



## 2018 – 2019 COMMONWEALTH BUDGET

These links may expire:

### July 6

#### **Some telling numbers lie deeper in state education budget**

The new state education budget officially put into action July 1 has numbers that should make local school administrators a bit happier. Every Luzerne County district saw an increase in combined basic and special education funding, ranging from a 0.1 percent hike for Northwest Area (a... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#))

#### **Philadelphia officials fear late addition to state budget could harm health of low-income teens**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) -- Philadelphia officials are denouncing a provision, tucked into the state budget bill at the last minute, that they say will result in more teenagers getting hooked on tobacco. But there's little they can do about it. As the state's only first class city, Philadelphia has been able to... - [KYW](#)

#### **State budget has implications for Erie**

The \$32.7 billion spending plan for the 2018-2019 fiscal year boosts funding for education and school safety. June's passage of a \$32.7 billion state spending plan provides more money for education, including school safety, as well as workforce development programs.... - [Erie Times-News](#)

### July 5

#### **Malpractice insurer sues PA for the third time in three years**

Governor Tom Wolf and legislative leaders are being sued in federal court over a budget provision to fold a medical malpractice insurer and its assets into the state Insurance Department. It's the latest development in the commonwealth's repeated attempts to take \$200 million from the group's surplus.... - [WHYY](#)

#### **Lancaster County schools to receive \$3.5M boost in basic education funding in 2018-19**

Lancaster County schools in 2018-19 will get nearly \$3.5 million more in state basic education funding than last year, under the budget enacted by the governor in June. The increase, which amounts to 1.9 percent, is welcome news to school administrators here. But some fear that the burden on local property owners... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

### July 3

#### **Untangling Pa.'s finances requires a transparent state government | Seth Grove**

By Seth Grove Harrisburg has a problem when it comes to money. Our state government is not

the most transparent in the nation; in fact, we rank below average, coming in at 28th in PIRG's Following the Money, 2018 study. State Rep. Seth Grove, R-York While it's not unusual that state governments lag behind the private sector... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

## **July 2**

### **Responsible Budgeting Protects Taxpayers, Leads to Surplus**

Since taking office in 2015, Gov. Tom Wolf has introduced and pushed 11 different tax hike proposals. In fact, his first budget proposal would have increased taxes by \$12.5 billion over the last three years. This was unacceptable, so Republicans found a better way.... - [City & State PA](#)

## **July 1**

### **School districts get fiscal shot in the arm with new budget**

The numbers look good, but they only tell part of the story. Education was by far the biggest winner in the 2018-19 state budget passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Tom Wolf last week, hauling in more than \$450 million in new funding. But nearly half of that, just over \$223... - [Reading Eagle](#)

### **Beefy budget: State spending is up nearly 2%**

Pennsylvania needs about 500 more state troopers. That is why the Legislature devoted \$4.2 million in the latest budget to put 120 additional cadets through the state police academy in Hershey. "In years past, governors have not all shared a priority to fund state... - [Reading Eagle](#)

## **June 29**

### **State budget is passed on time**

CARMICHAELS — Noting increases of \$100 million for basic education and \$70 million for school safety, state Rep. Pam Snyder said the completed 2018-19 state budget addresses many key needs without the tax or fee increases disliked by many of her constituents.... - [Waynesburg Greene County Messenger](#)

### **State budget passage bolsters criminal justice reform efforts**

The passage of the \$32.7 billion state budget was mostly met with applause by local legislators, who saved most of their praise for accompanying criminal justice reform measure. "We continue to take positive steps toward the financial health of our commonwealth," said state Rep. Stephen Kinsey (D-201).... - [Philadelphia Tribune](#)

## **June 28**

### **A rally for a people's budget takes over the Capitol Rotunda**

On Wednesday morning people from all across the commonwealth joined in the main Rotunda to rally for equity, freedom and a better budget. The PLS Reporter spoke with two advocates from the rally and they want the legislators to know that if they don't make changes they want them out of... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

**June 27**

**[New PA budget strips Philadelphia of power to regulate cigarette sales](#)**

Even as some Pennsylvania legislators head out the door for their summer recess, the impacts of a speedily passed \$32.7 billion state budget are just beginning to be fully understood. To wit: One small amendment slipped into the voluminous state fiscal code effectively stripped Philadelphia of... - [City & State PA](#)

**[School districts get bump in state funding](#)**

Indiana County school districts all received boosts in state subsidies in the 2018-19 budget approved last week by the General Assembly, House Majority Leader Dave Reed, R-Indiana, said over the weekend. The 62nd District representative said subsidies range from \$17.1 million... - [Indiana Gazette](#)

**[Our view: Harrisburg hits its deadline for a change](#)**

After the extended budget debacles of recent years, it seems like a big deal that Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf and the Republican-dominated Legislature were able to agree to a 2018-19 budget not only on time, but a week early. Of course, the state constitution mandates that they complete a budget by... - [Erie Times-News](#)

**[An irresponsible Pa. House GOP leaves reform in the lurch | Editorial](#)**

So there's an on-time state budget for the first time in four years. Ya-huuuuuu. But even as the Republican-controlled House of Representatives gave itself high-fives for accomplishing one of the most baseline responsibilities of state government, its hasty exit on Monday, beginning a recess that will... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

**June 26**

**[Weak election-year budget does nothing to solve Pennsylvania's financial woes](#)**

What happened last week at the state Capitol wasn't the victory it may seem to be. For the first time in four years, the Legislature and Gov. Tom Wolf agreed on a budget on time. It came with little if any public squabbling. Spending will increase without an increase in taxes.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

**[PSU president advocates tuition freeze](#)**

Students at some of Pennsylvania's state-owned and state-related universities could get a tuition break this fall, courtesy of the new state budget. Penn State President Eric Barron announced he will ask university trustees to freeze tuition at the 2017-18 rates, following a 3 percent increase in... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

**[Pennsylvania gets a budget, and it's not late, and not entirely great, but it's progress \(if only fleeting\)](#)**

THE ISSUE Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf signed a \$32.7 billion spending package Friday — more than a week before the new fiscal year begins July 1 — “avoiding the partisan acrimony and protracted fights of his first three years in office,” The Associated Press reported. The AP noted... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

### **Commissioners weigh in on state budget**

LOCK HAVEN — For the first time in 15 years, Pennsylvania's Senate passed an early budget. Yesterday, Clinton County Commissioners weighed in on the spending package's increases to schools, social services and the decision not to pursue a severance tax on Marcellus Shale gas drilling wells.... - [Lock Haven Express](#)

### **June 25**

#### **How new Pa. budget boosts education funding**

Delaware County school districts stand to gain more than \$4.5 million extra funds from the state to fuel their own financial packages as many are fine-tuning their budgets and considering tax increases to fill in the gaps. It's an annual routine. School districts across the state hammer out a... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)

#### **State budget increase in school safety warranted if focus is correct**

Pennsylvania appears to be well on the road to election year budget peace. While we are under no illusions that this goes very far beyond political necessity for both major political parties, we are heartened by one aspect of the 2018-19 state budget. It calls for increased spending on school safety in our public schools.... - [Lewistown Sentinel](#)

### **June 24**

#### **Pa. Senate approves \$32.7B on-time budget with no new taxes**

The state Senate on Friday approved the main appropriations bill — a \$32.7 billion spending package — and it now heads to Gov. Tom Wolf's desk more than a week early. The Senate voted 47-2, three days after first details of the no-new-taxes package were unveiled. The bill had passed the House overwhelmingly... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

#### **How to boost the state's economy and fix its finances**

Over the past year, one would be hard pressed to find negative stories about the overall state of the American economy. The trend lines are positive and the fundamentals are strong as conservative principles have successfully managed to extend our growth and easily exceed the... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

#### **Early budget deal maybe a milestone for deficits, school aid**

Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf and the Republican-controlled Legislature have wrapped up budget legislation a week before Pennsylvania state government's new fiscal year starts, an about-face after three years of protracted partisan fights over spending... - [AP](#)

#### **Gov. Wolf signs no-new-taxes Pa. budget**

Gov. Wolf signed into law the state's \$32.7 billion budget Friday evening, marking the first time in his four-year tenure that he has approved an on-time spending plan negotiated with the Republican-controlled legislature. The plan involves no new taxes or fees, and includes funding boosts for... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

### **Pennsylvania gets early budget peace, as spending bills pass**

Pennsylvania achieved budget peace, for now, as Gov. Tom Wolf on Friday signed a \$32.7 billion spending package a week early for the upcoming fiscal year, avoiding the partisan acrimony and protracted fights of his first three years in office... - [AP](#)

### **Behold, a budget? Harrisburg, make this schedule the new normal**

Partisan wrangling in Harrisburg has given way to compromise and cooperation. The Legislature passed a budget Friday and sent it off to Gov. Tom Wolf, a full week before the deadline. This may be the earliest passage of a spending plan in more than 15 years.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

### **What will Pa.'s \$32.7 billion budget buy?**

It's official. Pennsylvania, for the first time in four years, has its state budget done on time. Gov. Tom Wolf on Friday evening signed the \$32.7 billion spending plan for 2018-19. It's the first budget he has signed since taking office in 2015. In past three years, he allowed the budget bill to become law without his... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **That speedy Pa. budget? Thank Trump's booming economy | Charlie Gerow**

Just as the summer solstice arrived, there were puffs of white smoke from the chimneys of the Capitol. Republican strategist Charlie Gerow (PennLive file) The Pennsylvania General Assembly had passed a budget for the fiscal year that begins at midnight on July 1.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Highlights of Pennsylvania's 2018-19 budget package**

Highlights of the budget package signed by Gov. Tom Wolf for Pennsylvania's 2018-19 budget year that starts July 1:... - [AP](#)

### **Berks senators vote for \$32.7 billion budget**

The spending plan includes funding to enhance the dairy industry and to fight school violence and welfare fraud. - [Reading Eagle](#)

## **June 22**

### **Senate approves \$32.7 billion budget with no tax hikes, sending it to Gov. Tom Wolf**

The 2018-19 state budget is on its way to Gov. Tom Wolf for enactment. The Pennsylvania Senate on Friday voted 47-2 to pass the \$32.7 billion spending plan, which increases spending over this year's budget by \$560 million or 1.7 percent. The budget calls for no increases in state taxes or... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Pa. legislative leaders release more details on new school safety programs**

Pennsylvania's legislative leaders put more definition Thursday on the new, \$60 million school safety fund that's being established in conjunction with the new 2018-19 state budget. The language set out Thursday night lays out 22 specific uses for the funds by individual school districts, and the emphasis is squarely on local... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Local reps laud House budget proposal**

HARRISBURG — The state House on Wednesday gave overwhelming approval to a 2018-19 state budget proposal that includes no new or increased taxes and makes significant investments in education and public health and safety. Representatives Martin Causer, R-Turtlepoint, and Clint Owlett,... - [Bradford Era](#)

