El Sistema Lehigh Valley is proud to host a special event for students visiting the Capital, and our office (Legislative Office Hours) to schedule visits when they are available.

Students Teaching About Technology in the Classroom

The Parkland High School and Elementary School of District participating in the 25th Annual PA Student Showcase. The showcase is held in State Senate. The event is open to the public and is FREE to attend. No tickets are required. Find more information at www.studentshowcase.org.

FACTOR: One of the highlights of the day was the Pennsylvania State Senate's annual Student Showcase. The showcase is held in the State Senate Chamber and is open to the public. It features students from across the state demonstrating their technology skills.

Students were invited to participate in this event, which included hands-on activities and workshops. The showcase is a great opportunity for students to show off their skills and learn more about technology in the classroom.

Pennsylvania Unclaimed Property

One in 10 Pennsylvania residents has money or financial property held by the Pennsylvania Treasury, awaiting to be claimed. This money could be a safe savings account, a forgotten pension, or a life insurance policy. Proof of ownership is all that is required to claim your property. To claim unclaimed property, visit the Pennsylvania Department of the Treasury’s website or call 800-220-2210 (800-220-2210).

Unclaimed Property

A variety of reasons can cause people to stop driving in Pennsylvania. It is possible to surrender your license before you need to, in order to avoid paying for a renewal that you will not use. In addition, if your driving privilege for health reasons that affect your ability to safely drive, you have any interest in using the asset in any other way that you have a right to do so, you may surrender your license for that purpose.

In 2015, statewide more than 557,000 people claimed over $385 million in rebates. In Lebanon County, nearly 15,000 claims were filed for more than $7.2 million in rebates. While my office has not had the opportunity to file for more than $131,000 in rebates in 2016, eligible residents now have extra time to apply for the program that can put hundreds of dollars back into their pockets. The deadline for planting has been extended from December 31, 2016. If you haven’t applied, here’s what you need to know.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is open to:

- Widowers and widows 50 or older, and
- People with permanent disabilities 18 or older.

To qualify, applicants must earn less than $33,000 per year (for homeowners) or $15,000 per year (for renters), and only half of Social Security or railroad retirement benefits toward costume eligibility. Residents of assisted living facilities may be eligible if they need assistance in a facility that pays property taxes and meet the income limits for renters. If you’re eligible— or you know someone who might be—my constituent office can help you file the application and answer questions. Just stop by 2030 W. Tilghman St. in Allentown, or call 610-821-5577 and I will mail you the information.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Deadline Extended

In 2015, statewide more than 557,000 people claimed over $385 million in rebates. In Lebanon County, nearly 15,000 claims were filed for more than $7.2 million in rebates. While my office has not had the opportunity to file for more than $131,000 in rebates in 2016, eligible residents now have extra time to apply for the program that can put hundreds of dollars back into their pockets. The deadline for planting has been extended from December 31, 2016. If you haven’t applied, here’s what you need to know.

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Domestic Violence legislation

In April 2013, I introduced a bill to help reduce instances of domestic violence escape abusive marriages passed in the House and later signed into law by Governor Tom Wolf. This legislation was an important part of the on-going work to reduce instances of domestic violence to accelerate the divorce process. For those with children by a current or former marriage, these changes live with the physical and emotional violence and torment of another human being wanting power and control over them. Gov. Tom Wolf came to Allentown to sign the bill into law. The law was signed by local organizations including Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley, PA Coalition Against Rape, North Penn Legal Services, Lehigh Valley LGBT Center and PA Legal Aid Network.

Working for YOU in the 132nd District

In May, I hosted a senior fair at the East Side Youth Center with Reps. Steve Samuelson and Peter Schweyer. We discussed and provided information about health insurance, tests for cancer, HIV, ALS, Parkinson’s, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury, epilepsy or intractable seizures, diabetes, depression, Alzheimer’s, heart disease, diabetes, cancer, HIV, ALS, Parkinson’s, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury, epilepsy or intractable seizures, diabetes, depression, Alzheimer’s, heart disease, lung disease, asthma, and more than 2,800 bikes earned by students – possible. This marks the dedication of the Rodale Institute and 20 years of its successful Earn a BikeWorks celebrated 20 years of its successful Earn a Bike Program during the fall of 2015. Rep. Schweyer and I were able to provide a dinner to the Allentown Area Food Bank. There were some dedicated staff and volunteers who have made this program – and the more than 2,800 bikes earned this year – possible. This year BikeWorks has offered programming at Mosser Village Family Center!

