



State Representative | 189th Legislative District TARAH PROBST

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9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

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9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays

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CYBER CHARTER REFORM SAVES TAXPAYER MONEY

Cyber charter schools are publicly funded schools paid for with taxpayer dollars. For more than 25 years, they operated without real accountability, costing our local school districts millions.

We changed that.

Because of new reforms at the state level, millions of dollars are now staying in our school districts, where they belong, supporting brick-and-mortar classrooms, students, and educators, and helping to prevent property tax hikes.

This is real progress toward fairness in school funding, and we're proud of what it means for our local brick-and-mortar schools this year.

CYBER CHARTER REFORM IS PUTTING MONEY BACK IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EAST STROUDSBURG:

\$1.4 million BACK

STROUDSBURG:

\$2.1 million BACK

DELAWARE VALLEY:

\$200,000 BACK

STATE BUDGET PLAN WOULD HELP EVERYONE

In early February, the governor proposed his 2026-27 state budget. I am excited that the plan will continue to build on the successes of recent years regarding education funding, community safety, affordable housing and putting money back in the pockets of people living in Monroe and Pike counties.

In the current 2025-26 state budget, we provided tax cuts through the **Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit** and the **Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Tax Credit**. We also were successful in continuing to adequately fund our public schools, which have been shortchanged by the state for decades, thus leading to local tax property increases. We provided a COLA for long-time state retirees and began working to make housing more affordable.

Governor Shapiro's **BUDGET ADDRESS** 2026

This budget is rooted in everyday reality: whether a paycheck stretches far enough to cover rent, groceries, childcare, and other essentials. Its purpose is clear—**lower costs and make life more affordable across Pennsylvania.**

Over the past several years, House Democrats have made historic investments in education, property tax relief, workforce development, and economic growth. Those efforts laid the foundation for this budget.



GRANTS HELP KEEP LOCAL TAXES DOWN

One of the most important parts of my job as your State Representative is to secure state funding for our municipalities, emergency services, school districts and local organizations. Many of the grants help to support projects that otherwise may not be affordable on the local level without raising taxes or utility rates.

Recent grants include:

- **\$600,000** to **Stroudsburg Borough** to help repave six roads and install ADA-compliant curb ramps and sidewalk tie-ins and \$250,000 to be used toward an infrastructure slip lining project.
- **\$500,000** to the **Pocono Center for the Arts** toward building renovations to create a center for the visual and performing arts.
- **\$280,000** to the **Smithfield Sewer Authority** toward the Phase III extension of the sanitary sewer system along Seven Bridge Road.
- **\$250,000** to the **Pocono Mountains Industrial Park Authority** to be used toward the construction of a center turning lane along Milford Road in Middle Smithfield Township.
- **\$155,400** to the **Brodhead Creek Regional Authority** to rehabilitate two water storage tanks in Stroud Township and another \$140,490 grant to purchase leak detection and monitoring equipment in Stroud Township, Stroudsburg Borough and Pocono Township.
- **\$150,000** to **Suburban Emergency Medical Services** to purchase powered stair chairs for ambulances.
- **\$145,212** to **Middle Smithfield Township** to improve accessibility to the Community and Cultural Center, another \$137,818 grant to create a new township park on land that currently has

the Roads Department Garage and a third \$50,000 grant for the Resica Falls Road Sanitary Sewer Extension project.



- **\$136,448** to **East Stroudsburg Borough** for a new roof project and \$73,095 for security cameras.
- **\$95,000** to the **Stroud Township Volunteer Fire Department** to purchase a UTV with water pump, uplifting, and firefighting equipment to handle brush fires.
- **\$63,750** to be used toward the **Stroud Region Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan**.
- **\$60,000** to the **Bushkill Fire Co.** to purchase a UTV for off-road emergency situations, fire patrols, search and rescue missions.
- **\$50,000** to the **Monroe Women's Veterans Museum** for operations and equipment purchases.

REP. PROBST'S OFFICE CAN HELP YOU

It's been another successful year of serving the residents of Monroe and Pike counties. Thank you to my staff for working so hard every day to help all of you who contact us for assistance with state and government issues.

