

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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Winter 2022

Thank You For Doing Your Part

As we turn the calendar to 2022, I think we need to take a moment to express our collective appreciation for how so many people have stepped forward in the past two years to help other people. Neighbors, friends, first responders, health care professionals, teachers ... it's a long list.

There is going to come a day when we look back on what we've experienced and marvel at how many generous and wonderful acts took place. Yes, we'll see sad stories: preventable deaths, lost economic means, exhausted workers doing more than they should. We'll need to learn from those sad stories because now we see firsthand how important our schools are, how important public health is, how vulnerable small businesses are and how critical it is to have a strong safety net or programs like unemployment will become overwhelmed. Still, we'll be able to see how our hometown heroes came through and we should be grateful for the many people who did their part.

If you have not done so yet, please, talk to your doctor about the COVID vaccination and booster shot. Clearly, we need to anticipate vaccination against COVID to be a significant part of our lives going forward.



COVID VACCINATION LOCATIONS:

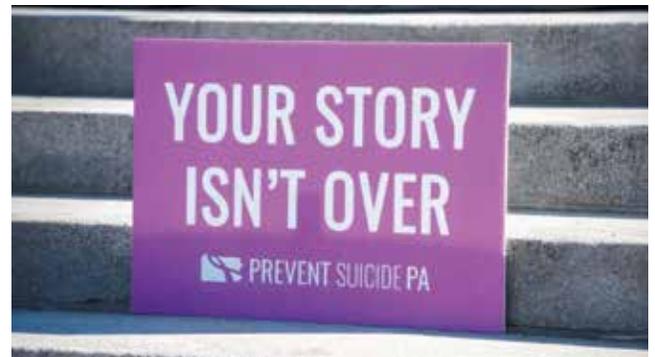
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Search for Locations: [Vaccines.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/downloads/#vaccine-locations)
- Allentown Health Bureau: [allentownpa.gov/Health-Bureau](https://www.allentownpa.gov/Health-Bureau)

MENTAL HEALTH CORNER

House OKs Bipartisan Mental Health Legislation

In November, the state House of Representatives passed legislation I wrote with Speaker of the House Bryan Cutler (R), Representative Frank Farry (R) and Representative Tina Pickett (R) to improve mental health services in Pennsylvania. This legislation would make access to care easier, better connect mental health and physical health care plans and ensure better safeguards against prescription drug abuse. The legislation must be approved by the state Senate before it can be signed into law by Governor Tom Wolf.

There are many obstacles to ensuring access to mental health care in Pennsylvania, and I continue to work in a bipartisan way on legislation to break down those barriers.



Social Service Help Available

Whether we or somebody we know needs help, it is important to know the resources available in our community. The Lehigh County Information & Referral Unit is the entry point for all human services in Lehigh County. When you call, professional caseworkers will listen to you and answer your questions, ask questions about you or your family member's needs, tell

you about options for getting help, provide information about services in the community through county government and make formal referrals to the county's specialized offices. Call 610-782-3200 (TTY: 610-871-1988), Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.



Suicide Prevention Month

Death by suicide continues to plague our communities. Even before the pandemic, death by suicide had risen to record highs as economic pressure, untreated mental health issues and substance abuse left many people vulnerable to despair and struggling to find hope. Each September, gatherings across the country seek to raise awareness about resources, break down stigma associated with mental illness and help people find hope. Last year, I participated in a Suicide Prevention Awareness event in the Capitol, as well as the Lehigh Valley Out of Darkness Walk hosted by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Both events were gut wrenching reminders about the lives affected by suicide and the very real need to improve our mental health care system.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

- Experiencing a Mental Health Crisis?
Call Crisis Intervention: 610-782-3127 or 911
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-Talk (8255)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness-Lehigh Valley:
www.nami-lv.org

OUR SUCCESS IN THE 132ND DISTRICT

As your state representative, it is my job to fight for the 132nd Legislative District. We have had a lot of success in the past year. Here is a snapshot:

Better Schools For Our Kids

When the General Assembly passed and Governor Wolf signed the state budget, my Level Up proposal went into effect, supplying \$100 million to the 100 neediest schools across Pennsylvania. That meant an additional \$6.4 million for the Allentown School District to help ensure our kids receive the same opportunities to learn as students in the wealthiest districts. Since I took office, we have bolstered Pennsylvania's commitment to the Allentown School District by \$70 million, a 70% increase.



