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60 Current and Former Legislators Continue to Profit from Stealing Taxpayer Dollars Pension Pay-Outs Soar

(Harrisburg, Pa) - *RockTheCapital.com* released a review of current and former state legislators who accepted an increase in their pay through “unvouchered expenses” and refused to pay the money back .

Legislators who refused to return “unvouchered expenses” or donated the unconstitutional income to charities have benefitted through increased wages, “pension bounces” in 2006 and 2008 , and job promotions in 2009-2010. (1) In 2007, five payjackers were appointed to the Speaker’s Reform Commission. (2)

Initially, 131 House members and 27 Senators signed up for “unvouchered expenses.” Payments were received between July 7 and November 16, 2005, and ranged from \$1,288 to \$14,553.32 (before taxes). The repealed pay raises would have boosted lawmakers’ salaries from 16 to 54 percent, depending on seniority, rank, title and leadership.

RockTheCapital.com also documented the annual pension burden plus total lump sum pension pay outs to date. The tax payers’ burden will increase as sitting payjackers retire, lose reelection bids or are forced out of office by law enforcement investigations.

Pensions

Five Highest Payjacker Pensions in the House:

• Frank Oliver	\$235,686
• Elinor Taylor (*)	\$130,896
• William Rieger (+)	\$114,900
• John Perzel	\$104,700
• Keith McCall	\$100,300

Total Amount of Annual House Pension Payments: (3)

\$1,259,705.84

Highest Payjacker Pensions in the Senate: (4)

• Robert Mellow	\$138,958
• Raphael Musto	\$127,032

Total Amount of Annual Senate Payments:

\$348,275.56

Total Amount of Annual Pension Payments:

\$1,607,981.40

Highest Payjacker Lump Sum Pension Pay outs in the House: (5)

- **Frank Oliver** \$416,000
- **William Rieger (+)** \$369,000
- **George Hasay** \$329,000
- **Elinor Taylor (*)** \$187,000
- **James Shaner** \$153,000
- **George Kenny** \$129,845
- **Victor John Lescovitz** \$118,000
- **Kevin Blaum** \$115,000

Total Amount of House Lump Sum Pension Payments: (5) \$3,135,492.42

Highest Payjacker Lump Sump Pension Pay Outs in the Senate: (6)

- **Robert Mellow** \$330,915
- **Charles Lemmond** \$120,000

Total Amount of Senate Lump Sum Pension Payments: (6) \$451,025

Total Amount of Lump Sum Pension Payments: (7) \$3,586,517.42

Footnotes:

* Ms. Taylor passed away in late July, 2010.

+ Mr. Rieger passed away on December 11, 2009.

1 Rep. McCall (D-Carbon), Speaker, Rep. Eachus (Luzerne), Majority Leader, Rep. Evans, (D-Philadelphia), Appropriations Committee Chair, Rep. Cohen (D-Philadelphia), Caucus Chair, and Rep. Sturla (D-Lancaster), Chair of Policy & the House Democratic Campaign Committee.

Rep. Geist (R-Blair), Minority Chairman of the Transportation and Minority Chairman of the Committee and Committee on Committees and Rep. Taylor (R-Philadelphia), Minority Chairman of Liquor Control.

2 Reps. Cohen, (D-Philadelphia), Mundy, (D-Kingston), Sainato (D-Lawrence), Thomas (D-Philadelphia) and Williams (D-Philadelphia).

3 Total amount does not factor E.Z. Taylor's annual pension allotment of \$130,896 or William Rieger's annual pension of \$114,900. Does not include pensions for Rep. Tommie Blackwell or Rep. Harold James.

Rep. Mike Veon was stripped of his annual pension of \$50,340.

Total amount does not reflect COLA adjustments.

4 Sen. Fumo forfeited his \$8,400 per month pension. **Total amount does not reflect COLA adjustments.**

5 Does not include lump sum pay outs for Rep. Tommie Blackwell, Rep. Harold James, Rep. Todd Eachus, Rep. Marie Lederer, Rep. Keith McCall, Rep. John Perzel, Rep. Ken Ruffing and Rep. Lawrence Sather.

6 Senators LaValle and Musto declined lump sum payments.

7 Does not include pay outs for Rep. Tommie Blackwell, Rep. Harold James, Rep. Todd Eachus, Rep. Marie Lederer, Rep. Keith McCall, Rep. John Perzel, Rep. Ken Ruffing and Rep. Lawrence Sather. Senators LaValle and Musto declined lump sum payments.

Payjackers convicted of breaking the law or indicted, “presented” or searched by state and/or federal law enforcement agencies:

- **Rep. Linda Bebko-Jones** (D-Erie)
- **Rep. William DeWeese** (D-Greene)
- **Senator Vincent. Fumo** (Philadelphia)*
- **Rep. Bill Keller** (D-Philadelphia)
- **Rep. Frank LaGrotta** (D-Lawrence)
- **Rep. John Perzel** (R-Philadelphia)
- **Rep. Stephen Stetler** (D-York)
- **Sen. Gerald LaValle** (D-Beaver)
- **Sen. Raphael Musto** (D-Luzerne)
- **Sen. Robert Mellow** (D-Lackawanna)

* Owes inputted interest on implied and tax-free loan.

Legislative Compensation Packages: July, 2005 vs July, 2011

- Base salaries in July, 2005 for the rank and file - excluding per diems, perks, PSAs, pensions and paid health insurance - was \$69,648. Lawmakers automatically receive pay increases - or COLA's - on December 1. The "shared sacrifice" budget of 2011 allows the legislature to keep their COLAs, per diems and "seasonal per diems."

- Base salaries in 2011 are \$79,623, and do not include the cost for per diems, perks, PSAs, pensions and health insurance.

- Two-tier pension system. Benefits covered by a pension system in effect before 1974 utilizes a higher "multiplier" to calculate benefits for the pre-1974 class than for lawmakers elected since that year, e.g. Rep. Frank Oliver and Senator Robert Mellow. Rep. Mark Cohen is eligible for the pre-1974 multiplier.

The pre-1974 tier uses a 7.5 % multiplier of the average salary of the three highest years compared to a 3% multiplier for lawmakers elected after 1974 and uses a 2.5% multiplier for state employees.

- Most retired lawmakers are entitled to lifetime health care for themselves and their spouses.

- The "per diem" - or daily allowance - is an undocumented reimbursement lawmakers receive in addition to their salary for food and lodging.

- If a per diem is taken on a session day or for a committee meeting, taxes are not taken out or paid on the per diem pursuant to IRS rules out.
- If a legislator receives a per diem for a non session day, taxes are taken out.
- The per diem daily rate was \$141 in 2006. However, the Caucuses through their unaudited non-lapsing accounts, provide meals to their members during session days.
- The current subsidy rate is \$163 and allows legislators to use the money to purchase second homes in Harrisburg.
- **“Earlier this spring, the U.S. General Services Administration announced the lodging per diem in Harrisburg will increase from \$107 a day to \$134 a day for June, July and August.** The lodging per diem will revert to \$107 in September.” The per diem to cover the cost of meals will stay at \$51. *(Seasonal per diem hike kicks in for Harrisburg, by Robert Swift, Shamrock Times, June 16, 2011.)*

Background and Timeline

July 2005

7/7/05: The Pennsylvania House and Senate passed Act 44 at 2 a.m., increasing the salaries of officials in all three branches of government without public hearings, public debate or public knowledge.

Governor Edward G. Rendell signed the bill that evening, and told the media the following day, “It's legal [‘unvouchered expenses’] and that's all I'm going to say about it.”

Base Salaries in July, 2005 for the rank and file excluding, per diems, perks, PSAs, pensions and paid health insurance was \$69,648.

The pay raise “...increased legislators' base pay to \$81,050 - more than any other state except California - and most lawmakers received more money because of expanded stipends in the bill for leadership or committee posts. Individual members saw raises ranging from 16 to 54 percent.” [1]

November 2005

11/16/05: As a result of public pressure, the General Assembly passed and Gov. Rendell signed Act 72 of 2005 repealing the raise. Act 72 did not require those who had received increased salaries to return the funds.

In total, 158 lawmakers accepted the raise. Numerous legislators have opted not to repay the “unvouchered expenses” or donated the money to charity. These amounts can be applied toward pension calculations and verified through the State Employees Retirement System.

September 2006

9/14/06: The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that “unvouchered-expenses” violated the state constitution, but did not order recipients to pay the money back. The Court also reinstated the pay raises for themselves and approximately 1,200 judges.

January 2007

The Patriot-News reported that House Majority Leader Bill DeWeese, (D-Greene), had awarded “meritorious or bonus pay” to select Democratic staffers, and instructed them to keep quiet about the supplemental payments.

February 2007

2/6/07: Senator Vincent Fumo (D-Philadelphia) was indicted by the federal government on 139 counts, including numerous counts of felonious use of taxpayers’ funds and legislative staff for personal purpose as well as fraud.

Former-Senator Gerald LaValle (D-Beaver) was investigated by the Pennsylvania Attorney General (2007-2008) for his connections to two separate Beaver County nonprofit organizations.

September 2007

It was revealed that Senator Gerald LaValle’s wife was paid \$112,000 annually to run a small nonprofit charity funded primarily with taxpayer money through state grants via BIG. Approximately 56% of all of the charity’s revenues went for salaries, compared to a national standard for salaries for such charities of 15%.

November 2007

11/14/07: Former-Representative Frank LaGrotta was arraigned on two corruption-related felony charges relating to the Attorney General's investigation of Bonusgate.

December 2007

12/20/07: Mr. LaGrotta pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Mr. LaGrotta is the only legislator that began paying back “unvouchered expenses” and changed his mind. “After losing the primary in 2006, I decided to stop having the amount of the pay raise deducted from my salary. I also was reimbursed for the months I did pay back. It was perfectly legal, according to House Comptroller Alexis Brown,’ Mr. LaGrotta said yesterday.

Earnings from the 2005 pay raise will help boost Mr. LaGrotta's annual pension by roughly \$740 a year, according to estimates by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.” [2]

According to former-Majority Leader, Todd Eachus (D-Luzerne), "The pay-raise thing, I think, is finally behind us. I think we're on to other issues now." [3]

Mr. Eachus also paid off Mike Veon’s campaign debt and stated, "Mike's contribution as a leader to our collective effort meant a lot to us." [4]

February 2008

2/3/08: Frank LaGrotta pleaded guilty to two felony conflict-of-interest charges for putting his sister and niece on the state payroll in no-work jobs. He was sentenced to six months of house arrest, 30 months of probation and 500 hours of community service. He was also ordered to pay \$27,000 in restitution for the money paid to his relatives and fined \$10,000. Mr. LaGrotta was allowed to keep his pension.

July 2008

7/10/08: Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett filed criminal charges against 12 individuals, including Mike Veon. Mr. Veon (D-Beaver) was charged with conflict of interest, theft by unlawful taking or disposition, theft of services, theft by deception, theft by failure to make required disposition of funds.

