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State Rep. Pam Snyder (D-Greene) announced on Jan. 6 that she will seek reelection as state representative of the 50th Legislative District. "We've made tremendous accomplishments over the last few years, but we still have more work to do," Snyder said. "My family, friends, and constituents inspire and motivate me to continue serving the people of the 50th district."

The 50th district encompasses all of Greene County and parts of Washington and Fayette counties. Snyder has been a champion for southwestern Pennsylvania in her years of public service and has recently risen in the ranks of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. During her current term, Snyder was elected by her colleagues as the Southwest Delegation Chairman and appointed as a Deputy Whip. "I'm proud to bring a rational and clear-headed voice to conversations in Harrisburg," Snyder said. "I've always put people before politics, and that enables me to help the people I represent. I'll never stop fighting for southwestern Pennsylvania values."

As the Democratic Chairman of the bi-partisan Coal Caucus, and as a member of the Oil and Gas Caucus, Snyder has been a tireless advocate for the energy industry and consumers. "Working with coal and the tens of thousands of Americans who produce low-cost and reliable energy is economically prudent, environmentally doable and cost-effective," Snyder said.

**Harrisburg
Patriot-News**

**'My heart is broken':
Rep. Brian
Fitzpatrick on death
of his brother, a
former Pa.
congressman**

**Philadelphia
Inquirer**

**Op-ed by David
Thornburgh, son of
former PA Gov. Dick
Thornburgh (R):
2020 is year of the
voter, and
Pennsylvania should
change election
mapping
accordingly**

Politico

**Sense of foreboding
darkens Democratic
primary**

In 2017, Snyder worked with the Department of Environmental Protection to secure new mining permits for CONSOL Energy's Baily Mine, protecting the jobs and livelihoods of over 600 workers. Snyder is currently working on bi-partisan legislation, H.B. 2025, that would prevent Pennsylvania from joining the New England states in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative without a vote from the General Assembly. RGGI would tax carbon output and displace thousands of coal and gas workers in southwestern Pennsylvania. "Pennsylvania needs a wide variety of different energy sources to achieve affordable costs for customers and maintain grid reliability," Snyder said. "Keeping those jobs and funds in the district is imperative for our economy and community."

Snyder also serves on the Steel Caucus, Sportsman Caucus, 2nd Amendment Caucus, Firefighters and EMS Caucus, the Pro-Life caucus, and is the founding Chairman of the bi-partisan Broadband Caucus. In recognition for her work to connect all Pennsylvanians to modern broadband service, Snyder was honored with a broadband champion award from KINBER, a nonprofit group that helps communities gain access to reliable, high-speed internet service. "Working together with partners in agriculture, education, and other sectors throughout Pennsylvania – we can effectively close the gap that exists between our residents who have reliable internet access and those who do not," Snyder said. "Efficient and affordable broadband is critical for our continued economic growth and development of rural Pennsylvania."

Snyder was named the Pennsylvania Corrections Officers Association's Legislator of the Year in 2017 for her legislation to ensure every corrections officer has access to pepper spray. "Act 174 provides important protections for the corrections officers whose lives are put in continual jeopardy while on the job," said Snyder. "Those on the front line deserve the best protections we can provide."

Snyder said her top priorities will be to attract new family-sustaining jobs and protect public education. In 2018, she secured \$200,000 in state funding for the Greene County Career and Technology Center to purchase new equipment to better educate students, and to assist in creating adult education classes. "It is my privilege to represent the residents of the 50th District," Snyder said. "I'm honored to be their voice because southwestern Pennsylvania needs a champion in energy, education, and workforce development."

Snyder was elected to her first term in November 2012. Prior to the General Assembly, she served nine years as the chairman of the Greene County Board of Commissioners. She was named the 2012 Outstanding County Commissioner of the Year by the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. Snyder previously worked as deputy district director for Congressman Frank Mascara.

A graduate of Jefferson-Morgan High School, Snyder received an honorary Bachelor of Arts degree from Waynesburg University. She is also a 2008 graduate of the Leadership Training Institute at New York University's Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. She and her family are active members of the Jefferson-Morgan Centennial Lions Club and St. Marcellus Catholic Church in Jefferson, where Snyder serves as a lector and Eucharistic minister. Snyder and her husband,

Jack, live on a small family farm in Jefferson. They have two daughters and three grandchildren. – *Greene County Messenger*

Facebook Inc. is banning **videos that have been manipulated using advanced tools**, though it won't remove all doctored content, as the social-media giant tries to combat disinformation without stifling speech.

