

Post Budget Impact: Media

Below are samples of articles, media clips, and radio spots from around the Commonwealth. These are not all of the articles, media clips, and radio spots being completed. If you have any other examples, please let CCAP know. Please also note that these links may expire.

11/20

[Guards will fight salary freeze](#)

The union representing corrections officers at Lancaster County Prison said Thursday it is "prepared to fight back" against the county commissioners' decision to reject 7-percent raises awarded to the officers by an arbitration panel.... - [INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL](#)

[Don't sell Gracedale to private provider](#)

Friday, November 20, 2009 I sincerely hope and pray Northampton County never sells Gracedale Nursing Home. If I was a millionaire I'd provide the dollars to cover any shortfall. My mother spent two years there with the best care anyone could receive. In... - [EASTON EXPRESS](#)

[Last notices to state workers losing jobs expected to go out today](#)

Heather Logan was out sick with the flu when the call came Wednesday. It was from Jack Leighow, the man who hired her for a state job seven years ago, telling her that she was being laid off effective Monday. Logan is a visitor services manager with The State Museum of Pennsylvania.... - [PATRIOT](#)

[County budget \\$21 million in red](#)

A preliminary budget approved Thursday by Westmoreland County commissioners includes no tax increases but lists a deficit of more than \$21 million for 2010. Although the spending plan is expected to be pared down during the next... - [TRIB](#)

[2010 budget proposal holds line on taxes](#)

The economy and the price of gas might not be stable, but Cumberland County's tax rate will be for 2010. County commissioners have all but assured that by unveiling a \$68.3 million proposed budget for next year that won't require a tax increase.... - [PATRIOT](#)

11/19

[Monroe County borrows \\$6.5M for pension, projects](#)

STROUDSBURG — The Monroe County commissioners borrowed \$6.475 million Wednesday to shore up the employee pension fund and upgrade county facilities. A bit more than \$5 million in bond spending — tax-free at 4 percent interest over 15 years — will be used during the next three years for capital projects..

Our view: Program cuts make it harder for smokers to quit

1, Pennsylvania's cigarette tax increased by 25 cents, to \$1.60, to help balance the state budget. "Little cigars" will also be taxed starting Jan. 4. ... [GoErie.com](#)

No tax increase in Berks County budget

Pottstown Mercury

Scott, calling the proposed budget "nearly break-even," applauded the efforts of the budget department and noted that many Pennsylvania counties were in far ...

One-year Sunnyview contract ratified in Butler County

As the ink dries on a new labor agreement between Butler County and its nursing home labor force, attention is turning to hammering out a consensus with the largest group of unionized workers in the county courthouse and... - [POST-GAZ.](#)

11/18

Lackawanna County eliminates 27 positions to save \$1.25m

Lackawanna County has eliminated 27 positions - 14 through immediate layoffs - to save \$1.25 million next year and stave off a tax increase, commissioners said Tuesday. The 27 layoffs were made Friday. An additional two employees laid off in the county controller's office were reinstated by commissioners Monday... - [SCRANTON TIMES](#)

Erie County Council passes 2010 county budget

Erie County Council met its goal and reduced the property tax increase proposed by County Executive Mark DiVecchio in the county's 2010 General Fund budget. But council had to eliminate 20 county jobs to do it. County Council on Tuesday night approved an \$89.5 million General Fund... - [ERIE TIMES](#)

County eliminates 10 positions with more cuts possible

SUNBURY — Citing a need to cut the cost of county government and balance the 2010 budget, the Northumberland County commissioners voted on Tuesday to eliminate 10 positions during a tense salary board meeting. The county positions eliminated, effective Dec. 31, include: field auditor... - [MILTON STANDARD](#)

Northampton County Council considers selling Gracedale, parkland

EASTON | The deadline to pass a Northampton County 2010 budget is approaching, and council members are considering several ideas to avoid the proposed 9.3 percent property tax increase. Some ideas include selling the Gracedale nursing home and auctioning off... - [EASTON EXPRESS](#)

Sheriff blasts moves to cut Montco benefits

Requiring Montgomery County government employees to pick up part of the tab for their health care benefits, freezing their salaries and instituting payless holidays could jeopardize public safety, according to county Sheriff John P. Durante. "I will say for the record that these proposed changes in next year's... - [THE INTELLIGENCER](#)

[Budget cuts could close Arendtsville branch of Adams County library](#)

The Arendtsville branch of the Adams County Library System might close by the end of the year because of a **budget** shortfall of roughly \$243,000. Adams County Library System director Rob Lescher said the state cut funding to the library system by 20 percent, leading the system's overall revenue... - [YORK DAILY](#) (135173/117847)

[Berks County proposes no tax increase in \\$446.3 million budget](#)

The Berks County commissioners Tuesday introduced a proposed \$446.3 million budget for 2010 that holds the property tax rate at 6.935 mills and reduces costs by 5.4 percent over the current year. The spending plan includes a shortfall of \$750,000 to be covered by reserve... - [READING EAGLE](#)

[County sale of Oakland site back on](#)

Hotel to replace Health Department office building, property Wednesday, November 18, 2009 By Karamagi Rujumba, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Allegheny County Council yesterday approved the much-debated sale of the county Health Department building in Oakland and did not contest County... - [POST-GAZ.](#) (135011/117687)

[County leaders plan to trim tax increase](#)

BELLEFONTE — Property owners will see their county real estate taxes increase by 2 mills — 30 percent — if county commissioners don't find places to cut from next year's budget. Commissioners haven't reached a consensus about how to do that, but on... - [CENTRE DAILY](#)

[County cuts 10 positions to save estimated \\$380K in 2010](#)

SUNBURY - On a split vote Tuesday afternoon, members of the Northumberland County Salary Board eliminated 10 positions that will save the county approximately \$380,000 in 2010. Although the positions, four of which are in row offices, will be eliminated, some of the individuals currently in those posts may be moved... - [NEWS ITEM](#)

