



State Representative

MARK LONGIETTI

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Dear Neighbors,

Earlier this year, I announced that I will be retiring from the state legislature at the end of my eighth term.

Representing the people of the Shenango Valley and surrounding communities for the past 16 years has been the honor of my lifetime, and I have felt blessed every single day by your trust and confidence in me. I have also been tremendously proud of the many ways my talented staff has served residents.

Although it is time for me to turn to the next chapter of my life and explore new ways I can give back to our community, I want to assure district residents that my staff and I will be here, continuing to serve your needs, through the end of November.

The decision to leave the legislature has been a difficult one, but I know that our district will continue to grow and thrive in the years ahead, and I will take joy in seeing how our community continues to shine.

I was honored to present a PA House of Representatives Citation to Barb Dzuricsko of Hermitage, who was recently inducted into the Pennsylvania High School Track & Field Hall of Fame. Barb served for 29 years as head coach of the Hickory High Girls Outdoor Track and Field Team, 9 years as head coach of the Hickory High Boys Outdoor Track & Field Team, and 17 years as the Hickory High athletic director!



Budget brings historic increase for education, help for families and seniors

I supported the 2022-23 state budget because I believe it strikes a healthy balance between funding important programs and saving to ensure the commonwealth maintains a strong reserve.

The new budget holds the line on taxes while making a historic investment in public education that will bring sizable increases to our community's schools and additional Level-Up dollars to the Farrell Area, Sharon City, and Greenville Area districts. (You can find specific district increases on the following page.)

The new spending plan also taps remaining federal stimulus dollars for programs that will help families, seniors, and small businesses. Some of those initiatives will create a state child care tax credit to help working parents, provide a one-time bonus rebate under the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, expand affordable housing, and help low-income homeowners with needed repairs.

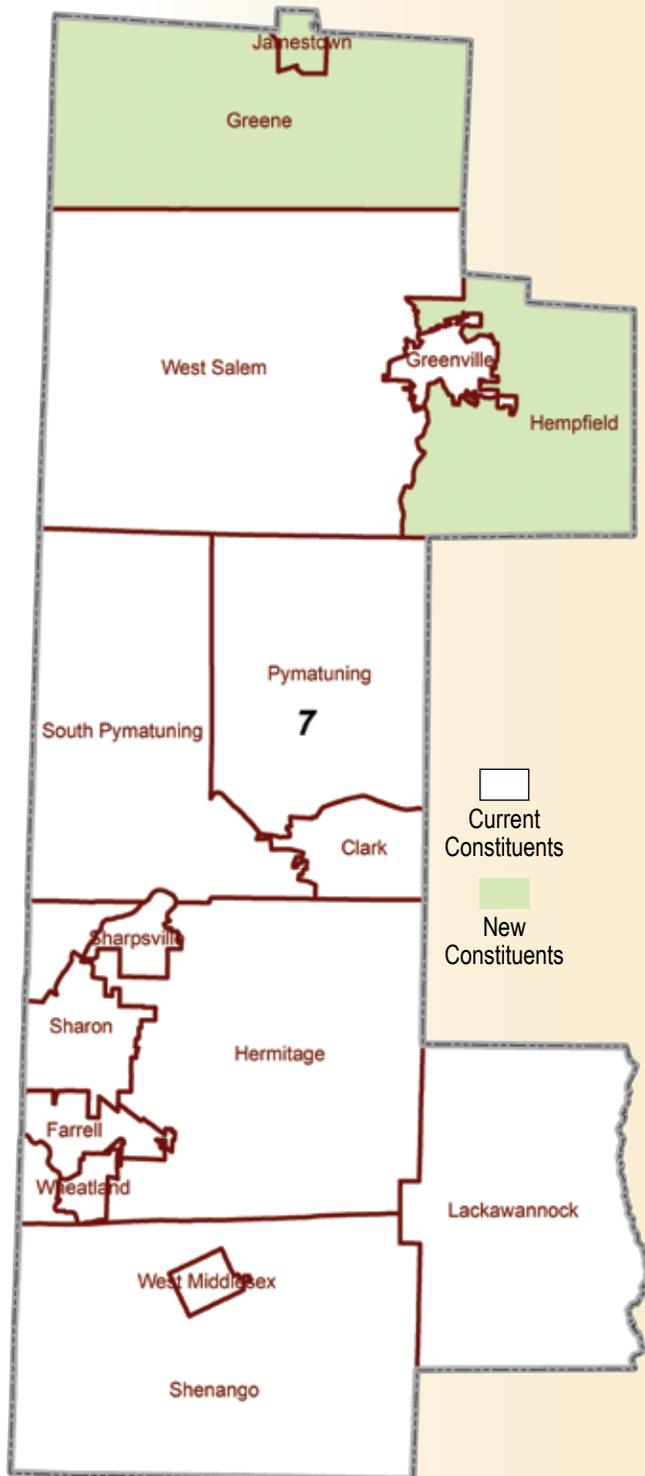
The new budget will also help the small businesses that are so important to our economy by providing a corporate tax cut. Under the plan, Pennsylvania's Corporate Net Income Tax rate will drop incrementally from 9.99% to 4.99% over the next nine years.

