



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
PAUL FRIEL
26TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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SUMMER 2026

Dear Neighbor,

I hope that your summer is going well! I wanted to take a minute and share some state government and local news.

I'm proud to be your state representative and serve in the General Assembly. Each day I'm working to pass legislation that will strengthen our community and our commonwealth.

This summer I've been fortunate to have major legislation related to Food Processing Residuals (FPRs) signed into law. In addition, the House has passed eight bills to protect against data centers, including my bill to allow municipalities to enact a pause on data center applications while they update their related ordinances. Most of those bills, including mine, await action in the Senate.

Earlier this summer the legislature passed, and I voted for, a budget that funded schools, invested in farms, and provided a cost-of-living increase to retired teachers, firefighters, and police— all without raising taxes or raiding Pennsylvania's Rainy-Day Fund.



Rep. Paul Friel

PHOENIXVILLE AREA TOWN HALL

Join Rep. Friel for updates and Q&A

Wednesday, October 14
6:30 - 8:00 PM

Phoenixville Recreation Center
501 Franklin Ave, Phoenixville, PA 19460



2026-27 PA Budget Wins

- **No new taxes or reductions in the Rainy-Day Fund**
- **\$670M increase in school funding**
- **\$10M increase for the Student Teacher Stipend Program**
- **Continued tax relief via the Working Families Tax Credit**
- **Cost-of-living increase for retired teachers, police and firefighters**
- **\$300M increase for highway and safety improvements**
- **Expanded agriculture lending to support PA farmers**

VISIT OUR LOCAL OFFICES!

MONDAY - FRIDAY | 9AM - 4:30PM

- Our District Office
68 Glocker Way, Pottstown, 19465

EVERY TUESDAY | 10AM-3PM

- In the Phoenixville Rec Center
501 Franklin Ave, Phoenixville, 19460

EVERY THURSDAY | 10AM-3PM

- Our Elverson Office
60 East Main Street Elverson, 19520

1ST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH | 10AM-12PM

- In the Spring City Library

2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH | 10AM-12PM

- At the Phoenixville Area Senior Center

PAUL FRIEL

I hope you have a minute to read the rest of my Summer 2026 newsletter, and if you have any questions, concerns or a state matter to solve, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office.

I have several satellite and mobile offices to serve you in Pottstown, Elverson, Spring City and Phoenixville.

Sincerely,

Paul Friel





**NO
DATA
CENTERS**

House passes my bill to pause data center development

I am very grateful and proud to report that the House nearly unanimously voted to pass my data center bill that would give all Pennsylvania municipalities the legal ability to press “pause” for six months to update and fortify their ordinances for data center proposals. House Bill 2496 now needs to be passed in the Senate and signed by the governor into law.

Data centers can consume electric and water resources that dwarf what families and small businesses use from within a same utility provider, at times challenging their maintenance and costs, and then there are even more concerns over zoning, noise pollution and other unwanted changes. Our municipalities need the legal recourse to navigate these legitimate concerns. We’re only hamstringing them by leaving them to compete in court without the tools and time they need to protect their communities.

Growing biomedical innovation in PA

I’m also proud to report that legislation I co-sponsored to encourage pharmaceutical and biomedical manufacturers to establish their home base in Pennsylvania was unanimously approved by the House!

House Bill 2162 would allow makers of a drug or medical device to apply for a temporary product license from the commonwealth at the same time they begin their FDA approval process.



H.B. 2162 is sponsored by me and Reps. Lisa Borowski, D-Delaware, and Thomas Kutz, R-Cumberland.

Future of Healthcare Summit

It is no secret that healthcare in America is approaching a crisis point. From federal cuts to hospital closures, it is becoming ever more difficult for people to get the care they need.

Right here in Pennsylvania, more than 191,000 people have dropped their PENNIE coverage since federal tax credits expired and premiums doubled for many enrollees. It is essential that

we take an honest look at our healthcare system and find ways to ensure that every community has access to high-quality care.

