer districts a share of \$125 million to improve buildings, either through existing, unused funds or with a portion of the state's existing surplus. Currently the state has over \$800 million in... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

June 3

Lawmakers skeptical of Wolf proposals but optimistic about budget

HARRISBURG — Gov. Tom Wolf's budget proposal plan to tax local communities without police departments to cover the cost of local protection provided by state police is DOA, lawmakers say, as the June run-up to the 2019-20 budget approaches. While that's not the only controversy that lawmakers will confront in the... - [Meadville Tribune](#)

May 30

GOP appropriators eyeing reforms to state budget process

In Harrisburg, June is known — sometimes infamously — as the month that bears the annual state budget. This year, some lawmakers are hoping to make reforms to the budgetary process to create a more transparent approach to the yearly negotiations. Republican lawmakers in the House have put together a four-bill package... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

Lawmakers to propose bill that they say could bring \$85 million to Philly schools

Driven by health, safety, and facility repairs urgently needed for Philadelphia district schools, labor leaders and state and local lawmakers on Wednesday announced proposed legislation that would provide about \$125 million to repair and improve schools locally and statewide.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

GOP appropriators eyeing reforms to state budget process

In Harrisburg, June is known — sometimes infamously — as the month that bears the annual state budget. This year, some lawmakers are hoping to make reforms to the budgetary process to create a more transparent approach to the yearly negotiations. Republican lawmakers in the House have put together a four-bill package... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

May 20

3 state legislators discuss issues at breakfast

PENN TWP — Three state legislators shared the issues they find important and answered questions Friday from those who attended the annual Legislative Breakfast at the Butler Country Club. Organized each year by the Butler County Chamber of Commerce, the breakfast... - [Butler Eagle](#)

May 19

It's time to change racially unjust school funding | Opinion

By The Rev. Duane Coleman On May 17 the nation commemorated the 65th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that separate schools for Black and White students is inherently unequal. The landmark decision was seen as a major victory in the civil rights movement.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

May 17

Overspending takes state tax collections triggered by economy

For years state government in Pennsylvania has struggled on both ends of its budget process with tax collections lagging behind projections. Either the collections are lower than expected in an existing budget, leaving a deficit, or they are so iffy for the future that they create... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

May 9

Salary increases could be part of Scranton School District recovery plan

Districtwide raises could be part of Scranton School District's financial recovery plan, Chief Recovery Officer Candis Finan said. "I, for one, do not think we will maintain a high-quality staff here if we do not find a way to give raises," said Finan, Ed.D. "We're... - [Scranton Times](#)

May 8

School funding inequity: House bill 800 | PennLive letters

Short-term gain for a few: long-term loss for Pennsylvania. HB800 directs tax money that could have gone to public schools to go instead to private and religious schools. How appealing to cut one's \$38,000 tuition bill for a private suburban Philly school, or any private or... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

May 7

State: Scranton School District's recovery plan could be 'catalyst' for more state funding

BALTIMORE — The Scranton School District's recovery plan could be a "catalyst" to help the district receive additional funding, Pennsylvania's secretary of education said Monday. Before speaking about accountability at the Education Writers Association national seminar in Baltimore, Pedro A. Rivera told The Times-Tribune any... - [Scranton Times](#)

May 6

47 PA kids killed by abuse in 2018

HARRISBURG — The number of children killed in abuse cases in Pennsylvania jumped more than 17 percent from 2017 to 2018, new data provided by the state Department of Human Services show. Forty-seven children died from abuse in Pennsylvania last year, compared to... - [New Castle News](#)

May 2

Better fiscal times continue for Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG — Better fiscal times are continuing for Pennsylvania, as the state reports stronger-than-expected tax collections amid the best stretch of collections in at least a decade. The state Department of Revenue said Wednesday it has collected \$828 million, or 3 percent, above expectations through 10 months of the fiscal... - [AP](#)

May 1

Top Republicans cheer increased tax revenue but urge putting savings into Rainy Day Fund

Republican leaders are touting more than \$800 million in more-than-expected tax revenues as a sign the state is on the right fiscal path but cautioned Wednesday that they will be looking to plow most of that money into the rainy day fund. Flanked by several dozen House and Senate lawmakers, Senate Majority Leader... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

April 30

House panel passes boost to private school aid

The House Education Committee has Monday approved a bill to double the amount of tax credits available to help students to attend the school of their choice. HB800, sponsored by House Speaker Mike Turzai, R-Allegheny, would increase the amount of tax credits available under the Educational... - [Altoona Mirror](#)

Langerholc to head education committee

Sen. Wayne Langerholc Jr., R-Cambria, was appointed Monday to serve as chairman of the Senate Education Committee for the rest of the 2019-20 legislative session. Langerholc said he will work with committee members on issues related to the state's education system, including school safety funding, and... - [Altoona Mirror](#)

Pennsylvania sees online sales taxes soar after court ruling

Pennsylvania is getting an unexpected windfall as internet sales tax revenues are coming in at a rate of nearly four times what had been projected for the current fiscal year... - [AP](#)

April 29

As special education costs soar, state fails to keep up

Special education costs in Northeast Pennsylvania school districts increased by \$110 million over nine years — straining budgets as districts try to deliver the education they are legally required to provide. School districts received little additional help from the state.... - [Scranton Times](#)

L&I deputy secretary visits KC Career and Technology Center

MILL HALL — Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) Deputy Secretary for Workforce Development Eileen Cipriani highlighted Governor Tom Wolf's ongoing commitment to expanding job training opportunities and career and technical education for students and adult learners in north central... - [Lock Haven Express](#)