August 2008

8/6/08: Former state lawmaker, Linda Bebko-Jones, an Erie County Democrat, was sentenced in Dauphin County today to 12 months' probation, and escaped jail time after pleading guilty to charges that she forged signatures on her nominating petitions. [5]

Ms. Bebko-Jones was fined \$1,500 and ordered to perform 200 hours of community service.

8/18/08: Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett charged Senator. Gerald LaValle's wife, Darla LaValle, with stealing thousands of dollars, inflating her salary, and denying employees pension benefits while serving as executive director of the Voluntary Action Center.

November 2008

Former-Representative Stephen Stetler was named Secretary of Revenue by Governor Rendell. Mr. Stetler was unanimously confirmed by the Senate on March 31, 2009. He resigned that position on December 15, 2009, the same day he was indicted by Attorney General Tom Corbett.

March 2009

3/16/09: Vince Fumo was convicted of 137 corruption counts including defrauding the Senate of about \$1.3 million, a South Philadelphia nonprofit of \$960,000 and the Independence Seaport Museum of \$128,000.

Governor Rendell wrote a letter to U.S. District Judge Ronald Buckwalter who agrees with Fumo that no added time is due for alleged perjury or running a sophisticated scheme. Fumo received a 55 months sentence for corruption well below the 20-plus years recommended by probation or the Judge's own guideline calculation of more than 10 years. Mr. Fumo owes imputed interest on his repayment schedule of "unvouchered expenses."

3/25/09: Attorney General Corbett filed additional charges of corruption, unrelated to the previous charges against Mike Veon. The 25 count indictment includes theft, conflict of interest and criminal conspiracy relating to the nonprofit Beaver Initiative for Growth which was founded by Veon and former state Senator Gerald LaValle in 1992. BIG amassed \$10.6 million in taxpayer funded WAMs, and LaValle and Mike Veon were the only board members.

November 2009

11/12/09: Attorney General Tom Corbett announced: “As part of an ongoing public corruption investigation into the Pennsylvania Legislature, agents from the Attorney General's Public Corruption Unit today filed criminal charges against Representative John Perzel and former Republican Representative Brett Feese. Also charged are eight current or former aides to Perzel and Feese. The defendants are each charged with numerous theft, criminal conspiracy and conflict of interest charges.”

December 2009

12/15/09: The Attorney General filed criminal charges against Representative H. William DeWeese, (D-Greene County), and former Representative and state Department of Revenue Secretary Stephen Stetler, of York County.

Attorney General Tom Corbett said the charges are part of an “ongoing grand jury investigation into the misuse of public resources and employees for campaign purposes in the Pennsylvania Legislature.”

“A tearful Darla LaValle, charged with skimming money from the nonprofit she directed for 20 years, was sentenced Monday to four years probation after pleading no contest to theft and misapplication of entrusted property.

[6]

March 2010

3/10/10: Mike Veon (D-Beaver), former Whip, was convicted on 14 charges related to his role in paying taxpayer-funded bonuses for state employees to work on his campaign and more than a dozen others. He must also pay \$37,000 in fines and \$100,000 restitution.

“Mr. Veon, 53, the former No. 2 Democrat in the state House, was convicted of 14 of 59 counts. He was convicted of seven counts of conflict of interest, three counts of theft by deception, two counts of theft of services and two counts of conspiracy.”[\[7\]](#)

April 2010

4/7/10: Pennsylvania Sen. Jane Orie was arraigned Wednesday morning on charges connected to a political probe of her North Hills office. She was arrested on charges of diversion of services, restricted activity/conflict of interest, tampering with or fabricating physical evidence and conspiracy. A grand jury was investigating claims by the senator's former intern, who said staff members performed campaign work in the office on state time for Joan Orie Melvin. Sen. Orie's sister, Janine, an administrative aide, is charged with theft of services and diversion of services.

June 2010

6/9/10: Unrepentant payjacker T.J. Rooney and Democratic Party Chairman “and a former state legislator from Lehigh County, who “ was hand- picked by Rendell to take over as chairman soon after he was sworn into his first term as governor in 2003” announced he was stepping down as Party Chairman. [\[8\]](#)

Rooney grabbed \$9,500 in the late-night caper that boosted his pension pay out. "I absolutely still stand by that vote," he said, dashing hopes for any Road to Damascus conversions engendered by last May's historic primary and a general election that saw the defeat of two dozen incumbent legislators. "I think the salaries should be commensurate [with the private sector]." [\[9\]](#)

6/18/10: Mr. Veon began to serve a six- to 14-year prison sentence. Veon was also stripped of his \$50,340 annual pension.

May 2010

5/5/10: Frank LaGrotta was arrested after he tried to have an altered Xanax prescription filled. “If LaGrotta is ultimately convicted on the new charges, he would then face a state probation revocation hearing, Perry said. Lewis could also re-sentence LaGrotta on the conflict-of-interest convictions if his probation is revoked. [10]

Federal agents this morning raided the home and district office of Sen. Minority Leader Robert J. Mellow (D., Lackawanna), federal authorities have confirmed. [11]

“Federal agents investigating State Sen. Robert J. Mellow, the highest-ranking Senate Democrat, served subpoenas Wednesday on dozens of Democratic staff members, including those in Mellow's Senate office.”

“The subpoenas compel the staffers to appear before a federal grand jury, according to sources with direct knowledge of the matter.” “Last month, FBI agents subpoenaed as many as 15 staff members from the Peckville office.

June 2010

7/18/10: In June, FBI and IRS agents raided the office, Mellow's home, and the Giordanos' home.”

“The Inquirer reported last year that the Senate spent \$213,000 in state money from 2001 to '06 to rent Mellow's district office from a business half- owned by his then-wife, Diane. After they divorced, her share of the business went to Mellow, and he held it from 2007 until '08.

“A federal grand jury has indicted longtime state Sen. Raphael J. Musto, the latest legislator to be caught up in an overlapping series of corruption investigations.” “The indictment announced Tuesday alleges that Mr. Musto, D-Luzerne, accepted bribes, gifts and construction work from an unnamed contractor in return for his help in obtaining state grants and loans.” [12]

August 2010

8/18/10: “Action News has learned that federal authorities conducted raids this morning involving Pa. State Representative William Keller. Federal investigators carted out files and cases from a home in Rose Valley, Delaware County. The house belongs to Marty O'Rourke, a campaign aide to State Representative Bill Keller.

“Both the IRS and FBI would only say they were conducting official business during a series of raids conducted this morning.”

“Federal agents also carried out box after box on East Moyamensing Avenue from KO Sporting Goods, a store partially owned by Keller.” [13]

March 2011

3/3/11: Jurors were deliberating in Sen. Jane Orie's case when Allegheny County Judge Jeffrey Manning declared a mistrial, saying there was evidence critical defense documents had been doctored.

May 2011

5/24/11: “A Dauphin County judge has postponed the second trial of disgraced Pennsylvania political power broker Mike Veon until next year.” Judge Bruce Bratton issued an order Tuesday moving the trial date from June 1 to Feb. 6, 2012.”

“Veon, the former Democratic whip in the state House of Representatives, was convicted last year in Pennsylvania’s legislative corruption scandal on multiple charges involving the use of taxpayers’ money for campaign work and is serving a 6- to 14-year prison term. A former aide, Annamarie Perretta-Rosepink, also was convicted and was sentenced to 3 to 6 months in county jail.”

“Veon and Perretta-Rosepink are now awaiting trial on charges of misusing grant money distributed to a nonprofit that he ran in his Beaver County district.” [14]

5/26/11: “Former Democratic State Sen. Vincent J. Fumo seemed a step closer to a longer prison term after two appellate judges said Wednesday the sentencing of the disgraced politician in 2009 was rife with serious procedural errors...”

“Prosecutors appealed after U.S. District Judge Ronald L. Buckwalter rejected a calculation that under federal advisory guidelines Fumo's crimes warranted at least a 21-year sentence.”

“The 55-month sentence sparked an outcry, with critics saying it was far too lenient. Prosecutors appealed, saying Buckwalter's decision was shot through with procedural mistakes. [15]

June 2011

6/15/11: On June 15 in New Castle, “Former state Rep. Frank LaGrotta was led from a Lawrence County courtroom in handcuffs Wednesday to begin serving at least three months in the county jail...

“The former legislator was immediately taken to the Lawrence County Jail, where he will spend between three months and 12 months after pleading guilty to 10 criminal charges in April.”

“On Monday, visiting Senior Judge Eugene Fike II sentenced LaGrotta to jail, ordered him to serve 2 years of probation, and fined him \$1,500 plus court costs on three counts each of acquiring or obtaining a controlled substance by misrepresentation and possession of a controlled substance.” [16]

June 2011

6/23/11: Pennsylvania's highest court ruled that a state senator should be allowed to argue that she shouldn't be subject to a new trial on public corruption charges because it would constitute impermissible double jeopardy. The state Supreme Court ruled 6-0 that the lower Superior Court should reconsider the claim by Sen. Jane Orie, R-Allegheny, whose first trial on charges she misused her public office for campaign purposes ended in a mistrial.

"It is unclear whether the Superior Court's order reflects an agreement with the trial court's determination of frivolousness following an independent review ... or a determination that review was theoretically available, but automatically doomed to failure (given) the trial court's finding," the justices said in an unsigned opinion.

The justices said they were not persuaded by Orie's arguments seeking their direct review. The justices noted that the retrial of Orie and her codefendant and sister, Janine Orie, is scheduled for October.

End notes

- [1] *The Associated Press*, Peter Jackson, “How Pa. legislators' pay raise was born and how it died” (September 14, 2006.)
- [2] Clerk’s Office, February 21, 2008 and *Post Gazette*, February 29, 2008.
- [3] *Patriot News*, February 17, 2008.
- [4] *Tribune Review*, February 21, 2008.
- [5] *Associated Press*, August 5, 2008.
- [6] *Beaver County Times*, March 22, 2010.
- [7] *Pittsburgh-Post Gazette*, March 10, 2010.
- [8] *Associated Press*, June 9, 2010.
- [9] *Morning Call*, December 10, 2006.
- [10] *Beaver County Times*, June 18, 2010.
- [11] *Inquirer Harrisburg Bureau*, June 18, 2010.
- [12] *Inquirer Harrisburg Bureau*, November 24, 2010.
- [13] WPVI, *Offices of State Rep., staffer and judge raided*.
- [14] *The Associated Press*, May 24, 2011.
- [15] *Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 26, 2011
- [16] *Beaver County Times*, June 15, 2011.

House of Representatives by the Numbers

The following former and current House members (53) have refused to return the “unvouchered expenses” or donated the “unconstitutional” income to charities.

- **Rep. Linda Bebko-Jones** (D-Erie). Ms. Jones voted for the pay raise, took the money, failed to qualify for the primary, and will receive a pension boost. "If I got the pay raise [\$4,280], it gets built into my pension," Bebko-Jones said. "It wasn't revoked before we got it. And just like in the private sector, if you get a pay raise, obviously your pension is going to go up. All the repeal did is to stop us from getting any continuing pay raises," she said. (*Erie Times*, April 29, 2006)

PSAs 2005: Ms. Bebko-Jones spent \$29,032.50 on I.D. Theft between September 26 and October 20, 2005.

