



# Capitol UPDATE

**State Representative**  
**MIKE SCHLOSSBERG**  
 Serving the 132nd Legislative District

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## Goals, hopes for 2019-2020

Every new legislative session offers the opportunity for a fresh start. The 2019-2020 session is underway and I look forward to continuing to work toward the issues most important for the 132nd District. This includes:

- World-class education for every student 
- Jobs that pay a good wage 
- Protect your constitutional right to clean air and water 
- Ensure good physical and mental health care 

The honor of representing you in Harrisburg is one I do not take lightly. I look forward to working every day to help build a stronger Pennsylvania for all of our families.

*Swearing-in Day with my parents.*



## PennDOT Emergency Contact



Upload Emergency Contact Information

PennDOT offers you the ability to give law enforcement access to emergency contact information to reach someone who can speak for you if you are ever in a situation where you cannot speak for yourself. The information is stored in a secure database that is accessible only by law enforcement. You can choose two contacts.

Log-on to PennDOT.gov and click on the Upload Emergency Contact Information in the Travel and Safety section of the website or visit or call my office to get help.

## Free credit reports

Your credit report can have an impact on employment and your ability to buy a home, car or even insurance.

Thanks to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, you can receive a free credit report from each of the three national credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) every 12 months. You can order your report from all three agencies at the same time or spread those requests over the course of the year to better monitor your credit. These reports will not include your credit score.

Three ways to get your free credit report:

- Online at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)
- By phone at 1-877-322-8228
- Stop by my office or call for forms to mail for processing

## Tips to finance college and career planning

- FAFSA deadline is May 1!
- Download the myStudentAid app and complete the FAFSA on your smart phone or tablet.
- EducationPlanner.org is a fantastic one-stop career and college planning site operated by the PA Higher Education Assistance Agency.
- PHEAA's Targeted Industry Program is designed to help pay for courses in fields such as energy, advanced materials, diversified manufacturing, and agriculture and food production. Information is available at [www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org). Look under funding opportunities and select "PA-TIP."

# Around the District



## Midway Manor awards

I recently had the opportunity to help recognize Dick Wilburn and Andrea Naugle for their work in the Midway Manor Community Association. Mr. Wilburn served as the president of MMCA from 2009-2018 and Ms. Naugle was named Citizen of the Year!

## ASD new school groundbreaking

At the end of October, I was able to join Allentown School District leaders in the groundbreaking of the new elementary school located at 12th and Gordon Streets. The new school opens in the fall of 2020.



## Learning hub ribbon cutting

High-quality preschool is so important to the future of our children. Community Services for Children and City Center Lehigh Valley celebrated the opening of new early learning services at the Morning Call building located at 6th and Linden Streets. I look forward to continuing to work with all of the early learning partners in our community to ensure our children have a bright future full of wonderful opportunities.

*Photo Credit: City Center Lehigh Valley*



## AFSP event

Every year, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosts an event in the Lehigh Parkway, raising funds to support programs to prevent suicides in our community. It is always an honor to participate. The latest event raised more than \$130,000, the most the local chapter has ever raised.



## Black History Month Celebration

Every year, churches, civic organizations and schools make tremendous effort to celebrate Black History Month. It is an honor to attend events such as the gathering hosted by the Youth Ministry of Union Baptist Church.



## United Way reading campaign

In December, I joined the United Way kick-off of its "Talk, Read, Sing!" campaign as a guest reader. As much fun as that was, it was a great reminder of how important it is to read to children ... even if their attention seems to be somewhere else!



## PA Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year

Jeremiah Lyons is a proud member of the Allentown Boys and Girls Club, having served over 160 hours of volunteer service at the Sixth Street Club House. He plays football, takes advanced courses, is involved in anti-bullying and anti-drug advocacy and has set a goal of being a psychiatrist. In 2018, Jeremiah was named PA Youth of the Year and Northeastern Youth of the Year. He also competed against youth from across the country for the distinction of the nationwide honor. I've had the opportunity to meet Jeremiah one-on-one and then hear him speak at the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration hosted by St. James UCC. With people like Jeremiah coming of age, our future looks very bright!



# Honoring Our Veterans

## Veterans Day at Ritter Elementary

Every year, students, faculty and staff at Ritter Elementary School welcome and recognize veterans on Veterans Day. Thank you for hosting this wonderful celebration and allowing me to attend!



## Preparing to Serve: Air Force Junior ROTC

The Dieruff High School Air Force Junior ROTC presented the colors of our nation at the Allentown School District Faculty and Staff school year kick-off celebration. The students in the Junior ROTC engage in four years of study in a curriculum that includes the Heritage of Flight, Space Technology, Space Jobs and Management Functions.



## American Flag Collection

My office continues to collect American flags ready for proper retirement by a local service organization in advance of Flag Day. Please bring any flags you might have to my office at any time of the year. If you have any questions, please call my office (610-821-5577).



## Wreaths Across America

In December, I joined hundreds of people in paying respects to the veterans who gave so much for our country through the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Cedar Hill Memorial Park. "REMEMBER the Fallen ... HONOR those who Serve ... TEACH our children the value of Freedom."



## Property Tax and Rent Rebate

Every year, my office is busy helping hundreds of people file for a Property Tax and Rent Rebate. The best time to file is early in the tax season.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is open to:

- Eligible seniors 65 or older.
- Widows and widowers 50 or older.
- 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 meets 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 my office in Allentown, or call 610-821-5577 and I will mail you the information.



## Claim Your Money

One in 10 Pennsylvanians has money being held by the state Treasury. It could be an old savings account, a forgotten paycheck or refund, a stock dividend or an insurance claim. Helping people to claim what belongs to them has become one of my personal projects since taking office in 2013. In total, we've helped constituents claim over \$1.2 million in money from the Treasury's unclaimed property database. That's money that has come back to your community.

