



PAACC Pennsylvania Update

February 1, 2019

PAACC State Capitol Snap Shot

Governor Wolf will give his budget address on Tuesday, February 5. In preparation, his administration has begun to announce some of the programs the Governor will include in his budget proposal. He announced that he will seek to increase Pennsylvania's minimum wage to \$12 an hour effective July 1, 2019. He has also announced that he is proposing a natural gas severance tax again, this time with the funds being used to restore infrastructure. These proposals will be outlined in more detail below.

On Tuesday, January 29, Senator Don White (R-41) announced his retirement from the PA Senate effective February 28. Senator White has represented Armstrong and Indiana Counties and parts of Butler and Westmoreland Counties since 2000.

The House and Senate have both announced standing committee assignments for the 2019-2020 session. A full list can be found here: [Senate](#) and [House](#).

Candidates for PA-37 Senate District Chosen

On Sunday, January 27, 2019, the Democrat and Republican parties met to choose their respective nominees for the 37th Pennsylvania Senate district special election. Former Senator Guy Reschenthaler resigned the seat at the end of 2018 to be sworn into Congress. Lieutenant Governor Stack subsequently scheduled the special election for April 2, 2019. The Democrats nominated Pam Iovino while Republicans nominated D. Raja. [Iovino](#) served in the U.S. Navy for 23 years, served as a Senate-confirmed Presidential appointment as Assistant Secretary at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and most recently she served as the Director of Veterans Services for Allegheny County. [Raja](#) is an entrepreneur who started CEI, a technology company, that now employs over 500 in the Greater Pittsburgh region and across the nation. He has served as the Chairman of the Republican Committee of Allegheny County.

Infrastructure

On January 31, Governor Wolf announced a new infrastructure initiative called Restore Pennsylvania. His plan calls to invest \$4.5 billion in the program over the next four years through a natural gas severance tax. The plan will focus on the following:

High Speed Internet Access - Grants will be available to support installation of infrastructure to bring high speed internet to every corner of the commonwealth. Funding will support every phase of the process from feasibility testing to connection.

Storm Preparedness and Disaster Recovery

- Critical Flood Control Infrastructure - Restore Pennsylvania will provide funding to help towns and cities prepare for flooding and severe weather, upgrade flood walls and levees, replace high-hazard dams, and conduct stream restoration and maintenance.
- Helping Families Rebuild - Restore Pennsylvania will establish a disaster relief trust fund to assist individuals who suffer losses that are not compensated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency or other programs.
- Stormwater Infrastructure
Restore Pennsylvania will provide grants to municipalities moving forward with Pollutant Reduction Plans to help them implement creative solutions to comply with their stormwater mandates and transform their communities. Additional state funding will reduce the need for new stormwater fees, which have proven unpopular where they have been proposed. Additional incentives will be provided for communities that are working collaboratively with their neighbors to tackle the problem in the most efficient manner possible.

Downstream Manufacturing, Business Development, and Energy Infrastructure

- Downstream Manufacturing: Pad Development, Business Development, Site Selection, and Energy Efficiency - Restore Pennsylvania will provide funding for infrastructure that helps build manufacturing facilities and other downstream businesses for the natural gas produced in Pennsylvania.
- Getting Natural Gas to Businesses
Restore Pennsylvania will provide increased spending flexibility to ensure that more communities and businesses across the state have access to low-cost, clean-burning natural gas. Restore Pennsylvania will also provide grants to help downstream businesses install combined heat and power and micro-grid systems at existing or new facilities.

Demolition, Revitalization, and Renewal

- Blight Demolition and Redevelopment - Restore Pennsylvania will increase resources for addressing blight by providing financial resources at the local level to establish land banks and acquire and demolish blighted buildings in order to create new development opportunities or provide new green space. The funding will be administered by entities established by the legislature as land banks or demolition funds.
- Brownfield Clean-Up - Restore Pennsylvania will provide funding to ensure the continuation of Pennsylvania's Brownfields program, ensuring that more sites can be returned to use for recreation, or returned to the tax rolls as commercial, residential, or industrial sites.

- Contaminant Remediation - Restore Pennsylvania will fund expanded efforts to remove lead and other contaminants from communities.
- Green Infrastructure - Restore Pennsylvania will provide new funding to enable new environmental projects and new recreational opportunities across the state, including infrastructure and maintenance in state parks, creation and revitalization of new local parks, and funding for new hiking, biking, and ATV trail projects.

Transportation Capital Projects

Restore Pennsylvania will provide funding for local road upgrades, create new flexible funding options for businesses that need local infrastructure upgrades to enable development projects, and multimodal and large-scale capital projects for transit.

- PA Back Roads - Restore Pennsylvania will accelerate progress of projects to resurface, repave and repair four-digit roads and provide technical assistance and funding for dirt and gravel roads throughout the state.
- Business OnRamp - Restore Pennsylvania will create a flexible funding tool to enable capacity upgrades needed to support development where Transportation Infrastructure Investment Funds are not available.
- Public Transit System Projects - Restore Pennsylvania will support new capital projects at public transit capital projects throughout the state.

Minimum Wage

Governor Wolf proposed an increase to Pennsylvania's minimum wage. The governor's proposal raises the wage to \$12 an hour on July 1, 2019 with gradual 50 cent increases until reaching \$15 an hour in 2025. Last year the governor put a similar plan into action for state workers. In June, he signed an executive order raising the minimum wage for employers under his jurisdiction to \$12 an hour on July 1, 2018. The wage will gradually rise to \$15 an hour in 2025. Pennsylvania's minimum wage has been \$7.25 an hour since 2009.

Recreational Marijuana

With Governor Wolf's support, Lt. Governor John Fetterman announced that he will be launching a statewide listening tour to hear from Pennsylvanians about the possibility of legalizing recreational marijuana. Starting in mid-February, Fetterman will be traveling to all 67 counties to listen to everyone's thoughts whether they agree with this initiative or have recommendations. For those who may not be able to attend a listening session or are simply interested in providing feedback about legalizing recreational marijuana, the lieutenant governor's office will be establishing a webpage form to be available when the listening tours begin.

DCED Act 13 Grant Program Opens

The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development will begin accepting applications on February 1st for Act 13 grants through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA). The funding is paid for by natural gas drillers and allotted to the state's Marcellus Legacy Fund.

Eligible projects can fall into the following application categories administered by the CFA: Abandoned Mine Drainage Abatement and Treatment (AMDAT); Baseline Water Quality Data (BQWD); Greenways, Trails and Recreation (GTRP); Orphan or Abandoned Well Plugging (OAWP); Watershed Restoration and Protection (WRP); Flood Mitigation and the Sewage Facilities Program (SFP).

Applications will be accepted between February 1 and May 31, 2019. Click [here](#) for more information.

Session Calendar

2019 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

January	1, 15, 16, 28, 29, 30
February	4, 5, 6
March	18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27
April	8, 9, 10, 29, 30
May	1, 6, 7, 8
June	3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

2019 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

January	1, 15, 16, 28, 29, 30
February	4, 5, 6, 19, 20, 21
March	11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27
April	8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 29, 30
May	1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23 (Cancelled)
June	3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28