

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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Summer 2021



Reflections on a Changed World

We've been through a lot in 2020 and 2021. COVID-19 presented us with obstacles most of us could never have imagined. In its wake, we have seen harm to our health, economy and safety.

The pandemic also presented us with heroes who rose to the occasion. Extraordinary people showed up to do what would have been considered ordinary in 2019. Neighbors stepped forward to organize food drives, donate blood, make masks and give a helping hand when one was needed.

Many of us struggled. Really, none of us will ever be the same. How could you be? This pandemic has exposed so many shortcomings and injustices. It calls policymakers to be attentive and do better.

For those of you who experienced loss, whether it was lives of loved ones, your personal health or economic well-being, you are in my family's thoughts and prayers. But thoughts and prayers are not enough. I have never been more resolved to fight for jobs that pay, to fix our broken health care system and deliver more resources for our schools. When we live through historic moments, we learn lessons. Our job now is to act on the lessons we have learned to make Pennsylvania stronger.

Level-Up Education Plan Signed by Governor

Pennsylvania ranks 44th in the nation in education funding support. This places a huge burden on property taxes, which affects homeowners and small business owners. It also affects our students, especially those in districts like Allentown where underfunding is most pronounced. That is why I introduced legislation to provide an additional \$100 million to the 100 most financially distressed schools in Pennsylvania. This proposal was adopted, and this will provide the Allentown School District with an additional \$16.9 million in funding over last year. State wide, support for education will increase a record \$300 million compared to the 2020-21 budget. It is a HUGE investment in our schools, and I am thrilled to see this measure approved by the General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Tom Wolf.



COVID-19 Pandemic Ends with Vaccinations: Vaccination Resources

Modern medicine has made it possible to protect yourself from COVID-19. Safe, effective vaccines are available and plentiful in our community. According to the CDC, 99% of all COVID deaths are happening to people who were not vaccinated against the disease.

COVID-19 will not magically go away. It requires us to roll up our sleeves, do our part and get vaccinated. My wife and I have done it. My staff has done it. If you have not, please, consider your health, your family's health, your community's health and our nation's health. It has never been easier to do it.

US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention,
Search for Locations: [Vaccines.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/downloads/#vaccine-locations)

Allentown Health Bureau:
allentownpa.gov/Health-Bureau



Affordable Health Care Available in PA

Thanks to President Biden's leadership and the American Rescue Plan, access to more affordable health insurance is possible in Pennsylvania. The American Rescue Plan includes help to reduce your premiums or perhaps eliminate them completely.

Pennie—Do you buy insurance on your own for you or your family? Are you looking to purchase insurance for you and your family? If so, visit www.Pennie.com to get started. Open enrollment begins in November and runs through January, but special enrollment is available if you have lost health coverage, moved, got married or are having a baby.

Older Pennsylvanians—Medicare is a great source of security, but it does not cover everything. Medicare Advantage Plans and Medicare Supplements provide options to help with services not covered by Medicare. My office hosts a volunteer trained by PA MEDI to help navigate the options available to you. He begins offering help during Medicare open enrollment in late-October through early December. Appointments are required. Call the office to set up your appointment during open enrollment.

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)—High-quality, low-cost health insurance helps to keep kids strong. For more information, visit: www.ChipCoversPaKids.com

PennDOT & Vital Records

My office is here to help in getting the best results possible for processing your PennDOT paperwork. If you have paperwork that needs to be mailed to Harrisburg for processing, please consider bringing it to my office. We can bypass the mailroom and track the documents when they arrive. This includes vehicle registration renewals, driver's license or photo ID renewal and processing for disability placards, as well as Pennsylvania birth and death Certificates. Give my office a call (610-821-5577) so we can help figure out the best way to get your work done.

Mental Health Corner

Mental Health Legislation: Addressing Service Shortage

For years, a huge obstacle to mental health care has been availability of professionals. There are simply not enough people available to serve the mental health needs of this nation. Working with Rep. Jeanne McNeill (D), Rep. Jason Ortity (R), Rep. Rosemary Brown (R), and Rep. Pam Snyder (D), I introduced legislation to establish and administer a program to help educate, train and deploy more mental health professionals into underserved areas throughout Pennsylvania. Mental illness doesn't care how you vote. It doesn't matter your age, race or gender. Nor does mental illness care where you live, work or learn. The truth is mental illness can impact anyone at any time. This legislation shows the bipartisan energy to work toward solutions on an issue that confronts all Americans.