### **Spending plan provides major funds to public education**

LOCK HAVEN — Pennsylvania's Senate will vote on the state's new \$32.7 billion state budget today. The spending package, which passed without a hitch in the House on Wednesday, does not include a tax increase. It also features major increases in funding for early education, area school districts and higher... - [Lock Haven Express](#)

### **\$32.7 billion spending plan heads to Pennsylvania governor's desk**

The main appropriations bill in a \$32.7 billion spending package for Pennsylvania's approaching fiscal year is heading to Gov. Tom Wolf's desk, more than a week early... - [AP](#)

### **Tobacco settlement nets state budget funding**

Attorney General Josh Shapiro announced Thursday that he reached a settlement in the Tobacco Masters Settlement Agreement. The settlement netted the state nearly \$357 million. That money, however, had already been earmarked within the state's 2018-19 budget to cover long... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

### **Gov. Wolf to get budget bill -- more than a week before deadline**

HARRISBURG — The state's largest budget bill is heading to Gov. Tom Wolf for his signature — more than a week before the deadline. The Senate passed the spending bill Friday afternoon by a 47-2 vote. It passed the House earlier this week. The \$32.7 billion budget involves no new taxes or fees, and includes \$100... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

### **Local legislators weigh in on state budget as it progresses toward passage**

Local legislators are welcoming smoother sailing for this year's state budget plan, which appears poised to be the first on-time budget of Gov. Tom Wolf's tenure. The Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed in a 188-10 vote Wednesday, and the state Senate was slated to vote on the House bill... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)

### **Pennsylvania budget highlights**

Highlights of a spending plan that won House approval Wednesday and is scheduled for a vote Friday in the Senate for the 2018-19 budget year that starts July 1: THE BIG PICTURE — Increases spending through the state's main bank account to \$32.7 billion, an increase of about \$700 million in new spending, or 2.2 percent... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

### **Monroe reps. praise House budget**

HARRISBURG — State lawmakers from Monroe County are praising the state budget sent to the Senate Wednesday by the House of Representatives. The \$32.7 billion spending plan boosts

basic education funding to a record high \$12.3 billion, establishes a \$60 million block grant for school security... - [Pocono Record](#)

## **June 21**

### **[\\$32.7B budget package speeds through Pennsylvania House](#)**

A \$32.7 billion spending package for Pennsylvania's approaching fiscal year began speeding through the state Legislature on Wednesday with little public debate, a stark change from the first three budgets hashed out by Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf and the House and Senate's huge Republican... - [AP](#)

### **[House passes \\$32.7 billion budget with no new taxes](#)**

A no-new-taxes \$32.7 billion state spending package overwhelmingly passed the state House Wednesday. The deal, approved by a vote of 188-10, was negotiated by Republican majority leaders and Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf and is expected to be signed quickly. State Rep. Mike Reese, R-Mount Pleasant, explained that there was a \$1... - [Somerset Daily](#)

### **[Local Democrats, Republicans vote for \\$32.7B Pa. budget package](#)**

WILKES-BARRE — The Pennsylvania House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a \$32.7 billion spending package for the state's approaching fiscal year Wednesday. State Rep. Gerald Mullery, D-Newport Township, said he was happy to support what he called "a responsible, on-time budget that protects taxpayers... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

### **[Masser 'pleased' with budget](#)**

HARRISBURG — State Rep. Kurt A. Masser (R-107) voted in favor of the no-tax-increase state budget plan Wednesday that he says invests more funding for all levels of education while protecting communities and families across Pennsylvania. "Overall, I'm very pleased to have voted for this responsible... - [Shamokin News-Item](#)

### **[Pennsylvania Budget Deal Could Mean Tuition Freeze for Penn State Students](#)**

A budget plan passed by the Pennsylvania House on Wednesday and expected to move through the Senate this week includes an appropriation increase for Penn State, and if approved, university President Eric Barron says he will recommend no tuition increase for in-state students at all of the school's... - [State College News](#)

### **[Local lawmakers applaud budget](#)**

Local lawmakers applauded House passage of a \$32.7 million state budget calling for no tax increases. State Rep. Garth Everett, R-Muncy, noted that with the economy continuing to improve and available revenues used to support the budget having increased, there was less pain coming up with a spending plan than in... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

### **[An early\(ish\) Pa. budget? 5 Tweets that explain it all | Thursday Morning Coffee](#)**

Good Thursday Morning, Fellow Seekers. Today is Thursday June 21, 2018. And a mere nine days remain before lawmakers close the books on the 2017-18 fiscal year. Unlike past years, however,

it looks very much like they'll have a replacement state budget teed up and ready to go well before the lights... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Penn State could see 3 percent bump in state funding**

As Pennsylvania's 2018-19 \$32.7 billion budget package starts to take shape, Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman announced Tuesday a planned 3 percent increase in Penn State's state appropriation. "Affordability of higher education is a significant concern," Corman,... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)

### **Berks lawmakers tout House budget plan**

The Pennsylvania House passed a \$32.7 billion budget Wednesday. All representatives covering parts of Berks County voted for the plan. Here is what most of them had to say. Thomas R. Caltagirone, Reading Democrat "I was happy to be able to pass the budget on time with no tax or fee... - [Reading Eagle](#)

### **June 20**

#### **2018-19 proposed Pa. state budget makes \$70 million investment in school safety**

In a state that didn't experience a mass school shooting incident like the ones in Parkland, Fla., or Santa Fe, N.M., Pennsylvania lawmakers are counting their blessings and taking proactive steps to keep it that way. The proposed \$32.7 billion agreed-to state budget that is teed up for a... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

#### **Pa. House passes \$32.7 billion state budget that requires no tax increase**

The proposed 2018-19 state budget that increases education spending from preschool to higher education and requires no increase taxes or fees easily passed the state House of Representatives on Wednesday. The 188-10 vote to pass the \$32.7 billion spending plan allows the bill to... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

#### **How big a slice of 2018-19 state budget pie is your school district going to get?**

The proposed House-passed \$32.7 billion state spending plan for 2018-19 that is moving through the General Assembly provides for over \$6 billion for basic education and more than \$1.1 billion for special education. So how much of that money is your school district supposed to receive?... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

#### **In Pennsylvania, it's budgeting the election-year way. But the economy helped.**

It seems almost too easy to say it, but the 2018-19 state budget set for a vote in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Wednesday does have all the elements of an election-year budget. And why not? This is 2018 after all. In a few short months, your television and computer screens will be flooded... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

#### **Public shut out of Pa. budget talks | Editorial**

Lawmakers have been uncharacteristically silent during the current state budget process, with vague assurances that "things are chugging along." But one thing has been clear from the

moment Gov. Wolf in February delivered the shortest budget address in recent years: The... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

### **Pennsylvania House poised to pass \$32.7 billion spending plan**

HARRISBURG — The state House could vote as soon as today to approve a \$32.7 billion spending plan that provides more money for schools and school safety without raising taxes. The state budget is supposed to be done by June 30. If the House passes the plan, as expected, it would leave the Senate more than a week to act on the... - [Meadville Tribune](#)

### **\$32.7B budget package speeds through Pennsylvania House**

The main appropriations bill in a \$32.7 billion spending package for Pennsylvania's approaching fiscal year is speeding through the state Legislature... - [AP](#)

### **Penn State president to seek tuition freeze if proposed state budget passes**

With news of a proposed 3 percent increase in state funding, Pennsylvania State University president Eric Barron said Wednesday that he will recommend no tuition hike for state residents for 2018-19 if the current state budget proposal is approved. It would be only the second time in more than 50 years that in-state... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

### **Bipartisan Budget Beats Buzzer**

It looks like Pennsylvania has a budget deal — and days before the deadline. While Gov. Tom Wolf and the Republican-held Legislature have struggled over the last few years, a tentative 2018-19 fiscal year proposal projects tax revenue growth that allowed all parties to agree to a \$32.7 billion... - [PoliticsPA](#)

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### **June 19**

#### **Election year optics drive an early budget for Pa. state government**

No budget wars in Pennsylvania this summer, folks. Gov. Tom Wolf and legislative leaders have reached agreement on a \$32.7 billion spending plan for state government that fits the Webster-Merriam definition of an election-year budget. The plan, as pushed through the state House Appropriations Committee... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

#### **State budget angst magically invisible in an election year**

It would be hilarious – if it did not involve millions of dollars, most of it your tax dollars. We speak of the state’s 2018-19 budget. Local lawmakers say they expect a smoother process to approving the budget. And – are you sitting down? – it may be approved by the June 30... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

#### **State budget plan begins to emerge from behind closed doors**

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Details of a state budget plan are emerging as rank-and-file Pennsylvania lawmakers are beginning to hear details about a package negotiated behind closed doors by top Republican lawmakers and Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf... - [AP](#)

#### **Pa. Legislature appears ready to fast-track state budget with more education funding**

What a difference an election year makes. For the first time since Gov. Tom Wolf took office, his administration and the Republican-controlled Legislature appear to have hammered out a deal on the state budget, days in advance of the June 30 deadline to have a... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

#### **Pennsylvania budget plan includes more for schools, safety**

Details of a \$32.7 billion state budget package began emerging Tuesday, as top Republican lawmakers prepared an election-year plan they negotiated behind closed doors with Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf... - [AP](#)

## June 18

### **Election could be incentive for on-time Pennsylvania budget**

Pennsylvania lawmakers have an incentive to finalize the state budget by the June 30 deadline: It's an election year. If they meet the deadline, it would be the ... - [Reading Eagle](#)

### **Federal tax policy changes adds small wrinkle to budget negotiations**

Another week into June, and details on the budget are still slow coming — but Capitol observers think that could just be a sign that a deal is near. The House, the Senate and the governor don't seem to be far apart on many details, with a consensus on opioid response spending and school... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

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## June 14

### **Pennsylvania Senate majority leader predicts severance tax, minimum wage hike won't make it into budget**

Pennsylvania Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman doesn't believe that a severance tax or a minimum wage hike will be part of this year's budget. The Republican leader laid out a number of his expectations for the state budget during an interview this week with the Pennsylvania Cable Network... - [Watchdog.org](#)

## June 11

### **Local lawmakers see smoother budget process**

Passing Pennsylvania budgets has been no easy task, but all indications point to next year's spending plan finding common ground with both political parties and being passed on time. Local lawmakers said they feel good about how the budget is shaping up. "The Senate and House seem to be on the same page," state Rep. Jeff... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

## June 10

### **Our view: Deliver state budget on time for a change**

As Pennsylvania's budget process heads into the home stretch — or what's supposed to be the home stretch anyway — Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf and Republican legislative leaders have set low expectations. Even if they blow their June 30 constitutional deadline (again), it would... - [Erie Times-News](#)

## June 8

### **Wolf, lawmakers need to invest in community colleges this budget season | Opinion**

For years, traditional wisdom suggested that the only route to career success was enrolling directly in a four-year college or university - a course that typically involved borrowing tens of

thousands of dollars to finance your education. Elizabeth Bolden (submitted photo)... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Seeking funding for early childhood education**

