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This resource guide is designed to guide and assist individuals researching contemporary Pennsylvania government and politics. It describes many of the primary and secondary sources available, as well as some of the more significant Internet sites. In addition to sections on the various branches of Pennsylvania government, this resource guide also reviews the information about campaigns and elections, the media, local government, and research centers in the Commonwealth.

Individuals seeking information about Pennsylvania government and politics may consult a myriad of sources. The following description of resources is by no means exhaustive. The information contained is limited to books, articles and other sources of information that have been produced or made available since 1970.

State Government Sources

The commonwealth itself provides the most comprehensive source of information about the structure and activities of the Pennsylvania government. Researchers interested in an overview of the structure of state government should start by visiting the commonwealth’s homepage at HYPERLINK http://www.state.pa.us www.state.pa.us. From this site, the researcher will be able to access information on and contact every agency in the executive and legislative branches of government. One should note, however, that this site only contains information that has been compiled within the last ten years.

For those interested in obtaining material compiled before the information highway was constructed, the Pennsylvania State Library, located in Harrisburg, contains the most comprehensive collection of government information published by state agencies, commissions and boards. It also holds copies of the legislative proceedings and judicial rulings. One should consult the Checklist of Official Pennsylvania Publications for a listing of the library’s holdings. The Checklist is a monthly pub-

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lication that also lists all the reports and bulletins issued by state executive agencies. A similar source is the Directory of State Publications, which was originally issued in 1952 by the Bureau of Publications and has since been taken over by the Department of General Services. The state library also issues the Year's Work in Pennsylvania Studies, a comprehensive bibliography that cites sources that examine every aspect of Pennsylvania life. The public records of the state are also held in the Pennsylvania State Archives. Located in Harrisburg, the Archives' purpose is "to acquire, preserve and make available for study the permanently valuable public records of the Commonwealth, with particular attention to be given to the records of State Government."

A Directory of Libraries is available from the State Library. This directory lists the locations of libraries throughout the Commonwealth that receive state documents from the Pennsylvania State Library. For a listing of other publications, contact the State Bookstore, operated by the Department of General Services. The holdings of hundreds of the state's public, academic, school and specialized libraries are available through Access Pennsylvania, an Internet consortium offering a statewide catalog. It is located at http://accesspa.brodart.com.

The Pennsylvania Administrative Code defines the organization, powers and duties of executive agencies and departments. The rules and regulations issued by various bureaus and agencies are also listed. Similar, though dated, information can be found in the ABC's of Pennsylvania Government, which was compiled by the Secretary of the Senate for distribution to members in 1976. It presents information on the Constitution, General Assembly, Executive and Judicial branches in a question-answer format. The manual is indexed for easy reference.

Each executive department also has an office of public relations that reports its activities. Many offer a newsletter and other reports to the public via the Internet at no charge. A sample of such newsletters includes the Department of Labor and Industry's Job Service, the Department of Agriculture's Pennsylvania Agricultural News, and the Department of Education's Fast Forward, Inside Education, and Pennsylvania Education. While such newsletters may lack critical insight into the department's policies, readers will be given basic programmatic information and some indication of the agency's priorities.

An excellent source of basic information on the state of Pennsylvania and its governmental branches, departments and agencies is the Pennsylvania Manual. The Manual is published biennially by the Department of General Services. It includes a chronology of the state's history, the constitution, biographies of elected officials, recent election results and other general information. Most libraries in the state contain copies, as will the local offices of state representatives and senators.
General Sources


The League of Women Voters produced Key to the Keystone State: Pennsylvania, 4th edition, which is a basic guidebook on the structure and operation of Pennsylvania government. This book also describes the policy formation process in the state, as well as, all the major institutions. David J. Cuff, has edited The Atlas of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1989). It provides excellent information on the
state's land and resources, history, demographics, economic activity and principal cities, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. *Pennsylvania Magazine* is a general interest publication that deals with Pennsylvania lifestyle and related topics. The magazine occasionally covers current political issues.


National newspapers and magazines such as *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *U.S. News and World Report* provide some coverage of current events in Pennsylvania. Those interested in Pennsylvania's congressional delegation or elections will find *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Reports*, *Roll Call* and the *National Journal* invaluable sources of information. Scholarly analysis of various aspects of Pennsylvania politics can be found in journals such as *Church & State*, *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, *Public Management*, *Polity*, and *The Journal of Politics*.

The Commonwealth has been the subject of significant academic inquiry. Since 1973, over 385 dissertations have been written on Pennsylvania in the broad subject areas of business and economics, geography and regional planning, history, and law and politics. In addition, during this time period over 160 dissertations have examined Philadelphia, while approximately 50 have dealt with Pittsburgh. Descriptions of these monographs are available through University Microfilm Dissertation Abstracts.

