



State Representative | 189th Legislative District

TARAH PROBST

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PROBST SUPPORTS 2024-2025 STATE BUDGET WITH NO NEW TAXES

EDUCATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARE PRIORITIES

The 2024-2025 state budget invests in a better future for all Pennsylvanians! We were able to increase funding for our schools, child care services, housing initiatives and mental health services. We're creating jobs and supporting our communities – and the small, local businesses that create the jobs. **And we did it all without new taxes or raising taxes.** This is a budget we can all be proud of!

The budget increases funding for 189th District school districts as noted on the graphic.

Among other highlights, the budget includes the following funding increases and new investments that will benefit Pennsylvania's schoolchildren.

This budget makes sure every child can learn in a safe and healthy learning environment by investing \$100 million to clean up and improve school facilities and eliminate health hazards like asbestos and lead, while also investing \$100

million for school safety and resources for students in crisis.

To address the lack of teachers entering the workforce, funding for the popular Student Teacher Stipend Program has been doubled to strengthen the teacher pipeline.

To help alleviate period poverty, which causes many students to skip school, menstrual products will be provided in schools.

I also want to highlight the budget's address of the affordable housing and homelessness crises with a \$5 million funding increase (27%) for homeless assistance with more investments in affordable housing and eviction prevention, and by increasing transfers for the PA Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) annually to \$100 million after five years; and helping municipalities provide housing to residents in emergencies.



Ensuring that Pennsylvania's children have a home of their own will provide the essential foundation for their intellectual, social, emotional and physical health. As Pennsylvanians have a fundamental right to a high-quality education, so too do they have a fundamental right to a home of their own. It is a matter of justice. Let's get it done!

FACTS DON'T LIE

Don't believe anyone who says the House hasn't been working!



HERE'S A SNAPSHOT OF THE BUDGET'S INVESTMENTS

EDUCATION

- **Historic Funding:** We've allocated over a billion new dollars to public education, setting us on a path to rectify decades of underfunding and unfair funding as laid out by the state Commonwealth Court.
- **\$100 million** in special education funding.
- **Solar for Schools:** Solar for Schools Grant Program provides \$25 million to subsidize solar adoption in schools, reduce energy costs, and save districts hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

HEALTH CARE

- **Making Mental Health a Priority:** \$71 million for mental health services, including an increase of \$20 million for county-based mental health services.
- **Supporting our Seniors:** We secured \$75 million in increased funding for the care of seniors and adults with disabilities living in skilled nursing facilities.
- **\$1.9 million** to create the first Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Division within the PA Department of Aging.
- **Almost \$2.5 million** to address maternal mortality.

HUMAN SERVICES

- **Intellectual Disabilities and Autism (ID/A) Resources:** We've directed \$354.8 million towards resources, including \$74.8 million to clear the emergency wait list, ensuring Pennsylvanians receive the care they need.
- **Supporting our Youth:** We're directing \$26.2 million for subsidized childcare services.
- **\$4 million** for Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- **\$55.6 million** for Youth Development Institutions.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Site Development:** We've allocated \$500 million to site development.
- **Main Streets and Commercial Corridors:** \$20 million will revitalize these crucial areas.
- **Minority-Owned Businesses:** An additional \$20 million is set aside to support small, minority-owned businesses.
- **Lowering business taxes** to help small businesses flourish.

ENVIRONMENT

- **Clean Streams:** \$50 million will go toward cleaning local streams.
- **Abandoned Oil Wells:** \$11 million is allocated for capping abandoned oil wells.
- **DEP Permitting:** \$10.5 million will expedite DEP permitting processes and clear backlogs.

LABOR

- **Career and Technical Education:** An increase of \$30 million in funding for CTE will provide more opportunities for skills development.
- **Grow PA Scholarships:** These scholarships, given to students who commit to work in PA after graduation, will ensure their skills are benefitting the Commonwealth.
- **Labor Law Enforcement:** Investments in labor law enforcement training will combat wage theft and hold bad employers accountable.

TRANSIT

- **Funding for Public Transit:** We've secured \$80 million to keep our public transit systems running.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- **Community-Based Programs:** Over \$50 million has been allocated for community-based programs to reduce violence.

