

## ***HARRISBURG OVERVIEW:***

The PA General Assembly only has three scheduled session days left until the election. However, we're anticipating that they add session days after the election to finish out the remaining 7 months of the budget. So far, only 5 months of the 2020-2021 budget have been completed. It was a \$25.8 billion interim budget. So they will have to return and finish the remaining portion by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

We're hearing mixed rumblings about the specifics of the budget. Initially, there were discussions about potentially increasing the PIT (personal income tax) to fill the nearly \$4 billion budget deficit. PIT has been at 3.07% since 2004. Now it sounds like Republicans are trying to steer away from that idea and utilize the same budget from 2019-2020, similar to what they did for the first 5 months of the fiscal year, and then address the deficit at another time. As always, we'll be in the Capitol and our Harrisburg office throughout the entire budget and will keep you apprised on the latest developments.

## ***BUDGET:***

The Governor's 2020-2021 budget proposal fully-funded Pennsylvania's fairs at \$4million. Throughout the first half of the budget negotiation process, Milliron Goodman advocated to maintain this funding and succeeded. The Pennsylvania Fairs' line item was fully funded in [HB 2387](#) at \$4 million. Unfortunately, most had to cancel/modify their events as a result of the Governor's COVID-19 crowd restrictions, which brings us to SB 1182 (see below).

## ***LEGISLATION:***

### **SB 1182**

Senator Michelle Brooks' SB 1182 amends the Pennsylvania Agricultural Fair Act of 1986 by creating the COVID-19 Emergency Agricultural Fair Grant Program. The program will essentially provide for continued state funding for fairs who were forced to cancel their annual events as a direct result of the COVID-19 emergency. The total grant dollars for eligible fairs will be equal to the amount received last year. And the authority of the Department of Agriculture to distribute funds will terminate when there are no remaining dollars left under the program. We note that any fair that continues as scheduled and is not forced to cancel will not be eligible for funding under this new program. But they can apply for all other grants available under the Fair Act.

We were able to get the bill out of the Senate with a unanimous vote and are actively working to get a vote in the House Agriculture Committee. There are some outstanding concerns regarding the legality of receiving these state dollars without having to prove expenses. So we are trying to get this resolved as soon as possible. Again, we have until November 30<sup>th</sup> to get this across the finish line. Continued grassroots efforts from both the Showmen and County Fairs Association will help tremendously.