

# HARRISBURG ONLINE

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Presented by *Greenlee Partners*

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***The State House will  
convene at 11 AM***

## **WE ARE CLOSING?**

Penn State is proposing the closure of seven branch campuses: Dubois, Fayette, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. The closures, still pending a public vote by the Board of Trustees, come amid years of declining enrollment, expected demographic shifts, and lack of state funding. While five other campuses once on the chopping block appear to be spared, the announcement has sparked concern among students, faculty, and community members worried about the educational and economic impacts, specifically in rural Pennsylvania.

## **DN-CYA?**

The Democratic National Committee (DNC) has recommended reconsidering the elections for the two vice chair positions held by **David Hogg** and State Representative **Malcolm Kenyatta**. The DNC Credentials Committee voted to nullify their February victories after a complaint alleged parliamentary violations in how the election was conducted. While party leaders insist the decision was procedural, tensions remain high amid Hogg's controversial push for primary challenges to longtime incumbents. Both Hogg and Kenyatta criticized the decision but continue to serve as vice chairs while awaiting a final DNC vote.

## **BLUNT DECISION**

Yesterday, the Senate Law and Justice committee voted on House Bill 1200, which would

legalize adult use cannabis through a state store model run by the PLCB. The bill had a quick life in the House last week, as it was introduced and sent to the Senate within 3 days. Members of the committee argued that this was a poorly written piece of legislation, and they should take the policy more seriously and get a good product to the Governor's desk. Several members suggested that the bill introduced by Senators **Sharif Street** and **Dan Laughlin** is a better avenue for adult use cannabis. The bill failed committee 3-7.

## TRANSIT RALLY

Union members and transit advocates gathered at the Pennsylvania Capitol yesterday to continue the push for increased mass transit funding. The agency warns of hiring freezes, fare hikes, and possible layoffs if lawmakers don't provide the more than \$200 million it needs to maintain service. While Democrats support full funding, Senate Republicans want municipalities to contribute more and have floated ideas like privatization. Mass transit leaders argue cuts are inevitable without state support, stressing the system's role in Pennsylvania's economy and public service.

## DENTAL DECISION

The US Food and Drug Administration has outlined that it is undergoing a scientific review on the phasing out of fluoride supplements from the current market citing health and developmental concerns for children. The effort follows U.S. Health Secretary **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s** push to challenge modern medicine. Proponents of fluoride state its helpful strengthen teeth and reduces cavities for areas with low fluoride levels in drinking water.



### *Happy Birthday*

- State Representative **Robert Merski**
- State Representative **Parke Wentling**
- State Representative **Jason Ortitay**
- **Tommy Johnson**, Partner, Allegheny Strategy Partners
- **Ryan Unger**, President & CEO, Harrisburg Regional Chamber



### *Committee Meetings*

- (H) Health – 8:45AM – To consider: HB704 and HR299 and 232
- (H) Aging and Older Adult Services – 9AM - Joint informational meeting with the House Health Committee on Pennsylvania's Registered Nurse Aide program and any other business that may come before the committee
- (H) Energy – 10AM - Informational meeting on Electric Transmission
- (H) Democratic Policy – 10AM - Public hearing on workers protections
- (H) Local Government – 10AM – To consider: HB985,

- 1194, 1282, 1318, and HR173
- (H) Judiciary – 10AM – To consider: HB150, 526, 940, 956, and 1425
- (H) Finance – 10AM - Voting meeting on HB1306, a committee discussion on HB1450
- (H) Appropriations – OTF – Agenda to be announced



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