PA Mental Health Guide

Your mental health is important. Just as we strive for better physical wellness, we can take steps to improve our mental health. This means different needs for different people. No matter your challenges, there are options to help you. Pennsylvania has a Mental Health Resource Guide available to help find treatment, provide support in a crisis and identify services. Visit pa.gov/guides/mental-health to find support or better understand what help exists for those who need it.

Disability Placard Assistance 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 to replace a damaged one, my office can also help. Just give a call (610-821-5577) and we will determine the best way to get your placard request processed.



Unused License Plate

It is important to know unused license plates may continue to be your responsibility even after transferring the title. This means you may be responsible for anything that happens with that license plate, including things like parking tickets or tolls.

When selling a car, if you don't plan to reuse the license plate, the safest thing to do is to retain possession of the license plate and return it to PennDOT through my Allentown office. We'll ensure safe delivery to PennDOT at no expense to you. If you have any questions about a plate you still hold, please give my office a call (610-821-5577).

Public Transportation for Seniors

LANTA Bus Passes for Seniors

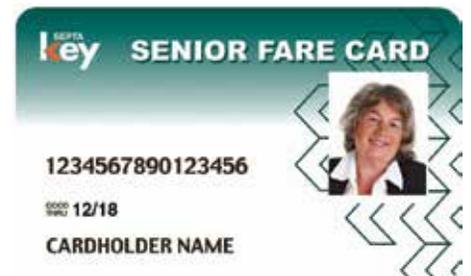
LANTA provides free fares to seniors 65 or older to ride city transit buses (not LANTaVan/Metro Plus vans). To apply for a Senior ID card, give my office a call and we'll mail you an application or download an application at www.lantabus.com/lanta-senior-citizen-id-card.

SEPTA Senior Pass

Do you use the SEPTA regional rail or bus system while traveling in the Philadelphia metro area? If you are 65 or older, you can do so for FREE using the SEPTA Senior Fare Card. This includes all transit routes (bus, trolley, trackless trolley, Broad St/Broad Ridge Spur, Market Frankford Line/Norristown High Speed Line). To apply, call my office to make an appointment. Applications must be done in person so we can take a picture.

SEPTA will process the application and mail a Senior Fare Card to you directly.

Please plan on giving yourself 2-3 weeks before you make your next trip to ensure adequate processing time.



Around the District



The Allentown Fire Academy helps to prepare new recruits to serve our community. Congratulations to the six firefighters who graduated this July! It was an honor to be at this ceremony.



In June, I was able to join the Jewish Community Center to celebrate the opening of its outdoor pool.



In April, the West End Alliance kicked off the city's Community Earth Day Cleanups, bringing together a range of volunteers to pick up trash and spread mulch on trees in the Theatre District. Thank you for organizing and allowing me to join you.



Health and safety are critical functions of government. In March, Rep. Peter Schweyer and I joined Allentown officials in celebrating the purchase of new ambulances made possible by our work in Harrisburg.



On Memorial Day, we honor the lives of service members who died serving in the U.S. military. Each year, organizations across our region host events commemorating the occasion. This year, I was able to attend Midway Manor Veteran's Monument dedication and Memorial Wreath Laying.



COVID-19 changed a lot of our activities, but we managed to find ways to do some of our favorites. This year, I joined students at Jackson Early Childhood Center to read, "Pigeon Has to Go to School."



On June 19, 1865, two and a half years after President Lincoln signed The Emancipation Proclamation, U.S. troops took control of Galveston, Texas to ensure all enslaved people were freed. This is known as Juneteenth to commemorate the occasion. It was an honor to join in the Juneteenth flag raising, a symbol of freedom and justice, at Allentown City Hall this year.