The policy unveiled Monday by Monika Bickert, Facebook's vice president for global policy management, is the company's most concrete step to fight the spread of so-called deepfakes on its platform. Deepfakes are images or videos that have been manipulated through the use of sophisticated machine-learning algorithms, making it nearly impossible to differentiate between what is real and what isn't. "While these videos are still rare on the internet, they present a significant challenge for our industry and society as their use increases," Ms. Bickert said in a blog post.

Facebook said it would remove or label misleading videos that had been edited or manipulated in ways that would not be apparent to the average person. That would include removing videos in which artificial intelligence tools are used to change statements made by the subject of the video or replacing or superimposing content.

Social-media companies have come under increased pressure to stamp out false or misleading content on their sites ahead of this year's American presidential election. Late last year, Alphabet Inc.'s Google updated its political advertisement policy and said it would **prohibit the use of deepfakes** in political and other ads. In November, Twitter said it was considering identifying manipulated photos, videos and audio shared on its platform.

Facebook's move could also expose it to new controversy. It said its policy banning deepfakes "does not extend to content that is parody or satire, or video that has been edited solely to omit or change the order of words." That could put the company in the position of having to decide which videos are satirical, which aren't and where to draw the line on what doctored content will be taken down. Facebook has already been trying to walk a thin line on other content moderation issues ahead of this year's presidential election. The company, unlike some rivals, has said it **wouldn't block political advertisements even if they contain inaccurate information**. That policy drew criticism from some politicians, including Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Democratic contender for the White House. Facebook later said it would ban ads if they encouraged violence.

The new policy also **marks the latest front** in Facebook's battle against those who use artificial intelligence to spread messages on its site. Last month, the company took down hundreds of fake accounts that used AI-generated photos to pass them off as real. In addition to Facebook's latest policy on deepfakes, which generally rely on AI tools to mask that the content is fake, the company also will continue to screen for other misleading content. It will also review videos that have been altered using less sophisticated methods and place limits on such posts.

The Facebook ban wouldn't have applied to an altered video of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. That video of a speech by Mrs. Pelosi—widely shared on social media last year—was slowed down and altered in tone, making her appear to slur her words. Facebook said the video didn't qualify as a deepfake because it used regular editing, though the company still limited its distribution because of the manipulation. "If we simply removed all manipulated videos flagged by fact-checkers as false, the videos would still be available elsewhere on the internet or social-media ecosystem. By leaving them up and labeling them as false, we're providing people with important information and context," Ms. Bickert said. – *Wall Street Journal*

Gov. Tom Wolf has ordered flags lowered to half-staff to honor former U.S. Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick, **who passed away after battling cancer**. A Republican, Fitzpatrick represented Bucks County in the Philadelphia suburbs for four terms in Congress, with his final term ending in 2017. He also served as a Bucks County commissioner for a decade.

Fitzpatrick, who was 56, died Monday. His brother, U.S. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Bucks, succeeded him in representing the district. The Democratic governor praised Fitzpatrick for his willingness to work across the aisle to serve his district. "Mike Fitzpatrick honorably served Bucks County as a commissioner and as a congressman, fighting to make our communities stronger and find compromise in a bipartisan way," Wolf said in a statement. "After receiving a cancer diagnosis in the prime of his life, he chose to not just courageously fight, but to share his story with the hope of giving strength to others. He will be greatly missed, and we offer our deepest condolences to his family and friends."

Wolf ordered U.S. and state flags to be lowered at all commonwealth facilities, public buildings and grounds. The flags were lowered Monday and will be lowered again on the day of Fitzpatrick's interment, which hasn't been determined. Many of Pennsylvania's leading elected officials, including U.S. Sens. Bob Casey Jr. and Pat Toomey, praised Fitzpatrick's service and expressed sympathies to the Fitzpatrick family.

Former Gov. Mark S. Schweiker, a Republican and a longtime friend, said in a statement, "Mike Fitzpatrick worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those he served." State Sen. Steve Santarsiero, a Democrat who represents Bucks County, said Fitzpatrick's devotion to his county - and his family - won't be forgotten. "His decades of public service as a Bucks County Commissioner and United States Congressman have left his imprint on every corner of the county," Santarsiero said. "We will honor him by continuing the hard work to preserve the best of Bucks County, while also making sure we leave no residents behind as we build a better future." – *Harrisburg Patriot-News*



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