

Senate Commerce Committee Nominee Questionnaire, 119th Congress

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (the “Committee”) requests that you provide typed answers to each of the following questions. Do not leave any questions blank. Type “None” or “Not Applicable” if a question does not apply to you. Begin each section (*i.e.*, “A”, “B”, etc.) on a new sheet of paper. Electronically submit your completed questionnaire to the Committee in PDF format and ensure that sections A through E of the completed questionnaire are in a text searchable format and that any hyperlinks are active and can be clicked. Section F may be scanned for electronic submission and need not be searchable.

Incomplete questionnaires may delay the nomination process.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used): Robert Amos Gleason, Jr.
2. Position to which nominated: Amtrak Board of Directors
3. Date of Nomination: March 11, 2025
4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):
5. Date and Place of Birth: August 10, 1938, Johnstown, PA
6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) or domestic partner, and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).
Spouse: Elizabeth Jeanne Gleason, not employed
Children: Jane Elizabeth Gleason – 63; Michael Patrick Gleason – 61; Robert Amos Gleason, III - 59; Jonathan Charles Gleason – 56
7. List all college and graduate schools attended, whether or not you were granted a degree by the institution. Provide the name of the institution, the dates attended, the degree received, and the date of the degree.
University of Pennsylvania: 1957-1961; graduated, Bachelor of Science in Economics; June 1961

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, including the job title, name of employer, and inclusive dates of employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.
June 1961 to December 1961, Management Trainee, Bell Telephone Company, McKeesport, PA; January 2, 1962 - September 1965, Captain, United States Air Force; September 1965 - November 1985, Insurance Agent – The Gleason Agency, Johnstown, PA; November, 1985 - January, 1987 Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, PA; January 1987 - January 2011, President, The Gleason Agency, Johnstown, PA; January 2011 - January 2016, President and Chairman of Arthur J. Gallagher and Company Pennsylvania, Johnstown, PA; January 2016 - March 2025, Waterford Solutions, LLC, President, Johnstown, PA (self-employed); January 2018 - March 2025, Cassidy and Associates, Washington, DC Consultant, independent contractor
9. Attach a copy of your resume. Attached
10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above after 18 years of age.
Councilman, Borough of Westmont, Johnstown, PA; 1970-1980 School Director, Westmont Hilltop School District, August 2022 to present; Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security, 2013 -2019; Cambria County Industrial Development Authority, 2012 – 2017; Cambria County Economic Development Authority, 2012 – 2017; Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, 1993 – 1997; Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission, 1997-1981; National Motor Truck Carrier Advisory Committee, 1990 – 1992; Pennsylvania State Transportation Advisory Committee, 1985 – 1989; Pennsylvania Toll Roads Task Force, 1982 – 1986; Pennsylvania High Speed Intercity Rail Passenger Commission, 1982 - 1985
11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution.
Pennsylvania School Board Association, Fellow, 2023 to present; Trustee, Kiskiminetas Springs School, Saltsburg, PA 2010 – 2014; Independent Catholic Foundation, Altoona, PA 1990 – 2000; Trustee, University of Pennsylvania, 1998 – 2013; Trustee, St. Francis University, 1978 – 1988; Trustee, Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center, 1975 – 2007; Trustee,

Conemaugh Health System, 2002 – 2013; Director, U S Route 219 Association, 1981 – 1991; Greater Johnstown Committee, Director 1981 – 1999; Johnstown Area Regional Industries, Director 1977 – 2000; The Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers, Director, 1990 – 2002

12. List all memberships you have had after 18 years of age or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization (You do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution). Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.
Sunnehanna Country Club, Johnstown, PA. 1975 – present; The Union League, Philadelphia, PA. 2010 – present; The Duquesne Club, Pittsburgh, PA, 1980 – present; Rolling Rock Club, Ligonier, PA 1989 – present; All social with no membership restrictions.
13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt. No campaign debt
14. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities.
The Republican Party of Pennsylvania, Chairman, 2006-2017, not paid
The Republican Party of Pennsylvania, State Committeeman, 2023-Present
15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$200 or more for the past ten years.
2/18/2025 \$500, Rob Bresnahan for Congress
10/15/2024 \$100, Trump for President
9/19/2024 \$100, Rob Bresnahan for Congress
9/17/2024 \$100, Rob Mercuri for Congress
8/31/2024 \$100, Mike Lawler for Congress

