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#### **SOUDERTON OFFICE:**

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RepMalagari



53RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

**SUMMER 2024** 

# STATE REP. STEV LAGA WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE

Sign up to receive regular community updates through email at www.RepMalagari.com/emailsignup.



Working to resolve state issues for residents

#### Dear Neighbors,

Legislative District 53 is more than just the area I serve -- it's also my community. And like you, I want our community to be a great place to live, work and learn. That's why I've advocated for funding for our schools and first responders. It's why I've supported legislation that helps small businesses to thrive. And it's why I spend as much time as possible joining in the activities and celebrations that make District 53 such a wonderful place to call home. You can read about all this in more detail throughout this newsletter, as well as learn more about some of the services we provide. You might even see a familiar face or two!

As always, thank you for your support. I am honored and privileged to be working for you.

### 2024-25 PA BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

It took time, patience and compromise, but we finally passed the 2024-2025 budget. Here are some highlights:



#### **Education**

A historic **\$1.3 billion** will be invested in all students via basic education funding, special education funding, cyber charter changes and safety grants. Both North Penn School District and Souderton Area School District will see an increase in funding.

There's also more help for those seeking to continue their education, including training in the trades and community colleges. Also, the popular Student Teacher Stipend Program will return with an increase of \$10 million in funding.



#### **Promoting Stronger, Safer Schools**

All students deserve to feel safe and secure in school. That's why I was thrilled to join my colleagues in securing grant funding for our local districts. These funds will not only help with necessary security upgrades but also assist with the continuation and

expansion of important mental health supports.

Souderton Area School District received \$479,398 to hire an additional school police officer and to fund mental health staff. North Penn School District received \$305,659 to fund security equipment and mental health efforts. I am so pleased to have been able to help deliver funding for such an important cause.





## **Protecting Your Privacy and The Environment**

Our first combination shred and e-waste recycling event at Montgomery Mall was a huge success! Thanks to the 40+ volunteers from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Phi Beta Omega Chapter, we were able to properly process over 350 cars worth of paper and electronics.



#### **Economic Development**

This budget is designed to foster job creation and enhance Pennsylvania's competitiveness in economic development. This includes \$20 million for the new Main Street Matters program to support small businesses.

#### **Human Services**

Several increases have been made to improve quality of life for all Pennsylvanians, including \$261 million for the Intellectual Disabilities - Community Waiver Program. There are also increased funds for mental health services, subsidized childcare services and long-term managed care to help keep seniors in their homes.





#### **Affordable Housing**

The budget raises the PHARE funding cap to \$100 million annually by 2026, almost doubling the state's commitment to affordable housing. It also includes increases for homeless assistance and emergency housing support.

For more details, visit www.budget.pa.gov.



#### PTRR Deadline Extended

Thanks to the expanded income guidelines, more people than ever are eligible for the Pennsylvania Tax/Rent Rebate Program. If you haven't applied yet, don't worry! The deadline has been extended to Dec. 31. The program is open to eligible applicants 65 and older, widows and widowers 50 and over and those over 18 with a disability. To find out if you are eligible or to get help applying, please contact my office at 267-768-3671.

And don't forget—if you are a resident of North Penn School District, you can also apply for the school district rebate!



### **Bringing Money Back** to Our District

So far this year, our district has received nearly \$1.8 million in grant funding. This includes:

- \$1,010,057 for security, mental health services and equipment upgrades in our schools.
- \$393,750 for sidewalk and roadway improvements in Hatfield.
- \$70,000 to protect our seniors at Generations of Indian Valley.
- \$323,948 in funding for our local fire, EMS and police departments.





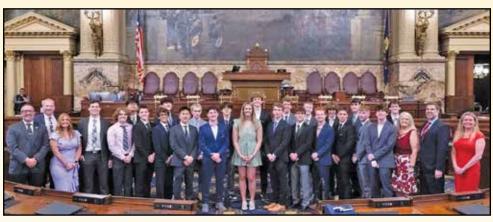
### **Dog Licenses Now Available**

Dog licenses are mandatory under PA law, and my office is here to help make the process easier than ever. Just bring a check or money order for \$8.70 (\$6.70 if you are over 65 or have a disability), fill out a form and we can issue your annual tag on the spot! We can also help you with the process of obtaining a Lifetime Dog License, though that takes a bit longer and costs a bit more.

### **SNAPSHOTS WITH STEVE:**



Congratulations to local resident Colin McClarnon on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.



Congratulations to the North Penn Knights Swimming and Diving Teams for their championship wins!



Celebrating the International Spring Festival at North Penn High School.



Helping a resident at Derstine Run Senior Community.



Honoring Parker Corchiolo of Telford on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

#### **Working For You in Harrisburg**

I am proud to report that three pieces of legislation I sponsored have officially become law! They are:

- H.B. 1096: This law allows businesses to convert their hotel licenses to restaurant licenses more easily.
- H.B. 1246: Inspired by Anders Detweiler Funeral Home & Crematory, this law lowers the required temperature of cremation, saving fuel, costs and machinery life with an added environmental benefit.
- H.B. 1889: Also inspired by the needs of a local business, this law allows electronic receipts for light fuel deliveries, making the process more efficient and cost-effective.



### **SNAPSHOTS WITH STEVE:**



Touring Montgomery Township Police Department.



Meeting with residents of Hidden Springs Community.



Teaching students about state government at West Broad Street Elementary.



I toured Lansdale Warehouse Co. to learn about rail shipping in the district.



Unveiling the governor's strategic plan for aging in Pennsylvania.



Celebrating Pride with Souderton Area for All.



As usual, the BAPS Lansdale Walkathon was a huge success.



It's always a fun time at the Telford Night Market.



Honoring Officer Robert Johnson on the occasion of his retirement from the Montgomery Township Police Department.



Stopped by Trolley Stop Deli to congratulate them on their 60th anniversary!



It was a pleasure to host our annual Veterans Brunch at Generations of Indian Valley.



It's always a great time here at Souderton Third Fridays!



Picking up a snack at Great American Popcorn Works in Telford!



Thank you to Bharatiya Temple for inviting me to the groundbreaking for their new Learning Center.



State Representative

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#### **VOTING DEADLINES**

The voter registration deadline is Oct. 21 to vote in the General Election on Nov. 5. The deadline to apply for mail-in and absentee ballots is Oct. 29. You can do both online at vote.pa.gov.