MILTON — Rep. Lynda Schlegel-Culver (R-108) believes the 2018-2019 state budget will include increased funding for Pre-K Counts programs. She doubts it will be to the tune of the \$40 million being asked for by a nonprofit organization which held a roundtable discussion Thursday... - [Milton Standard](#)

### **Optimism in supply in capitol even if budget details are short**

With the start of June, a wave of advocates has descended on Harrisburg to make their pitch for funding, from programs for people with disabilities to school safety. Some of those priorities are bipartisan. Others shade to one party or another. But while no exact numbers or funding plans are out just yet, that... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

### **Pennsylvania's taxing politics of early childhood education**

Pennsylvania's budget season is in full swing as the fiscal year winds down and the next one begins July 1. That means the Capitol is swarming with professional and grassroots lobbyists looking to cut, protect or enhance funding levels in a variety of programs.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

### **Valley leaders encourage investing in early education**

MILTON — State Rep. Lynda Schlegel Culver said Thursday she expects an increase in the state budget for Pre-K Counts and Head Start programs that will allow children access to high-quality early care and education, and develop them for the future. Culver and other Valley officials discussed a report touting the... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)

## **June 7**

### **School districts 'can't get ahead' of mandated costs despite increases in state education funding**

Mandated pension contributions, special education services and charter school payments are identified as the biggest cost drivers that are worsening Pennsylvania's school districts' financial condition, causing some to eliminate kindergarten, increase classes sizes, and cut elective... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

## **June 6**

### **Erie-area lawmakers hope for tension-free budget talks**

Gov. Tom Wolf's \$33 billion proposal would represent a 3 percent increase over the state's 2017-18 spending plan. State Sen. Dan Laughlin is optimistic. So is state Rep. Pat Harkins. After experiencing the 17-week budget stalemate in Harrisburg in 2017, the two Erie-area lawmakers believe this year's budget negotiations will be... - [Erie Times-News](#)

## June 4

### **It's game on for the budget as advocates descend on the Capitol | Monday Morning Coffee**

Good Monday Morning, Fellow Seekers. Today is Monday, June 4, which means that a mere 26 days remain before the lights blink out on the 2017-18 fiscal year, and that state lawmakers and the Democratic Wolf administration have to approve - and sign - its replacement.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Welcome to Pennsylvania's budget season: A show void of value | John Baer**

Tis the season, as they say, for the governor and legislature to do their annual budget thing. It's a time our elected leaders slap together some phony fiscal plan allowing the commonwealth to maintain its mediocrity. And, if you're talking jobs, business and quality of life, its bottom-dwelling status... - [Philadelphia Daily News](#)

### **What three rallies and one Scott Wagner retirement tells you about the #PaBudget | John L. Micek**

On a day that the state Capitol was packed to the gills with activists looking for their piece of this year's state budget, it was strangely fitting that state Sen. Scott Wagner was on his way out the door. On Monday, the York County Republican was finishing up his last day of work... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Editorial: Being on time not good enough this time for Pa. budget**

The news last weekend that a lack of shouting in Harrisburg might bring with it the first on-time, controversy-free state budget of the Wolf administration is a modest glimmer of hope. Merely passing a budget on time, and seeing Gov. Tom Wolf for the first time in his term signing it, would be nice but not sufficient.... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)

## June 3

### **Cumberland County anticipates more from state in coming fiscal year; general fund stable**

Both the county's fiscal-year and calendar year budgets are unlikely to see any major changes in the coming year, according to Cumberland County's most recent financial information. The county commissioners were presented this week with a \$94.5 million fiscal year budget for the year beginning July 2018 and ending June 2019, a... - [Carlisle Sentinel](#)

## May 30

### **Editorial: Being on time not good enough this budget year**

State leaders should act early and let school districts know how much money they're getting. - [Reading Eagle](#)

### **Despite differences, Dems and GOP both say they expect quick budget talks**

With the commonwealth's budget deadline a month away, negotiations haven't begun in earnest. But talks are ongoing behind the scenes — and that means a familiar tug-of-war between Democrats trying to bolster state programs, and Republicans determined to limit spending.... - [WHYY](#)

**May 27**

**Governor, lawmakers aren't panicking as budget push nears**

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — As the most intense part of this year's budget season is about to get underway, it's been remarkably quiet in the state Capitol, and policymakers say they're hopeful that bodes well for an improvement in what's been a strained process for several years... - [AP](#)

**May 25**

**Governor, lawmakers aren't panicking as budget push nears**

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — As the most intense part of this year's budget season is about to get underway, it's been remarkably quiet in the state Capitol, and policymakers say they're hopeful that bodes well for an improvement in what's been a strained process for several years... - [AP](#)

**May 24**

**VA safe bet: Sports betting is welcome but not game-changing**

Legalized gambling used to consist of a few bingo squares at church and the occasional trip to Las Vegas or Atlantic City. Now, lotteries are huge and include multistate megagames, and most Americans are never more than a few hours' drive from a casino. And that's to say nothing of what... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

**May 22**

**Vice fuels rise in state income**

It's hard to believe now that the U.S. Supreme Court has removed obstacles to universal sports gambling and that sports leagues are all in, but Major League Baseball once banned its most beloved stars, Willie Mays and Mickey Mantle, for shilling for casinos.... - [Scranton Times](#)

**Optimism is top state budget line item**

Republicans are striking an optimistic tone as lawmakers return to Harrisburg this week to begin a six-week process to get the 2018-2019 state budget to Gov. Tom Wolf's desk by the June 30 deadline. Optimism is a good sign this spring because the state budget process has... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)

**Scarnati focuses on redistricting, safe schools and budget at Press Club luncheon**

Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati (R-Jefferson) was the featured guest at this month's Press Club Luncheon. During his formal remarks Sen. Scarnati highlighted three key issues: redistricting, safe schools and the state budget, while also commenting on open primaries, regulatory... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

**May 21**

**York lawmakers discuss accountability, education funding in state budget**

Spending accountability, education funding and cost drivers were key issues on the minds of local lawmakers at York County's recent 2018 Spring Legislative Luncheon. Eugene DePasquale, the state auditor general and a York County resident, also shared his thoughts on marijuana as a barrier to opioid addiction... - [York Dispatch](#)

### **Lawmakers return to Capitol optimistic about state budget**

HARRISBURG -- Republican lawmakers on Friday struck an optimistic tone about the upcoming state budget, saying that tax revenues have met projections, meaning the state government should be in better shape than prior years. Lawmakers return to the Capitol in the coming week to begin the six-week... - [New Castle News](#)

### **Federal judge rules \$200 million in last year's budget unconstitutionally allocated**

A federal judge overturned part of Pennsylvania's 2017 budget compromise Thursday. The decision, by federal Judge Christopher Conner, found that a transfer of \$200 million into the General Fund from a state-funded organization meant to finance the purchase of malpractice insurance violated the... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

### **May 20**

#### **More state funds needed for Allentown schools**

The Allentown School Board is facing a \$9.5 million deficit despite some serious belt-tightening this year — they already cut their budget by nearly \$20 million without any staff cuts. As Superintendent Thomas Parker notes, the district is "going to need some... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

### **Fish Commission boss offers grim financial outlook during local visit**

When Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission executive director John Arway put the blame solely on legislators for the cuts that his agency will have to make, he didn't have to look far for a response. Arway stopped by Luzerne County Community College on Thursday to... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

### **May 18**

#### **Judge punches \$200 million hole in Pennsylvania budget**

A federal judge on Thursday blew a \$200 million hole in Pennsylvania's state budget by throwing out a law that appropriated the surplus from a state-created medical malpractice insurer of last resort... - [AP](#)

### **May 17**

#### **Gov. Wolf, Legislature accused of violating Pa. constitution in use of Marcellus Shale lease dollars**

Gov. Tom Wolf and the Legislature are violating Pennsylvania's constitution - and a state Supreme Court ruling - by using income from Marcellus shale drilling leases to finance the state agency charged with protecting the environment, an activist group contends.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **May 14**

#### **Tough decisions await lawmakers on state budget**

As has been evident for months, Pennsylvania's state budget-preparation exercise for the 2018-19 fiscal year has been less acrimonious than the commonwealth's three previous annual

budget-making processes. Regarding those previous years, most state residents can recall the \$2... - [Lewistown Sentinel](#)

## **May 9**

### **[PA hospitals voice concern over Wolf's budget plan](#)**

(Harrisburg) -- The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania is raising some alarm over a fee hike Governor Tom Wolf wants to include in next year's budget. Right now, hospitals pay \$220 million annually to the state's general fund under the Quality Care Assessment law, which started as a partnership to... - [WITF](#)

## **May 3**

### **[As state misses April General Fund revenue estimates, initial IFO outlook for 2018-19 paints improving long-term picture](#)**

The Department of Revenue yesterday released details on April tax collections for the state, reporting tax revenue for the month exceeded expectations by almost a full percentage point, but General Fund revenue of \$57.6 million missed estimates by 1.5 percent. The news came shortly after... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

### **[54th state House candidates take aim at state budget](#)**

Four Republicans and two Democrats will be on the May 15 primary ballot for the state House seat being vacated by four-term incumbent Eli Evankovich, R-Murrysville. Republicans running for the seat, all from Murrysville, are Bob Brooks, Bryan Kline, Michael Korn and Maryalice Newborn. Democrats running for the... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

## **May 2**

### **[Pennsylvania's revenue picture looking up](#)**

Pennsylvania's pennies finally are adding up—and just in time for elections. As of the end of April, the state collected \$29 billion in taxes, which was \$164 million or 0.6 percent above estimates, the Revenue Department announced Tuesday. On a percentage basis, that's not all that much better than... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

## **May 1**

### **[Industry critics pan latest severance tax proposal](#)**

If Gov. Tom Wolf's announcement Monday that he is again pushing for a severance tax appeared familiar to those listening, so too seemed the gas industry's reply. Joining the governor for Monday's announcement was a bipartisan cadre of lawmakers from both chambers. Among them, Sen. John Yudichak (D-Luzerne)... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

### **[Gov. Wolf: once more to the \(gas\) well | Clout](#)**

I'm guessing Gov. Wolf might be familiar with Vermont teacher/author Thomas H. Palmer's 1840 "The Teacher's Manual" — or at least the introduction. In it, Palmer suggests, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." I'm guessing at this familiarity since Wolf is once again trying to get... - [Philadelphia Daily News](#)

**April 30**

**Is the fourth time a charm for Wolf and the severance tax? He thinks so | John L. Micek**

So just how predictable have affairs become in Pennsylvania's annual scramble to slap a severance tax on natural gas drillers? Predictable enough that the Marcellus Shale Coalition, the powerful industry trade group, had a full op-Ed written and ready to go nearly an... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