PSAs 2006: Ms. Bebko-Jones spent \$17,010 on I.D. Theft between February 6 and February 26, 2005.

Lame duck bon voyage: In 2007, Bebko-Jones, attended legislative trainings on the taxpayer's dime expense.

Indictment: Former Rep. Linda Bebko-Jones (D-Erie) was charged on February 28, 2008 for forging her nominating petitions in 2006, and was arraigned on charges she forged nominating petitions in March 2006.

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:
\$2,581 (\$65,000) (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

Police blotter update: A former state lawmaker escaped jail time after pleading guilty to charges that she forged signatures on her nominating petitions. Linda Bebko-Jones was sentenced in Dauphin County today to 12 months' probation.

She pleaded guilty to charges of making false signatures and statements, conspiracy and making a fraudulent filing. Ms. Bebko-Jones, who appeared briefly before Judge John Cherry, was first elected in 1992. She abruptly resigned in 2006 after questions were raised about the validity of her signatures. Prosecutors say Ms. Bebko-Jones and an aide generated the fake signatures in March 2006 by combing the Erie phone book and Ms. Bebko-Jones' personal address book. (*Associated Press*, August 5, 2008.)

• **Rep. Fred Belardi** (D-Lackawana). Mr. Belardi kept the pay raise and voted to increase his salary 35% from \$79,417.61 to \$106,986.

Per diems: Rep. Belardi put in for 216 per diems in 18 months and took home an additional \$29,052 before leaving office. (*Shamrock Times*, November 14, 2006)

PSAs 2006: Mr. Belardi spent \$36,300 on prescription assistance.

Update: Defeated.

“Mr. Belardi was given a six-week, \$10,000 consulting job to help his successor as Democratic caucus administrator learn that job. Apparently, the House staff -- the largest of any state legislature -- isn't large enough to ensure a smooth transition.” (*Daily Review*, March 14, 2007)

Rep. Belardi was hired by the House Democrats, and “makes \$116,000 annually -- about 36 percent more than he did as a lawmaker -- managing parking spaces and other personnel matters for his former House colleagues.” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 17, 2007)

• **Rep. Louise Williams Bishop** (D-Philadelphia). Rep. Bishop voted for the raise, then voted to repeal the raise, but still kept the money.

Per Diems 2009: \$15,920.

Update: A House member since 1989, Rep. Bishop is a “radio personality” and is the Democratic Chairwoman of the Children & Youth Committee.

• **Rep. Tommie Blackwell** (D-Philadelphia). Mr. Blackwell voted to increase his salary 22% from \$69,648 to \$85,102 and kept the money.

Knocked out: State Rep. Thomas W. Blackwell, a two-term lawmaker from the most prominent political family in West Philadelphia, was ordered off the Democratic primary ballot last night. The president judge of Commonwealth Court, Bonnie Brigrance Leadbetter, ruled that Blackwell had fallen short of the 300 voter signatures he needed to secure his spot in the Democratic primary. By Leadbetter's count, the lawmaker had only 184 valid signatures, from registered Democratic voters living inside the legislative district. (*Philadelphia Daily News*, March 19, 2008)

• **Rep. Tommie Blackwell:** (Continued)

Pension: TBD.

In response to a **RocktheCapital.org** RTKL request, the SERS reported, “Former Pennsylvania State Representative Thomas Blackwell has not yet applied for his retirement benefit, therefore, we do not have the information you requested.” (July 21, 2009)

• **Rep. Kevin D. Blaum** (D-Luzerne) Mr. Blaum voted for the pay raise, and as minority caucus secretary (the fourth highest-ranking party job) he was flown from Iowa to Harrisburg (\$716) courtesy of Mr. DeWeese’s “leadership account” on November 7 to vote on the pay raise repeal. (*Herald Standard*, May 12, 2006)

Defended perks: “A car is a tool,” said Rep. Kevin Blaum, (D-Wilkes-Barre), who billed the state for a leased Ford Explorer and collected an average of about \$1,500 a month in per-diems. “Certainly, no one is becoming rich off these expenses.” (*Shamrock Times*, November 13, 2006)

Per diems: Rep. Blaum took 215 per diems in 18 months and made an extra **\$26,824**. (*Shamrock Times*, November 14, 2006)

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:

\$4,579 (\$115,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

Update: Retired from the legislature, but works as “Associate director for admissions at a private school (Wyoming Seminary).”
(Sources: *Patriot-News* and *The Associated Press*)

• **Rep. Gaynor Cawley** (D- Lackawanna). Not only did he vote for and take the “unconstitutional raise,” Mr. Cawley was the largest recipient of per diems from 2004-2005 - **\$53,030!**

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:

\$3,242 (\$113,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

Update: Retired with a “pension bounce.”

• **Rep. Mark Cohen** (D-Philadelphia). Cohen, a 34 year veteran of the legislature, voted for the raise, voted to repeal the raise, took the money, collected \$46,270 in per diems between 2004-2005, and read 800 books over at a cost to tax payers of \$28,200. (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, April 2, 2006)

“If you want recent, there was last week's disclosure that he'd turned in bills for \$2,000 for attending the annual Pennsylvania Society blowout in New York in 2004, 2005, and 2006. More about this in a moment.”

“If you want massive, go back to 1990 when the *Daily News'* John Baer reported that Cohen had racked up expenses of \$104,000 in a 20-month period. Put Cohen in a blond wig, hand him a Chihuahua and you've got Paris Hilton.” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 11, 2007)

Credit rating: “Rep. Mark Cohen, (D-Philadelphia), revealed a credit card balance with a 24.99 percent interest rate and that he accepted an interest-free loan from his longtime administrative assistant, Dorothy Kelly. ‘She was aware that I was shopping around for a loan, and she offered to pay, she offered to loan me the money,’ Cohen said. He has since repaid the loan, which was for slightly more than \$6,500,’ he said.” (*Associated Press*, May 4, 2007, Source: Statement of Financial Interests for 2006, State Ethics Commission)

PSAs 2006: Mr. Cohen spent \$53,920 (February 22 to March 7, 2006) and \$26,960 (March 8 to March 14, 2006) on Medicare Part D and PACE.

Per Diems 2009: \$31,473.

Travel log 2009: “Rep. Mark Cohen, D-Philadelphia, reported serving as publisher of Your Community Voice, a newspaper he founded in 2009, but he does not collect income from it and the business has suspended operations.”

"We basically learned that there just wasn't the advertising market there, despite economies of printing due to modern technology," Cohen said. He also took trips to conferences of progressive groups in Chicago and Atlanta in December, at a total cost of about \$2,000.

(“*Pa. lawmakers report \$150 K-plus in freebies,*” by Marl Scolforo, Associated Press, May 4, 2011 .)

Update: Minority Chairman of the Democratic Caucus.

• **Rep. Thomas C. Corrigan, Sr.** (D-Bucks). Rep. Corrigan voted for the pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.” Mr. Corrigan attended the four-day National Conference of State Legislatures event Aug. 15-18; which, costs a minimum of \$425 to attend for those who pre-registered, plus hotel and travel costs. (*Herald Standard*, August 1, 2006) “Rep. Thomas C. Corrigan Sr. (D., Bucks) hung up on a reporter when asked whether he would return the money he collected in ‘unvouchered expenses.’” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 16, 2006)

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal: Mr. Corrigan retired with an extra \$1,280 after taking the \$3,801 pay raise (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 26, 2006)

Update: Mr. Corrigan retired prior to the 2006 election.

Monthly pension: \$2,289.07.

Lump-sum withdrawal: \$102,897.47.
(SERS, Right-to-Know Request, July 19, 2010)

• **Rep. Jacqueline R. Crahalla** (R- Montgomery) after four years of public service, Rep. Crahalla is receiving a pension.

PSAs 2005: Ms. Crahalla spent \$9,078 on a tutoring program.

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:
\$553 (\$22,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

Update: Retired.

• **Rep. Angel Cruz** (D-Philadelphia) voted for the raise, then voted to repeal the raise, and took the money.

“Cake and eat it too”: Rep. Cruz told *RTC* the night of the pay raise repeal vote that he was waiting to collect pension and health benefits before running for a higher paying job on City Council. He was seen eating cake with members from the Philadelphia delegation on the House floor on June 21, 2007, thus proving that you can have your cake and eat it too.

Update: A Member of the House since 2001.

Per Diems 2009: \$13,457.

- **Rep. Bill DeWeese** (D-Greene). The Majority Leader supported the pay raise and demoted party members in leadership positions who voted against the pay raise. Mr. DeWeese received over \$13,000 in “unvouchered expenses” with which he sent eight \$1,000 checks to each school district in Greene County, and paid \$5,000 in federal income taxes.

“Among state lawmakers, no one uses the planes more often than Rep. Bill DeWeese, (D-Greene). He flew on them 11 times last year and twice this year -- at a total cost of nearly \$24,000.” (*Tribune Review*, December 1, 2005)

Mr. DeWeese also accessed a \$13 million “special leadership account” to fly to Santa Barbara, California, pay a personal driver, and spend \$149,105 on advertising or \$254,722 on consulting fees. (*Herald-Standard*, May 12, 2006)

PSAs 2006: Mr. DeWeese spent \$20,064 from February 6-26, 2006 for Veterans’ Services, and another \$13,556 in August 2006 for PACE Plus.

Driver’s education fund: DeWeese decided to drive himself to work. “According to media reports, DeWeese spent \$32,000 last year on a driver from Donna Hertig Enterprises. A *Herald-Standard* review of DeWeese's legislative spending shows that in October 2006 Donna Hertig Enterprises received four payments totaling approximately \$4,074 for driver services.” (*Herald-Standard*, February 17, 2007)

Loyalty update: Mr. DeWeese fired seven of his closest aides. “A shakeup in the state House Democratic caucus on Tuesday has led to the departure of seven senior aides, including the majority leader's chief of staff.” (*The Associated Press*, November 13, 2007)

Polling for dollars: In 2007, House Majority Leader Bill DeWeese authorized \$289,759 for political polling. (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, November 25, 2007)

Presentment: “As part of an ongoing public corruption investigation into the Pennsylvania Legislature, agents from the Attorney General's Public Corruption Unit today filed criminal charges against Representative H. William DeWeese, of Greene County, and former Representative and state Department of Revenue Secretary Stephen Stetler, of York County...Attorney General Tom Corbett said the charges are part of an ongoing grand jury investigation into the misuse of public resources and employees for campaign purposes in the Pennsylvania Legislature.”

“Evidence of the defendants' alleged criminal activity was placed before a statewide investigating grand jury, which recommended that Corbett file criminal charges...The grand jury found that from 2001 until 2007, political fundraising work for DeWeese was conducted from within the Capitol, primarily at taxpayer expense.” (**Attorney General’s Office**, December 15, 2009.)

Per Diems 2009: \$36,051.

Update: DeWeese won a three party contest in the May 18 Democratic primary and prevailed in the general election.

• **Rep. Robert Donatucci** (D-Philadelphia) voted for the raise, then voted to repeal the raise, and took the money.

Per Diems 2009: \$22,952.

