

Pennsylvania Perspective for Thursday, March 20, 2025

Pennsylvania

Hundreds of Former Federal Workers Apply for PA State Jobs

Pennsylvania has received around 1,100 applications from former federal employees for state jobs following an executive order by Governor Josh Shapiro (D) giving them hiring preference amid widespread federal layoffs. The Philadelphia Inquirer has [more](#).

AG Sunday Nominates Darryl Lawrence as PA Consumer Advocate

Pennsylvania Attorney General Dave Sunday (R) has nominated Darryl Lawrence to be the Commonwealth's next utility watchdog. If confirmed by the state Senate, Lawrence will use his 20 years of experience to advocate for consumer interests before the state Public Utility Commission. WITF has [more](#).

PA House Committee Advances Bipartisan Paid Family Leave Bill

The state House Labor & Industry Committee has advanced the Family Care Act, which would provide eligible residents with 12 to 20 weeks of paid leave, despite concerns about the Department of Labor & Industry's ability to manage the program. City & State Pennsylvania has [more](#).

PA House Committee Advances Online Data Privacy, Cryptocurrency Bills

The state House Commerce Committee approved bills on consumer data privacy and cryptocurrency transfers, both of which are expected to face amendments before a final House vote. WITF has [more](#).

PA House Democrats Push for Juvenile Justice Reform

Pennsylvania House Democrats have introduced a package of 10 bills to reform the juvenile justice system, focusing on issues such as Miranda warnings, solitary confinement, and eliminating fines for children. Center Square Pennsylvania has [more](#).

PA House Members Seek Compromise on Voter ID Bill

A bill introduced by state Representative Tom Mehaffie (R-Dauphin) aims to tighten voter identification requirements without disenfranchising voters as part of broader election reforms potentially including early voting and mail-in ballot processing. According to a recent report, Pennsylvania's lack of in-person early voting led to long lines and comparatively lower early voter turnout.

PA House Bill Would Require State Oversight of Medical Marijuana Products

A bill introduced by state Representative Dan Frankel (D-Allegheny) aims to establish strict reporting requirements and state oversight for medical marijuana products in Pennsylvania to ensure safety and prevent "lab shopping." WVIA has [more](#).

Delaware County Poised to Ban Ghost Guns, Rapid-Fire Devices



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Delaware County Council members showed strong support for an ordinance to ban ghost guns and rapid-fire devices, aiming to reduce gun violence without infringing on Second Amendment rights. The Philadelphia Inquirer has [more](#).

PA Court Rulings Could Threaten Ballot Secrecy

Recent Pennsylvania court rulings may jeopardize the secrecy of some mail ballots by classifying them as public records, raising concerns among officials about potential voter privacy breaches. The state is appealing the decisions to protect ballot secrecy and prevent voter intimidation. Spotlight PA has [more](#).

Sports Wagering Revenue Plummeted 75% in February

In February 2025, Pennsylvania's sports wagering taxable revenue dropped by 75.26% compared to February 2024, despite a 14.38% increase in the total amount wagered. WHTM has [more](#).

Philadelphia

City Council May Consider Proactive Rental Home Inspections

The Philadelphia City Council may consider implementing proactive inspections of rental homes for safety and health, rather than relying solely on tenant complaints. The Philadelphia Inquirer has [more](#).

PICA Recommends Abolition of Sheriff's Office, Register of Wills

The Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority (PICA), Philadelphia's financial watchdog, has recommended that the City Council and mayor absorb the Sheriff's Office and Register of Wills into other departments. The Philadelphia Inquirer has [more](#).

Pittsburgh

City Council Considers Tax Relief for Longtime Homeowners

Pittsburgh City Council is exploring a bill to protect longtime homeowners from rising property taxes due to reassessments, aiming to ease the tax burden in gentrifying neighborhoods. WESA has [more](#).

PPS to Begin Public Hearings on Proposed School Closures

Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) board members will vote next week on whether to start the public hearing process for closing 10 schools, with hearings potentially beginning next month and final decisions expected by summer. WESA has [more](#).

Federal

PA's Economy at Risk from Potential EU Tariffs

Pennsylvania's economy could be significantly impacted by potential EU tariffs on U.S. exports, including a 50% tax on American whiskey, amid escalating trade tensions between the U.S. and Europe. WHTM has [more](#).

Trump Admin Freezes \$175M Funding to UPenn Over Athletics Policy

The Trump administration has frozen \$175 million in federal funds to the University of Pennsylvania, alleging that the institution's policies allow men to compete in women's sports. Center Square Pennsylvania has [more](#)



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