**April 29**

**Scott Wagner's 'zero-based' budgets may not add up for governing**

Scott Wagner asked for a show of hands at the Starlite Diner in Upper Macungie Township during an April 21 campaign stop. The Republican candidate for governor wanted to know how many of the few dozen voters there balance their checkbooks monthly. Hands went up.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

**April 23**

**State may be approaching gambling overkill**

The future holds the answer of whether gambling-saturation fears have begun detouring Pennsylvania's journey into gaming expansion. Even more importantly, hanging out there is the question of whether — and how much — that possible new development will impact Keystone State... - [Altoona Mirror](#)

**April 20**

**Independent Fiscal Office assesses Wolf's budget proposal**

(Harrisburg) -- The commonwealth's Independent Fiscal Office has released its yearly assessment of Governor Tom Wolf's budget proposal. It reports that most of the revenue estimates check out. That is, if Wolf can figure out how to get his ideas past the GOP-controlled General... - [WITF](#)

**Despite some progress, counties await answers to child protection woes**

HARRISBURG – Advocates and county officials await a promised action plan for fixing the state's struggling child protection system from Auditor General Eugene DePasquale. Susan Woods, a spokesperson for the auditor general, said those recommendations are expected in mid-May.... - [New Castle News](#)

**April 19**

**Hoping to avert a \$705 cut in the maximum award, PHEAA's board delays decision on grant formula**

It's back to the drawing board for the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency board to try to figure out a way to avoid having to cutting the maximum state grant for college students by \$705 next year. Because of an expected \$37 million reduction in funding for the grant... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

**April 18**

**Gubernatorial Candidates Respond to United Way Survey**

The United Way of Pennsylvania released the responses it received from Governor Tom Wolf and Republican candidates Laura Ellsworth and Scott Wagner. Republican Paul Mango declined to respond to the The nine question survey covered the state budget, financial stability,... -

[PoliticsPA](#)

**April 17**

**Budget clock ticking**

Pennsylvania lawmakers and Gov. Tom Wolf still have about 2½ months to meet the June 30 state budget-preparation deadline, and most state residents probably view that as more than enough time for the commonwealth's legislative and executive branches to complete that vitally important,... - [Altoona Mirror](#)

**State grants for college students could be cut by \$1,100 next year without more funding**

Hoping to avoid any reduction in funding for the state grant program that helps Pennsylvania students pay for their college education, hundreds of students from Pennsylvania private colleges came to the state Capitol on Tuesday to make a case for more money.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

**April 15**

**Trib editorial: Severance tax shibboleths**

In his budget address earlier this year and now on the campaign trail, Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf bemoans that Pennsylvania has no severance tax on its natural gas production, the golden goose that has boosted the state's fortunes. But the suggestion that the Marcellus shale industry somehow is... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

**April 11**

**Ortitay introduces legislation package to change budgeting**

State Rep. Jason Ortity, R-South Fayette, introduced a 38-bill package to separate the omnibus general appropriations bill into individual pieces for each agency. The package also includes a resolution setting expenditure limitations for both the total budget and each agency. The limitations would guide the... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)

**April 8**

**Pa.'s horse-racing industry gets more state money than Health or Agriculture Departments**

Pennsylvania dropped \$239 million into the saddlebags of the state's struggling horse-racing industry last year, bringing the total amount given to the moribund Sport of Kings to \$2.6 billion during the last decade. The money did not come from people betting on horses. It came from hundreds... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

**March 19**

## **Gambling won't solve state's financial woes**

Pennsylvania might — or might not — be on track to meet money projections for 2017-18 and 2018-19 tied to the major gambling expansion approved by the Legislature last October. But even if the goals for those two fiscal years are met, an important question will continue to be whether revenue projections will meet or... - [Altoona Mirror](#)

## **March 15**

### **Trib Thursday wrap: No budget, no pay**

Oftentimes an election year for state government in Pennsylvania is distinguished by grand proclamations from incumbents seeking to curry public favor. Sometimes these statements don't go beyond the campaign stump ; sometimes they're realized in one form or another. The suggestion from... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

## **March 12**

### **Tweets of the Week - March 5, 2018**

Budget hearings in the House wrapped up this past week, with a final and contentious hearing with Budget Sec. Randy Albright where Republican members pressed the governor's budget chief on the details of a financial transaction relating to the Farm Show Complex. The Senate Appropriations... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

## **Gov. Wolf proposal includes no pay for officials if budget misses deadline**

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Pennsylvania's governor wants to ban gifts to all elected state officials and to suspend pay for himself, lawmakers and their top aides when they haven't fully enacted a budget by the annual deadline... - [AP](#)

## **Ellis, constituents share breakfast**

State Rep. Brian Ellis, R-11th, provided a catered breakfast to 25 of his constituents Friday morning in exchange for their thoughts on a number of topics pertinent to his district. Eggs and Issues with Brian Ellis was served up at 9 a.m. Friday at the Butler Public Library. By a show of hands, most of the two dozen people who... - [Butler Eagle](#)

## **March 11**

### **Wolf, lawmakers should look at cutting taxes this year - not raising new revenue | Opinion**

By David Krulac In a recent broadcast interview, Gov. Tom Wolf outlined his continual support for a new gas severance tax in Pennsylvania. He mentioned Texas as an example multiple times as an enlightened state having a gas severance tax. What Gov. Wolf failed to mention is that Texas... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

## **Wolf outlines new workforce development initiative for job training**

Gov. Tom Wolf this week outlined his plans for PAsmart — a new workforce development initiative that helps connect Pennsylvanians with resources for working and training. “I am investing in the people of Pennsylvania by launching the PAsmart initiative, which will help Pennsylvanians get the skills they need to get... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

### **More Pennsylvanians must be able to 'pursue their happiness'**

There is a general malaise spreading across Pennsylvania, which is ironic considering the adoption of the commonwealth's tourism motto in 2016: "Pennsylvania. Pursue Your Happiness." Pennsylvanians are leaving and neither newborns nor newcomers are taking their places. Across the country, while states such as Utah and Nevada... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

### **Legislators: No funding until Arway is out**

For eight years, John Arway has been a vocal advocate for increasing funding for the Fish and Boat Commission. As executive director he's trimmed spending, shelved projects, shrunk staffing, brought introduced new funding ideas and practically begged the state legislature to allow anglers... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

### **March 8**

#### **Everett point about 'spending problem' hard to refute**

State Rep. Garth Everett, a Muncy Republican who represents much of our region, is not happy with Gov. Wolf's opening proposal of a \$33.18 billion budget for 2018-19. And he shouldn't be, based on one number – 3.7 percent. That's the amount of the spending increase Gov. Wolf is proposing. While state... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

### **March 5**

#### **The state budget cycle: Cuts, protest and restore**

A host of programs are targeted for elimination each year but often end up in the final budget package. - [Reading Eagle](#)

#### **Ron Southwick: The State System of Higher Education hopes for more**

Gov. Tom Wolf is proposing an increase for the state-owned universities. The system hopes lawmakers go higher. - [Reading Eagle](#)

### **March 4**

#### **Wolf, lawmakers need to step up for students with disabilities | Opinion**

Pennsylvania's 270,000 children with disabilities deserve better. Their future depends on critical decisions being made in Harrisburg right now. This winter and spring, they should be a focus of conversation as our state elected officials move to craft and adopt a new budget for 2018-19 - one... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

#### **Got billions? You can eliminate school property taxes**

Eliminating school property taxes in Pennsylvania will require raising more than \$14.4 billion from other taxes, but huge numbers have never discouraged the idea's supporters. If anything, they think they're closer than ever to accomplishing what seemed impossible and ridiculous to most state legislators a decade ago.... - [Scranton Times](#)

### **March 2**

### **Senators focus on mental illness and opioid epidemic during Corrections budget hearing**

Senate Appropriation Committee members focused on how the Department of Corrections (DOC) handles mentally ill inmates and inmates struggling with addiction during Thursday's budget hearing. DOC asked for an additional \$2 million dollars in this year's proposed... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

### **February state revenue collections reported**

State revenue collections for the month of February were reported this week, with monthly and year-to-date collection totals coming in over estimate. According to the Department of Revenue, Pennsylvania collected \$3.6 billion in February, which is \$406.3 million or 12.8 percent more than anticipated.... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

### **Our view: Budget item kindles community college hopes**

A \$10 million line item in the state's capital fund budget holds promise for Erie County's community college quest. As Erie Times-News reporter Matthew Rink detailed, the state last fall authorized \$10 million in the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program for... - [Erie Times-News](#)

### **March 1**

#### **Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex 'lease' steams lawmakers**

To help balance this year's budget, taxpayers will fork over more than \$375.5 million under a long-term loan agreement Gov. Tom Wolf's administration signed to "lease" the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex. And some lawmakers are making hay over it — even though they approved a... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

### **February 28**

#### **Greenwood Gaming says it has no site yet for new casino in Cumberland or Franklin counties**

A top spokesman for Greenwood Gaming & Entertainment says there is no single, preferred site for a new casino on the Interstate 81 corridor between Chambersburg and Carlisle yet. Which means everybody in the 30-mile circle that Greenwood has bought development rights to can be: A) nervous; or B) excited, depending upon how... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Lawmakers say public universities need to better coordinate efforts**

HARRISBURG – Lawmakers on Tuesday urged leaders of Pennsylvania's state-related universities to think hard about how they can work with the other public universities. This comes as several of the schools in the 14-college State System of Higher Education are struggling, according to a 2017 analysis completed by... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)

### **Penn State, Pitt address life without state money**

Temple University's mascot is an owl. Pittsburgh's is a panther. And Penn State's and Lincoln's mascots are lions. But they all could have been pachyderms on Tuesday in the state Capitol. During a state Senate budget hearing, lawmakers grilled the universities' top officials about everything from security to protests... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

## February 26

### **Trib editorial: Address Pa.'s spending problem**

As Pennsylvania lawmakers begin the process of cobbling together another state budget, a look back on their last fiscal blueprint exposes pitfalls that must be avoided. Simply stated, Pennsylvania has a spending problem, evidenced in the agreement by Gov. Tom Wolf and lawmakers to tap a portion of the state's... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

### **Plan to widen I-81 in Pennsylvania accelerates, but traffic is ahead**

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has hired Michael Baker International to refresh a study that looked at widening 77 miles of I-81 from the Maryland line to the I-78 split in Lebanon County. The new \$250,000 study, due within a year, is to identify sections of the highway... - [Chambersburg Public Opinion](#)

## February 25

### **What if Pitt were to go private? Some ponder the unthinkable as dwindling state aid becomes less certain**

Campus leaders contemplating the University of Pittsburgh's future have begun to engage reluctantly in an exercise that the school's chancellor Patrick Gallagher likens to "a stress test." If Pennsylvania's already diminished level of funding for its state-related universities including Pitt were to further erode -- or be... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

