



GOVERNOR JOSH SHAPIRO

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**Governor Shapiro Congratulates 173rd Cadet Class of the
Pennsylvania State Police Academy, Highlights Historic Investments
in Law Enforcement and Public Safety Initiatives Across the
Commonwealth**

Fifty-nine new troopers completed 28 weeks of rigorous training and are beginning to serve communities across Pennsylvania — marking the third class to graduate since Governor Shapiro removed the college-credit requirement for cadet applicants.

Under Governor Shapiro's leadership, the Administration has secured funding to help hire over 800 new Pennsylvania State Police troopers and nearly 700 municipal law enforcement officers

Governor Shapiro has delivered real results in his first two years in office — and the Governor and his entire Administration are laser focused on keeping Pennsylvania communities safe.



Manheim, PA – Today, **Governor Josh Shapiro** joined **Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) Commissioner Colonel Christopher Paris** to [celebrate the graduation](#) of the **173rd Cadet Class of the Pennsylvania State Police Academy** — one of the nation’s most rigorous and respected law enforcement training programs. Fifty-nine new troopers completed 28 weeks of comprehensive training and will now be assigned to PSP stations across the Commonwealth, where they will begin serving their communities.

“Policing is a noble profession — and the men and women of the Pennsylvania State Police go to work every single day to protect and serve our communities,” said **Governor Shapiro**. “Today, these cadets join their ranks after completing one of the most challenging and rigorous law enforcement training programs in the nation. You are the best of us, and now you will carry the responsibility of keeping Pennsylvanians safe. Our work doesn’t stop here — we will continue to invest in our State Police, support our communities, and ensure all Pennsylvanians feel safe in their neighborhoods. As your Governor, I want you to know I’ve got your back.”

“Today is the result of months of hard work, determination, bravery, and selflessness,” said **Colonel Paris**. “I am proud to call members of the 173rd Cadet Class troopers, and I have full confidence that they will succeed in answering the call to serve, protect, and uphold the law throughout our great Commonwealth.”

Investments in Law Enforcement and Public Safety, Building Safer Communities Across Pennsylvania

Since taking office, **Governor Shapiro** has made historic investments in the **Pennsylvania State Police** — removing outdated barriers to service, expanding recruitment, and providing critical resources to keep communities safe, including:

- **Eliminating Barriers to Serve:** In 2023, the Governor [removed](#) the 60-college-credit requirement for cadet applicants, significantly expanding the pool of qualified candidates. Applications to the Academy have since increased by 258 percent.
- **Hiring More Troopers:** The **Shapiro Administration** has funded eight cadet classes to **train over 800 new State Troopers** and secured funding to help departments **recruit and retain nearly 700 municipal police officers across Pennsylvania**. To date, **more than 500 cadets** have graduated and joined the ranks of PSP under Governor Shapiro's leadership.
- **Investing in Facilities:** Nearly **\$400 million** has been secured for the construction of a [new state-of-the-art PSP Academy](#). The multi-phase project includes a new marquee building with classrooms, dormitories, and training facilities, as well as a new indoor range and physical education facility. The project is expected to be completed in phases, with part of the facility opening in October 2026 and full completion expected in 2028.
- **Enhancing Law Enforcement Resources:** The Administration is expanding the use of body-worn cameras across 67 counties to improve transparency and accountability.

Since **Governor Shapiro** took office, gun violence is down **42 percent** and gun deaths by firearm are down **38 percent** across Pennsylvania. In 2024 alone, violent crime declined nearly 12 percent compared to 2022. The Governor's public safety strategy pairs strong law enforcement with targeted community investments to reduce violence and support young people, including:

- **Violence Intervention and Prevention:** \$85 million in [Violence Intervention and Prevention \(VIP\)](#) grants [awarded](#) to over 130 projects statewide
- **After-School Learning and Violence Reduction:** \$11.5 million to launch the [Building Opportunity through Out of School Time \(BOOST\)](#) program, [supporting](#) 46 programs in its first year.
- **Nonprofit Security:** \$5 million increase in funding to secure places of worship and community centers.
- **Reducing Gun Violence:** Re-established the **Pennsylvania Office of Gun Violence Prevention** and seized \$392.7 million worth of illegal drugs, including heroin and fentanyl.

- **Supporting First Responders:** \$60 million in new funding for county 911 services and increased ambulance mileage reimbursements; enacted laws allowing workers' compensation for post-traumatic stress injuries.

Governor Shapiro's [2025–26 proposed budget](#) builds on this momentum with key investments:

- **\$14.5 million for four additional PSP cadet classes**, supporting the training of 432 new State Troopers beginning in 2025–26
- **Elimination of the statutory cap** that limits the number of troopers on the streets — allowing for increased patrol visibility, faster response times, and a proactive approach in communities
- A **\$10 million increase** for the VIP program, bringing total funding to \$55 million
- A **\$10 million increase** for the BOOST program, expanding after-school learning and violence prevention opportunities

With today's graduation, **Governor Shapiro** reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring these new troopers — and every cadet class that follows — have the training, resources, and support they need to protect Pennsylvanians and serve with honor. Public safety has been a top priority for the **Shapiro Administration** — ensuring communities across the Commonwealth are safer, stronger, and better equipped for the future.

Learn more about how the **Shapiro Administration** is [Investing in Safer Communities For All](#).

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