



Capitol UPDATE

REP. MIKE SCHLOSSBERG
Serving the 132nd Legislative District

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A Quick Note about My Office

This spring, my Allentown office moved. Still located on the first floor of 2030 W. Tilghman St., the office is now on the opposite side of the building. The phone number (610-821-5577) remains the same.

PTRR Deadline Extended

In 2016, more than 548,000 people claimed over \$234 million in Property Tax/Rent Rebates across Pennsylvania. In Lehigh County, more than 14,000 claims were filed for more than \$6.2 million in rebates. In 2016, my office helped people claim more than \$131,000 in rebates. While my office has helped residents apply for more than \$113,000 in rebates so far in 2017, eligible residents now have extra time to apply for the program that can put hundreds of dollars back into your pocket to offset property taxes or rent. The deadline was extended from June 30 to December 31, 2017.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is open to:

- Eligible seniors 65 or older;
- Widows and widowers 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 HALF of Social Security or railroad retirement benefits count toward eligibility. Residents of assisted living facilities may be eligible if they reside 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 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.



Unclaimed Property

One of my favorite things to do is telling people who live in the 132nd



Legislative District that they have Unclaimed Property being held by the Pennsylvania Treasury. Because 1 in 10 Pennsylvania residents has money being held by the Treasury, my staff and I actively search this database so we can help people claim what belongs to them.

This could be an old savings account, a forgotten paycheck or refund, a stock dividend or insurance claim. Since we began tracking this in 2013, my office has helped constituents claim over \$943,000 in money from the Treasury's Unclaimed Property database.

If you get a call or a letter in the mail from me or my office about Unclaimed Property, do not be alarmed. If you are concerned, give us a call. If you would like to search on your own, visit PaTreasury.gov.

Updates on Legislation

Redistricting Reform

When I look at the way the Lehigh Valley has been carved up, with state House districts running from Kutztown to Laurys Station and Lower Macungie to Walnuttown (Berks County) and the 15th Congressional District extending from Bethlehem to the border of Harrisburg, there is no doubt in my mind the abuse needs to end. The Independent Redistricting Commission is the best way to do this.

Pennsylvania's approach to redistricting legislative lines for Congress and the General Assembly is atrocious, leads to imbalanced districts and results in ideological policy. In 2016, I took the Independent Redistricting Pledge and in 2017, I joined more than 90 of my colleagues in signing on to bipartisan legislation that will allow the voters of Pennsylvania to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution and establish an Independent Redistricting Commission.

The commission would include four members who are registered voters of the largest two political parties, four members who are registered with the other largest two political parties, and three members who are unaffiliated or registered with a minority party. The commission would allow for no current or recently elected officials, candidates, party officials, their aides or spouse. All work would be done in public and the commission would be prohibited from considering prior election results, voter or party registration or the addresses of incumbents or any other individuals.

Fighting for Jobs: Manufacturing & Apprenticeship Grant Program

This June, I introduced the Manufacturing and Apprenticeship Grant Program Act. By 2020, Pennsylvania is forecasted to have a shortage of nearly 170,000 skilled workers. Many of these jobs will be in high-tech manufacturing jobs that pay good family sustaining wages. Those with apprenticeships will pay an average of \$60,000 a year. My legislation would help workers get the training and skills they need to get a leg up on these types of jobs.

