



Capitol UPDATE

REP. MIKE SCHLOSSBERG

Serving the 132nd Legislative District

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Progress and Compromise

The first year of the 2015-2016 legislative session was extremely frustrating. In addition to the well-documented budget stalemate, partisan wrangling was at a fevered pitch. Moods started to change this spring.

When the snow from a record snowfall began to melt, a spirit of cooperation began to grow. As a result, the General Assembly began to make progress on contentious matters. We saw compromise and movement on pension reform, liquor modernization and even on the 2016-2017 budget. I voted for all of these compromises because I believe it's important to compromise in order to obtain the greater good.

I am grateful to see the General Assembly recognize that cooperation and compromise are not dirty words. I am happy to see the general tone out of Harrisburg is more inclined toward progress in serving the residents of Pennsylvania. It has also allowed me, as your state representative, to be more effective in working for you!

Capitol Visitors

El Sistema Lehigh Valley brings underserved and special needs youth an opportunity to develop life skills learned by participating in high-quality daily music instruction, large ensemble experience and performance and academic tutoring. Students work with instructors from the Allentown Symphony Association in a cooperative, fun and nurturing environment. In May, El Sistema Lehigh Valley visited the Capitol to perform and share the value of arts in education. This was a fun group of artists and I was happy to host them.



El Sistema

Sheridan Elementary



A couple of classes from Sheridan Elementary School paid a visit to the Capitol. If you know a class or group of students looking to visit the Capitol, call my office (610-821-5577) to make arrangements.

Parkland: State Volleyball and Softball Champions

The Parkland Boys and Girls Volleyball Teams and Softball Team won state championships. It was wonderful to welcome them to the House and join other representatives from the area in celebrating their athletic success.



Students Teaching About Technology in the Classroom



I had fun with students from Allentown School District participating in the 25th Annual PA Educational Communications and Technology Student Showcase. The showcase is held to present legislators and the public with the opportunity to learn how teachers are integrating technology into K-12 classrooms across the state. To say these students are smart is an understatement.

Working for YOU in Harrisburg

Domestic Violence Legislation



In April 2016, my bill to help victims of domestic violence escape abusive marriages passed in the House and Senate and was signed into law. This law allows victims of domestic violence to accelerate the divorce process. Spousal abuse is a nightmare for the victims forced to live with the physical and emotional violence and torment of another human exerting power and control over them. Gov. Tom Wolf came to Allentown to sign this bill into law. We were joined by local organizations including Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley, PA Coalition Against Rape, North Penn Legal Services, Bradbury Sullivan LGBT Center and PA Legal Aid Network.

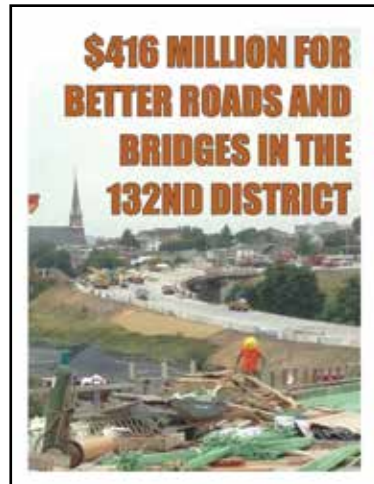
Car Seat Legislation

Children younger than age 2 are 75 percent less likely to die or to be severely injured in a crash if they are rear-facing. That is why I introduced legislation to require children under the age of two be secured in a rear-facing car seat. This bipartisan measure passed the House and the Senate with a great deal of help by state Sen. Pat Browne, was signed by Gov. Tom Wolf on June 13, 2016 and went into effect in August. Officers will give verbal warnings for the first year.



Transportation Investments

Since 2013, I've been able to secure over \$416 million worth of investments in roads and bridges around the 132nd District, including Tilghman Street repaving, Waterfront Drive and the opening of the American Parkway Bridge. For far too long, Pennsylvania has neglected its infrastructure. It is time to get back to making sure our roads and bridges help move people, goods and services.



Education Funding for 132nd District

My top priority as state representative is to make sure every child has a world-class education regardless of their zip code. Since taking office at the end of 2012, I have repeatedly cast difficult votes to bring those resources to our community schools. Our future as a society depends on a well-educated community and these resources will help to deliver on a brighter future.



