



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**PAUL FRIEL**  
 26TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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**WINTER 2026**

**Greetings from the 26th Legislative District in Chester County!**

**Dear Neighbor,**

Hello and thank you for reading my latest update. I'm state Representative Paul Friel, and it is my distinct honor to serve you in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Over the last year, I've introduced legislation and worked with my colleagues to move forward bills that preserve and protect our farms and natural resources, reform and fund education, bolster small businesses, provide tax relief to families, and safeguard our constitutional values and rights.

Here is a more detailed snapshot:

- **Farms and Natural Resources:** I'm advancing bipartisan legislation (H.B. 586 and H.B. 587) to protect our farms and neighborhoods from becoming food processing residue dumping grounds. I also introduced, and the House passed, updates to the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit (H.B. 242), which aims to support new farmers.
- **Education:** The House passed my bipartisan school transportation bill (H.B. 1326) to provide updates and transparency to school busing practices and costs in Pennsylvania. In addition, we have continued to make progress on full and fair funding for our public schools, as well as critical reforms to cyber charter schools.
- **Business Competitiveness:** The House also advanced my tradable net operating loss plan (H.B. 1129). This legislation will support tech and biotech start-ups and incentivize them to put down roots in Pennsylvania, providing good-paying jobs and spurring on innovation.



In the second half of the 2025-26 legislative session, I will continue to advance these initiatives and do all I can to get them to the governor's desk.

In addition, I'm working with my colleagues on several initiatives related to:

- Health Care
- Housing
- Economic Opportunity

These areas are essential quality-of-life issues for each person in our commonwealth. Whether we are talking about hospital closures, the inability of families to afford a starter home, or challenges with opening a business, I am particularly interested in identifying and addressing the systemic problems that are plaguing us. Often this means identifying where government regulations have become a barrier rather than a benefit. Other times it might mean identifying where private equity or insurance companies are putting short-term profits over community.

Addressing these issues is a long-term, collaborative project. Luckily, I'm finding allies to work with. No doubt there will be more to come on this.

Finally, as we move into Pennsylvania's budget season, we must grapple with federal cuts to health care and other key services to our communities. As I noted last year, there is no way for the state to fill these gaps. However, we must look to address infrastructure, and generally use our dollars as effectively as possible to serve Pennsylvania families.

I will continue working diligently to ensure we do just that.



- **Pennsylvania Workers and Families:** We passed the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit, helping to ensure that our families can navigate recent federal cuts and other challenging economic conditions in our country.
- **Civil Rights:** I sponsored legislation to protect Pennsylvanians from illegal search and seizure (H.B. 1968), demand transparency from federal agents (H.B. 1880), and ensure we hold accountable anyone who violates the civil liberties of Pennsylvanians (H.B. 2171).

*Paul Friel*

Paul Friel  
 State Representative





## Net Operating Loss Reform Bill passes House

**My bipartisan Net Operating Loss reform passed to the Senate 198-1 in January.**

This change would make Pennsylvania a more attractive home for start-up tech and bio-tech companies. It would allow qualified start-ups to sell net operating losses to other businesses – a strategy modeled on a successful New Jersey law. By turning losses into usable cash, this approach helps Pennsylvania companies grow and become job creators.

House Bill 1129 would transform today’s hard-fought challenges into tomorrow’s growth, helping ensure that the next generation of jobs, investment and innovation remains right here in the commonwealth.

## Do you qualify for a Property Tax/Rent Rebate?

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program in Pennsylvania offers financial relief to eligible homeowners and renters, including seniors, widows, widowers and people with disabilities. It provides rebates based on income and property taxes or rent paid.

### Age:

- Pennsylvanians 65 or older
- Widows and widowers 50 or older
- Residents with disabilities 18 or older

### Income limit:

- \$48,110 for homeowners and renters
- Only half of Social Security income is counted for eligibility purposes

### To apply, you will need:

- Your ID or a document showing proof of age and/or permanent disability
- Proof of all 2025 income
- Stamped proof of 2025 property taxes paid (homeowners) or completed PA Rent Certificate (renters)
- Direct deposit information, if desired

**Contact my office at (610) 427-8782 for assistance with your application!**

## Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit is new this year

*I'm proud to have voted to pass the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit.*

*Close to 1 million Pennsylvanians will qualify for the new tax credit this year. The credit was signed into law along with the state budget late last year.*

Dependents	Income Limit (Single/Head of Household)	Income Limit (Joint)	Maximum Tax Cut Back in <b>YOUR</b> Pocket
<b>Zero</b>	\$19,104	\$26,214	<b>\$65</b>
<b>One</b>	\$50,434	\$57,554	<b>\$433</b>
<b>Two</b>	\$57,310	\$64,430	<b>\$715</b>
<b>Three or More</b>	\$61,555	\$68,675	<b>\$805</b>

\* Returns filed jointly are counted as two individuals. Does not reflect qualifying children or dependents.