Update: Mr. Donatucci passed away on November 9, 2010. He represented the 185 Legislative District from 1980-2010.

• **Rep. Todd Eachus** (D-Luzerne). Mr. Eachus voted for the pay raise, kept the money, defended the pay grab, and voted to increase his salary 22% from \$69,648 to \$85,102.

“Man-to-Mann:” In a bizarre twist (even by Harrisburg standards), Mr. Eachus retired the debt of a lobbyist. “The House Democratic Campaign Committee in November and December paid \$40,683 to retire Veon's campaign debt, according to Veon's report filed recently with the state election bureau. Veon could not be reached Wednesday.”

"Mike's contribution as a leader to our collective effort meant a lot to us," said House Majority Policy Chairman Todd Eachus of Luzerne County, who chairs the campaign committee. But the committee's other three leaders -- Reps. Joe Preston, Dan Frankel and Jennifer Mann -- apparently had no knowledge of the two payments. (*Tribune Review*, February 21, 2008)

Outstanding questions: Did anyone (PAC or individual) give a higher than “normal contribution” to the HDCC in the last 90 days? Does Veon have any outstanding personal loans to his Committee(s)? Is this just another way to launder money into his legal defense fund? For lack of more eloquent phrasing, “Is this “hush money”?”

Health care: Mr. Eachus was chief the sponsor of health care reform, i.e. “Eachus Healthcare Amendment,” which passed in the House by a vote of 114-81 on March 12, 2008. The Bill died in the Senate.

Mr. Eachus contributed nothing to his own health care plan while he was in office. Unlike the Senate, the House made no contributions to its health care plan until July, 2011.

The Senate program was implemented in September, 2006. All senators and the chamber's 1,000+ staff must contribute 1% of their gross pay toward the cost of their taxpayer-funded health insurance.

According to the Chief Clerk of the Senate, the annual savings to taxpayers since the Senate instituted this program in 2006 is, "Just under a half a million per year." (Chief Clerk of the Senate, May 28, 2009)

Per Diems 2009: \$27,688.

Update: Former Majority Leader lost his bid for reelection on November, 2011.

Monthly pension: Projected at \$37,512.

Lump-sum withdrawal: TBD.

(*Patriot News*, December 21, 2010)

- **Rep. Dwight Evans** (D-Philadelphia). Mr. Evans voted for the raise, then voted to repeal the raise, and still took the money.

Per Diems 2009: \$16,720.

Travel log 2009: "Rep. Dwight Evans, D-Philadelphia, reported \$670 from the Philadelphia Eagles for transportation, hotel accommodations, dinner and tickets to see the team take on the Dallas Cowboys in Texas."

"Evans also received two free \$1,000 tickets from the Philadelphia Orchestra for a "white-tie celebration," two \$1,500 tickets for the Philadelphia National Museum of American Jewish History's opening gala, and \$915 from the Pew Center for the States to attend a "fiscal leader seminar" in Phoenix"

(*"Pa. lawmakers report \$150 K-plus in freebies,"* by Marl Scoloro, Associated Press, May 4, 2011 .)

Update: Former Chairman of House Appropriations Committee, lost his bid to become Democratic Chairman of the Committee in November, 2010.

• **Rep. Robert Flick** (R-Chester). Mr. Flick voted for the pay raise and kept the “unvouchered expenses.”

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:

\$3,183 (\$107,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

Update: Retired with a “pension bounce.”

• **Rep. Teresa Forcier** (R-Crawford). Voted ‘no’ on the pay-raise bill but accepted the “unvouchered expenses.” *RockTheCapital.org* spoke with her staff on May 3, 2006, and is still awaiting staff response on repayment terms. On March 3, 2006, Rep. Forcier stated she would not violate the privacy of the three dozen charities [to which] she gave \$5,400. “This is a reversal of her [previous] decision to release the information.” (*Meadeville Tribune*, March 3, 2006β)

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:

\$2,768 (\$84,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

Update: Rep. Forcier was defeated in the primary, retired with a “pension bounce,” but “declined comment” on her current status. (Sources: *Patriot-News* and *The Associated Press*)

• **Rep. Rick Geist** (R-Blair). Mr. Geist voted for the pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.” In a meeting with John McGinnis in Altoona, on February 27, 2006, “Mr. Geist insisted that taking ‘unvouchered expenses’ in anticipation of the pay raise was proper. When asked, ‘Why did you return the money?’” (We’ve been told he has returned the unvouchered expenses), his answer was unclear. He intimated that he gave the money to his church before he had actually taken it from the taxpayers.”

PSAs 2005: Mr. Geist spent \$38,960 from March through September and November on tax forms, web site development, “Capital information,” “Adopt-A-Highway,” tourism, district office, tutoring program, and hunting.

PSAs 2006: Mr. Geist spent \$22,400 from January to February and June and July and November on “Entrepreneurial Guides,” tax forms, military family relief, and ID theft.

Per Diems 2009: \$27,354.

Update: Majority Chair of the Transportation and the Committee on Committees.

• **Rep. Michael C. Gruitza** (D-Mercer). Mr. Gruitza voted for the pay raise, accepted “unvouchered expenses,” and spent the raise on chimney work. "It's not worth the aggravation," Gruitza said. "I feel bad that there is a sense out there that you are just trying to take care of yourself, when all these years my main priority has been helping others." (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 1, 2005)

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:
\$3,466 (\$113,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

Update: Retired with a “pension bounce.”

• **Rep. Gary Haluska** (D-Cambria). Voted “no on the pay raise, ”but took the unconstitutional money. His Capitol office (787-3532) referred *RTC* to the district office at 814-674-8939. On May 3, 2006, Mr. Haluska told *RockTheCapital.org* that he donated the entire amount to local food banks as he did in 1995 when he first arrived in the House.

Per Diems 2009: \$16,319

Update: Mr. Haluska has been a members of the House since 1995.

• **Rep. George C. Hasay** (R-Luzerne). Mr. Hasay voted for the pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.”

PSAs 2005: Mr. Hasay spent \$12,824 in June and November on sportsmen information and hunting.

PSAs 2006: Mr. Hasay spent \$12,824 on unspecified PSAs.

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:
\$6,587 (\$329,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

Update: Retired with a “pension bounce.” Mr. Hasay confessed: "I spent 34 years in public service, and when I first ran for the job, I never even thought about the pension plan or anything like that," said former state Rep. George C. Hasay, (R-Luzerne), whose annual pension is \$79,000 and lump-sum withdrawal was \$329,000. (*Morning Call*, Bill White Blog, February 9, 2007)

• **Rep. Harold James** (D-Philadelphia). Mr. James voted for the pay hike, voted to repeal the raise, and took the money. “The only lawmaker who appeared conflicted [after the Supreme Court decision] about what to do was Rep. Harold James (D., Phila.) James said yesterday that he would seek the advice of House leadership and counsel before making a decision. Still, he stressed: ‘I earned it and I worked for it.’” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Inquirer* September 16, 2006)

Second thoughts: Apparently Mr. James was “advised” to keep the money.

Close call: “State Rep. Harold James has survived the first round in a challenge to his reelection petitions, but his opponent says he's appealing to the state Supreme Court. James had collected more than 2,800 voter signatures on petitions for an 11th term in Harrisburg, which is nearly 10 times the number - 300 - required by state law. But his opponent in the April 22 Democratic primary, Kenyatta Johnson, contends that James had identified himself as the circulator for a number of petitions that were actually handled by other people. Johnson's campaign found 14 people who acknowledged signing James's petitions but identified someone else as the circulator.” (*Philadelphia Daily News*, March 29, 2008)

Update: Mr. James was defeated in the 2008 primary by Kenyatta Johnson.

Monthly pension: TBD.

Lump-sum withdrawal: TBD.

• **Rep. Babette Josephs** (D-Philadelphia). Ms. Joseph's voted for the raise, voted to repeal the raise, and donated the money to charity.

PSAs 2006: Ms. Josephs spent \$34,320 and \$5,100 on PACE ads from February 6-26, 2006.

Per Diems 2009: \$14,794

Update: Rep. Joseph's is the Democratic Chairwoman of the Local Government Committee.

• **Rep. Bill Keller** (D-Philadelphia). Mr. Keller voted for the raise, voted to repeal the raise, and took the money. “For six years, local interests have treated state lawmakers from across Pennsylvania to a ‘legislative weekend’ in Philadelphia, offering free hotels, meals and sports tickets to them and their families. But Keller had insisted on continuing with plans for this year, until after he met with Perzel this week. ‘I thought part of my job was to bring people to Philadelphia, and to show them what they were voting on was not only good for Philadelphia but also good for the entire commonwealth,’ said Keller, adding that he is committed to organizing the event next year.” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 8, 2006)

Update: Mr. Keller is Democratic Chairman of the Labor and Industry Committee.

Per Diems 2009: \$20,680

Crime Watch: On August 18, 2010, “Action News has learned that federal authorities conducted raids this morning involving Pa. State Representative William Keller. Federal investigators carted out files and cases from a home in Rose Valley, Delaware County. The house belongs to Marty O'Rourke, a campaign aide to State Representative Bill Keller.

Both the IRS and FBI would only say they were conducting official business during a series of raids conducted this morning.

Federal agents also carried out box after box on East Moyamensing Avenue from KO Sporting Goods, a store partially owned by Keller.
WPVI, *Offices of State Rep., staffer and judge raided.*)

• **Rep. George Kenney** (R-Philadelphia). Mr. Kenney voted for the raise, voted to repeal the raise, and took the money.

“Ghost” Landlord: “It was 2006, and [Sue] Cornell, a freshman state representative, had just been booted from office by Montgomery County voters, and she needed a job. She turned to the person who had recruited her to run - then-Speaker John M. Perzel.

“Perzel found her work, assigning her to the office of his fellow Philadelphia Republican, then-Rep. George Kenney, for the same \$72,187 salary she had as a legislator. For a month and a half, Cornell collected a state paycheck without doing any work or setting foot in Kenney's office. (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, November 22, 2009)

• **Rep. George Kenney:** (Continued)

PSAs 2005: Mr. Kenney spent \$64,736 from April through September on his web site, TAP, PACE, district office, and CHIP.

PSAs 2006: Mr. Kenney spent \$59,806 from January to February on property tax-rent rebates and PACE, and from June through August, the PSAs were on mammograms, his district office, and the property tax-rent rebate.

Update: Mr. Kenney vacated his seat.

Monthly pension: \$3,441.13

Lump-sum withdrawal: \$129,845.49.

(SERS, Right-to-Know Request, July 19, 2010)

• **Rep. Thaddeus Kirkland** (D-Delaware). Mr. Kirkland voted to increase his salary 22% from \$69,648 to \$85,102, and kept the money.

Per Diems 2009: \$17,008

Update: Mr. Kirkland is Democratic Chairman of Tourism and Recreational Development.

• **Rep. Frank LaGrotta** (D-Lawrence). Mr. LaGrotta claims his “unvouchered expenses” were used to buy a new computer for his office and pay some mileage to his employees. (*Vindy.com*, November 20, 2005)

Expenses: Mr. LaGrotta billed tax payers for \$87,256 in expenses in 2005 including \$17,611 on commercial transportation and \$10,920 on vehicle related costs” (*Beaver County Times*, June 28, 2006)

PSAs 2006: Topic: Senior Services Air Dates: 02/13/06-02/26/06
Money Spent: \$36,345.