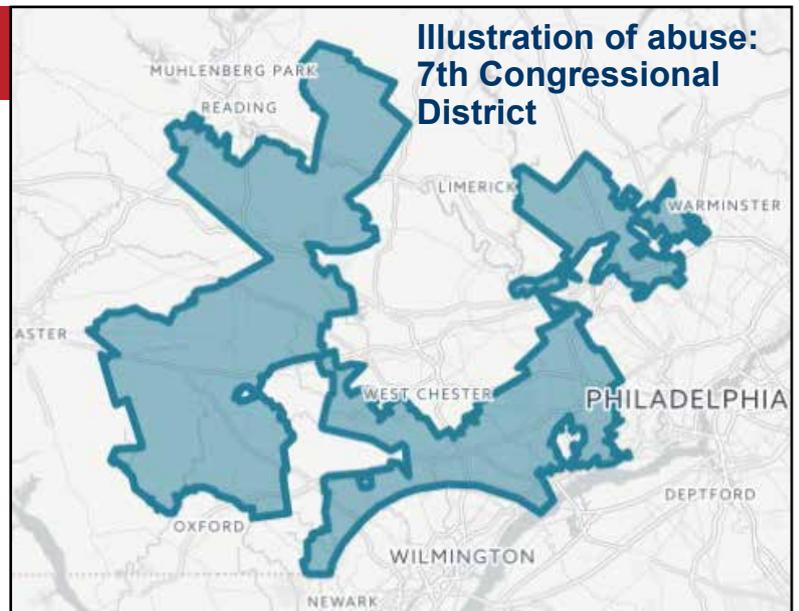


Illustration of abuse:
7th Congressional District

Families First: Strong Mom, Strong Baby

Postpartum depression poses a serious risk for the well-being of mothers and children. This is why I have been working with Representative Tarah Toohill (R) on the Strong Mom, Strong Baby legislation. Our bill would ensure infants and their mothers affected by postpartum depression have access to services currently available in communities across Pennsylvania through early intervention. Given what we know about the importance of the earliest years in childhood development, and a depressed mother's need for support, providing this support through the Early Intervention program will impact children and their families for a lifetime.

[#strongmomstrongbaby](https://www.instagram.com/strongmomstrongbaby)



Aging in Place Tax Credits

Today, seniors are looking to live in their homes longer than was ever previously thought possible. While the cost of living independently at home can save between 72-74% when compared to residence in a nursing facility, there are often improvements that need to be made to the home or caregiver needs that arise. In January, I reintroduced legislation to offer tax credits that offset the costs of physical renovations and for caregiving services to make aging in place possible. This package of legislation would go a long way to help aging adults enjoy their independence.

With County Executive Tom Muller, discussing Aging in Place Tax Credits

Fighting for students

Budget for Allentown

The 2017-2018 budget has good news for the Allentown School District. For the upcoming school year, the state's commitment to Allentown will rise to \$125.2 million, marking a 30% increase in the state's support for our students since the 2012-2013 school year.

I am a strong believer that every child in Pennsylvania should have access to the world-class education necessary to live and thrive in the 21st century. For every dollar we invest in education now, we find savings and benefits in the future. It's important to remember that today's 5 year old will be a doctor in 25 years. Today's 3 year old will be somebody's teacher in my lifetime. The 2nd grader learning simple math will one day be asked to make medical or



scientific breakthroughs which save lives in our community and across the world. Our children will one day be called on to take care of us. While there are moral reasons to invest in our children today, I want the doctor screening my family for cancer, the teacher preparing my grandchildren and the scientist asked to save the world to have every tool and opportunity to succeed.

Charter School Reform

While I will always put our students first in the conversations about education, taxpayers deserve the truth. Recently, I was able to have legislation amended to prevent charter schools from advertising "free" tuition or transportation. Instead, any advertising would disclose that instructional and transportation costs are paid for by taxpayer dollars, much like the existing requirements for ads by state agencies.

Visit to LVCC

During the Week of the Young Child, Lehigh Valley Childcare invited me to visit its center at the Teen Parent Program at William Allen High School. Founded in 1981, this facility provides access to reliable, affordable child care and early childhood education while offering a nurturing and structured infant/toddler program and the Raising a Reader initiative. I had a great time exploring and learning with the children.



2017 Pre-K Champions Award

It was a pleasure to visit the Cuddle Zone in Allentown with Senator Pat Browne and be recognized by Pre-K for PA with a 2017 Pre-K Champion's Award. While Pennsylvania has made tremendous progress in supporting early childhood education investments, we still have a long way to go; the 132nd District still needs 47 additional pre-k classrooms to meet the demand for high-quality pre-k education.



