



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Scott Conklin

SUMMER 2023
WWW.REPCKONKLIN.COM



77TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Capitol: 314 Irvis Office Building • P.O. Box 202077 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2077 • (717) 787-9473
State College Service Centers: 301 S. Allen St., Suite 102 • State College, PA 16801 • (814) 238-5477
213 N. Front St. • Philipsburg, PA 16866 • (814) 342-4872

WEBSITE: www.RepConklin.com | [f](#) [@](#) [t](#) @RepConklin



Let's put politics aside and work together to fund higher education

It's no secret that we are living through one of the most polarizing and divisive times in our nation's history. In recent years, politics have gotten in the way of real progress in solving our problems and building a better and brighter commonwealth. Every year, these political divisions are on full display during budget season, and this year is no exception.

Necessary funding for higher education institutions like Penn State is being held up this year in an unprecedented fashion. Penn State is our flagship state-related university, which educates the next generation of PA proud leaders. Genuine discussions about transparency and policy are vital to holding our institutions accountable, but cutting their funding outright is not fair to the tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians who depend on reduced in-state tuition.

In order for us to move forward, we must stop the partisan games and work together for the people of Pennsylvania. I will fight tirelessly to build a coalition in Harrisburg to properly fund our higher education institutions and fund our K-12 schools,

because we owe it to the people of this great commonwealth. And I am confident that when we return in September, we will move forward with a budget that does just that.

When it comes to our children and our future leaders, politics must be left at the doorstep. This budget season has been bruising, and I hope that next year, we will begin this task with that guiding principle. I know we are capable of putting our state's future first.

It is with this mindset that I reaffirm my support for bills to improve and enhance school safety, as well as any other efforts to make sure that our kids are safe, productive, and able to succeed. I am committed to working with all school districts, educators, parents, and anyone else who has a concern or question about my stance on these issues. Our kids – our future leaders – come first.



My pre-canvassing bill heads for House consideration

Would smooth election process, prevent delays

As chairman of the House State Government Committee, I work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to promote legislation that helps government run more efficiently. That includes how we conduct our elections, which has been a hot topic both here at home and across the country.

A crucial tool for ensuring our elections run smoothly is a process known

as pre-canvassing, in which county election officials inspect and open envelopes containing official absentee or mail-in ballots; remove them from their envelopes; and count the votes reflected. Pre-canvassing does not include the recording or publishing of the votes reflected on the ballots.

Current law states that pre-canvassing cannot begin until 7 a.m. on Election Day. Given recent election reforms that expanded the use of mail-in ballots, waiting until 7 a.m. on Election Day is no longer practical because it does not give officials enough time to tabulate

the increased volume of mail-in and absentee ballots.

I'm pleased to report that the State Government Committee recently approved my legislation that would allow county election officials to begin pre-canvassing mail-in and absentee ballots up to seven days before Election Day.

If enacted, the bill would give officials the critical time needed to tabulate these ballots and would expedite the availability of election results, reducing the chances of a delay.

State budget makes major investments in education, communities

One of the most important investments we can make is in our future generations. The 2023-2024 state budget invests \$1 billion in K-12 education and includes the largest increase to basic education funding in the commonwealth's history.

To fight student hunger, the budget also invests \$46.5 million to provide universal free breakfast to Pennsylvania's 1.7 million public school students, regardless of income, and free lunch to all 22,000 Pennsylvania students who are eligible for reduced-price lunches through the National School Lunch Program.

Level-Up funding – which was increased by \$100 million – will help ensure that students in less affluent ZIP codes have the same resources to compete and succeed as their peers in wealthier neighborhoods.



State Rep. Scott Conklin debates the state budget in Harrisburg

Helping seniors stay in their homes

Expanding the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program was a critical aspect of budget negotiations. Income limits for the program, which helps seniors and disabled residents stay in their homes, have not been increased in 15 years.

The House and Senate recently passed legislation that would provide relief to nearly 175,000 individuals by raising the program's income eligibility threshold to \$45,000 for both homeowners and renters. The bill – which as of this writing is awaiting the governor's signature – would also increase the size of rebates.

The new budget also invests in the Help at Home (OPTIONS) program offered through the Department of Aging. The funding will be earmarked for reducing the waitlist of seniors seeking services that will allow them to stay in their homes.

This budget isn't perfect, but it spends sensibly and invests in areas that will provide real help to Pennsylvanians of all ages – all without raising taxes. I'm hopeful that when we return to session, we will finalize any remaining budget details and move forward with the plan.