**Pennsylvania History**


For those interested in regional history, local historical associations exist in many counties. A complete list of these associations is available in Victoria D. Brow and Deborah M. Miller, *Pennsylvania Directory of Historical Organizations* (PHMC, 1976).

Several periodicals are also dedicated to documenting and retracing Pennsylvania history. Some of the most prominent journals are the *Penn-*
The Pennsylvania Constitution


The Legislative Branch

For those interested in searching for information about the General Assembly (www.legis.state.pa.us), there are several sources to consult. Initially, one should refer to the *Pennsylvania Legislative Directory*, which is published for each legislative session in two volumes, one for the House of Representatives and one for the Senate. The *Directory* gives a brief biographical sketch of each legislator serving in that session and his/her
committee assignments, as well as the rules that govern each chamber. Another source identifying the members of the legislature is Richard Zeiger and Lynelle Jolley, eds. *Guidebook to Pennsylvania Legislators 1995-1996* (Cal Journal, 1995). The daily proceedings of each chamber can be found in *The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Legislative Journal*. Copies are available from the Secretary of the Senate, the Chief Clerk of the House, or from individual legislators.

A related source has been compiled by Capitol Info of Richboro, PA. It is a *Pocket Directory of the Pennsylvania Legislature* that includes biographies of the legislators, media sources and recent election results. *Legislators and Government Officials of the Delaware Valley*, compiled by the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce provides a complete listing of the names, addresses and phone numbers of local, state and federal representatives and government officials throughout the tri-state area.

The *Pennsylvania Code* lists all the laws that have been officially enacted by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor. It also includes court rules, legislative acts, and administrative regulations. For a more systematic examination of state laws, one should use *Purdon’s Pennsylvania Statutes*, which has compiled and annotated all the laws adopted by the legislature since 1700.

The enactment of legislation is described in *The Biography of a Bill* and is available through the Chief Clerk of the House. The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry’s *Know Your Legislature* (1987) offers a similar explanation. Other state sources providing information about the legislative process include *For Your Information: a Directory to Legislative Personnel, Services and Procedures* (1983) and *Preliminary Report: Commission on the Operation of the House* (1979), both are prepared by the Bi-Partisan Management Committee of the House.


If one is interested in a specific piece of legislation, or how individual legislators voted, the Republican Policy Committee of the House produces *Critical Vote Profiles: The Most Important Roll Call Votes of the Session*. This publication first began in the 1979-80 session. The Pennsylvania Cham-
ber of Business and Industry publishes the *Legislative Reporter*, a weekly newsletter which contains information on bills introduced, hearings scheduled, floor activity, and the impact of legislation on business. The Chamber also offers *Legiscope*, a computerized service designed to track the progress of bills through the Assembly. Consult the Chamber for the cost and availability of each service. The Commonwealth Register, located in Harrisburg, offers a similar but expensive subscription service.

Those researching interest groups will find a complete listing of registered organizations for any given session in *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Registered Lobbyists*, compiled by the Legislative Data Processing Center.

The Executive Branch

After visiting the state's homepage or thumbing through *The Pennsylvania Manual* for a description of the various executive departments, one might look to the *Executive Budget of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*, which offers an excellent summary of each department's and agency's expenditures and projected revenues. The budget will give the reader an indication of the governor's social, economic and political priorities for the coming year. The Governor's Office (HYPERLINK http://www.state.pa.us/PA.Exec/Governor/overview.html) also produces many reports on executive activities and conditions that have an impact upon the state. Increasingly, these reports are available through the internet.


The Legislative Reference Bureau publishes *The Pennsylvania Bulletin*, which contains a complete weekly listing of the notices and regulations issued by every executive agency. As noted previously, most executive agencies and departments issue press releases, publish newsletters and maintain individual homepages. A listing of the reports generated by agencies created by interstate compacts between two or more states is
The opinions of the justices of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court (HYPERLINK http://www.courts.state.pa.us www.courts.state.pa.us) are published in Pennsylvania State Reports (Sayre, PA: Murre1le Printing Co.) Lower state courts decisions appear in Pennsylvania Superior Court Reports (Sayre, PA: Murre1le Printing Co.) and Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court Reports.


