

Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center Budget Summit 2018

AGENDA



9:00 – 9:30 **Registration**

9:30 – 9:40 **Welcome**

Marc Stier, Director, Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center

9:40 – 10:30 **Overview of Governor Wolf’s 2018-19 Budget Proposal**

Marc Stier, Director, Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center
Diana Polson, Policy Analyst, Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center

10:45 – 12:00 **Morning Workshop Session**

[workshops listed on back]

12:00 – 1:15 **Lunch and Legislative Panel Discussion**

Moderator: Corinna Vecsey Wilson, Esq., President, Wilson500 Inc.

Panelists:

State Senator David Argall, 29th Senatorial District
Chair, Senate Republican Policy Committee

State Senator Lisa Boscola, 18th Senatorial District
Chair, Senate Democratic Policy Committee

State Representative Mike Sturla, 96th House District
Chair, House Democratic Policy Committee

1:30 – 2:45 **Afternoon Workshop Session**

[workshops listed on back]

3:00 – 4:00 **Keynote Address**

Andrea Purse, Managing Director of Communications, The Hub Project

4:00 **Adjourn**

Morning Workshop Session (10:45 - 12:00)

How the State Budget Impacts Vulnerable Communities of Color *[Metro A]*

Former VP Joe Biden once said, “Don’t tell me what you value. Show me your budget, and I’ll tell you what you value.” Where the state budget is concerned – whether the focus is funding for pre-K, public schools, higher education, health care, or human services issues – we must insist on a budget that protects Pennsylvania’s most vulnerable communities, and frequently those are communities of color. This workshop will address how the budget impacts these communities of color, and why we must advocate for budgets that correct chronic underfunding and address systemic injustice.

- **Kadida Kenner**, Campaign Manager, Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center (**Moderator**)
- **Nijmie Zakkiyyah Dzurinko**, Co-founder and co-coordinator, Put People First! PA
- **Ashleigh Strange**, Communications Director, Make the Road Pennsylvania
- **Rev. Dr. Franklin Hairston-Allen**, President, Harrisburg Area Chapter of the NAACP

How to Communicate Your State Budget Advocacy Message Effectively *[Metro B]*

The budget process is complicated and messy – how can advocacy groups most effectively communicate to their members and members of the general public about why they should care about the Pennsylvania budget? How can we make messaging on the budget clear and concise in a way that makes constituents feel comfortable about engaging elected officials? Learn from practitioners who wrestle with this challenge every day – and with budget negotiations ongoing for most of the last three years, we really do mean “every day.”

- **John Neurohr**, Communications Director, Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center (**Moderator**)
- **Brittany Crampsie**, Press Secretary, Senate Democratic Leader Jay Costa and the Senate Democratic Caucus
- **Susan Spicka**, Executive Director, Education Voters of Pennsylvania
- **Dan Doubet**, Executive Director, Keystone Progress

Defending Against Federal & State-level Attacks on Medicaid, Medicare, & SNAP *[Metro C]*

Congress and the Trump Administration have made good on their promised attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and make dramatic changes to the Medicaid, Medicare and SNAP programs. This workshop features experts who will explore the impact of such dramatic changes, review current proposals, and discuss the economic impact these changes would have on our commonwealth. Panelists will also discuss current advocacy efforts in Pennsylvania and discuss advocacy opportunities with attendees.

- **Jennifer Wolff**, Policy Specialist, Mental Health Partnerships (**Moderator**)
- **Antoinette Kraus**, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Health Access Network
- **Lauren Badger**, Government Relations Associate, Food Research & Action Center
- **Deborah Swerdlow**, State Strategies Manager, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Mobilizing and Engaging Grassroots Groups for Advocacy *[Brady]*

Now more than ever, self-advocates and grassroots groups are making their voices heard throughout the halls of the Pennsylvania Capitol. This workshop features experts who will explore the impact of grassroots organizing on both legislation, and the civic and social engagement of affected populations. Panelists will also discuss current advocacy efforts in Pennsylvania as well as opportunities for individuals and organizations to get involved themselves.

- **Jeff Garis**, Outreach and Engagement Director, Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center (**Moderator**)
- **Hannah Laurison**, Co-Founder, Pennsylvania Together
- **Jane Palmer**, Executive Director, Indivisible Berks
- **Adanjesús Marín**, State Director, Make the Road Pennsylvania

How State & Federal Courts Cases Targeting Labor Could Impact Budget Advocacy *[Governor]*

Labor and working families are facing threats in the court systems at unprecedented levels pushed by anti-union interests, including the recent *Janus V. AFSCME* over union contract administration. As some of the main funders of advocacy efforts in states throughout the country, this will affect not only members, but the larger progressive community. Learn about the motives behind these cases and real-world implications who have experienced them first hand and additional threats in Pennsylvania.

- **Eric Rosso**, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Spotlight (**Moderator**)
 - **Molly Chapman Norton**, Executive Director, The Atlas Project
 - **Michael Maguire**, Assistant Legislative Director, AFSCME Council 13
 - **Hillary Linardopolous**, Staff Representative, Philadelphia Federation of Teachers
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Afternoon Workshop Session (1:30-2:45)

Threading the Property Tax Needle: Reducing Property Taxes and Responsibly Funding Schools

[Metro A]

The push for property tax elimination is founded on the false premise that property taxes are high everywhere in the state. The first part of this workshop will show that property taxes are high in only some parts of Pennsylvania and that property tax elimination would be highly regressive, raising taxes on middle- and low-income families to provide the biggest breaks to the wealthiest property owners. The second part of this workshop will introduce an alternative approach that targets tax relief to families who need it most. The interactive discussion will focus on the potential for building a winning coalition around a solution that increases school funding and provides targeted property tax relief.

- **Steve Herzenberg**, Executive Director, Keystone Research Center

Understanding & Responding to Federal Tax Reform of 2017 *[Metro B]*

What is the truth about the federal tax cut enacted in December 2017? How will it affect the country and Pennsylvania? Who are the winners, and who are the losers? And, how will it affect the economy?

- **Steve Wamhoff**, Director of Federal Policy, Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy

Defending Against Federal & State-level Attacks on Medicaid, Medicare & SNAP *[Metro C]*

(Repeat from Morning Workshop Session)

Making the Rich Pay Their Fair Share *[Brady]*

Pennsylvania has a revenue problem that impacts our ability to raise necessary funds for our schools, human services and protecting the environment. This workshop will review the short- and long-term reasons for our structural deficit and strategies for solving the problem.

- **Marc Stier**, Director, Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center
- **Diana Polson**, Policy Analyst, Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center

PA Budget 101: An Introduction to the State Budget Process *[Governor]*

This workshop will cover everything you always wanted to know about the state budget (but were afraid to ask.) How is the budget for Pennsylvania assembled and implemented? What are the constitutional requirements that guide the process? How do advocates outside the General Assembly influence the final version of the Pennsylvania budget? These are just some of the questions that will be addressed in this workshop.

- **Miriam Fox**, Executive Director, House Committee on Appropriations (D), Rep. Joe Markosek, Chairman
- **Ted Mowatt**, Senior Associate/Lobbyist, Wanner Associates
- **Liana E. Walters, Esq.**, Legislative Director, Senator Art Haywood