At rally and meeting, Scranton school officials demand more state funding

SCRANTON — Children in York and Harrisburg are not worth more than children in Scranton. At a rally Monday and Scranton School Board committee meeting that followed, directors, teachers, administrators, parents and taxpayers came together to repeat that message — and they want more people to hear it.... - [Scranton Times](#)

April 19

Officials: Pre-K programs key to reducing adult crime

JACKSON TWP. — With their backs against a tall prison wall topped with barbed wire, lawmakers and law enforcement officials on Thursday made the case for pre-Kindergarten education as a key to keeping people out of jail as adults. The setting was State Correctional Institution-Dallas. The subject was a... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

Amid razor wire and prison blocks, advocates push for more early education money

JACKSON TWP. — With perimeter cameras peering down and razor wire piled high behind them, advocates pushed Thursday for an increase in state funding for early childhood education, repeating the well-documented evidence that money spent on pre-school can pay huge dividends later in... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

Workforce development official visits Johnstown, tours GJCTC, touts training opportunities

While state labor officials congratulated a graduating class of licensed practical nurses inside Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center on Thursday, one of the school's commercial drivers license program students was spotted through the window, honing his skills inside a... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)

April 11

Municipalities should pay for state police coverage | PennLive letters

In his budget proposal Gov. Wolf has asked that municipalities pay if they depend on the state police for police coverage. I personally feel this is a fair manner to cover the cost to the state police in both time and money. The time they are policing municipalities could be used patrolling the... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

April 5

Legislators address conservation district concerns over state budget

SUNBURY — Concerns about the impact Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed 2019-20 state budget could have on conservation districts were raised during the Northumberland County Conservation District's (NCCD) annual legislative luncheon, held Thursday at its local office.... - [Shamokin News-Item](#)

April 4

State needs to embrace all-day 'K'

Some Pennsylvania children probably have benefited from not having had to begin their formal education until age 8, currently the latest starting age allowed under state law. Those children are a small minority, however. Gov. Tom Wolf wants to lower the mandatory starting age to 6 — the age... - [Altoona Mirror](#)

April 1

PSU could lower tuition with state help

Penn State President Eric Barron had hardly taken his seat in front of PennLive's Editorial Board before he started extolling the benefits of Penn State and citing a flurry of statistics to back it up. Statistic number one — Penn State educates almost 100,000 students each... - [Altoona Mirror](#)

Scranton School Board to take funding issue to parents, lawmakers

SCRANTON — Even if Scranton schools see a boost in funding in the next state budget, the district still will receive far less than others with similar demographics. Members of the Scranton School Board plan to take that information across the city and to state legislators this month, as directors rally to see an... - [Scranton Times](#)

Philly school board seeks your input on budget process. Here's how to help. | Opinion

As newly appointed members of the Board of Education, we come with diverse backgrounds and opinions. However, as we enter this year's budget season, we share a singular focus on creating and passing a budget that maintains the school district's financial stability and invests in... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

Legislators, labor call for funding to fix Philadelphia schools

Members of Philadelphia's delegation to Harrisburg joined members of the city teachers' union Friday in support of more funding to repair and better maintain some of the city's aging school

buildings. Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler (D), hosting the rally in her district, spoke about... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

March 21

Prominent Pa. CEOs: Inadequate school funding makes it harder for us to hire locally | Opinion

We are nearly 20 years into the 21st century and businesses are no closer to having the 21st century workforce. While generations of students have come of age in an era of upskilling, rapid technological and AI growth, employers, like us, remain frustrated that far too few job applicants have... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

Disparities & irrationalities: Pa.'s state school funding | Opinion

The canard of the government-union educratic establishment long has been that more state dollars spent on public education yield better academic results. But an exhaustive analysis of Pennsylvania school funding data, by district and through the 2016-17 school year, shows no positive correlation between... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

March 11

Teacher salary debate needs bipartisanship

There are reasonable arguments on both sides of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's budget proposal to increase, to \$45,000, the minimum salary for the state's public school teachers. However, what also must be at the forefront of discussions, going forward, are the potential ramifications for taxpayers stemming from each option... - [Altoona Mirror](#)

March 8

State Rep. Rob Matzie's bill would require paper ballots across Pennsylvania

In an effort to avoid the hacking of voting machines, state Rep. Rob Matzie has introduced a bill requiring that every county in Pennsylvania use paper ballots in elections. "Nothing is more fundamental to our democracy than the right to vote, but equally important is ensuring that those votes are counted, and counted... - [Beaver County Times](#)

Anthony Township supervisors opposed to municipal fee to fund state police

Anthony Township supervisors "strongly oppose" Gov. Tom Wolf's budget proposal to impose fees on municipalities without their own police force for patrol services provided by the state police. The supervisors have sent letters to state Sen. John Gordner and to state... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)

Flat Medicaid rates concern Pennsylvania nursing homes

A group that represents about 500 nursing home operators across Pennsylvania expressed concerns about Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed budget for next fiscal year, saying flat funding threatens the state's rapidly aging population. The Medicaid reimbursement rate for Pennsylvania nursing home residents has... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

March 7

Dubious prescription: Wolf's plan to raise teacher pay | Colin McNickle

A proposal in Gov. Tom Wolf's fiscal 2020 budget to raise the minimum wage for Pennsylvania's public school teachers and support staff by a whopping 140 percent would have expansive and expensive consequences for taxpayers, concludes an analysis by the Allegheny Institute for Public... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

While minimum wage, oversight on agenda, budget and severance tax remain top debate

tate Rep. Garth Everett, R-Pennsdale, says he's hoping to use his position on the House State Government Committee to push through legislation that will bring improvements in the overall governing process. During an interview with the Sun-Gazette editorial board, he cited the need... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