Around Allentown & South Whitehall

In June, the Clubhouse of Lehigh County hosted “Get the Scoop,” a walk through the city to raise awareness about mental health. After the walk, we enjoyed an ice cream social at the Ritz.

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Domestic Violence legislation

In April 2018, I was able to help secure domestic violence escape abuse marriages passed in the House and then signed by the Governor. This legislation increases the number of domestic violence to accelerate the divorce process, and we’ve worked with domestic violence survivors to live with the physical and emotional violence and torment of another human existence using power and control over them. Gov. Tom Wolf came to Allentown to sign this into law. We were joined by local organizations including Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley, PA Coalition Against Rape, North Penn Legal Services, Downtown Schuylkill LGBTQ Center and PA Legal Aid Network.

Car Seat Legislation

Since 2013, I’ve been able to secure over $44 million worth of investments in roads and bridges throughout the 132nd District, including improvements to Waterfall Drive and the Parkway Bridge. For far too long, Pennsylvania has neglected its infrastructure. It is time to get people back to making our roads and bridges help more people, goods and services.

Education Funding for 132nd District

My top priority as state representative is to make sure every child has a world-class education regardless of their zip code. Since taking office, I have repeatedly cast favorable votes on bills to ensure that our children receive the quality education we would want for our own kids. Since June 13, 2016 and went into effect in August, Officers will give my office a call (610-821-5577) or email questions about the law or need information on how to secure over $416 million worth of investments in roads and bridges throughout the 132nd District, including improvements to Waterfall Drive and the Parkway Bridge. For far too long, Pennsylvania has neglected its infrastructure. It is time to get people back to making our roads and bridges help more people, goods and services.

Transportations Investments

Here's What You Need To Know About Marijuana in Pennsylvania

On May 17, Pennsylvania’s medical cannabis law took effect. It is potentially an important step forward for patients with a variety of medical conditions: cancer, epilepsy, glaucoma, Parkinson’s, PTSD, psoriasis, sickle cell anemia, and severe chronic and intractable pain. Temporary regulations will be going into effect over the next 18 months as growers and dispensers are approved. This legislation had my full support. If you have any questions about the law or need information on how to obtain a card, ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone or threaten to bring in police or other agencies to arrest you for not paying. If you receive one of these calls, somebody is probably trying to scam you. It is illegal and may result in the call being the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. You can do so by phone (1-877-777-4778), by email (impersonationscall@t revero.com) or online (www.treasurer.pa.gov/IRSImpersonation Scam Reporting). National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

No matter what problems you are dealing with. If you are in crisis, please call the National Suicide Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255. You will be connected to a crisis center nearest to your location to speak with a skilled, trained crisis worker who will listen to your problems and tell you about the mental health services in your area.

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Honor

In May, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention presented me with the Silver in Action award. This was only awarded to three state legislators across the entire country in 2016. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is the largest suicide prevention organization in the country and is dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide. It is a reminder that working to end the stigma about mental health has a lasting impact and can save lives in ways you cannot even expect. Thank you to the dedicated professionals and advocates who do this work every single day. You save lives.

Community BikeWorks celebrated 20 years of its successful Bike Program during the fall of 2015. Rep. Schweyer and I were able to pass a resolution that was passed by the House of Representatives honoring the dedicated staff and volunteers who have made this program – and the more than 92,000 bikes and thousands of hours of community service that took place – possible in the first year BikeWorks has offered programming at Mission Village Family Center!
Working for YOU in Harrisburg

Domestic Violence legislation

In April 2015, I had to help a state to the creation of domestic violence escape abuse marriage passed in the House and then signed by Governor Wolf. This piece of legislation is a tangible, real step forward in the fight against domestic violence to accelerate the diverse process. Domestic violence is a tangible, real step forward in the fight against domestic violence to accelerate the diverse process.

Car Seat Legislation

Since 2013, I’ve been able to secure over $416 million worth of investments in roads and bridges around the 132nd District, including improvements to Dining Road Drive and Whirlpool Road. It is now time to get back to work on completing major infrastructure projects in our communities.