Anyone who qualifies for the federal EITC will now automatically qualify for the state credit, helping reduce taxes owed. When you file your federal and state taxes, the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue will automatically calculate the state credit.

## Protecting our community from data centers

Another important issue we’re facing right now is the regulation of data centers being used to fuel the AI technology boom. This is a topic of great local importance, as we have had no fewer than three projects proposed in the district.

As AI data centers multiply, local and state governments are being forced to make policy choices. I’m currently working to ensure we provide tools for local municipalities that need help developing data center ordinances, and I am a co-sponsor on other legislation (H.B. 1834) to specifically hold data centers accountable and provide protections to consumers and communities.

## PA launches tool to help SNAP recipients meet new work requirements

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services has introduced a new feature on PA Navigate to help SNAP recipients find volunteer opportunities in their communities and comply with federal work and reporting requirements.

Under new federal rules, certain SNAP participants must work, volunteer or engage in education/training for at least 20 hours per week to maintain benefits. PA Navigate now allows recipients to search for local volunteer roles, connect with organizations and track hours to stay eligible.

SNAP recipients can visit [pa-navigate.org](https://pa-navigate.org) to find volunteer opportunities and learn how to report their hours.

## PA 529: An easy gift for education

Pennsylvania has a convenient new way to help families save for education. Through a partnership with Gift of College, friends and relatives can now purchase digital gift cards that recipients can deposit directly into their PA 529 College and Career Savings Program accounts – no need to know whether an account already exists.

Gift cards are available at [pa529.com/gift](https://pa529.com/gift).

Anyone – parents, grandparents, and family friends – can contribute to a PA 529. Savings may be used for K-12 expenses, higher education, career credentials, and apprenticeship programs.

# Around the District & Harrisburg



We heard from stakeholders at our Housing Policy Hearing at Hankin Manor in Phoenixville – including representatives from Habitat for Humanity, Allies for Affordable Housing, the Hankin Group and multiple industry associations.



Health care access is a major concern locally, as well as throughout the state. I spoke at the press conference after Tower Health announced major program closures and layoffs about the need to ensure that healthcare decisions are based on community outcomes rather than short-term profit opportunities for private equity.



We had a great turnout at our Elverson Area Town Hall in January. Thank you to all who attended and to Hopewell Manor for allowing us to use your space!



Having some fun at the Pennsylvania Farm Show!

## Coventry Area Town Hall

March 31

6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Norco Fire Hall  
144 W Schuylkill Rd,  
Pottstown, PA 19465



Join me and your neighbors from the Coventry area to share your ideas, ask questions and keep informed about issues affecting our community and state government.



I joined many of our neighbors by getting my flu shot at our Senior Fair!

## DONATIONS FOR COVENTRY FOOD PANTRY



**MOST NEEDED ITEMS:**

- OATMEAL
- CEREAL
- PASTA
- RICE
- JELLY
- PEANUT BUTTER
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA
- PASTA SAUCE
- CANNED MEATS
- TOILETRIES
- CLEANING SUPPLIES
- DIAPERS AND WIPES

**DROP OFF LOCATION:**  
68 GLOCKER WAY, POTTSTOWN  
9:00AM - 4:30PM M-F

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT US! (610) 427-8782 REPFRIEL@PAHOUSE.NET



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## Do you need a notary?

My office provides notary services for many official documents. Please call ahead to ask if we can notarize your document and to set up an appointment.  
**(610) 427-8782**

lpo.kw.0226

# Upcoming Events

## Veterans Breakfast

FRIDAY  
**MARCH 20TH**

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
 Doors open at **8:30 am**,  
 breakfast begins at **9:00 am**

### NEW LOCATION:

 **Chester County Technical College  
 High School- Pickering Campus**  
 1580 Charlestown Road, Phoenixville

### **RSVP IS REQUIRED**

Please call my office at **(610) 427-8782**  
 or visit my website, [repfriel.com](http://repfriel.com) to  
 reserve your spot today!



## PAUL FRIEL

Join Rep. Friel & the North Coventry Police for a



# SHREDDING & E-WASTE EVENT AND FOOD DRIVE

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6**  
 11 AM - 2 PM OR UNTIL TRUCKS ARE FILLED



Bring up to 3 boxes or bags of personal documents for secure shredding



E-waste : bring personal items for secure disposal

Small TVs, monitors, computers and laptops, cellphones, DVD players, printers, wires/ chargers. etc.



Chester County Food Bank will be on site to collect much needed food donations!

- Breakfast Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Pasta
- Brown Rice
- Hearty Soups
- Beans
- Canned Tuna, Salmon & Chicken
- Healthy Snacks



**COVENTRY MALL  
 PARKING LOT**

