

## Kelly Lewis

President & CEO, Lewis Strategic

Kelly Lewis continues to strengthen his role as one of Pennsylvania's recognized innovation leaders. He leads Lewis Strategic with carefully selected clients that accelerate cost-savings, technology-adoption, competitive advantages, and best-in-class services. Lewis remains an active attorney, consultant and investor in real estate, multi-family housing and several innovative start-up companies. His fundraising has captured many million-dollar state and local grants and contributions, including a \$2 million RACP grant in 2019.

The first-ever lobbyist for the Pennsylvania National Guard Associations (PNGAS), Lewis led the 2016 restoration of the \$2.2 million, active-duty, local-tax exemption, a major win for members of the Guard. His work has led funding increases for the Educational Assistance Program (EAP), and the 2019 passage of the first-in-nation, historic Military Family Education Program (MFEP). [www.pngas.org](http://www.pngas.org) and <https://pngas.org/advocacy/legislative-priorities>. He created and launched the PNGAS Guard-Friendly School program, <https://pngas.org/mission/guard-friendly-schools>, and PNGAS Job Board, <https://pngas.jobboardhq.com/>.

Kelly Lewis is a co-founder of [www.SupportEquityFirst.org](http://www.SupportEquityFirst.org), advocating for fair school funding in Pennsylvania.

His 2017-2019 work with the Monroe County Gigabit/Dead Cell Zone Project reduced gigabit price per unit by 79%, reducing annual costs by \$42,000 for gigabit fiber connections, and eliminated several dead cell zones.

From 2005 to 2012, Lewis was President/CEO of the trade group for the technology industry in Pennsylvania. Despite lean state budgets, Lewis led more than \$25 million in workforce training and \$22 million in advanced-broadband projects. For many years, Lewis hosted TechQuest TV, a vibrant 30-minute statewide TV program showcasing the state's technology leaders.

From 2000 to 2004, Lewis served in the PA House of Representatives. In four years, Lewis' legislative record includes the nation's first and largest legislation for external heart defibrillators (Automated External Defibrillators - AEDs), placing more than 3,200 AEDs in school buildings. He led passage of 3-major initiatives to change school-funding and the adoption of an ad-hoc COLA for school retirees. His tort reform amendments against venue-shopping have saved many billions since adoption. Lewis prime-sponsored Pennsylvania's Education Investment Tax Credit (EITC) law, anti-predatory lending law, and highway safety corridor zone laws. His 1<sup>st</sup> year budget initiative to cap Fund-Balances reserve balances at School Districts has remained in place since 2001. He founded Safe80 Task Force and his toll-equity effort at the Delaware Water Gap Toll Bridge has saved residents and businesses more than \$4 million per year since 2003.

In 2004, Lewis was the executive producer for a widely acclaimed jazz album, "The Reasons for Christmas Project," featuring famous Pocono musicians Phil Woods, Bob Dorough, John Coates, Jr., Eric Doney, & Bobby Syvarth, which album has raised nearly \$150,000 for Pocono Area Transitional Housing, Inc. ("PATH") to date.

An attorney with an MBA and finance degree, Lewis served four years as the Monroe County Controller, overseeing multi-million cost-savings, technology-advancement and financial reforms that continue to benefit County taxpayers.

*A twin, Lewis is a graduate of East Stroudsburg Area High School, where he served as class president. He continued his education at Bloomsburg University, where he earned a degree in Finance, and served as the student government treasurer. Lewis earned a law degree and an MBA (JD/MBA) from the Widener University School of Law. A 14-generation resident of Pennsylvania, Lewis resides in one of the oldest homes west of Susquehanna River in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.*

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## Kelly Lewis, Lewis Strategic, Public Policy and Legislative Accomplishments:

Kelly Lewis has a proven record of building successful coalitions surrounding legislation, public policy, infrastructure, funding, cost-saving, positive social change, and industry-sector developments in Pennsylvania:

- 2019: Passage of the first-ever, historic, Military Family Education Program (MFEP)
- 2019: Created and launched PNGAS Guard-Friendly School program with 30-inaugural schools.
- 2019: Create and launched PNGAS Job Board: <https://pngas.jobboardhq.com/>
- 2018: Tualatin Valley Oregon Firefighter Trust - saved them \$312,000/year in prescription drug spend.
- 2018: Led the launch and marketing of the Signature Diabetes Institute in suburban Philadelphia.
- 2018: Completed complex sales of 78 units of multi-family housing in depressed market.
- 2018: Launched Equity First marketing campaign to fully-fund the formula laws, endorsed by Governor Wolf.
- 2017: Broadband project in Monroe County reduced gigabit price/unit by 79%.
- 2017: Led team that reduced \$25.2 million in copier overcharges at PA House of Representatives.
- 2017: Launched the Pennsylvania Acceleration Project to speed innovation: [www.PAAccelerationProject.com](http://www.PAAccelerationProject.com).
- 2016: Led Pennsylvania Gigabit Revolution - a 6-County acceleration of gigabit broadband.
- 2016: Proudly led advocacy for Act 6 of 2016, which legislation restored Pennsylvania's local tax exemption for active-duty military pay. Lewis represents the Pennsylvania National Guard Associations.
- 2016: Founded [www.SupportEquityFirst.org](http://www.SupportEquityFirst.org) to help 150 underfunded school districts get funding-equity in the Basic & Special Education funding formula through non-profit, Citizens for Fair and Equitable School Funding.
- 2015-2018: Advised clients for dozens of multiple million-dollar real estate transactions and financings.
- 2015-2017: Successfully grew Pennsylvania's industry partnership for workforce training coalition from 0 to 400+ members. Led state budget advocacy for a \$10 million increase in state funding.
- 2016: Personally, led advocacy to restore construction services to the state's COSTARS program.
- 2012-2013: Successfully led sensitive expansion of steel certification exemption for electric manufacturing.
- 2008: Combining all infrastructure industry sectors for first-time, Kelly Lewis formed and led the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Group: Led passage of \$400 million Pennvest Safe water bonds, P3 Legislation, Gas DISC.
- Hosted and emcee for, "America at a Crossroads," a major 2010 infrastructure event with Governor Rendell, US Transportation Secretary LaHood, and former House Speaker Richard Gephardt.
- Formed Pennsylvania Health IT Leadership Group with state's major Health IT players. Wrote first drafts of law and led passage of 2012 PA eHealth Partnership Authority Act.
- Senate Majority Leader appointee to PA Senate Cost Savings Commission that identified budget reductions to prevent a tax increase and pass the first-modern-era state budget without an annual spending increase.
- 2005, 2008, 2011, led three rewrite sessions of the legal terms and conditions of the state contract for technology contracts, the IT-ITQ contract, and technology RFPs.
- Formed TechQuest Broadband: Led investment of \$22+ million in advanced-broadband systems in rural Pennsylvania, including 5 intermediate unit projects for K-12, dozens of colleges and universities, 3 counties and 2 Marcellus Shale towers. Advised four administrations on Pennsylvania broadband strategy.
- Facilitated more than \$25 million in workforce training programs and certifications.
- Formed TechQuest Internship which directly connected 300 students into paid-internships at companies across Pennsylvania with a total payroll exceeding \$1.3 million over 4-year period.
- Former member PA House of Representatives, served on House Judiciary, Finance, Labor, Aging, Tourism & Recreation Committees as well as the Joint Senate/House Legislative Budget & Finance Committee.
- Prime Sponsor: First Heart Defibrillator in Schools Bill with \$3.2 million in funding, led to largest AED bid ever, which helped lower global AED prices by 45% in 2002.
- Led enactment of ad-hoc COLA for school retirees, named 2003 Legislator of the Year by PASR.
- Prime Sponsor, Pennsylvania Education Investment Tax Credit (EITC) law that has permitted corporations to direct over \$1.6 Billion in tax payments to investments in education. The EITC remains model legislation and one of the largest educational tax credit programs in America.
- On behalf of legislative district homeowners, led historic \$56 million settlement with FANNIE MAE and Chase Manhattan Bank for constituents harmed by real estate fraud, 1999 – 2004.
- Former Monroe County Controller. Lewis personally led pension, cost-saving, procurement, accounting, and investment initiatives that reduced Monroe County's budget by more than fifteen (15%) percent in his 1<sup>st</sup> year.