

Government Relations Update – November 20, 2018

Pennsylvania Issues

Election Update

- Governor Tom Wolf (D) defeated Scott Wagner (R) to secure a second term. The Governor received 2,799,155 votes (58%) compared to Wagner's 1,981,027 votes (41%).
- All 203 members were up for reelection in the House of Representatives. Democrats picked up 11 House seats across the state, although Republicans continue to hold a 109 to 93 seat majority. Every incumbent House member representing St. Luke's University Health Network throughout the Lehigh Valley, as well as in Schuylkill, Carbon and Monroe Counties, held their seats. Leadership votes are currently underway to fill vacancies in House Legislative Committees.
- In the Senate, 25 members from even-numbered districts were up for reelection. Democrats picked up five Senate seats, although Republicans continue to hold a 29 to 21 seat majority. Every incumbent Senator representing St. Luke's University Health Network throughout the Lehigh Valley, as well as in Schuylkill, Carbon and Monroe Counties, held their seats, with the exception of Steve Santarsiero (D), who defeated incumbent Senator Chuck McIlhinney (R) in the 10th District (Bucks). Santarsiero is a former teacher, lawyer and state representative, and he most recently served as the state's Chief Deputy Attorney General for Environmental Protection.

Legislation

- **HB 2727 (2018)**: Warm Handoff Legislation. On October 17, 2018, Representative Doyle Heffley (R-Carbon) introduced legislation mandating that: (1) emergency medical services protocols are used by emergency medical services providers and emergency departments so that stabilized overdose survivors are successfully transferred to appropriate treatment and recovery support services, as determined by an individualized treatment plan based on an assessment and clinical placement criteria; (2) the Commonwealth develop a network of overdose stabilization and "warm hand-off" centers where emergency medical services providers can directly transport overdose survivors for medical stabilization, detoxification, assessment, referral and direct placement to individualized treatment and recovery support services; and (3) the Commonwealth work with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that the full continuum of addiction treatment and recovery support services is available and coordinated in order to facilitate each overdose survivor's long-term individual process of recovery. Governor Wolf has been advocating for Warm Handoff legislation, and HAP supports the initiative. The Lehigh County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program, or Single County Authority (SCA), also supports the bill, which is expected to be reintroduced early in the 2019-2020 session.

New Jersey Issues

Election Update

- Pohatcong Mayor James Kern III (R) defeated Democrat John Massaro in the Warren County Freeholder race with 63% of the vote. Current Warren County Freeholder Ed Smith (R) chose not to seek reelection.

Federal Issues

Election Update

- In the United State Senate, 35 members were up for reelection. The Republicans gained two seats and now hold a 53 to 47 seat majority, including two independents caucusing with the Democrats. Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey (D) defeated Lou Barletta (R) by a 56% to 43% margin. Likewise, New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez (D) defeated Bob Hugin (R) by a 54% to 43% margin.
- In the United States House of Representatives, all 435 members were up for reelection. Democrats picked up at least 34 seats across the country, with 10 House races yet to be called. The 18 member congressional delegation from Pennsylvania will now send an even number of Democrats and Republicans to the House, as the Democrats picked up three Congressional seats in Pennsylvania. With the victories, the Democrats now control the House.
- Dan Meuser (R) defeated Denny Wolff (D) in the new 9th District, which encompasses St. Luke's Hospital – Miner Campus, St. Luke's Hospital – Gnaden Huetten Campus, St. Luke's Hospital – Palmerton Campus and Geisinger St. Luke's Hospital. Meuser is a businessman who previously served as Secretary of Revenue under Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett.
- In the new 7th District, which includes St. Luke's Hospital – Allentown Campus, St. Luke's Hospital – Anderson Campus, St. Luke's University Hospital – Bethlehem Campus, St. Luke's Hospital – Monroe Campus and St. Luke's Hospital – Sacred Heart Campus, Susan Wild (D) defeated Marty Nothstein (R). Wild also won the special election to serve out the remainder of the term vacated by former Congressman Charlie Dent (R). Wild will represent the 15th District until January 1, 2018, when the new redistricting goes into effect. Wild is a medical malpractice defense attorney and has represented St. Luke's for many years through the law firm of Gross McGinley in Allentown.
- Incumbent Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R) defeated Scott Wallace in the new 1st District, which includes St. Luke's Hospital – Quakertown Campus.
- Incumbent Congressman Matthew Cartwright (D) defeated John Chrin (R) in the new 8th District, which includes central and northern Monroe County. Cartwright no longer represents St. Luke's Hospital – Monroe Campus, but he does represent parts of its service area.
- Madeleine Dean (D) defeated Dan David (R) in the new 4th District, which includes northern Montgomery County and other portions of the service area of St. Luke's Hospital – Quakertown Campus. Dean has been serving in the Pennsylvania General Assembly since 2012.
- In New Jersey, Tom Malinowski (D) defeated incumbent Congressman Leonard Lance (R) in the 7th District, which includes St. Luke's Hospital – Warren Campus. Malinowski is a Polish-born American diplomat who served as Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor from 2014 to 2017. From 2001 to 2013, Malinowski was the Washington Director for Human Rights Watch, a group that advocates in support of various international human rights campaigns.