

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Leame Krueger

FALL 2024

161ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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Dear Neighbor,

I hope you are enjoying the summer months and are getting ready for fall. My staff and I have been working across our district all summer, meeting people at their doors and at community events with information on how my office can help. I hope we've crossed paths. But if we haven't, please know my office is here to serve you.

This newsletter is meant to provide some information about the state budget I voted for and that was signed into law in July. I've also included some state program information, notes of interest and some of my office's upcoming events.

My district office is staffed with caring professionals who work hard every day to serve your state-government needs. Please stop by my Brookhaven or mobile offices, call us or email RepKrueger@pahouse.net if you need help with any state issue or program.

With gratitude,

Z. K

Right: My son Wendell was with me at the state Capitol when we finalized the state budget on July 11. As a mom and legislator, one of my top priorities is to make sure our schools receive fair and adequate funding from the state.



2024-2025 STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

As your representative in Harrisburg, I worked hard to deliver a state budget that continues the promise of getting resources where we need them without raising taxes.

The fight for fairness in education is about the future of our young people. Every child deserves the same chance to navigate a successful future, regardless of their ZIP code.

In the 2024-25 state budget, schools in the 161st Legislative District will see \$15.6 million in new state dollars. That's a big jump over last year.

Beyond education, the new budget increases funding for programs that will boost housing and social services programs, strengthen workforce development, encourage industry innovation, expand 'shovel-ready' sites to attract new and expanding businesses, and bolster projects to revitalize our downtown centers. That means a better trained workforce, more jobs and more commercial activity to stimulate our local economy.

Most important, the new budget includes no new taxes, keeping more money in your pocket.

Here are more highlights of the 2024-25 budget I helped to negotiate for you and on behalf of all Pennsylvanians.

In addition, an issue I've long championed is getting more state support.



The budget invests \$261 million more (an 11% increase) in the Intellectual Disabilities Community Waiver program, increasing the rates paid to intellectual disability and autism programs that employ Direct Support Professionals so that more families can get the home and community-based services they need. So many Delaware County families have shared their personal stories with me about how hard it is to navigate this system and how low wages have made it hard for them to retain the support staff they need. I am hoping this budget increase provides relief to these families.



2024-2025 PA BUDGET WINS

- No new taxes
- Over \$1B increase for Pre-K to 12 education funding
- \$30M increase for Career and Technical Education
- \$100M for Public school facility improvement grants
- NEW \$3M investment for menstrual hygiene products in schools to address period poverty
- Over \$15M increase for Community Colleges
- Over \$140M for grants, scholarships, and other programs to make higher education more affordable in PA

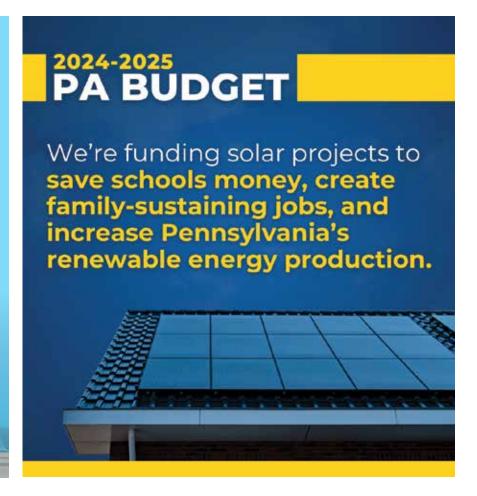
- \$20M for student teacher stipends
- \$70M for attainable housing initiatives through the PHARE Housing Program
- \$16.5M increase for anti-violence investments and after-school programs
- \$20M increase for county based mental health services
- NEW \$2.5M for legal services in eviction proceedings
- \$7M increase for Workforce Development
- \$161M for Public Transportation and Multimodal projects

- \$261M increase for Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Community Waiver Program
- Over \$26M increase for subsidized
- childcare services
- \$36M increase for Neighborhood Assistance Program
- \$5M increase for Homelessness Assistance
- Over \$2M increase for Domestic Violence Prevention
- \$5M increase for Non-profit Security grants
- \$7.5M for indigent defense
- AND MUCH MORE!

Blue/Green Workgroup

For the past five years, I have been convening a working group of labor leaders and environmental leaders to develop shared goals and find common ground. I'm pleased to share that we had a major legislative victory when the Solar for Schools bill passed the House and Senate with bipartisan support and was signed into law.

Schools that want to install solar panels can soon apply for grants to cover up to half of the cost of installation. The grant program will be funded by \$25M in state funding along with federal climate funding. This is a great example of a legislative victory that supports the environment and creates good union jobs.



