

“Servant Leadership is all about prioritizing your needs. Our district offices in State College and Philipsburg strive to deliver excellent constituent services throughout the 77th Legislative District and Centre County.”

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT CONKLIN

Servant Leadership for PA House District 77

House District 77 includes the boroughs of State College (part), Philipsburg, and Port Matilda and the townships of Ferguson, Halfmoon, Huston, Patton, Rush, Taylor, and Worth.

## HELLO, NEIGHBORS!

With the new year underway, I wanted to update you on how we’re working to improve life in the district.

The past year was a busy one. I was proud to help bring home more than \$6 million to fund district projects and programs, and I was excited to see my bill to protect small businesses enacted. Our talented staff helped residents with myriad state matters, including recovering thousands in Property Tax/Rent Rebates. You can read more about our progress in the pages to follow.

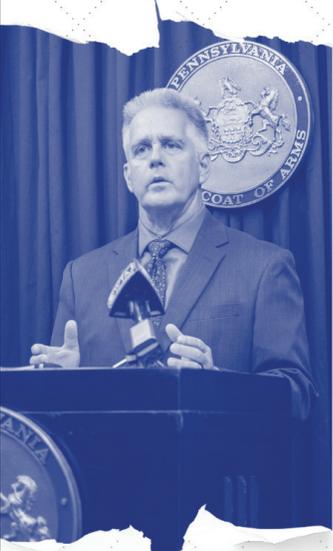
In the meantime, please remember that our office is here for you - whether you need help filing for benefits, services, or rebates or simply solving a state-related problem. Stop in to see how we can help!

In service,

REPRESENTATIVE  
**Scott Conklin**

**Legislative  
Year in Review**





**MORE THAN**  
**\$6 MILLION**  
in Funding Brought Back  
to the District

---

**\$119,658** Property Tax /  
Rent Rebate  
Money Returned

**1,209** Completed PennDOT  
Services for Constituents

**138** Bills Sponsored or  
Co-Sponsored

---

**Act 51 of 2025**  
Signed into Law  
to Help Small  
Businesses



**2025**

## PA ENACTS MY BILL TO SOLVE A BIG PROBLEM FOR SOME SMALL BUSINESSES

As majority chairman of the House Commerce Committee, I’m proud to deliver solutions that help our small businesses. In November, Gov. Josh Shapiro signed into law my legislation to help solve a persistent problem that has plagued many of the state’s small self-storage companies.

These businesses faced a costly problem when defaulting customers failed to sign or pay their rental agreement. With no timeframe in place to enforce the unsigned or unpaid agreement, the storage unit sat

occupied and unrentable, tying up the business’s sole commodity - space.

To solve the problem, I introduced legislation to allow for the electronic delivery of a rental agreement, which makes the agreement enforceable within 30 days of the document’s delivery - the same as if it had been signed. Now, if a unit occupant fails to sign or pay their agreement, the business can legally restrict access and take other enforcement actions, including removing the property, to free up the space for new customers.

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

As chair of the House Commerce Committee, I was excited to see the state enact my bill to help small storage businesses. Here's a look at progress on some of my other bills.

## The House has passed my bills to:

- ✓ Make it easier for businesses to obtain high-tech perimeter security systems.
- ✓ Regulate digital currency to ensure its safe use.
- ✓ Protect Office of State Inspector General agents by permitting them to arm themselves on the job.

## PA House committees have approved my bills to:

- ✓ Help public employee retirement plans operate more efficiently.
- ✓ Protect public school athletes by allowing the PIAA to set up separate playoffs for public and private schools.
- ✓ Increase the number of baby diaper changing stations in men's restrooms.

# BRINGING GREATER TRANSPARENCY TO THE SALE OF FORMER STATE PRISON LAND

When large facilities like Rockview close, it's the region's residents who bear the brunt of that decision. They're also the ones most likely to feel the impact of any potential land sale.

Despite all our efforts, we were not able to stop the closure of SCI Rockview and Quehanna Boot Camp. But we can work to make sure that, should the state ever decide to sell that land, any such sale happens in the fairest, most transparent way possible to prevent additional adverse impacts on residents.