Topic: Senior Services Air Dates: 02/27/06-03/12/06
Money Spent: \$36,902.

Employment history: Mr. LaGrotta was defeated in the 2006 primary, and was then hired as an “internal adviser” to the House Democratic caucus “assisting other members as necessary,” (*Herald Standard*, February 16, 2007).

“The House also has hired former Rep. Frank LaGrotta at a salary of \$73,614 as a legislative assistant. (*Daily Review*, March 14, 2007)

• **Rep. Frank LaGrotta:** (Continued)

Travel: “On top of car leases, House lawmakers also are allowed to fly to Harrisburg once each session week, as some lawmakers, including former Beaver County Reps. Mike Veon and Frank LaGrotta, routinely did.” (*Calkins Media*, January 30, 2007)

LaGrotta on reformers: "I see a very good Supreme Court justice who was targeted by people who were trying to prove a point. And that's sad. Even the mafia has a code of ethics where innocents are not targeted."

Guilty conviction: “LaGrotta, of Lawrence County, pleaded guilty in Dauphin County Court Monday to conflict of interest charges for creating "no-work" jobs for two relatives in his Ellwood City district office. He was sentenced by Dauphin County President Judge Richard Lewis to six months of in-home confinement Monday. LaGrotta was also given 30 additional months of probation, fined \$10,000, ordered to repay \$27,092 to the state, and required to do 500 hours of community service.” (*Patriot News*, February 5, 2008)

Update: Despite a felony conviction, Mr. LaGrotta will receive a state pension when he turns 50. “Mr. LaGrotta, who is serving six months' house arrest, is still eligible for a state pension that's nearly triple the per capita income in Lawrence County, where he served as state representative for two decades. The Ellwood City Democrat is eligible for roughly \$48,000 per year beginning in November, when he turns 50, according to calculations based on employment records provided by the State Employees' Retirement System.” (*Post-Gazette Harrisburg Bureau*, February 28, 2008)

Crime does pay & pension: Mr. LaGrotta took an extra \$4,414 from the illegal pay raise. “After losing the primary in 2006, I decided to stop having the amount of the pay raise deducted from my salary. I also was reimbursed for the months I did pay back. It was perfectly legal, according to House Comptroller Alexis Brown,” Mr. LaGrotta said yesterday. Earnings from the 2005 pay raise will help boost Mr. LaGrotta's annual pension by roughly \$740 a year, according to estimates by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.” (Clerk's Office, February 21, 2008 and *Post Gazette*, February 29, 2008.) Mr. LaGrotta will also receive a one-time lump sum payment of \$102,000 when he reaches age 59.5. His annual pension will be \$36,000.

Relapse: Beaver police arrested LaGrotta, of Ellwood City, on May 5 after he tried to have an altered Xanax prescription filled at the Rite Aid pharmacy on Third Street. If LaGrotta is ultimately convicted on the new charges, he would then face a state probation revocation hearing, Perry said. Lewis could also re-sentence LaGrotta on the conflict-of-interest convictions if his probation is revoked. (*Beaver County Times*)

• **Rep. Frank LaGrotta:** (Continued)

Crime Watch: “Former state Rep. Frank LaGrotta was led from a Lawrence County courtroom in handcuffs Wednesday to begin serving at least three months in the county jail...The former legislator was immediately taken to the Lawrence County Jail, where he will spend between three months and 12 months after pleading guilty to 10 criminal charges in April.”

“On Monday, visiting Senior Judge Eugene Fike II sentenced LaGrotta to jail, ordered him to serve 2 years of probation, and fined him \$1,500 plus court costs on three counts each of acquiring or obtaining a controlled substance by misrepresentation and possession of a controlled substance.” (“Lagrotta jailed,” June 15, 2011 *Beaver County Times*)

• **Rep. Marie A. Lederer** (D- Philadelphia). Ms. Lederer voted for the pay raise, kept the money, and retired after 14 years.

Monthly pension: \$3,052. (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

Lump sum pay out: TBD.

Update: Retired with a “pension bounce.”

• **Rep. Victor John Lescovitz** (D-Washington & Allegheny) voted for the pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.”

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:

\$3,897 (\$118,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

Update: Retired with a “pension bounce,” and took a mission trip to Central America. (Sources: *Patriot-News* and *The Associated Press*)

• **Rep. Stephen Maitland** (R-Adams) voted for the pay raise, accepted “unvouchered expenses,” and used the \$5,148 raise to attend law school. Even though Maitland voted to repeal the raise, he said keeping the money is not hypocritical. “I think it would [be] if the money were merely extra salary. Again, in my case it's actual reimbursement for actual expenses,” Maitland said. (WGAL-Channel 8, January 11, 2006)

Mr. Maitland was defeated in the primary, and even after the Supreme Court declared “unvouchered expenses” were unconstitutional, said he had no plans to repay the money because he used the money for law school tuition which he termed a “legitimate reimbursement.” (*York Daily Record*, September 15, 2006)

• **Rep. Stephen Maitland:** (Continued)

PSAs 2005: Mr. Maitland spent \$24,260 on sportsmen spots, TAP, and his web site April through June and in November.

PSAs 2006: Mr. Maitland spent \$14,084 in January and February on PACE and his district office.

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:

\$1,445 (\$65,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

Update: Lost election, retired with a “pension bounce”, and claimed \$11,368 in per diems, much of it retroactive, before he left office (*York Daily Record*, January 30, 2007). Mr. Maitland completed law school, and took the bar exam. (Sources: *Patriot-News* and *The Associated Press*)

• **Rep. Keith McCall** (D-Carbon): As Whip he voted for the pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.” Mr. McCall failed to respond to a request for information left at (717)-783-1375 on May 3, 2006 by RTC. However, *RockTheCapital.org* did receive an invitation to a \$500 a plate breakfast fundraiser held in November 2007 and in April 2008.

Moral leadership: “In the high-flying world of the Pennsylvania Legislature, \$17,000 is a drop in the bucket. It is nothing, trust me, even though for the average Pennsylvania family it would cover car payments and the mortgage... The Bibles cost \$30 to \$90 each, and for an additional \$15 a lawmaker could have his or her name added to the book, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* reported. The McCall pen sets -- fashioned from a hunk of coal to commemorate the historic industry in his district -- cost almost \$4,000.” (*Pittsburgh Tribune*, March 8, 2009)

Per Diems 2009: \$24,390.05

Update: Speaker of the House in 2008, but announced his retirement in 2010. Based on 28 years in the House and a \$122,254 salary as speaker, Mr. McCall's annual pension could reach at least \$90,000 a year, the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* reported.

Retired: Mr. McCall vacated his seat in 2010.

Monthly pension: Projected at \$100,300.

Lump-sum withdrawal: TBD.

(*Patriot News*, December 21, 2010)

• **Rep. Sheila Miller** (R-Berks) voted for the pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.”

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:

\$2,743 with a \$99,000 lump sum. (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

Update: Retired with a “pension bounce”, and returned to her full-time, family farm business. (Sources: *Patriot-News* and *The Associated Press*)

• **Rep. Phyllis Mundy** (D-Kingston). Rep. Mundy voted for the pay raise, voted to repeal pay raise, but is keeping the “unvouchered expenses” she collected. “At the time the vote was cast there had been three court decisions upholding the constitutionality of ‘unvouchered expenses,’ Mundy said. “There was nothing unconstitutional about what we did. Now the Supreme Court is reversing itself. That does not mean at the time the vote was cast it was improper.” (*Times-Leader*, September 16, 2006)

Per diems: Rep. Mundy captured 207 per diems in one 18 month period and netted \$27,952. (*Shamrock Times*, November 14, 2006)

Per Diems 2009: \$15,845

Update: Ms. Mundy is Democratic Chairwoman of the Finance Committee.

• **Rep. John Myers** (D-Philadelphia). Mr. Myers voted ‘no’ on the pay-raise bill, but accepted “unvouchered expenses.”

Per Diems 2009: \$14,511

Update: Mr. Myers is the Democratic Chairman of the Health Committee.

• **Rep. Frank Oliver** (D-Philadelphia). Mr. Oliver voted for the raise, voted to repeal the raise, and took the money.

“Oliver said he voted for the raise, he took the money, he deserved the money, he worked hard for it, his constituents knew he worked hard for it, and he wasn't in any way ashamed of voting for the raise or taking it. ‘If that pay-raise issue came up tomorrow, I would support it,’ he said. ‘I know I deserve it. Most members deserve it. We're underpaid as it is.’”

• **Rep. Frank Oliver:** (Continued)

Humility update: Mr. Oliver remains “underpaid.”

Per Diems 2009 \$21,274.

Update: A member of the House since 1973, Mr. Oliver is Majority Chairman of Health & Human Services Committee.

Retirement: Mr. Oliver is the longest serving state representative in the House. He says he won't seek a 20th term this year. The 87-year-old from North Philadelphia says he only meant to serve one year when he ran in a special election back in 1973.

Pension: Mr. Oliver is in a special class when it comes to pension benefits covered by a pension system in effect before 1974. This system requires a higher "multiplier" to calculate benefits for the pre-1974 class than for lawmakers elected since that year.

Mr. Oliver's pension will be calculated based on his 40 years in office, a 7.5 % multiplier of the average salary of the three highest years and other factors. The 7.5% multiplier enjoyed by lawmakers elected before 1974 is compared to a 3% multiplier for lawmakers elected after 1974 and a 2.5% multiplier for state employees.

Monthly pension: Projected at \$235,686.

(*Patriot News*, December 21, 2010)

Lump-sum withdrawal: \$416,000.

(Source: “Tackling large government pensions.”)

<http://www.whptv.com:80/news/local/story/Tackling-large-government-pensions/NCv5hmFbOoyuOBSud5GPEw.csp?rss=50>

• **Rep. John Perzel** (R-Philadelphia). The former Speaker of the House who defended the pay raise scheme based on his belief that farm workers in Lancaster County and tattoo artists in Philadelphia made comparable wage to state legislators.

Mr. Perzel, who owns a vacation residence in Palm Beach County, Florida, also receives \$20,000 for serving on the Board of the GEO Group based in Florida (formerly Wackenhut Correction Corporation).

Credit rating: “Last year Perzel said there were ‘roughly 30-some members who can't apply for a credit card because their credit's so bad.’ His spokeswoman later said Perzel was repeating anecdotal information.” (AP, May 4, 2007, Source: Statement of Financial Interests for 2006, State Ethics Commission)

Rep. John Perzel: (Continued)

PSAs 2005: Mr. Perzel spent \$55,454 from June through September on his web site, district office, and CHIP.

PSAs 2006: Mr. Perzel spent \$61,098 from January to February and June to August on PACE, Medicare, mobile office, drug abuse prevention, family night, and Senior Expo.

Per Diems 2009: \$11,782.

