



Capitol

UPDATE

REP. MIKE SCHLOSSBERG

Serving the 132nd Legislative District

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Dear Friends,

The headlines about Pennsylvania's finances can be pretty discouraging. Nonetheless, as your state representative, it is my job to fight for you in addressing the biggest challenges facing our state.

One of the major obstacles I continue to tackle is working to secure adequate resources for the Allentown and Parkland school districts. Both school districts face very different challenges in preparing their students for the 21st century economy. I am committed to the very simple belief that every student should have access to a world-class education, regardless of zip code or school district.

As always, if you ever have any questions or need help with any state-related service or program, I encourage you to contact my Allentown office. My staff and I are eager to serve you!

Sincerely,

State Rep. Mike Schlossberg

Medicare Open Enrollment

Do you know everything you need to know about your Medicare coverage? If you join a private Medicare or prescription plan, your details could change and it could cost you. Medicare open enrollment begins on Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 7. If you are making a change or need help reviewing your options, my office is here to help.

Beginning Oct. 20, my office's benefits counselor will be available EVERY Tuesday. Give my office a call at 610-821-5577 to schedule your appointment.



Rich volunteers in my office to help educate constituents about their options when it comes to Medicare. He will be available at my office every Tuesday starting Oct. 20 to walk you through what plan works best for you and yours.

Working for YOU in Harrisburg

Protecting Our Children from Abuse

In the fallout of the Jerry Sandusky child abuse scandal, the General Assembly enacted a variety of reforms aimed at better protecting children from abuse. As a result, all volunteers who have direct supervision over children are required to have a series of background checks performed.

In June, Governor Tom Wolf agreed to waive the fees associated with the State Police Background Check and the PA Child Abuse Clearance, allowing volunteers and volunteer organizations to avoid the costs of these important safeguards for our children.

If you or your organization needs help understanding what is required for volunteers working with children, my office is here to help you. Please call my office at 610-821-5577 or email me at RepSchlossberg@pahouse.net. You can also visit www.KeepKidsSafe.PA.gov for an up-to-date account on these new laws designed to protect children from abuse and neglect.

More Pre-K for PA

I have had the honor of working with some forward-thinking community leaders to find new ways to fund vital programs for early childhood education. As a result of that collaborative effort, I recently introduced legislation to allow Pennsylvania to invest in education and human services while saving money by reducing the costs for prisons, addiction services and public assistance.

We know that it is cheaper to provide world-class education than to build prisons. We know untreated mental illness can be very expensive. By investing in early childhood education and human services, Pennsylvania stands to save money.

House Bill 1147, which I introduced in June, would allow Pennsylvania to partner with philanthropists and the private sector to invest in successful initiatives which save money by reducing prison costs, addiction and the demand on public assistance.

The pay-for-success model, which is operating in many states, including Massachusetts and New York, can be a great opportunity for Pennsylvania because an investor would only see a return on his or her money if the program met predefined standards that results in the state saving money.

In a time when government has been asked to do more with less, the pay-for-success model has a lot of potential to offer the commonwealth. As budget negotiations continue, I think this is an idea worthy of consideration.



Reducing Income Inequality

Income inequality is the greatest challenge of our modern society. I joined with Representative Peter Schweyer to introduce a measure to help address this growing problem.

House Resolution 326, which was introduced in May, would direct the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study on income inequality in the commonwealth, focusing on factors such as gender, education level, occupation, ethnicity, industry and much more.

We must gain a better understanding of the specific challenges at play with this issue in order to build momentum for a positive resolution. We can begin to fix the problem once we fully understand the issue, which is why I think this study will be so insightful. Once the resolution is adopted by the House, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee would be required to report its findings within six months.

Working for You

Senior Fairs



In May, Representative Steve Samuelson, Representative Peter Schweyer and I hosted a Senior Fair at the East Side Youth Center.

We had information available about health insurance, tests for health screening and more.

Thank you to everybody who attended. I am glad we were able to provide information for you to use. I also had the opportunity to attend a Senior Fair organized by residents at Gross Towers in July.



#IWantToWork

The Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living is a nonprofit organization based in Allentown that provides a variety of information, services and support to people with all types of disabilities. I recently visited the new location at 713 North 13th Street in Allentown to get an overview of efforts to help young adults transition to independent living, employment, advocacy and leadership. These young adults have a passion for independent living and I was honored to learn what legislation is important to help meet their needs. More information about the Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living can be found by calling 610-770-9781.



School Visits

One of my favorite parts of serving in the House of Representatives is when I get to visit students in our community. In April, I visited with Lehigh Valley Child Care at Muhlenberg Elementary School to celebrate the Week of the Young Child. We read *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss and talked about issues important to them. I was also lucky enough to be invited by third-grade students at Union Terrace to join them for a field trip to the Liberty Bell Museum. We had a fun conversation about good citizenship. Other schools I have visited include Mosser Elementary, Kratzer Elementary, Harrison-Morton Middle School and William Allen High School.



Pastor Visit to Capitol



In April, the Speaker of the House and I welcomed Reverend Maria Tjeltveit of the Church of the Mediator in Allentown to give the invocation at the beginning of House session. She was joined that day by Darian Colbert and Sam Martinez, who are active in mentoring students in the Allentown School District. It was a pleasure to welcome Rev. Tjeltveit, Mr. Colbert and Mr. Martinez to the Capitol.