8/8/2024 \$500, Mercuri for Congress
5/8/2024 \$100, Trump for President
5/17/2025 \$1000, Greg for Judge
5/17/2025; \$2000 Cambria County Republican Committee
5/11/2024; \$5000, Republican Party of Pennsylvania
5/22/2024 ; \$250, Gill for PA
7/2/2024 \$250, Citizens for Greg
8/1/2024 \$1000 Friends of Glenn Thompson
8/9/2024 \$500, Committee to Elect Jim Rigby
9/18/2024 \$1000, Cambria County Republican Committee
10/10/2024 \$500, Friends of Jesse Topper
11/10/2024 \$1000 Friends of Kim Ward
12/4/2024 \$2500 Hunt/Rager for Commissioner
12/11/2024 \$500, Citizens for Greg
2/15/2025 \$500 Committee to Elect Don Robertson
10/16/2023 \$5000 Cambria County Republican Committee
10/26/2023 \$500. Friends of Dave McCormick
10/25/2023 \$500 Mercuri for Congress
10/23/2023 \$500 Republican Party of Philadelphia
11/20/2023 \$1000 Friends of Scott Hunt
12/1/2023 \$1000 Citizens for Keith Rager
11/29/2023 \$1000 Cambria County Republican Committee
12/20/2023 \$500, Gill for PA
2/2/2024 \$1500 Republican Party of Pennsylvania
2/20/2024 \$1000 Republican Party of Pennsylvania
11/2/2022 \$1000 Citizens for Greg
1/16/2023; \$1000. Cambria County Republican Committee
1/20/2023; \$1000. Pennsylvania Opportunities PAC
3/15/2022; \$1000, Friends of GT Thompson
4/18/2022; \$1000, Bill McSwain for Governor
4/23/2022; \$1000, Friends of GT Thompson
12/12/2021; \$1500. Citizens for Gregg
12/16/2021; \$5000. Bill McSwain for Governor
12/16/2021; \$1000. Garrity for Pa
1/12/2022; \$1000. Cambria County Republican Committee
4/14/2023; \$100. Brian Subich for District Judge
5/4/2023; \$2000. Cambria County Republican Committee
5/8/2023; \$1000. Commonwealth Leaders Fund
5/17/2023; \$1000, Freedom Pa Pac
6/20/2023; \$1000. Friends of Joe Rocky

6/20/2023; \$3000. Great American PA Fund
 6/11/2022; \$1000. Take Back the House
 8/25/2023; \$1000. Friends of Jeremy Shaffer
 10/18/2022; \$526. Oz Victory Fund
 8/18/2021; \$1500. Cambria County Republican Committee
 8/18/2021; \$500. Friends of Stacey Wallace
 10/07/2021; \$500. Sean Parnell for Senate
 10/12/2021; \$3000. Citizens for David Oh
 8/23/2021; \$2500. Friends of Glenn Thompson
 9/16/2021; \$1000. Great American Pennsylvania Fund
 12/13/2020; \$100. Friends of Scott Hunt
 8/22/2021; \$500. Committee to Elect Don Robertson
 9/2/2021; \$1000. Committee to Elect Frank Burns
 10/18/2021; \$2500. Friends of Martina White
 2/22/2022; \$5000. Republican River Wards PAC
 3/22/2022; \$1500. Committee to elect Jim Rigby
 3/22/2022; \$100. Pa Ag Republicans
 4/12/2022; \$1000. Friends of Stephen Schlauc
 4/16/2022; \$500. Citizens for Greg
 4/23/2022; \$500. Friends of Sam Orpeza
 5/9/2020; \$10,000 Republican River Wards PAC
 5/6/2021; \$5000. Republican Party of Pennsylvania
 6/14/2021; \$1000. Guy For PA
 6/14/2021; \$1000. Don Bacon for Congress
 7/13/2021; \$250. Friends of Scott Hunt
 12/18/2020; \$1000. Garrity for Pa
 4/28/2021; \$500. Friends of Laura Hugel

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements. Distinguished Alumnus, Kiskiminetas Springs School, Sigma Chi Fraternity, Significant Sig, Cambria County Business Hall of Fame
17. List all books, articles, columns, letters to the editor, Internet blog postings, or other publications you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication when available. Attached

18. List all speeches, panel discussions, and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint) that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the speech or presentation when available. Attached
19. List all public statements you have made during the past ten years, including statements in news articles and radio and podcasts and television appearances, which are on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated, including dates. Include a link to each statement when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the statement when available. Attached
20. List all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the full name of an “alias” or “handle”, including the complete URL and username with hyperlinks, you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/robert.gleason.543>
X: Rob Gleason @raindance16
Instagram: @Robert.Gleason
Linkedin: <https://linkedin.com/in/rob-gleason-77184433>
21. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date, committee, and subject matter of each testimony. I testified in 2000 as President of The Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers. I do not have details.
22. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency/commission/corporation to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

The main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, now Norfolk and Southern, passes through my hometown of Johnstown, PA. In the 1950's, Johnstown was served by 25 passenger trains connecting the region to the entire United States

of America. As a young man I rode the train to Philadelphia while attending the University of Pennsylvania. Today Johnstown and all of Pennsylvania West of Harrisburg is served by only two AMTRAK trains. This is true of most of the United States outside the Northeast corridor. Our nation needs more passenger train service.

On February 22, 2025, my wife and I rode the AUTO TRAIN from Virginia to Florida as we have many times. We have ridden the Pacific Coast Starlight, the cross-country California Zephyr, the Pennsylvanian, Northeast Corridor trains and others.