Presentment:

“As part of an ongoing public corruption investigation into the Pennsylvania Legislature, agents from the Attorney General's Public Corruption Unit today filed criminal charges against Representative John Perzel and former Republican Representative Brett Feese. Also charged are eight current or former aides to Perzel and Feese.”

“Attorney General Tom Corbett said the charges are part of an ongoing grand jury investigation into the misuse of public resources and employees for campaign purposes in the Pennsylvania Legislature.”

“The defendants are each charged with numerous theft, criminal conspiracy and conflict of interest charges. Additionally, Perzel, Feese, Seaman, Towhey and Zimmerman are each charged with obstruction of justice.”
(**Attorney General**, November 12, 2009)

Update: Mr. Perzel won his party's contest in the May 18 Democratic primary and was defeated in the general election in November, 2010.

Monthly pension: Projected at \$104,700.

Lump-sum withdrawal: TBD.

(*Patriot News*, December 21, 2010)

• **Rep. William W. Rieger** (D-Philadelphia). Mr. Rieger voted against the pay raise but took the money. He served the 179th legislative district from 1966 to 2006, and only passed two bills into law over a 40 year career.

“In 2004, Mr. Rieger drew scrutiny for being recorded as voting on a number of measures while traveling by car back to his North Philadelphia district....He admitted wedging a piece of paper into the "yea" button in the voting apparatus that each House member uses so that he would be recorded as voting in favor of several measures even though he was absent.

“In 2006, Mr. Rieger's former aide, community leader Barbara Landers, pleaded guilty to faking invoices and misappropriating tens of thousands of dollars in state grants. Prosecutors charged that Landers had cashed 101 checks that she had written to herself for more than \$68,000. The checks were written on bank accounts of a nonprofit agency whose purpose was to fund neighborhood cleanups and field trips for at-risk children.” (*Inquirer*, December 14, 2009)

Mr. Rieger retired with a “pension bounce.

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:
\$9,575 (\$369,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

Update” Mr. Rieger passed away on December 11, 2009.

• **Rep. Lawrence Roberts** (D-Fayette). Mr. Roberts voted for the pay raise and kept the money.

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:
\$1,680 (\$65,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

Update: Retired with a pension boost.

• **Rep. T.J. Rooney** (D-Northampton). The head of the Democratic Party took the money, and will not pay the “unvouchered expenses” back unless the Supreme Court deems the measure unconstitutional. "The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has taken another view on several occasions. Until the Supreme Court tells me differently, I will follow the law of Pennsylvania.” (*Morning Call*, Harrisburg Bureau, November 17, 2005) As of January 22, 2008, the House Clerk reported that Mr. had not returned the money.

Rep. T.J. Rooney: (Continued)

PSAs 2005: Topic: Growing Greener from May 5-17, 2005

Money Spent: \$36,080.

Promise-breaker: After the “Supreme Court told Mr. Rooney differently,” he went back on his word and kept the cash.

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:

\$1,264.42 (\$66,135.46). (SERS response to RTC’s Right-to-Know Request, October 15, 2008)

Update: Mr. Rooney is a founding partner and Managing Director in the government-relations firm Tri-State Strategies, and retired as head of the Democratic Party of Pennsylvania, and he is enjoying a “pension bounce.”

• **Rep. Ken Ruffing** (D-Allegheny). Mr. Ruffing voted for the raise, took the money and did not pay it back. *RockTheCapital.org* called his office on May 3, 2006. Ruffing, who was on the House floor, did not return the call. Mr. Ruffing refused to disclose the autistic charities to which he donated the “unvouchered expenses” after the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* contacted several organizations and claimed they had not received any money from Rep. Ruffing.

Road trip: Mr. Ruffing was defeated in the primary but traveled to a legislator conference in Nashville from August 15-18. "I want to go to Nashville," he said. "I am a big country music fan and I want to go to Graceland." (*Herald Standard*, August 1, 2006)

PSAs 2006: Topic: Heating assistance; Air Dates: 01/09/06-01/22/06.

Money Spent: \$13,468.

Update: After loosing an election, Mr. Ruffing was appointed to a temporary advisory role for three months by democratic leadership. “Kenneth Ruffing received an \$18,120 contract to serve as a ‘special assistant’ in the caucus.” (*Shamrock-Times*, March 11, 2007)

Pension: Eight years' service Estimated pension: \$17,400.

Figures indicate pension amounts based on full retirement at age 50. If Mr. Ruffing collect pension payments immediately, the annual totals would be about \$10,300 . Estimates were calculated by the Post-Gazette using data and a formula supplied by the State Employees Retirement System. (*Post-gazette*, June 21, 2006)

- **Rep. Chris Sainato** (D-Lawrence). Mr. Sainato voted ‘no’ but took the raise, kept the money, and was removed from his subcommittee chair. Sainato said he initially promised the money to the New Castle Playhouse for a scholarship fund. (*Vindy.com*, Sunday, November 20, 2005)

Rep. Sainato collected \$49,140 in per diems from 2004-2005 for 369 work days (*Pittsburgh Tribune*, April 30, 2006). Mr. Sainato attended the four-day National Conference of State Legislatures event from August 15-18, which cost a minimum of \$425 to attend for those who pre-registered, plus hotel and travel costs. (*Herald Standard*, August 1, 2006)

Per Diems 2009: \$27,831.

Update: Democratic Chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

- **Rep. Larry O. Sather** (R-Blair & Huntingdon). Mr. Sather voted for the pay raise and kept the money. “You would have to call the district office at 814-643-9633.” Response from district office: “Representative Sather is not even running for reelection and I would not even dignify you by responding.” (May 3, 2006)

Update: Retired with a “pension bounce” and a monthly pension of \$2,285. (*The Associated Press* February 8, 2007)

- **Rep. James Shaner** (D-Fayette). Voted ‘no’ on the pay-raise bill but accepted “unvouchered expenses” so that he could collect the extra money immediately. He donated the pay to charity.

Road trip: Mr. Shaner who retired after 12 years in office, attended the four-day National Conference of State Legislatures event, Aug. 15-18, which costs a minimum of \$425 to attend for those who pre-registered, plus hotel and travel costs. “I’m entitled to go to it,” Shaner said. “And I’m on the (finance) committee and I’m still going to fulfill my obligations to the committee.” (*Herald Standard*, August 1, 2006)

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal: \$4,257 (\$153,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

Update: Retired with a “pension bounce.”

• **Rep. Edward Staback** (D-Lackawanna). Mr. Staback voted to increase his salary from \$69,647.64 to \$89,154.

Perks: “I do not take advantage of any of this,” said Rep. Ed Staback. “I don’t consider myself a spendthrift. I spend money as I need to spend it, when I need to spend it.” He collected \$26,745 in per-diems during the 18 months reviewed and bills the House \$585 a month for a private lease on a 2005 Dodge Durango. (*Shamrock Times*, November 13, 2006)

Per Diems 2009: \$20,775.

Update: Minority Chairman of the Game & Fisheries Committee.

• **Rep. Stephen Stetler** (D-York) collected \$9,189 and said that he had no plans to pay it back. He was not in his Capitol office Thursday and did not return two calls to his district office. (*York Dispatch* December 2, 2005)

“Stetler confirmed that he will step down on Sept. 29 to take over as executive director of the Pennsylvania Economy League, a nonprofit think tank with the mission of bringing civic and business interests together for the betterment of the state.” (*Daily Record/ Sunday News*, July 19, 2006.)

In November 2008, Stetler was named Secretary of Revenue by Governor Rendell. Mr. Stetler was unanimously confirmed by the Senate on March 31, 2009. He resigned that position on December 15, 2009, the same day he was indicted by Attorney General Tom Corbett.

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:
\$3,499 (\$75,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

Bonusgate: “At the time he chaired the state House Democratic campaign committee, then State Rep. Steve Stetler rejected a plan that would have shifted the job of opposition research from state employees to private firms, a onetime top campaign aide told a state grand jury.

“It was more or less shot down,” Dan Wiedemer, now an aide to another House member, told grand jurors in July, just days after a dozen former House members and their staff were charged with diverting tax dollars to pay for political campaign work. He said Mr. Stetler, who at that time chaired the House Democratic Campaign Committee, suggested “we have a perfectly good system in place already.” (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, June 22, 2009)

- **Rep. Stephen Stetler:** (Continued)

Presentment: “As part of an ongoing public corruption investigation into the Pennsylvania Legislature, agents from the Attorney General's Public Corruption Unit today filed criminal charges against Representative H. William DeWeese, of Greene County, and former Representative and state Department of Revenue Secretary Stephen Stetler, of York County...Attorney General Tom Corbett said the charges are part of an ongoing grand jury investigation into the misuse of public resources and employees for campaign purposes in the Pennsylvania Legislature.”

“Evidence of the defendants' alleged criminal activity was placed before a statewide investigating grand jury, which recommended that Corbett file criminal charges.” (**Attorney General's Office**, December 15, 2009.)

- **Rep. Mike Sturla** (D-Lancaster). Mr. Sturla voted for the pay raise, kept the cash, and then donated the money to “undisclosed charities.” His raise cost taxpayers more than \$5,100. “Not being an independently wealthy person,” he wrote to us, “it is unrealistic to believe that I would be able to donate all the money to local charities AND also send an equivalent amount to the state.” Asked to expand on that point, Sturla wrote, “... I would have to go to a bank and take out a personal loan for an additional 4000 dollars in order to send money to the state.” (*Lancaster New Era*, September 29, 2006)

The new kid on the leadership block is poised to make sure things don't change. Mike Sturla garnered infamy for having a golf tournament on the very day 24,000 state workers were laid off. Sturla's response? "Well, I would have laid off more people had we not gone through with the event, the people that were running the event." (WGAL Channel 8, July 11, 2007)

Local Lawmaker Golfs As State Workers Laid Off

Ben Simmoneau said, "Some folks say on a day when state government was shut down, 24,000 workers laid off, it was inappropriate. What do you say to that?"

Mike Sturla responded, "Well, I would have laid off more people had we not gone through with the event, the people that were running the event," said Sturla. (WGAL Channel 8, July 11, 2007)

PSAs 2005: Spent \$23,520 on Act 72 with ads that ran from May 5-17, 2005.

PSAs 2006: Spent \$39,360 on property tax reform during August, 2006.

Summer break: In September 2007, Sturla joined Bill DeWeese on a junket to Taiwan. “His office says it's something to do with ‘economic development.’”

• **Rep. Mike Sturla** (Continued)

Hollywood-Mike: Mr. Sturla sponsored legislation creating a \$75 million tax credit for TV and filmmakers (July 2007) which is the subject of a Senate investigation surrounding potential lobbying irregularities.” (*Philadelphia Daily News*, September 21, 2007)

Per Diems 2009: \$7,776.

Update: Democratic Policy Chairman.

• **Rep. Elinor Z. Taylor** (R-Chester). Ms. Taylor voted for the pay raise and donated her expenses of approximately \$12,000 to charity. "That's the way the system works," said Taylor, 84. "I worked hard for my pension.” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 26, 2006)

Naming: The PHEAA building is named after “E.Z. Taylor.”

PSAs 2005: \$20,749 on WW II event.