March 5

Investment in community colleges is an investment in Pa.'s future | Opinion

By John J. "Ski" Sygielski While I am grateful for Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed \$8 million funding for a community college tuition assistance program as part of his Statewide Workforce, Education and Accountability Program, I am disappointed that his proposed \$34.1 billion budget for fiscal 2019-20 does not include an... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

March 4

Wolf, Republicans at odds over minimum wage increase

In his budget address early last month, Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf called for lawmakers to more than double the current \$7.25 minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025. Wolf's latest annual plea for an increase has not gained traction with Republicans. Dauphin County Democratic state Rep. Patty Kim introduced a bill similar to... - [Reading Eagle](#)

Paying for police

A plan to charge Pennsylvania municipalities that rely on the state police as their primary law enforcement is once again on the table in Harrisburg, and although this time it includes a sliding scale based on population, the proposal still isn't gaining much traction among area lawmakers and... - [Altoona Mirror](#)

PENNSYLVANIA LOTTERY: Revenue a \$1.1B jackpot for Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Lottery is on track to have its best year ever. Lottery Executive Director Drew Svitko revealed the record pace last week, testifying before the Pennsylvania Senate appropriations committee in Harrisburg. "We've had some big jackpots in high margin games that resulted in... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)

Monroe County townships may foot the bill

BUSHKILL — Lawmakers are at odds over how to replace the highway funds long-used to bolster state police operations, and some rural municipalities worry that they may have to bear

the bulk of those costs. A proposal to charge fees to areas that rely on state police instead of local police... - [Pocono Record](#)

March 3

Tax plan fills in 'black hole'

Beyond simply carrying water for the natural gas industry, opponents of a fair state-level severance tax on gas complain that the revenue would swirl into the voracious "black hole" of the state's general budget and be lost forever. It's a spurious argument that helps to maintain Pennsylvania's... - [Scranton Times](#)

Make senior citizens a priority as Pa. budget is shaped | Opinion

Your recent story (Facing another year of stagnant state funding, nursing homes warn of potential closures, 2/21/19) about the governor's proposed budget was spot on unfortunately. There are winners and losers in his proposal. Pennsylvania has one of the country's largest senior populations. In... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)

Pa.'s February revenue collections fail to hit the mark, but overall picture still looking bright

Pennsylvania's revenue picture continues to look bright eight months into the fiscal year despite experiencing a second consecutive month where tax collections came in slightly below estimate. The monthly revenue report shows the state collected \$2 billion in... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)

February 25

State police fee proposal concerns Erie County municipalities

Governor's latest proposal for funding state police calls for sliding scale fee in municipalities without police departments The latest proposal for funding the Pennsylvania State Police calls for assessing a per-resident fee to the roughly two-thirds of the state's... - [Erie Times-News](#)

State Police fee plan gets new attention, may cost South Middleton \$1.6 million

HARRISBURG — The latest effort by Gov. Tom Wolf to impose a fee on municipalities that rely on state troopers, instead of a local police force, is generating new conversations, if not an embrace, as budget makers try to end the constitutionally questionable use of highway dollars to... - [AP](#)

Vision 2019 | Pennsylvania faring better than some neighbors on tax-cut impact, unemployment

HARRISBURG – Pennsylvania is on track to finish the 2018-19 fiscal year with \$6 million left in the bank, according to projections by the governor's office. This comes as tax revenue throughout the year consistently beat budget forecasts. Through January, the state has brought in \$957 million more than in it did... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)

Minimum wage hike due; Too much would stifle state economy

Pennsylvania's minimum wage has remained at \$7.25 an hour since 2009, making it one of 21 states to hold the line since then. It's time for a minimum wage hike. But it's not time to raise it from \$7.25 an hour to \$12 an hour, as proposed by Gov. Tom Wolf in his state budget plan which is now being... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

Editorial: Taking proposal for severance tax down different road

Tom Wolf has not given up on his dream of a tax on the state's natural gas industry. He's just taking a detour on the road to being able to proclaim, "We Shale Overcome." You might remember that the Democrat rode to victory over Republican incumbent Tom Corbett four years ago by pronouncing for all to hear his... - [Phoenixville News](#)

February 24

Gov. Wolf proposed more money for public schools, but districts say math just doesn't add up

The Pottstown School District lost \$1 million in annual tax revenue after a for-profit hospital was sold in 2017. It has cut more than 60 administrators, teachers, and staff over the last eight years, outsourced its transportation department, and increased elementary class sizes, the district says.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

Proposed state police fee would hit some municipalities hard

As a leader of a municipality that hasn't had — or paid for — a police department in 15 years, Plymouth Twp. Supervisor Gail Conrad is open to a proposal to charge a per-resident fee for state police coverage. In Hazle Twp., the most populous municipality in Luzerne County without a... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

3rd time a charm? Wolf's police fee plan gets new attention

The latest effort by Gov. Tom Wolf to impose a fee on municipalities that rely on state troopers, instead of a local police force, is generating new conversations, if not an embrace, as budget makers try to end the constitutionally questionable use of highway dollars to underwrite the... - [AP](#)

February 22

Pa.'s budget must address glaring inequities in school funding | Opinion

Gov. Tom Wolf recently proposed a budget for 2019-20 that includes increased education funding across the board — for basic education, special education, early childhood education, and career and technical education as well as for school safety and to boost teacher salaries. All... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

Penn State set to approve over \$140 million in capital projects

Penn State's proposed state appropriations for the 2019-2020 school year are level since last year, but the university is set to move forward with several big-budget capital projects. On Thursday, the Penn State Board of Trustees' finance, business and capital planning committee approved four large projects that could affect... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)

