

# HARRISBURG ONLINE

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Presented by *Greenlee Partners*

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## JAHBS

Pennsylvania's unemployment rate reached 4.1 percent in September, staying below the national figure for the 29th straight month, according to new data from the PA Department of Labor and Industry. The rate ticked up slightly from August and is higher than the same point this time last year, while the number of employed residents declined and unemployment increased. The state's labor force grew by about one thousand people, and nonfarm jobs hit another record with gains across several sectors, led by education and health services.

## REGULATE THIS

President **Donald Trump** signed an executive order that limits what regulations states can place on the burgeoning artificial intelligence industry. The President believes the industry is critical in the race against China and that there should be one uniform set of regulations, not a patchwork of 50. The effort to limit state regulatory power has received significant bipartisan pushback including Pennsylvania's own Attorney General **Dave Sunday**. The executive order is expected to receive legal challenges as many believe only an act of Congress can preempt state law.

## CLOSER TO HOME

A November poll conducted by Real Clear Pennsylvania and Emerson College revealed that 48% of Pennsylvanians believe that AI will hurt the economy while 5% think that it will boost the economy. This comes as governments and tech companies race for AI expansion through energy investments and land development to create more data centers. On the issue of data centers, 71% of Pennsylvanians are concerned about their heightened electrical use and 61% believe that data centers will create jahbs. The poll surveyed 2,000 Pennsylvanians by text and online voter panel with a margin of error at two percentage points.

## SECRET SANTA

Package theft in Philadelphia has slightly declined compared to last year, with police reporting a little over 3,600 incidents citywide, but losses still remain high and some

neighborhoods have seen increases. Police say the real numbers are likely higher because many residents do not report stolen packages and some companies issue refunds without requiring a report. A recent federal report estimated that package theft led to roughly \$450 million in losses across Philadelphia and continues to hit dense neighborhoods the hardest.

## UNSUSTAINABLE

The U.S. Senate rejected Democratic and Republican health care proposals yesterday, leaving enhanced Affordable Care Act tax credits on track to expire at the end of the year. The Democratic plan, which sought a three-year extension of the subsidies, fell short of the 60 votes needed. A separate GOP plan offering payments into health savings accounts also failed to advance. The votes underscored ongoing divisions in Congress over how to address rising premium costs for ACA enrollees, with little indication that a bipartisan agreement is close as the deadline approaches.



### *Happy Birthday*

#### **Today:**

- Former U.S. Congressman **Joseph Sestak**
- Former State Representative **Susan C. Helm**
- Former State Representative **Eli Evankovich**
- **Morgan Wall**, Administrative Assistant to Rep. Doyle Heffley
- **Kara Luzik Canale**, VP of Strategy & Chamber Impact, Harrisburg Regional Chamber

#### **Saturday:**

- State Representative **Maureen Madden**
- State Representative **Abby Major**
- State Representative **Jessica Benham**
- Former State Representative **Curt Schroder**, Executive Director, PA Coalition for Civil Justice Reform
- **Jennifer Weaver**, Administrative Assistant, Representative Fee
- **Amy Kelchner Dugan**
- **Donald T. Cunningham**, President and CEO, Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation
- **Julio Guriday**, Executive Director, Allentown Housing Authority

#### **Sunday:**

- State Representative **Kristin Marcell**
- Former State Representative **Marcia M. Hahn**
- **Zachery Smith\***, Director of Government Relations, CNX
- **Teresa Reed Wagner**, Legislative Liaison, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
- **Matthew Plummer\***, VP of Government Affairs, The DT Firm
- **Thomas G. Saylor**, Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
- **Jean Marfizo King**, Register of Wills and Clerk of the Orphans' Court, Dauphin County



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