Trexler Students Visit Capitol

Thank you to the students from Trexler Middle School who came to the Capitol as part of the 2017 Student Technology Showcase. I was able to visit with them and learn about their award-winning project that included visits to local manufacturing facilities. These students showed incredibly hard work and talent. They are great examples of what happens in our community schools.



Support for Building 21

Allentown School District opened Building 21 in the fall of 2015, offering an alternative education that focuses on project-based learning in a non-traditional classroom setting with more industry-focused opportunities. After working with state Senator Pat Browne and state Representative Peter Schwyer to help secure funding necessary to help with school renovations at Building 21, we joined Allentown School Board President David Zimmerman and Building 21 Principal Jose Rosado, Jr. at

an announcement for Pennsylvania's commitment for Building 21. During my visit of Building 21, and while meeting with students, it was very easy to see how exciting this opportunity is for our community.

Serving You



2017 Town Halls

In April 2017, I hosted Town Hall Meetings at Muhlenberg College and the East Side Youth Center. Thank you to the many residents who took the time to come and share your thoughts and concerns about our community. We covered a variety of subjects, ranging from education to public safety and medical assistance to cleaning up after your dog. As your state representative, I always try to make myself available and find these meetings to be a great way to learn more.

2017 Senior Fair

In May, Representative Schweyer and I hosted our annual senior fair at the East Side Youth Center. We had a wonderful turnout and enjoyed connecting with people looking for information about health insurance, tests for health screening and resources for an active life.



Update on Real ID

With the passage of Act 3, Pennsylvania finally will be able to offer drivers' licenses and photo identification which meets the standards of federal Real ID which became law in the aftermath of September 11th. No Pennsylvania resident will be required to get a REAL ID-compliant license or identification card, but residents who choose to do so will be able to use those forms of identification for air travel or entering a federal facility.

Currently, a Pennsylvania ID will allow you to travel by air and visit federal facilities. PennDOT estimates REAL ID-compliant driver licenses and identification cards will be available at the customer's option in 2019, allowing customers who want a REAL ID product to obtain one before the final DHS effective date of October 1, 2020.

If you are interested in staying up to date on REAL ID developments, please email RepSchlossberg@pahouse.com. I will make sure you get updates about REAL ID matters when I learn about them.

Medicare Open Enrollment

Do you know everything you need to know about your Medicare coverage? If you join a private Medicare or prescription plan, your details could change and it could cost you. Medicare open enrollment begins on October 15 and ends December 7. If you are making a change or need help reviewing your options, my office hosts a specially trained volunteer to help you understand your benefits. When open enrollment begins, this person will be available for appointments on Tuesdays. Give my office a call at 610-821-5577 to schedule your appointment. While this seems like it's far away, don't delay in making an appointment as there are limited appointments available and they go fast.



Recognizing Eagle Scouts

Congratulations to James Dougherty and Andrew Johnson on the occasion of their Eagle Scout Court of Honor. The community should be proud of the achievements of these two young men. I wish them the very best as they continue to serve our community.

Updates from PennDOT

Registration Forms Change

At the beginning of 2017, people renewing their car registration probably noticed a new form. The information requested is the same as in the past, but is now on the front and the back.

In addition to changes in the form, registrations renewed online will generate a new registration card immediately. Please print that registration card because PennDOT will no longer mail a new card

Many licensing and motor vehicle services are available online at www.dmv.pa.gov

when it is renewed online. Registration renewal discounts are still available for retirees earning less than \$19,200.

If you have any questions, please give my office a call (610-821-5577).

Reduced Registration for Retirees

If you are retired, receive Social Security and/or a pension (part time employment is permitted) and earn less than \$19,200 a year, instead of full registration price, you can pay \$10. One reduced annual registration fee is available per person. To learn if you are eligible or to file for your reduced registration, call me at 610-821-5577 or visit my Allentown office.

New Pennsylvania Licenses



Pennsylvania's driver's license and photo ID card designs are changing. The updated cards have features such as laser perforations and optically variable patterns, which will improve security and help prevent fraud. The old cards will be phased out over the next four years, so there is no need to replace current identification cards.

