



# Capitol UPDATE

State Representative  
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 Serving the 132nd Legislative District

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## PA Suicide Prevention Task Force

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the country. We lose more than 2,000 people to suicide each year in Pennsylvania.

In May, Governor Tom Wolf announced the formation of the state Suicide Prevention Task Force and appointed me as co-chair. The task force will move the many statewide efforts into one suicide prevention plan, better linking the work of education, aging, human services, recovery, health, military, law enforcement and corrections officials. Our goal is simple: reduce death by suicide in Pennsylvania. Lives are at stake!

If you or somebody you know is in crisis, help is available through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or text "TALK" to 741741.



## 2020 Census Needs Staff

The U.S. Constitution requires a census of everyone living in the United States to be conducted every 10 years. Each year, approximately \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to communities to pay for transportation improvements, public transportation, education, health care, social services and more. The results of the 2020 Census will be used to determine

allocation of those resources, redraw legislative districts and help to decide where children go to school. It is critical for our community to ensure every person living here is counted.

To make sure everybody is counted, the U.S. Census is hiring staff to conduct counts. Staff is needed to canvas neighborhoods to verify addresses and

talk to people to get an accurate head count. For more information about job opportunities, visit [www.2020census.gov/jobs](http://www.2020census.gov/jobs).

I look forward to working with the U.S. Census and other elected officials to ensure our community is fully counted. Too much is at stake to miss even one person.



# Fighting for You

## Crime Victims' Bill of Rights on Fall Ballot

In June, the General Assembly voted to put a referendum on the ballot to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to strengthen victims' rights. The amendment would ensure victims have legal standing if their rights are violated. Called "Marsy's Law," and named after a woman murdered by her ex-boyfriend, this law would ensure victims and their family are safe, provide notice of public proceedings involving the criminal conduct or pre-trial activities, be afforded reasonable protection from the accused, have access to restitution and have the opportunity to confer with attorneys acting for the government.



I co-sponsored this legislation and am a very strong supporter of it. Earlier this year, I was honored to be named a "Guardian of Victims' Rights" by Marsy's Law for PA, Turning Point, Valley Against Sex Trafficking and the Crime Victims Council for the role I played in helping to get this legislation enacted.

## Putting an End to Robocalls

Like most people, your phone number is probably listed on the Do Not Call List. Still, the calls don't seem to end. That's why I co-sponsored legislation to update the Do Not Call List law. This legislation would end the requirement to re-register numbers, allow a number to be listed immediately when added, make it illegal to make calls on legal holidays and put an end to computer autodialing. The legislation passed the House of Representatives without opposition and now goes to the Senate for consideration. Additionally, I am a strong supporter of legislation that would put an end to spoofing, the practice of disguising the name or number that appears on caller identification.



## Fixing PA's Fireworks Law

After it became legal for people to buy fireworks in Pennsylvania, it became very clear this was a mistake. In my neighborhood, it seemed the explosions would never end and many of you have shared similar stories about your neighborhood. It is a shame there is so much disregard for common courtesy.

Ideally, we would roll back the change in law and reinstitute the ban, but too

many special interests are fighting to prevent that. In the meantime, I'm fighting for legislation to give law enforcement the tools and flexibility to enforce the existing laws that would limit when and where fireworks can be launched, to confiscate fireworks where necessary, to increase fines for violators and give municipalities the power to institute restrictions on use of fireworks in their community.



## Ending Animal Abuse

In 2018, Pennsylvania enacted several laws to help end animal abuse. There is still more work to be done, including approving Victoria's Law to put an end to puppy mills in Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, Victoria, the dog after whom the legislation is named, passed away in early 2019. I am committed to continue the fight in her memory.