I was a member of the first government committee to study high speed trains in 1982. Governor Dick Thornburgh appointed me to the HIGH-SPEED INTERCITY RAIL PASSENGER COMMISSION which studied the feasibility of high speed rail from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh.

I have had long experience in transportation. I served as a member of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission, Pennsylvania State Transportation Advisory Committee, Pennsylvania Toll Roads Task Force, National Motor Carrier Advisory Committee, and as Pennsylvania Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Most nations of the world have effective, comprehensive passenger train service. It is time for the United States to become a leader in passenger transportation.

23. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency/commission/corporation has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

I am a graduate of the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce of the University of Pennsylvania. I have operated my own insurance agency for many years. I served as Chairman of the Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers, an organization of all the major national insurance brokers. I served as Chairman and CEO of the Conemaugh Health System in Johnstown, PA. I served as Chairman of the Republican Party of Pennsylvania, elected by and represented 3.3 million Republicans. I served as a Trustee of the University of Pennsylvania, who employs 18,000 people. I currently am President of the Westmont Hilltop School District Board of Education. We service a community of 15,000 with a budget of \$28M.

24. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/ agency/commission/corporation, and why? Funding; convincing the public to ride passenger trains; keeping up with new technologies.

B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts, such as a 401(k) or pension plan. None
2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association, or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain. Consultant with Cassidy and Associates, Washington, DC. I am an independent contractor.
3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest. None
4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest. None
5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest. None
6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy. None

C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, the Office of Special Counsel, an Inspector General, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group?
If yes: No
 - a. Provide the name of the court, agency, association, committee, or group;
 - b. Provide the date the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action was issued or initiated;
 - c. Describe the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action;
 - d. Provide the results of the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action.
2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, municipal, or foreign government entity, other than for a minor traffic offense?
If so, please explain. No
3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain. No
4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. No
5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual assault, sexual harassment, or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain. No
6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination. None

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency/commission/corporation complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency/commission/corporation endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority? Yes
2. Will you ensure that your department/agency/commission/corporation does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistleblowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures? Yes
3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee? Yes
4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so? Yes

E. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Dividends	\$10,342	\$10,666	\$10,417
Capital Gains or losses	\$12,607	0	\$295,000
Interest	0	0	0
Gifts	0	0	0
Rents	0	0	0
Royalties	0	0	0
Patents	0	0	0
Honoraria	0	0	0
Other-exceeding \$500	0	0	0
Total	\$175,838	\$99,541	\$420,853

3. With respect to liabilities owed, directly or indirectly, having a value in excess of \$10,000 at any time during the last 12 months, describe the current status of the debt repayment. Ameriserv Financial - \$374,416, current
4. Have you or your spouse or any businesses over which you or your spouse have exercised control ever failed to pay any loan or similar obligation when due at final maturity, or have you ever been more than 180 days delinquent on any such loan or obligation? No
5. Describe the terms of any beneficial trust or blind trust of which you, your spouse, or your dependents may be a beneficiary. In the case of a blind trust, provide the name of the trustee(s). None
6. Provide a description of any fiduciary responsibility or power of attorney which you hold for or on behalf of any other person. None
7. List sources, amounts, and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock options, executory contracts, and other future benefits which you expect to derive from current or previous business relationships, professional services and firm memberships, employers, clients, and customers. None
8. Have you filed federal, state, and local tax returns (if applicable) for each of the past ten years? If not, provide: Yes

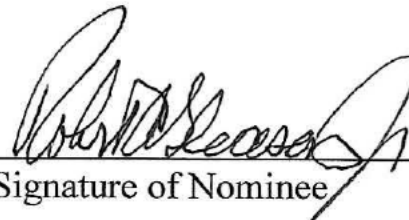
- a. The type of tax and tax year/period unfiled; and
 - b. An explanation of failure to file.
9. In the last ten years, have you ever filed a late income tax return without a valid extension? If so, please provide an explanation for each instance such tax returns were not filed on time. No
10. Have your tax returns been the subject of an audit in the past ten years, including the current year, by Federal, State, or local authorities, which resulted in a tax lien, levy, or other collection enforcement action? If yes, provide: No
- a. The name of the agency to which debt is/was owed;
 - b. Identify/describe the type of property involved (if any);
 - c. The amount of the tax debt;
 - d. The current status of the tax debt; and
 - e. The date and current status of any lien, levy, or other collection enforcement action.

Please also provide a description of any action(s) you have taken to satisfy this debt (such as withholdings, frequency and amount of payments, etc.). If you have not taken any action(s), provide an explanation.