[Armstrong County spending plan calls for no increase in taxes](#)

There will be no increase in spending or in taxes and no loss of services for residents in a proposed 2010 Armstrong County **budget** of \$17.9 million presented to the public by the county commissioners yesterday. In projecting a general fund **budget** that is about \$4,600 less than last... - [KITT. LEADER](#) (135517/118165)

[State of misery: Jobs, oversight and heritage become budget victims](#)

The passage of the state budget, which involved hard choices forced by a sour economy, has come home with a vengeance. It took an unconscionable time to approve, and it seems all that political anguish bought was pain and disappointment.... - [POST-GAZ.](#)

[No tax increase, but budget deficit looms](#)

MIFFLINTOWN - Juniata County Commissioners approved a tentative 2010 budget with no tax increases during their weekly public meeting Tuesday in Mifflintown. However, the way current numbers look, the county could face a deficit of \$589,173.74. Expenditures are projected at \$7,925,184.74, while revenues... - [LEWIS. SENTINEL](#)

[Blair Introduces \\$67.1-Million Spending Plan](#)

Commissioner Terry Tomassetti says the budget includes a \$200,000 contribution to the county's pension fund and covers an expected 30-percent increase in healthcare costs. Tomassetti says the budget will barely allow the county to get by next year.

[No tax hikes in Blair's 2010 budget](#)

HOLLIDAYSBURG - Blair County 2010 property tax bills will remain at current levels, commissioners said Tuesday when introducing a \$67.09 million spending plan for next year. "It's a difficult **budget** but one which evidences our continuing effort to... - [ALTOONA MIRROR](#)

[Budget crisis closing historical sites](#)

On Monday, state officials released a list of 11 sites owned and operated by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission that may close this winter, including several in the area. Kirk Wilson, a spokesman for the PHMC, said his agency's **budget** was cut by... - [LANS. REPORTER](#)

[County earns top marks from bond-rating agencies](#)

WEST CHESTER — Basketball junkies are known to be impressed with a player that records a "triple double" — double figures in points, rebounds and assists. Government observers might then be said to regard Chester County with some newfound respect after it announced a rare "triple-triple" — ratings of... - [WC DAILY \(135364/118018 \)](#)

[State budget ax falls on Daniel Boone Homestead](#)

EXETER — The state budget crisis has come home. To put a finer point on it, it has come to one of the area's premier historic homes — Daniel Boone Homestead. On Monday, state officials released a list of 11 sites owned and operated... - [POTTS. MERCURY](#)

[DEP sees significant cuts from budget](#)

Furloughs in the state Department of Environmental Protection won't impact the department's ability to enforce actions against polluters. The Rendell administration announced on Monday that an additional 319 state workers will be furloughed. Most of the new furloughs are in the department... - [SOMERSET DAILY](#)

11/17

[Montour County budget shortfall equals 24% tax hike](#)

DANVILLE — The Montour County commissioners are urging the public to attend their Nov. 24 meeting as they debate measures to cut a projected \$786,190 budget shortfall in an attempt to avoid what could be a 24 percent real estate tax increase in 2010.

[County eyes jail alternative](#)

Reporting center would offer testing and training for lesser criminal offenders. By Jennifer Learn-Andes jandes@timesleader.com Luzerne County Reporter Low-level offenders may soon report to a center every day instead of sitting in a prison cell. Read more Luzerne County Government articles... - [WB TIMES LEADER](#)

Lower state subsidies force cuts at Richland Twp. library

JOHNSTOWN — Highland Community Library in Richland Township is cutting 13 hours from its schedule and will eliminate a children's summer program because of cuts in its state subsidy, the library director said Monday. "Severe measures must be implemented due to the cutback in our state... - [JOHN. TRIB](#)

Latest round of state layoffs cause for concern among workers, area businesses

Joseph Fields has two kids in college. Anna Bixler has bills to pay. And Etta Brashears needs her chemotherapy visits to be covered by her insurance. Each state worker has his own reason to worry about losing his job, but most share the worry that their position might be the next one to be... - [PATRIOT](#)

Pennsylvania to lay off 319 workers

By Tracie Mauriello and Don Hopey, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette HARRISBURG -- Historical sites will be shuttered, the wait for government services will be longer, swimming and camping seasons at state parks will be shorter, and hundreds of state employees will be looking for new jobs.... - [POST-GAZ.](#)

Latest state worker layoffs to be concentrated in 10 state agencies

The Rendell administration will cut the state's work force by the equivalent of a midsize factory. The state will lay off 319 workers from 10 agencies effective Friday, Secretary of Administration Naomi Wyatt said. "It's the last thing anybody wants to be doing, especially at this time... - [PATRIOT](#) (134648/117399)

Plan to increase Cumberland County's hotel tax rate progresses

A proposal to increase Cumberland County's hotel tax to 3 percent starting in January took a step forward this afternoon when county commissioners advertised the plan for public consideration. They could vote on it this month. The tax, levied on each hotel, motel and bed and breakfast room rental,... - [PATRIOT](#) (134643/117394)

11/16

Pa. government workers' union braces for layoffs

The head of Pennsylvania's largest state employees' union said it was bracing for layoffs in advance of a Monday announcement by the Rendell administration... - [AP](#)

Where's the money? Local governments strained by underfunding for state-mandated programs

Schuylkill County's 2010 budget faces a \$3.5 million deficit. If the county didn't have to kick in taxpayer money for state-mandated human services programs, it would almost have a surplus. "These programs don't touch every household, but taxes touch everybody," ... - [POTTS. REP.](#)

No tax increase in budget for Lycoming County residents

By DAVID THOMPSON dthompson@sungazette.com In spite of declining revenue, Lycoming County residents will see no increase in their 2010 county real estate taxes, according to a preliminary county budget set to go on display Monday.... - [WILLIAM. SUN](#)

11/15

[Budget cuts force literacy program to search for new learning sites](#)

