

State Representative

MIKE SCHLOSSBERG

FIGHTING FOR YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY



Jobs that Pay

**Health Care/
Mental Health**



**World-Class
Education**

**Safe
Environment**



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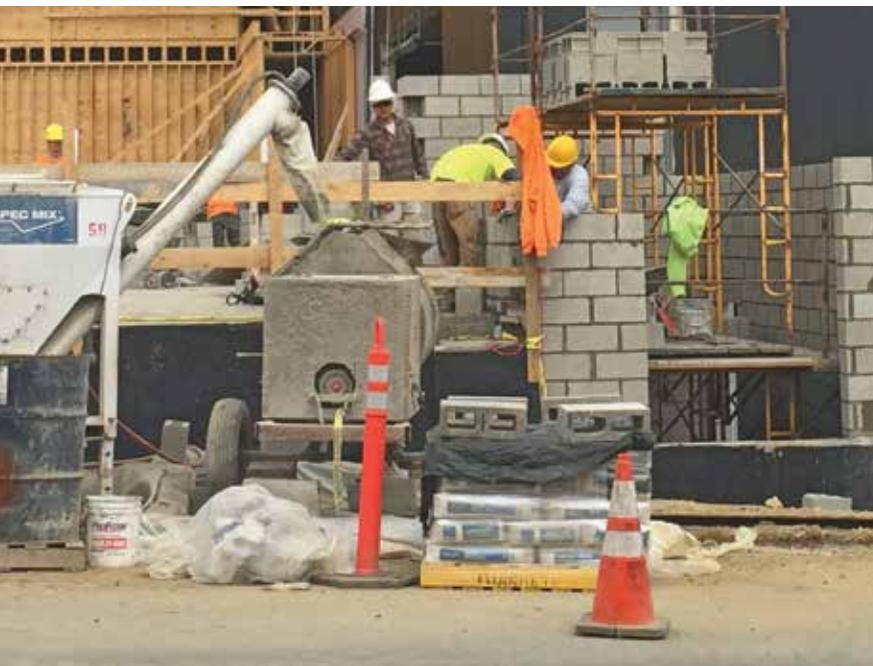
Workers Deserve Jobs that Pay

A job that pays good wages is a fundamental part of the American Dream and the best way to protect your rights! Jobs that pay good wages do not happen by accident. Workers need legislators who are going to fight for protections, higher wages and pathways to a family-sustaining wage.

Recently, CareerLink opened a location at St. Luke's Sacred Heart Campus (325 N. 5th St., Allentown), bringing job assistance closer to people who use services at St. Luke's Sacred Heart Campus or who live in the immediate neighborhood. This is especially important for people who are looking for training or job placement in the health care industry.

In November, I worked with Representative Peter Schwyer to host a job fair with local building trades organizations. These organizations offer paid apprenticeships complete with training and benefits. They also offer a pathway to a family-sustaining job after the apprenticeship is complete, allowing workers to earn good money, enjoy the security of good health care and plan for a comfortable retirement.

While these events are important, there is no legislation more important to putting more money in the pockets of Pennsylvania workers than an increase in the minimum wage. I am on record for supporting an increase in the minimum wage to \$15/hr. by 2025. This would increase pay for more than 2 million Pennsylvanians, cut demand for public assistance and boost income by \$9.1 billion for Pennsylvania's economy.



Fighting for Streets Free from Gun Violence

This past year included some tough moments in our communities. Too often, we woke up to news of gun violence injuring somebody in our neighborhood or taking somebody's life. As a community, we have an obligation to pull together to make our streets safe. This includes:

- Joining the Zero Youth Violence efforts of the Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley by securing funding to support its model called Cure Violence. The program helps to pull people away from gangs and violence and gives them opportunities to be contributing members of our community.
- Working with Representative Schweyer and Senator Browne, we were able to bring important funding to the Lehigh Valley Regional Intelligence and Investigation Center (RIIC). The RIIC has been working for several years to incorporate crime-fighting technology and keep our communities safe. This funding will help the RIIC make upgrades to technology and expand the amount of information available for local law enforcement to use.
- Fighting for better gun safety laws and tools to help law enforcement keep guns out of the hands of people who pose a risk to themselves and others. Please know I will continue to fight for this legislation, even as powerful gun manufacturers and other special interest groups pour millions of dollars into efforts to stop these laws from going into effect.