11. In the past ten years, have you been required to make any back tax payments? If so, indicate if you have made any back tax payments and provide full details. No
12. Were all your Federal, State, local, and other tax returns and tax liabilities of any kind current (filed and paid when due) as of the date of your nomination? If not, provide details. Yes
13. Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, provide details. No
14. Will you provide copies of your tax returns for the last three years if requested by the Chair and Ranking Member? Any financial records provided to the Committee, including tax returns, will not be made public. Yes
15. Have you or your spouse ever failed to make payments on any obligations of child support or alimony? If so, please explain. No
16. Please list any household employees (*e.g.*, nannies, gardeners, and housekeepers) you have employed to perform services on a regular basis in the

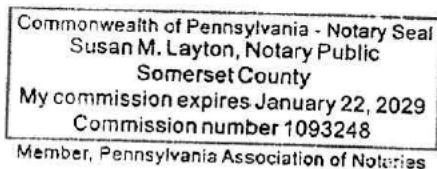
F. AFFIDAVIT

Robert A. Gleason, Jr. being duly sworn, hereby states that he/she has read and signed the foregoing Statement on Biographical and Financial Information and that the information provided therein is, to the best of his/her knowledge, current, accurate, and complete.


Signature of Nominee

Subscribed and sworn before me this 24th day of March, 2025.


Notary Public





Gleason reappointed to academy board of visitors

BY DAVE SUTOR
DSUTOR@TRIBDEM.COM

Robert Gleason, a Westmont resident, will continue to be a liaison between the military and his hometown region thanks to his recent reappointment to the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Former President Donald Trump renewed Gleason's membership in December.

The board's mission is to inquire about the general state of the academy, regarding numerous areas, including curriculum, morale and discipline. Gleason has been serving since Trump first appointed him in 2018.

"It's been a great experience," Gleason, former chairman of the Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania, said.

Gleason, an Air Force veteran, has visited the academy in Colorado and the Pentagon as part of his duties.

"The real enjoyment of this is going out eating with cadets and doing those types of things," Gleason said.

One of his goals will be to find expanded uses for the John Murtha Johnstown-Cambria County Airport that once housed the Johnstown National Guard's Apache attack helicopters.

"We have a wonderful airport," Gleason said. "One of my

things that I want to try to do is get a bigger presence by the military

at our airport. We used to have those attack helicopters. They took them away from us. Even while I was there, I tried to get them back. I met with some guys. I talked to some people.

"It's a very difficult thing to do. When I asked them what is the best thing I can do to help our community, the guy said, 'Try to get the attack helicopters back.' I wasn't able to. But I'm going to keep working on it. I think that's an important thing."



Gleason



Gleason, Lengenfelder refuse to resign from academy board

BY DAVE SUTOR
DSUTOR@TRIBDEM.COM

Two prominent Republicans from Cambria County refused to resign from the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Air Force Academy after given the ultimatum to step down or be terminated by the administration of President Joe Biden, a Democrat.

Messages were sent to 18 board members for the Air Force Academy, Military Academy and Naval Academy who were appointed by Biden's predecessor, President Donald Trump, a Republican, giving them a deadline of Wednesday to make their decisions.

Robert Gleason and Douglas Lengenfelder, both Air Force veterans, did not voluntarily leave the Air Force board, which carries the mission to inquire about issues affecting the academy, including morale, discipline, social climate, curriculum, instruction, physical equipment, fiscal affairs and academic methods. They were presumably then terminated, but were

still listed at the organization's official website – usafa.edu – as of Friday.

Both received messages from Katie Petrelius, special assistant to the president in the Office of Presidential Personnel.

Lengenfelder, an Air Force Academy graduate and acting chair of the board, responded with an email:

"Dear Ms. Petrelius,
"I have done nothing wrong, I am fully qualified for this position and there is no reason for this termination except the ugliest of politics. You should be ashamed for even sending this type of abbreviated, senseless letter out.

"The answer to your question: I will not resign – if you want to proceed as a dictatorship, feel free to fire me.



Gleason



Lengenfelder

"My wish for you is that in the future, you are treated as you have treated others."

Some high-profile members of Trump's administration were among those told to resign or be fired, including counselor Kellyanne Conway (Air

Force Academy), press secretary Sean Spicer (Naval Academy) and national security advisor H.R. McMaster (Military Academy).

"I will let others evaluate whether they think Kellyanne Conway and Sean Spicer and others were qualified, or not political, to serve on these boards," current White House press secretary Jen Psaki said. "But the president's qualification requirements are not your party registration. They are whether you're qualified to serve and

whether you are aligned with the values of this administration."

Gleason believes he and Lengenfelder are qualified.

"It's disappointing because it's really not a political thing," Gleason, former chairman of the Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania, said. "I served five years as a reservist at the Air Force Academy, so when their press secretary says, 'Well, it's not about politics. We want qualified people,' well, who would be more qualified than I am to do that? ... Doug's a graduate of the Air Force Academy, so I think he might be qualified as well."

There is only one specific cause for termination mentioned in the bylaws: "If a member of the Board fails to attend two successive Board meetings, except in a case in which an absence is approved in advance, for good cause, by the Board chairman, such failure shall be grounds for termination from membership on the Board. A person designated for membership on the

Board shall be provided notice of the provisions of this paragraph at the time of such designation."

"I don't know whether the president has the right to terminate me," Gleason said.

