

State Representative

MIKE SCHLOSSBERG

FIGHTING FOR YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY



Jobs that Pay

**Health Care/
Mental Health**



**World-Class
Education**

**Safe
Environment**



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Spring 2023

My Office Has Moved

Greetings from my new District Office! Located at 5100 Tilghman St., Suite 200, Allentown, PA 18104, my office is open and ready to serve your state government needs. As always, feel free to call my office (same number: 610-821-5577) or email (RepSchlossberg@pahouse.net).

While my office has moved, my staff and I will continue to offer the same help with state government-related services as when we were in our former office. Normal hours will continue to be Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM.

Moving was not an easy decision. The good news is that we managed to stay on Tilghman Street. The new space has much more parking without having to cross the street at a busy intersection. It's also accessible and is less than four miles from our former office.

I apologize to anybody who was inconvenienced by the move. We tried our best to communicate when my former office would be closed and then again when my new office was operational. I expect this location will serve the 132nd District for many years.

**WE HAVE
MOVED**

5100 Tilghman St., Suite 200
Allentown, PA 18104



TO FIND MY OFFICE:

- From the East: Drive west on Tilghman St., crossing over Cedar Crest Blvd. and Route 309. Pass Josh Early Candy on your left, cross the bridge over the PA Turnpike and get in the center turning lane. Turn left into the driveway (Commerce Corporate Center). Turn right at the first stop sign to get to 5100 Tilghman St.
- From the West: Drive east on Tilghman St. away from Route 100. Pass the entrance to the PA Turnpike and turn right into the driveway (Commerce Corporate Center). Turn right at the first stop sign to get to 5100 Tilghman St.



You're Invited to my Open House

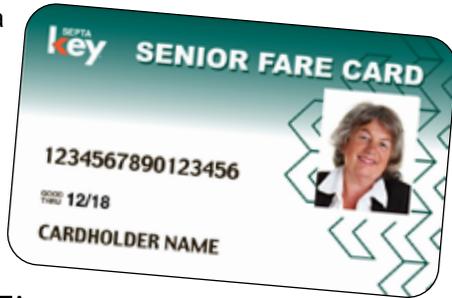
5100 Tilghman St., Suite 200, Allentown, PA 18104
Thursday, May 18, 2023 • 4 PM until 6 PM

No need to RSVP. My staff and I will help with unclaimed property searches, SEPTA Senior Fare Card Enrollment, and answer any questions about state government-related services.

WHAT CAN MY OFFICE DO FOR YOU?

SEPTA Free Senior Fare Card

Seniors in Pennsylvania can ride mass transit for free. A simple application is all you need, and my office can help. Locally, my office has applications for seniors to get a card for free bus transportation with LANTA.



In the Philadelphia area, seniors can enroll in SEPTA's Free Senior Fare Card and ride rail and bus service in the city and outlying areas. My office is designated as a location to do enrollment by appointment. You'll need to call ahead and plan to come to the office so we can take your picture. A few weeks later, SEPTA will mail the card straight to your home. If you take the train to Philadelphia from Lansdale or Colmar, this is a great option for your plans.

For help with either the LANTA pass or SEPTA Senior Fare Card, give my office a call at 610-821-5577.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Help

Every year, my office is busy helping hundreds of people file for a Property Tax/Rent Rebate. The deadline to apply is June 30, 2023. Applications can be filed using the PA 1000 form or by using www.mypath.pa.gov to file electronically for free.

To qualify, applicants must earn less than \$35,000 per year (for homeowners) or \$15,000 per year (for renters) – and only HALF of Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits count toward eligibility. Residents of assisted living facilities may be eligible if they reside in a facility which pays property taxes and meet the income limits for renters.

If you're eligible – or you know someone who might be – my office can help you file the application or answer questions.

We've learned that we can help people file via phone or mail. Give my office a call at 610-821-5577 or email RepSchlossberg@pahouse.net for more information or to have forms mailed to you.



Claim Money That Belongs To YOU

One in 10 Pennsylvanians has money being held by the PA Treasury. It could be something like an old savings account, a forgotten paycheck or refund, a stock dividend or an insurance claim. Helping people to claim what belongs to them has become one of my personal projects since taking office in 2013. In total, we've helped constituents claim \$2 million in money from the Treasury's unclaimed property database. That's money that has come back to people like you.

You can check for your name by visiting PaTreasury.gov or by calling my office.

If you get a call or letter from me or my office with information about a claim in your name, it is not a scam. If you are unsure, call my office at 610-821-5577 and we'll answer any of your questions or concerns.

It is free to file your unclaimed property claim if you do it on your own or through my office.

Making It Easier To Get A Disability Parking Placard

My office often helps people obtain a disability parking placard from PennDOT. PennDOT recently changed the process for applying, renewing and replacing placards, making it a lot easier.

The most up-to-date forms (dated 5/22) no longer need to be notarized. Initial applications still require a doctor's signature. Renewals and replacements can be done online.

You do not need to own a vehicle to have a disability parking placard. If somebody is giving you a ride to the grocery store or the doctor, you can still have a placard available for your use on those trips.

My office can help you apply and get your placard much faster than if you mail it on your own.

Give my office a call at 610-821-5577 for more information. We are happy to send you forms and help get your application processed.



