

THE POLICY RECAP

A Summary of House Democratic Policy Committee Meetings..... October 18, 22, 24, 25, 2018

House Democrats have a Plan4PA, a new way forward that puts people first with good jobs, affordable health care, quality schools and a fair economy.



Additional information about the Plan4PA is available at www.Plan4PA.com.

Rep. Pam Snyder Decline of Volunteer Firefighters Richeyville | October 18

State Rep. Pam Snyder hosted a public hearing at the Richeyville Volunteer Fire Company Hall to examine the sharp decline in the number of volunteer firefighters in Pennsylvania.

The committee heard testimony from local fire department officials on how their ranks are dwindling and what might be done to reverse that trend. The testifiers were:

- Bruce Trego, acting Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner
- Jeff Marshall, chief, Waynesburg-Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Company
- Scott Dolan, chief, Hiller Volunteer Fire Company
- Mark Giovanelli, chief, East Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Company
- Craig Baily, president, Carmichaels-Cumberland Township Volunteer Fire Company





Rep. Helen Tai

Gun Safety

New Hope | October 22

State Rep. Helen Tai held a public hearing at the Event Center by Cornerstone on gun safety issues.

The committee discussed various legislative proposals while collecting suggestions from law enforcement and advocacy groups about how to improve gun safety. The committee heard testimony from:

- Dominick Bellizzie, chief of police, Solebury Township
- Barbara Simmons, executive director, The Peace Center
- Shira Goodman, executive director, CeaseFirePA
- Jesse Steele, director of development, A Woman's Place
- Marlene Katz, faith outreach lead, Moms Demand Action
- Mikhel Harrison, former police officer and family member of multiple gun violence victims



Rep. Mary Jo Daley Environmental Education Programs Gladwyne | October 24

State Rep. Mary Jo Daley hosted a public hearing on environmental education programs at the Riverbend Environmental Education Center.

The committee learned about the importance of environmental education along students' career paths. Testifiers included:

- Cindy Adams Dunn, secretary, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Laurie Bachman, executive director, Riverbend Environmental Education Center
- Erin McCool, director of education Programs and Strategic Initiatives, Riverbend Environmental Education Center
- Judd Pittman, special consultant to the Secretary of Education for STEM, PA Department of Education
- Christopher Dormer, superintendent, Norristown Area School District



Rep. Brian Kirkland

Jobs and Economic Development Chester | October 25

State Rep. Brian Kirkland held a public hearing on jobs and economic development at Chester City Hall.

The committee received the latest information about what the state and local officials are doing to create more jobs and spur economic development. Testifiers were:

- Carol Kilko, deputy secretary for business financing, PA Department of Community and Economic Development
- Eileen Cipriani, deputy secretary for workforce development, PA Department of Labor & Industry
- Drake Nakaishi, executive director, Chester Economic Development Authority
- John Daly, executive director, Delaware County Workforce Development Board



About the House Democratic Policy Committee

Rep. Mike Sturla is chair 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.