

DON'T BANKRUPT PA

House Democrats Push Through Irresponsible State Budget, Energy Tax

By State Rep. Ann Flood

PEN ARGYL - Adopting a state budget each year is one of the most important tasks of the General Assembly. I take seriously my commitment to ensure your tax dollars are invested responsibly to support the core functions of government.

That's why I was very disappointed this week as majority House Democrats piled on an additional \$2 BILLION increase to Gov. Josh Shapiro's already bloated budget proposal and forced through a nearly \$46.5 billion spending plan. That's a \$5.7 billion, or 14%, increase over the current year. This level of spending is unsustainable and, if enacted, would lead to a 30% tax hike in the near future.

We cannot and should not spend money we don't have. Our citizens should not bear the burden of higher taxes to pay for a bigger government.

Equally damaging is the inclusion of a \$663 million energy tax on Pennsylvania employers and consumers. According to the nonpartisan Independent Fiscal Office (IFO), this tax would increase electricity rates by nearly four times. Everyday, I get calls and emails from people and families who are struggling financially, as do my colleagues who serve all across the state. I will not support a tone deaf budget that will further send constituents in dire straights.

House Bill 611 now goes to the Senate, where I am hopeful it will be amended to reflect the needs and wishes of our hard-working taxpayers in the Commonwealth.

Out and About in the District

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SLATE BELT - On Saturday morning, I stopped by the Stockertown Rod and Gun Club for the annual Northampton County Youth Field Day.

Children from the ages of 7-15 who attended the educational event learned how to fish, cast a line, fly fish, canoe, shoot a gun, shoot a bow and arrow and much more. They are taught conservation of natural resources, safety, sportsmanship and outdoor fun.

Approximately 162 kids, along with an adult chaperone attended the event which was made possible from the proceeds from the Whitetail Deer Classic held each year in February. It is an all-day event at no charge. What a great time!

I joined Pen Argyl Borough to honor and help celebrate a century worth of memories and family fun at the Weona Park Carousel.

It is a true blessing to have an attraction in the borough that has been shared through the generations and keeps people coming back to share with the next.

Cheers to 100 more years!

I had the distinct privilege to attend the retirement celebration for Randy Knauss, who has served Bushkill Twp Police department as a detective for 25 years. I was honored to present a House Citation to Randy for his exemplary service to this community and his selflessness to put the safety and welfare of others above himself; this is something as a former Marine, he is familiar with.

Thank you to Detective Knauss for your tireless dedication and service as a protector of our community. May you enjoy the best that retirement has to offer.



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