

# HARRISBURG ONLINE

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**February 25, 2026**

## SPECIAL RESULTS

Congratulations to both **Ana Tiburcio** (D-Lehigh) and **Jennifer Mazzoco** (D-Allegheny) on winning their respective races in yesterday's special elections. After yesterday's special elections, the House Democrats maintain their majority in the chamber. Two more special elections are slated for March 17th and May 19th.

## STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Yesterday, President **Donald Trump** gave his State of the Union Address. He took the time to highlight what he believes to be his successes so far in his term, including border strength, economic changes, etc. He added that in the future he would like to declassify files regarding aliens. Although there were certainly some controversial statements made, he did receive bipartisan support on his mentioning of ending insider trading for members of Congress.

## SLOW DOWN

You might need to slow your roll if this bill passes. The bill would change the state speed limit on dirt and gravel roads from 55MPH to 35MPH. The legislation was proposed by State Representative **Christina Sappey** (D-Chester), who argues that dirt roads are quite expensive to maintain, and that the default 55MPH on these roads is too dangerous. Currently, there are more than 26,000 miles of dirt roads in the Commonwealth. State Senator **Scott Hutchinson** (R-Venango) has already sponsored the companion bill to limit gravel road speed in the Senate.

## WAR????

Secretary of State **Marco Rubio** delivered a briefing to the "Gang of Eight" before the State of the Union speech yesterday regarding the situation in Iran. This comes after the Administration has been building up forces around Iran. The administration holds firm that diplomacy is the first choice, but they are not going to shy away from military action if it's needed. *Queue Edwin Starr...*

## UP IN FLAMES

What was once considered a tourist haven and a tropical home for expats is now a town engulfed in flames. Puerto Vallarta is under siege and Americans are being urged to stay away. The Jalisco New Generation Cartel has taken to torching businesses across the town after a Mexican military operation took out their leader, *El Mencho*. The cartel is reportedly taking control of roads and burning bridges.



## ***Happy Birthday***

- State Representative ***Shelby Labs***
- Former U.S. Congressman ***James W. Gerlach***
- ***Scott Rogers***, Vice President of Finance & Administration, Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC
- ***Priscilla Coblentz Cohen\****, CEO, Harmonic Alignment Collaborative
- ***Adam Brandolph***, Deputy Chief Communications Officer, Pittsburgh Regional Transit
- ***Al Bienstock***, Commissioner, Hampden Township

## ***Committee Meetings***

- (S) Appropriations – 9:30AM - Budget Hearing with the Department of Human Services.
- (H) Appropriations – 10:00AM - Budget Hearing with the Department of Community and Economic Development.
- (H) Democratic Policy – 12:00PM - Public hearing on protecting seniors from online scams.
- Joint Legislative Budget and Finance – 12:30PM - Adopt Act 1 of 2026: House Bill 331.
- (S) Appropriations – 1:00PM - Budget Hearing with the Department of Human Services (continued).
- (H) Appropriations – 1:00PM - Budget Hearing with the Department of Agriculture.
- (H) Communications and Technology – 1:00PM - Joint informational meeting with the House Local Government committee on Cybersecurity.
- (H) Appropriations – 3:00PM – Budget Hearing with the Department of Insurance and PENNIE.



# 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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