Several of the Commonwealth’s law schools publish law reviews that often address legal issues in Pennsylvania. These journals include the Dickinson Law Review, Temple Law Review, University of Pennsylvania Law Review, Villanova Law Review and the Widener Law Review. In many of the following legal periodicals and journals, one will often find articles dealing with various aspects of the state’s judicial system:

- Beaver County Legal Journal
- Blair County Legal Bulletin
- Chester County Law Reporter
- Lancaster Law Review
- Monroe Legal Reporter
- Pennsylvania Law Journal Reporter
- Pittsburgh Legal Journal
- Westmoreland Law Journal
- Berks County Law Journal
- Bucks County Law Reporter
- Lackawanna Jurist
- Lehigh Law Journal
- Montgomery County Law Report
- Pennsylvania Lawyer
- Washington County Reports
- York Legal Record

Campaigns and Elections

The Pennsylvania Manual contains the historical vote for all the Commonwealth’s gubernatorial election. It also provides the results of the most recent national and statewide races. Those interested in specific election results or campaign expense reports should contact the Bureau of Elections, a division of the Pennsylvania Department of State. For more general information on the electoral process, consult All About Elections in Pennsylvania, which is published by the Department of State.

An insight into the 1994 statewide elections is provided by G. Terry Madonna and Berwood Yost, Pennsylvania Votes, 1994 (Millersville: Cen-


**Fiscal and Economic Data**


The federal government, especially the Departments of Commerce, Labor, and Treasury, collects and publishes an enormous amount of economic data concerning the commonwealth. *Census Tracts* on Pennsylvania and its Metropolitan Statistical Areas are also available. The *United States Statistical Abstract* contains raw numbers for all the states on subjects such as population, health and nutrition, education, law enforcement, elections, government finances and employment. Most of the information produced by federal agencies is available on the Internet at www.fedworld.gov.

If one is interested in an analysis of the economic trends influencing the state, one should contact the Pennsylvania Economy League (P.E.L) for a list of the dozens of studies it has published on various aspects of the Commonwealth's economy. The League also publishes a number of newsletters including *Citizen's Business*, its eastern division report and *Capital Perspective*, which is issued by the Harrisburg office. The P.E.L.
Factbook offers the reader a compendium of facts and figures in a concise, useful manner. For additional analysis, one should also refer to Don E. Eberly, ed., Leading Pennsylvania into the 21st Century: Policy Strategies for the Future, (Harrisburg: Commonwealth Foundation for Public Policy Alternatives, 1990).


Local Government

There are a number of sources that one might utilize in investigating the development and practice of local government in the state. Pennsylvanian: The Magazine of Local Governments, published by Local Pennsylvanian Incorporated, contains articles of general interest to those concerned with local government as well as reports from the various local government associations organized throughout the state. Leslie H. Shaw has edited four volumes of Municipal Reference Guide (National Resource, 1997), one for each of the Commonwealth's major regions. From 1982 through 1989, the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Council, a private, nonprofit organization, published Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Quarterly. It now issues Housing Development Digest as a quarterly publication.

Those interested in specific forms of local government or local issues, may directly contact the Pennsylvania League of Cities, the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, the Pennsylvania State Association of County Commissioners, and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors. All these associations have offices in Harrisburg. One should also refer to the Index to Current Urban Documents, which provides information on the official documents issued by many of Pennsylvania's urban areas.


**Race Relations**

The Print Media

Pennsylvania enjoys a number of large daily circulation newspapers. The Harrisburg Patriot-Evening News offers excellent coverage of state government and state agencies that are headquartered in its backyard. For other large dailies, those with a circulation of over 80,000 such as the Allentown Morning Call, Philadelphia Daily News, Philadelphia Inquirer, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, and Reading Eagle, state government news often occupies mid-section reporting. On occasion, the New York Times will also cover the activities of the Commonwealth. Issues of the Lancaster Intelligencer Journal, the New Era, the York Daily Record and York Dispatch, the Citizen’s Voice and Times Leader, both of Wilkes-Barre, the Scranton Times, and Erie Daily Times are quite useful in providing a regional perspective to government policies and activities.


Three popular magazines which occasionally feature articles on local and state politics and politicians are Philadelphia Magazine, Pittsburgh Magazine and Susquehanna Magazine. Pennsylvania Illustrated provides its readers information on current affairs within the state. On the academic side, the Pennsylvania Political Science Association publishes Commonwealth, an annual journal that includes occasional articles on the state.

Research Centers

Within the higher education system of Pennsylvania a number of research centers have been created. Temple University is home to the Center for the Study of Federalism (www.temple.edu/federalism/federalism.html), an interdisciplinary research, educational and service institute that is dedicated to the study of federal principles. It has published a number of studies on Pennsylvania politics and political culture. The Center also conducts research, seminars and conferences, and public service programs that deal with various aspects of state and local politics. The Center for Public Policy (www.temple.edu/CPP) is also headquartered at Temple. The Center has a number of institutes under its auspices including the Institute for Survey Research and the Institute for Public Policy Studies. It serves as an interdisciplinary forum for coordinating, conducting and disseminating research on policy related topics of interest to both the academic community an the public at large on Philadelphia and the Greater Delaware Valley Region.