In March, with COVID-19 vaccination efforts starting to show progress in Pennsylvania, traditional St. Patrick's Day activities were still limited. The flag of Ireland was raised at Allentown City Hall and the St. Patrick's Parade Committee hosted a house decorating contest on the traditional parade route. Hopefully next year offers all the opportunity to gather and celebrate.

Voting Information and Rights

Vote by Mail

Request your ballot online at VotesPA.com or call my office NOW (610-821-5577) to request a vote-by-mail application. Per Lehigh County Voter Registration, ballots will be mailed in early October. Follow the instructions for completing the ballot, placing the completed ballot in the correct envelope, signing it and returning. If you are mailing the ballot back to the voter registration office, give yourself 2-3 weeks to make sure it gets there. If you cannot get the ballot back to the voter registration office with a few weeks to spare, you can drop it at the 24/7 drop box at 17 S. 7th St. in Allentown. Ballots must be returned by mail or the person casting the vote. You cannot ask somebody else to deliver it for you.



Vote in Person: Precincts for the General Election

COVID-19 moved many polling locations for the 2020 elections and 2021 primary election. It's hard to say if every location will continue or if there will be changes again. Most places in the 2021 primary were the same location as the 2020 General Election. With more locations reopening their doors to service, and with schools planning to reopen in the fall, it's possible locations might change again. If you are not sure where to vote, visit www.VotesPA.com or call my office (610-821-5577) so we can help determine where you will vote.

Real ID Deadline Extended



Earlier this year, the Biden Administration announced REAL ID enforcement would be delayed until May 3, 2023. REAL ID will be required at that time to board domestic commercial flights, enter military bases or enter federal facilities that require ID at the door. It is not required to drive, vote, access hospitals, visit the post office, access federal courts or receive Social Security or veterans' benefits. Valid US Passports are considered REAL ID. For more information about obtaining REAL ID in Pennsylvania, visit dmv.pa.gov/REALID. If you are looking to obtain REAL ID in person, visit the PennDOT Driver License Center at 1101 MacArthur Road in Whitehall, which is open Tuesday through Saturday, 8:30 AM until 4:15 PM. My office has a REAL ID Guide available for more information. Give us a call (610-821-5577) and we can get one to you.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program Deadline Extended

The deadline for Pennsylvania's 2020 Property Tax/Rent Rebate was extended to December 31, 2021 and my office is ready to help you file.

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.

We've learned that we can help most people with the rebate forms over the phone. Call my Allentown office (610-821-5577) to get started, set up an appointment or request the forms to file on your own.

Open to:

- Eligible Seniors 65+
- Widows & Widowers 50+
- People w/ permanent disabilities 18+

Income Limits:

- \$15,000 for renters
- \$35,000 for homeowners

****ONLY COUNT 1/2 OF TOTAL SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME**



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lpo.ad.0721

Constituent Services Office Open to Serve You

2030 W. Tilghman St., Suite 100, | Allentown, PA 18104 | 610-821-5577

During the pandemic, my office never stopped operating. Even working from home, my staff and I helped people with a variety of state government-related issues. We have since returned to normal office operations and we are happy to see many familiar friendly faces that we missed for so long. If you need help with any state government-related matter, please, give a call (610-821-5577) to see how we can help. We might be able to save you a trip to the office if you call in advance because we learned that most services my office provides can be provided over the phone. But, if you need to come in for those services, we look forward to seeing you in person during normal office hours (Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM).

My office can help you with:

- Renewals of car registration, driver's license, and photo IDs including instantly online
- Applying for reduced car registration fee for retirees
- Applying for veterans license plates
- Applications for various PennDOT needs
- Applying for PA birth and death certificates
- Tours of the State Capitol for individuals or groups
- Applying for the Property Tax or Rent Rebate Program
- Checking the PA Treasury database to see if the state is holding any money owed to you
- Applying for disabled persons' plates and parking placards
- Registering for the PA "Do Not Call" list
- Filing a consumer complaint with the PA Attorney General
- Requests for literature of all kinds, including information regarding:
 - fishing and boating
 - consumers
 - senior citizens
 - health/safety
 - transportation maps
 - issues concerning children
- Providing state income tax forms
- Copies of legislation