Here's What You Need To Know About Medical Marijuana in Pennsylvania



On May 17, Pennsylvania's medical cannabis law went into effect. This is potentially good news for patients with a variety of medical conditions: cancer, HIV, ALS, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury, epilepsy or intractable seizures, inflammatory bowel disease, Huntington's, Crohn's, PTSD, glaucoma, sickle cell anemia, autism, and severe chronic and intractable pain. Temporary regulations will be going into effect over the next 18 months as growers and dispensers are approved. This legislation had my full support. If you have questions about the law or need information about the regulations going into effect, please give my office a call (610-821-5577) or email RepSchlossberg@pahouse.com.

Working for You in the 132nd District

SENIOR FAIR

In May, I hosted a senior fair at the East Side Youth Center with Reps. Steve Samuelson and Peter Schweyer. We were able to provide information about health insurance, tests for health screening and resources for an active lifestyle.



IRS Scam Alert

Several times a day, my office receives calls inquiring about phone calls from the IRS. According to the IRS, agents will NOT call you to demand immediate payment without first sending you a bill in the mail, will NOT require you to pay your taxes a certain way (such as using a prepaid debit card), ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone or threaten to bring in police or other agencies to arrest you for not paying.

If you receive one of these calls, somebody is probably trying to scam you. It is illegal and you can report the call to the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. You can do so by phone (1-800-366-4484) or online by visiting www.treasury.gov/tigta and clicking on "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting."

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 each year 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 hosts a specially trained volunteer to help you understand your benefits. When open enrollment begins, this person will be available for appointments on Tuesdays. Give my office a call (610-821-5577) to schedule your appointment. While this seems like it's far away, don't delay in making an appointment as **there are limited appointments available and they go fast.**

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Honor

In May, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention presented me with its Allies in Action award. This was only awarded to three state legislators across the entire country in 2016. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is the largest suicide prevention organization in the country and is dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide. It is a reminder that working to end the stigma about mental health has a lasting impact and can save lives in ways you cannot even expect. Thank you to the dedicated professionals and advocates who do this work every single day. You save lives.



National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

No matter what problems you are dealing with, if you are in crisis, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255. You will be connected to a crisis center nearest to your location to speak with a skilled, trained crisis worker who will listen to your problems and tell you about the mental health services in your area.

Around Allentown & South Whitehall



Community BikeWorks celebrated 20 years of its successful Earn a Bike Program during the fall of 2015. Rep. Schweyer and I were able to present a citation from the House of Representatives thanking the dedicated staff and volunteers who have made this program – and the more than 2,800 bikes earned by students – possible. This marks the first year BikeWorks has offered programming at Mosser Village Family Center!



Congratulations to the East Side Youth Center Elite Basketball team on an exciting successful season. The team won the Amateur Athletic Union Mid-Atlantic Championship and came in second in the National Championship. These athletes poured their hearts into their work and we are proud!

My office continues to collect personal hygiene products for homeless students in the Allentown School District. This includes toothbrushes and tooth paste, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, soap and body wash, mouthwash and hair brushes. At the moment, the district estimates more than 600 students are homeless. Since collections began under my predecessor, the 132nd District has collected over 14,800 personal hygiene products. Here is a picture of the most recent delivery: a total of 8 boxes! Thank you for your generosity and help in continuing to advocate for students in our community.



I enjoyed bringing greetings to Ava Alspach at her 100th birthday party. If you know somebody living in the 132nd Legislative District who will be celebrating a milestone birthday and want help with recognition, give my office a call (610-821-5577) so we can make arrangements.

Thank you to the West Park Civic Association for organizing the 2016 spring clean up at West Park.



I had an opportunity to celebrate Israel's 68th birthday with the Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley.



The Rodale Institute hosts an organic farmers market at the Allentown YMCA. My daughter helped kick off the 2016 season. The market runs Saturdays through October from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Allentown YMCA (at the 15th Street entrance).



Honoring our Veterans



My office continues to be a year-round dropoff location for American flags which need to be properly retired. To date, we have collected over 300 flags for retirement.