## Pennsylvania Laws Protecting Pets in Hot Weather

| TETHERING LAW                                     | TETHERING LAW                                                              | HOT CAR LAW                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
|                                                   |                                                                            |                                                    |
| Tethered dogs must have access to water and shade | Dogs may not be tethered for more than 30 minutes at a time in 90+ degrees | Law enforcement can rescue pets locked in hot cars |

GOVERNOR TOM WOLF

## REAL ID Update: How to Get Documents You Need

REAL ID is now fully available in Pennsylvania. You can visit the Driver License Center at 1101 MacArthur Road in Whitehall to provide the necessary documentation, including: a raised seal birth certificate, Social Security card, certified documents for any legal name changes (such as marriage license or divorce decree) and two documents proving legal residence (bank account, utility bill, lease, etc.).

A REAL ID or valid passport will be required if you plan to use your Pennsylvania-issued driver's license or photo identification to board a domestic airline or visit a federal facility which requires REAL ID (such as a military base). There is a one-time \$30 cost for REAL ID, plus the cost to renew your identification for an additional four years.

If you have any questions about REAL ID or need some direction on how to obtain required documentation, please contact my Allentown office (610-821-5577) or email me (RepSchlossberg@pahouse.com). Information about how to obtain documents you might need is to the right.

## REAL IDs are now available



**October 1, 2020 is the deadline to get a REAL ID.**

**Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID to:**



**Board a domestic flight**



**Enter a federal building**



**Enter a military base**

**[PennDOT.gov/REALID](http://PennDOT.gov/REALID)**

**Birth Certificates:** My office can help you obtain a Pennsylvania birth certificate. We can provide applications for a birth certificate issued by other states but cannot ensure their processing.

**Marriage license or divorce decrees:** in Pennsylvania, these documents are issued by the county where the marriage or divorce took place. If originally issued by Lehigh County, they can be obtained through the Clerk of Judicial Records office at the county courthouse (455 W. Hamilton St., Allentown, PA). The cost to obtain a certified divorce record is \$6 and \$10 for a Certified Copy of a Marriage License.

## Advanced Medical Directives

What plans have you made in the event you cannot make medical decisions on your own? Regardless of your age, there may be times in your life when you cannot make your own health care choices.

There are a lot of questions to answer and the Advance Directive for Health Care Act gives you the right to choose the technology you want employed to sustain life. It also allows you to appoint someone as a health care power of attorney should you be unable to make health care decisions.

My office keeps brochures on hand for you to better understand what decisions you want made on your behalf should you become incapacitated. While these materials might be helpful in guiding your decision-making, it is best to discuss this matter with your doctor and contact an attorney to prepare your advance health care directives (often called a living will). My office cannot make recommendations or referrals to attorneys, however, if you need



help finding an attorney, the Lehigh County Bar Association provides a Lawyer Referral Service for a fee. More information about that service is available at [www.LehighBar.org](http://www.LehighBar.org) or by calling 610-433-7094. My office has copies of the application for that service and can send one to you.

## How to Request an Absentee Ballot

If you cannot go to your polling place in person on Election Day, you can apply for an absentee ballot through Lehigh County. After receiving the application, an absentee ballot will be mailed to you. You can mark and cast your ballot by returning it to the county election office.

Ballot applications must be in the county voter registration office by October 29 and ballots must be returned by November 1.

Applications can be obtained through my office by calling 610-821-5577 or emailing me (RepSchlossberg@pahouse.com).



# Medicare Open Enrollment



Do you know everything you need to know about your Medicare coverage? Medicare open enrollment begins on October 15 and ends December 7. My office hosts a specially trained volunteer Apprise counselor to help you understand your benefits. When open enrollment begins, this person will be available for appointments on Tuesdays from October 15 through November 26. 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 spots available and they go fast.



## PA Youth of the Year

In June, I had the honor of welcoming Jeremiah Lyons and his family to the chamber of the House of Representatives. Jeremiah was named the 2018 Boys & Girls Club Northeastern United States Regional Youth of the Year after having won the same award for Pennsylvania and Allentown. Jeremiah lives in Allentown and is a member of the 6th Street Boys and Girls Clubhouse. As an honor roll student, athlete and advocate for healthy living, he is the type of role model we want for all our children. His career goal is to be a psychiatrist.