Gleason, who was appointed in 2018 and reappointed in 2020, served with members who were selected by former President Barack Obama, a Democrat, and who Trump did not replace.

"The politics is them, not us," Gleason said. "That's where the politics is. There's no reason for this. They've made this nonpolitical thing political."

Gleason's term was set to expire in December 2023.

Lengenfelder, a former Cambria County commissioner, joined the board in June 2020. His term was scheduled to conclude at the end of this year.

Dave Sutor is a reporter for The Tribune-Democrat. Follow him on Twitter @Dave_Sutor.



Expanded passenger rail service in works

BY DAVE SUTOR
DSUTOR@TRIBDEM.COM

Ride a westbound Amtrak train through the rolling Appalachian hills to Pittsburgh on a weekend morning; take in a Steelers, Pirates, Penguins or Panthers game during the afternoon; and head back home to Johnstown the same night.

Or catch a show, tour a museum, or kayak around Point State Park or eat lunch.

Maybe, Monday through Friday, go into the city for work.

Right now, those day trips to Pittsburgh are not possible because the only passenger service in western Pennsylvania heads west in the afternoon and east in the morning, and the lack of rail service also limits the ability of folks to visit Johnstown where they could enjoy the outdoors, dine at restaurants, shop, go to tourist sites and attend events, all while spending disposable income.

But that is expected to change in the coming years.

On Feb. 18, Gov. Tom Wolf, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation Jennie Louwerse, Federal Railroad Administration Administrator Amit Bose and Norfolk Southern Regional Vice President Rudy Husband, along with elected officials from the region, held a press conference in Pittsburgh, announcing that plans are being negotiated to make improvements necessary to increase passenger-rail service on the NS-owned corridor west of Harrisburg.

It was the most public and unified display of support ever for the project.

The main goal, in any plan for increased service, would be to add a westbound train in the morning and eastbound one at night.

No specifics have been finalized, but the tentative plan calls for building additional track and expanding space at rail yards to eliminate possible chokepoints. The project could take up to five years to complete.

"Basically, it's good news that the state, and the federal government and Norfolk Southern are going to move ahead," said Robert Gleason, the former chairman of the Republican Party of Pennsylvania and proponent of rail development in the Johnstown area. "The bad news is that it's going to take two or three years for this to happen, which I think is ridiculous. ... Could be (as many as five years). Could be."

That Harrisburg-to-Pittsburgh line includes seven stops in between, including a station in Johnstown.

"This is going to be a tremendous



An Amtrak train from Pittsburgh arrives in Johnstown at 9 a.m. Jan. 18.

TODD BERKEY/THE TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT

asset to our community," said state Sen. Wayne Langerholc Jr., R-Richland Township, 35th District, who chairs the Senate Transportation Committee. "It fits right in line with all the good things that are happening in the city."

Langerholc emphasized: "This is huge news."

'More work to be done'

Legislators, government agencies, nonprofits and rail enthusiasts have been trying to get extra service for many years, but with nothing reaching fruition.

"There were so many meetings and so many things that we've done over the years, just different people coming to the table," Langerholc said. "I can remember, too, sitting at meetings and people saying, 'This will never happen. There will never be another train west.' It was easy to discount it, and we never took 'no' for an answer. I really credit a lot to Deputy Secretary Louwerse, who really had this passion. She is a friend to transportation, and she's a friend to our area."

Gleason has questioned Norfolk Southern's support for increased passenger rail service in western Pennsylvania, saying he thinks an additional line could be running immediately. In his opinion, NS is the "real main culprit" for why the project has taken so long.

"They really have very little interest in having passenger trains running on their freight rails," Gleason said.

"I know that it took them years to do their study to tell the state how much it was going to cost for the state to make the necessary improvements."

Western Pennsylvanians for Passenger Rail President Mark Spada said that to have the plans publicly promoted by government officials and Norfolk Southern was "terrific to see."

"Our group has been advocating for this for close to a decade," Spada said. "There is certainly more work to be done, but this really seems to be a solid commitment by the state, Norfolk Southern to proceed and move things forward so we can get additional service."

Investments have been made, including Johnstown receiving a \$24 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant with part of the money going toward making future upgrades to the train station. Spada called the Johnstown project "great news" in the effort to get at least a second run of the "Pennsylvanian" — the name for the passenger train from New York City to Pittsburgh.

"We're encouraged that steps are moving forward to get to that point," Spada said. "It looks like there's some serious thought being given to how this can be accomplished."

'Sufficient capacity'

A Norfolk Southern feasibility study was recently conducted to see how adding more passenger traffic in the west would affect movement

on the tracks.

The research determined that "Norfolk Southern does not have adequate capacity to operate the proposed new and modified Amtrak schedules without degradation to both Amtrak and NS operations."

But, the study said, "With the inclusion of the projects identified as the infrastructure solution set, at an estimated cost of \$142M-\$171M, Future Case outputs indicate that there is sufficient capacity to restore line fluidity and relieve the added congestion the future Amtrak service causes."

