



2019 – 2020 COMMONWEALTH BUDGET

These links may expire:

February 15

[Cranberry looks at police tax](#)

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

February 14

[Base the funding of Pa. school safety on financial need, not political power | Opinion](#)

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

[Job-training grants a second chance for many in Berks](#)

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

[Supervisors oppose proposal to fund state police](#)

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

February 13

[State police fee overdue](#)

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

[County proceeding with election system purchase](#)

Candidates for all offices in the upcoming May 21 Primary election will be able to pick up

t... Now that the Lawrence County Board of Elections is done shopping for the right paper ballot voting system, the commissioners are ready to buy it. The commissioners at their regular meeting Tuesday agreed to purchase a new... - [New Castle News](#)

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

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

February 12

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

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

Bucks County gets \$900K in state education grants

The Bucks County Intermediate Unit, a supporting agency for private and public schools in the county, will get more than \$900,000 for high-tech equipment and curriculum development. Local students could have access to a high-tech lab for robotics, coding and other projects as part of more than \$900,000 in state grants awarded to... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)

Statewide listening tour begins

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

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

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

CM students bring senior project to county commissioners

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

Police costs 'a budget breaker' for local municipalities

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

County action expected on communication matters

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

Election board seeking candidates

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

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

A former inmate who alleged excessive strip searches at Lancaster County Prison has settled a lawsuit for \$30,000, according to court documents. Rebecca Brown, of Holtwood, alleged in a federal lawsuit that she was subjected to four strip searches during a three-day incarceration at the... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

February 11

Paper ballots are the future of election security, report says

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

Bedford County commissioner grateful for community

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

County council to vote on vacant seat, weather permitting

WILKES-BARRE — The open seat on Luzerne County council will be filled Tuesday. Probably. County council members last month interviewed 12 people, all Democrats, who applied to fill the seat left open when Edward Brominski resigned as of Jan. 3.

Since Brominski is a Democrat, his replacement must also be a... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

Second phase of county courthouse renovation project to start soon

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

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

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

Youth mental health first aid training offered in Fayette County

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

County picks mapping firm for redistricting

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

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

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

Howe Twp. gets \$1 million sewer grant

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

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

• EDITOR'S NOTE: In the last several years, the Gazette has taken an in-depth look at the opioid crisis facing Indiana County. This is the first in a three-part series of stories that engender hope,

profiling individuals who are reclaiming their lives as they battle the disease of addiction.... - [Indiana Gazette](#)

Clarion County Veterans Affairs boss wears 'many hats'

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

February 10

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

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

Make sure voting machines are secure

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

Grants will help combat homelessness in county

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

Pennsylvania turns over a new leaf with medical marijuana

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

How much do I pay for police coverage?

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

February 8

State budget numbers out, time now for analysis

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

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

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

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

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

February 7

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

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

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

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

Our view: Work together for good of Pennsylvania

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

Economics professors pan minimum wage hike proposal

HARRISBURG — One day after Gov. Tom Wolf unveiled a budget plan that calls for hiking the state's minimum wage to \$12 an hour, two economics professors told the House Labor and

Industry Committee on Wednesday the move could hurt some of the low-wage workers it is supposed to help.... - [Meadville Tribune](#)

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MS4 deadlines ahead, with big pricetag

Yet another unfunded mandate — this one from the federal Environmental Protection Agency — continues to stump municipal and county officials in terms of solutions. Both South Williamsport and DuBoistown received their renewed Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, known as MS4, permits and have had their... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

Area legislators react to budget

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

Republican Leadership Finds Common Ground in Wolf's Budget Proposal

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

February 6

Republican reactions to Wolf's budget proposal run the gamut

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

Tom Wolf the pragmatist: Governor kicks off second term with a budget that forsakes

bold policy strokes for doing things better

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

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

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

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

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

Wolf hits right notes

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

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

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

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

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

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

vu.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Highlights of Gov. Tom Wolf's state budget proposal

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

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

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

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

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

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

HARRISBURG — Gov. Tom Wolf proposed a state budget Tuesday that would boost minimum teacher pay, hike the minimum wage for all workers by \$4.75 an hour, and create a new

Educate and Stay in PA incentive program for community college graduates. The governor's plan comes with a price tag of \$34 billion, but would... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)

Governor's budget plan in line with local focus

SHARON — In his budget address Tuesday, Gov. Tom Wolf focused on workforce development in Pennsylvania. Business leaders in Mercer County already have that same focus.

The Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce announced workforce development as its theme for 2019 last week at its annual forecast breakfast.... - [Sharon Herald](#)

Lawrence appointed to House Appropriations Committee

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

Wolf stresses education

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

[Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

Gas severance tax must solve problem to be worth fallout

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

[Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

Local reps react to Wolf's budget proposal

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

[Morning](#)

Officials say state ed. funding falls short

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

Region's lawmakers caution against Wolf's increased spending

The region's state lawmakers are optimistic about the 2019-20 state budget after Gov. Tom

Wolf unveiled his proposal Tuesday, but all cautioned that higher spending is not the best way to serve Pennsylvania residents. In the budget, Wolf proposed a severance tax on natural gas extraction,... - [Bradford Era](#)

Local lawmakers react to Gov. Wolf's budget address

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

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

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

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

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

February 5

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

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf will pitch the first budget proposal of his second term to

lawmakers Tuesday, and the Democrat can be expected to seek more money for education in a plan expected to exceed \$33 billion... - *AP*

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

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

Gov. Tom Wolf's budget at a glance

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

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

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

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

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

Text of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's 2019 budget address

Text of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's 2019 budget address, as prepared for delivery on Tuesday:... - *AP*

February 4

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

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

Child care advocates ask for bigger cut of state budget

Just as the squeaky wheel gets the grease, issues with advocates get funding. It is budget season

in Harrisburg and while lawmakers set spending priorities, advocates for many causes are squeaking for more money. Start Strong PA, as a coalition of early childhood advocacy groups is... - [Reading Eagle](#)

Lawmakers hope governor's budget brings little drama

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

February 3

Gov. Tom Wolf taking his fifth swing at the budgetary fences

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

Make equitable school funding a priority (letter)

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

February 1

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

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

January 30

Budget address should bring some answers

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