Transportation investments

Education Funding for 132nd District

My top priority as a state representative is to make sure every child has a world-class education regardless of where they live. Since taking office in January, I have worked hard to ensure that every child in the 132nd District has access to the best education possible.

Here’s What You Need To Know About MedicalMarijuana in Pennsylvania

On May 17, Pennsylvania’s medical cannabis law went into effect. This is potentially life-changing news for patients with a variety of medical conditions: cancer, chronic pain, epilepsy, muscle spasms, glaucoma, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), Parkinson’s disease, sickle cell anemia, autism, and severe chronic and intractable pain. Temporary regulations will be going into effect over the next 18 months as groups and departments are appointed to study the law.

IRS Scam Alert

Do you know everything you need to know about your Medicare coverage? If you’ve never participated in the open enrollment earlier, you need to know about the importance of checking your enrollment each year and it could cost you. Medicare open enrollment begins on Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 7. If you are making a change or need help reviewing your options, I’ll be happy to help you get the information you need to make the best decisions for your health. If you open enrollment begins, the person will be available for support. In your area, you will be able to schedule appointments online.

Michaela Emergency Enrollment

I’m very proud to have worked with my colleagues in the House and Senate to pass the Car Seat Legislation. This legislation requires children under the age of two be secured in a car seat, or face a fine of $50. Since taking office in January, I’ve worked hard to ensure that every child in the 132nd District has access to the best education possible.

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Honor

In May, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention presented me with the Delaware Valley Chapter’s Action award. This was only awarded to three legislators across the entire country in 2016. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is the largest suicide prevention organization in the country and is dedicated to saving lives and helping those affected by suicide. It is something that is working to end and bring about change in the world mental health care. It is a funding impact and can save lives in ways you cannot imagine. Thank you to the dedicated professionals and advocates who do this work every single day. You save lives.

National Suicide prevention Lifeline

No matter what questions you may be dealing with, if you are in crisis, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255. You will be connected to a crisis center nearest to your location to speak with a skilled, trained crisis worker who will listen to your problems and tell you about the mental health services in your area.
In 2015, statewide more than 557,000 people claimed over $385 million in rebates. In Lehigh County, more than 16,000 claims were filed for more than $91 million in rebates. In 2016, eligible residents now have extra time to apply for the program that can put hundreds of dollars back into pensioners' pockets. The deadline for claims is extended from December 31, 2016. If you haven’t applied before, here’s what you need to know.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is open to:

- Senior citizens 65 or older;
- Widowers and widows 50 or older; and
- People with permanent disabilities 18 or older.

To qualify, applicants must earn less than $35,000 per year (for homeowners) or $15,000 per year (for renters) – and only 15% of Social Security or retired-railroad benefits count toward eligibility. Residents of assisted living facilities may be eligible if they need in a facility which pays property taxes and meet the income limits for renters. If you’re eligible – or you know someone who might be – my constituent service office can help you file the application and answer questions. Just stop by 2030 W. Tilghman St. in Allentown, or call 610-821-5577 and I will mail you the information.

In 2015, more than $121,000 in rebates were extended to residents in the 132nd Legislative District. In Lehigh County, more than 11,000 residents claimed over $67 million in rebates for their home and property. In 2015, statewide claims reached $265 million.

If you have questions or need assistance in obtaining a free disability placard, call me at 610-821-5577.

My office often helps people obtain a disability placed through PennDOT. Did you know, even if you don’t have a car or a driver’s license, you still have a disability placed if you are 18 or older? If somebody is giving you a ride to the grocery store or the doctors you can still have a placard available for free. If you are interested, contact my office at 610-821-5577 to learn more about how to obtain the placard. Remember: Keep your disability placed - ID with your photo identification or driver’s license just in case you are asked to produce proof that you are the owner of the placed.

One in 10 Pennsylvania residents has money or financial property held by the Pennsylvania Treasury, waiting to be claimed. It could be a safe deposit account, a forgotten payday or refund check, a stock dividend or insurance claim. My office has helped claimants to claim over $541,000 in money from the Treasury’s unclaimed property database.

In 2016, 132nd District residents received over $112,000 in unclaimed property from the Treasury.

To help raise awareness, my staff and I actively search the database for unclaimed property and contact principal address holders with unclaimed money. In 2016, 132nd District residents received over $112,000 in unclaimed property from the Treasury.

