

# HARRISBURG ONLINE

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## MONEY TALKS

Yesterday, the PA House passed a minimum wage bill that would raise the wage to \$15 an hour in 20 handpicked counties and \$12 elsewhere. Wages would climb yearly tied to cost-of-living hikes starting in 2029. The wage rate for tipped workers would also rise under this legislation which experts anticipate may lead to loss of hours and positions ultimately costing those very people money or jobs. After a lengthy floor debate, the final vote on the bill was 102–101, along party lines.

## SUNDAY'S FAIR GAME

A bill from licensed hunter and Allegheny County State Representative **Mandy Steele** to repeal Pennsylvania's Sunday hunting ban just cleared the State House with a final vote of 131-72. House Bill 1431 would let the Game Commission include Sundays in annual hunting seasons. Game Commission Director **Steve Smith** says removing the ban could give hunters more time and boost wildlife conservation efforts. Since 2019, only three Sundays a year were open to hunting, this bill aims to open them all. Other licensed hunters and State Representatives raised concerns during the floor debate on potential impacts to Pennsylvania's waterfowl population.

## AN ABUNDANCE OF BARNS

The PA State Historic Preservation Office wants photos of your barn! In an effort to study barns in Pennsylvania a little deeper, the office wants photos of your barns, whether they are brand new or years old. The images will be put in the PA Inventory of Historic Places. People can submit their photos [here](#).

## AT EASE

Congratulations to Captain (ret.) Jon Wyant of the PA Game Commission who has retired after 30 years of service in the field (and woods). He has served as President of FOP Lodge #114 and will now dedicate his time and considerable talent serving all members of the PA FOP advocating for issues of importance to law enforcement officers before the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

## TAKING ANOTHER SHOT

The Democratic National Committee voted yesterday to throw out the previous vote for the vice chair positions, rescinding the win earlier this year for State Representative **Malcolm Kenyatta** and **David Hogg**. The DNC plans to redo the election, and Kenyatta is preparing another run for the position. The recission came after **Kalyn Free**, who lost the initial election, filed a challenge based on the DNC's position on gender equity for the vice chair positions. In response to the DNC's decision, Kenyatta stated, "I look forward to making my case to DNC members and our party as a whole on how we make life better and refocusing on Trump's attacks on our Constitution and working families."



### *Happy Birthday*

- State Senator **Chris Gebhard**
- State Representative **Natalie Mihalek**
- **Paul Klein**, Councilperson, Allegheny County
- **Dennis Giorno**, Partner, Malady & Wooten, LLP (and candidate for Lower Paxton Township Auditor)
- **Preston Moretz**, Manager of Policy and Communications, Temple University
- **Jordan Grant**, Executive Director, PA Senate Banking and Insurance Committee
- **Jim Murtha\***, President, Macallan Communications
- **John M. Quain**, Former Chairman of the PUC
- **Maddie Lapetina\***, Legislative and County Bar Services Coordinator, Pennsylvania Bar Association
- **Festus Odubo**, Executive Policy Manager, PA Public Utility Commission



### *Committee Meetings*

- (S) Democratic Policy – 10:00AM - Public hearing on worker protections.
- (H) Environmental and Natural Resources Protection – 10:00AM - Public hearing on the plugging and abandonment of oil and gas wells / HB 364.
- Joint Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing – 11:00AM - Quarterly business meeting.



## 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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