The University of Pittsburgh has created the University Center for
Social and Urban Research (www.pitt.edu/~ucsur). It, too, has an extensive publications catalog, much of which focuses on Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. Penn State University’s Institute of State and Regional Affairs at the Harrisburg Campus houses the Pennsylvania State Data Center. It was established in 1981, by Executive Order of the Governor, as Pennsylvania’s official source of population and economic statistics and services. It provides clients, such as businesses, individuals, and governments, with data on business activity, procurement opportunities, demographic trends and resource directories.

The Center for Politics and Public Affairs at Millersville University (www.millers.edu/~politics/index.htm) was created in 1986. The Center conducts the Keystone Poll for KYW-TV (Philadelphia), the Philadelphia Daily News and the Harrisburg Patriot. Its poll, along with election results and other political data are available at its website. Its mission includes educational and public policy programs such as its Legislative Fellow Program, the Lancaster YWCA Women in Politics course, a Scholar-in-Residence program, a Harrisburg Internship Semester and lecture series on the Environment, Bill of Rights and Public Policy. Its educational seminars include topics such as Home Rule and Pennsylvania Education. The Robert B. and Helen S. Meyner Center for the Study of State and Local Government at Lafayette College (http://www.lafayette.edu/publius/index.html) promotes research and engages in public service training and outreach to state and local officials and civic groups. The Center, in cooperation with the Center for the Study of Federalism, publishes Publius: The Journal of Federalism.

There are also three private organizations dedicated to examining various aspects of Pennsylvania government and politics. As mentioned previously, the Pennsylvania Economy League (http://www.libertynet.org/pel) has assumed the task of analyzing many aspects of the Commonwealth’s economy and government spending programs. The Commonwealth Foundation (http://www.commonwealthpa.org) is a non-partisan think tank, “committed to generating new ideas based upon the principles of limited government and private enterprise.” The Foundation is located in Harrisburg. The third organization is the Allegheny Institute (www.alleghenyinstitute.org), whose mission is to formulate and promote conservative public policies at the local government level. The Institute was founded on March 1, 1995 and primarily serves officials in Western Pennsylvania.
Appendix

I. State Agencies

General
Pennsylvania State Bookstore
20 S. Third Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 787-5109

B. Legislative Branch
Legislative Reference Bureau
Room 641, Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0033
(717) 787-4223
Secretary of the Pennsylvania State Senate
Room 462, Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-5920
Chief Clerk, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Room 129, Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-2372
Chief Clerk, Pennsylvania State Senate
Room 350, Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-7163

C. Executive Branch
Office of the Governor
Room 225, Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(800) 932-0784
Budget Analysis Bureau
P.O. Box 1045
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1045
(717) 787-3429
Department of Community Affairs
317 Forum Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-7160

Pennsylvania State Archives
Third and North Streets
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-2891
Department of General Services
Room 515, North Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17125
(717) 787-2121
Department of Revenue
11th Floor, Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17128-1100
Department of State
Room 302, North Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-7630
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
P.O. Box 1026
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026
(717) 787-2891
Pennsylvania Economic Development Partnership
Department of Commerce
Forum Building, Room 433
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 783-5053

II. Organizations
Center for Politics and Public Affairs
Millersville University
Millersville, PA 17551
(717) 872-3488
Center for Public Policy
Temple University (025-25)
Philadelphia, PA 19122
(215) 204-6696
Center for the Study of Federalism
Temple University (300-00)
1616 Walnut Street, Suite 507
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 204-1480
The Commonwealth Foundation for Public Policy Alternatives
600 North Second Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 231-4850

Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce
1346 Chestnut Street, Suite 800
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 545-8135

League of Women Voters, Pennsylvania
226 Forrester Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102-3320
(717) 234-1576

Meyner Center for the Study of State and Local Government
Lafayette College
Kirby Hall of Civil Rights
Easton, PA 18042
(610) 250-5598

Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
222 North Third Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1596
(717) 255-3252

Pennsylvania Economy League, Eastern Division
1211 Chestnut Street, Suite 600
Philadelphia, PA 19102
(215) 864-9562

Pennsylvania Economy League, State Division
600 N. Third Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 234-3151

Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Council
P.O. Box 11880
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1880
(717) 783-3700

Pennsylvania State Data Center
Penn State, Harrisburg
Institute of State and Regional Affairs
Middletown, PA 17057-4898
(717) 948-6336

University Center for Social and Urban Research
121 University Place
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
(412) 624-5442

IV. Governmental Associations

Democratic Party State Committee
510 N. Third Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 238-0914

Pennsylvania League of Cities
2608 N. Third Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 236-9169

Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
2941 N. Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 236-9526

Pennsylvania State Association of County Commissioners
17 N. Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 232-7554

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
3001 Gettysburg Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Republican Party State Committee
112 State Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 234-4901