Reduced hours for some Bucks County libraries start next week, a cutback that will hit especially hard for a group of adults learning to read. It wasn't easy for the 30-year-old mother to ask for help. She struggled with writing and spelling her whole life and, after achieving sobriety,... - [BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES](#)

[County wants to hold off on filling judicial opening](#)

President Judge Renn said court budget cannot handle filling a bench vacancy that will be created by Judge Brillhart's retirement. York County President Judge Richard K. Renn said budgetary constraints... - [YORK DAILY](#)

[County trims open space funding](#)

By KEITH PHUCAS Times Herald Staff COURTHOUSE — Compelled by the ailing economy to scale back spending on land purchases, the county will reduce what it borrows in 2010 to pay for open space. On Thursday the Montgomery County Commissioners approved a resolution... - [NORRIS. HERALD](#)

[Erie County Council trims \\$900,000](#)

Erie County Council's goal Saturday was to trim at least \$1 million from the county's preliminary 2010 General Fund budget. They came close, said County Council Chairman Ronald "Whitey" Cleaver. "We're at about \$900,000 worth of cuts," Cleaver said. "That includes... - [ERIE TIMES](#)

[No tax increase in budget for Lycoming County residents](#)

By DAVID THOMPSON dthompson@sungazette.com In spite of declining revenue, Lycoming County residents will see no increase in their 2010 county real estate taxes, according to a preliminary county budget set to go on display Monday. Real estate taxes will remain at 4.75 mills. One mill equals \$1 in real... - [WILLIAM. SUN](#)

[Long-term investments going into general fund](#)

Sharon Herald

For another look at the county's budget breakdown, go to www.mcc.co.mercer.pa.us and click on "2010 Proposed Budget" at the left-hand bar. ...

11/14

[Pa. veterans help centers closing Jan. 1](#)

Philadelphia Inquirer

The federally funded program has offices in Boyertown, Erie, Greensburg, Harrisburg and West Pittston and a \$900000 annual budget. Thompson said Thursday it ...

[Luzerne aiming to solve \\$30M budget gap](#)

Luzerne County faces \$30M gap WILKES-BARRE - With two weeks to go before they must present an official 2010 budget, the Luzerne County commissioners are still looking for ways to close a \$30 million budget hole.... - [SCRANTON TIMES](#)

11/13

Budget cuts are unconscionable

A few weeks ago, The Morning Call printed an article indicating that Lehigh County was cutting its funding to the national Alliance on Mental Illness (Lehigh Valley chapter) by 75 percent for 2010. NAMI is a national grass-roots organization with state and local chapters. The organization... - [MORNING CALL](#)

Cumberland County to use reserves to avoid tax hike

Cumberland County property owners won't have to pay higher taxes to the county next year. Despite the recession and the financial turmoil caused by the state's budget battle, county commissioners Thursday unveiled a proposed \$68.3... - [PATRIOT](#)

Montco to borrow less for buying open space

As part of a budget slowdown, Montgomery County commissioners yesterday approved a decreased rate of borrowing for a voter-approved open-space preservation program. Voters authorized the county in 2003 to borrow \$150 million through bonds... - [INQUIRER](#)

Proposed county budget has no tax hike for 2010

Cumberland County property owners won't have to pay higher taxes to the county next year. Despite the recession and the financial turmoil caused by the state's budget battle, county commissioners Thursday unveiled a proposed \$68.3... - [PATRIOT](#)

Officials demand libraries open up the books

Carnegie system says it's complying Friday, November 13, 2009 By Rich Lord, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Elected officials yesterday called on the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's board to open its doors and its books. Library officials said they have already done so, and are mulling the unusual step of inviting the public to... - [POST-GAZ.](#)

State officials join campaign to save Carnegie Library branches

State and local officials called on the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Thursday to keep all of its branches open. The officials also want the library to provide them with more complete financial information, host a forum for elected officials and the public and commit to holding its Dec. 14 board meeting in public.... - [TRIB](#)

11/12

Centre commissioners hope to minimize tax increase for 2010

BELLEFONTE - With a tentative budget due in about a month, Centre County commissioners say taxpayers will likely see their first property levy increase in nearly a decade, but they remain vigilant in trying to keep the impact as small as possible.... - [LOCK HAVEN EXPRESS](#)

Veterans Affairs offices increase workload

LEWISBURG — Veterans have given and sacrificed more than most will ever know. As a small token of gratitude, their pains can be compensated for, as least to some degree. One such support service, though, will be shuttering its doors at the end of the year. The Governor's Veterans Outreach and Assistance Center, which first... - [MILTON STANDARD](#)

County budget tight

NEW CASTLE - Last year, Lawrence County finished the year with a \$1.5 million surplus. That won't be the case in 2009, county Commissioner Dan Vogler said. "We'll break even at the end of this year," he said. "Break even," however, means the county will likely deplete the surplus it... - [EC LEDGER](#)

State budget cuts threaten to isolate library collections

Tribune Review

By Jeremy Boren Libraries in Pennsylvania could suddenly seem a lot smaller if people can no longer order hard-to-find books or popular movies and music ...

State funding leaves veterans in cold

The Daily Collegian Online

The main branch in Harrisburg aided 3048 veterans during the program's 2008-2009 year in 23 counties in central Pennsylvania, including Centre County. ...