To do that, I introduced legislation with state Rep. Dallas Kephart to require that any sale of land associated with a former state corrections facility follow specific procedures, including publication of the sale in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, disclosure of all bids and bidders, and oversight by the state Attorney General.

By bringing sunlight to the process and preventing closed-door transactions or sweetheart deals, we can help prevent sales that are not necessarily in residents' best interests. Our H.B. 1951 is currently in committee.

# OPENING THE DOOR TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

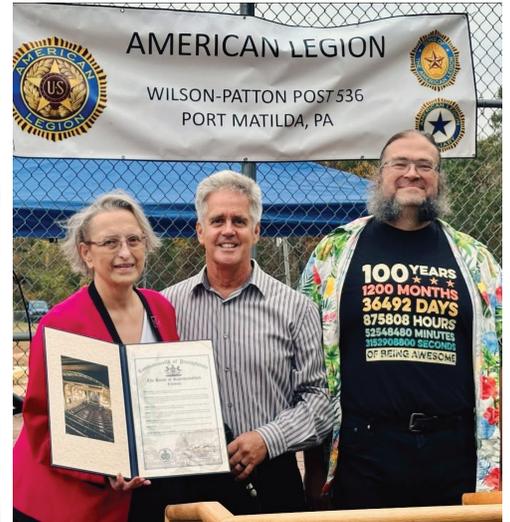
In addition to bringing greater transparency to state prison land sales, we should provide an opportunity for some of that land to benefit residents. I recently introduced legislation that would require the state to reserve up to 2% of any such land so it can be offered to the county for affordable housing.



*In November, talented STEM students from our district visited the state Capitol with Bill Gendron - Centre County 4-H Robotics Mentor and Founder of Centre STEM Inc.*



*I welcomed Carmen Vanderhoof (left) and Kat Miller (right) of the American Association of University Women to the state Capitol in November for a productive discussion on education issues.*



*I joined Port Matilda Mayor Ida Lively and Mark Lively for a wonderful centennial celebration last September and presented a House citation honoring the borough's 100th anniversary!*



*It was a privilege to honor our veterans at the Philipsburg VFW on Veterans Day.*



*I was honored to participate in the September ribbon-cutting ceremony for CATABUS's new partnership with UGI Energy Services to provide renewable natural gas to fuel our region's public transit system.*



301 S. Allen St., Suite 102  
State College, PA 16801 • (814) 238-5477

  @RepConklin

# DOLLARS BACK TO THE DISTRICT

Bringing your tax dollars back to the district is one of the most important parts of my job. Last year, I helped secure more than \$6 million, including:

- ✓ \$2 million to improve juvenile justice services, combat opioid addiction, and strengthen survivors' programs.
- ✓ \$900,000 for police and public safety resources, pedestrian improvements, and public works vehicles and equipment.
- ✓ \$800,000 to continue rehabilitating Philipsburg's historic James Stott Building.
- ✓ \$700,000 to create new affordable housing options and programs.
- ✓ \$650,000 for Patton Township transportation improvements.
- ✓ \$550,000 to expand emergency housing resources for residents facing homelessness.
- ✓ \$300,000 to fund a solar array for the new Park Forest Middle School.
- ✓ \$115,000 for fire and EMS resources.



I was proud to help pass legislation to ensure PA seniors are not disqualified from PACE/PACENET prescription drug assistance because of Social Security cost-of-living increases. The state's existing COLA moratorium was set to expire Dec. 31, but the legislation extended the moratorium through the end of 2027.

## TOR'S TIPS FOR SENIORS

**SENIORS** - as Rep. Conklin's district office director, I want to remind you about the following programs to help you save.

### Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program:

Allows income-eligible residents 65 or older, widows or widowers 50 or older, and disabled residents 18 or older to claim rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2025. The qualifying income limit is \$48,110, and half of Social Security income is excluded. Scan the QR code or visit [www.revenue.pa.gov/ptrr](http://www.revenue.pa.gov/ptrr).



**Tor McCartney**  
District Office Director

**PACE/PACENET:** Provides prescription assistance to seniors 65 or older. The program is available to single people earning up to \$33,500 annually and married couples earning up to \$41,500 annually. Scan the QR code at right or visit [www.pa.gov/services](http://www.pa.gov/services) and enter "Apply for PACENET" into the search bar.