Mental Health



Pennsylvania has a suicide crisis on its hands. In 2017, we lost 2,030 Pennsylvania residents to suicide—almost 6 people every day. Economic stress and inadequate mental health care services are among the biggest obstacles facing Pennsylvanians who struggle to eke out a living and find help when they need it.

Despite my concerns about mental health, there are some good developments for mental health in Pennsylvania.

I spent a lot of time last year co-chairing the Suicide Prevention Task Force, to which Governor Wolf appointed me, traveling to all corners of the state to revamp Pennsylvania's suicide prevention plan and bolster mental health services.

To start 2020, Governor Wolf announced an aggressive effort to expand resources for mental health services in Pennsylvania.

Governor Wolf then asked me to host a roundtable, held at Muhlenberg College, with local service providers, advocates and consumers.

I joined Congresswoman Susan Wild in Washington, DC to support her legislation for stronger mental health care. Normally, I stay away from politics in Washington, but this issue is too important.

My mental health legislation for our first responders was approved in the House. This legislation would set up peer-support networks and increase access to mental health services for first responders, the heroes who shoulder what most of us can barely fathom. The legislation needs to be approved by the Senate before it can be signed by Governor Wolf.

Working with organizations in our community, I hosted a forum with the House Democratic Policy Committee and Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus to focus on mental health inequities confronting communities of color. We spent a lot of time discussing lack of resources, need for better health insurance coverage and stigma.

Finally, I authored a letter signed by a bipartisan group of the House Mental Health Caucus calling for the restoration of \$90 million cut by Governor Tom Corbett for human services in 2012. These cuts hurt Pennsylvania and need to be restored to provide care in our community. Certainly, we will continue this fight through the 2020-2021 budget.

Senior Fair - Save the Date

Friday, May 15 • 9 a.m. - Noon
East Side Youth Center



2020 Census: Do Your Part

The US Constitution requires a complete population count of people living in the United States every 10 years, with the results helping to direct the spending of \$675 billion in federal funds to communities across the country. This helps to ensure public services for schools, hospitals and public safety, plan for housing and business development, improve neighborhoods and even determine how many seats Pennsylvania has in Congress.

Beginning in mid-March, people will receive a notice in the mail to complete the 2020 Census, including instructions on how to complete it online or by phone. There will also be a phone number you can call to request a paper questionnaire be mailed to you. If you need help responding online, give my office a call to set up an appointment to come and get help from my staff.

A couple of important things: the Census will collect basic information about the people living in your household. It will not request Social Security numbers, bank or credit card account information, money or donations or anything on behalf of a political party. All information collected will be kept confidential.



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2020**

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New Voting Reforms in time for 2020 Election

Voting is a fundamental right. Thanks to changes in Pennsylvania's voting laws, voting is about to become easier in time for the 2020 election. Voters will now have more ways to vote and elections will be more accessible than ever before.

Of course, if you like to go to the polls on Election Day, you will still be able to do that.

For more information about these reforms, visit votesPA.com/Reforms. If you would like the forms to apply for permanent placement on the list for voting by mail—something I plan on doing myself— email me (RepSchlossberg@pahouse.com) or call my office (610-821-5577) and we will send you the information.

Pennsylvania Election Reform

More Ways to Vote



No-excuse mail-in voting

New option to vote by mail without providing an excuse



Permanent mail-in ballot list

Receive applications for mail-in or absentee ballots for all elections

More Accessible Elections



More time to register

Deadline to register to vote is now 15 days before an election



Extended voting period

Request a mail-in or absentee ballot up to 50 days before an election



Extended deadline

Submit mail-in or absentee ballot by 8 p.m. on Election Day

Effective for the Primary Election

April 28, 2020

Around the District



Jewish Family Services, which serves the 18104 ZIP code with a food bank, celebrated the grand re-opening of its newly renovated facilities in Allentown.



It was a pleasure to visit with participants of Allentown's Queen of the Court program hosted by the city's Parks and Recreation office.



Happy 100th Birthday, Polly! If you have a friend or relative living in the 132nd District getting ready to celebrate a milestone birthday (90 or older, every five years), let my office know so we can help celebrate with a House Citation!



There's no denying it: reading to kids is one of the coolest parts of my job. Thank you, Kiddie City and Central Elementary School, for having me.



Thank you to Sandy Barnes for organizing the annual Gross Towers gathering to bring residents together for an afternoon of fun!



South Whitehall Township recently completed the renovations of the Grove Street Park. Yes, I patiently waited my turn to go down the slide!