County faces tight budget

CLEARFIELD - Clearfield County is continuing to crunch numbers for the 2010 budget. At Tuesday's meeting, the Clearfield County Commissioners said they had finished with the budget hearings for all the county department heads. "We do not want to have to raise taxes and everyone is working as hard as... - [DUB. COURIER-EXPRESS](#)

Erie veterans outreach office closes

State budget cuts have shuttered a Harrisburg-funded program that had served military veterans in Erie and the surrounding area for nearly three decades. The Governor's Veterans Outreach and Assistance Center office, at 1222 French St., closed permanently Oct. 30, Director Brian Morris said. The... - [ERIE TIMES](#)

State closing five veterans centers

By Timothy McNulty and Tom Barnes, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette The state is quietly shutting down a program, nearly 3 decades old, that aids veterans statewide, mostly in rural areas. The Rendell administration is closing the state's five Governor's Veterans Outreach and Assistance Centers, which were started by Gov. Dick Thornburgh... - [POST-GAZ.](#)

11/11

State budget cuts hit county programs

Leader Vindicator

The rate for the poll workers is set by the Pennsylvania code. There is a minimum and a maximum amount. The minimum is \$75 a day. Elk County pays \$85 a day,

Allegheny County's budget advances

An Allegheny County Council committee gave preliminary approval Tuesday to a budget without a tax increase, finishing budget talks about two weeks ahead of schedule. Council's Budget and Finance Committee approved a \$773.5 million operating... - [TRIB](#)

County's bond offering brings in \$18.3M

By obtaining almost \$18.3 million from a bond issue on Tuesday, Luzerne County won't run into cash-flow problems this year, Chief of Budget and Finance Tom Pribula said. The county wanted the money in September but ran into problems after New... - [WB CIT. VOICE](#)

Petrilla: No mass layoffs planned

But few details have emerged on how county commissioners plan to close \$29 million spending gap. By Jennifer Learn-Andes jandes@timesleader.com Luzerne County Reporter Luzerne County's proposed 2010 budget is two weeks away from adoption,... -

Lawrence County dips into surplus to make payroll

NEW CASTLE — Last year, Lawrence County finished the year with a \$1.5 million surplus. That won't be the case in 2009, county Commissioner Dan Vogler said. "We'll break even at the end of this year," he said. "Break even," however, means the county probably will deplete the... - [BC TIMES](#)

11/10

County has no plans for tax hike

Carlisle Sentinel

Commissioners Barb Cross and Gary Eichelberger were each optimistic Monday night at a special commissioners' meeting that a zero property tax increase would ...

Allegheny County considers no jump in taxes

Allegheny County leaders are pushing for a 2010 budget with no tax increase, but they're doing so as the county enters into what could be turbulent financial times. County budget officials project next year's tax revenue will drop from the... - [TRIB](#)

11/9

Non-competitive bond sales help keep Beaver County in debt

When the recession devastated Beaver County earlier this year, Gentile-Meinert & Associates Inc. were pressed not to raise prices on a \$10,000-a-month contract for security guards at the county's nursing home. The county's elected officials, attempting to hold the line on the budget,... - [TRIB](#)

Wayne County to return to normal government operation hours

HONESDALE - The Wayne County Courthouse and other county buildings are returning to normal operating hours in about two weeks. With some state funding finally flowing again, Wayne County commissioners on Tuesday agreed that county buildings on Nov. 16 will start to open at 8:... - [SCRANTON TIMES](#)

If libraries must cut staff and hours, state government should do the same

Monday, November 09, 2009 We need to do more with less. Sound familiar? Managers and workers in the private sector hear this catch-phrase regularly, especially since the economy has yet to rally. Those in the public sector are urged to follow this path as well. In many... - [EASTON EXPRESS](#)

Library aid is necessary for region's well-being

The failure of the state to adequately fund public libraries has come home to roost, as it did a year ago. Pottstown Public Library officials are making the rounds of local municipalities to again ask for some help in covering the state shortfall. The alternative would be cuts in hours or services at a time when the... - [POTTS. MERCURY](#)

Bucks library cuts hours

By Bob Keeler Don't plan on going to the Samuel Pierce branch of Bucks County Free Library any time on a Thursday or Friday or after 7 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays. Beginning Nov. 16, three Bucks County Free Library branches, including the Pierce in Perkasio, won't be open anymore at those times.... - [LANS. REPORTER](#)

PSU's status with state troubling

During election season, politicians from Pennsylvania make it a point to tell students that education is a top priority. And maybe that's true for some of them, but judging by how state legislators are handling appropriations for state-related universities --... - [COLLEGIAN](#)

2 more libraries cut back on operating hours to offset budget shortfalls

At least two more libraries in the county have changed their hours of operation as a result of reduced funding. In Tredyffrin, libraries will change hours of operation for Paoli Library and Tredyffrin Public Library, effective Dec. 1, to meet the budget... - [WC DAILY](#)

Monroe County: No tax hike expected next year

A county tax hike next year appears unlikely, the Monroe County commissioners said last week. "We're still crunching numbers to see what the bottom line is but right now we're looking like we're on the right track," said Commissioner Donna Asure.

11/8

Environmental programs slashed in new PA budget

The Chesapeake Bay Journal

By Karl Blankenship Environmental programs, including those that benefit the Bay, suffered sharp cuts when Pennsylvania lawmakers finally approved a budget, ...

11/6

(Delaware) County considering 8.9 percent tax bump

County property taxes could go up by 8.9 percent in 2010, according to a preliminary budget released Thursday. The proposed increase of 0.359 mills would bring the total millage rate to 4.393 (about 44 cents for every \$100 of assessed property value) and increase taxes \$48 to about \$680 for the average homeowner. DELCO-TIMES

Lawrence Co. scrambles to meet 2-week payroll

NEW CASTLE, Pa. — Lawrence County had to dip into reserve funds to make the payroll Thursday, Dave Prestopine of the county controller's ... Youngstown Vindicator

County bill seeks to collect fees from nonprofits

After years of talking about it, Allegheny County Council this week approved a plan to collect

fees from tax-exempt entities such as the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and Highmark, a move expected to raise as much as \$13 million annually. The bill, which is yet to be signed by County Executive Dan Onorato, was... - [POST-GAZ.](#)

[Budget process must be changed](#)

Although the state budget is now complete, I have serious concerns about the impact the \$27.8 billion spending plan will have on next year's budget. This budget fails to prepare the state for future economic stability by... - [PATRIOT](#)