### Reduced Vehicle Registration Fee:

Provides a reduced fee for retirees earning up to \$30,778 annually and waives the fee for veterans who were injured in service, captured, or awarded certain medals. Scan the QR code at right or visit [www.pa.gov/agencies/dmv/vehicle-services/title-and-registration](http://www.pa.gov/agencies/dmv/vehicle-services/title-and-registration)



Also, please remember that our office can help you obtain a senior bus pass or disability placard!



District staffer Nanci Rommel and her daughter, Katy, had a wonderful time at The Arc of Centre County's 2025 holiday party and recognition celebration.



I'm excited to announce that our legislative staffer, Josh Portney, will be moving on to clerk for the Honorable Stella Tsai of the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court. We will miss Josh, but we wish him the absolute best in his continued service to his community and the commonwealth.



District staffer Caroline Paterno and I joined Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation President Eric Rusnak, local officials, and friends for the unveiling of the America250PA Bell in Philipsburg in December. Mural artist Pamela Snyder Ethers beautifully captured the rich history of this area.



I had a great visit with Teamsters Local 8 earlier this year. I stand with the thousands of union brothers and sisters leading the charge for worker representation at Penn State.



# REP. SCOTT CONKLIN

301 S. Allen St., Suite 102  
 State College, PA 16801  
 (814) 238-5477

RepConklin.com @RepConklin

## DISTRICT OFFICE SERVICES

My team and I can help you with:

- Property Tax/  
Rent Rebate**
- PennDOT Services**
- Help with  
Unemployment**
- LIHEAP**



lpo.aa.0226

## NEW BUDGET BOOSTS OUR SCHOOLS

I was proud to cast a “yes” vote for the 2025-26 state budget, which increases funding to our public schools and invests responsibly in essential programs and services.

Our district schools will see across-the-board increases and share in nearly \$180 million recovered statewide from cyber charter reform.

To continue leveling the playing field for students in underfunded districts, the budget adds \$565 million in adequacy and tax equity payments.

The new spending plan maintains funding for Penn State, Pitt, PSSHE and our community colleges, maintains

the \$30 million student teacher stipend, and provides nearly \$60 million (over two budget cycles) for Grow PA scholarships.

The budget will also deliver \$2 billion to repair our roads and bridges, \$750 million more to expand health care access for underserved and rural communities, \$40 million more to feed residents and support family farms, \$25 million for child care recruitment and retention, \$10 million to continue agricultural innovation grants, and \$470,000 more to support services for domestic violence survivors.

Importantly, the new budget delivers these new investments and others without adding any new taxes or dipping into the state’s Rainy Day Fund.

2025-2026 PA State Budget

### INCREASING FUNDING FOR OUR SCHOOLS

**Bald Eagle Area School District**  
**\$137K (1.2% ↑)**

**Philipsburg-Osceola Area School District**  
**\$500K (3% ↑)**

**State College Area School District**  
**\$414K (2.3% ↑)**

**Tyrone School District**  
**\$684 (5.5% ↑)**



## WORKING PENNSYLVANIANS

**TAX CREDIT** Putting money back in YOUR pocket

Dependents	Income Limit (Single/Head of Household)	Income Limit (Joint)	Maximum Tax Cut Back in YOUR Pocket
<b>Zero</b>	\$19,104	\$26,214	<b>\$65</b>
<b>One</b>	\$50,434	\$57,554	<b>\$433</b>
<b>Two</b>	\$57,310	\$64,430	<b>\$715</b>
<b>Three or More</b>	\$61,555	\$68,675	<b>\$805</b>

\* Returns filed jointly are counted as two individuals. Does not reflect qualifying children or dependents.

## A NEW STATE TAX CUT FOR PA WORKERS

The new PA state budget provides for the first Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit. Families who qualify for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit will also qualify for the state tax credit, which equals 10% of their federal EITC. Visit [www.revenue.pa.gov](http://www.revenue.pa.gov) and scroll down to the link titled “Working Pennsylvanias Tax Credit” on the right.