



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Scott Conklin

WINTER 2025
REPCONKLIN.COM



77TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

State College Service Center: 301 S. Allen St., Suite 102 • State College, PA 16801 • (814) 238-5477
Philipsburg Service Center: 213 N. Front St. • Philipsburg, PA 16866 • (814) 342-4872
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Hello, Neighbor!

Working as state Rep. Scott Conklin's district office director is immensely satisfying because it gives me a chance to connect residents to valuable state services and help folks find answers to state-related problems and questions.

Together, our talented staff can help you in so many ways – from simple matters like obtaining a disability placard or a copy of a birth or death certificate, to more complex issues like solving problems involving PennDOT or other state agencies.

We can also help you apply for all kinds of state-related programs, including the recently expanded Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. (You can read more about the program inside this newsletter.)

We have two offices. Our State College Service Center is located at 301 S. Allen St., Suite 102, and can be reached at (814) 238-5477. Our Philipsburg office is located at 213 N. Front St. and can be reached at (814) 342-4872. Both are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Please stop in or give us a call and see how we can help!

In Friendship,

Tor

A report from Rep. Conklin



As Tor and the rest of my talented staff continue their great work serving residents, I'm working to bring more of your tax dollars back home to our district, make sure our community's voice is heard in Harrisburg, and pass more proposals to protect and benefit residents, families, students, and small businesses. In the pages to follow, you'll find news about those efforts.

To the right is a snapshot of some progress from the 2023-24 legislative session!

REP. CONKLIN'S

2023-24

Session Review By the Numbers



\$19.8 Million
in State Grant Money
Brought Back to the District

399
Property Tax/Rent Rebates
Completed by our Office

3,684 Constituent
Services Provided



Bills and Resolutions

502 Co-Sponsored

22 Introduced

04 Passed/Adopted by the House

As Majority Chairman of the House Commerce Committee

10 Meetings
Chaired

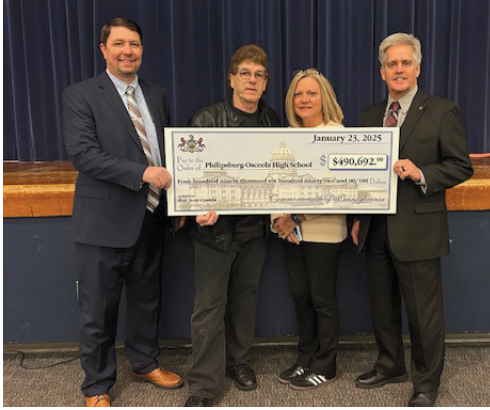
28 Bills
Advanced

5 Bills Enacted
into Law



Bringing your tax dollars home to the district

One of the most important parts of my job is working to bring your tax dollars home to strengthen resources for our schools, first responders, and community programs and projects. Below are a few highlights.



I was proud to help secure new funding for the Phillipsburg-Osceola Area School District, including nearly \$500,000 for essential roof replacement work on the high school and \$75,000 for new equipment for the high school marching band.



The school district also received more than \$130,700 for school security and mental health resources as part of a package of nearly \$1 million in school security and mental health grants for our schools districtwide.



In other funding news, I was excited to help secure \$250,000 for a comprehensive study of State College Borough's 50-year-old public transit station. The project will lay the groundwork for critical upgrades and improvements to make the station more accessible.

To build on our community's special connection to the arts, I helped secure \$105,750 to allow the Nittany Performing Arts Centre to begin design and engineering work for a 200-seat studio theater and a full-sized 800-seat theater with an orchestra pit, a lobby with concessions, parking, and related features.



Riparian buffers preserve water quality, prevent erosion, and protect delicate ecosystems. I was proud to help ClearWater Conservancy of PA secure \$99,700 for installation of riparian forest buffers along part of the Susquehanna River Watershed in Centre County.



To ensure accessibility for residents with disabilities, I helped secure nearly \$84,000 to allow the Strawberry Fields Transportation Program to purchase a fully accessible van with a wheelchair lift.

Welcoming Caroline Paterno to our office!



We are delighted to welcome Caroline Paterno to our office!

Caroline graduated from State College Area High School in 2018, from St. Bonaventure University in 2022, and from Penn State with a master's degree in public policy in 2024.