2024-2025 PA BUDGET WINS

- No new taxes
- **Over \$1B increase** for Pre-K to 12 education funding
- **\$30M increase** for Career and Technical Education
- **\$100M** for Public school facility improvement grants
- **NEW \$3M** investment for menstrual hygiene products in schools to address period poverty
- **Over \$15M increase** for Community Colleges
- **Over \$140M** for grants, scholarships, and other programs to make higher education more affordable in PA

2024-2025 PA BUDGET WINS

- **\$20M** for student teacher stipends
- **\$70M** for attainable housing initiatives through the PHARE Housing Program
- **\$16.5M increase** for anti-violence investments and after-school programs
- **\$20M increase** for county based mental health services
- **NEW \$2.5M** for legal services in eviction proceedings
- **\$7M increase** for Workforce Development
- **\$161M** for Public Transportation and Multimodal projects
- **\$261M increase** for Intellectual Disabilities/Autism Community Waiver Program

2024-2025 PA BUDGET WINS

- **Over \$26M increase** for subsidized childcare services
- **\$36M increase** for Neighborhood Assistance Program
- **\$5M increase** for Homelessness Assistance
- **Over \$2M increase** for Domestic Violence Prevention
- **\$5M increase** for Non-profit Security grants
- **\$7.5M** for indigent defense
- **AND MUCH MORE!**

PROBST SECURES GRANTS FOR PIKE COUNTY PROJECTS

I was pleased to help secure \$250,000 in state grants for the Pike County Economic Development Authority for the following projects:

- \$50,000, on behalf of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, to replace and renovate a playground on church property in Delaware Township.
- \$75,000, on behalf of the Pocono Environmental Education Center, to replace three existing outdated/dilapidated cabins at the center in Dingman Township.
- \$50,000, on behalf of Pocono Ranch Lands, to replace a water storage tank in Lehman Township.
- \$75,000, on behalf of the Glen at Tamiment, to replace drainage pipes in Lehman Township.

HOW TO SHOP FOR ELECTRICITY & GAS IN PA

4 Easy Steps to Find the Best Electricity and Natural Gas Suppliers for You



1 GO ONLINE

Visit PA Power Switch at www.papowerswitch.com for electricity or PA Gas Switch at http://pa.gasswitch.com for gas and type in your zip code



2 REVIEW OFFERS

Explore the fixed, variable and unlimited rate offers available in your area. Make sure to add your average monthly electricity or gas usage to see estimated prices across different plans. Renewable plans may also be available for those interested in green options.



3 COMPARE

Take extra time to review and compare different offers. Other factors to consider are cancellation fees and the contract term.



4 SIGN UP

Click the plan that's best for you and you will be taken to that electricity or gas supplier's website to complete your registration.

PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS SWAY PUC ON PA AMERICAN WATER HIKE

In July, the PA Public Utility Commission voted to reduce the rate increase requested by PA American Water Co. by over 50%. While I am still convinced that a 9.99% increase is too high, I am pleased that the PUC responded to the comments made by ratepayers and slashed the proposed increase in half.

Additionally, the PUC announced it is undertaking an investigation into service quality issues due to concerns made by consumers at public input hearings, including in our area.



SHOPPING FOR ELECTRICITY AND GAS

Feel like you're paying too much for electricity or gas? You may be eligible to switch to a provider that will work as a better fit for you! Follow the steps in the graphic to see if a switch is right for you! For more info, visit www.papowerswitch.com or pa.gasswitch.com.



The 189th District thrives on tourism. I am proud to serve on the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee.

I strongly support our law enforcement. Earlier this year, my colleague Rep. Maureen Madden and I were happy to welcome Monroe County Sheriff Nick Cirranello to the state Capitol.





RT. 611 REOPENING BY MIDDLE OF FALL

A year and a half ago, we started working and trying to get the closure of Rt. 611 Delaware Water Gap settled. Everything we wanted to do kept falling to the wayside, and it was frustrating not only for me, but most importantly, the residents who travel that road, the businesses that have suffered because of this closure, the emergency access being removed, and the toll it has taken on other municipality roads.

I am so glad that there is going to be a temporary fix that will come to a permanent solution, and everybody can get back to their normal lives. We can do better, we will do better, and I thank Congressman Matt Cartwright for stepping in and helping to get this job done.

MONROE COUNTY BEGINS TEXT ALERTS

The Monroe County Commissioners are announcing the launching of TextMyGov, a new smart text messaging service that will provide Monroe County voters information and updates. The new texting service provides two functions, with two separate numbers. Sign up to receive important election notifications, and text to find quick election information on the go. The commissioners are excited for this new technology to keep Monroe County voters informed. Stay informed, stay ahead.

To Get Started!

Text "HI" to (570) 534 4405

Message and data rates may apply. Check with your carrier for details. View terms and privacy policy at: textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions

You can text STOP at any time to remove yourself from the notification list.

PA NAVIGATE

Online tool connects you with food, housing, child care and more

The state has created a new online tool called PA Navigate to connect you with community organizations, county and state agencies, and health care providers for referrals to resources that help you meet basic needs like food, shelter, transportation and more.

Administered by the PA Department of Human Services, PA Navigate allows you to find services in your area and filter your results based on your needs, desired program specifications or financial eligibility.

Visit pa-navigate.org for more information or to find resources in your community. Always feel free to contact my office directly for help.