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal: \$10,908 (\$187,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

Update: Ms. Taylor passed away at age 89 in 2010.

• **Rep. John Taylor** (R-Philadelphia) voted for the raise, voted to repeal the raise, and took the money.

PSAs 2005: \$8,840 spent on Oxycontin addiction awareness.

PSAs 2006: Spent \$62,798 in January, February and June through August on ID theft, Medicare, HEMAP, PACE and drug abuse prevention.

Per Diems 2009: \$13,520.02.

Update: A member since 1985, Mr. Taylor is Minority Chair of Liquor Control.

• **Rep. W. Curtis Thomas** (D-Philadelphia). Mr. Thomas voted for the raise, voted to repeal the raise, and took the money.

Per Diems 2009: \$11,308.

Update: Mr. Thomas is Democratic Chairman of the Urban Affairs Committee.

• **Rep. Thomas M. Tigie** (D-Luzerne). Mr. Tigie voted for the pay raise, took the money, voted to repeal the pay raise, and will retire with an annual pension of \$61,572.

Update: “I think you have to be careful how you spend and what you spend it on,” said Rep. Tom Tigie, D-town, who collected \$21,322 in per-diems during the 18-month period reviewed by the newspaper.” (*Shamrock Times*, November 13, 2006)

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal: Retired and received a “pension bounce.” Monthly pension of \$3,864 (\$113,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

• **Rep. Mike Veon** (D-Beaver). The unrepentant, former Minority Whip, voted for the pay raise and opposed the repeal. Mr. Veon cashed in with \$45,595 in per diem reimbursements for 2004-05, (*Pittsburgh Tribune*, April 30, 2006), billed tax payers for \$122,563 in expenses; including, \$24,904 on commercial transportation, \$14,527 on vehicle related costs, and \$7,800 to lease a vehicle. (*Beaver County Times*, June 28, 2006)

BIG: “A small Beaver County development agency has spun into a \$10.6 million outfit controlled by a powerful Democratic lawmaker and financed exclusively by Pennsylvania taxpayers. In the case of the Beaver Initiative for Growth, the power lies exclusively with state Rep. Michael Veon, of Beaver Falls -- the second-ranking Democrat in the House -- and state Sen. Gerald LaValle, of Rochester, another veteran Democrat.” (*Tribune Review*, February 26, 2006)

On March 25, 2009, Attorney General Corbett filed additional charges of corruption, unrelated to the previous charges against Mike Veon. The 25 count indictment includes theft, conflict of interest and criminal conspiracy relating to the nonprofit Beaver Initiative for Growth which was founded by Veon and former state Senator Gerald LaValle in 1992. BIG amassed \$10.6 million in taxpayer funded WAMs, and LaValle and Veon were the only board members.

• **Rep. Mike Veon** (Continued)

Travel: “On top of car leases, House lawmakers also are allowed to fly to Harrisburg once each session week, as some lawmakers, including former Beaver County Reps. Mike Veon and Frank LaGrotta, routinely did.” (*Calkins Media*, January 30, 2007)

Debt free: “The House Democratic Campaign Committee in November and December paid \$40,683 to retire Veon's campaign debt, according to Veon's report filed recently with the state election bureau. Veon could not be reached Wednesday.”

“Mike's contribution as a leader to our collective effort meant a lot to us,” said House Majority Policy Chairman Todd Eachus of Luzerne County, who chairs the campaign committee. But the committee's other three leaders -- Reps. Joe Preston, Dan Frankel and Jennifer Mann -- apparently had no knowledge of the two payments.” (*Tribune Review*, February 21, 2008)

Bonusgate: On July 10, 2008, Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett filed criminal charges against 12 individuals, including Mike Veon. Mr. Veon (D-Beaver) was charged with conflict of interest, theft by unlawful taking or disposition, theft of services, theft by deception, theft by failure to make required disposition of funds.

Conviction: Mike Veon (D-Beaver), former Whip, was convicted on March 23, 2010 on 14 charges related to his role in paying taxpayer-funded bonuses for state employees to work on his campaign and more than a dozen others. He must also pay \$37,000 in fines and \$100,000 restitution.

“Mr. Veon, 53, the former No. 2 Democrat in the state House, was convicted of 14 of 59 counts. He was convicted of seven counts of conflict of interest, three counts of theft by deception, two counts of theft of services and two counts of conspiracy.” (*Pittsburgh-Post Gazette*)

Update: Mr. Veon cashed out with a \$126,614 pension pay out, and receives an annual pension of \$50,340. (*Post-Gazette*, April 07, 2007)

Loss of pension and restitution: “Mike Veon lost more than his freedom June 18 when he began a six- to 14-year prison sentence.”

“Veon, who started collecting his pension in early 2007, received a \$126,614 lump sum when he lost reelection. He was ordered to pay \$100,000 in restitution and \$37,000 in fines.”

• **Rep. Mike Veon:** (Continued)

“The Public Employee Pension Forfeiture Act requires lawmakers and other state workers to give up their pensions if they are convicted of certain crimes and if those illegal activities were job-related.” (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, June 29, 2010)

Crime Watch: “A Dauphin County judge has postponed the second trial of disgraced Pennsylvania political power broker Mike Veon until next year.” Judge Bruce Bratton issued an order Tuesday moving the trial date from June 1 to Feb. 6, 2012.”

“Veon, the former Democratic whip in the state House of Representatives, was convicted last year in Pennsylvania’s legislative corruption scandal on multiple charges involving the use of taxpayers’ money for campaign work and is serving a 6- to 14-year prison term. A former aide, Annamarie Perretta-Rosepink, also was convicted and was sentenced to 3 to 6 months in county jail.”

“Veon and Perretta-Rosepink are now awaiting trial on charges of misusing grant money distributed to a nonprofit that he ran in his Beaver County district.” (*The Associated Press*, May 24, 2011)

• **Rep. Ronald Waters** (D-Philadelphia). Mr. Waters voted for the raise, voted to repeal the raise, and then took the money. "From what I understand the legislation doesn't ask for that, but if my constituents want me to give the money back that's what I'll do," said state Rep. Ronald Waters, D-191..." *Delco Times*, November 11, 2005)

Per Diems 2009: \$23,529.

Update: Mr. Waters has been a member of the House since 1999.

• **Rep. Jewell Williams** (D-Philadelphia). Rep. Williams voted for the raise and kept the cash. "I'm going to give it back when a bill is passed that says we have to give it back." (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 1, 2005)

Per Diems 2009: \$20,884.27.

Update: Rep. Williams is Democratic chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal Justice.

• **Rep. Rosita Youngblood** (D-Philadelphia). Rep. Youngblood voted for the raise and took it. "I work almost seven days a week," Youngblood said. She says she dips into her own pocket to help constituents when they do not have money for such necessities as food or air conditioners and will continue to do so." (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 2, 2005)

Summer vacation: Rep. Youngblood joined Rep. DeWeese, Rep. Sturla, and several of her colleagues on a free junket to Taiwan in September, 2007.

Per Diems 2009: \$19,391.

Update: Rep. Youngblood is Democratic Chairwoman of the Gaming Oversight Committee

Summary of the Senate

In the Senate, five sitting members kept “unvouchered expenses” including David Argall (R-Schuylkill), Vincent J. Hughes (D-Philadelphia), Shirley M. Kitchen (D-Philadelphia), Christine Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia), and Anthony H. Williams (D-Philadelphia).

Three senators who paid the money back, Former-Sen. Vince Fumo and Sen. Joseph Scarnatti, and Sen. John Wozniak, owe the IRS imputed interest payments.

In the Senate repayment is made through salary reduction, and can be verified through a request with the Chief Clerk’s office. The following senators have refused to return the unconstitutional pay raise:

• David Argall (R-Schuylkill)	Owes \$7,000.00 (1)
• Charles D. Lemmond (R-Luzerne)	Owes \$7,708.54
• Vincent J. Hughes (D-Philadelphia)	Owes \$7,708.54
• Shirley M. Kitchen (D-Philadelphia)	Owes \$7,708.54
• Robert J. Mellow (D-Lackawana)	Owes \$13,380.56 (2)
• Raphael J. Musto (D-Luzerne)	Owes \$7,708.54 (3)
• Christine Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia)	Owes \$7,708.54
• Anthony H. Williams (D-Philadelphia)	Owes \$7,708.54

1 Mr. Argall was House Whip when he accepted “unvouchered expenses.”

2 Senator Robert Mellow’s home and district office in Peckville were raided Friday by FBI and Internal Revenue Service agents as part of a criminal investigation on June 18, 2010.

3 Senator Raphael Musto was at his Pittston Twp. home when FBI agents raided it in April, 2010. Township officials later released copies of building permits sought by the FBI for Mr. Musto's home. The permits relate to renovations done by a construction firm owned by Luzerne County corruption figure Robert K. Mericle.

Senate by the Numbers

The following is a recap of state senators' actions regarding repayment of the pay raise, the source of the information, and a brief commentary on each gleaned from various sources.

Sen. David Argall: (R-Schuylkill & Berks Counties).

Will **not** repay “unvouchered expenses.”

According to Mr. Argall, all \$7,000 of the “unvouchered” cash was donated to the United Way (*Morning Call*, Harrisburg Bureau, November 17, 2005), and he told the *Republican Herald* that he reported the “income and took a deduction on his federal tax for the charitable donation.”

As State House Minority Whip David Argall’s expense records revealed that Mr. Argall collected an exorbitant amount of supplemental, tax-free income in the form of “per diems.” A thorough review of Rep. Argall’s expenses for the period 2005 through 2007 indicates he routinely collected the maximum per diem allowable even as he assumed his duties on the Speaker’s Commission on Legislative Reform.

Mr. Argall collected a “per diem” for 129 separate days in 2005, totaling \$15,009 in cash. Argall took the maximum per diem 85% of the time, and his average was \$116. The per diem rate for most of 2005 was \$129 before climbing to \$141.

Mr. Argall’s appetite for “per diems” actually increased in the postpay raise era. Rep. Argall collected a per diem for 149 separate days in 2007, (including Reform Commission meetings), totaling \$16,794. Argall’s average per diem was \$113. The per diem rate in 2007 rose by 5% and was set at \$148.

Rock The Capital’s review of Senate per diem billings during the 2009 budget fiasco found that Senator David Argall profited handsomely from the budget stalemate. From March through September, 2009, Mr. Argall padded his nontaxable income with 59 per diems equal to \$8,437, and an additional 12 days of per diems and expenses valued at \$1,764.

• **Senator Vincent. Fumo** (D-Philadelphia) **repaid** \$12,413.86 over three years. Mr. Fumo repaid over three years. Three other senators with repayment schedules 34 months or longer are: \$12,413.86 , Sen. Terry Punt, \$7,708; Sen. Joseph Scarnatti, \$14,553; and Sen. John Wozniak, \$7,708.

Senators, who have arranged to pay the money back over a three-year period **owe inputted interest on the following implied and tax-free loans.** The imputed interest during July 7 and November 16, 2005, was 4.58% Based on the IRS ruling or employers in Pub. 15:

In general, if an employer lends an employee more than \$10,000 at an interest rate less than the current applicable federal rate (AFR), the difference between the interest paid and the interest that would be paid under the AFR is considered additional compensation to the employee. This rule applies to a loan of \$10,000 or less if one of its principal purposes is the avoidance of federal tax.