Finally, the new budget deposits more than \$2 billion into the Rainy Day Fund – bringing the balance to approximately \$5 billion – to ensure that we are prepared for any contingency.

Although no budget is perfect, I am satisfied that the one we put in place will work to address residents' needs, expand student opportunities, bolster small businesses, and continue growing our economy while also protecting taxpayer dollars and shoring up state reserves. That's a good plan for the future.

A new shape for the Seventh District

As you may have heard, the lines of the Seventh Legislative District will be changing based on the redistricting process that occurred earlier this year. The new district will add Hempfield and Greene townships and Jamestown Borough, while retaining all of the twelve municipalities in the current Seventh District. Below is a look at the new map.



Across-the-board increases coming to Mercer County schools

The new state budget provides substantial funding for public education. Here's a look at district-by-district funding increases in our district:

- **Farrell Area** – \$2 million (24.7% increase) for basic education; \$100,000 (10.5% increase) for special education.
- **Greenville Area** – \$836,600 (11.3% increase) for basic education; \$102,300 (9.1% increase) for special education.
- **Hermitage** – \$490,000 (7.5% increase) for basic education; \$102,300 (8%) for special education.
- **Reynolds** – \$373,300 (4.6% increase) for basic education; \$71,700 (6.7%) special education.
- **Sharon City** – \$2.9 million (17.1% increase) for basic education; \$227,500 (11.4% increase) for special education.
- **Sharpsville Area** – \$393,800 (6% increase) for basic education; \$88,700 (10.6%) for special education.
- **West Middlesex Area** – \$96,400 (1.8% increase) for basic education; \$55,200 (7.3% increase) for special education.



I had great fun meeting with and reading to the inquisitive students in Mr. Boland's Head Start classroom at the John Hetra Child Development Center in Farrell.



In July, I presented PA House of Representatives Citations to Amelia Roch, Kylie Jackson, and Savanna Welch (left to right) of Girl Scout Troop 30325 for achieving the Girl Scouts Gold Award.



I recently presented a PA House of Representatives Citation to Sean Burns at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. I am pictured with Sean, his parents, Barry and Colleen Burns, and his grandmother, Mary Lou.

Paving the path to high-demand careers

New grant funding I worked to secure this year will help local students advance on the career path. The funding includes:

- \$400,000 from the state Department of Education to fund a “Digital Passport” program that will teach students the kinds of STEM and computer science skills needed for high-demand regional careers.
- \$360,000 to the United Way of Mercer County to help boost services for area students.
- \$250,000 to the Pennsylvania Cybersecurity Center to help launch a unique, Hermitage-based pilot program to prepare students for high-demand careers in cybersecurity.
- \$150,000 from the Department of Labor and Industry to fund a program providing real-world experience and workplace connections to help students making career decisions.