While at St. Bonaventure, Caroline played lacrosse and made the Atlantic 10 Commissioner's Honor Roll for all four academic years. She graduated summa cum laude and served as president of St. Bonaventure's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Caroline plans to start law school at Penn State in the fall. She is passionate about pursuing a career in public service and described working for my office as "an opportunity to learn from the best." Caroline said she also loves being a part of a team that has worked so tirelessly to help the district and community she loves.

Do you qualify for a property tax or rent rebate?

Are you eligible for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2024? The income limit for the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program has been expanded so that it now benefits age-eligible homeowners and renters earning up to \$46,520 (with half of Social Security excluded). Rebates are larger, as well!

To learn more, visit revenue.pa.gov/ptrr or scan the QR code below. And please remember that my office can help you apply. Please be sure to bring:

- Valid photo ID.
- Proof of all 2024 income.
- Proof of 2024 property taxes paid (homeowners) or completed PA Rent Certificate (renters).
- Direct deposit information if desired.



NOW OPEN

Property Tax / Rent Rebate Applications

Giving money back to PA renters and homeowners

Homeowner & Renter Income	Max Rebate
Up to \$8,270	\$1,000
Up to \$15,510	\$770
Up to \$18,610	\$460
Up to \$46,520	\$380

Applications due by **June 30, 2025**

My bills to protect students, families & consumers

In the year ahead, I'll continue working to pass my bills to safeguard residents and consumers, including my bills to:

- Protect domestic violence survivors by permitting electronic monitoring of abusers.
- Help families displaced by sinkholes, floods, or other disasters by allowing hotels and motels a state tax credit equal to the discounted or comped cost of a room.
- Help first responders better protect students and staff in a school shooting situation by requiring schools to provide the Pennsylvania State Police or their municipal police department with an up-to-date building blueprint.
- Better protect student athletes by requiring the PIAA to establish separate playoff systems for public, boundary schools and private, non-boundary schools, which are not limited in their recruiting.
- Require that public notice be given to communities in which a natural gas drilling permit application has been submitted.
- Require sellers to notify consumers beforehand about the existence of an automatic renewal clause in a contract so the consumer has transparency and can opt out.
- Help wineries boost business by permitting them to operate small games of chance the way brewpubs and microbreweries are permitted to do.
- Update the state recreational vehicle law as it relates to warranty services to better protect consumers and provide clearer guidance for dealers.
- Allow agents at the Office of State Inspector General to arm themselves for protection as other law enforcement officers are permitted to do.
- Provide for earlier pre-canvassing of ballots to address delays and frustration under the current law, which does not allow election workers sufficient time.

Working for new protections against domestic violence



At a state Capitol news conference last fall, I joined my colleagues to highlight our bills to reduce domestic violence and better protect survivors from repeat threats.

I discussed my bill that would permit the use of electronic ankle bracelets to monitor the movements of someone with a protection-from-abuse order. My long-time family friend – Traci Ann Raymond – was stalked and murdered by her estranged husband. If she had had more warning regarding his presence, Traci might still be alive today.

I also discussed my proposal to prohibit those convicted of domestic violence from holding public office.

Rep. Melissa Shusterman discussed her proposal to prohibit employers from demanding nondisclosure agreements involving workplace abuse as a condition of employment, while Rep. Carol Hill-Evans discussed her bill that would make it easier for a survivor to cancel a telephone contract shared with an abuser.



State Representative
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lpo.kg.0325

A REAL ID isn't mandatory – but it might come in handy!

Getting a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card is not mandatory, but once enforcement of the federal REAL ID Act begins on May 7, you will no longer be able to use your regular state driver's license or photo ID card to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a federal building or military installation that requires ID. Instead, you'll need to present either a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or photo ID card or some other form of federally accepted identification, such as a passport or military ID.

If you fly frequently and want to continue using your driver's license as identification at the airport, you may want to consider upgrading to a REAL ID.

Scan the QR code on the right to read more about REAL ID.



In December, our staffer Nanci Rommel (left, at center) attended a wonderful holiday party and recognition celebration hosted by the Arc of Centre County at Axemann Brewery. Nanci was joined by her daughter, Katy Rommel, and Centre County Commissioner Mark Higgins. At right, excellence awards are presented.



The 25th anniversary celebration of PSU's College of Information Sciences and Technology featured wonderful performances from PSU's a cappella group Blue in the Face and dance group Bounce!