



POLITICAL UPDATE

May 2016

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City of Pittsburgh Releases Update on 2016 Electrical Licensure Renewal

Western PA NECA received the following update from the City of Pittsburgh Department of Permits, Licenses, and Inspections regarding the renewal of electrical contractor licenses for 2016:

"To accommodate our customer's requests and their effort to follow City Ordinance by getting an active tax account, PLI will extend the deadline for HVAC and Electrical licences until May 6, 2016. All applications received in

our office by Friday, May 6, 2016, will not pay a late fee.

We will start assessing late fees to all applications received by our office after May 6, 2016. This will also include mailed applications. All applications that arrive in the mail after May 6, 2016 will incur a late fee.

For those applying after the May 6, 2016 deadline, the correct payment amount is \$371. This includes the \$278 license fee plus a \$93 late fee."

[Click here](#) to access the Department's website with application and instructions.

Elections Update: PA Primary Edition

Speculation was rampant in advance of the PA primary election on April 26th from the presidential and senate races down to the state seats. Here is a brief rundown of the outcomes.

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump won their primaries with sizable margins. Clinton has won the support of all of PA's superdelegates, and Trump seems to have a lead among the state's GOP delegates, listed [here](#).

Unlike many prior primary election seasons, PA's late primary election played a key role in all but securing the requisite 1,237 delegates for Trump. After the May 3rd primaries, Trump is just 230 delegates short of the nomination. He is expected to easily fill this gap before the convention in Cleveland now that his biggest competition, Ted Cruz, has dropped out of the race.

Katie McGinty and her massive amount of big-name endorsements (including President Obama, VP Biden, Governor Wolf, and others) beat out the well-known admiral and former congressman Joe Sestak in the primary for the Democratic spot in the US Senate race against incumbent Pat Toomey. Many predictions expected this race to be a toss-up, but McGinty finished with 44% of the vote to Sestak's 34%. Braddock mayor and Sanders-supporting underdog John Fetterman came out with a surprising 20% of the vote, despite spending only a fraction of his competitors' budgets in his first statewide race.

Another close race last Tuesday was between Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen Zappala and Montgomery County Commissioner and former State Representative Josh Shapiro for the Democratic PA Attorney General candidacy. Despite Zappala's support from John Dougherty and groups in Western PA, Shapiro won 47% of the vote to Zappala's 37%. Shapiro will now face Republican State Senator John Rafferty to replace AG Kathleen Kane, who is not seeking reelection following a slew of scandalous allegations.

Long-time Republican Congressman Bill Shuster, who represents Uniontown, Indiana, Johnstown, Altoona, and surrounding areas, narrowly held onto his nomination by just 1,009 votes.

In a close Democratic race for the 46th State House District, covering parts of southern Allegheny and northern Washington Counties, newcomer Joe Szpara beat out former State Rep. Jesse White by just over 100 votes.

[Click here](#) for details on other local races.



"Pat Toomey advocated for eliminating all corporate taxes."
— *Katie McGinty on Thursday, April 28th, 2016 in a press release.*



(Source: PolitiFact.com)

Western PA NECA Joins Natural Gas Pipeline Alliance

On March 15, Western PA NECA joined the Pennsylvania Energy Infrastructure Alliance (PEIA), a unique, broad-based coalition of labor, business, economic and agriculture interests that support private investment in pipeline and other energy infrastructure developments.

Development of the Marcellus and Utica shales is going to continue. The critical link in that growth is infrastructure. Pipelines, when built safely and managed responsibly, will create thousands of construction jobs, generate millions in annual estimated tax revenue locally and statewide, and bring recurring benefits to manufacturing and consumers that rely on affordable, reliable energy supplies.

That's the focus of PEIA, which was launched in June 2015 by the Washington County Chamber of Commerce and Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, along with the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA!) and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 66. From those four members, the alliance now comprises 30 groups working in tandem to educate lawmakers, stakeholders, members of their respective organizations, and the public about the benefits of modernizing and creating new energy infrastructure in Pennsylvania.

"Pipelines connect gas fields in the western part of the state to processing facilities in eastern part of Pennsylvania. In other words, we're all in this together," said Trish McFarland, President of the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, one of PEIA's founding members. "Keeping the production of these valuable energy resources in Pennsylvania provides the greatest benefit for our workers and consumers, and the overall economy."

Are you working on a project related to energy infrastructure? Tell us what energy infrastructure and pipeline work mean to you --- and what projects you're working on --- so we can share NECA members' experiences with other PEIA members and raise awareness about the importance of this work.