February 21

Facing another year of stagnant state funding, nursing homes warn of potential closures

There were plenty of winners in the budget unveiled by Gov. Tom Wolf this month. If enacted by the General Assembly, Wolf's budget would bolster funding for schools, colleges and the state police. There would be no increases to state sales or income taxes. But nestled in the fine print was at least one clear loser:... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

Governor's budget revives state police fees

Gov. Tom Wolf recently sent his proposed 2019-20 budget to the House and Senate and in the spending plan is a proposal calling for municipalities that rely on state police as their sole law enforcement agency to pay a per capita fee to continue those state police services.... - [Clarion News](#)

February 20

Bucking the trend, West Easton establishing its own police department

As more and more small municipalities consider ditching local police departments for a regional force or the cost-free coverage of state police, tiny West Easton is charting its own course and bucking the trend. The small, but newly renovated former borough hall at 301 Sixth St. was... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

February 19

Nathan Benefield: Wolf's budget rhetoric meets reality

Last year, nearly 50 of our neighbors fled Pennsylvania every day. They moved to growing states like Texas, Florida and North Carolina, seeking opportunity. Meanwhile, we literally can't pay businesses enough to come here. Recall that Amazon rejected \$5 billion in taxpayer-funded bribes and set up... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

Municipalities mixed on Wolf's PSP plan

Local officials had mixed reactions to Gov. Tom Wolf's plan to charge municipalities that rely solely on state police for protection. - [Somerset Daily](#)

February 18

Superintendents react to budget proposal

Gov. Tom Wolf last week revealed his budget proposal for 2019, including initiatives for the workforce and for education. Wolf particularly advocated for an increase of teaching salaries to a minimum of \$45,000 per year. - [Huntingdon Daily News](#)

Yaw: DEP permitting, technical education funding among focuses with Senate budget hearings

With the Pennsylvania State Senate to begin its budget hearings on Monday, state Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23) said one of the presentations he'll be looking forward to is that of the Department of Environmental Protection, with questions about how officials can speed up the permitting process.... - [Towanda Daily Review](#)

'Some of the slowest internet in the state'

It will surprise no one in Warren County that internet speeds in rural Pennsylvania lag far behind national expectations. In a Thursday story in the Philadelphia Inquirer highlighting the survival of Family Video in Warren in what has become a dying industry nationwide,... - [Warren Times Observer](#)

Editorial: Pa. has long history of denying funds for public schools

"Education: May the film be removed from the eye of Pennsylvania and she learn to dread ignorance more than taxation." Those words, spoken in a toast by Thaddeus Stevens in 1826, illustrate just how long the battle for school funding has existed in this commonwealth.... - [Phoenixville News](#)

The general mess around Pa.'s General Assistance | John Baer

Sometimes political pragmatism can hurt. Take the effort to resolve the mess surrounding Pennsylvania's General Assistance program. The program provides small cash grants to the most vulnerable, those flat on the seafloor of the economic tide. Qualifiers constitute a class to which no one wants to belong.... - [Philadelphia Daily News](#)

February 15

Cranberry looks at police tax

An entry in Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed 2019-20 budget could wallop Cranberry Township residents with a \$50 per person annual tax. The surcharge would be levied on municipalities that have no in-house police force but rely on state police for coverage. "For Cranberry Township, if this goes through, it will cost \$330,000 a... - [Oil City Derrick](#)

February 14

Base the funding of Pa. school safety on financial need, not political power | Opinion

As the superintendent of the Moshannon Valley School District in rural Clearfield County, I wanted to express concerns with both the current process for distributing school safety grant money, and the proposed cut to school safety funding in the Governor's budget proposal.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

Job-training grants a second chance for many in Berks

Tashon Diaz-Cruz spent the last three years in state prison for drug and weapon convictions. The 25-year-old Reading man said that he was paroled but was finding it hard to get a good job that paid a living wage. That was until his parole office put him in touch with a special... - [Reading Eagle](#)

Supervisors oppose proposal to fund state police

White Township's board of supervisors will urge state lawmakers to vote against Gov. Tom Wolf's latest bid to get White and other municipalities that use state police as their sole source of local law enforcement to help pay for it. "I would urge the board to pursue that," board Vice Chairman George... - [Indiana Gazette](#)

February 13

State police fee overdue

Mostly conservative Republican lawmakers from rural areas regularly promote the value of self-sufficiency and self-reliance. But regarding police protection, those same lawmakers vigorously defend their constituents' preference to be free-riders. Every governor of both parties since Tom Ridge has proposed assessing a... - [Scranton Times](#)

County proceeding with election system purchase

Candidates for all offices in the upcoming May 21 Primary election will be able to pick up t... Now that the Lawrence County Board of Elections is done shopping for the right paper ballot voting system, the commissioners are ready to buy it. The commissioners at their regular meeting Tuesday agreed to purchase a new... - [New Castle News](#)

Paying their fair share: Wolf rightly seeks revenue for infrastructure, police

In his 2019-2020 budget discussions, Gov. Tom Wolf revived two familiar, worthy themes — a severance tax on natural gas drilling and a fee on municipalities that use state police rather than their own police departments for service. Both proposals would generate revenue for a commonwealth chronically short... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

February 12

Marijuana town halls start in Harrisburg with strong showing of support for legal pot

Marijuana reform advocates dominated the opening night of Lt. Gov. John Fetterman's statewide listening tour on whether Pennsylvania should join the ranks of states that are legalizing marijuana for adult use. Arguments in support of the change generally revolved around two major... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