LOWERING PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS AND SAVING LOCAL PHARMACIES

House Bill 1993 Signed Into Law as Act 77 of 2024

As we negotiated the state budget, we also passed transformative legislation that will regulate pharmaceutical industry middlemen known as pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), which will benefit locally owned pharmacies and help to bring down prescription drug prices for everyone.

PBM pricing tactics are often cited as the primary force driving community pharmacies out of business. More than 140 community pharmacies in Pennsylvania have closed just this year.

The new law limits and bans specific PBM practices including patient steering, retroactive recoupment of money paid by the PBM to the pharmacy and forcing prescriptions to be ordered by mail.



My office can help you with





Change of name or address







Antique or classic license plates









Questions? Contact my office to learn more about the PennDOT services we offer!



I love celebrating Independence Day in Rose Valley Borough. Mayor Bill Hale asked me to lead the Pledge of Allegiance after Rose Valley Scout Troop 272 led the flag ceremony. Special thanks to Photographer Carl Finkbeiner for these photos.



I visited Fair Acres to celebrate Mildred "Millie" Baer's 102nd birthday. Millie grew up in Parkside and spent most of her life in Brookhaven Borough. Rep. Lisa Borowski and I sponsored a House of Representatives Citation to honor her milestone.







I am so grateful to everyone who gave so generously to my office's summer food drive to help our neighbors in need. My office staff delivered a carload of your donations to Delco Food Project in July.

Donations can be made to Delco Food Project from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Metropolitan Community Church in Aston.

The Hope for Hallie Butterfly Garden in Brookhaven Borough is a special place. I was delighted to recognize brothers Bennett and Andrew McManus of Troop 272 in Rose Valley for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. They built two planter boxes, 24 butterfly houses and helped to mulch the paths for their Eagle project. Congrats to Bennett and Andrew and thank you for your work to enhance this beautiful place!

MAKE YOUR PLAN TO VOTE!

Your vote is your voice. And your voice deserves to be heard loud and clear when it comes to your government.

Now is the time to make your plan to vote in the Nov. 5 general election, when we'll be electing our president, one of two U.S. Senators, our Congressional delegation and state offices.

In Pennsylvania you can vote by mail, place your completed mail ballot in secure drop boxes throughout Delaware County or vote in person. Please save these important deadlines so your voice can be heard. Learn more at delco.gov/vote.



DON'T WAIT FOR YOUR PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE

More people than ever before are eligible for the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. Older homeowners, renters and people with disabilities could receive up to \$1,000 in a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2023.

vote.pa.gov 🗗

To ensure that as many Pennsylvanians as possible receive the property tax and rent relief that they are entitled

to, the deadline has been extended to December 31.

My office helps hundreds of people apply for this program each year. Rebates range from \$380 to \$1,000 depending on income. The maximum household income is increased from previous years to \$45,000 for tax year 2023, thanks to legislation we passed last year. Only half

of the accrued Social Security dispersals count toward the \$45,000 cap.

Application booklets are available at my office. We also offer in-person assistance in completing and submitting the application. My office can help you determine your eligibility and complete the paperwork. Please call us to set up an appointment!





MORE people eligible, MORE money back!

Homeowner &

Renter Income Up to \$8K	Max Re \$1,000
Up to \$18K	\$460
Up to \$45K	\$380



LOOK INSIDE FOR INFORMATION ON:

2024-2025 State Budget Highlights
Lowering Prescription Drug Costs and
Saving Local Pharmacies
...and more!

lpo.ts.0824

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE CONTACT MY OFFICE OR VISIT WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/KRUEGER/EVENTS
TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER FOR THESE FREE EVENTS.

Medicare 101

Thursday, Aug. 29 | 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Aston Community Center, 3270 Concord Rd., Aston

PA MEDI Zoom

Wednesday, Sept. 4 | 6 p.m.

Topic: Medicare 101

Senior Expo

Thursday, Sept. 19 | 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Brookhaven Municipal Center

Expungement Clinic

Thursday, Sept. 26 | 6-8 p.m.

Brookhaven Municipal Center

Fall Shred

Saturday, Oct. 5 | 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Northley Middle School

Blood Drive

Friday, Oct. 18 | 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Faith Community Church, 3515 Edgemont Ave., Brookhaven

Veterans Appreciation Luncheon Thursday, Oct. 24 | 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

American Legion Post 926

Blood Drive

Friday, Nov. 15 | 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Roosevelt Community Center, South Old Middletown Road, Middletown

Stay up to date by joining my email list

I write regular emails, and signing up is the best way to know about upcoming events, programs and services available to you and your family, and legislation that is moving through the state House. Sign up at RepLeanne.com/emailsignup.