Mr. Fumo voted for the 2005 pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.” Fumo said the monetary expense of the pay raise is minor compared to the loss of time spent on the legislation and the damage the controversy has caused to the fabric of the Legislature. "In the end, the people of Pennsylvania are going to suffer far more than the pay raise has cost them," Fumo said (*Patriot News/AP*, Wednesday, November 16, 2005.)

According to the Chief Clerk of the Senate Fumo has agreed to return the unvouchered expenses.

Fumo was indicted by the federal government on 139 counts, including numerous counts of felonious use of taxpayers’ funds and legislative staff for personal purpose, in February 2007. Mr. Fumo was convicted and sentenced for defrauding taxpayers:

Pension: After 30 years in the Senate, Mr. Fumo started collecting a \$100,500 annual pension when his final term ended in November 2008. Mr. Fumo lost the pension after he was sentenced in July on federal corruption charges.

Update: Mr. Fumo currently resides in a federal prison in Kentucky.

Senator Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia).

Will **not** repay “unvouchered expenses.”

Mr. Hughes voted for the 2005 pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.” Sens. Vincent J. Hughes and Joseph B. Scarnati have seen their salaries soar to \$106,986, or 54 percent - a far bigger percentage boost than any other legislator gets.

Under a little-noticed provision, the pay-raise law gives Senate deputy whips - new positions now held by Hughes and Scarnati - the same pay as those in certain other long-standing leadership posts. Their pay rose so sharply because, unlike other ranking members, they had been collecting the base legislative pay of \$69,648 before the new law. (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 3, 2005.)

• **Sen. Shirley Kitchen** (D-Philadelphia).

Will **not** repay “unvouchered expenses.”

Ms. Kitchen voted against the pay-raise bill on July 7, 2005, but accepted the “unvouchered expenses.”

• **Sen. Gerald LaValle** (D-Beaver).

Will **not** repay “unvouchered expenses.”

Mr. LaValle voted for the 2005 pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.” Senator Gerry LaValle's constituents have called him a thief, a crook and "everything else under the sun" in the wake of his vote supporting the pay rise (*Beaver County Times*, November 4, 2005.)

Senators from the Pittsburgh area who had taken the extra money, including Jay Costa, D-Forest Hills, Gerald LaValle, D-Beaver, and John Wozniak, D-Johnstown, brusquely refused to answer yesterday when asked whether they would return the money (*Post-Gazette*, Harrisburg Bureau Thursday, November 17, 2005.) LaValle voted for and took the pay raise. A spokeswoman from his office said that he is no longer commenting on the matter (*Vindy.com*, November 20, 2005.)

• **Sen. Gerald LaValle:** (Continued)

Fourteen of the 25 state senators who took the expense money -- including Jay Costa Jr., D-Forest Hills, and Gerald LaValle, D-Rochester -- have not yet returned it (*Post-Gazette*, Friday, December 2, 2005.)

A small Beaver County development agency has spun into a \$10.6 million outfit controlled by a powerful Democratic lawmaker and financed exclusively by Pennsylvania taxpayers.

In the case of the Beaver Initiative for Growth, the power lies exclusively with state Rep. Michael Veon, of Beaver Falls -- the second-ranking Democrat in the House -- and state Sen. Gerald LaValle, of Rochester, another veteran Democrat...As board members, Veon, 49, and LaValle, 74, determine how BIG spends its cash. As top-ranking lawmakers, Veon and LaValle influence the distribution of special grants controlled by legislative leaders to outfits such as BIG (*Tribune Review*, February 26, 2006)

Mr. LaValle was investigated by the Pennsylvania Attorney General (2007-2008) for his connections to two separate Beaver County nonprofit organizations.

In September, 2007, it was revealed that Senator Gerald LaValle's wife was paid \$112,000 annually to run a small nonprofit charity funded primarily with taxpayer money through state grants via BIG. Approximately 56% of all of the charity's revenues went for salaries, compared to a national standard for salaries for such charities of 15%.

On August 18, 2008, Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett charged Mr. LaValle's wife, Darla LaValle, with stealing thousands of dollars, inflating her salary, and denying employees pension benefits while serving as executive director of the Voluntary Action Center.

"A tearful Darla LaValle, charged with skimming money from the nonprofit she directed for 20 years, was sentenced Monday to four years probation after pleading no contest to theft and misapplication of entrusted property. (*Beaver County Times*, March 22, 2010)

Retiring: Mr. LaValle retired in 2008.

Monthly pension: \$4,520.13.

Lump-sum withdrawal: Declined option.
(SERS, Right-to-Know Request, July 19, 2010)

- **Sen. Charles Lemmond** (R-Luzerne).

Will **not** repay “unvouchered expenses.”

Mr. Lemmond voted for the 2005 pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.” He will retire after his term expires at the end of 2006.

Retired: Mr. Lemmond left office in 2006.

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:
\$2,337 (\$120,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

- **Sen. Robert Mellow** (D-Lackawanna).

Will **not** repay “unvouchered expenses.”

Mr. Mellow voted for the 2005 pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.” “There is no reason legally why I should give it back, so I'm not,” said Senate Minority Leader Robert J. Mellow. The raises were established law for four months, and similar ones were upheld by the courts, he added. (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 1, 2005.)

Mr. Mellow's annual salary of \$110,350 since 2008 is based on his leadership position as Senate minority leader. Sen. Mellow is in a special class when it comes to pension benefits covered by a pension system in effect before 1974. This system requires a higher “multiplier” to calculate benefits for the pre-1974 class than for lawmakers elected since that year.

Mr. Mellow's pension will be calculated based on his 40 years in office, a 7.5 % multiplier of the average salary of the three highest years and other factors. The 7.5% multiplier enjoyed by lawmakers elected before 1974 is compared to a 3% multiplier for lawmakers elected after 1974 and a 2.5% multiplier for state employees.

Retired: Mr. Mellow vacated his seat in 2010.

Monthly pension: \$138,958

Lump-sum withdrawal: \$331,025.

(*Shamrock Times*, December 22, 2010)

Crime Watch: The *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported last year that the Senate spent \$213,000 in state funds over several years to rent Mellow's district office in Peckville from a business half-owned by his then-wife, Diane Mellow.

Mellow's home and district office in Peckville were raided by the FBI and Internal Revenue Service agents as part of a criminal investigation in June 2010.

- **Sen. Raphael Musto** (D-Luzerne).

Will **not** repay “unvouchered expenses.”

Musto voted for the 2005 pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.” “When the pay raise issue first came up I felt in my case it was justified and I voted for it,” Musto said. “This issue varied throughout the state. In some areas of the state it was unpopular, in some areas it was mediocre and in some areas it was not an issue” (*Citizens Voice*, November 3, 2005.)

Retired: Mr. Musto vacated his seat in 2010.

Monthly pension: \$127,032.

Lump-sum withdrawal: Declined option.

(*Shamrock Times*, December 22, 2010)

Crime Watch: Mr. Musto was at his Pittston Twp. home when FBI agents raided it in April, 2010. Township officials later released copies of building permits sought by the FBI for Mr. Musto's home. The permits relate to renovations done by a construction firm owned by Luzerne County corruption figure Robert K. Mericle.

- **Sen. Joe Scarnati** (R-Jefferson) repaid \$14,553 over three years. Three other senators with repayment schedules 34 months or longer are: Sen. Vincent Fumo \$12,413.86 , Sen. Terry Punt, \$7,708; and Sen. John Wozniak, \$7,708.

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Mr. Scarnati voted for the 2005 pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.” Senators Vincent J. Hughes and Joseph B. Scarnati have seen their salaries soar to \$106,986, or 54 percent - a far bigger percentage boost than any other legislator gets.

Under a little-noticed provision, the pay-raise law gives Senate deputy whips - new positions now held by Hughes and Scarnati - the same pay as those in certain other long-standing leadership posts. Their pay rose so sharply because, unlike other ranking members, they had been collecting the base legislative pay of \$69,648 before the new law.

Senate Republicans had no such position until the pay raise. Scarnati was appointed several weeks after the raises became law. (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 3, 2005.)

Status: In November 2006, Mr. Scarnati was elected President *pro tempore*.

Update: After the death of Catherine Baker Knoll on November 12, 2008, Mr. Scarnati became the 31st Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania.

- **Sen. Christine Tartaglione** (D-Philadelphia)

Will **not** repay “unvouchered expenses.”

Ms. Tartaglione voted against the pay-raise bill on July 7, 2005, but accepted the “unvouchered expenses.”

- **Sen. Anthony Williams** (D-Philadelphia).

Will **not** repay “unvouchered expenses.”

Mr. Williams voted for the 2005 pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.” Senator Anthony H. Williams, said he had already spent the money. "I paid my bills," he said, adding that it wasn't his intent to enroll in a 12-month refund program.

He said he'd have an aide research how much he received. After voting for the raise and the unvouchered expenses, he said he only voted for the repeal because his caucus asked him to do that.

Williams explained that he believed a legislator should be compensated for the service provided (*The Daily Times*, December 2, 2005).

- **Sen. John Wozniak** (D-Cambria) repaid \$7,708.54 over three years.

Mr. Wozniak repaid over three years. Three other senators with repayment schedules 34 months or longer are: Sen. Vincent Fumo \$12,413.86 , Sen. Terry Punt, \$7,708; and Sen. Joseph Scarnatti, \$14,553.

Senators, who have arranged to pay the money back over a three-year period, **owe inputted interest on the following implied and tax-free loans**. The imputed interest during July 7 and November 16, 2005, was 4.58% Based on the IRS ruling or employers in Pub. 15:

In general, if an employer lends an employee more than \$10,000 at an interest rate less than the current applicable federal rate (AFR), the difference between the interest paid and the interest that would be paid under the AFR is considered additional compensation to the employee. This rule applies to a loan of \$10,000 or less if one of its principal purposes is the avoidance of federal tax.

Senator Wozniak voted for the 2005 pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.”

The Johnstown Democrat, who represents three western Centre County municipalities, introduced legislation Tuesday that would use the money budgeted for the pay raise to help low-income families with their heating bills in the months ahead, Wozniak aide Jason Gerard said (*Centre Daily Times*, November 16, 2005.)

• **Sen. John Wozniak:** (Continued)

Senators from the Pittsburgh area who had taken the extra money, including Jay Costa, D-Forest Hills, Gerald LaValle, D-Beaver, and John Wozniak, D-Johnstown, brusquely refused to answer yesterday when asked whether they would return the money (*Post-Gazette*, Harrisburg Bureau, Thursday, November 17, 2005.)

Senator John Wozniak, who voted for the pay raise and decided to accept it early as "unvouchered expenses," and who bashed legislators who opposed the increase, saying: "They're the ones who voted no and are hiding behind their mothers' skirts. I'm sure there's quite a few of them who crossed their fingers and hoped it would pass without them voting for it" (*Centre Daily Times*, November 19, 2005.