Allentown Celebrates Flag Day

Congratulations to Fares Saed, Peter Capote and Vanessa Cruz, all from Harrison-Morton Middle School, for being the top three participants in the annual Allentown Flag Day Association Essay Contest. The essays from these students focused on the important symbolism of the American flag and what it represents to them.

Also, thank you to the residents of the 132nd District who brought over 200 flags to my office to be retired by local Boy Scout Troop 57 as part of their "Ashes to Graves Ceremony." My office will continue to collect flags and assist by serving as a drop-off location for flags throughout 2015 and 2016.



Muhlenberg Fire Truck Visit



Every year, the Allentown School District and Allentown Fire Department recognize the hard work of elementary school students with a ride to school in a fire engine. It was a pleasure to welcome Randy and Isabella Mascisak to school when the fire truck arrived. Randy and Isabella, who were recognized for Reading Excellence, were greeted and cheered by their classmates when they arrived at school.

Fighting for a Better Budget

I am happy to stand with Parkland School District Superintendent Rich Sniscak in calling for a budget that meets Pennsylvania's obligation to support our community schools.



El Sistema Event

In June, I was honored to welcome guests to Miller Symphony Hall for the El Sistema Concert. El Sistema is a music program run in partnership between the Allentown School District and Allentown Symphony Association. Children learn the fundamentals of music, get large ensemble experience and perform for the community. This concert put Allentown's creative and artistic students on stage for a wonderful performance and helped to display how critical the arts are for children's education.

NEPA Delegation News

In June, I became the Northeast Democratic Delegation chairman for the remainder of the 2015-2016 legislative session.

It is an honor to have been selected for this responsibility, and I look forward to getting the opportunity to see and learn more about our beautiful and historic region. Most importantly, this position will allow me to better advocate for the 132nd District and our schools.

I am committed to strengthening northeastern Pennsylvania

and I look forward to working with my colleagues throughout the region to do just that. Each member of the delegation is bound to face issues unique to their districts, but despite that, we are stronger and more effective together. By working collectively, we can enhance the quality of life for all of our constituents.

The Northeast Democratic Delegation consists of House members from Berks, Lackawanna, Northampton, Schuylkill, Lehigh and Luzerne counties.



Allentown Students visit the Capitol

I am always happy to welcome a group of students to the Capitol when the House of Representatives is in session. It was a pleasure to welcome students, teachers and parents from Executive Education Academy in Allentown to the Capitol with Representative Peter Schweyer. The group came to the Capitol for a tour and to talk with representatives about the importance of supporting Pennsylvania's schools.



Standing With Volunteer Fire Companies

Recently I stood with volunteer firefighters from Woodlawn and Greenawalds and EMS personnel from Cetronia Ambulance to call for a measure to exempt these heroes from the cost of mandatory background checks. These men and women risk their lives during emergencies. The least we can do is waive their fee when it is time for a mandatory background check.



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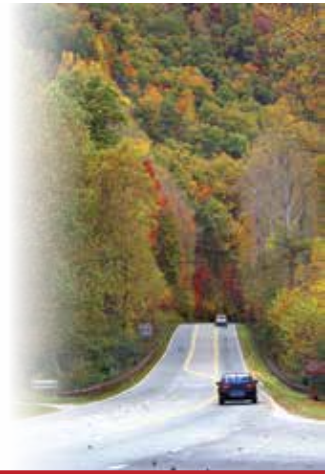
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PennDOT Services Available Online

Did you forget to renew your registration until the last minute? Do you need to change your address on a vehicle registration? Do you need to request a duplicate of your driver's license? PennDOT has added these services and more to the Online Driver and Vehicle Services section at www.dmv.state.pa.us.

Have your registration and license information handy and a debit or credit card in your name. The process is easy, and PennDOT offers detailed instructions for navigating its site.

There are some services you cannot do online, such as requesting a duplicate vehicle title, duplicate vehicle registration or handicap placard. For those services, and more, call my office (610-821-5577) or visit my office at 2030 West Tilghman Street, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.



Assistance Available for Those Seeking Disability Parking Placard

My office often helps people obtain a disability placard from PennDOT. Did you know, that even if you don't have a car, you can still have a disability placard? If somebody is giving you a ride to the grocery store or the doctor, you can still have a placard available for your use on those trips. For more information, contact my office at 610-821-5577 to learn more about obtaining a free disability placard.

Is the State Holding Your Unclaimed Property?

Over the past two years, my office has helped constituents of the 132nd District retrieve more unclaimed property than any other office in the commonwealth. That adds up to \$395,193 for 229 people in the 132nd District.

My staff and I actively help residents of Allentown and South Whitehall to claim money turned over to the state treasurer. If you get a letter in the mail from my office about unclaimed property, please

act on it. I want to help you get what rightfully belongs to you.

You can also check online by visiting www.patreasury.gov. If your name is on the unclaimed property list, I would be happy to help you retrieve what belongs to you. Most of the time, a copy of your photo identification and your Social Security number are the only items you need to claim what is rightfully yours!

