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**News From Around PA**

Five PA Congressmen - Brendan Boyle, Robert Brady, Matt Cartwright, Michael Evans and Dwight Evans signed onto a letter asking President-elect Trump to rescind his appointment of Stephen Bannon as White House chief strategist.

Republicans hold the largest majority in the State House in decades at 122 members compared to 81 Democrat members.

**News From National Scene**

The FBI has released Hate Crimes Statistics 2015. The report showed 59.2 percent of hate crimes victims were targeted because of the offenders’ race/ethnicity/ancestry bias, 19.7 percent were targeted because of the offenders’ religious bias, and 17.7 percent were victimized because of the offenders’ sexual-orientation bias.

**US House Democrats** are delaying a vote on new leaders until November 30th.

Under the Federal Vacancies Reform Act, Vanita Gupta, the acting head of the U.S. Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division, has been working in violation of the law for more than a year and a half. That may render all of the official actions she has taken during that period—lawsuits, demand letters, hires, you name it—"void" and of no effect.

Regarding the Clinton Foundation, former US Attorney Joseph DeGenova notes, "there is a mountain of credible evidence that the foundation was being improperly run, had not filed appropriate filings with the IRS and state agencies. It’s clearly involved in a bribery conspiracy scandal with the Department of State."

After the November 8th election, Republicans retain control of the Senate and House. It also grew its margins in state legislatures and now holds a record number of governorships.

The House Committee on Administration voted to approve an additional $800,000 for the Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives investigating Planned Parenthood and the sale of baby body parts.

MN Congressman Keith Ellison will run for DNC Chair. He has the support of Senator Elizabeth Warren and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer. Ellison is the co-chair of the House Progressive Caucus and the first Muslim elected to Congress.

Maine’s Governor Paul LePage has announced that state will withdraw from the federal Refugee Resettlement Program citing security concerns.

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