Working for you here and in Harrisburg



I was honored to join community members and local leaders at an engaging and productive Coffee and Conversations event in Ferguson Township!



It's always inspiring talking with Penn State Law students, who are some of the most intelligent and driven individuals I've met.



It was great to see new local government and community leaders at an event in State College!



I was proud to join a rally on behalf of the incredibly hardworking and dedicated nurses and caregivers at the Meadows!



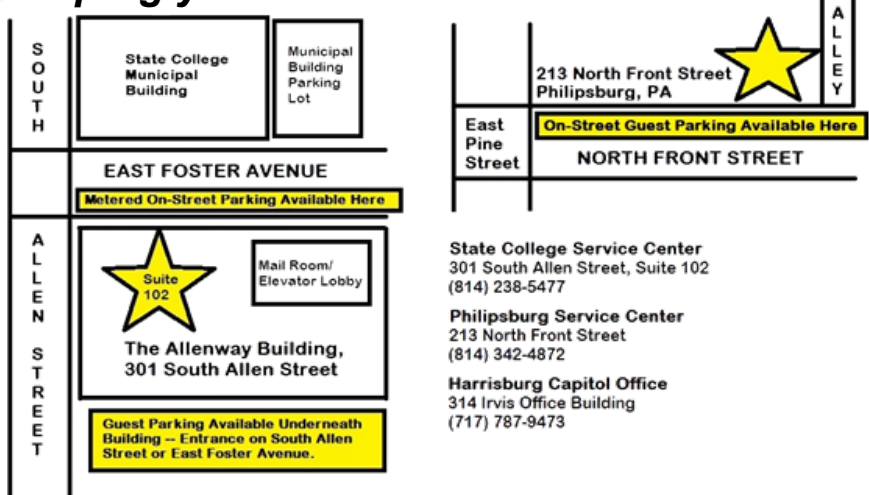
Last year's Grange Fair was a huge hit, and I am looking forward to seeing everyone at this year's event! Earlier this year in Harrisburg, we recognized the 150th anniversary of the Pennsylvania State Grange. To honor this monumental occasion, I sponsored House Resolution 148, which passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support. The resolution officially recognizes September 18, 2023 as State Grange Day here in Pennsylvania.

Bringing your tax dollars back home

I'm proud to have helped secure nearly \$10 million in funding for our district in recent months. Some highlights include:

- \$180,000 for emergency relief and assistance to Patton Township residents whose townhomes were destroyed by a sinkhole.
- \$150,000 to the Port Matilda EMS to assist with funding problems.
- \$2.44 million for repairs of the Calder Way stormwater system.
- \$1 million for a new Moshannon Valley EMS ambulance facility.
- More than \$3.75 million for community investments and outdoor projects, including \$500,000 for the Action Sports Park in State College.
- \$111,300 to aid in development of the Philipsburg Cold Stream Campground.
- \$140,000 to purchase a new refrigeration truck for the Moshannon Valley YMCA.
- \$1.5 million to expand pedestrian services at an intersection on North Atherton

Helping you here at home



My staff and I work tirelessly to ensure you can navigate and access all state-related resources you need. I wanted to provide you with a map of both my State College and Philipsburg district offices so you can easily find us. Stop by for help applying for programs and services or assistance with state-related questions or problems!



State Representative
Scott Conklin

P.O. Box 202077
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2077

lpo.km.0823



Rep. Scott Conklin's Summer Update

INSIDE:

- ✓ **WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO END THE DIVISIVENESS**
- ✓ **WORKING FOR YOU HERE AND IN HARRISBURG**
- ✓ **A STATE BUDGET THAT INVESTS IN EDUCATION AND OUR COMMUNITIES**

REPRESENTING THE STATE COLLEGE AREA, PHILIPSBURG AND PARTS OF THE BALD EAGLE VALLEY

MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Problems/questions involving unemployment
 - Property tax/rent rebates for seniors
 - Voter registration and vote by mail
 - Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
 - Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
 - Information on financial assistance for higher education
 - Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
 - Birth and death certificates
 - Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
 - Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
 - Complaints and problems with insurance companies
 - Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
 - Problems or questions about the state lottery
 - PACE cards for senior citizens
 - Consumer complaints
- Any state government-related matter!**

IF YOU NEED HELP WITH ANY STATE- OR GOVERNMENT-RELATED SERVICES, PLEASE CONTACT MY OFFICE AT 814-238-5477 FOR ASSISTANCE.