With that in mind, Rep. Bridget Kosierowski and I convened our Future of Healthcare Summit in May, hosted with Penn Medicine and the University of Pennsylvania. Doctors, hospital leaders, bio-science innovators, and policy experts joined panels on rural healthcare access, the strain on hospital systems, and the promise and challenges of medical innovation.

The event was the start of a critical conversation, not the end of one. We appreciate everyone who showed up and shared their insights, and we’re using what we discussed to shape and advocate for policies that can make a difference for Pennsylvania families.



Student Legislative Advisory Committee

This past Spring, my team and I had the privilege of hosting our Student Legislative Advisory Committee (SLAC) in Harrisburg. These students had a full day, which included a tour of the House, Senate, and Supreme Court chambers, a discussion with Speaker Joanna McClinton, meeting some of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle and being introduced in our House session.

I trust that it was an impactful experience that each of these impressive juniors and seniors can take with them as they go on to make their mark in the world!



St. Peters Road is open!

We re-opened St. Peters Road! Thanks to funding and prioritizing our project with PennDOT, St. Peters Village is again connected in a way that makes sense, with engineering to rebuild and prevent erosion damage going forward.

Thank you to all the community members who showed up for the official opening on May 18. You demonstrated exactly why this village and this road are such a treasure!



Listening to our farmers

We recently held our annual farmers' breakfast where we had an important discussion about the importance of local farms and the challenges they are facing.

Farming is the backbone of our economy, and agriculture remains a top priority for me.



Reform for FPRs and their noxious odors wrap up with budget

I am happy to report my legislation to reform the use of food processing residuals on Pennsylvania land is now law in Pennsylvania. If you've seen the "no waste pit" signs in East Coventry- this is the issue we are addressing with this legislation.

Food processing residuals, also known as FPR, are the leftover products created by commercial food processing. They can include vegetable peelings, raw meat scraps, and liquid waste from cleaning processes that might contain blood, fat, hair, feathers, and a variety of other vegetable and animal byproducts, as well as chemicals used in processing.

Surrounding states have heavily restricted or banned the use of these residuals, making Pennsylvania a target for the cheap disposal of this commercial waste stream.

For four years I've been working with stakeholders (special thanks to East Coventry Advocacy) and with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle and in both chambers to pass protective legislation. The process was extensive and worthwhile, because it led us to legislation that could pass with wide support, be signed into law and get the job done.

Growing farmers in PA

In other good news, my bipartisan legislation to give farmers expanded access to low-interest financing to grow and modernize their operations passed with the budget.

State Rep. John Lawrence and I wrote H.B. 2207 to provide realistic and meaningful capital for critical agricultural operations in Pennsylvania.

Our farmers face rising costs for land, equipment, buildings and other investments necessary to sustain and expand their operations. While the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority's Small Business First Fund provides valuable financing opportunities, agricultural businesses were limited to loans of \$400,000, far below the \$2 million cap available to non-agricultural enterprises. Our bill raises that cap from \$400,000 to \$2 million, providing our farmers with the same level of economic opportunity as other businesses.



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READ MORE INSIDE:

- » My data center 'Pause Button' bill
- » Growing and investing in farmers
 - » Opening St. Peters Road
- » Promoting biomedical innovation in PA

lpo.km.0826

Upcoming Events



In memory of staff member Dwight Woessner

Rep. Paul Friel & North Coventry Police Department:

License Plate Restoration Event



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 | 4 PM TO 7 PM

Norco Fire Co
144 W Schuylkill Road, Pottstown

If your license plate is peeling, damaged, or illegible, you can apply for a **free** replacement license plate!

*Please note: new license plates will be mailed to our office for pick-up

Pre-registration will save time!
Call 610-427-8782 for information.

PAUL FRIEL



REP. PAUL FRIEL'S

SENIOR FAIR

FRIDAY, October 16

🕒 11 am to 2 pm

Phoenixville Recreation Center
501 Franklin Ave,
Phoenixville, PA 19460

📞 (610) 427-8782 🌐 RepFriel.com

Free
Pizza &
Flu shots!