November 13, 2018

Legislative UPDATE
Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education

This summary features results of state legislative races in Pennsylvania, focusing on those legislative districts in which State System universities are located, as well as highlights legislative alumni, based on available data as of the writing of this UPDATE.

As a result of last week’s election results, Republicans retain their majority by 110-92 “in the state House, pending official certification of returns; and a 29-21 majority in the Senate,” summarizes PennLive.

Except for two universities, possibly three, incumbent House members will continue to represent State System universities. The race in the 49th legislative district between incumbent Rep. Donald “Bud” Cook and Steve Topriani in which California University of Pennsylvania (CalU) is located is too close to call.

New members, Reps-elect James Struzzi II and Stephanie Borowicz, will represent Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) and Lock Haven, respectively.

**Bloomsburg:** Dave Millard (R-Columbia)
**CalU:** Too close to call
**Cheyney:** Chris Quinn (R-Delaware)
**Clarion:** Donna Oberlander (R-Claron)
**East Stroudsburg:** Maureen Madden (D-Monroe)
**Edinboro:** Ryan Bizzarro (D-Erie)
**IUP:** James Struzzi II (R-Indiana)
**Kutztown:** Gary Day (R-Lehigh)
**Lock Haven:** Stephanie Borowicz (R-Clinton)
**Mansfield:** Clint Owlett (R-Tioga)
**Millersville:** Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster)
**Shippensburg:** Mark Keller (R-Perry)
**Slippery Rock:** Aaron Bernatine (R-Lawrence)
**West Chester:** Carolyn Comitta (D-Chester)

Only even-numbered Senatorial districts were up for reelection. Of these, only three cover State System universities; i.e., the 40th, 46th and 50th in which incumbents retained their seats.

**CalU:** Camera Bartolotta (R-Washington)
**East Stroudsburg:** Mario Scavello (R-Monroe)
**Edinboro:** Michele Brooks (R-Mercer)
The Office of the Chancellor stands ready to be a resource to the General Assembly, including these 38 State System alumni to whom we extend our congratulations on their new or continued service:

**Bloomsburg:** Reps.-elect David Millard (R-Columbia), Lynda Schlegel-Culver (R Northumberland) and Brian Sims (D-Philadelphia)

**CalU:** Rep.-elect Parke Wentling (R-Crawford) and Sen. Jim Brewster (D-Allegheny)

**Clarion:** Reps.-elect Chris Dush (R-Indiana), R.L. James (D-Venango) and Donna Oberlander (R-Clarion)

**East Stroudsburg:** Rep.-elect Neal Goodman (D-Schuylkill)

**Edinboro:** Rep.-elect Ryan Bizzarro (D-Erie)

**IUP:** Reps.-elect Richard Irvin (R-Huntingdon), Bill Kortz (D-Allegheny), Tim O’Neal (R-Tioga), Jeff Pyle (R-Armstrong), James Struzzi II (R-Indiana), Stanley Saylor (R-York) and Sens. Jay Costa, Jr. (D-Allegheny) and Don White (R-Indiana)

**Kutztown:** Reps.-elect Joe Emrick (R-Northampton), Mark Gillen (R-Berks), Zachary Mako (R-Northampton) and Mark Rozzi (D-Berks)

**Mansfield:** Rep.-elect David DeLosso (D-Delaware)*

**Millersville:** Reps.-elect Mindy Fee (R-Lancaster), Jordan Harris (D-Philadelphia) and Sen. Scott Martin (R-Lancaster)

**Shippensburg:** Reps.-elect Todd Stephens (R-Montgomery) and Sens. Richard Alloway (R-Franklin) and Elisabeth Baker (R-Luzerne)

**West Chester:** Reps.-elect Tim Briggs (D-Montgomery), Carolyn Comitta (D-Chester), Stephen Kinsey (D-Philadelphia), Bob Merski (D-Erie)*, Jennifer O’Mara (D-Delaware), Danielle Friel Otten (D-Chester), Kyle Mullins (D-Lackawanna) and Sens. Robert Tomlinson (R-Bucks) and John Sabatina, Jr. (D-Philadelphia)

These universities have no legislative alumni: Cheney, Lock Haven and Slippery Rock.

What's next? The House and Senate will hold leadership elections (read below); both chambers will return in early to mid-January for swearing-in ceremonies. In the interim, standing committee assignments may be announced.

Work will begin thereafter on a FY 2019-20 state budget. We anticipate Governor Wolf will make his budget address on Tuesday, February 6th. For more on the State System’s appropriations request, [CLICK HERE](#).

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*Attended

*Italics* = New member

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**Senate**

**Session & Committee Activity**

[Senate Session Days] | [Watch Session Live] | [Senate Calendars] | [Senate Committee Meeting Schedule]

The Senate convenes in session Wednesday for the purpose of each caucus choosing its leadership team. Leadership elections will be held for these positions; little change is expected in this chamber:

- President Pro Tempore
- Majority and Minority Leaders
- Majority and Minority Whips
- Majority and Minority Appropriations Committee Chairs
- Majority and Minority Appropriations Committee Vice-Chairs
Standing committee chairs could be announced as early as mid-December.

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

The House convenes in session today at 11:00 a.m. for the purposes of leadership reorganization. While the formal election for speaker will take place in the full House in the upcoming legislative session, which will begin January 1, a designee will be chosen as well as these caucus positions:

- Speaker of the House-designee
- Majority* and Minority Leaders
- Majority and Minority* Whips
- Majority and Minority* Appropriations Committee Chairs
- Majority and Minority Caucus Chairs
- Majority and Minority Committee Chairs
- Majority and Minority Caucus Administrators
- Majority and Minority Caucus Secretaries

Standing committee chairs could likewise expected to be announced as early as mid-December.

* The positions of Majority Leader, Minority Whip and Minority Appropriations Chair are being vacated by Reps. Reed, Hanna and Markosek, respectively. Rep. Reed chose not to run for reelection, while Reps. Hanna and Markosek are retiring.

Bill Tracking Report

The following information is updated during legislative session weeks.

Executive Action:

HB 126 Expands the availability of EpiPens by permitting entities such as summer camps, colleges and universities, restaurants, amusement parks, sport facilities, daycares and other facilities to have non-patient specific epinephrine auto-injectors in their facilities. 10-24-18 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 93)
HB 1386  
Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, providing for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels and duties of the department. 10-19-18 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 82)

Establishes a certification process and standards for those schools which elect to become a Certified Suicide Prevention Institution of Higher Education. Through the Pennsylvania Department of Education, institutions would be recognized for their commitment to providing students with information and services to meet their mental health needs and to assist in the event a student experiences a mental health crisis. 10-24-18 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 110)

HB 1822  
Requires schools of higher education to communicate certain loan information to students annually. 10-24-18 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 121)

HB 2124  
Amends Title 65 (Public Officers), in open meetings, further providing for executive sessions. 10-24-18 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 156)

SB 1078  
Amends the Public School Code to delay the use of the Keystone Exams as a graduation requirement an additional year until the 2021-2022 school year. It also establishes several alternative options to the Keystone Exams for graduation requirements. 10-24-18 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 158)

This update is provided as a courtesy of the Office of the Chancellor as a preview of upcoming legislative activity and a review of action on legislative issues of interest to the State System. The Legislative UPDATE is distributed during legislative session weeks.

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