SEE REVERSE SIDE

Street Address		Odometer Reading		TENTHS	
Street Address		_____		_____	
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____		Insurance Company Name		Policy Effective Date	
		_____		Mo. Day Yr.	
CHANGE OF ADDRESS INSTRUCTIONS		Insurance Policy Number		Policy Expiration Date	
The change of address information above need only be completed when your address printed on the reverse side differs from your actual mailing address. NOTE: P.O. Box numbers may be used in addition to the actual address, but cannot be used as the only address. You may also change your address online at PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services website at www.dmv.pa.gov .		NAIC No.		Mo. Day Yr.	
		_____		_____	
MyCar signature acknowledges that all information is TRUE and CORRECT and I acknowledge that I may lose my/our operating privilege or vehicle registration for failure to maintain financial responsibility (insured) on the currently registered vehicle for the period of registration.					
Driver/Co-Driver Signature _____				Signature Number _____	

Plate Number	Title Number	Vehicle Identification Number	Year	Vehicle Make	Type	Expiration Date	Reg. Gr. Wt.	Const. Gr. Wt.
COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE								
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 yr. fee: \$		<input type="checkbox"/> 2 yr. fee: \$		For a two year period, please check <input type="checkbox"/> the box to the left.		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Indicate # of duplicates of \$2.00 each in the blank to the left.						
		<input type="checkbox"/> If you wish to contribute \$1.00 to the GDTF, please check <input type="checkbox"/> the box to the left.						
		<input type="checkbox"/> If you wish to contribute \$3.00 to the VTF, please check <input type="checkbox"/> the box to the left.						
Maria Smith 100 Main Street Great Town, PA 10000								

Disability Placard

Did you know, even if you don't have a car or driver's license, you can still have a disability placard? If somebody is giving you a ride to the grocery store or the doctor, you can still have the placard available for your use on those trips. Contact my office at 610-821-5577 to learn more about obtaining a free disability placard.



Pennsylvania is always looking for ways to better serve our veterans. One way to find information about services for veterans is through the Pennsylvania Veterans Registry. This online portal links veterans, family members and employers of veterans to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA). The program helps veterans easily find information on state programs, services and benefits. Registrants can also opt to receive newsletters and updates on current programs, and can use the DMVA's network to make local connections. <https://register.dmv.pa.gov/>.

National Guard at the Capitol

In April, I was honored to welcome Sergeant First Class Angelo Tartaglia to the House chamber where he was recognized for his service. Sergeant Tartaglia, a resident of the 132nd District, has deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq and has responded to multiple State Active Duty missions, including support for Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy. Thank you Sergeant Tartaglia for your service. Your recognition is well-deserved.





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Fire Truck Rides to School

Every year, the Allentown Fire Department recognizes Allentown students who excel in the areas of academics, citizenship, behavior, attendance and leadership with a ride on a fire truck to school. Students are selected by their principal. As a reward, students are picked up at home and taken to school where they are greeted by their peers and their hard work is celebrated. Allentown has some wonderful students and it was great to see some of them get the recognition they deserve.

PA Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year

Allentown's Christian Nonirit was recognized as the PA Boys & Girls Club of Pennsylvania "Youth of the Year." I had the opportunity to congratulate Christian at the Allentown Boys & Girls Club with some of his friends.



Allentown's Arson Dog Judge and Chief Laubach Honored

In 2016, Allentown Fire Department's Judge was awarded Arson Dog of the Year. Chief Lee Laubach and Judge spend a great deal of time interacting with the community and teaching about fire safety. Judge is very serious about his work. Since he began working for the Allentown Fire Department, arson fires have dropped 53% in Allentown. Congratulations Chief Laubach and Judge and thank you for making Allentown safer!



Midway Manor Celebrates 60 Years

In June 2017, the Midway Manor Community Association celebrated its 60th anniversary party. For six decades, MMCA has worked to improve the quality of life in the Midway



Manor neighborhood on Allentown's East Side. I know I join many other people in thanking the members of MMCA for their hard work in making Midway Manor a wonderful place to live and raise a family in Allentown.