Bucks County gets \$900K in state education grants

The Bucks County Intermediate Unit, a supporting agency for private and public schools in the county, will get more than \$900,000 for high-tech equipment and curriculum development. Local students could have access to a high-tech lab for robotics, coding and other

projects as part of more than \$900,000 in state grants awarded to... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)

Statewide listening tour begins

HARRISBURG — Lt. Gov. John Fetterman launched his 67-county listening tour to hear what Pennsylvanians have to say about legalizing marijuana on Monday night. If the first event is any indication, he's going to get an earful. Well over 100 people attended the event, and the majority of speakers said... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)

Corrections officers group: SCI-Somerset attacks reflect violation of pact; prison still on lockdown

SOMERSET – The organization that represents Pennsylvania corrections officers reacted strongly Monday to news that three guards were injured in an alleged attack by an inmate Sunday at the State Correctional Institution at Somerset. SCI-Somerset has had several recent violent incidents, including the deaths... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)

CM students bring senior project to county commissioners

LOCK HAVEN — Julia Knarr, Elizabeth Bottorf and Avery Mahoney, senior students at Central Mountain High School, have teamed up with SkillsUSA as part of their senior projects to spread awareness and education of traumatic brain injuries. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working... - [Lock Haven Express](#)

Police costs 'a budget breaker' for local municipalities

For the past few years, Gov. Tom Wolf has proposed subsidizing the costs for state police coverage through the municipalities that rely on it for full-time protection, and this year, he wants to use a sliding scale to do it. In the past, Wolf's proposed \$25 per capita fee for all municipalities... - [Lehigh Valley Times News](#)

County action expected on communication matters

The Clarion County Board of Commissioners announced during their Feb. 5 work session its intention to acquire a communications tower located in Strattanville. Known locally as the Motorola Tower and owned by Robert Green, the county's purchase of the tower is pending an inspection by Robert Heathe PE, LLC.... - [Clarion News](#)

Election board seeking candidates

CHAMBERSBURG — The upcoming election season has several county offices up for grabs and has necessitated appointments to the Franklin County Board of Elections. President Judge Carol Van Horn recently signed an order appointing Jerry Warnement, Owen Myers and Gary Gontz to the board. The three will assume... - [Waynesboro Record Herald](#)

\$30,000 settlement for Lancaster County Prison inmate who alleged excessive strip searches

A former inmate who alleged excessive strip searches at Lancaster County Prison has settled a lawsuit for \$30,000, according to court documents. Rebecca Brown, of Holtwood, alleged in a

federal lawsuit that she was subjected to four strip searches during a three-day incarceration at the... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

February 11

Paper ballots are the future of election security, report says

No one was more surprised than Pitt Cyber's David Hickton to discover that the future of election security is paper. Not the hanging chads that caused chaos in the 2000 presidential election, but hand-marked paper ballots for mandatory post-election audits. Yet there was Mr. Hickton, founding director of the University of... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

Bedford County commissioner grateful for community

BEDFORD — A Bedford County commissioner who is retiring at the end of this year — his second retirement after a series of different jobs — expressed gratitude for the community he has helped govern and for what he has learned over the years. Paul Crooks, 77, announced in January his plan to retire at the end of his... - [Altoona Mirror](#)

County council to vote on vacant seat, weather permitting

WILKES-BARRE — The open seat on Luzerne County council will be filled Tuesday. Probably. County council members last month interviewed 12 people, all Democrats, who applied to fill the seat left open when Edward Brominski resigned as of Jan. 3. Since Brominski is a Democrat, his replacement must also be a... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

Second phase of county courthouse renovation project to start soon

WILKES-BARRE — The second phase of the Luzerne County courthouse renovation project is scheduled to begin soon. The first phase of the project started in 2017 and finished early last year. It involved extensive refurbishing of the courthouse rotunda and dome, which took six months to complete.... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

Luzerne County may support state grant application for new childhood trauma facility

Luzerne County Council may vote Tuesday to authorize a state grant application for an entity that wants to build a new childhood trauma treatment facility in Foster Township, the agenda says. The grant applicant — Change Academy Lake of the Ozarks, or CALO —... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

Youth mental health first aid training offered in Fayette County

Kira Eicher likened youth mental health first aid to cardiopulmonary resuscitation, comparing helping a young person with a mental disorder or mental health crisis to applying chest compression until emergency crews arrive. "Then our job is done," Eicher said.... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)

County picks mapping firm for redistricting

MERCER – In its effort to eliminate 10 of its voting districts, Mercer County is turning to the “Mappin’ Moose” for assistance. The Mappin’ Moose is a mascot for BonData, a geodemographic mapping firm based in Hummelstown, Dauphin County. On Thursday, Mercer County... - [Sharon Herald](#)

2019 primary season about to kick into gear: Franklin County names elections board

Franklin County has named the members of its elections board for 2019. Jerry Warnement, Owen Myers and Garry Gontz will be responsible for all election duties and processes for the May 21 primary election and Nov. 5 general election. While the Franklin County Board of Commissioners typically is the elections... - [Chambersburg Public Opinion](#)

Howe Twp. gets \$1 million sewer grant

Perry County commissioners on Jan. 28 signed off on a \$1 million block grant through state and federal sources that will assist in building new sewer lines in Howe Twp. along Route 34 and parts of the Juniata Parkway. The Howe Twp. Municipal Authority earlier in the year applied for a... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

After years of addiction, man living a 'permanent apology'

• EDITOR’S NOTE: In the last several years, the Gazette has taken an in-depth look at the opioid crisis facing Indiana County. This is the first in a three-part series of stories that engender hope, profiling individuals who are reclaiming their lives as they battle the disease of addiction.... - [Indiana Gazette](#)

Clarion County Veterans Affairs boss wears 'many hats'

CLARION - Judy Zerbe - the director (and only employee) at the Clarion County Veterans Affairs office - is waging a one-woman battle against homelessness, depression, suicide and illness. "In this job you wear many hats," said Zerbe. "You have to be a doctor, a... - [Oil City Derrick](#)

February 10

Sara Innamorato: It's time for automatic voter registration in Pa.