### **Proposed state police fee probably won't pass -**

The Pennsylvania practice of allowing a majority of municipalities to rely on state police, rather than pay for their own police departments, is a symptom of much larger problems — the commonwealth's antiquated, broken system for local governance and a bloated Legislature that is... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

## February 23

### **What if Pitt were to go private? Some ponder the unthinkable as dwindling state aid becomes less certain**

Campus leaders contemplating the University of Pittsburgh's future have begun to engage reluctantly in an exercise that the school's chancellor Patrick Gallagher likens to "a stress test." If Pennsylvania's already diminished level of funding for its state-related universities including Pitt were to further erode -- or be... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

## February 22

### **Lawmaker says state has 'spending problem'**

Gov. Tom Wolf's proposal to raise spending 3.7 percent does not represent the kind of budget plan that one local lawmaker can support. "We don't have a revenue problem in Harrisburg," state Rep. Garth Everett, R-Muncy, said. "We have a spending problem." Everett, speaking at a Wednesday morning Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

## February 21

## **House lawmakers focus on severance tax and Pennsylvania's economic climate during IFO budget hearing**

The House Appropriations Committee focused primarily on how to improve the economy and the impacts of Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed severance tax on natural gas at the Independent Fiscal Office budget hearing Tuesday morning. Legislators allowed IFO representatives to testify to discuss the... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

## **House lawmakers analyze effectiveness of job creation programs**

House legislators discussed how to increase job creation Wednesday after Pennsylvania lost 10,000 jobs last year. The House Appropriations Committee invited testifiers that represented the Department of Labor and Industry, Pennsylvania Department of Community and... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

## **February 18**

### **Pa. human services agency touts Wolf's budget plan for focus on families**

The state Department of Human Services this week highlighted several initiatives in Gov. Tom Wolf's 2018-19 budget proposal, including investments in early childhood education to support low-income families struggling to stay in the workforce due to the cost of child care.... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

### **Tourism huge state asset; market it**

Pennsylvania's tourism potential is open-ended because it is so diverse. The state is blessed with abundant natural beauty and recreational opportunities, major vibrant cities alive with culture and entertainment, and remarkable historical sites detailing the Keystone State's central... - [Scranton Times](#)

## **February 16**

### **Municipal pensions still need reform**

Pennsylvania legislators actively created the unresolved public pension crisis for the two big plans covering state and school employees by jacking up benefits in 2001 without bothering to fund them. Now, more than \$4 billion of the \$32 billion state budget goes exclusively to pension... - [Scranton Times](#)

### **Gov. Wolf recommending \$2 million for drug courts**

HARRISBURG — Gov. Tom Wolf has recommended \$2 million for new drug courts and the enhancement of existing courts as part of his 2018-19 budget. The proposed funding would be funneled through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. "Drug courts are a key component in the fight against the opioid... - [Beaver County Times](#)

## **February 15**

### **PennDOT to tackle rural roads, locally owned bridges under Gov. Wolf's budget proposal**

Part of Gov. Tom Wolf's 2018-19 budget proposal would steer more money toward fixing rural, low-traffic roads and locally owned bridges, officials said. The \$33 billion budget he proposed

earlier this month included \$200 million for the Rural Commercial Routes program, which would focus on improving... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

### **Wolf's career and technical education plan is an investment in Pa's future | Opinion**

It is not often that Pennsylvania's largest teachers' union and a leading construction trade association join together on a shared priority. Dolores McCracken (submitted photo) But here's one area where we will always agree: Pennsylvania needs to build a pipeline between excellent public schools and the good paying jobs that... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Heat your home with gas? You'll pay for Gov. Wolf's severance tax**

Kristin Snow's recent opinion column calling for a severance tax reiterates misinformed and untrue talking points about the natural gas industry and its impact in Pennsylvania. Lawmakers are out of excuses: Pass the severance tax | Kirstin Snow Lawmakers are out of excuses: Pass the severance tax | Kirstin Snow... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Nursing homes sound alarm on Wolf budget**

Long-term care centers and their advocates are blasting Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed state budget for failing to meet the rising costs of senior care. - [Central Penn Business Journal](#)

### **Commissioners Comment on Proposed PA Budget**

During its regular meeting on Thursday, Feb. 8, the Bradford County Board of Commissioners were asked what their thoughts are on Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed \$33 billion budget for 2018, which he says would boost funding for education, increase the minimum wage, expand the fight against the opioid... - [Wyalusing Rocket-Courier](#)

### **Thaddeus Stevens College deserves a raise in state's new budget**

THE ISSUE One of Pennsylvania's most successful technology colleges isn't scheduled to get a funding boost next year, LNP reported Sunday. Under Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed budget, unveiled last week, state-owned Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology would remain at its current funding level of... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

## **February 14**

### **Sen. Leach hopes for single vote on revenue and spending package**

Sen. Daylin Leach (D-Montgomery) joined The PLS Reporter to talk about his bill that would integrate the revenue and spending package so there would only be one vote for the budget. - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

## **February 13**

### **Counties need the state to help fund our fight against opioid epidemic, gun violence, and child abuse**

Every year, the governor's February budget address is a "drumroll" moment for us. Our state's 67 counties stand ready to join forces with the Commonwealth to deliver vital programs. There are growing demands on services touching on everything from aging, crime, and drug and alcohol issues to 911 responses, mental health crises,... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Gov. Wolf's budget missed the chance to stand up for the environment**

During a year in which so much is at stake with our environment in Washington, D.C. and Harrisburg, Gov. Tom Wolf's 2018 budget address fell flat. Ezra Thursh (PennFuture photo) PennFuture applauds the governor for calling for an \$11 million increase for environmental protection and conservation, but it's a drop in the... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **York County districts would get \$3.6M boost under Wolf budget plan**

York County school districts would see a \$3.6 million boost in basic education funding under Gov. Tom Wolf's recently released budget proposal. Unveiled Feb. 6, the governor's 2018-19 state budget proposal includes a basic education increase of \$100 million compared with the 2016-17 budget,... - [York Dispatch](#)

### **Ortitay introduces bill to change budget process**

Rep. Jason Ortity, R-South Fayette Township, recently introduced legislation to improve oversight of the state budget process by separating the omnibus general appropriations bill into separate, more manageable pieces. "Currently, the spending for almost every state agency in all three... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)

### **Trib Tuesday take: The state police protection question**

One can just imagine the eye rolls in Hempfield, Unity and other locales without police departments when Gov. Wolf last week unveiled his proposed budget, which for the second year in a row calls for a \$25 per capita fee for those municipalities that rely on state police. Better for them to work... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

## **February 12**

### **Budget plan rankles GOP leaders**

HARRISBURG – Republican lawmakers' immediate reaction to Gov. Tom Wolf's \$33 billion budget plan was sticker shock at the price tag. But that's not their only beef with Wolf's proposal. Wolf's moves to hit local governments with a fee to cover the cost of state police coverage and to slash funding for agricultural research within... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)

### **Gov. Tom Wolf's budget would charge fee for towns without local police**

For the second year in a row, Gov. Tom Wolf's budget proposal includes a \$25 per capita fee to municipalities relying on free state police coverage. Residents in towns relying solely on state police coverage might have to pay \$25 per person for the currently free service under a funding measure... - [Levittown Intelligencer](#)

### **Pennsylvania releases proposed 2018-19 education budget**

Pennsylvania school districts last week received a preliminary look at next year's state funding allocations, which included increases in funds for nearly every area district. Thank you for Reading! Please log in, or sign up for a new account and purchase a subscription to... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)

## **February 11**

### **Tax hikes for college tuition? Erie-area lawmakers express doubt**

The proposal endorsed by Philadelphia-area state lawmakers probably has little chance of being passed into law. A recent proposal endorsed by several Philadelphia-area state lawmakers to increase taxes and use the money to offer free tuition at state universities and community colleges has grabbed the attention of educators... - [Erie Times-News](#)

### **Shale gas tax must be part of Pa. budget fix | Editorial**

What's new in Gov. Tom Wolf's budget proposal for 2018-19? Other than the Eagles cap adorning his head at Tuesday's budget presentation -- which drew bipartisan cheers -- not much. In fact, Wolf's primary budget-fixers are the same as last year: A severance tax on shale gas drilling, which Wolf projects would bring... - [Easton Express-Times](#)

### **Looming election just may inspire our state elected officials to cooperate, even on the thorny issue of the budget**

Gov. Tom Wolf delivered his budget address Tuesday, calling for \$100 million more for basic education funding in 2018-19, the same increase as last year. He also seeks more money for early childhood, special and higher education. As LNP reported, Lancaster County's public schools would... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

### **Editorial: Wolf budget proposal holds potential for compromises**

Thanks to a less aggressive wish list from the governor, more money coming into the state Treasury and an election-year incentive to avoid the staredowns of the past three years, Pennsylvania just might get an on-time state budget this year. Gov. Tom Wolf still wants three things the Republican-controlled... - [Reading Eagle](#)

### **Rotunda Ramblings - Episode 54: Gov. Tom Wolf's FY 2018-2019 budget address**

In this episode of the podcast, we replay Gov. Tom Wolf's FY 2018-2019 budget address and update on the latest budget and redistricting news. - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

### **Trib editorial: Battle lines drawn over gas severance tax**

Just as passionately as Gov. Tom Wolf pitched a severance tax on Pennsylvania's natural gas industry last week — he's proposed one four times — Republican lawmakers are equally passionate against it. That's not likely to change in this year's budget negotiations.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

### **Pennsylvania politics of stagnation**

Due largely to legislative intransigence, Gov. Tom Wolf's brief budget address Tuesday to the General Assembly dealt mostly with unfinished business. Wolf again proposed a long-overdue tax on natural gas extraction, this time projecting \$250 million in state revenue from a variable percentage tax... - [Scranton Times](#)

### **Charles Mitchell: Gov. Wolf's budget won't get Pa. on track**

In his fourth budget address Tuesday, Gov. Tom Wolf challenged lawmakers to write "a story about a brighter future we can build together." Nice rhetoric, but the truth is, the strides Pennsylvania has made in recent years have come despite Wolf's opposition, not because of his... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

### **Marc Stier: Gov. Wolf's budget emphasizes proper priorities**

Pennsylvania politics today is stuck. We have a pragmatic, problem-solving governor very reminiscent of past governors, both Democratic and Republican (except for Tom Corbett), and a number of Democrats and Republicans in the state Legislature who share that... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

### **Wolf's vanilla budget might be just the thing for this election year | Charlie Gerow**

It's an election year and the governor is on the ballot. There was no doubt that his annual budget address would reflect that political reality. It certainly did. Republican strategist Charlie Gerow (PennLive file) The governor's budget address, delivered earlier this week to a joint... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Thaddeus Stevens College asks for 11.7% funding increase as 2018 state budget debate starts**

Despite the increasingly fervent talk in the state Capitol about investing in career and technical education, one of Pennsylvania's most successful trade schools isn't scheduled to get a funding boost next year. At least not under a budget proposal Gov. Tom Wolf unveiled this week.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