For more information about PEIA members and the organization's efforts,



"According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 120 Americans on average die from a drug overdose every day. Overall, drug overdose deaths now outnumber deaths from firearms."

— Joe Pitts on Thursday, March 10th, 2016 in a Medium post



(Source: PolitiFact.com)

House of Representatives Establishes Congressional Building Trades Caucus

Two federal legislators with ties to the construction industries have established the Congressional Building Trades Caucus to examine issues affecting construction throughout the country and ways to improve the state of the industry.

A caucus is generally a bipartisan focus group of Congressmen and/or Senators who are interested (or whose constituents are interested) in a particular topic. Caucuses usually hold meetings a few times a year to hear from stakeholders and experts in their area of interest about current problems and successes, and they discuss policy ideas that may benefit stakeholders.

The founding chairmen of the caucus are Donald Norcross (D-NJ), an IBEW journeyman electrician, and Rep. David McKinley (R-WV), a civil engineer. Their goal in starting the caucus is to educate Members on the needs of the businesses and the labor force that build America, to develop policies for producing highly-trained craftsmen from apprenticeships, and to help the building trades industries move forward in the 21st century economy.

[Click here](#) to read the co-chairs' op-ed in The Hill from March 3 for more details about the caucus.

Western PA and Penn-Del-Jersey chapters of NECA teamed up once again to gather support for the caucus from PA Members of Congress. On April 14, the PA NECA chapters [sent a letter](#) to all 18 Democratic and Republican members of the state delegation requesting that they sign on as members of the caucus.

PA NECA representatives will be following up with these Members at in-person meetings during the annual NECA Legislative Conference, which is taking place on May 18-19.

If you have not signed up for the conference but would like to attend, please contact Joelle as soon as possible, as there may still be spaces available.

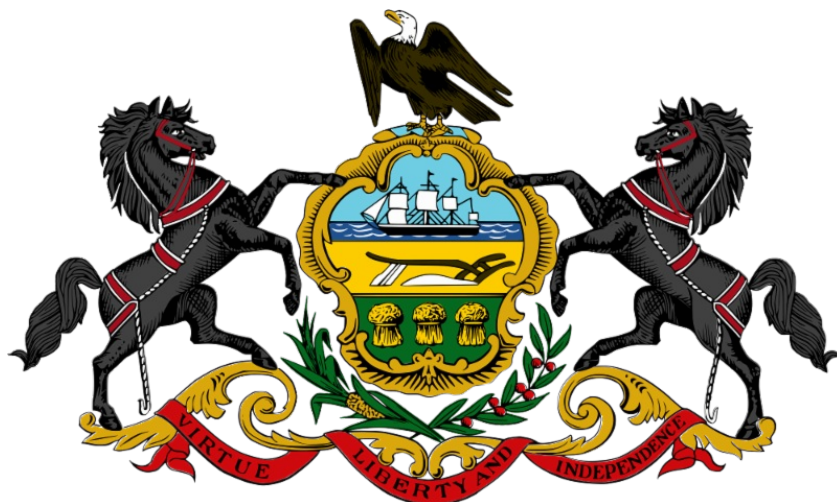
NECA-Backed PACE Legislation Garner's Coalition of Support

Earlier editions of the political update have discussed Western PA and Penn-Del-Jersey NECA's efforts to pass H.B. 1069, the PennSTAR Act, which will authorize Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs in Pennsylvania. Thirty-two states and the District of Columbia have authorized these programs, which provide attractive financing options for property owners to perform energy efficiency and clean energy upgrades to their facilities.

Both PA NECA chapters have been working to gather support from a wide variety of organizations that support the economical and environmental benefits PACE can facilitate.

The following organizations have signed on to support passage of H.B. 1069, and the government affairs team is working with more than a dozen additional groups that are considering support:

BlueGreen Alliance
Conservation Consultants Inc. (CCI)
Delaware Valley Green Building Council (DVGBC)
Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA)
First Fuel Software Inc.
Honeywell Building Solutions
IBEW Locals 5, 81, 229
Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance (KEEA)
MaGrann Associates
National Electrical Contractor Association, Western PA and Penn-Del-Jersey
Chapters
The Nature Conservancy, Pennsylvania Chapter
Penn Future
PennEnvironment
Pennsylvania Solar Energy Industries Association (PASEIA)
SmartWatt Energy Inc.



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