I watch my neighbors create positive change year-round. They volunteer to shovel sidewalks for seniors on their block and swap tomato-growing tips at the community garden. These are the actions that create and sustain a community, but the largest and most impactful changes we can make begin at the ballot box. Your vote... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

Make sure voting machines are secure

Given mounting proof that Russia meddled in the 2016 presidential election, and that other bad actors have joined Russia in continuing such democracy-damaging mischief, election security should be a top priority for anyone responsible for any aspect of the election process.... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

Grants will help combat homelessness in county

Luzerne County programs will get \$4.2 million in grant funding to help combat homelessness, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grant awards were announced late Friday as part of \$108 million in Continuum of Care Program grants awarded to programs around the state.... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

Pennsylvania turns over a new leaf with medical marijuana

Jeff Zick gathered little piles of bud from his students into a bright green silicone tray and popped them in a toaster oven. Before infusing butter with cannabis, he had to decarboxylate the cannabinoids. Translation: He activated the stuff that gives cannabis its psychoactive... - [Scranton Times](#)

How much do I pay for police coverage?

Centre County municipalities that rely on state police for full-time coverage would be tasked with paying about \$1 million if Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed 2019 budget plan is approved. According to Wolf, 67 percent of the state's municipalities rely on state police. The coverage is paid by taxpayers statewide, who — in... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)

February 8

State budget numbers out, time now for analysis

A number of lawmakers agreed that Gov. Tom Wolf's budget proposal for the next fiscal year, which begins on July 1, provides a good starting point for legislative analysis, debate and action over the next four months. In his annual budget address to a joint session of the state House and... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)

Wolf's budget plan: Correct emphasis, details will be vital

To use a well-worn phrase, the devil will be in the details regarding Gov. Tom Wolf's budget address emphasis on a statewide initiative to build a stronger work force for the future. But his emphasis is correct. It is the business of state government, business organizations and all... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

Governor's proposal includes \$4.8M in additional basic education funding for Lancaster County schools [graphic]

Lancaster County schools would get \$4.79 million in additional basic education funding under the governor's proposed budget. Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf on Tuesday requested from the Republican-controlled legislature \$6.5 billion in basic education funding for Pennsylvania's 500 school districts. That's \$200 million, or... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

February 7

County election officials say Pa. Gov. Tom Wolf's budget falls short for new voting machines

County election officials have one word for Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed Pennsylvania state budget and its \$15 million for new, more secure voting machines. "It's very disappointing," said Philadelphia City Commissioner Lisa Deeley, a Democrat who chairs the election agency.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

How much would your school district get to boost minimum pay for teachers? Use this database

Gov. Tom Wolf has proposed raising the statewide minimum salary for teachers in public school districts. He wants to raise the minimum from the current \$18,500 set in 1989 to \$45,000. He included this priority in his state budget address. "It's an investment the state - not local school districts - will... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

Our view: Work together for good of Pennsylvania

Like he did in his second inaugural address in January, Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf sounded bipartisan themes on Tuesday in his budget address to a joint session of the Legislature, emphasizing common ground and civil debate. Republican leaders in general responded in kind.... - [Erie Times-News](#)

Economics professors pan minimum wage hike proposal

HARRISBURG — One day after Gov. Tom Wolf unveiled a budget plan that calls for hiking the state's minimum wage to \$12 an hour, two economics professors told the House Labor and Industry Committee on Wednesday the move could hurt some of the low-wage workers it is supposed to help.... - [Meadville Tribune](#)

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MS4 deadlines ahead, with big pricetag

Yet another unfunded mandate — this one from the federal Environmental Protection Agency — continues to stump municipal and county officials in terms of solutions. Both South Williamsport and DuBoistown received their renewed Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems,

known as MS4, permits and have had their... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

Area legislators react to budget

Area lawmakers commented on Gov. Tom Wolf's budget proposals: Rep. Jerry Knowles, R-Berks/Carbon/Schuylkill: "It's always nice to hear the governor say that there are no new taxes included in the state budget. However, the governor failed to mention his previous commitments to... - [Lehighon Times News](#)

Republican Leadership Finds Common Ground in Wolf's Budget Proposal

Although it's not a "slam dunk," Republican leaders voiced their approval for parts of Gov. Tom Wolf's budget proposal delivered yesterday, while distancing themselves with the more progressive initiatives laid out. "I guess I will break with tradition as the opposition party is to come... - [PoliticsPA](#)

February 6

Republican reactions to Wolf's budget proposal run the gamut

Republican lawmakers' reactions on Tuesday to Gov. Tom Wolf's \$34.1 billion 2019-20 budget proposal varied from cautious optimism to accusations of fiscal recklessness. "I thought the governor's budget address had a positive message and I thought his emphasis on workforce development was significant and a goal... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

Tom Wolf the pragmatist: Governor kicks off second term with a budget that forsakes bold policy strokes for doing things better

You know your governor has gone all-in on political pragmatism when one of the talking points in his budget proposal is insisting that children attend first grade. Look it up. Gov. Tom Wolf called Tuesday for lowering the age of compulsory school attendance in Pennsylvania to six.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