[Depletion of reserves in 1 year will aid deficit, hurt taxpayers](#)

Several concerns have been raised by the excessive use of the commonwealth's reserve accounts in the 2009-10 state budget that was signed into law in early October. Due to lack of appropriate planning for next year, Pennsylvania most likely will face a massive deficit and substantial... - [PATRIOT](#)

[First teachers, now libraries. Where will budget ax fall next?](#)

It was once said by the late American scholar Archibald MacLeish, "What is more important in a library than anything else -- than everything else -- is the fact that it exists." Public libraries have always been a treasure to many people, providing a way of reading and research for all communities and for all who have a... - [MORNING CALL](#)

[Transportation planners need billions to rehabilitate local roadways, bridges](#)

Transportation planners laid out a wish list for state lawmakers Thursday, saying it would take billions of dollars to get all of Southwest Pennsylvania's roads and bridges back in good shape. Local and regional planners met with legislators and advisers Downtown to... - [TRIB](#)

11/5

[County Council to continue budget talks](#)

Members of Erie County Council will meet today with the heads of county offices to once more discuss the numbers in the 2010 budget. It won't be fun. The budget, when it comes, could include layoffs, council... - [ERIE TIMES](#)

[Budget crisis closes veterans center](#)

A state-funded veterans assistance office in West Pittston that serves veterans in 12 Northeastern Pennsylvania counties has fallen victim to Pennsylvania's budget shortfall. The Governor's Veterans Outreach and Assistance Center in West Pittston will cease operations Dec. 31 after 29 years of helping veterans obtain... - [WB CIT. VOICE](#)

[Pike library board talks service cuts after tax hike rejected](#)

The Pike County Public Library conducted business as usual Wednesday and the library board will, in the wake of Tuesday's bond referendum defeat, now try to figure out what services and programs to cut to make ends meet in 2010. The final vote was 7,437-1,714 against the tax, which would have cost an... - [POCONO RECORD](#)

11/3

[Pennsylvania is \\$160 million behind budget forecasts, Department of Revenue says](#)

Red continues to be the predominant color in the state government's revenue picture. So far for the year, the state has collected \$8.8 billion to support its \$27.8 billion general fund budget, according to figures released today by... - [PATRIOT](#)

[Proposed tax hike a budget hurdle for Erie County Council](#)

Council sees little wiggle room in budget

Erie County Council has yet to make any changes to the county's proposed \$90.4 million budget for 2010.... - [ERIE TIMES](#)

11/2

[County job cuts coming](#)

Government has \$1.2 million shortfall in the 2010 budget. The specter of layoffs is hanging over Lancaster County government. Department heads were told during their monthly leadership meeting last week to advise their staffs about possible personnel cuts before the end of... - [INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL](#)

[Drug, alcohol treatment services may be cut](#)

Despite a growing demand for drug and alcohol treatment services, brought on mainly by the economic downturn, state budget cuts may force local agencies to turn some people away this fiscal year. The Sentinel

[Eligibility for LIHEAP slashed; 20,000 families may be left out](#)

With Pennsylvania's unemployment rate at its highest in more than 20 years, fewer low-income residents will be able to receive help paying their heating bills this winter. That is largely because income eligibility for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, was reduced to \$33,075 for a family of four... - [TRIB](#)

[Letters: DEP's mission won't be hurt by state budget cut](#)

The "Marcellus Shale: Pa. tapped, drillers not" article last Sunday gave an incomplete and, therefore, distorted picture of how the recently enacted state budget will affect the Department of Environmental Protection. By focusing on the 27 percent reduction to the state General Fund portion of... - [INQUIRER](#) (127835/111417)

[Montco puts freeze on capital projects](#)

NORRISTOWN — The Montgomery County Commissioners put a "limited freeze" on capital projects — public safety, open space, economic development, transportation, prison expansion and others — until they revise spending priorities. The moratorium was approved last Thursday by a 3-0 vote. The measure is... - [POTTS. MERCURY](#)

[Department heads state their budget cases](#)

Commissioners are seeking tighter spending. Not all estimates are compliant. Just in case the Phillies are again World Series champions, plans already are under way for Montgomery County deputies to beef up some municipal police departments to help with any unruly fans who might break out in... - [The Intelligencer](#)

10/30

[Citing economy, Montco lays off 4 park managers](#)

Montgomery County laid off four managers of its parks department yesterday for what Commissioners Chairman James R. Matthews said were purely economic reasons. The four parks division chiefs each received more than \$70,000 a year before their layoffs, which become effective Nov. 27. Three of the four had... - [INQUIRER](#)

10/29

[Most libraries reduce hours](#)

While some Blair County libraries are reducing hours and dipping into book funds to make ends meet, others are waiting to see exactly what they will receive from the county.

[Homeless Shelters Still Hurting after Budget Impasse](#)

WHTM-TV

Chambersburg, Pa. - The state budget impasse is finally over, but it's left some local homeless shelters struggling. In Franklin County, \$43000 in community ...

[Westmoreland, Armstrong counties likely to dodge tax hike](#)

Westmoreland and Armstrong county commissioners said Wednesday it appears there will be no increases in real estate taxes for either county. Those comments came at the annual Strongland Chamber of Commerce County Commissioners' Breakfast. "We are not looking at a tax increase this year because of our fund... -

[Lehigh commissioners approve budget with no tax increase on a split 5-4 vote](#)

Amid political and partisan overtones, Lehigh County commissioners Wednesday adopted a 2010 budget that will keep taxes steady for the fifth consecutive year. The decision, on a 5-4 vote, left essentially unchanged the \$412 million... - [MORNING CALL](#)

10/28

[Fresh look at local government funding is needed](#)

Two years ago, most local governments in Pennsylvania knew there were serious financial problems brewing. Long before Americans became familiar with such terms as "stimulus packages," "recovery acts" or "Cash-for-Clunkers," there was some financial director in your town hall prematurely graying over the numbers... - [MORNING CALL](#)