"NS has had an outstanding partnership with PennDOT over the years, and we hope to be successful adding a second round-trip passenger train between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh," said Mike McClellan, senior vice president and chief strategy officer for Norfolk Southern, in a statement released following the news conference. "Many critical issues must be resolved before this new service becomes a reality, including the preservation of our ability to serve present and future freight customers, which translates directly to jobs and economic development opportunities in Pennsylvania."

In a message sent to Western Pennsylvanians for Passenger Rail members, Spada wrote that the study "quantifies the importance of investment in public transit and passenger rail services to Pennsylvania's residents, its businesses and its economy."

"For the once daily Pennsylvanian, ridership was around 45% of pre-COVID levels despite capacity limits of

50%, indicating a high level of continued demand," regarding ridership in May 2021, according to Spada's email.

He stated that ridership was at least 80% of pre-pandemic levels in July, August and September of last year.

"These numbers indicate the demand for the Pennsylvania's service greatly increased later in 2021," Spada wrote. "Also, numbers from the September 2021 report show that the average Pennsylvanian trip distance for Fiscal Year 2021 (Oct 2020 - Sep 2021) was 232 miles (29.8 million passenger miles / 128,500 passengers). This figure, which is essentially a trip between Altoona and Philadelphia (236 miles), is consistent with numbers over the last decade and additionally illustrates the strong demand for existing, as well as expanded, western Pennsylvania passenger rail service."

'A huge thing for rail'

The price tag to do the necessary work to increase service in the western half of the commonwealth could reach \$200 million, according to Langerholc and Gleason.

"It sounds like a lot of money," Gleason said. "It is. But that type of money is available through the Federal Railroad Administration, the FRA, especially since now the infrastructure bill was passed in November. They put a lot of money to Amtrak. Forty-four billion (dollars) is going to go to the Federal Railroad Administration. Pennsylvania can tap into those funds in order to start to do the necessary work in order to allow us to get a second Pennsylvanian. There's finally a pathway, a roadmap to getting this done."

Gleason pointed out that Democratic President Joe Biden, a Pennsylvania native who championed the infrastructure bill, is a well-known Amtrak rider and supporter of passenger rail.

"It was a huge thing for rail — the infrastructure bill," Gleason said. "It's a really positive thing. This will happen. I'm very confident this will happen. Now, we know it's going to happen. Now it's just the time. Before, we weren't sure it was going to happen. But now we know it's going to happen."

U.S. Sen. Bob Casey Jr., a Democrat, said that because of the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package, "we're going to be able to make critical improvements to both freight and passenger rail."

Casey said: "This news is a win for travelers and businesses who rely on our railways."

Dave Sutor is a reporter for The Tribune-Democrat. Follow him on Twitter @Dave_Sutor.



Gleason joins statewide charter school reform group

BY JOSHUA BYERS
JBYS@TRIBDEM.COM

Westmont Hilltop School Board President Robert Gleason has joined the Keystone Center for Charter Change at the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

The school director will serve the group as a resident alongside former state Auditor General Eugene DePasquale.

His interest in the group grew out of his work as a Westmont Hilltop board member.

"It became apparent to me when we finalized our school budget this year that \$600,000 for charter school tuitions is unsustainable," Gleason said.

"In fact, it is one of the principal reasons that we needed to raise school taxes."

Gleason said cyber and charter schools have a place in the state's public school system, but flaws in the current funding formulas for those institutions "result in school districts overpaying by hundreds of millions of dollars, which comes out of the pockets of local taxpayers."

"I look forward to working with the Legislature to ensure that school districts, and taxpayers are no longer overpaying or reimbursing charter schools for costs they do not have," he said.

As a KCCC resident, Gleason will contribute to the public dialogue regarding charter reform.

This will help broaden the group's ability to generate support while "reinforcing the recommendations of the PSBA Charter Task Force and the PSBA Governmental Relations team in coordination with" the center's director, according to a center release.

Gleason is a U.S. Air Force veteran who's held the position of secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, chairman of the Republican Party of Pennsylvania and the Republican National Committee, and president of the state electoral college.

He's also served on the state Turnpike Commission, the Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security, the Commission of Presidential Scholars and the board of visitors of the United States Air Force Academy.

"Mr. Gleason brings a unique combination of experience, perspective and personal relationships to his role as a resident for the center that will better enable the center to achieve its mission," KCCC Director Lawrence Feinberg said.

"Through Rob's hands-on dealing with the challenges of school funding as Westmont Hilltop School Board president, he is keenly aware of the impact that our outdated charter school law has on our students, taxpayers and school districts."

Feinberg added that Gleason's political experience provides the group with invaluable personal relationships and a statewide perspective.

He said he and the others at the center look forward to working with Gleason and DePasquale "to present a balanced and bipartisan front advocating for fiscal and regulatory reforms that will conserve precious public education resources" and achieve the group's goal of leveling the playing field and treating all public schools fairly.

