

# HARRISBURG ONLINE

HARRISBURG'S FAVORITE NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

Presented by *Greenlee Partners*

January 28, 2025



***The State House will  
convene at 11 AM, and the  
State Senate will convene  
at 1 PM***

## VALID BALLOTS

The Pennsylvania Department of State has reported a steep drop in the number of mail-in ballots rejected during the 2024 Presidential Election. According to the department, there was a 57% decline in mail-in ballot rejections in the November election compared to the April primary. Voter turnout in November was 77%, with 2.2 million mail ballots sent out, 89% of which were returned. Of those returned, 1% were rejected, a 57% decrease from the previous election.

## PRESIDENTIAL PA

According to the Washington Post, two Pennsylvania Democrats are in the publication's top 10 possible Presidential candidates for the 2028 election. Governor **Josh Shapiro** was ranked 1st on the list, while U.S. Senator **John Fetterman** was ranked 5th. In explaining why Shapiro got the top spot, the Post pointed to his political talents, messaging abilities, and crossover appeal. In explaining why Senator Fetterman ranked 5th, the Post stated that his "independent streak" made him stand out as someone who could win over Trump voters.

## WHO?

A recent report coming from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has stated that U.S. public health officials have been directed to stop working with the World

Health Organization. The report follows President **Donald Trump's** executive order that initiated the withdrawal of the United States from the international agency. However, that process is not immediate. To withdraw from the WHO, Congress would need to approve the measure, and the United States needs to meet any financial obligations.

## BIRD FLU

The bird flu has hit a Pennsylvania farm, the first for 2025. According to the PA Department of Agriculture, the case was found in Lehigh County at a 50,000-bird layer chicken flock. The facility is currently in quarantine and the samples have been shipped out to a USDA National Veterinarian Service Lab for confirmation.

## WINTER SALT WEEK

Excessive Road salt harms the environment, increasing stream salinity by 40% and endangering aquatic life like brook trout. Winter Salt Week, starting January 27th promotes safer de-icing practices and alternatives like magnesium chloride or calcium magnesium acetate, which are less harmful to pets, plants, and waterways. *Now about those sidewalks around the Capitol complex!*



### *Happy Birthday*

- State Senator **Art Haywood**
- **Jonathan Newman**, Chairman & CEO, Newman Wine & Spirits
- Former U.S. Congressman **Lou Barletta**
- **Diana Swisher Burckhart**, Government Affairs Manager, Total Energies Renewables U.S.

### *Committee Meetings*

- (H) Game and Fisheries - 9AM - Voting meeting on Organization of the committee
- (H) Agriculture and Rural Affairs - 9:10AM - Voting meeting on HB 77, HB 324 and Re-organization and any other business that may come before the committee
- (H) Aging and Older Adult Services – 9:30AM - Voting meeting on Committee Reorganization and an Informational Meeting on direct care workers and the homecare industry; and any other business that may come before the committee
- (H) Veteran Affairs and Emergency Preparedness – 9:30AM - Voting meeting on HR 2 and organization of the committee for the session and

- any other business that may come before the committee
- (H) Housing and Community Development – 9:30AM - Voting meeting on HB 67, HB 273 and any other business that may come before the committee
  - (H) House State Government – 10AM - Agenda to be announced
  - (H) Commerce – 10AM - Reorganizing and any other business that may come before the committee
  - (H) Children and Youth – 10AM - Voting meeting on Reorganization and any other business that may come before the committee
  - (H) Gaming Oversight - 10:30AM - Voting meeting on Committee Reorganization
  - (H) Finance – 10:30AM - Voting meeting on Committee organization and any other business that may come before the committee
  - (H) Insurance- Off the Floor - Voting meeting on HB 111, HB 211, HB 261 and any other business that may come before the committee
  - (S) Transportation – 9:30 AM - To consider Senate Bills No. 35, 78 and 149
  - (S) Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure – 10AM - Public hearing on understanding your electric bill
  - (S) Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness – 11AM - To consider Senate Bills No. 129, 130, 144, 146 and 173



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