### **Erie School District's anxiety eases though wait continues**

Wolf's budget proposal bolsters confidence in receipt of \$14 million in aid. The Erie School District's financial situation improved significantly with Tuesday's release of Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed 2018-19 budget, which increases state funding for the district by more than \$15 million.... - [Erie Times-News](#)

### **Politics of stagnation**

Due largely to legislative intransigence, Gov. Tom Wolf's brief budget address Tuesday to the General Assembly dealt mostly with unfinished business. Wolf again proposed a long-overdue tax on natural gas extraction, this time projecting \$250 million in state revenue from a variable percentage tax pegged to the... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

### **Lawmakers are out of excuses: Pass the severance tax | Kirstin Snow**

If brevity is the soul of wit, then Gov. Tom Wolf is Hamlet's Lord Polonius incarnate. Kirstin Snow (PennLive file) Last Tuesday in his fourth annual budget address, Governor Wolf outlined his vision for the Commonwealth's spending for fiscal year 2018-19. The speech lasted an historic 19 minutes, but it covered quite a bit of... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

**February 9**

### **Flat Medicaid rates threaten Berks Heim, commissioners told**

READING, Pa. - Flat Medicaid bed rates are threatening the existence of county-owned nursing homes like Berks Heim, according to Kelly Andrisano, executive director of the Pennsylvania Coalition of Affiliated Healthcare & Living Communities (PACAH). At Thursday's meeting of the Berks County commissioners, Andrisano said the... - [WFMZ](#)

### **Farm bureau concerned about some Gov. Wolf budget proposals**

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Rick Ebert said Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed budget provides a good starting point for discussions on key agricultural programs but also has some problem areas. Ebert, a Blairsville dairy farmer, noted that the new budget proposal... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

### **Wolf budget proposal emphasizes opioid treatment, prevention**

When it comes to the resources available to fight Pennsylvania's heroin use and opioid abuse epidemic, the reaction to Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed budget from Lackawanna County officials on the forefront of the battle can be summarized in four words. The more, the better.... - [Scranton Times](#)

### **Despite funding increases under Wolf, Pa. school districts still 'treading water'**

In announcing a budget plan that included more money for Pennsylvania schools, Gov. Tom Wolf this week trumpeted the growth in state education spending during his tenure. "The first thing I did when I got to Harrisburg was to draw a line in the sand on education," Wolf told lawmakers during Tuesday's budget... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

### **Despite funding increases under Wolf, Pa. school districts still 'treading water'**

In announcing a budget plan that included more money for Pennsylvania schools, Gov. Wolf this week trumpeted the growth in state education spending during his tenure. "The first thing I did when I got to Harrisburg was to draw a line in the sand on education," Wolf told lawmakers during Tuesday's budget... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

### **USDA declares war on spotted lanternfly, will spend \$17.5M**

The federal government said Wednesday it plans to spend millions of dollars on a massive offensive to fight a foreign invader already in Pennsylvania's midst. The invader: the inch-long, black-dotted, red-winged spotted lanternfly. Its target: the state's valuable agricultural commodities, including... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

## **February 8**

### **From our editorial board members: Reactions to Gov. Wolf's address**

Gov. Tom Wolf's address to a joint session of the General Assembly Tuesday drew mixed reactions from pundits statewide and from our own community members of the Westmoreland and Valley News Dispatch editorial boards. Here are their responses to the governor's remarks and his 2018 proposed budget:... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

### **Wolf not 'kicking the can'**

With Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf having delivered his fourth and final first-term budget proposal, attention shifts to the Legislature, which will alter significantly what the governor has put forth. Specifically, the state chief executive's attempt at getting \$1 billion... - [Altoona Mirror](#)

### **For Pa's sake, Wolf and GOP must cooperate on budget**

Gov. Wolf on Tuesday presented his proposed budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1. In his speech Wolf, a Democrat, pitched the Republican-controlled General Assembly on a nearly \$33 billion spending plan that includes more money for public education, a tax on natural gas drillers, and a boost in the... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

### **Price tag among concerns following Wolf's budget proposal**

Gov. Tom Wolf's \$33.2 billion spending proposal has one of the area's lawmakers in Harrisburg saying that the price tag is too high and pay too little attention to the needs of rural Pennsylvania. "The last few budget cycles have been extremely difficult, but... - [Towanda Daily Review](#)

### **Conditions favor Wolf's key initiative**

Gov. Tom Wolf began his annual budget address Tuesday by donning a Philadelphia Eagles cap to celebrate the team's first Super Bowl championship — something entirely new that drew warm applause from the General Assembly. He then turned to some more familiar themes that also should get a warmer... - [Scranton Times](#)

### **Local response to Wolf's budget mixed**

Gov. Tom Wolf on Tuesday proposed a 2018-19 budget with a \$1.2 billion increase in spending, a natural gas severance tax and increased funding for education. Among his proposals were an increase of \$225 million to public education, including \$50 million for career and technical education, and money for... - [Butler Eagle](#)

### **Local districts get nearly \$3.5 million more in proposed state budget**

Wilkes-Barre Area School District would again be the biggest local winner in Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed state education budget, nabbing \$1.2 million more in state money for basic and special education subsidies. Despite being the county's largest district by enrollment — and in... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

### **Harrisburg harmony? Election looming, pols seek peaceful budget process**

Harrisburg harmony? Election looming, pols seek peaceful budget process Politics often keeps Pennsylvania's budgets from being passed on time. This year, ironically, politics may be the reason the budget gets passed on time. With elections looming, Republicans and Democrats may have the... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

### **February 7**

#### **Proposed budget gives \$15 million boost to Erie schools**

The Erie School District is to get \$14 million in additional aid, which the state approved in 2017,

plus another \$1 million increase in its basic education subsidy. The wait for financial stability is just about over for the Erie School District. The district can start planning rather than hoping following Tuesday's... - [Erie Times-News](#)

### **NEPA school districts could see \$7.7 million increase in education funding**

School districts in Northeast Pennsylvania could see an additional \$7.7 million in basic education funding next year under the budget proposed by Gov. Tom Wolf on Tuesday. The new money, distributed through a funding formula that accounts for poverty and local tax effort, means the Scranton School District would... - [Scranton Times](#)

### **Pa. budget: Common ground seen in education funding boost**

Gov. Tom Wolf probably can't find enough support for two major budget proposals he has long sought and proposed again Tuesday — a state tax on natural gas extraction and a higher minimum wage, local state legislators said. They held out more hope for Wolf's price-based extraction tax than his... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

### **Erie-area lawmakers react to Wolf's budget address**

Reaction to Gov. Tom Wolf's 2018-19 state budget address Tuesday in Harrisburg from the Erie area's state legislators: Rep. Ryan Bizzarro, of Millcreek Township, D-3rd Dist.: "I'm pretty impressed by today's budget address, I think it hit home on a lot of areas many of us around Pennsylvania are looking to see improvements in.... - [Erie Times-News](#)

### **Masser optimistic for 2018-19 budget**

HARRISBURG — Rep. Kurt Masser said he's optimistic for the creation and passage of a budget both sides of the aisle can agree on following Gov. Tom Wolf's budget address to a joint session of the General Assembly Tuesday. Wolf's proposals increase spending by \$1 billion dollars, but Masser... - [Shamokin News-Item](#)

### **Hanna applauds governor for budget address**

LOCK HAVEN -Gov. Tom Wolf's his fourth budget address to a joint session of the General Assembly was clear and concise, State Rep. Mike Hanna, D-Lock Haven, said. Hanna said Wolf's plan prioritizes creating middle-class jobs that pay family-sustaining wages, builds on the past three state budgets by boosting... - [Lock Haven Express](#)

### **Wolf optimistic that his budget proposal will sail through the Legislature**

HARRISBURG — Gov. Tom Wolf unveiled an election-year budget Tuesday of nearly \$33 billion that would boost funding for public schools, hike the minimum wage, expand the fight against opioid addiction and slap a new tax on natural gas drillers. "We have finally begun to tame the fiscal beast that haunts Harrisburg,"... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

### **Causer, Scarnati have concerns over proposed state budget**

State Rep. Martin Causer and Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati have concerns over Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed budget unveiled Tuesday. The tentative spending plan proposes to increase spending to \$33 billion in the next fiscal year, an increase of \$1 billion.... - [Bradford Era](#)

### **Lancaster County schools receive \$3.4M boost in basic education funding under Wolf's proposed budget [graphic]**

Lancaster County schools would get \$3.4 million in additional basic education funding under Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed 2018-19 budget. The Democratic governor on Tuesday announced a \$100 million increase in basic education funding to \$6.1 billion as well as a \$20 million increase... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

### **Trib Editorial: New state budget features Wolf's 'greatest hits'**

Several months late, Gov. Tom Wolf and state lawmakers last fall sewed together a patchwork quilt of revenues, including \$1.5 billion in borrowing, to balance the \$32 billion spending plan passed by the Legislature back in June. On Tuesday, standing before a joint session of... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

### **Republican legislators pleased with parts of Wolf's budget, but have have gripes**

While local Republican legislators were satisfied with some parts of Gov. Tom Wolf's budget proposal on Tuesday, they still had plenty of criticism for his \$33 billion plan that includes more money for education and workforce development, a controversial severance tax on drilling and a... - [Beaver County Times](#)

### **Our view: Wolf's budget secures Erie schools money**

While the permanent recurrence of \$14 million in additional funding was provided for in state budget legislation passed last fall, it was welcome still to see it formally enshrined in Gov. Tom Wolf's 2018-19 budget proposal. The \$14 million is part of the proposal that Wolf unveiled Tuesday. That... - [Erie Times-News](#)

### **Schools win in Gov. Tom Wolf's budget proposal**

The governor's plan would boost spending for all Berks County school districts. He also proposes more money for colleges. - [Reading Eagle](#)

### **Job seekers, students benefit from Wolf plan**

Gov. Tom Wolf proposed 2018-19 state budget avoids hiking state income and sales taxes but spends about 3.1 percent more than the current fiscal year. Here are the winners and losers in the \$32.9 billion spending plan, that was announced Tuesday. WINNERS • Anyone who buys anything subject to the state sales tax and anyone who... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

### **Local Republican lawmakers take issue with governor's budget address**

Gov. Tom Wolf's budget proposal increases spending by \$1 billion and asks state lawmakers to pass a severance tax and a \$25-per-person state police fee for municipalities without police coverage. The Democratic governor ended the joint session Tuesday morning asking... - [Somerset Daily](#)

### **Area lawmakers remain cool to Wolf's proposed severance tax**

Local lawmakers aren't embracing Gov. Wolf's continued push to pass a severance tax on natural gas, but can get on board with more investments in education. Wolf, in his budget address

Tuesday, offered few details about his spending proposals for next year. He spent much of the brief speech calling for cooperation across party... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

