

HARRISBURG ONLINE

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NEW CHAIRMAN

State Senator **Greg Rothman** (R-Cumberland) has been elected Chairman of the Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania. Named during the party's winter session in Camp Hill, he expressed gratitude for the role and pledged to uphold the values that strengthen the Commonwealth while energizing grassroots efforts. **Bernie Comfort** of Lehigh County was also re-elected as Vice Chair. With a background in both public service and private enterprise, along with prior experience as a county chairman, Rothman will now guide the GOP's direction in Pennsylvania.

PRISON BREAK

Yesterday, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections announced that a DOC steering committee report recommended SCI Rockview in Centre County and Quehanna Boot Camp in Clearfield County be closed. Additionally, the committee recommended that Wernersville and Progress Community Communications Centers be shut down. These recommendations came shortly after Governor **Josh Shapiro's** budget address, where he proposed that two state prisons be shuttered. In explaining its recommendations, the DOC stated that both SCI Rockview and Quehanna Boot Camp would need multi-million-dollar renovations to stay open.

OUT GAINED

The race for Pittsburgh mayor is heating up as campaign finance reports from January show that current County Controller **Corey O'Connor** put up a massive fundraising number. In one month (January), O'Connor raised nearly \$465,000 on top of the \$250,000 in December. Current Mayor **Ed Gainey** only raised about \$24,000 in January, with \$268,000 last year. In total, O'Connor out-raised Gainey 20 to 1. Major donors for O'Connor include many unions across the Pittsburgh area.

CROWDED PRIMARY

On Sunday, the Harrisburg Mayoral race heated up with another challenger to Democratic incumbent Mayor **Wanda Williams** entering the race. **Tone Cook**, a Gun violence prevention advocate, announced that he would enter the 2026 Democratic primary. He

joins current Harrisburg Councilman **Lamont Jones**, Treasurer **Dan Miller**, and **Lewis Butts Jr.** in seeking the Democratic party's nomination for Mayor.

AHHHH, FLU

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is reporting flu hospitalizations and cases are on the rise in Pennsylvania and nationwide. The CDC's Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report which tracks flu activity by state has the Commonwealth designated in the "high category." To view the CDC's map, click [HERE](#).



Happy Birthday

- Former State Senator **Michael E. Bortner**
- Former State Representative **Kurt A. Masser**
- Former State Representative **Dick Stevenson**
- **Adrienne Mitford**, Ignite Strategies
- **Reese Flurie** CEO, The Flurie Solutions Group
- **Susan Etter**, Director of County Bar Services, Education & Special Projects, PA Bar Association



GREENLEE PARTNERS

230 State Street,
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-236-0443

[CONTACT US](#)

Greenlee Partners, LLC | 230 State Street | Harrisburg, PA 17101 US

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