



GOVERNOR JOSH SHAPIRO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, December 8, 2025

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**Governor Shapiro, First Lady Shapiro, and Lieutenant Governor
Davis Kick Off the Holiday Season at the 2025 Annual Capitol
Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony**

With the theme of “Timeless Traditions,” the Shapiro Administration hosted the annual Harrisburg tradition, lighting the 25-foot Douglas Fir from Carbon County — the tallest in over a decade — in the Capitol Rotunda, decorated by Pennsylvania’s children and older adults.

The tree in the Capitol Rotunda will be lit daily from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, and the tree outside on the Capitol steps will be lit daily from 5:00 PM to midnight through January 8, 2026.





Harrisburg, PA – Today, Governor Josh Shapiro, First Lady Lori Shapiro, Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis, and Department of General Services Secretary Reggie McNeil kicked off the holiday season at the Capitol in Harrisburg with the 2025 Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Surrounded by the glow of the Capitol and scenes inspired by classic Christmas artistry, attendees experienced a celebration where history, craft, and community came together in a way that truly stands the test of time.

“The holiday season represents the best of our Commonwealth — communities coming together, supporting each other, and appreciating all that we have here in Pennsylvania,” said **Governor Shapiro**. “The light that comes from the Capitol Christmas tree reminds us of the hope we share and the brighter future we’re building together — that spirit and sense of shared purpose are what the holidays are all about. It’s what carries us through the good times and the dark times, and it’s what makes Pennsylvania such a special place to call home. I hope this season brings every family moments of grace, of gratitude, and of joy. From our family to yours, a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a wonderful New Year.”

The approximately 25-foot Douglas Fir standing in the Main Rotunda was grown by Crystal Spring Tree Farm in East Lehigh, Carbon County. Adorned with more than 2,400 LED lights and 1,700 handmade ornaments created by [Pre-K for PA](#) children and older adults from across the Commonwealth, the tree reflects the care and creativity of communities statewide.

“The holidays are all about joy, light, and coming together — and that’s exactly what this celebration represents,” said **First Lady Shapiro**. “Over the past several years, Josh and I have been privileged to experience many different holiday traditions with the people of Pennsylvania, and we’ve loved being a part of some of the special Christmas traditions that take place each December at the state Capitol and the Governor’s Residence and seeing the joy it brings to people.”

This year’s theme, *Timeless Traditions*, honored the hands and hearts behind Pennsylvania’s holiday traditions: the tinkerers, makers, craftspeople, and community members whose work brings the season to life. It was inspired by former DGS carpenter Joseph Babich, who built some of the decorations that are still used to decorate the Main Capitol Rotunda. Babich worked for DGS from 1977-1994. He passed away in 2023.

“I want to thank everyone who helped make this celebration possible,” said **Lieutenant Governor Davis**. “The beauty you see in the Rotunda and the joy of today’s event come from a team whose dedication is often unseen but deeply felt. Their work helps thousands of Pennsylvanians experience the wonder and warmth of the season here at the Capitol.”

“At DGS, our teams take great pride in preparing the Capitol for the holiday season, from selecting the tree to crafting the decorations and creating a welcoming experience for every visitor,” said **Secretary McNeil**. “This event is a chance to honor those traditions and the people who keep them alive year after year.”

Today’s celebration featured holiday music from the Central Dauphin High School Choir, appearances by Santa and Mrs. Claus, and visits from the Pennsylvania Dairy Princesses. Reverend Anjel Scarborough of All Saints Episcopal Church in Hershey offered remarks and an opening blessing. A second Douglas Fir from Crystal Spring Tree Farm is also displayed on the Capitol steps for visitors to enjoy throughout the season.

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