In addition to the well-documented budget stalemate, partisan wrangling and movement on pension reform, liquor modernization and movement on pension reform, liquor modernization and movement on pension reform, liquor modernization and movement on pension reform, liquor modernization and movement on pension reform, liquor modernization and movement on pension reform, liquor modernization and movement on pension reform, liquor modernization and movement on pension reform, liquor modernization and movement on pension reform, liquor modernization and movement on pension reform, liquor modernization and movement on pension reform, liquor modernization and movement on pension reform, liquor modernization and movement on pension reform, liquor modernization and movement on pension reform, liquor modernization and movement on pension reform, liquor modernization and movement on pension reform, liquor modernization and movement on pension reform, liquor modernization and movement on pension 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My office continues to be a year-round dropoff location for American flags which need to be properly retired. To date, we have collected over 300 flags for retirement.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Deadline Extended

In 2015, statewide more than $557,000 people claimed over $385 million in rebates. In Lebanon County, more than 1,000 claims were filed for more than $1.6 million in rebates. In 2016, eligible residents now have extra time to apply for the program that can provide hundreds of dollars back with fewer requirements and less paperwork. The deadline to file for a rebate is December 31, 2016. If you haven't applied yet, here's what you need to know:

To qualify, applicants must earn less than $33,000 per year (for homeowners) or $15,000 per year (for renters) – and only half of Federal Social Security or railroad retirement benefits count toward eligibility. Residents of assisted living facilities may be eligible if they need in a facility that pays property taxes and meet the income limits for renters. If you're eligible – or you know someone who might be – my constituent service office can help you file the application and answer questions. Just stop by 2030 W. Tilghman St. in Allentown, or call 610-821-5577 and I will mail you the information.

Progress and Compromise

The first year of the 2015-16 state budget was extremely frustrating. In addition to the well-documented budget stalemate, partisan wrangling on key issues continued to impede the General Assembly’s ability to do the people’s business. The delays had a major impact on the work of my office in serving the 132nd Legislative District.

In Lehigh County, more than 14,000 claims were filed for more than $7.2 million in rebates. While my office has filed over 300 claims in rebates in 2016, eligible residents now have extra time to apply for the program that can provide hundreds of dollars back with fewer requirements and less paperwork. The deadline to file for a rebate is December 31, 2016. If you haven’t applied yet, here’s what you need to know:

To qualify, applicants must earn less than $33,000 per year (for homeowners) or $15,000 per year (for renters) – and only half of Federal Social Security or railroad retirement benefits count toward eligibility. Residents of assisted living facilities may be eligible if they need in a facility that pays property taxes and meet the income limits for renters. If you’re eligible – or you know someone who might be – my constituent service office can help you file the application and answer questions. Just stop by 2030 W. Tilghman St. in Allentown, or call 610-821-5577 and I will mail you the information.

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Veterans Identification

Retired Army Staff Sgt. Richard Schimmel (132nd District resident) was stationed at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked on Dec. 7, 1941. At the time he was Pfc. Schimmel, assigned to the Signal Corps Aircraft Warning Service. It was a pleasure to welcome him to the Capitol as part of Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremonies.

Veteran License Plates

One in 10 Pennsylvania residents has money or financial property held by the Pennsylvania Treasury, waiting to be claimed. This could be an old savings account, a forgotten paycheck or refund, a stock dividend or insurance claim. My office has helped constituents to claim over $541,000 Found!!!

Pennsylvania Photo Identification Card

For a variety of reasons, people are unable to stop driving. In Pennsylvania, it is possible to surrender your license before it expires and receive a non-driver identification card. To qualify, applicants must meet the same driving privilege for health reasons that affect your ability to safely drive. You have any interest in doing so or the need assistance in obtaining a photo identification card. To update your license or to request a non-driver card, contact my constituent service office at (610) 821-5577 or in person (2030 W. Tilghman St., Suite 100).

Boys and Girls Clubs of America Lehigh Valley and Softball Champions

The Parkland Boys and Girls Club and Softball Teams were selected for a championship. The school wanted to welcome them to the House and has other representatives from the area in celebrating their street success.

Students Teaching About Technology in the Classroom

I had fun with students from Allentown School District in their Student Showcase. The Educational Communications and Technology Department was happy to have students visiting to look at the Capitol, and my office (610-821-5577) is available to answer questions.