Hazleton Area to get nearly \$3M in new funds

Eight area school districts will receive an additional \$6.6 million in funding in the state budget proposed Tuesday by Gov. Tom Wolf. The largest allotment for a district in the region would go to Hazleton Area. The largest school district in the region would receive \$2,995,089 in... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)

W-B Area gets \$3.3M increase in state budget proposal

The financially challenged Scranton School District will get an additional \$10.5 million in the state budget proposed Tuesday by Gov. Tom Wolf. The boost for Scranton, placed in financial recovery by the state last month, is part of a plan that includes an additional \$200 million for basic... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

Wolf hits right notes

In his first budget address of his second term, Gov. Tom Wolf hit many right notes Tuesday, in tone and substance, that should preclude the protracted budgetary warfare that bogged down the government — and hindered the commonwealth's progress — in much of his first term.... - [Scranton Times](#)

Scranton School District gets \$10.5M boost in proposed state budget

The financially challenged Scranton School District will get an additional \$10.5 million in the state budget proposed Tuesday by Gov. Tom Wolf. The boost for Scranton, placed in financial recovery by the state last month, is part of a plan that includes an additional \$200 million for basic... - [Scranton Times](#)

Winners and losers in Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed state budget

Winners and losers in Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed state budget Here are the potential winners and losers based on Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed 2019-20 budget. The actual winners and losers will depend on negotiations between the General Assembly and governor. Negotiations... - [Scranton Times](#)

It's Groundhog Day for Governor Wolf & his budget proposal | Editorial

Governor Tom Wolf's fifth budget address, delivered Tuesday, reminded us of Groundhog Day -- not the day on which we find out if Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, but the 1993 film in which Bill Murray wakes up to "I Got You Babe" again and again and again in an endless deja vu.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

What Lehigh Valley school districts would get under Gov. Tom Wolf's budget

Most of the new money in Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed 2019 budget would go to public schools, including \$200 million for general operations and instruction. About \$13 million of that would finance a boost in the state's decades-old minimum wage for teachers from \$18,500 to \$45,000, a provision officials... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

More money for schools, a corporate tax cut: Gov. Tom Wolf's budget at a glance

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf is proposing to spend \$34.1 billion in the next fiscal year. Wolf unveiled that plan Tuesday when he delivered the first budget address of his second term before a joint session of the Legislature in the Capitol. That is 4.3 percent higher than the enacted 2018-19 budget of \$32.7... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

Local GOP lawmakers find common ground, some concerns in Gov. Wolf's proposed budget

Beaver County's Republican-dominated General Assembly delegation liked some parts of Gov. Tom Wolf's budget address on Tuesday, especially a commitment to workforce development and no broad-based tax hikes, but there were still some concerns. State Sen. Elder Vogel, R-47,

New Sewickley Township, questioned how Wolf... - [Beaver County Times](#)

Highlights of Gov. Tom Wolf's state budget proposal

Highlights of Gov. Tom Wolf's spending plan for the 2019-20 budget year that starts July 1:... - [AP](#)

York County Republicans: Wolf's budget proposal an improvement, but concerns remain

Despite a spending sticker shock, York County Republican lawmakers shared a more positive tone than in previous years in response to Gov. Tom Wolf's first budget proposal of his second term. In his Tuesday, Feb. 5, budget address to a joint session of the Republican-controlled Legislature, Wolf emphasized education and workforce... - [York Dispatch](#)

Schools, farms and voting machines in Wolf's budget sights

HARRISBURG (AP) — Gov. Tom Wolf is seeking hundreds of millions of dollars more for schools in his budget proposal released Tuesday, as well as a sprinkling of money for new voting machines and programs to improve worker training and the agricultural sector... - [AP](#)

UPDATE: Wolf calls for \$34 billion in state spending, no broad-based tax increases

HARRISBURG — Gov. Tom Wolf proposed a state budget Tuesday that would boost minimum teacher pay, hike the minimum wage for all workers by \$4.75 an hour, and create a new Educate and Stay in PA incentive program for community college graduates. The governor's plan comes with a price tag of \$34 billion, but would... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)

Governor's budget plan in line with local focus

SHARON — In his budget address Tuesday, Gov. Tom Wolf focused on workforce development in Pennsylvania. Business leaders in Mercer County already have that same focus. The Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce announced workforce development as its theme for 2019 last week at its annual forecast breakfast.... - [Sharon Herald](#)

Lawrence appointed to House Appropriations Committee

WEST CHESTER — House Republican leaders have named Rep. John Lawrence (R-Chester/Lancaster) to the House Appropriations Committee, providing him a key seat at the table in state budget hearings, which are set to begin next week at the state Capitol. "The General Assembly's primary responsibility is to pass an annual... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)

Wolf stresses education

With a budget aimed at building a strong work force, Gov. Tom Wolf delivered his annual budget address yesterday to members of a state legislature tasked with making his proposals a reality. Although he stressed that his budget features no new taxes to implement... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

Gas severance tax must solve problem to be worth fallout

For the fifth straight year, Gov. Tom Wolf is seeking a severance tax on the production of natural gas in Pennsylvania. As he was announcing it Thursday, state Sen. Gene Yaw, a Loyalsock Republican who represents our region, was telling a Sun-Gazette editorial... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

Local reps react to Wolf's budget proposal

Bradford County's three state legislators have weighed in with their thoughts on Gov. Tom Wolf's 2018-2019 budget proposal, describing it as "optimistic," but noting that there is more work to be done before a final spending plan for the state can be put in place.... - [Sayre Morning](#)

