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Presented by *Greenlee Partners*

November 13, 2026

NEW LEADER IN TOWN

Following the State House leadership elections on Tuesday, the State Senate Democrats came to Harrisburg yesterday to elect its leaders for the 2027-2028 legislative session. The new President Pro Temp is expected to be Senator ***Jay Costa*** (Allegheny) in partnership with ***Maria Collett*** (Montgomery), who will serve as the first female Democratic majority leader in the Senate. The Appropriations Committee will continue to be chaired by ***Vince Hughes*** (Philadelphia) with ***Steve Santarsiero*** (Bucks) serving as the Whip. Senators ***Lisa Boscola*** (Northampton) - Caucus Chair, ***Nick Miller*** (Lehigh) - Policy Chair, ***Sharif Street*** (Philadelphia) - Secretary, and ***Marty Flynn*** (Lackawanna) - Administrator will fill out the rest of the leadership team. To note, the leaders in both Chambers and the Governor all originate from Montgomery County.

HOLD THE POSTAGE

The results from last week's elections show that the statewide candidates received fewer mail-in ballots casted than compared to those during the 2024 Presidential Election. At the top of the ticket, Governor ***Josh Shapiro's*** total votes received included a little over 30% whereas the Democratic Presidential nominee ***Kamala Harris*** secured 37% over her votes by mail in the Commonwealth. The similar trend can be seen with the Republican Party. ***Stacy Garrity's*** 11% votes by mail were less than the 19% of mail-in ballots President ***Donald Trump*** received.

NEXT CHAPTER

The Penn State Board of Trustees has voted to support the sale of Penn State York to York College of Pennsylvania, pending final approval. The acquisition, backed by WellSpan Health, comes as Penn State continues to grapple with declining enrollment and financial pressures across its Commonwealth Campus system. Penn State York will continue operating through the spring 2027 semester before York College and WellSpan Health assume responsibility for campus operations and future programming.

POPULAR DEMAND

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is once again drawing attention in Harrisburg. The agreement would award Pennsylvania's electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote,

regardless of who wins the Commonwealth, once states representing 270 electoral votes join the compact. Supporters argue it would make every vote equal in presidential elections, while opponents contend it would weaken the role of battleground states like Pennsylvania. Currently, states totaling 222 electoral votes have joined the compact.

STAMPS ARE FUN

The U.S. Postal Service announced earlier this week some of its stamp designs for 2027. Some exciting additions include Unicorns, Colorful Blooms, and Veggies Forever. Fans of cyrptids will be excited for Mythical Creatures, including PA's own Squonk. No release dates have been listed yet, but designs can be viewed **here**.



Happy Birthday

Today:

- State Representative ***Ryan Bizzarro***
- ***Morgan Plant***, Government Relations Consultant, Plant Associates
- ***Tony Ross***, President & CEO, Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America

Saturday:

- State Representative ***Milou Mackenzie***
- Former State Representative ***Arthur D. Hershey***
- ***Julia Walters***, Legislative Reporter Analyst, Pennsylvania Legislative Services
- ***Gavin Lichtenstein***, Director of Influencer Marketing for Public Affairs, Orchestra

Sunday:

- State Representative ***Mary Isaacson***
- ***Josh Siegel***, County Executive, Lehigh County
- ***Jordan E. Gouker***, Director of Operations & Financial Management, House Republican Human Resource Department
- ***Will Danowski***, Senior Advisor, Office of House Majority Leader
- ***Brian Foster***, Owner, 3PLTD, Picture Perfect Production
- ***Jeffrey B. Engle***, Judge, Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas
- ***Patricia A. McCullough***, Judge, PA Commonwealth Court

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