

HARRISBURG ONLINE

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June 29, 2026



The State House will convene at 12pm and the State Senate will convene at 3pm.

BUDGET CRUNCH

Pennsylvania lawmakers are nearly up against the June 30 budget deadline. Expenses for Medicaid and education continue to climb, while some of the biggest ideas to bring in new revenue are still up in the air. The state has nearly \$8 billion set aside in the rainy-day fund, which could help close the gap between revenues and expenses, giving leaders a bit of breathing room.

FELONY MURDER

Senate Bill 1400, sponsored by Senator *Lisa Baker* (R-Luzerne), passed its original chamber last week to comply with a Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling that mandatory life without parole for second degree murder is unconstitutional. The bill would allow eligibility after 35 years, keep life imprisonment as the maximum sentence, and allows judges to impose sentences as low as 10 years. The measure now moves to the State House, where the Democratic-majority chamber is expected to propose amendments over concerns about its compliance with the court's ruling.

AGING INVESTMENT

The Pennsylvania Department of Aging is investing \$3 million towards the Senior Community grant program, which funds facility upgrades, health programs, dietary support, and other essential services for older adults. In his announcement, Secretary *Jason Kavulich* emphasized the importance of Senior Community Centers to meet the needs of Pennsylvania's growing senior

population. Two million dollars will support grants for major projects, and \$1 million will be allocated to grants for smaller necessities.

KEEPING ON TRACK

SEPTA has approved a \$2.7 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2027, including \$1.8 billion in operating costs and a \$902 million capital budget. SEPTA plans to invest in high-quality fare gates and new buses, all without changing service levels or increasing fares. However, SEPTA will be relying on debt to afford railcar replacements; it will borrow \$4.3 billion over twelve years, which will still not be enough to replace its 50-year-old Broad Street Line cars, its oldest operating rolling stock. Officials at SEPTA maintain that without an imminent long term funding plan from the state, its future prospects remain unclear.

JULY 4TH FEST

Harrisburg is gearing up for a full day of food, music, and fireworks as the city hosts its July 4th Food Truck Festival at Riverfront Park. The event runs from 1 to 9 p.m. and will feature 40 food trucks serving everything you can imagine. Live music will take the stage throughout the day and family-friendly activities like a petting zoo, an inflatable obstacle course, and bubble shows. The celebration wraps up with one of the largest fireworks displays in central Pennsylvania at 9:15 p.m.



Happy Birthday

- State Representative ***Bud Cook***
- ***Patricia Wellenbach***, Chief Strategy and Partnership Officer for Mayor Cherrille L. Parker; President, Pennsylvania Society
- ***Gretchen Ramsey***, Regional Director, Patient Experience, Penn State Health West Region
- ***Lisa M. Gabler***, Senior Advisor, Government Relations, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC
- ***Jackie Goodwin***, President, Capital Communications; Editor, Harrisburg Magazine
- ***Sallie Updyke Mundy***, Associate Justice, PA Supreme Court
- ***Jeanne Sorg***, Mayor, Ambler Borough; Recorder of Deeds, Montgomery County

Committee Meetings

- (H) Appropriations – OTF – To be announced
- (S) Appropriations – OTF – To consider: HB 2400, SB 1061, SB 1182, and SB 1303
- (S) Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure – OTF – To consider: HB 2426



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