10/27

[Pension change may lower county tax hike](#)

Northampton recalculates how much to set aside for retirees -- \$3 million less Northampton County's proposed 9.26 percent tax hike might be cut by more than a quarter because of a recalculation of the money set aside for pensions, officials said Monday. The county's Retirement Board voted Friday to use an alternate set of... - [MORNING CALL](#)

[Countywide sustainability policy to be implemented](#)

Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato today will sign into law a broad energy conservation policy to improve efficiency and cut wasteful spending in all county government operations. The

new Sustainability Policy for Allegheny County will affect all aspects of county government operations from vehicle fleet management to building... - [POST-GAZ.](#)

10/25

[Avoiding a tax increase seems improbable for county](#)

WAYNESBURG - The impasse over the state budget may have ended two weeks ago but for many the big picture after the fallout is still a murky one. "The state is telling us that they will get the numbers to us by the end of the month," said Greene County Commissioner Pam Snyder. "They cut human... - [WASH. O. R.](#)

[In Berks County, stimulus money trickles in](#)

Reading Eagle

That leaves county Budget Director Robert J. Patrizio Jr. with a question. "What happens when all this money goes away?" he wondered.

[Hundreds of layoffs expected](#)

Indiana Gazette

HARRISBURG (AP) - Hundreds more employees of Pennsylvania's state government are expected to get pink slips. Gov. Ed Rendell said Friday that he expects ...

[State parks feel pinch of state budget cuts](#)

Allentown Morning Call

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, which oversees Pennsylvania's 117 state parks, has \$9.3 million less to spend on them in the recently ...

[Leaders reflect on the budget impasse, forming ideas on how to finish on time](#)

While lawmakers note mistakes led to the 101-day stalemate, some say the '09 negotiations brought accountability to the process and helped ensure a good spending plan. Fresh from breaking a budget impasse that extended 101 days past the... - [PATRIOT](#)

[Northampton County libraries reduce staff, services following state funding cuts](#)

Anticipating a major cut in state funding, the Northampton Area Public Library in July eliminated its Friday hours. Now faced with their own state funding cuts, the Bangor, Bethlehem and Nazareth libraries are unsure if they'll have to follow suit. The Pennsylvania budget passed earlier this month included an almost 21... - [EASTON EXPRESS](#) (124384/108336)

10/23

[Short-sighted budget could result in pain](#)

Although the 2009-10 state budget is complete and spends \$1.18 billion less than the governor originally requested, I have serious concerns about the impact the \$27.8 billion spending plan will have on the commonwealth's... - [PATRIOT](#)

10/22

[Commissioners likely won't sell property](#)

The Montgomery County commissioners Wednesday all but ruled out the sale of any county property to help close an estimated \$53.5 million revenue gap in next year's operating budget. – The Intelligencer

Layoffs likely to come near holidays

Gov. Ed Rendell has said spending cuts will probably require the state to eliminate more jobs. Thursday, October 22, 2009 BY CHARLES THOMPSON cthompson@patriot-news.com HARRISBURG - Gov. Ed Rendell had no updates Wednesday on the need for additional reductions in the state's work force, other than to express... - [PATRIOT](#)

Local government is big loser in state budget

Faced with declining revenues, counties and municipalities have difficult decisions to make regarding which project and activities to undertake and which to defer. One of the few state programs to help in this decision-making process is the Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program.... - [PATRIOT](#)

State funding trickling in to Monroe County agencies

STROUDSBURG — Some state and federal money is beginning to trickle to local social service agencies as state officials continue to clear the funding backlog created by a 101-day-late state budget. Ten agencies have received partial state funding, from the July 1 start of... - [POCONO RECORD](#)

Officials: Gas leasing may ease budget woes

WAYNESBURG - Commissioners hope leasing the natural gas rights to several county-owned properties will help them balance the budget and avoid a property tax increase next year.

At their meeting today, commissioners are expected to sign an oil and gas lease agreement with Tanglewood Exploration LLC. The Fort Worth, Texas-based company will extract natural gas from under the county fairgrounds, airport and several other properties in Franklin Township. In return, the county will receive 20 percent in royalties.

10/21

Northampton County council members bicker over tax increase

Wednesday, October 21, 2009 By SARAH CASSI The Express-Times EASTON | Northampton County Council kicked off its series of budget hearings Monday night with a yelling match over \$50,000. Northampton County Executive John Stoffa is proposing a 9.3 percent budget... - [EASTON EXPRESS](#)

\$13.5M needed for county pension fund

Taxpayer subsidy for 2010 will be largest amount ever required to keep fund afloat. By Jennifer Learn-Andes jandes@timesleader.com Luzerne County Reporter The taxpayer subsidy required to keep Luzerne County's pension fund afloat will reach another all-time high – an estimated \$13.5 million in... - [WB TIMES LEADER](#)

10/20

Budget impasse hurt everyone

The recent state budget impasse has had a negative impact on everyone. At the county level, the school districts and county government have had to divert money from their budgets to help keep public services going.... - [BC TIMES](#)

Workers to contribute to health insurance

COURTHOUSE — Montgomery County employees' health care costs are projected to increase significantly, and workers will likely be asked to pay a portion of the cost, according to Montgomery County Commissioners Chairman James R. Matthews.

County Council argues over avoiding tax hike

While trying to hash out a \$330 million budget for next year, Northampton County Council argued Monday over everything from parkland preservation to meeting procedure and the definition of "grandstanding." Nearly the only thing council's nine members agreed on was that they don't... - [MORNING CALL](#)

10/19

Budget cuts expected to lead to DEP layoffs

One of the biggest losers in the long and bloody state budget battle was the Department of Environmental Protection, which saw its appropriations cut by \$56.46 million, or 27 percent, the largest cut ever in environmental... - [POST-GAZ.](#)

Slashed budget will affect state parks, but how much?

