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SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN

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Working Toward a Fiscally Responsible Budget to Protect Taxpayers

By Senator Rosemary Brown

This week marked the final round of public hearings on the proposed 2025-26 state budget, as the Senate Appropriations Committee continued its in-depth review of Governor Shapiro's \$51.5 billion spending plan.

While there are areas of shared interest, this proposal represents a 7.5% increase in spending—\$3.6 billion more than the current year—without a clear plan to address Pennsylvania's structural deficit. I am concerned that it relies on overly optimistic revenue projections and unimplemented policies, while simultaneously depleting our reserves and leaving taxpayers vulnerable to future tax increases and service cuts.

Without a more responsible approach, Pennsylvania could face a \$27.3 billion shortfall within five years, completely draining the Rainy-Day Fund and existing savings. Additionally, next year's budget would already face a \$4 billion funding gap, with no identified long-term revenue sources—raising serious concerns about potential tax hikes.

Throughout the hearings, I pressed agency officials on responsible budgeting and financial oversight. This week, during the hearing with the Department of Human Services (DHS), I questioned their \$2 billion budget request, noting that this level of spending is unsustainable. I also asked what steps they are taking to prevent fraud and waste, ensuring taxpayer dollars are being used effectively. You can view that exchange [here](#).

I look forward to working with my colleagues to craft a fiscally responsible budget that protects taxpayers, strengthens our economy, and keeps Pennsylvania on solid financial footing.



Casa Madre Center: Amor Latino Counseling Celebrates Grand Opening in Stroudsburg

By Senator Rosemary Brown

Congratulations on the grand opening of Casa Madre Center: Amor Latino Counseling!

Founded by Jennifer, a first-generation Latina with ancestral roots in Latin America and Egypt, the center integrates indigenous wisdom with Western therapeutic approaches. Located at 1547 North 9th Street, Stroudsburg, PA, Casa Madre Center is set to become a valuable resource for those seeking culturally informed mental health and wellness services.

Congratulations to Jennifer on this exciting milestone and the important work ahead!



How Funds Support Plainfield Township

Host Community Spotlight 2024

Funding from the host agreement provides the municipality opportunities to support special projects, capital projects, and more.

In 2024, WM's tipping fees provided the following:

\$1/ton = \$693,756

Infused into the General Fund in 2024

\$1.65/ton = \$1,150,664

Infused into the Host/Capital Improvement Budget

\$0.45/ton = \$313,817

Transferred into the Municipal Trust Fund

Total Received From
Landfill Operations in 2024 **\$2,158,238**

Did you know?

Landfills in Pennsylvania are required to provide at least \$1^{mm} to a Host Community

Since 2005, Host Municipality Benefits have totaled \$32,336,987.95 to Plainfield Township. These benefits are the sum of \$3.10 per ton of waste disposed at Grand Central.



Want to Learn More? Check out our new video →

Grand Central Landfill Community Investment

A look back at 2024 and the investments made to help the Slate Belt thrive:

- In 2024, the Facility Cooperation Agreement provided Pen Argyl Borough with \$903,204.95 (\$1.30 per ton).
 - These funds were used for community improvements and to match grants that help fund street improvements.
- Pen Argyl Borough residents received free trash and recycling collection and disposal worth an estimated value of \$713,340 (1,321 households¹).
- In 2024, the Neighboring Municipality Agreement provided Wind Gap Borough with \$836,846.47 (\$1.20 per ton).
 - A portion of this funding supported the paving of Constitution Avenue and Oak Street.
- Wind Gap Borough residents received free trash and recycling collection and disposal worth an estimated value of \$699,340 (1,221 households¹).



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Contributions At a Glance

Local Non-Profit
Charitable Donations in 2024 **\$102,585**

Since 2020 WM provided \$510,185 in charitable donations to local non-profits.

\$146,464.48 voluntarily contributed to Northampton County Recycling and Sustainability fund to offset the costs for electronic recycling and household hazardous waste event.

Calendar of Events

RSVP for Tours: afors1@wm.com

MAR 16	Sustainability Tour 8:00pm	MAR 07	Bird Walk 11:30am Ed. Center
JUN 16	Talking Trash Tour 8:00pm	MAR 18	Count The Butterflies Walk 8:00pm Ed. Center
SEPT 27	Chili Cookoff + Tours 11:00am-2:00pm	OCT 11	Migration Walk 11:30am-12:30pm Ed. Center
NOV 01	E-Waste Collection 9:00am Main Office Lot 2	NOV 13	Sustainability Tour 5:00pm