### **Area's Harrisburg delegation reacts to Wolf's budget proposal**

WILKES-BARRE — Gov. Tom Wolf on Tuesday unveiled his election-year budget plan, renewing familiar battles with the Republican-controlled Legislature over imposing a tax on Marcellus Shale natural gas and increasing the minimum wage. One prominent Wyoming Valley Republican found some cause to be optimistic,... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

### **Local lawmakers have mixed reviews for proposals**

Here are comments from local legislators about Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed 2018-19 state budget: State Sen. Scott Hutchinson "My initial reaction is that I am pleased that the governor has trimmed his sails a little bit, but he is still asking for more taxes and that is... - [Oil City Derrick](#)

### **Gov. Tom Wolf again goes for a natural gas tax**

Harrisburg, PA — Gov. Tom Wolf proposed no tax increases on Pennsylvania families but he is once again asking state lawmakers to sign off on a tax on natural gas drilling. Wolf has proposed a budget of nearly \$33 billion, almost \$1 billion more than last year, an increase of about 3 percent. The governor... - [Reading Eagle](#)

### **Governor's budget proposal faces familiar GOP objections**

Gov. Tom Wolf's final budget proposal of his term Tuesday set the stage for familiar battles with the Republican-controlled Legislature over imposing an extraction tax on Marcellus Shale natural gas and increasing the minimum wage. But state Rep. Alex Charlton, R-165 of Springfield, said there also... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)

### **Wolf's Budget Proposal Seeks More Money for Basic Education, Flat Funding for Penn State**

Gov. Tom Wolf on Tuesday presented his 2018-19 budget proposal, a \$33 billion plan that includes no increase in income and sales taxes, boosts basic education funding and keeps appropriations level for Penn State. The fourth and final budget proposal of Wolf's first term is an increase of... - [State College News](#)

## **February 6**

### **#PaBudget 2018: With new budget, Wolf must champion the environment | Opinion**

While the ink is barely dry on Pennsylvania's contentious and long-delayed 2017-2018 budget, Harrisburg is gearing up to start the whole process over again. Gov. Tom Wolf is scheduled to outline his vision for 2018-2019 during his annual budget address on Tuesday.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Gov. Wolf's budget speech was a dry run for the 2018 campaign | Analysis**

You just knew he wouldn't be able to resist. Gov. Tom Wolf was just seconds into his fourth budget speech of his administration on Tuesday when he whipped out a kelly green

Philadelphia Eagles cap, plopped it on his head, and did some good, old-fashioned pandering.... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)

### **Pa. budget winner: Wolf proposes record-level spending on schools and preschools**

At a glance: Gov. Tom Wolf's 2018-19 budget unveiled on Tuesday pushes the state's investment in preschool-to-grade 12 education to a record level of more than \$9.3 billion - close to one third of the general fund budget. It includes a \$100 million increase in basic education (the bread and butter... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)

### **#PABudget 2018: Didn't we just do this? | Tuesday Morning Coffee**

Good Tuesday Morning, Fellow Seekers. It's the second Tuesday in February, which means, among other things, that the most diehard of Philadelphia Eagles fans are finally shaking off their hangovers and getting the feeling back in muscles that were just ripping... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)

### **Highlights of Gov. Tom Wolf's fourth state budget proposal**

Highlights of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's spending plan for the 2018-19 budget year that starts July 1:... - [AP](#)

### **Pa. budget winner: State employees would see raises, no layoffs**

At a glance: The governor's budget calls for a net decrease in the state employee complement of 200 positions. The elimination of those positions are expected to be handled through retirements. This takes the overall size of the state government workforce under the governor's jurisdiction to... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)

### **Pa. Gov. Wolf's budget wish list: more money for schools, more money from drillers**

Gov. Wolf on Tuesday unveiled a nearly \$33 billion budget that would boost funding for public schools, hike the minimum wage for workers, dole out more dollars to combat Pennsylvania's opioid addiction crisis – and slap a new tax on natural gas drillers in the state.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

### **Pa. budget winner: Wolf proposes more money to battle drug addiction**

At a glance: The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs would get \$46.5 million, a slight increase. What it means: The proposed budget would add to efforts to address the opioid addiction crisis, with the budget stating, "it is clear much more must be done." The proposals include \$2 million toward increasing the... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)

### **Pa. budget loser: Bump in environmental protection budget does little to stem legacy of cuts**

At a glance: The state Department of Environmental Protection, which enforces regulations concerning clean air and water, will receive a \$8.2 million bump in state funding in Gov. Tom Wolf's 2018-19 budget, bringing the total to \$157 million. Across all funds, including federal dollars, the... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)

## **Gov's budget - State universities see increase; Pitt and other state-relateds flat-funded again**

While the 14 state-owned universities would see a 3.3 percent or \$15 million boost in support under Gov. Tom Wolf's 2018-19 spending plan, the University of Pittsburgh and Penn State, Temple and Lincoln universities would see no increase. The four-state-related universities again are flat-funded in the governor's... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

## **Gov. Wolf's 2018-19 budget plan: Winners and losers**

Gov. Tom Wolf's fourth budget plan calls for more money for public schools, and fighting heroin and opioid addictions, while trying again to impose fees on some municipalities to help pay for state police coverage. Here's a look at the winners and losers in his proposed \$33 billion budget... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

## **Wolf renews battles on natural gas, minimum wage in budget**

Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf's election-year budget plan unveiled Tuesday will renew battles with the Republican-controlled Legislature over imposing a tax on Marcellus Shale natural gas and increasing the minimum wage... - [AP](#)

## **Gov. Wolf to present state budget proposal today**

Gov. Tom Wolf is scheduled to introduce his 2018-19 budget plan today that is expected to avoid broad-based tax increases while proposing more money for schools and funds to fight the opioid epidemic. Wolf, who is seeking reelection to a second term this year, is scheduled... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

## **Gov. Wolf wants to increase state spending by \$1B**

HARRISBURG — The forthcoming budget plan that Gov. Tom Wolf will present Tuesday will rely on improving tax collections and a Marcellus Shale natural gas tax to put more money into Pennsylvania's public schools, skills training, opioid-addiction prevention and social services... - [AP](#)

## **Wolf's Pa. budget: more money for schools, hike in minimum wage, new tax on gas drilling**

HARRISBURG — Gov. Tom Wolf on Tuesday unveiled a nearly \$33 billion budget that would boost funding for public schools, hike the minimum wage for workers, dole out more dollars to combat Pennsylvania's opioid addiction crisis - and slap a new tax on natural gas drillers in the state.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

## **#PaBudget 2018: Wolf must prioritize the readiness of our next generation | Opinion**

This Tuesday marks Gov. Tom Wolf's fourth state budget address. We will likely hear that by many measures, the economy is humming again. So Pennsylvanians can rest easy knowing that their future is bright, right? Maybe not. The 2017 Citizen Readiness Index, produced by the Council for a Strong... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Pa. budget winner: Harrisburg to continue getting \$5 million for fire protection**

At a glance: The proposed budget includes \$5 million the state has long paid to Harrisburg for fire protection in the Capitol city. What it means: The appropriation is intended to reimburse the city for providing fire and emergency services for the state's 40 tax-exempt... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Pa. budget winner: No major tax increases, but Wolf tries again for natural gas levy**

At a glance: In an election year budget, there's no hint of any plan to raise broad-based taxes -- income or sales tax -- for individuals or increase the tax burden on most businesses. Gov. Tom Wolf is taking another shot at a tax that has so far proven as elusive as reports of the Yeti in the remote Himalayas: a severance tax on... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Pa. budget toss-up: More spending, due largely to fixed costs, for criminal justice**

At a glance: Pennsylvania State Police would see a bump in state funding in Gov. Tom Wolf's 2018-19 budget, up \$8.8 million to \$260.5 million. The proposal once again includes a \$25 per capita fee for municipalities that rely solely on state police coverage, which would generate \$63 million and... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Lawmakers make budget priorities known in advance of governor's FY 2018-2019 budget address**

While budget address week is a time traditionally reserved for governors to set their budget priorities and legislative agenda for the year, lawmakers from both sides of the aisle in the House and Senate are making their budget and legislative priorities known in advance of the governor's... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

### **Republican leaders say governor's proposed spending increases are a non-starter**

Republican legislative leaders from the House and Senate responded to Gov. Tom Wolf's budget address Tuesday afternoon, saying the nearly \$1 billion spending increase over last year's enacted budget proposed by the governor is a non-starter in their respective chambers.... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

### **2018-19 state budget at a glance**

Today Gov. Tom Wolf has unveiled his fourth state budget. It is a massive, sprawling document which delineates his administration's spending priorities for the coming fiscal year. The following graphic shows how Gov. Wolf proposes allocating the state's general fund dollars, and the tax revenues which will pay for that... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Text of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's 2018 budget address**

Text of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's 2017 budget address, as prepared for delivery on Tuesday:... - [AP](#)

### **Ruling raises prospects for timely budgets**

Proving that hope springs eternal, Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf said he expects a relatively smooth budget process this year with the Republican majorities in both houses of the

Legislature. Since he, the entire House and half of the Senate are on the ballot this... - [Scranton Times](#)

### **Pa. budget toss-up: Flat funding proposed for the state Senate and House**

At a glance: Wolf has earmarked \$325.2 million for the operations of the 50-member state Senate and the 203-member House of Representatives. That is flat funding from the current year. What it means: Legislative funding can sometimes be a budget hostage, used... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)

### **Pa. Republicans are skittish on spending levels in Gov. Tom Wolf's budget proposal**

Republican leaders in the Pennsylvania Legislature weren't angry about Gov. Tom Wolf's \$33 billion budget proposal Tuesday. But they did have a few, immediate ideas about how to improve on it. Here's what the loyal opposition had to say Tuesday afternoon: 1) Cut the projected increase in spending.... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)

### **Democrats support Wolf's proposed spending increases in, and focus on, education**

Gov. Tom Wolf's fellow Democrats overwhelmingly supported the proposed budget that emphasized increased spending on education Tuesday during the budget address. Democrats consider the extra finances to be necessary. "We have to pay our bills and we have to continue to be responsible in... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

### **Pa. budget winner: More money for aid for those with intellectual disabilities, lyme disease**

At a glance: The Health and Human Services Department would get \$12.6 billion, an increase of about 2.4 percent under Gov. Tom Wolf's budget proposal. Closely-related programs, including services for the aging, would get small boosts or stay about the same. What it means: The big item is a proposed increase of about \$100 million... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)

### **Pa. budget loser: Higher education funding mostly stagnant in Wolf's budget**

At a glance: State funding for public colleges and universities would remain pretty much stagnant in Gov. Tom Wolf's 2018-19 budget that provides for \$1.8 billion for higher education, a \$19.5 million increase over this year. The only universities that would see any kind of meaningful increase are... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)