By Tom Barnes, Post-Gazette Harrisburg Bureau -- The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is still pondering how it will handle an \$11.3 million budget cut in its park budget and hasn't ruled out shutting down state services in some parks.... - [POST-GAZ.](#)

10/18

Social service programs take hit in new state budget

Citizens Voice

That funding makes up about 55 percent of the budget for the 10-county cancer institute in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The institute said such a large cut ...

Social service programs take hit in new state budget

Two dozen families in Lackawanna and Wayne counties may not be able to afford to keep their children in pre-kindergarten classes. A homeless single mother may have to jump from friend's home to friend's home to see that her child has at least a sofa to sleep on.... - [WB CIT. VOICE](#)

Regional programs prepare for impact of fund reductions

Serento Gardens Alcoholism & Drug Services in Hazleton has been operating with a reduced staff for months. President and CEO Ed Pane is fearful the state's newly enacted budget will put the agency in a spot where it will need to make even more sacrifices.... - [WB CIT. VOICE](#)

Feeling the cuts: Slashed programs leave few in Berks in mood to celebrate

Pennsylvania finally has a budget, but slashed programs leave few in the mood to celebrate. Like most farmers around Berks County, Michael Braucher of Centre Township buys crop insurance

each spring. Harsh droughts such as one in 1999, or the rainfall that hurt the wheat... - [READING EAGLE](#)

[PennDOT loses \\$700K in state funding](#)

About \$700,000 was cut from the state's general fund budget for transportation, but that change won't have a big impact on the midstate, a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation spokesman said. Funding for PennDOT in the 2009-2010 budget that was approved recently fell... - [PATRIOT](#)

10/16

[Libraries losing one-fifth of budget](#)

Daily American Online

... director of the Somerset County Library and administrator of the federated library system. "The Access PA, Power databases, Millennium and Interlibrary ...

[State budget cut puts slant on library tax](#)

Pocono Record

By Wayne Witkowski ith the Pennsylvania budget being approved 101 days late, libraries across the state got some bleak news: a 20.1 percent cut in state ...

[Environmental protection suffers deep state budget cuts](#)

Republican & Herald

Uncertainty dominates the thinking of those responsible for Schuylkill County's environment when they ponder what Pennsylvania's new budget will mean for it ...

[Budget anticipates \\$60 million from new leases of Pennsylvania forest land for ...](#)

PennLive.com

Komorowski is shown at a Susquehanna County well-drilling site. After months of bickering, state lawmakers reached into Pennsylvania's forests for \$60 ...

[Workers' salaries in Montco crosshairs](#)

Next year's payroll checks for Montgomery County's 3,200-plus government workers likely will be lighter, if they have jobs at all, according to the county commissioners. In order to balance next year's budget, the commissioners are considering... - [THE INTELLIGENCER](#)

[County official: Challenge now is do more with less](#)

A discussion about Luzerne County's human resources policies and procedures dominated the meeting of the Luzerne County Government Study Commission held on Wednesday night. Director of Human Resources Doug Richards talked with the group about how county jobs are filled, cut or otherwise managed.... - [WB TIMES LEADER](#)

[Some still face budget woes](#)

Funding for Penn State, Pitt, Temple and 18 other institutions hangs in limbo while lawmakers consider table games legislation. Penn State, Pitt, Temple and Lincoln universities are among the state-funded institutions awaiting thousands, if not millions, of dollars... - [PATRIOT](#)

Official: Focus funds on river

Citing Montgomery County's current budget constraints, the head of its open space board Thursday recommended that the commissioners shelve the county's popular municipal open space preservation grant program and channel any... - [THE INTELLIGENCER](#)

State parks and environment could take hits, advocates say

Cuts to the budgets of the state's two environmental agencies could lead to the closing of some state parks and a shortage of personnel to enforce environmental laws, advocates say. However, a group that favors reducing state spending said the agencies can... - [PATRIOT](#)

The wait and pain go on despite the new budget

Child care centers and other social services waited not-so-patiently for 101 days, eyes glaring at the Capitol, as they cut staff, reduced services and turned away needy families. With a state budget in place, child care centers still haven't gotten... - [PATRIOT](#)

County unsure of cuts' impact

BELLEFONTE — The state budget has passed but county commissioners say it's not yet clear exactly what cuts in the state spending plan will mean for the county, which is now projecting a \$6 million shortfall next year. The commissioners said Thursday they now know which areas will see cuts in... - [CENTRE DAILY](#)

County will cut jobs, sell nursing home, but not increase taxes

The majority county commissioners brought out their ax Thursday, announcing \$2.1 million in cuts to the Lackawanna County budget that will require laying off about 30 employees. Commissioners Corey O'Brien and Mike Washo kept a promise made earlier this... - [SCRANTON TIMES](#)

10/15

Northampton County exec makes case for 9.3 percent tax hike

Facing a budget battle over his proposed 9.3 percent property tax hike, Northampton County Executive John Stoffa this morning took his case for the largest tax increase in five years to the business community. Stoffa said the 1-mill increase is needed to plug a \$7.3 million gap in the... - [MORNING CALL](#)

State funding for children's services delayed, harming their agencies

Children's programs end up winners under the new state budget, but the 101-day delay before its passage likely caused irreparable harm to child-services agencies, said child-welfare advocates Wednesday. Under the budget, the state's Children's Health Insurance Program will... - [TRIB](#)

Republican leaders want funding released

HARRISBURG — There's no justifiable reason for holding up state money for Pitt, Penn State, Temple and Lincoln universities while lawmakers consider whether to legalize table games, Senate Republican leaders said Wednesday. "There is simply no good reason to withhold this critical funding," Senate... - [TRIB](#)

Leaders urged to wrap up budget bills

House plans to reconvene Nov. 9, but Pileggi pushes return to session Thursday, October 15, 2009 By Tom Barnes, Post-Gazette Harrisburg Bureau HARRISBURG -- Senate Republican Leader Dominic Pileggi is urging House Democrats to return to session quickly to resolve three important issues --... - [POST-GAZ.](#)

10/14

Commissioners look to shave \$2.8M from budget requests

LOCK HAVEN - For the Clinton County commissioners, \$2.8 million is the magic number. It's the number every department head is hearing - or will hear - as he or she visits with the board over the next few weeks for a face-to-face on 2010 budget requests.

