

HARRISBURG ONLINE

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Presented by *Greenlee Partners*

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The State House will convene at 12 PM, and the State Senate will convene at 1 PM

TRAGEDY IN PHILLY

On Friday evening, a medical jet crashed in Northeast Philadelphia, resulting in the tragic death of all six passengers. The plane was on its way to Mexico with a pediatric patient who had just finished receiving treatment at Shriners Children's Hospital. In addition to the six people onboard, a seventh person on the ground was killed, according to Philadelphia Mayor **Cherelle Parker**. Mayor Parker shared that the number of injured victims was twenty-two, with five of them hospitalized, three of whom are in critical condition. *Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of all those involved in this horrific tragedy.*

SIX MORE WEEKS

Yesterday, at Gobblers Knob, **Punxsutawney Phil** emerged from his burrow and saw his shadow, which means six more weeks of winter. This year, more than 40,000 people were in attendance to see Phil and hear firsthand if spring would come early. This year was the 108th time Phil had seen his shadow since the tradition started in 1887. *His transportation was once again sponsored by Phil's Epic Transit Authority.*

STEPPING DOWN

Pittsburgh Mayor **Ed Gainey** has a new Chief of Staff after **Jake Wheatley** resigned from the position on January 29. Wheatley served as Chief of Staff for Mayor Gainey over the past three years. Succeeding Gainey is **Kyle Chintalapalli**, who served as

Pittsburgh's Chief Economic Development Officer since 2022. Wheatley did not give a reason for his departure.

BREAKING RECORDS

On Friday, Pennsylvania Secretary of the Commonwealth **Al Schmidt** confirmed that voting turnout in the 2024 General Election was the highest on record since 1988. On the record, he stated, "Now that our counties have finalized the last details of the 2024 election, we can see that November's election had a historic number of eligible voters cast their ballots." The overall turnout was an entire percentage point higher than in 2020. Additionally, 35 counties across the state recorded that they hit 80% or higher voter turnout. *The Grammy Record of the Year in 1988 was "Don't Worry Be Happy..."*

Congratulations to **Ashley Walkowiak** who is starting today as the new Executive Director of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Women. Prior to her new role, Ashley was serving as the Policy Director at the PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. She replaces the first Director of the Commission, **Moriah Hathaway**. *Cheers Ashley!*



Happy Birthday

- Former State Representative
John D. McGinnis

Committee Meetings

- (H) Game and Fisheries – 9AM - Informational meeting on the Pennsylvania Game Commission's 2019 decision to change the opening day of the regular antlered deer hunting season, and any other business that may come before the committee
- (H) Aging and Older Adult Services – 9:30AM - Informational meeting on our Area Agencies on Aging
- (H) Republican Policy – 9:30AM - Public Hearing on "Stopping New Energy Taxes"
- (H) Education – 10AM - Informational meeting on Future Ready PA Index and Student Outcomes, and any other business that may come before the committee
- (H) Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development – 10:30AM - Voting meeting on HR 35, HR 45 and any other

- business that may come before the committee
- (H) Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness – 11AM - Voting meeting on HB 412, HB 427, HR 37 and any other business that may come before the committee
 - (H) Transportation – 11AM - Voting meeting on HB 38 (re-referral), HB 205, HB 410, HB 333, and any other business that may come before the committee
 - (S) Judiciary – 11AM - To consider judicial nominations
 - (H) Professional Licensure – 11:30AM - Voting meeting on HR 44, SB 184 and any other business that may come before the committee
 - (S) Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness – 12:30PM - Confirmation hearing for Acting Adjutant General John R. Pippy, PA Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
 - (H) Appropriations – Off the Floor – Voting meeting to be announced
 - (H) Judiciary – Off the Floor - Voting meeting on HB 36, HB 166, HB 378 and any other business that may come before the committee
 - (S) Banking and Insurance – Off the Floor - To consider Senate Bill No. 202
 - (S) Transportation – Off the Floor – To consider Senate Bill No. 210
 - (S) Agriculture and Rural Affairs – Off the Floor – To consider HB 324



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