

February 26 – 28, 2019

POLICY RECAP



A Summary of House Democratic Policy Committee Hearings



REP. MIKE SCHLOSSBERG | VOTING RIGHTS FEBRUARY 26 | ALLENTOWN

Rep. Mike Schlossberg hosted a roundtable discussion at the Dubbs Memorial Community Center on protecting voting rights in Pennsylvania. The roundtable focused on a new legislative package from the House Democrats titled Your Vote Counts. The package includes provisions that would allow early voting, additional time for absentee ballots to be submitted, time off to vote, and mail-in ballots. Schlossberg has a bill in the package that would allow voters to submit an updated signature for the voting book.



Panelists who participated in the roundtable were:

- Rev. Dr. Larry Pickens, ecumenical director, Lehigh Conference of Churches;
- Edward Hozza Jr., director of administration, Lehigh County;
- Mary Erdman, vice president, action, League of Women Voters of Lehigh County; and
- Barbara Redmond, secretary, Allentown NAACP.





REP. KYLE MULLINS | TRANSPORTATION FEBRUARY 27 | DUNMORE

Rep. Kyle Mullins hosted his first House Democratic Policy Committee public hearing on state and local transportation issues at the Dunmore Community Center. Members, state and local officials discussed improving our roads and public safety and how working jointly to mend our roadways and bridges can give our economy a boost while making our community safer.

The committee heard testimony from:

- Richard Roman, bureau director for Maintenance and Operations/interim District 4 executive, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation;
- John Pocius, member of Coordinating Committee, Lackawanna/Luzerne Metropolitan Planning Organization;
- Steve Pitoniak, chairman of Technical Committee, Lackawanna/Luzerne Metropolitan Planning Organization;
- Bob Fiume, executive director, County of Lackawanna Transit System;
- Carl Beardsley, executive director, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport;
- Charlene Wagner Doyle, director of administration, Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority; and
- Thomas Calpin, business agent, Ironworkers Local 404.



REP. EDDIE DAY PASHINSKI | AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FEBRUARY 28 | WILKES-BARRE

Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski hosted his public hearing on affordable health care. Pashinski requested the meeting to discuss what is being done and still can be done to make health care affordable in Pennsylvania. He was joined by state legislators from across the state. He said many Pennsylvanians can't afford and therefore don't have access to health care, making obtaining quality services impossible for too many. House Democrats and health care experts had a discussion on examining policies to improve access, lower costs and improve the quality of health care in Pennsylvania.

Hearing participants included:

- Dr. Anthony Aquilina, regional president, Geisinger Northeast Region; and
- Patrick Keenan, policy director, Pennsylvania Health Access Network.



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Rep. Mike Sturla is chairman of the House Democratic Policy Committee. The Policy Committee holds public hearings and meetings across the state, and serves as the catalyst to enacting major policy initiatives put forth by members of the House Democratic Caucus. You can find details about upcoming hearings, hearing testimony from previous hearings and Chairman Sturla's Policy Point of the Day by visiting www.pahouse.com/PolicyCommittee.

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