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Reuters
[Facebook, Twitter CEO's to testify Tuesday to Senate panel over content moderation decisions](#)

The Schuylkill County Commissioners are considering borrowing up to \$6.6 million with an eye toward future improvements. Last week's agenda - one in which Commissioner Gary Hess did not attend for the third week in a row - shows a resolution to borrowing the money to pay for a broadband project which includes the "planning, design, purchase, acquisition, construction, repair, replacement, renovation reconfiguration and improvement, and related appurtenances, and suitable fixtures, furnishings and equipment."

Bloomberg
[HBO Max Ends Amazon Standoff, Reaches Deal for Fire TV Devices](#)

It also provides for "certain improvements, additions, upgrades and renovations to various county buildings, facilities and properties, to the extent of funds available for such additional projects collectively the capital project." Finance Director Paul Buber did not return an email for comment Friday. Commissioners Barron "Boots" Hetherington and George Halcovage Jr. voted for the resolution. County Administrator Gary Bender said the topic was on the agenda because it is "time sensitive." "The option is for you to exercise if you want to," Bender said.

CyberScoop
[Zoom pushes new tools meant to counter 'Zoombombing'](#)

Halcovage said the broadband project is one that will benefit county residents. "I think we are on the right track for the residents of Schuylkill County," he said. The upcoming county budget was also discussed briefly. "There is still a significant hole in here," Bender said between revenues and expenses. Efforts are ongoing to narrow the gap. "We have to pass a balanced budget, and we are not there yet," Bender said.

AdWeek
[Cable's Holiday Marathon Programming Is Hotter Than Ever Due to the Pandemic](#)

Halcovage said the county is doing what it can under the current economic climate. He said there are many unknowns. "What is the state budget and the federal budget going to provide us?" Halcovage said, adding the county is required to provide certain core services to county residents. Hetherington said the governmental bodies are facing the unknown with their budgets. "We are in uncharted waters. This has not been seen before with the COVID situation. The state is in a financial bind too," he said. Hetherington said there is still Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act money in Harrisburg that can distributed to the counties. - *Lehighon Times-News*

Fierce Video
[Hulu + Live TV raises price to \\$65/month](#)

Harrisburg Patriot-News
[Will Pa. follow its neighbors in rolling out new statewide coronavirus restrictions?](#)

Since early summertime, consumer advocates have been working to call attention to the potential for utility shutoffs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Well, this nightmare scenario is no longer just a threat — it's here.

Allentown Morning Call

The state implemented a moratorium on shutoffs back in March when it became clear that the pandemic would upend the economy and personal finances for hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Pennsylvanians, many of whom suddenly lost their jobs and had to learn to navigate low-income status.

[Hearings on Pennsylvania election unlikely in Harrisburg this year; Republicans eye 2021 for election law changes](#)

[Philadelphia Inquirer Trump's legal push to disrupt Pa.'s election results is on its last legs. What's his campaign still fighting in court?](#)

Compared with previous years, the utility companies say that [unpaid bills have gone up 68%](#).

For months, advocates staved off a vote by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) to end the shutoff moratorium. But the commission finally [voted in October](#) to end the moratorium, putting more than 800,000 customers at risk of losing various services. Utilities began shutting off delinquent customers' service on Nov. 9, just as Pennsylvania entered the latest wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Two of the most important guidelines to prevent the spread of the virus are handwashing and social distancing — ideally while staying home. What happens when a mom loses her job and has to choose between buying food for her kids or paying the water bill? If she is in debt to the utility company, it can now turn off service to her home. The consequences of this would be disastrous because now the mom and her family cannot wash their hands to protect against infection.

Shutdowns of gas, electricity, and sewage services pose other imminent health risks. Inadequate heat and hygiene could render homes uninhabitable as temperatures drop. To control the spread of the virus, we need people to be safe in their homes. The only glimmer of light here is that the annual heating shutoff moratorium will kick into effect at the end of November.

While the PUC did include some [accommodations for "protected customers"](#) living close to the poverty line, this safety net is not wide enough, and many families will slip through the cracks or hit roadblocks from the extensive paperwork required to get assistance. Our state government is still sitting on \$1 billion of the [CARES Act](#) money that we received to help Pennsylvanians weather the pandemic. In the last days of this current legislative session, the state House and Senate should prioritize voting on three bills, and propose to use this money to provide more long-term protection for consumers who could lose their utility services.

[State Sen. Tom Killion](#) and [State Rep. Chris Quinn](#) each have introduced complementary legislation that would allocate \$150 million of the state's remaining [CARES Act](#) funding to assist at-risk utility customers. State Sen. Steven Santarsiero has [introduced his own bill](#) with a similar end goal. In an election year when Pennsylvanians feel politically divided, this is a solution that everyone can get behind for a problem that can impact anyone, of any demographic or any political party, in every part of the state. It's time for our state leaders to come together and use the tools in their hands to make sure everyone has the heat, water, and sanitary services they need to be safe at home. — **Op-ed by PennPIRG advocate Emma Horst-Martz in *Philadelphia Inquirer***

The federal court hearing on the Trump campaign's challenge to the election results in Pennsylvania will take place as scheduled Tuesday but the public will not be present. U.S. Middle District Judge Matthew W. Brann on Monday evening denied a motion by the campaign's new attorneys to continue the proceeding telling them should be prepared to ask questions and present arguments.

The judge ordered the courtroom closed to the public to ensure that the large number of participating lawyers can be socially distanced from each other due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the nationwide interest in the case, live audio will be available at 844-291-6362 with the access code being 4618817. Access will begin at 1 p.m., 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the hearing.

Marc A. Scaringi of Harrisburg took over as lead attorney for the Trump campaign Monday, replacing Linda A. Kerns of Philadelphia. The first lead counsel, Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur, withdrew Friday. Scaringi asked Brann to delay the hearing to allow his law firm to adequately prepare for the

hearing. He cited the complexity of the case (the docket has more than 150 entries) and its importance to the people of the United States.

The Trump campaign on Nov. 9 sued the election boards of seven counties and Commonwealth Secretary Kathy Boockvar [seeking to prevent the certification of the results of the Nov. 3 election](#). Since then, the NAACP Pennsylvania Conference, Black Political Empowerment Project, Common Cause of Pennsylvania, League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, Democratic National Committee and a number of individuals have filed motions to intervene as defendants.

Brann gave the Pennsylvania State Republican Caucus permission on Monday to file a friend of the court brief agreeing with the Trump campaign that allowing voters to “cure” issues with their mail-in or absentee ballots was illegal. Also given permission to file a brief was a group that includes former U.S. Reps. Charles Dent and James Greenwood, who claim the proper venue for the case is state court.

[All the original defendants](#), Boockvar and the election boards of Allegheny, Centre, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Northampton and Philadelphia counties, have moved to dismiss the complaint. The only issue remaining before the court is an Equal Protection claim that alleges disparate treatment of mail-in and absentee ballots across the commonwealth. – **Harrisburg Patriot-News**; [more in Washington Post](#)



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