



PAACC FEDERAL UPDATE

JANUARY 15, 2019

Major Washington News

Members Sworn into Congress

Members of the 116th Congress (2019-2020) were sworn in on January 3, 2019. The 116th Congress is the most diverse ever, with 127 women, 55 African-Americans, 45 Hispanics, 17 Asian-Americans, and 10 LGBT members. In addition to the incumbents who won re-election, Pennsylvania saw eight new members take office, including four women:

District 4 – Democrat State Representative Madeleine Dean won the seat over Republican Dan David. Dean's priorities include affordable health care for all; universal pre-k, affordable college and trade school, interest free student loans; women's issues/reproductive rights; gun safety legislation to end gun violence; immigration; and the opioid epidemic. In the state House, Dean was a strong advocate for clean drinking water and gun safety.

District 5 – Mary Gay Scanlon, a Democrat, defeated Republican opponent Pearl Kim. Scanlon is an attorney who ran on issues including education, voting rights, immigration, reducing gun violence, gender equality, criminal justice reform, healthcare, LGBTQ rights, environment, net neutrality, and reducing poverty. Scanlon will be the first woman to represent Delaware County in Congress.

District 6 – Democrat Chrissy Houlahan, a nonprofit director, won the seat over Republican opponent Greg McCauley. She is the Founding COO of B Lab, a nonprofit that serves a global movement of people using business as a force for good. Houlahan ran on issues including health care, education, jobs/living wage, campaign finance reform, environment, veterans, and women's health.

District 7 – Susan Wild, a Democrat, defeated Republican Marty Nothstein. Wild has served as the solicitor for the City of Allentown. Her top issues are jobs/economy, Medicare/Social Security, universal health care, opioid epidemic, LGBTQ issues, environment, criminal justice reform, campaign finance reform, immigrants/refugees, women's issues/reproductive rights, education, and supporting veterans.

District 9 – Republican Dan Meuser defeated Democrat Denny Wolff. Meuser previously served as the PA Secretary of Revenue under Gov. Tom Corbett. His top issues include: embracing American First business plans; making the federal tax cuts permanent; replacing Obamacare with a more affordable health care program; reforming immigration laws and securing the border; supporting the military; and draining the swamp.

District 13 – Dr. John Joyce, a Republican, won the seat over Democrat Brent Ottoway. Joyce is a dermatologist. Joyce's priority issues are social security and medicare, health care, immigration, military and veterans, transportation, and jobs.

District 14 – Republican State Senator Guy Reschenthaler defeated Democrat Bibiana Boerio. Reschenthaler's priorities are national security, jobs and economy, immigration, and tax cuts. In the state senate, Reschenthaler introduced legislation regarding student mental health screenings, crime victims' rights, and the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program.

District 17 – Democrat Conor Lamb won a special election in March to complete the term in the previous 18th district. After redistricting, Lamb defeated another Congressional incumbent, Republican Rep. Keith Rothfus, for his first full term in Congress. Lamb ran on a platform of creating good jobs and investing in infrastructure; protecting Social Security and Medicare; making healthcare more affordable for all Americans; taking comprehensive action to fight the heroin crisis; and reforming the student loan system.

[Appropriations/Government Shutdown Update](#)

Congress failed to pass the remaining bills (Agriculture; Commerce, Justice, Science; Financial Services & General Government; Homeland Security; Interior, Environment; State, Foreign Operations; and Transportation, HUD) or another Continuing Resolution (CR) by December 21, causing the federal government to shut down. This shutdown affects about 25% of the government since the largest spending bills were passed earlier this fall. President Trump is insisting on funding for a border wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and cannot reach a deal with Democrats in Congress to pass the remaining bills. The shutdown was on day 25 as of January 15. President Trump invited nine moderate Democrats to the White House on Tuesday, January 15 to discuss ending the shutdown and funding the border wall, but they all declined the invitation. [Recent polls](#) have shown that a majority of Americans blame President Trump for the shutdown, but he refuses to compromise on his position. While the House has passed two bills that would reopen the government, the Senate has refused to consider them. One bill would fund the Department of Homeland Security through Feb. 8, while the other would fund the rest of the impacted departments and agencies through Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year. Sen. McConnell says that he will not bring legislation to the floor unless there is an agreement between President Trump and Congress.

[2020 Census Ruling](#)

On Tuesday, January 15, a federal judge in Manhattan ruled that the Trump administration's decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census was unlawful.

In his ruling, Judge Jesse Furman, of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, said Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross's decision to add the question to the census was "arbitrary and capricious." The Justice Department says it is disappointed and is still reviewing the ruling.

Campaign Finance & Ethics Bill First Introduction in New Congress

As part of their new agenda, Democrats introduced a campaign finance and ethics bill as the first bill in the new Congress. H.R. 1, introduced by Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD). One of the key components of the bill is a provision requiring the president and vice president to disclose their finances and tax forms going back 10 years. It also includes many provisions grouped into three main themes: limiting the influence of money in politics, making it easier to vote, and adopting tougher ethics rules for Washington policymakers. The House plans to move the legislation quickly, although it stands little chance in the Senate.

Business & Industry

Minimum Wage Bill

House Democrats plan to introduce a minimum wage bill on Wednesday, January 16. The bill would gradually raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2024 and then be indexed to match the changes to the median wage starting in 2025. The bill would also gradually eliminate provisions allowing tipped workers to be paid less than the minimum wage.

Congressional Schedule

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 House & Senate in Session/ Swearing In	4 House in Session	5
6	7	8 House & Senate in Session	9 House & Senate in Session	10 House & Senate in Session	11 House & Senate in Session	12
13	14 House & Senate in Session	15 House & Senate in Session	16 House & Senate in Session	17 House & Senate in Session	18	19
20	21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 House & Senate in Session	29 House & Senate in Session	30 House & Senate in Session	31 Senate in Session		

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Senate in Session	2
3	4 Senate in Session	5 House & Senate in Session	6 House & Senate in Session	7 House & Senate in Session	8 House & Senate in Session	9
10	11 House & Senate in Session	12 House & Senate in Session	13 House & Senate in Session	14 House & Senate in Session	15 Senate in Session	16
17	18 Presidents Day	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 House & Senate in Session	26 House & Senate in Session	27 House & Senate in Session	28 House & Senate in Session		