Officials say state ed. funding falls short

The education promises in Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed state budget look meager in Butler County. Wolf proposed a budget without a tax increase that still manages to increase basic education spending by more than 3 percent. How? By including funds that schools already have received as money they're getting,... - [Butler Eagle](#)

Region's lawmakers caution against Wolf's increased spending

The region's state lawmakers are optimistic about the 2019-20 state budget after Gov. Tom Wolf unveiled his proposal Tuesday, but all cautioned that higher spending is not the best way to serve Pennsylvania residents. In the budget, Wolf proposed a severance tax on natural gas extraction,... - [Bradford Era](#)

Local lawmakers react to Gov. Wolf's budget address

State Rep. Tina Pickett (R-110) called Gov. Tom Wolf's \$34.15 billion general fund budget proposal an optimistic message, but said more work needs to be done. "There were a lot of positive ideas presented in his proposal (Tuesday) ," said Pickett in a press release issued after the budget address.... - [Towanda Daily Review](#)

PA Gov: Wolf Budget Address Calls For No New Taxes, While Pushing Progressive Agenda

In his first budget address since being re-elected, Gov. Tom Wolf laid out a series of initiatives that aim at pleasing progressives, while also touting bipartisanship along the way by promising not to introduce any new taxes. "Let me cut to the chase," Wolf said. "This proposal asks for... - [PoliticsPA](#)

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Lancaster County lawmakers see hope for workforce issues, concerns for others in Gov. Wolf's 2019-20 budget plan

The \$34.1 billion state budget plan that Gov. Tom Wolf unveiled Tuesday received a mostly warm reception — though with some familiar concerns — from lawmakers representing parts of Lancaster County. State Rep. Bryan Cutler, the Peach Bottom Republican who will play a... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

February 5

5 things to watch for in Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's budget plan

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf will pitch the first budget proposal of his second term to lawmakers Tuesday, and the Democrat can be expected to seek more money for education in a plan expected to exceed \$33 billion... - [AP](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf proposes \$34.1 billion budget for 2019-20 fiscal year

In his first budget speech of his second term, Gov. Tom Wolf told lawmakers he'd like to spend \$34.1 billion next fiscal year on a series of programs that would harness the taxing authority of the state with the innovation of private business. to build more robust and just schools methods of teaching students and... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf's budget at a glance

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf is proposing to spend \$34.1 billion in the next fiscal year. Wolf unveiled that plan Tuesday when he delivered the first budget address of his second term before a joint session of the Legislature in the Capitol. That is 4.3 percent higher than the enacted 2018-19 budget of \$32.7... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

Gov. Wolf budget has more money for schools, minimum wage bid

Gov. Tom Wolf on Tuesday unveiled a \$34.1 billion budget that would boost funding for public schools, raise the minimum wage and help counties update their voting machines, while steering clear of the broad-based tax increases that sank some of his earlier proposals.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

Schools, farms and voting machines in Wolf's budget sights

Gov. Tom Wolf is seeking hundreds of millions of dollars more for schools in his budget proposal released Tuesday, as well as a sprinkling of money for new voting machines and programs to improve worker training and the agricultural sector... - [AP](#)

[Text of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's 2019 budget address](#)

Text of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's 2019 budget address, as prepared for delivery on Tuesday:... - [AP](#)

February 4

[Pa. Gov. Tom Wolf to unveil budget with familiar call for a tax on natural gas drillers, but with a twist](#)

HARRISBURG — When Gov. Tom Wolf delivers his budget address Tuesday, he is expected to call for more money for public schools, a higher minimum wage for Pennsylvania workers, and a new tax on natural-gas drillers. In doing so, the Democratic governor who is now unfettered by reelection... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

[Child care advocates ask for bigger cut of state budget](#)

Just as the squeaky wheel gets the grease, issues with advocates get funding. It is budget season in Harrisburg and while lawmakers set spending priorities, advocates for many causes are squeaking for more money. Start Strong PA, as a coalition of early childhood advocacy groups is... - [Reading Eagle](#)

[Lawmakers hope governor's budget brings little drama](#)

HARRISBURG — State lawmakers say they hope when Gov. Tom Wolf lays out his proposed spending plan for 2019-20 on Tuesday, it sets the stage for budget negotiations with as little drama as last summer's. "I don't know what's in the cards, but I hope he will be where... - [Meadville Tribune](#)

February 3

[Gov. Tom Wolf taking his fifth swing at the budgetary fences](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf will deliver the first budget speech of his second term on Tuesday before an audience of lawmakers in the state Capitol. The speech — and the reaction to it — could set the tone for the Democratic governor's next four years. Wolf can ask for anything he wants in the 2019-20 fiscal year that begins... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

[Make equitable school funding a priority \(letter\)](#)

An open response to state Sen. Ryan Aument's Jan. 13 Sunday LNP op-ed, "Boosting student-centered education policy in Pa.": Congratulations on being named the chair of the state Senate Education Committee, and thanks for laying out your priorities for public education... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

February 1

Pa.'s future depends on the continued growth, diversification of its energy portfolio | Opinion

As we kick off the legislative session and look ahead to Governor Wolf's budget address, there are many challenges facing our divided government. And yet, there is common ground that transcends party lines and regional boundaries. From Erie to Philadelphia, Pennsylvanians support strong economic growth,... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

January 30

Budget address should bring some answers

Many Pennsylvania residents will be interested in hearing what Gov. Tom Wolf has to say when he delivers his 2019-20 state budget address on Feb. 5. No state taxpayer should embrace a lackadaisical attitude about the details of that fiscal message, even though taxpayers won't have to fear a... - [Lewistown Sentinel](#)