You can check for your name by visiting PaTreasury.gov or by calling my office to have us check for you.

If you get a call or letter from me or my office with information about a claim in your name, it is not a scam. If you are unsure, call my office (610-821-5577) and we'll answer any of your questions or concerns.



## Need a disability parking placard?

My office continues to help people obtain disability parking placards either by submitting their first application, requesting a replacement for one lost, damaged or stolen or by renewing a placard set to expire. Even if you don't have a car or driver's license, you can still have a disability placard for when somebody is taking you somewhere. Give my office a call (610-821-5577) and we will help determine the best way to get your request processed.

## REAL ID

Pennsylvania's REAL ID roll out will take place throughout this spring, helping to prepare Pennsylvanians for full compliance in October 2020. This will be important, especially for people who plan to use their Pennsylvania license to board a commercial domestic airplane in the future. For more information about REAL ID, visit [dmv.pa.gov/REALID](http://dmv.pa.gov/REALID). My office has resources and can answer your questions. To receive a copy of my REAL ID newsletter, which was mailed in November, give my office a call (610-821-5577).



## Pennsylvania birth certificates

While preparing for REAL ID, it's possible you will need to obtain a copy of your birth certificate with a raised seal. My office is available to help submit your request for a Pennsylvania birth certificate and ensure proper delivery. Please call or visit my office to get this process started well in advance of when you need the birth certificate. The cost for a birth certificate is \$20 (free for veterans and their dependents).

*In 2018, I visited with residents at B'Nai Brith and Episcopal House to give an overview of how my office can help with REAL ID.*

# News from Harrisburg

## First responder mental health bill

We ask a lot from our first responders. They arrive at scenes of tragedy, often without regard to their personal safety. They comfort victims of crime and accidents, inform parents of the death of a child and save lives of people who were on death's door. We owe them a debt of gratitude and the assurance that we are looking out for their well-being. This includes helping to safeguard their mental health.



This is why I've teamed up with Rep. Frank Farry (R-Bucks) to introduce legislation creating peer-to-peer support groups for Pennsylvania's first responders. There is no reason for our heroes to encounter the horrors they experience without the support they deserve.

## Suicide prevention law

Legislation I introduced to support suicide prevention and mental health services at colleges and universities in Pennsylvania was approved by the General Assembly and was signed by Gov. Tom Wolf in October. This legislation would establish a certification process and standards for schools which elect to become a Certified Suicide Prevention Institution of Higher Education, allowing them to demonstrate their commitment to providing students with information and services to meet their mental health needs. There is no doubt in my mind this legislation will save lives in Pennsylvania.



## Red Means Stop: A victory for grassroots leaders

In 2017, Allentown mom Amber Clark came to my office to share her concerns about motorists running stop signs when school buses were stopped. She was prepared, organized and eager to advocate for this safety concern by allowing school districts to mount cameras on the arms that extend in front of the school bus when the stop sign is extended. Working with Sen. Pat Browne, we were able to introduce legislation supported by PennDOT, law enforcement and school officials. With her daughter Olivia, Amber rallied friends in advocacy work to build support for this legislation.



In October, this legislation passed the Senate and House and then was signed into law by Gov. Wolf. Amber, Olivia and A LOT of friends were there for the signing. This was a good example of how democracy is supposed to work. I'm honored to have worked with Amber and Sen. Browne to get this done.

## Kaleb's resolution

In 2016, Kaleb was diagnosed with Adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD), a deadly genetic condition. He was named Lehigh County Deputy Sheriff for a day and his mom had undertaken an effort to raise awareness of the disease, the importance of newborn testing and the need for people to register for bone marrow donations to save lives. Kaleb's family knew each morning it was possible that a part of Kaleb — his laughter, hearing, language or respiratory skills — could be gone. That fear has since come to fruition.

As a result of a resolution I introduced, November was designated ALD Awareness Month. In October, Kaleb's family was on-hand as I shared their story in the House chamber. We owe a deep gratitude to Kaleb and his family as they continue to raise awareness of ALD.



## Clean slate goes into effect

In 2018, Gov. Wolf signed into law bipartisan legislation to include more offenses which can be sealed by filing petitions through the courts. The law, which went into effect on Jan. 1, also creates an automated computer process to seal arrests that did not result in convictions within 60 days and summary offenses after 10 years. There is no doubt this process will help people who have paid their debts to society and worked to move forward with their lives.



Recognizing the process of petitioning the courts can be a challenge, Pennsylvania worked with Community Legal Services to establish "My Clean Slate," a program to provide information and consultations. Information about My Clean Slate is available at <https://clsphila.org/mycleanslatepa>.

For information on working through the Lehigh County Court of Common Pleas to obtain an expungement for a matter in Lehigh County, visit <https://www.lccpa.org/selfhelp/expungement/>.



**Rep. Mike Schlossberg**

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## Save the Dates



**Town Halls**

<p><b>March 28</b> 7 p.m. Congregation Keneseth Israel 2227 W. Chew St. • Allentown</p>	<p><b>April 18</b> 7 p.m. Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lehigh Valley 41 S. Carlisle St. • Allentown</p>
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## Town Halls scheduled

Town Hall meetings are your opportunity to meet with me and neighbors to discuss state issues affecting your community. I hope you will be able to join us for one of these engaging evenings, focusing on what matters most to you.

## *Annual* SENIOR FAIR

**When: May 17**

9 a.m. – noon

**Where:** East Side  
Youth Center

**What:** Community  
Resources for  
Adults 65+