DaVinci Science Center

Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) education is critical to the future of our nation and a strong economy. DaVinci Science Center is expanding its facility, currently housed at Cedar Crest College, to help students in our region have access to STEM opportunities. The new facility will be built along Hamilton Street and 8th Street in Allentown. Working with Representative Peter Schweyer and Senator Pat Browne, we were able to help secure \$8 million in state funding to help advance this project.



Affordable Housing

Governor Wolf announced significant investments in needed, affordable housing in Allentown. This includes more than \$1.2 million for 49 affordable apartments for seniors 55+ as part of a partnership between Alliance for Building Communities and the Eastern PA Down Syndrome Center. Additionally, the Allentown Housing Authority received an additional \$1 million from the commonwealth to help with the redevelopment of the Little Lehigh Manor housing complex. This is on top of the \$2.75 million commitment made by Pennsylvania in 2019.



Coca-Cola Park

For more than a decade, the Lehigh Valley has been home to minor league baseball and with \$2 million from the Commonwealth to help Lehigh County upgrade Coca-Cola Park, it will be home for many years to come. It was a pleasure to work with Senator Browne and Representative Schweyer to make this possible.

Allentown Traffic Safety Improvements

In November, we helped secure \$2.4 million for needed traffic safety improvements on Hanover Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Support For ARC

Working with Representative Schweyer, we were able to secure \$50,000 to support the work of The Arc of Lehigh & Northampton Counties to allow the organization to provide education and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Important Trail For Allentown And Lehigh Valley

Thanks to U.S. Senator Bob Casey and Congresswoman Susan Wild, the hard work of local leaders will pay off in the form of \$21 million in federal funds to support the expansion of the Delaware & Lehigh Trail through Allentown, along the Lehigh River, and into Whitehall Township.

The project will take a few years to build, but when it is done, it will connect Allentown residents to job opportunities, improve emergency services and offer connection to the Lehigh River after a century of being blocked.



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Better Schools For Our Kids

The Parkland School District offers world-class education for our students. The community should take a great deal of pride in the opportunities students have in our community schools. Since I took office, we have bolstered Pennsylvania's commitment to the Parkland School District by 46%. In the most recent budget signed by Governor Wolf, we managed to increase that funding by 12% in basic education funding and 4.6% in special education funding.



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AROUND THE 132ND DISTRICT

Celebrating Meals on Wheels' New Home in Allentown



In September, Meals on Wheels completed its relocation to the East Side of Allentown where it now has a much-improved kitchen and space for meal preparation. It was a pleasure to join the outdoor ribbon-cutting and celebration.



Wild Tours Of 132nd

In September, I had the pleasure of giving Congresswoman Wild a tour of organizations serving the people we both represent. This includes the Boys & Girls Club, Clubhouse of Lehigh County and the new Meals on Wheels facility. We also had an opportunity to enjoy lunch with leaders of the Midway Manor Community Association to learn about issues affecting their neighborhood.

LBG Machine Shop Manufacturing Tour

Allentown is home to a surprising number of manufacturers who provide incredible products and very good paying jobs. In October, I hosted a Pennsylvania House Manufacturing Caucus tour of some of these businesses, including LBG Machine Shop. We learned about the company's work and the skills employees need to have.



Midway Manor Kick Ball With Allentown Police

Thank you Midway Manor Community Association for inviting me to join in a game of kickball with our local police.



Most commonly needed items: shampoo/ conditioner, soap/body wash, feminine hygiene products, deodorant and toothpaste/ brushes. Travel or full size are fine.

Toiletry Donations

The residents of the 132nd District have a long history of supporting homeless students in the Allentown School District by donating toiletries. A couple of years ago, "Rooster," the homeless student liaison for the district, retired, but the district is still supporting those efforts.

My office continues to collect those toiletries. If you have unused/unopened toiletries you would like to contribute, you can drop them off at my Allentown office.