Glad for budget, but county still waits

Wayne County -

Passage of the state budget is great news, says Wayne County Commissioner Brian Smith, but it's still a waiting game. Wayne Independent

Unsettling budget: Despite agreement, the state faces a tough road

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The end of Pennsylvania's budget adoption season -- typically celebrated along with the July Fourth holiday -- usually is a chance to reflect on which programs and services came out fiscal winners and losers.

Budget Impasse Still Affects Some Groups

WGAL

HARRISBURG, Pa. -- Millions of dollars in state payments are finally on the way to local governments, schools and organizations. The money represents the ...

Blair County Commissioners Put Rehiring On Hold

WJACTv.com

As the Pennsylvania Legislature works to get money out to agencies that have been eagerly waiting, a question remains: Will people who were laid off due to ...

Pitt, Penn State tuition fates ride on table games decision

Whether students at the University of Pittsburgh will bear another tuition increase could depend on whether the Legislature approves table games. State-related schools such as Pitt and Penn State University are not included in the state budget signed Friday because they are part of... -

[TRIB](#)

Social-service providers struggle for normalcy

By Amy Worden, Alfred Lubrano, and Dan Hardy Inquirer Staff Writers Funding might be flowing from Harrisburg again, but the social-service providers who help the vulnerable say the state's 101-day budget impasse has left them deep in debt with vendors and banks, and scrambling to... - [INQUIRER](#)

[Agency 'highly confident' cash-strapped groups will receive checks within days](#)

HARRISBURG — State Treasurer Rob McCord says he is "highly confident" many social service providers and school districts will get state money today or within days, as his agency ramps up payments. He acknowledged that some payments, delayed by a 101-day budget impasse in... - [TRIB](#)

[One hundred one days offers lots of lessons](#)

Unless you happen to be a Pennsylvania lawmaker, a lot can be accomplished in 101 days. You may have heard something about legislators being a tad tardy in adopting a 2009-10 state budget. They were 101 days into the fiscal year... - [TRIB](#)

[State funds start flowing, but table game dispute delays some payouts](#)

By Tom Barnes, Post-Gazette Harrisburg Bureau HARRISBURG -- More than 4,000 county agencies and social service programs across the state were breathing easier yesterday, as state Treasurer Rob McCord began sending out their long-delayed state allocations for fiscal... - [POST-GAZ.](#)

10/13

[Budget limits forest drilling impact](#)

Towanda Daily Review

The agency also leases land for drilling in the traditional shallow gas and oil fields of northwest Pennsylvania. To keep pressure off the state forest ...

[With cuts and closings, 'It's just not a good year for libraries'](#)

Pittsburgh Post Gazette

In 2008, Cleveland received \$66.7 million in public funds, \$27.9 million from city property taxes and \$26.4 million from state taxes. ...

10/12

[Erie County Council to start budget deliberations](#)

Erie County Council is ready to start scrutinizing the county's proposed \$90.4 million General Fund budget. Council's budget sessions start today at the Erie County Courthouse. The seven-member panel will start by meeting with department heads to review their respective budgets. Go Erie.com

[On the sidelines: Citizens expect all lawmakers to participate](#)

Like much in politics, this year's state budget process created some interesting bedfellows. House Democrats and Senate Republicans ended up working closely together in the end to craft the \$27.8 billion spending plan. Senate Democratic Leader Robert Mellow of Lackawanna County also was... - [PATRIOT](#)

10/11

[Collection needs a stronger focus](#)

FOR THE LUZERNE County commissioners, putting together a balanced 2010 budget that doesn't include a major tax increase is like trying to complete a jigsaw puzzle that's missing key

pieces. With a \$30-million spending gap to date and a bleak economic year on the... - [WB TIMES LEADER](#)

[Hold reps' feet to fire](#)

The state's **budget** impasse hit 100 days before legislators and Gov. Ed Rendell broke down political barriers and actually worked together. There had been many previous claims by Rendell that agreements were close, with no result to show.... - [CENTRE DAILY](#) (118173/102666)

[Analysis: State budget delay cloaks politicians in shame](#)

HARRISBURG -- It took 101 days to pass a state budget, longer than the Battle of the Bulge and more time than it took the Marines to capture Iwo Jima during World War II. There was no heroism, though, in the state budget battle of 2009.... - [TRIB](#)

[Broken budget trust. By Brad Bumsted](#)

HARRISBURG Long-term relations between the House and Senate were severely damaged by the budget battle, casting a cloud over future action on efforts to cap electric rates, next year's budget and trying to stem the impact of spiking... - [TRIB](#)

[Lackawanna County budget expected this week](#)

County budget draft expected SCRANTON - Lackawanna County commissioners will release the first draft of the 2010 county budget this week. Majority Commissioners Corey O'Brien and Mike Washo have declined to... - [SCRANTON TIMES](#)

[Agencies welcome Pa. budget](#)

A host of human services agencies that struggled to stay open during a 101-day state budget stalemate breathed a bit easier yesterday, knowing state subsidies, missing for months, could start flowing in as early as next week. A child care center in Youngwood once again can buy cereal and snacks for... - [POST-GAZ.](#)

[Revenue sources uncertain](#)

HARRISBURG - Pennsylvania will rely on a variety of revenue sources to support \$27.8 billion in spending this fiscal year. A portion of this revenue will come from new taxes. Transfers from special state funds will also provide needed revenues for the all-purpose General Fund.... - [WB CIT. VOICE](#) (118193/102686)

10/9

Governor Rendell signs budget bill