The right start in life

Mercer County preschoolers will have expanded access to early education thanks to new grant funding of more than \$1.2 million from the state Department of Education. The funding will open up more Pre-K Counts slots and help ensure that Head Start programs in our district have the resources they need, despite increased operating expenses.

Early education is critical: decades of studies show that kids who receive the learning, stimulation, personal interactions, and proper nutrition these programs provide are much more likely to succeed in life. For this reason, I have tried to make access to early education a priority during my work as Democratic chairman of the House Education Committee and co-chair of the Early Childhood Education Caucus.

This year, I was honored to receive the “Legislative Excellence in Caring” award from the Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission and the “Friend of Education” award from the Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units.

Although I appreciate being recognized by these groups, whose talented advocates do so much to advance the cause of childhood education, more work lays ahead to ensure that all kids in our community have the right start in life. That will require ongoing vigilance and continued cooperation by lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

A look at the state child care tax credit

The 2022-23 budget creates a state child care tax credit program to help working parents.

Modeled after the existing federal child care tax credit program, the state program will benefit working families with children in daycare who already qualify for the federal

program. The state credit is for 30% of the federally approved expense.

Under the state program, which is expected to benefit more than 220,000 families, filers in households earning more than \$43,000 could be eligible for \$180 (for one child) or \$360 (for two or more

children), while filers in households earning less than \$43,000 could be eligible for \$315 (for one child) or \$630 (for two or more children).

Parents and guardians will be able to claim the new credit beginning in 2023.



At the 100th Anniversary Open House for the Greenville Area Public Library, I presented a PA House of Representatives Citation to Library Director Jeanne Ball. The library has a long, rich history of serving our community.

Bonus rebate to benefit eligible seniors, residents with disabilities

Seniors and residents with disabilities who qualify for rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2021 will see a one-time bonus rebate under the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.

Funded in the new state budget with \$140 million in remaining federal stimulus dollars, the one-time bonus rebate will be equal to 70% of an applicant's regular rebate. For example, an applicant who received a regular rebate of \$500 can expect to see a bonus rebate of \$350.

Applicants who have already received their regular rebate do not need to do anything to receive the bonus rebate, which will be sent via the same method – direct deposit or check – used to deliver the regular rebate.

Eligible residents who have not yet filed for their standard rebate can still apply through Dec. 31. Residents can apply online by visiting www.revenue.pa.gov and scrolling down to the "My Path" link. My "mobile office" will be providing application services at various locations throughout the district, with the schedule to be announced soon.

Renovating a community treasure

A grant of more than \$162,000 from the Department of Education's Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund is helping fund needed renovations for our area's beloved Community Library of Shenango Valley. The funding will go toward critical structural, security-related, and energy-saving improvements that will keep visitors safe and comfortable while saving on operation costs.

Low-interest loan will improve Greenville water service

Better water service is on tap for Greenville residents, thanks to a \$9 million low-interest loan from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority.

The project will replace and relocate the Hadley Road Booster Pump Station and will replace approximately 25,600 linear feet of leaded-joint, cast-iron pipe and 272 service connections, including 32 known/suspected lead service lines.

The new pump station and service lines will improve the delivery and safety of drinking water. The existing system serves nearly 2,500 residential customers.



My 2022 Senior Health and Education Fair offered a wonderful chance to catch up with some of the seniors in our community.

\$1.7 million awarded to fund growth, expand opportunities

Funding of \$1.7 million from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program will bring new residential, commercial, and recreational opportunities to Sharon and important expansions to Thiel College. The grants are:

- \$700,000 to fund Thiel College expansions, including new laboratories and classrooms for the college's physician assistant, speech pathology, and other professional programs.
- \$500,000 to JCL Development to help fund residential and commercial mixed-use space on the former Carine

and Company warehouse site adjacent to the Penn State Shenango campus.

- \$500,000 to help fund extensive renovations to Buhl Community Recreation Center to enhance space for hundreds of new members.

