

Looking Ahead to the 2022-23 State Budget

This Tuesday, Feb. 8, Gov. Tom Wolf will deliver his final state budget address before a joint session of the General Assembly. The address will begin at 11:30 a.m. and will be streamed live at PAHouseGOP.com. While the governor routinely presents an ambitious spending plan, I am committed to funding the core functions of government while respecting the taxpayers who must foot the bill. The budget address marks the start of the annual state budget process. Beginning Feb. 15, the House and Senate Appropriations committees will hold four weeks of budget hearings with state departments, agencies and other stakeholders. A final budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year is due by June 30.



Mail-in Ballots Deemed Unconstitutional



In this week's edition of Frankly Speaking with Frank Ryan, we discuss the recent Commonwealth Court ruling on Act 77-2019, which struck down mail-in voting in Pennsylvania. To learn what this could mean for voters in Pennsylvania, [listen here](#).

Wolf Vetoes Second Amendment Protection Bill

Gov. Tom Wolf has vetoed a bill that I co-sponsored, which would have helped combat illegal local gun ordinances and regulations. State law already prohibits municipalities across the Commonwealth from enacting their own gun laws, but some have chosen to do so anyway. [House Bill 979](#) would have deterred implementation of illegal ordinances by holding offending jurisdictions financially responsible for attorney fees and costs, as well as lost income, for a person who successfully challenges such an ordinance. With more than 2,500 municipalities across the state, it's important to ensure uniformity in our gun laws. I will continue fighting for this important protection of our constitutional rights.



House OKs Bill to Block Municipalities from Banning Natural Gas

The House recently approved legislation that I co-sponsored, which would prevent municipalities from enacting ordinances to prohibit the use of natural gas as a utility. [House Bill 1947](#) would prohibit municipalities from adopting a policy that effectively restricts or prohibits the connection or reconnection of a utility service based on the type of energy to be delivered to a customer in its municipality. It also would prohibit discrimination against a utility service provider based in whole or in part on the nature of the source of the utility service provided to the consumer. The bill is in response to actions taken in some major U.S. cities to ban or curb the use of fossil fuels in new homes and buildings. The bill is now pending action in the Senate.



Nurses: Apply Now for Student Loan Relief

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) is accepting applications for the Student Loan Relief for Nurses program. Application deadline is March 1. Eligible applicants must be licensed through the PA Department of State, including Registered Nurses (RNs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs); have worked in-person at a qualifying nursing facility; and have begun employment prior to Dec. 31, 2021. Applicants must also be certified by their employers. Details about the program and how to apply [are available here](#).



DEP Announces Local Watershed Grants



The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced \$4.7 million in Growing Greener watershed restoration and protection grants for southcentral Pennsylvania including two here in Lebanon County. They are:

- South Londonderry Township will receive \$260,000 for Killinger Creek stream stabilization and riparian forest buffer.
- North Cornwall Township, Cleona Borough will receive \$110,500 for Quittapahilla Creek floodplain restoration.

The grants are distributed to non-profit organizations, watershed groups and county and municipal governments to address local and regional water quality

issues. Grantees have up to three years to implement their projects. For more information on Growing Greener go to [DEP's website](#).

Think Spring! Trout Stocking Schedules Available

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) announced this week its 2022 trout stocking schedules [are now available online](#) and on the FishBoatPA mobile app. The schedule is searchable by county. The PFBC will stock approximately 3.2 million adult trout in 696 streams and 128 lakes open to public angling. Volunteers are welcome to participate in stocking activities, which begin the week of Feb. 21. The annual Mentored Youth Trout Day will be held on Saturday, March 26, and the statewide opening of trout season will be Saturday, April 2. For more information about stocking, fishing and licensing, [click here](#).



Listen to Your Heart

February is American Heart Month and this Friday, Feb. 4, is National Wear Red Day, when men and women across the country are encouraged to wear red to raise awareness about heart disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women of most racial and ethnic groups in the United States, accounting for one in every four deaths.

Signs of heart attack include:

- Chest pain or discomfort. Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center or left side of the chest that lasts for more than a few minutes or that goes away and comes back. The discomfort can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
- Feeling weak, light-headed or faint. You may also break out into a cold sweat.
- Pain or discomfort in the jaw, neck or back.
- Pain or discomfort in one or both arms or shoulders.



- Shortness of breath. This often accompanies chest discomfort, but shortness of breath also can occur before chest discomfort.
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