The Keystone center's aim is to build support for legislation that would provide funding and regulatory change to the state Charter School Law, according to the website.

A public hearing on charter reform will be held by the state House Democratic Policy Committee at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Westmont Hilltop Junior-Senior High School, 200 Fair Oaks Drive.

For more information about the center, visit www.pacharterchange.org.

Joshua Byers is a reporter for The Tribune-Democrat. Follow him on Twitter @Journo_Josh.



Gleason



ROBERT AMOS GLEASON, JR.

HOME ADDRESS



PERSONAL:

Born: August 10, 1938
Married: Elizabeth Jeanne Adamson - 1961
Children: Jane, Michael, Rooney, Jonathan
Grandchildren: 8
Religion: Our Mother of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church

EDUCATION:

Westmont Hilltop High School
Johnstown, PA - Graduated 1956

Kiskiminetas Springs School
Saltsburg, PA - Graduated 1957

University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School
Philadelphia, PA - B.S. Economics, 1961

MILITARY:

Captain, United States Air Force
Active Duty 1962-65, Reserve Duty 1965-72 (served as United States Air Force Academy Liaison Officer)

EMPLOYMENT:

Pennsylvania School Board Association
Fellow – Keystone Center for Charter Change
2022 to Present

Cassidy & Associates
Washington, DC
Consultant, Government Relations
2018 – Present

Arthur J. Gallagher & Company
Johnstown, PA
Pennsylvania Area President
2011 to 2013
Area Chairman – Western Pennsylvania
2013 to 2016

Gleason, Inc.
Johnstown, PA
Chairman & CEO
1994 to 2011
President

EMPLOYMENT: **Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**
Harrisburg, PA
Secretary of State under Governor Dick Thornburgh
November 1985 to January 1987

Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
Harrisburg, PA
Commissioner
June 1993 to September 1997

GOVERNMENT: **60TH PA Electoral College**
Received 3,543,308 votes

58th PA Electoral College
Received 2,970,733 votes and elected President of the Electoral College
December 19, 2016

Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security
Appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on December 15,
2013 until April 1, 2019

The Pennsylvania Layers Fund for client Security is a fund established by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to reimburse clients who have suffered a loss of money or other property as a result of the dishonest conduct of their attorneys. The Fund is a remedy for clients who cannot reasonably get reimbursement from other sources, such as from insurance or from the attorney involved.

Cambria County Industrial Development Authority
Appointed on August 1, 2012 until July 31, 2017. The Authority performs economic development for Cambria County.

Cambria County Economic Development Authority
Appointed on June 26, 2013 until June 26, 2017. The Authority finances economic development projects in Cambria County.

Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
Nominated by Governor Robert P. Casey and unanimously confirmed by the State Senate for a four-year term to this five member commission in June of 1993. The commission oversees aspects of the Turnpike operations, including construction, and maintenance, financial and contract issues, as well as implementing traffic rules. Elected Secretary-Treasurer in April 1995.

GOVERNMENT: State Transportation Commission

Appointed by Governor Thomas J. Ridge in October 1997. The Commission gathers and studies information relating to the needs of highways and all types of mass transportation, to determine the need and the recommended order of priority for their construction or reconstruction. Every two years, the Commission recommends a 12 year transportation program to the Governor, the General Assembly and the Secretary of Transportation for their consideration.

National Motor Carrier Advisory Committee (NMCAC)

Appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Samuel Skinner to the committee in the fall of 1990 for a two-year term.

The committee provides a forum for the motor carrier industry and the Federal Government in areas of taxation, safety, and new highway construction.

Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Appointed to Governor Dick Thornburgh's cabinet in November, 1985 by the Governor, and assumed office after being unanimously confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate.

As Secretary of the Commonwealth, headed the Department of State which administered the Bureau of Commissions, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs which oversaw the licensing of 25 business and professions such as medicine, nursing, engineering, etc.; and the State Athletic Commission which regulated boxing and wrestling in Pennsylvania.

Served on the Board of Finance and Revenue which reviewed tax appeals to the Commonwealth.

State Transportation Advisory Committee

Appointed by Governor Dick Thornburgh to the State Transportation Advisory Committee in January, 1985. Served for three years.

The committee consults with and advises the State Transportation Commission and the Secretary of Transportation in planning, development, and maintenance programs and technologies for transportation systems.

Pennsylvania Toll Roads Task Force

Appointed by Governor Dick Thornburgh to the 11 member Toll Roads Task Force in July, 1982 to evaluate the feasibility of expanding the Pennsylvania Turnpike system. Two years later, the General Assembly passed legislation recommended by the task force that allowed Turnpike expansion.

ROBERT A. GLEASON, JR.

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GOVERNMENT: High Speed Intercity Rail Passenger Commission

Appointed in April, 1982 to the nine member Pennsylvania High Speed Intercity Rail Passenger Commission. The commission spent three years and \$5,000,000 studying the feasibility of developing a high-speed rail passenger system across Pennsylvania. The results of the study have been used by other states and the Federal Government in the continuing study of high-speed rail applications in the United States.