In addition to the Buhl Community Center renovations, another \$425,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority was awarded to fund expansions to the Hermitage Athletic Complex and improvements to Greenville's Riverside Park and Hermitage's Bobby Run stream.

New funding for home repairs

Maintaining and repairing aging homes can pose special challenges, particularly for lower-income residents facing electrical, plumbing, and other structural problems requiring specialized skills.

Earlier this year, the city of Hermitage was awarded \$600,000 to fund a program to help residents maintain older homes. Now, thanks to a new program in the works, more home repair help is on the way.

The Whole Home Repair Program – funded in the new state budget with \$125 million in American Rescue Plan Act dollars – will provide repair grants of up to \$50,000 for low- and moderate-income homeowners and loans to small landlords that provide affordable rental units.

The program's launch is still pending as of this writing. More details will be available once it is up and running.



Earlier this year, I attended a 20th Anniversary Celebration Banquet for Whole Life Services at Avalon at Buhl, where I presented CEO Cindy Vogan with a Certificate of Recognition. WLS serves individuals with intellectual disabilities and has grown from one employee serving one client in the basement of a local church to 115 employees serving 100 clients in multiple locations!



This spring at the 100th Anniversary Banquet for the Sharon Kiwanis Club, I presented a PA House of Representatives Citation to the Rev. Terry Shaffer, the club president.



At a Farrell Football Boosters picnic this summer, I presented a PA House of Representatives Citation to Head Coach Anthony "Amp" Pegues recognizing the Steelers' 2021 District 10 Championship.



I recently presented a PA House of Representatives Citation to Catherine Wilson of Hermitage to celebrate her 100th Birthday.



In June, I presented a PA House of Representatives Citation to the Daughters of the American Revolution, Pymatuning Chapter, at their 100th Anniversary Luncheon held at Tara. I am pictured with Vice Regent Tracy Fazekas (left), and Regent Barb Matejka (right).



I presented a PA House of Representatives Citation to the Shenango Valley Chorale during the group's 50th anniversary celebration. I am pictured with Chorale Director Stephen Barr, Board President Susan Piccirilli, and Diane Helbig, from Senator Michele Brooks' office.



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Funding our frontline heroes

Fire and EMS companies in our district are receiving more than \$200,000 in grants to fund critical resources, including equipment upgrades, training, building repairs, and other essential needs. The grants include the following:

- **Clark Volunteer Fire Department** – \$15,000.
- **Farrell Volunteer Fire Department Inc.** – \$14,651.
- **Greenville Fire Department** – \$15,000.
- **Greenville Fire Department (EMS)** – \$8,325.
- **Greenville Volunteer Fire Company** – \$15,000.
- **Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department Inc.** – \$15,000.
- **Patagonia Volunteer Fire Department** – \$15,000.
- **Sharon Fire Department** – \$15,000.
- **Sharpsville Volunteer Fire Department** – \$15,000.
- **Shenango Township Volunteer Fire Department** – \$15,000.
- **South Pymatuning Township Volunteer Fire Association** – \$15,000.
- **Transfer Volunteer Fire Department** – \$15,000.
- **West Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department** – \$15,000.
- **West Salem Fire Department** – \$14,259.
- **Wheatland Volunteer Fire Department** – \$15,000.



I was delighted to present Sharon Tigers Wrestling Coach Dave Ciafre a PA House of Representatives Citation to commemorate his induction into the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches' Hall of Fame.

Free Flu Shot/COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Oct. 6!

I'm partnering with Primary Health Network again this year to host a free Flu Shot & COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic. The clinic will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6 at Greenville Knights of Columbus Hall, 170 Clarksville Street (Route 18) in Greenville. We will be offering seasonal flu shots for adults and COVID-19 vaccines (including boosters) for adults and children age 12 or older.

Pre-registration is preferred but not required. To schedule your appointment, visit www.primary-health.net or call (724) 699-9211, option 3.