

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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Exercise Your Right to Vote: Voting Resources

If you need an application to request a Mail-in/Absentee Ballot, register/change your registration, or need help finding your polling place, please give my office a call (610) 821-5577 so we can get you the right information.



2024 General Election Important Dates

- Oct 21:** Last day to register to vote in the general election
- Oct 29:** Last day to apply for a mail ballot
- Nov 5:** Election Day! Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Nov 5:** Completed mail ballots must be received by 8 p.m.

Visit Vote.PA.Gov for information to make sure your vote counts!

2024-2025 Budget

Puts Students First

The 2024-2025 state budget was the first approved since the Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued a ruling that Pennsylvania was not living up to its constitutional obligation to fully fund public education. It was up to the General Assembly to allocate the resources needed to ensure the rights of our students. The budget took massive steps to doing exactly that, investing more than \$2 billion in our kids' education, leveling the playing field for disadvantaged school districts, creating safe school learning environments and improving mental health services for students in crisis.

For schools in our community, this means historic investments from Pennsylvania. The Allentown School District will see an increase of \$35.8 million in state investments. Since I took office in 2012-2013, this represents a 155% increase in Pennsylvania's commitment to Allentown schools.

More Money for Students

\$35.8 million
Increase in education funding
for Allentown schools

155%
Increase since 2012-2013

Your Constitutional Right to a Safe Environment

“*The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania’s public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.*”
—Article 1, Section 27, Pennsylvania Constitution

Lehigh County Farmland Preservation Milestone

This year, Lehigh County’s Farmland Preservation efforts hit a key milestone: 400+ farms and 28,000+ acres preserved! Started in 1991 with funding commitments from the state, Lehigh County, and in some cases municipal government, the owners of this land have made commitments to keep this land preserved as farmland for future generations. Congratulations to the farmers and leaders who saw the importance of helping ensure Lehigh County residents could benefit from these decisions.

Resources for Home Solar

There is a lot of information — some of it inaccurate — about converting home energy systems to solar energy. The Department of Environmental Protection has a list of resources online at dep.pa.gov/solar. This includes information about federal energy programs, consumer guides to making informed decisions on conversions, information on incentive programs and more. Visit dep.pa.gov/solar for this valuable and helpful information.

Committee OKs Legislation to Stop Mega Development

At the beginning of this session, I reintroduced my legislation (HB 782) that would give local governments more tools to fight back against over-development of warehouses and sprawl in our communities. In June, that legislation was approved by the Local Government Committee of the House of Representatives. Members from across the state, who have seen the consequences of run-away development, shared stories about the loss of farmland and open space before casting their votes. The bill awaits action by the full House and a very steep climb, but I am committed to supporting the hard work of local officials who want to keep our communities and environment safe for future generations.



Landmark Energy Bills Introduced

This spring, I was part of a team of House members who introduced legislation that would create clean and reliable energy to save Pennsylvanians money on energy bills, create thousands of jobs, and reduce harmful pollution from our air and waterways. House Bills 2277 and 2275 are part of an effort that would cut emissions and help to deliver on Pennsylvania’s constitutional promise for a safe environment.



Good Happenings in Your Community

Carpenters Apprentice Program: A few years ago, the Carpenters Training Facility opened and has been providing apprentice training in Lehigh County. Apprenticeship training includes learning and mastering the skills needed to prepare for a career that pays a family-sustaining wage. I recently had an opportunity to tour this training center. Somehow, nothing was damaged during this visit.



Special Visit from Parkland: I had a chance to welcome students from the Parkland High School Chorale and Vera Voce to the Capitol this spring. These are truly talented students who put so much time and energy into sharing their talents.



Reading is Always Fun: Every day, kids in our community learn about the wonder and joy of reading when a teacher or adult in their life opens a book to share a story. For Read Across America, I joined Community Services for Children as a guest reader. If there are kids in your life, find a way to read to them. It's so much fun.

New Da Vinci Center Hatches: This spring, the Da Vinci Science Center opened its new facility in Downtown Allentown. The opening celebration was fantastic. Students in our region are going to be inspired to become life-long fans of science. Special thanks to Sen. Nick Miller for capturing this picture from the Dinosaurs Alive special exhibit. You're never too young to play and learn.



Mary and Lucille, members of the **League of Women Voters**, came to my office to share the status of their ongoing outreach efforts and policy priorities. They are tireless workers for democracy in our community and gave me a great deal of perspective. To learn more about the League, visit www.lwvlehighcounty.org.

Rebates for Home Electrification and Energy Efficiency Expected in 2025

After submitting Pennsylvania's Priority Climate Action Plan to the federal government in March 2024, the Department of Environmental Protection expects rebates for home electrification and energy efficiency to be available in early 2025. These rebates are made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act passed by Congress and President Joe Biden. When they become available, rebates can be used to make energy efficiency upgrades to single and multi-family homes. Watch my newsletters, email updates and social media feeds in early 2025 for more details. If you wish to be added to my email update list, email RepSchlossberg@pahouse.net.

Around Parkland & Allentown



Cedar Crest Ground-Breaking: This spring, Cedar Crest College hosted the ground-breaking of improvements for its athletic facilities. These efforts have been planned for a while and included hard work by many people. My office has been able to help secure state funding to help make these improvements possible.

