



October 15, 2025

Statement from the Controller's Office

The State Senate has not passed Pennsylvania's budget, even though the law required it to be enacted by July 1. Because of this delay, money that normally flows from the State to Lehigh County has been withheld. The County may face a cash shortfall depending on when the State finally passes its budget.

If the shortfall occurs, the County may need to borrow money to maintain essential services. Borrowing would mean paying interest, and that interest would come directly from local taxpayers. Every day the State Senate delays the budget, there is increased financial pressure on the County and costs to residents.

As the County Controller, I am recommending to the Board of Commissioners that we investigate temporarily holding back certain payments that normally go to the State until the State Senate completes the budget and releases our funds. This action would reduce or offset the interest we may need to pay to cover the State's delay.

Lehigh County sends significant payments to the State each year.

- Our Magisterial District Judges remitted more than five million dollars in 2024.
- Human Services payments to the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue totaled more than thirty million dollars.

Holding back these funds, even temporarily, could help offset interest costs and reduce the burden on local taxpayers.

Our goal is simple. We want to protect County finances and minimize unnecessary borrowing caused by the State Senate's failure to pass a timely budget. This approach ensures that Lehigh County residents do not pay the price for Harrisburg's inaction. It is a responsible step to safeguard taxpayer money and keep the County on sound financial footing until the State meets its legal obligation.