Westmont Hilltop School District Board of Education

Appointed August 2022

Elected 2020 to 2024

Elected 2024 to 2028

President 2022 to Present

Westmont Hilltop Recreation Commission

January 1, 2024 to Present

Borough of Westmont - Councilman

Served as a Councilman from 1970 to 1980, including six years as council president of a municipality of 6,500 residents. Helped organize one of the first regional police forces in the state - West Hills Regional Police Force. Also served on Hilltop Recreation Commission.

Commission on Presidential Scholars

Appointed by President George W. Bush

Member, May 11, 2006 – March 2010

Board of Visitors of the United States Air Force Academy

Appointed by President Donald J. Trump

Member, July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020

POLITICAL: Cambria County Republican Committee

Chairman 1996 - 2011

Vice Chairman - 1990 to 1996

Committeeman - Westmont Borough Precinct #5, 1970 to present

Pennsylvanians for Effective Government (PEG)

Director - 1992 to 2011

PEG encourages better relations between businessman and the state government of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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POLITICAL:

Republican National Committee

Member, 2006 – 2017

One of 165 members that govern the Republican Party

Appointed to Budget, Executive and Rules Committees in 2011, Debate Committee in 2016

Republican National Convention

Delegate from 12th Congressional District, Elected 1976, 1984, 1996, 2000. Appointed 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020, & 2024 and served as

Chairman of the Pennsylvania delegation 2008, 2012, 2016

Chairman on The Call, 2016

Deputy Permanent Co-Chairman of the Convention, 2016

Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania

Chairman, 2006 – February 1, 2017

Member, March 1996 – February, 1, 2017

In 2006, Gleason was elected Chairman of the Republican Party of Pennsylvania, serving until 2017. During his tenure the Republican Party elected a Governor, Senator (twice), 13 Congressmen (out of 18), and elected record majorities in the State Senate and State House. In 2016, Donald Trump carried Pennsylvania, the first Republican to do so in 28 years.

Pennsylvania Chairman, Catholics for Bush 2004

COMMUNITY

ACTIVITIES:

University of Pennsylvania

Trustee, 1998 – 2013

Graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School as an insurance major and has been an active alumni since.

From 1989 to 1991, he served as Vice President of the University's General Alumni Society. In these positions, he aided in the formulation of alumni policy and planning of various events. He advised the administration in many areas and was involved in fund raising.

He served as a member of the University School of Veterinary Medicine Board of Overseers. This board helped define objectives, review the progress and problems of the school, and assess current contributions to the school in relation to the needs of both the community and the nation.

Kiskiminitas Springs School

ROBERT A. GLEASON, JR.

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**COMMUNITY
ACTIVITIES:**

Significant Sig Award

The Significant Sig Award recognizes brothers for their professional achievements that have brought “honor and prestige to the name of the Sigma Chi Fraternity.”

Memorial Medical Center

Vice Chairman, 2005 – 2007

Chairman of the Board, 2002 – 2005

Trustee, 1975 to June 2007

Secretary, to 2001

Memorial Medical Center is the leading hospital in the Cambria/Somerset County region with a 70%+ market share. It has 566 licensed beds and 2,423 employees. Gross revenues in 2003 were \$544 million.

Rob joined the board in 1975 and served in many capacities over the years. In 2003, he was elected to a 3-year term as Board Chairman. Under his leadership, Memorial has entered into negotiations to purchase UPMC Lee Regional Hospital of Johnstown. In addition, Memorial is planning a new technology park to stimulate employment in Johnstown.

Conemaugh Health System

Acting Co-CEO, 2004 – 2005

Trustee, September 2000 to June 2013

Secretary, 2002 – 2010

Bon Secours Holy Family Hospital

Trustee, December 1999 to 2000

Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Director, 1990 to 2000

Secretary, 1990 to 1991

The Foundation was organized to help fund the many ministries of the Roman Catholic Church. Rob Gleason participates in the raising and investing the monies of the foundation.

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COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Route 219 Association

Director, 1981 to 1991

President, 1985 to 1991

The association was organized in the 1950's to develop U.S. Route 219 as a four lane limited access highway from Buffalo, NY to Bluefield, WV. Rob Gleason lead the 300 member organization as it promoted this development for 5 years.

Greater Johnstown Committee

Director, 1981 to 1999

President, 1982.

The Greater Johnstown Committee is composed of CEO's of Johnstown area companies. They concern themselves with lifestyle, economic and governmental affairs.

St. Francis College

Trustee, 1978 to 1988

Vice Chairman, 1981 to 1982

Johnstown Area Regional Industries (JARI)

This organization promotes and coordinates economic development in Somerset and Cambria Counties. Rob Gleason served as officer and director from 1972 to 1993.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

The Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers

The Council is the trade association of the country's largest insurance brokers. Served as Chairman from October 1999 to October 2000 and as a director for 12 years.

MEMBERSHIPS:

Sigma Chi Fraternity

Train Collectors of America

Air Force Association