Thank you to everybody who has contributed over the years. Your kindness and generosity mean a great deal to our students.



Recent Townhalls

As a precaution, townhalls during the pandemic were a challenge. But with vaccines and some planning, my staff and I were able to visit Episcopal House and B'nai B'rith during the fall of 2021. It is always a pleasure to discuss state-related issues with folks who care about their community.



Sheridan Visit

It was a pleasure to visit students at Sheridan Elementary School. We had a good time reading and talking about my work as a state representative.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Protect Against Identity Theft

Each year more than 10 million Americans have their personal information stolen. Thieves use this information to open phone credit cards, bank or utility accounts and occasionally use the identity to secure government benefits such as health care or unemployment. Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro offers a variety of tips to help safeguard your identity and to provide guidance if you become a victim. Visit www.attorneygeneral.gov/protect-yourself/identity-theft to find online resources. My office also has several publications we would be happy to share with you. Give us a call (610-821-5577) to request a copy of a resources guide.

Redistricting The General Assembly

Every 10 years, after the U.S. Census has completed its work, the Pennsylvania Constitution requires the Legislative Reapportionment Commission (LRC) to revise the districts for the Pennsylvania House and Senate. Those maps do not come to the General Assembly or the governor for approval. They take effect for the subsequent election, in this case 2022.

With population gains in Lehigh County, we should expect district lines to move significantly. How that happens is hard to say right now. The LRC released preliminary maps in December. The preliminary maps are likely not the final maps, as the LRC will make final adjustments and then the

Help With PennDOT

My office routinely helps people with a variety of PennDOT matters, including:

- Retired person reduced registration: initial application and renewal
- Vehicle registration renewal
- Driver's license renewal
- REAL ID inquiries
- Disability parking placard
- Surrendering an unused license plate
- Free photo ID replacement for voluntarily surrendering driver's license



Pennsylvania Supreme Court will likely hear legal challenges to those maps. As the final boundaries are set, I will send another newsletter to let you know the district number in which you'll be living and whether that is the district I currently represent.

I am committed to ensuring the current residents of the 132nd District have access to constituent services until the new legislative session begins in December.

You can follow details of the redistricting plan at www.redistricting.state.pa.us. Certainly, if you have any questions, give my office a call or email me at RepSchlossberg@pahouse.net.

Critical Issue: Child Care

Access to high-quality early childhood education is important for the future of our children. It is also important for our economy.

Before turning one, children develop critical language functions. Before they turn six, kids develop critical cognitive and emotional functions to thrive in life.

By focusing on the early years of development, we stand to benefit as each child is better equipped for our complex world. Our funding priorities do not reflect that understanding. We underfund early childhood education and working families bear the brunt of it. Per year, a family can expect to spend more than \$10,000 on childcare for a 4-year-old; \$12,000 for an infant. That's more than the cost for in-state tuition at a state university. More frustratingly,

child care providers are often barely able to pay the bills, yet alone provide living wages for staff.

Adding to the challenge, when parents cannot find child care, they cannot work. Nobody wins when that is our reality.

I am a strong believer that we need to invest much more in early childhood education. It is why I stood with Governor Wolf to support using American Rescue Plan funds to pay for child care and why I joined Congresswoman Wild's call to make early childhood education a top priority in Washington. Additionally, I strongly back efforts to increase funding for Pennsylvania's STAR child care facilities and Pre-K Counts. Our youngest learners depend on it. Their parents depend on it. Our future depends on it.





Rep. Mike Schlossberg

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lpo.km.0122

Pennsylvania Unclaimed Property Database

One in 10 Pennsylvania residents has money being held by the PA Treasury. It could be something like 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 \$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.

**SEARCH
YOUR NAME**



Homeowner And Buyer Help From PA Housing Finance Agency

Available products include programs for home modifications for people with disabilities, financing to make home improvements, homebuying assistance, refinancing, energy efficiency loans and home purchasing assistance. PHFA can also provide counseling for homebuying, foreclosure mitigation and assistance to avoid foreclosure. Visit www.phfa.org/homeowners for more information.