### **Gov. Wolf proposes \$33 billion budget that prioritizes education funding and workforce development**

Gov. Tom Wolf Tuesday gave his fourth budget address, the last of his current term, that proposes a spending plan ringing in at \$33 billion in expenditures and prioritizes education funding and workforce development initiatives while once again calling for a severance tax, agency... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

### **Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf seeks nearly \$33 billion in next year's budget**

After giving a congratulatory shout-out to the Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles, Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf unveiled a nearly \$33 billion budget this morning that looks like an

olive branch to Pennsylvania voters but could run into election-year trouble with conservative Republican... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

### **PA budget still needs addressed**

Pennsylvania Republican legislative leaders and state Budget Secretary Randy Albright said in December that the commonwealth's deficit problems were resolved with the passage in October of the Fiscal Year 2017-18 revenue package. They said that long-drawn-out preparation exercise, completed nearly four... - [Altoona Mirror](#)

### **Ruling raises prospects for timely budgets**

Proving that hope springs eternal, Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf said he expects a relatively smooth budget process this year with the Republican majorities in both houses of the Legislature. Since he, the entire House and half of the Senate are on the ballot this... - [Scranton Times](#)

### **February 5**

#### **#PABudget 2018 Wolf should pursue pro-growth policies in his new plan | Gene Barr**

With Gov. Tom Wolf set to deliver his fourth budget address on Tuesday, all eyes are on the direction the Wolf administration wants to take the Commonwealth over the next fiscal year. Gene Barr (PennLive File) We at the Pennsylvania Chamber are looking for a proposal that will build... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)

#### **#PaBudget 2018: Here's how to turn Pa. into a land of opportunity for all | Charles Mitchell**

Gov. Tom Wolf has a chance to get this right. Under Wolf's watch, out-of-control spending and unbalanced budgets led to deficits, tax increases, borrowing, and costly stalemates with lawmakers--ultimately leaving Pennsylvania fiscally adrift. Families, small business owners, and job seekers deserve better. They... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)

#### **DEP proposes to double drilling fees to pay for Pa.'s oil and gas regulators**

The price of a permit to drill a shale gas well in Pennsylvania will more than double under a proposal that state environmental regulators plan to present to an industry advisory board next week. The increase — from \$5,000 to \$12,500 per well — is necessary to... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

#### **#PaBudget 2018: Wolf has a chance to map a new future for Pa. | Marc Stier**

To explain what I would like to see Gov. Tom Wolf propose on Tuesday in his budget address, I have to first say what I'd like Pennsylvania's government to look like. Governor Wolf is a pragmatic, problem solving governor, not unlike Governors Rendell, Ridge, Casey and Thornburgh. Ideologically, he's... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)

#### **#PaBudget 2018: Pa. must make a commitment to public higher education | Kenneth M. Mash**

On Tuesday, Gov. Tom Wolf will unveil his plan for the 2018-19 Pennsylvania budget, and we

remain hopeful that he continues his support for the more than 100,000 students our faculty and coaches serve at the Commonwealth's 14 state-owned universities. Last year, the governor proposed and the general assembly supported a 2... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **Erie School District awaits additional funding**

Release of \$14 million expected this week; school officials also to review Wolf's proposed budget for 2018-19. This week, when Gov. Tom Wolf releases his proposed budget for 2018-19, the Erie School District will use the blueprint to help develop its financial... - [Erie Times-News](#)

### **#PaBudget 2018: Wolf should prioritize improving performance over spending | Lisa Baker**

Given the disruptive and unsettling budget crises of the past three years, and the still uncertain return of the revenue measures put in place, principles of fiscal responsibility seem to dictate a conservative approach to state spending. However, 2018 is an election year.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **#PaBudget 2018: Get ready for an election-year spending plan | Terry Madonna and Michael L. Young**

By Terry Madonna and Michael L. Young What will Gov. Tom Wolf propose in his 2018/2019-budget address to the state legislature on Tuesday? Budgets are essentially policies with the price tag attached. Accordingly, one might expect the governor to propose a budget focused on Pennsylvania's... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **#PaBudget 2018: It's time for Pa. to put families first | Vincent Hughes**

The focus of the 2018-19 state budget must be on meeting the needs of Pennsylvania families. From investing in education, workforce development and job training, to fighting opioid addiction we have the opportunity to take action on key initiatives. State Sen. Vincent Hughes, D-Philadelphia (Pa. Senate photo)... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **#PaBudget 2018: Gov. Wolf should look to Gov. Rendell's 2006 budget address for inspiration | David La Torre**

Everything is on the line for Gov. Tom Wolf in his 2018 budget address. After all, he's up for re-election. That means every single word of his speech will be painfully examined and re-examined by his team of political spin doctors. And then they'll examine it again.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **As he seeks second term, Wolf wants more education money in new budget**

Three months before voters go to the primary polls, Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf will make an early re-election bid when he delivers his fourth budget speech on Tuesday before a Legislature wracked by pending retirements, internal strife and a lawsuit. But Wolf appears ready to ignore the internal Capitol conflicts. His budget... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

### **Wolf to call for \$185 million increase in school spending**

HARRISBURG — Gov. Tom Wolf plans to call on the Legislature to boost school funding by \$185

million next year, including \$120 million in increased spending on K-12 schools. "I have made it my mission to restore the cuts made to public education before I became governor and now we can further support our kids and our... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)

### **Wolf aims for smooth landing for budget**

HARRISBURG — Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf will roll out his fourth and final first-term budget proposal, an election-year plan expected to be relatively restrained after three years dominated by drawn-out partisan fights with the Republican-controlled Legislature over how to plug gaping... - [AP](#)

### **February 4**

#### **Wolf to reaffirm commitment to education, skills training in new budget**

In his budget proposal this week, Gov. Tom Wolf will reaffirm his commitment to increasing funding for public education at all levels. Since the governor took office, Pennsylvania has made sustained investments in education, including restoring the cuts made under the previous... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

#### **'This should be a relatively easy budget,' Gov. Wolf says ahead of his annual budget address to lawmakers | John L. Micek**

front. One: This year is an election year. Two: Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf is running for re-election. And, three: on Tuesday, the York County pol will roll out his fourth state - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

### **February 2**

#### **Looking ahead at Gov. Tom Wolf's state budget**

The governor introduces his new spending plan Tuesday. Berks County lawmakers hope property tax reform is a key component. - [Reading Eagle](#)

#### **Rotunda Ramblings - Episode 53: Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children**

The Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children's CEO, Joan Benso, sits down with the podcast to talk about a report they recently issued related to pre-K funding, especially as it relates to the state budget. Categories: Rotunda Ramblings Tags: Podcast - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

### **February 1**

#### **Pennsbury begins budgeting process for 2018-19 with \$5.8 million funding gap**

PENNSBURY >> Faced with a \$5.8 million budget deficit for 2018-19, the Pennsbury School Board and Administration between now and June will be considering ways to reduce expenditures and boost revenues. On January 18, the board took its first step in its annual budgeting... - [Bucks Local News](#)

#### **Common Sense Caucus lays out budget priorities in advance of governor's budget address**

The Common Sense Caucus—a self-entitled voting bloc within the House Republican Caucus prioritizing lower state spending, regulatory and welfare reform, and economic growth—sought

to get ahead of Gov. Tom Wolf's upcoming budget address by laying out their budget priorities and concerns... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

### **Farm Show transaction, gaming expansion money leads state revenue to exceed expectations**

The Department of Revenue and the Independent Fiscal Office released information Thursday on how state revenue collections matched up with expectations, and both reported that January revenue numbers exceeded expectations. The IFO has slightly rosier numbers to report, stating that General Fund... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

#### **January 30**

##### **Turzai makes pitch here**

Mike Turzai, speaker of the Pennsylvania House and a Republican candidate for governor, made a campaign swing Monday through an area he believes is "an incredible place to live." "Western Pennsylvania - who wouldn't want to live here?" he asked during a brief stop in Oil City between visits in Indiana County and McKean County.... - [Oil City Derrick](#)

#### **January 26**

##### **Senator Gene Yaw talks 2018**

State Senator Gene Yaw, R-23, continues to battle the state's opioid crisis heading into 2018. When talking about what is atop his agenda for the upcoming legislative session, Yaw remarked that the opioid issue continues to remain up there. "I think it should be the top of anybody's list," he remarked... - [Towanda Daily Review](#)

### **In debate, four GOP gubernatorial candidates push for less government, differ on reforms**

Answering rapid fire questions on property taxes, gerrymandering and marijuana, the four Republicans vying to challenge sitting Democratic Governor Tom Wolf mostly held back from swiping directly at each other Saturday night. Held on Carnegie Mellon University's campus in Pittsburgh, the debate... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

### **PA House, Wolf administration seek to clear the air on agencies' special funds**

The House Appropriations Committee this week continued its slate of hearings with Wolf administration agency heads to delve deeper into what special funds various agencies have, how much is in the funds, what the funds are used for, and whether the special funds in question can be... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)

#### **January 19**

##### **Lawmakers hear state tax proposals**

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania lawmakers should consider expanding the base of some state taxes and lowering tax rates in order to address long-standing fiscal issues, several economists told members of a House panel Thursday. That could include making more items subject to the state sales tax and... - [Altoona Mirror](#)

#### **January 17**

### **All aboard plan to spruce up SEPTA's trolley lines**

SEPTA's trolleys haven't been replaced since the 1980s when Ronald Regan was president, yet they are wildly popular with their 100,000 riders who squeeze into them every day. Thankfully, the transit agency wants to replace them with bigger cars which can handle roughly twice as many... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

### **January 16**

#### **Legislators outline goals for new year**

Local legislators look forward to passing bills in the new year, and saying goodbye to the budget woes of 2017. Both Rep. Dan Moul (R-91) and Sen. Rich Alloway II (R-33) were unhappy with the decision to borrow money against future revenue in order to patch the... - [Gettysburg Times](#)

### **January 14**

#### **Lowman Henry: Pa. budget follies set to resume**

The last time a Pennsylvania governor signed a full, complete state budget into law was July 10, 2014. Gov. Tom Corbett signed off on that state fiscal plan just days after it was approved by the Legislature, completing a four-year run of on-time state budgets.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

### **January 12**

#### **Lawmakers react to governor's opioid state of emergency**

Local lawmakers said Gov. Tom Wolf's decision to declare a state of emergency in Pennsylvania over the opioid epidemic was a good one, but some say he needs to do more. "I'm happy the governor, like the president, recognizes the epidemic as an emergency in our state, but this declaration is only a... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)

### **January 7**

#### **Full of optimism, Gov. Wolf prepares for re-election**

Just in time for his re-election campaign, Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf is perhaps the most optimistic person in Pennsylvania... - [AP](#)

### **January 5**

#### **Opioid crisis, redistricting on state lawmakers' 2018 agenda**

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — There are plenty of reasons to be skeptical that the Pennsylvania Legislature will accomplish much in 2018 — it's an election year and a yawning partisan gap has divided the Republican priorities of the General Assembly and the Democratic agenda of Gov. Tom... - [AP](#)