## Fighting for First Responders

### Mental Health Caucus Event: Focus on First Responders

In June, I hosted a Mental Health Caucus meeting with professional firefighters who shared their experiences in managing mental health after responding to emergencies and crisis in our community. Some of the stories first responders have shared with me are mind-numbing and heart-wrenching. You cannot un-see or un-hear what they have experienced. Yet, the heroes in our community respond without reservation.

An op-ed by an Allentown firefighter helps to capture the challenge: "When you stand among the bleeding, the sick, the dying and the person who just suffered an irreplaceable loss, like we did recently at the explosion on Turner Street in Allentown, eventually a part of them becomes you."

My legislation to strengthen support for first responders in our community is an important step to safeguard the health and welfare of the people who give so much of themselves when there is a crisis in our community. They need resources to educate, evaluate, treat and heal when the burden of being a hero becomes too much. It is certainly our obligation to make sure we are doing everything we can for them.

### Allentown Gets New Fire Trucks

A couple of years ago, firefighters and municipal officials came to me with a concern about the age of Allentown's fire trucks. Equipment was dated, overused and could not be repaired any longer. The city had reached a crisis mode and needed help.

As part of last year's state budget, I was able to secure funding to help Allentown purchase three new fire trucks. The trucks have been in service for a couple of months now and in June, the city held its official "push in" ceremony to celebrate the delivery of this new equipment.



# Around the 132nd District



The Volunteers of America Children's Center provides pre-kindergarten opportunities and before/after school enrichment for children in Allentown. It is fun to visit with the kids, but I admit I always want to stay and play a little bit longer.



Every year, students at Harrison Morton host a career fair to learn about opportunities for their future. They invite members of the community: lawyers, doctors, construction workers, nurses and more to share what they did to find the career they chose. I participated in this year's fair and really enjoyed the enthusiasm the students brought to the day. We'll be in good hands someday.



"I would not, should not in a school. But pass up Green Eggs and Ham: I'm no fool." Thank you to Jackson Early Learning Center for having me on Dr. Seuss Day.



This spring I hosted my town hall events. Thank you to the people who came out with questions and prepared for meaningful conversations about the future of our communities.



Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley hosted a Family Event recently at the Allentown Arts Park. The whole Schlossberg clan went for food, fun, music, activities, dance performances and treats. Thank you to the many hands who made this day possible. You provided great experiences and information to people in our community.



The future of health care depends on fulfilling Pennsylvania's nursing needs. A recent Cedar Crest College Nursing School visit provided me with a tour of their instruction units and gave me an overview of how they are helping to meet those needs.



Each year, Allentown firefighters take the time to recognize 5th graders in the Allentown School District who excel in academics and leadership by providing a ride to school as a reward. Here, Victor, Ellena, Aaliyah and Jefferson received rides to Mosser and Union Terrace for their achievements through the year.



Kiska, the Dieruff Huskey mascot, allowed me to pose for a picture while giving me lots of love and affection.



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## Folk and Grim Retirements

Our community has some incredible people who devote themselves to a life of public service. Recently, two of our finest neighbors — Scott Grim (Coroner) and John Folk (Deputy Controller) — retired from long-time careers in service to Lehigh County. They were respected in Lehigh County and throughout the state for the professionalism and expertise they brought to their positions.

John and Scott, like so many people in our community, exemplify what it means to be public servants, and it is a true pleasure to congratulate them on work on behalf of the citizens of Lehigh County.

Have you searched your name?

**\$1.7M returned to the 132nd district through my office**

**1 in 10 Pennsylvanians have money waiting to be claimed**

**[PaTreasury.gov/UnclaimedProperty](http://PaTreasury.gov/UnclaimedProperty)**