Veterans Identification

Pennsylvania veterans are now able to have a

veterans designation added to a driver's license or photo identification card. The easiest (and free) way to do this is to check the box on your driver license or identification renewal form (see above). We are finding many vets miss this box and want it added when they received their camera card. It can be added other times, but for a fee.

ADDRESS CHANGE ONLY		STREET ADDRESS		CITY		STATE		ZIP CODE	
FEES:									
ODTF \$ 1.00									
ODTF \$ 3.00									
Driver License Number	Birth Date	Exam Date	Class	Code	Expiration Date				

By checking the box to the right, I certify under penalty of law that I am a qualified applicant for the Veterans Designation. I understand that misrepresentation will result in the revocation of my driver's license and/or identification card.

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Veterans Designation



Retired Army Staff Sgt. Richard Schimmel (132nd District resident) was stationed at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked Dec. 7, 1941. At the time he was Pfc. Schimmel, assigned to the Signal Corps Aircraft Warning Service. It was a pleasure to welcome him to the Capitol as part of Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremonies.

Veteran License Plates

Vehicles owned or co-owned by vets or service members who served or are serving can get a U.S. Military Veteran Registration plate for \$20 (provided vehicle has current registration). Proof required varies depending on the global conflict and branch of service. Plate

options include: Korean War Vet, U.S. Air Force Vet, U.S. Coast Guard Vet, WWII Vet, Persian Gulf War Vet, U.S. Army Vet, U.S. Marine Corps Vet, U.S. Merchant Marine, U.S. Navy Vet, and Vietnam War Vet. If you have questions or are interested in pursuing one of



these options, please call my office (610-821-5577) for more information.

Unclaimed Property

One in 10 Pennsylvania residents has money or financial property held by the Pennsylvania Treasury, waiting to be claimed. This could be an old savings account, a forgotten paycheck or refund, a stock dividend or insurance claim. My office has helped constituents to claim over \$541,000 in money from the Treasury's unclaimed property database, \$112,000 in 2016 alone.

To help raise awareness, my staff and I actively search the database (www.PaTreasury.gov/Claim) and inform people living in the 132nd District when we find something. Sometimes this is a letter we send directly to the person's home address if we can find it in our records. We also inform people periodically by phone if we can find a phone number. If you get a letter or a phone call from me or my staff saying there is money held by the state, we would be happy to help you in claiming that money. Please feel comfortable responding to that letter or phone call knowing it is not a scam and is often a very simple process.



Pennsylvania Photo Identification Card

For a variety of reasons, people opt to stop driving. In Pennsylvania, it is possible to surrender your license before it expires and receive a free non-driver identification card if you permanently surrender your driving privilege for health reasons that affect your ability to safely drive. If you have any interest in doing this or need assistance in obtaining a photo identification card from PennDOT, please contact my office by phone (610-821-5577) or in person (2030 W. Tilghman St., Suite 100).



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Property Tax/Rent Rebate Deadline Extended



In 2015, statewide more than 557,000 people claimed over \$265 million in rebates. In Lehigh County, more than 14,000 claims were filed for more than \$7.2 million in rebates. While my office has helped residents apply for more than \$121,000 in rebates in 2016, eligible residents now have extra time to apply for the program that can put hundreds of dollars back into their pocket to offset property taxes or rent. The deadline was extended from June 30 to December 31, 2016. If you haven't applied before, here's what you need to know:

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is open to:

- Eligible seniors 65 or older;
- Widows and widowers 50 or older; and
- People with permanent disabilities 18 or older;

To qualify, applicants must earn less than \$35,000 per year (for homeowners) or \$15,000 per year (for renters) – and only HALF of Social Security or railroad retirement benefits count toward eligibility. Residents of assisted living facilities may be eligible if they reside in a facility which pays property taxes and meet the income limits for renters. If you're eligible – or you know someone who might be – my constituent service office can help you file the application and answer questions. Just stop by 2030 W. Tilghman St. in Allentown, or call 610-821-5577 and I will mail you the information.



Assistance Available for Those Seeking Disability Parking Placard

My office often helps people obtain a disability placard from PennDOT. Did you know, even if you don't have a car or driver's license, 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.

Reminder: Keep your disability placard ID with your photo identification or driver's license just in case you are asked to produce proof that you are the owner of the placard.