PENNIE ENROLLMENT

To get financial assistance to help lower the cost of health insurance coverage, Pennsylvanians can enroll in 2025 coverage via Pennie from Nov. 1, 2024 until Jan. 15, 2025. For more info, go to Pennie.com or call Pennie at 1 (844) 844-8040.



Congratulations to Lawson Hawke from Delaware Valley School District for being awarded the Margaret Mary Jones Memorial Scholarship. FROM LEFT – staffer Cheryl Glenn, me, Lawson, Pike County Commissioner Christa Caceres.

I had a great time at Middle Smithfield Township Community Day at Echo Lake.



WAS YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIM DENIED?

If you believe your health insurer wrongly denied a claim, you can now request an external review by the PA Insurance Department. The external review only applies to health insurance purchased through Pennie, directly from a health insurer, and commercial health insurance purchased by an employer.

You must complete the internal appeal process of your insurer before filing for an external review. If you are eligible, the PA Insurance Department will assign your request to a certified independent review organization. External review requests are free, and decisions are final and binding.

External review requests can be submitted online by visiting www.pa.gov/reviewmyclaim or you may download a paper request form from this website. You may also call the PA Insurance Department at (877) 881-6388 if you have questions or need further assistance.

MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE!

It only takes a few minutes to make sure you're ready to vote in the Nov. 5 General Election. Get started by registering to vote or updating your voter registration at vote.pa.gov/register.

Oct. 21 – Last day to register to vote in the General Election.

Oct. 29 – Last day to apply for a mail ballot.

Nov. 5 – Election Day. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.



DMVA CAN HELP VETERANS RETRIEVE LOST MILITARY DOCUMENTS

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs can assist veterans with locating their lost DD Form 214 (DD-214). This form is needed to verify military service for benefits, retirement, employment and more.

Anyone needing assistance from the DMVA to locate their DD-214/215, or other military documentation, can call toll-free (800) 547-2838 or e-mail RA-REQ@pa.gov. Another way to stay in touch is for veterans, family members and people who work with veterans to sign up for the DMVA's Veterans Registry by visiting www.register.dmva.pa.gov.

INCREASING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS 988 HOTLINE AVAILABLE 24/7

Did you know that 988 is a hotline developed for national suicide prevention and mental health crisis response? Unfortunately, many individuals experiencing a mental health crisis may not be aware of this critical resource. My colleague Rep. Tarik Khan and I will be introducing legislation to create a public awareness campaign to increase public understanding and engagement with the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

If you or someone you know is having a mental health crisis, please call 988. They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

DOES THE STATE HAVE YOUR UNCLAIMED PROPERTY?

Did you know that the Pennsylvania Treasury is currently holding onto \$3.5 billion in unclaimed property?

Did you know that one in 10 Pennsylvanians is owed unclaimed property?

Did you know the average claim is worth about \$2,000?

My office is hard at work on trying to notify residents of their unclaimed property, but you don't have to wait for us to reach out. You can search Treasury's online database at any time to see if you or friends and family have property waiting to be claimed. You do not need to pay anyone a fee to search for or claim property from the state. Learn more at www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property.

KEEP MARKETS FAIR WHILE PROMOTING A HEALTHY ECONOMY

In early July, the state House of Representatives passed a bill designed to restrict monopolistic and collusive practices in PA marketplaces.

The Open Markets Act would allow the state attorney general to prosecute and penalize companies attempting to monopolize, restrict trade, limit competition, and engage in other practices that are largely unchecked in PA.

PA is the only state without an antitrust statute and that does a lot of economic damage to consumers, workers, and small business owners in PA. When companies collude or monopolize to dominate a market here, our current laws don't allow us to hold them accountable. This bill is centered around equipping PA's attorney general with the necessary tools to prosecute these bad actors so that working families don't have to bear the consequences of predatory practices like monopolization, lower wages, higher costs, price gouging, and fewer choices in the marketplace.

The bill passed the House by a bipartisan vote and awaits action by the state Senate.



State Representative
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A Spanish version of this mailer is available on my website www.RepProbst.com.

Hay una versión en español de este correo en mi sitio web www.RepProbst.com.

lpo.ks.0824

PROBST'S OFFICE CAN HELP YOU!

- Car registrations, special tags, disability placards, titles and driver's license applications.
- Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds.
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation.
- Pennsylvania state income tax questions or problems.
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications.
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms and application assistance.
- Information on financial assistance for higher education.
- Problems or questions about the state lottery.
- PACE cards for senior citizens.
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups.
- Information about state and local government agencies.
- Questions about the veterans property tax exemption.
- Assistance applying for Human Services programs: Medicaid, SNAP, CHIP, and LIHEAP.
- Any state government service or issue!

REPRESENTATIVE
TARAH PROBST IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

DISABILITY OUTREACH APPOINTMENTS
1st Wednesday of every month
10AM-12PM | 570-420-3830
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STAY CONNECTED

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