You can reach us by email at RepProbst@pahouse.net and:

18 S. 9th St. in Stroudsburg
(570) 420-2850

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

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REPRESENTATIVE
Tarah Probst



**Legislative
Year in Review**

\$3.2 MILLION

**in State Grant Money Brought
Back to the District**

448 Property Tax/ Rent
Rebates Completed
by our Office

2725 Casework
Tickets Solved

532 Bills Sponsored
or Co-Sponsored



2025

I also was proud to vote for numerous bills that helped families, workers and older residents live better lives here in Monroe and Pike counties. You can read more about them by checking out www.pahouse.com/deliveringforpa.

PROBST WANTS PROPERTY TAXES ELIMINATED FOR PA VETERANS

All veterans who are deemed at least 50% disabled, and their surviving spouses, would be exempt from property taxes under my legislation that was approved unanimously last June by the PA House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

My legislation proposes an amendment to the state Constitution to exempt from property taxes all veterans deemed at least 50% disabled, regardless of whether their service was in combat. It also would guarantee benefits for surviving spouses of eligible veterans, including those who were killed in action, taken prisoner, or went missing in action.

By removing unnecessary barriers and securing benefits for surviving spouses, we can provide needed financial relief to those who have already sacrificed so much. Our veterans and their families have given everything in service to our country -



it's our responsibility to support them. This is a vital step in expanding access to property tax relief and ensuring no eligible veteran or surviving spouse is left behind.

House Bill 1257 is ready for final passage by the full House of Representatives.

IN THE COMMUNITY



What an honor to be in Mount Pocono at the only Veterans Museum for Women in the country with my colleagues Reps. Maureen Madden and Jim Haddock who presented his House Resolution 354 recognizing women combat veterans. Thank you to all of our veterans for their service to our country and their families who support them!

Thank you Northwell Health and the Pike County Commissioners for bringing health care to southern Pike County. This is the difference between life and death, health and prosperity, as well as security knowing you have health care right around the corner at 116 Atlantic Ave. in Dingmans, Delaware Township.



In November, we were fortunate to have Lt. Gov. Austin Davis visit Monroe and Pike counties. He discussed gun safety with Monroe County commissioners, Monroe County Office of the District Attorney, Sheriff Nick Cirranello, Dr. John Toleno, and John Jakobsen. He then met with Pike County Commissioner Christa Caceres, Lehman Township and Bushkill Outreach, seeing what good our communities can do. Thank you all for your public service!



I am humbled to have been honored by the Animal Welfare Society of Monroe (AWSOM) at their "Paw-sitive" People Awards & Fur Ball. Their support and compassion for families and the community is unwavering. Thank you to the staff members who work day in and day out to care for our furry friends.



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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.

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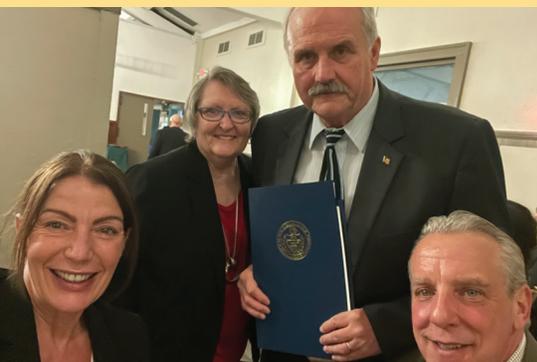
IN THE COMMUNITY



The Eastburg Community Alliance and East Stroudsburg Borough had a wonderful tree lighting celebration and Santa!



I always enjoy the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters/United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Christmas party that is filled with great people and great food. Union Strong!



Thank you Stroudsburg Fire Department for inviting me to the department's annual banquet. Congratulations to all of the firefighters getting their awards and thank you for mine. I am so proud of it and honored. You are our local heroes and we thank you.



I am always honored to be invited to Tamiment to recognize senior veterans with a lovely dinner. That community is so great and it is such a special event. The volunteers are great cooks too!



Stroudsburg Borough and all of the sponsors, volunteers, and people who came to the Christmas tree lighting made it such a great evening. These are Hallmark moments every year and I am lucky to be able to get on stage and say thank you and Merry Christmas.