

**CAWP**  
**Summary of Legislation**  
**December 2008**

**Scarnati Sets Special Election**

Lt. Governor Joe Scarnati has filed notice for a **March 3, 2009** Special Election to fill the vacancy in the 29th Senatorial District. The seat has been vacant since the October 18 death of Senator James J. Rhoades, whose name remained on the November 4 election ballot and received the most votes. The 29th Senatorial District includes all of Schuylkill County and parts of Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe and Northampton Counties. Schuylkill County Clerk of Courts Steve Lukach will likely be the Democrat, while Republicans chose state **Rep. David Argall** from among several interested candidates. Argall served as the Republican Whip in this past session, and hopes to carry his leadership record to victory.

**Rendell and Legislative Leaders Meet For Mid-Year Budget Review**

The first mid-year budget review open to the public in decades was a somber one this month, as Governor Rendell announced a third round of spending cuts in light of what the administration now estimates will be a budget deficit of \$1.6 billion. The governor and Budget Secretary Mary Soderberg outlined a series of budget-balancing measures based on the new estimate - which they stressed is highly speculative - including tapping half of the Rainy Day Fund to offset declining revenues. Also key to the governor's plan is the expectation of a federal fiscal relief package totaling \$450 million, based on talks with President-elect Obama at a recent meeting of the National Governor's Association.

**Scarnati Appoints Final Two Leadership Positions**

Filling the only two Senate Republican Leadership vacancies, Senate President Pro Tempore Scarnati appointed Senator Patrick Browne to serve as the Senate Majority Caucus Administrator. The position was previously held by Senator Terry Punt during the 2007-08 Session. Senator John Pippy (R-Allegheny) was also named Senate Majority Policy Committee Chairman, replacing Senator Jake Corman (R-Centre) who was appointed the new Appropriations Chairman.

**Senate Committee Chairs for the 2009-10 Session**

The following Senators have been named Committee Chairs on Committees of interest to the heavy and highway construction industry for the 2009-10 Session:

<b><u>Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Republican Chair</u></b>	<b><u>Democrat Chair</u></b>
Appropriations	Jake Corman	Jay Costa *
Professional Licensure & Education	Jeffrey Piccola	Andrew E. Dinniman
Environmental Resources & Energy	Mary Jo White*	Raphael J. Musto

Labor and Industry  
Transportation

John Gordner  
Rob Wonderling

Christine M. Tartaglione  
J. Barry Stout\*

\* District is in western PA

### **Legislative Activity**

No Bills of interest were considered in the past month. The 2007-08 session ended officially on November 30. The 2009-10 begins on January 6.

### **Spring 2009 Session Schedules**

#### **SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY – JUNE 2009**

**January** 6, 20 (non-voting), 21 (non-voting), 26, 27, 28

**February** 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11

**March** 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31

**April** 1, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29

**May** 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13

**June** 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30

#### **HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY – JUNE 2009**

**January** 6, 26, 27, 28

**February** 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11

**March** 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31

**April** 1, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29

**May** 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13

**June** 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30

*Copies of all bills of interest can be accessed via the Internet at:*

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/BI/billroom.htm>.