Community Bike Works hosted its annual Spin-A-Thon this fall. I tried to keep up with the dedicated bike riders, but mostly failed.



I had the opportunity to join students celebrating Veterans Day at Mosser Elementary and Ritter Elementary in Allentown!

Making State Government Work for You

PennDOT Emergency Contact

PennDOT offers you the ability to give law enforcement access to emergency contact information in order to reach someone who can speak for you if you are ever in a situation when 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 onto 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.

Parking Placard Applications Available

Even if you do not have a car or driver's license, you can still have a disability placard to use for when somebody is giving you a ride to the grocery store or the doctor! When sending in the application for your first placard or to renew a placard, my office can help expedite the process. If you lose your placard or need help renewing it, my office can also help. Just call 610-821-5577 and we will determine the best way to get your placard request processed.



REAL ID



Pennsylvania's REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and photo identification are now available. On October 1, 2020, you will need a state issued REAL ID or valid passport to board a domestic flight, enter a federal building or enter a military base. REAL ID is not needed for driving or general identification purposes.

To obtain REAL ID, you will need an original birth certificate, Social Security card, all documents which prove legal name changes (marriage certificate, divorce decrees) and two proofs of residence. You can take those documents to the PA Driver License Center at 1101 MacArthur Road in Whitehall. The REAL ID cost is a onetime \$30 fee, plus the cost of renewing your license or photo ID for an additional four years.

For more information about REAL ID, visit dmv.pa.gov/REALID. My office has resources and can answer your specific questions. To receive a copy of my REAL ID newsletter, mailed in November 2018, give my office a call at 610-821-5577.

Pennsylvania Start-Up Business Costs Deferred for Vets

To help veterans returning from active duty service to our country, the General Assembly approved "Pennsylvania Start-ups for Soldiers" to waive state business start-up fees for individuals coming home to the civilian workforce from the Armed Forces. This effort has helped our service men and women take on a dream they may have for running

their own business, applying the leadership and organizational skills they have learned through their military training.

Since 2018, more than 5,400 veteran and reservist business owners have saved more than \$600,000 in business start-up and licensing fees because of this program. More information about the Start-ups for Soldiers program



can be found at dos.pa.gov. You can apply using paper applications, which my office can provide, or online through PennFile.

State Income Tax Forms

My office has all the 2019 state income tax forms and Property Tax/Rebate booklets available. Simply call 610-821-5577 or stop by the office to pick up the forms you need. Unfortunately, my office does not have any federal tax forms and cannot obtain them for you. They are available online at IRS.gov. If you do not have access to the internet, you can call 1-800-829-3676 to request the forms.





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Keeping Roads Safe

Reporting Potholes



Winter storms and spring thaws mean potholes in Pennsylvania.

Road crews definitely need help knowing where potholes are. If you see a pothole, please report it!

■ State roads: call 1-800-FIX-ROAD (349-7623) or report online at customer.care.pennndot.gov. If you need help getting the information to the PennDOT office in Lehigh County, you can email the address of the property closest to the pothole and street name to RepSchlossberg@pahouse.com and I will pass it along.

■ City of Allentown roads: call the city's Pothole Hotline at 610-437-8775 to give the exact location of the pothole and your name so the city can follow up if it needs more information.

■ South Whitehall Township roads: call 610-398-0401 and ask for Public Works. Be prepared to give the exact location of the pothole along with your name so the township can follow up if it needs more information.

Safer Ride to School for Our Kids

In 2018, Governor Wolf signed legislation I wrote with Sen. Browne to make it easier for police to enforce Pennsylvania's laws requiring drivers to stop at a school bus with its stop sign extended and red lights flashing. Part of that law provides funding to school districts to pay for the installation of cameras on the stop-arm, which will provide law enforcement with time-stamp photos and apprehend reckless motorists. The first district to be awarded funding for this is the Allentown School District. These arms were installed in October 2019 and help to keep kids safe while coming and going to school.



Work Zone Speed Enforcement



In 2018, Pennsylvania saw 1,800 work zone crashes, with 43% of those crashes resulting in fatalities or injuries.

To increase work zone safety, PennDOT and the PA Turnpike recently launched the statewide Automated Work Zone Speed Enforcement program, using vehicle-mounted systems to detect and record motorists exceeding the posted work zone speed limit by 11 mph when workers are present.

Drivers caught speeding will receive a warning letter for the first offense, a violation notice and \$75 fine for a second offense and \$150 for additional offenses. All revenue will be directed toward making work zones safer.