

State Representative
JOHANNY CEPEDA-FREYITZ
129th Legislative District

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Dear Neighbor,

As we welcome a new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the work my colleagues and I accomplished in 2025 to support all Pennsylvanians and ensure our community's voice is heard. This year marked the first half of my second term, and I'm truly honored to continue serving as your state representative in Harrisburg.

At the beginning of this term, I was appointed by my colleagues to lead the Pennsylvania Legislative Latino Caucus to ensure that the voice of Latino communities right here in our community and across Pennsylvania are heard in Harrisburg. I have also been assigned to committees where I can provide my unique experience to advocate for Berks County, including:

- **Agriculture and Rural Affairs**
- **Commerce**
- **Finance**
- **Gaming Oversight**
- **Intergovernmental Affairs & Operations**
- **Tourism, Recreation & Economic Development**

Despite facing significant setbacks in the Capitol, we continued to fight for all Pennsylvanians. The House passed over 300 bills to invest in our public schools, help seniors stay in their homes, protect our neighbors from discrimination, and more—all while cutting taxes for working-class families.

Among these bills were several that I personally introduced, aimed at supporting the growth of Pennsylvania's farming industry, protecting seniors and people with disabilities, and providing funding for tourism centers across the state.

I am also proud of what we were able to bring back to our community this year. I helped secure over nearly \$4 million in grant funding to support local law enforcement, address long-needed infrastructure repairs, create safe and enjoyable spaces for our children to play, and more. Additionally, my office hosted several community events to help seniors avoid common scams and ensure students have the school supplies they need to succeed.

In this newsletter, you'll learn more about the ways I've worked to deliver the support our community deserves. It is always an honor to serve you—whether here in Berks County or in Harrisburg. If you ever need assistance with state programs or offices, please don't hesitate to contact my office; my dedicated staff is always ready to help.

Best Regards,

Please scan the QR code to read the full Spanish-language version of this newsletter.
Escanee el código QR para leer la versión completa en español de este boletín.



YEAR IN REVIEW

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

REPRESENTATIVE
Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz



Legislative
Year in Review



I am incredibly proud of all we accomplished in 2025—securing \$3.9 million in state grants, providing 26,627 constituent services, completing 450 Property Tax and Rent Rebates, and seeing my first bill signed into law. In addition, I introduced 30 other bills and co-sponsored 594 more, all aimed at serving and strengthening our community.

Recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month

As Chair of the Pennsylvania Legislative Latino Caucus, I am proud to have introduced HR 300, which officially designated September 15—October 15, 2025, as Hispanic Heritage Month. The resolution was adopted by the House with overwhelming bipartisan support.

With more than 1 million Hispanic and Latino residents in Pennsylvania, Hispanic Heritage Month provides an opportunity to celebrate the rich culture, contributions, and economic impact of Hispanic communities across our state.

In my role as Caucus Chair, I have proudly stood up for the Latino community and all immigrant communities across Pennsylvania. I have organized meetings with state leaders, including Attorney General Dave Sunday, to ensure that the voices of these communities are heard at the highest levels of government.



I met with state Attorney General Dave Sunday in April to discuss how to fight for and support Pennsylvania's Latino community.

My First Bill Signed into Law!

Act 1 of 2025, which I introduced as HB 324, was signed into law in February 2025 with overwhelming bipartisan support. This legislation updated the Poultry Technician Licensure Law, allowing legal residents to become Certified Poultry Technicians after completing a training course through the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

This change will help more legally authorized farm workers obtain the credentials needed to become Certified Poultry Technicians—a critical update that supports efforts to prevent the spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and protect Pennsylvania's agricultural industry.



Updates on My Other Bills

Along with Act 1, several other bills I introduced have moved through the legislative process. These bills have moved through the House to the Senate for consideration:

- HB 1072: Allow seniors, widows and widowers, and individuals with disabilities to receive Property Tax/Rent Rebates before July 1.
- HB 1347: Formalizing tourism investment districts to allow stable funding to areas across the state that thrive off tourism.

In addition to these bills, I have also introduced bills to develop natural gas safety regulations after the tragic R.M. Palmer factory explosion, improve safety in our schools, allow penalty freezes on past-due taxes for small businesses, reforms to our prison system, requiring watermarks on AI-generated content, and more.



IN OUR DISTRICT

Nearly \$4 Million in Grant Funding Secured!

One of my top priorities as your state representative is to bring funding for crucial projects back to our community. During 2025, I worked to secure over \$3.9 million in grant funding for several organizations in our district! Some of the highlights include:

- **\$622,649** to expand and enhance Reading Hospital's Violence Recovery Program.
- **\$600,000** to the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts in Reading to support their art park project.
- **\$507,704** to fund the purchase of a street sweeper and two police vehicles in Spring Township.
- **\$353,510** to fund the hiring of 30 local police officers and equipment upgrades for the Berks County Emergency Response Team.
- **\$228,404** for new traffic signal upgrades in West Reading to improve traffic flow.
- **\$183,600** to support the final development phase for the Reading Skate Park.
- **\$62,244** to support operations for local first responders, including West Reading, Spring Township, and Wyomissing fire companies and Western Berks Ambulance.
- **\$60,000** to Latin Fusion Baseball to support their operations, including Little League and tournament participation.



My team attended National Night Out events across the district. I am proud to support our local police officers and ensure they have the resources they need.



I also launched a Youth Council to empower students from the Wyomissing, Wilson, and Reading school districts—with students from Exeter joining as well—giving them a seat at the table and a voice in Harrisburg. The Youth Council is made up of socially and politically active students who work together to identify challenges in their communities and explore policy solutions. I look forward to collaborating with them on legislation that protects young people and ensures they have the resources they need to thrive.



It was great reading to third graders from Riverside Elementary for Read Across America Week!



I joined the National Hispanic Medical Association, PA Chapter to host Fiesta de la Salud, where we provided several health resources for our neighbors!



I am always proud to support local small businesses. This year, we celebrated the grand openings of West Brew Izakaya and Corleone's Barber Studio in West Reading, recognizing the hard work and dedication of their owners!



In March, I hosted a Women's Resource Fair with mental health resources, educational information, women's health resources, and state government-related services and programs. The future is brighter when women are supported, educated, and empowered.



Disabled American Veterans (DAV) have been supporting our injured and ill veterans and their families for over a century. It was an honor to recognize these American heroes for their service to our country, and their support for their fellow veterans.



In July, I joined Senator Judy Schwank and the Schuylkill River Greenway NHA team to discuss plans for developing trailhead parking and rehabilitating the Riverview section of the Schuylkill River Trail between Buttonwood Street and Baer Park in Reading. I look forward to opening this improved space for our community to enjoy.



Memorial Day Parade in Wyomissing.



JOHANNY CEPEDA-FREYTIZ

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Visit Our Satellite Office Hours!

Centro Hispano Casa Senior Center

25 N. 2nd St. • Reading, PA 19601
Every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Spring Township Municipal Building

2850 Windmill Road • Sinking Spring, PA 19608
2nd and 4th Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ATTENTION VETERANS:

Disabled American Veterans (D.A.V) offer services for you every other Monday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

1111 Penn Ave. • Wyomissing, PA 19610



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Help us serve you better by sharing how you prefer to receive updates on important issues, community events, and legislative news. Your feedback will help us reach you in the way that's most convenient and effective for you!



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Please contact my office at (484) 577-2756 if you need help with...

- **Property Tax/Rent Rebate**
- **PACE Prescription Assistance**
- **Children's Health Insurance**
- **SNAP and Medicaid**
- **Unemployment Compensation**
- **Utility Problems**
- **And more!**