Exciting Resources at Parkland: The Parkland Resource Fair hosted at Parkland High School is a great way to see what resources are available to families and students in our community. The students, faculty and staff who put this event together do a tremendous job. Thank you for inviting me!



Wicked Botanist Opening: Congrats to The Wicked Botanist on the Grand Opening! The place was crowded and looks great. We bought plants and will do our best to make sure they survive. More importantly, best wishes to a wonderful business that just opened its store in our community!



Muhlenberg Milestone: I enjoyed a quick stop to my alma mater, Muhlenberg College, where I presented a House Citation to students who run the campus radio station, WMUH. It recently celebrated 75 years on the air! Congratulations!

Stars for Active Learning: I spent some time with kids and staff at Active Learning Center in Trexlertown recently, where I had a chance to read during story time. Active Learning Center is now a Keystone STARS 4 facility, reaching the highest quality designation given by the state and it was a pleasure to recognize this achievement. Thank you for inviting me and for the fun time. I say it often: visiting classrooms is the best part of the job.



Early Childhood Learning: Good for Kids, Families & Economy

For many families, early childhood learning is more than opening doors of opportunity for their children to learn: it is a critical service for working parents to go to work knowing their kids have great care they can afford. This year's budget allocates more funds to increase the wages of child care workers, some of the most underpaid people in our economy today. Additionally, we added resources to BOOST afterschool programs so kids have safe and enriching places to go to after school.



Around the Capitol



Visit the PA Capitol: The Pennsylvania Capitol is a busy place, especially on session days when we are voting on legislation. The building itself never fails to amaze me. It is a work of marvelous architecture. Here are a few snapshots from 2024's work in the House of Representatives. If you are ever interested in visiting the Capitol, visit www.PACapitol.com or give my office a call (610-821-5577).



Take Kids to Work Day in Capitol: I spend a lot of time in the Capitol and get to share the victories and frustrations with my family on a regular basis. Every once in a while I get to give my kids a glimpse of the work when they come to the Capitol. This year, Auron and Ayla came to "Take Your Kids to Work Day" and spent the day working with other kids on projects related to state government. It was a fun way for these really cool kids to spend time with their nerdy dad.

We Must Never Forget: The Governor's Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony is always a solemn occasion with incredibly deep and profound stories shared. It was an honor to be invited by Gov. Josh Shapiro to participate. As the grandson of Holocaust survivors, I cannot help but think about my responsibility to be a source of light where so many other candles were extinguished and ensuring future generations carry the same responsibility with them.



Lehigh Valley Student Advocacy on Display: Every spring, there are groups visiting the Capitol to share stories and do advocacy work. This year, I met with a few local college students. First was Muhlenberg College student Sammie Smith. She is a dance major, performing with The Lady Hoofers and was in the Capitol to celebrate National Tap Day and encourage investments in the Endowment of the Arts. Also, students from Lehigh University and Cedar Crest College paid a visit to share information about our region's independent colleges and universities. We're proud of these students and the work they are doing to make our region a stronger place.

Mental Health Corner

It's Okay to Not Be Okay

If you or a loved one are struggling, help is a call, text or message away:

- Call 1-800-273-TALK (8256)
- Call 9-8-8
- Text "PA" to 741741
- Visit 988Lifeline.org/chat



The National Alliance for Mental Illness — Lehigh Valley (NAMI-LV) Intern Emily Manda, an occupational therapy student at Cedar Crest College and her professor Cerissa Clark are working on efforts to connect occupational therapy with mental health services to offer better care in Pennsylvania. I am always happy to learn about these and other mental health efforts in our region to make Pennsylvania a better place for care.

Earlier this year, I hosted PA Supreme Court Justice Kevin Dougherty for a conversation in my District Office where my staff and I learned about the Court's interests and efforts in mental health. Justice Dougherty is deeply committed to strengthening court-related mental health efforts across Pennsylvania, focusing on breaking down barriers to better mental health outcomes in our justice system. There's a lot of work to be done and I'm glad to partner with him in these efforts.





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Health Insurance Resources Available

As a result of the federal Affordable Care Act, health insurance has never been more available. Below is information about resources available in our community to help you with enrollment questions.

Medical Assistance — commonly called Medicaid — allows people with low or very moderate income to access health insurance through the Department of Human Services. To enroll, visit Compass.PA.Gov or give my office a call (610-821-5577) so we can send you the application. Income limits are based on household size.

Pennie is Pennsylvania's health insurance exchange, available for people who are not eligible for Medical Assistance, do not have access to health insurance through employers, or who have lost access to health insurance coverage. Visit Pennie.com or call 1-844-844-4440.

PA MEDI volunteers are trained by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging or county Agencies on Aging to help seniors get free, unbiased personalized help with Medicare. This can include initial Medicare enrollment when turning 65 or during open enrollment. Year-round assistance is available by calling the toll-free PA MEDI Helpline at 1-800-783-7067 during normal business hours.

Upload Emergency Contact Information

PennDOT's emergency contact information system allows you to enter two emergency contacts by using your driver's license or ID number. This gives first responders the ability to quickly reach someone who will speak for you if you ever cannot speak for yourself. Visit www.dmv.state.pa.us and click on the icon you see to the (right). Follow the steps and rest assured that people who care about you will be able to help first responders in an emergency.



**Upload Emergency
Contact Information**