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Free Credit Reports

Your credit report can have an impact on employment and your ability to buy a home, car or even insurance.

Thanks to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, you can receive a free credit report from each of the three national credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) every 12 months. You can order your report from all three agencies at the same time or spread those requests over the course of the year to better monitor your credit. These reports will NOT include your credit score.

Three ways to get your free credit report:

- Online at www.annualcreditreport.com
- By phone at 1-877-322-8228
- Stop by my office or call for forms to mail for processing



Honoring The American Flag

My office collects American flags ready for proper retirement and gets them to a local service organization in advance of Flag Day. Please bring any flags you might have to my office at any time of the year. If you have any questions, please call my office at 610-821-5577.

Mental Health Corner

Out of Darkness Walk:

Every fall, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosts its Out of Darkness Walk, a beautiful event honoring the lives of loved ones lost to suicide. In October, I joined many friends, including Allentown Mayor Matt Tuerk, at the event which raised over \$100,000 for suicide prevention efforts. What an amazing accomplishment.



In October, Miss Pennsylvania, Alysa Bainbridge, met with me to discuss her passion and advocacy for mental health care and recovery. Alysa spent the fall visiting schools to share her message. In fact, the day before our meeting, she visited with students at Muhlenberg Elementary School. I look forward to working with her to continue the fight to fix Pennsylvania's broken mental health care system.

Mental Health Resources

Experiencing a Mental Health Crisis? Call Crisis Intervention: 610-782-3127 or 911

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-Talk (8255)

National Alliance on Mental Illness-Lehigh Valley:
www.nami-lv.org

Danny's Ride Receives State Support: Often connected with mental health needs, recovery from substance use disorders is a challenging journey. When somebody struggles with recovery, the results can be catastrophic. Any obstacle can become insurmountable. When local mom Nancy Knoebel's son Danny passed away from an overdose a week shy of his 28th birthday, Nancy started an organization to provide transportation to recovery treatment for people who couldn't otherwise get to where they needed to go. The services have been effective and life changing. When I learned about these efforts, I was able to work with Danny's Ride to secure \$300,000 through the Department of Human Services to help expand the services across our region. You can learn more about Danny's Ride at www.dannysride.org.



NEW SESSION UNDERWAY



The 2023-2024 Legislative Session is underway. With 25% of the House of Representatives being new members and the majority party changing, a new governor and new leadership in the Senate, this is going to be an exciting year. I continue to be focused on the priorities of Parkland and Allentown.

- World-Class Education For ALL
- Health Care And Mental Health
- Safe Environment
- Strong Economy With Jobs That Pay

Each Session, I introduce legislation hoping to make a difference in your life. Below is a summary of some of the legislation I've written. If you want more information, send me an email (RepSchlossberg@pahouse.com) or give me a call at 610-821-5577 and we'll get you more information on the legislation.

Pet Insurance — To protect pet owners who purchase insurance for emergency medical expenses. While Pennsylvania has consumer protection laws for other types of insurance policies, there are no laws in Pennsylvania specifically addressing pet insurance contracts.

HOPE for PA — Last session, the final budget signed by the governor allocated \$100 million to support my HOPE (Healing, Opportunity, Promise, Excellence in Mental Health Care) for PA plan. A bipartisan blue-ribbon commission announced a spending plan that needs to be approved for the money to be released. I've introduced legislation to finalize that plan and hope to see the first steps in our efforts to fix Pennsylvania's broken mental health care system.

Fair Education Funding and Level Up — It often comes as a surprise, but Parkland receives less than its fair share of state dollars to support basic education and special education. Additionally, Allentown is one of the poorest school districts in the state. This results in crushing property tax bills to homeowners in both communities and our children bear the brunt of fewer opportunities for a bright future. I'm committed

to fully enacting Pennsylvania's Fair Funding Formula and continuing to build on my Level Up successes which help underfunded school districts.

BOOST — Research shows that Pennsylvania saves \$6.69 for every \$1 invested in Out-of-School-Time programs. While there are 750,000 Pennsylvania kids enrolled in these programs, for everyone enrolled, there are four waiting for a spot to open. To break down barriers to those programs, I've introduced "Building Opportunity through Out-of-School" (BOOST) to support these critical and needed services for Pennsylvania families.

Grow Our Own Educators — My Grow Our Own Educators legislation would help school districts fill critically needed vacancies for educators in our schools.

Fighting Mega Development -- I've introduced legislation to take that on. Reasonable and responsible development is expected in life as it creates jobs, expands economic opportunities, and supplies needed housing in growing regions, but it is frustrating to be stuck in traffic on a stretch of road which used to be relatively easy to travel.

Majority Caucus Chair
Rep. Mike Schlossberg

Elected Majority Caucus Chair

As the Session got underway, my colleagues elected me to serve as Majority Caucus Chair. I'll be responsible for running caucus meetings, preparing other Representatives for voting sessions. More importantly, moving up in leadership like this allows me to better serve Parkland and Allentown. It's an honor to serve and lead in Harrisburg.



AROUND THE DISTRICT

Thank you to everyone who attended the fall town halls at the Upper Macungie Township Municipal Building and Parkland Community Library. We had lively discussions and I appreciate learning about issues important to you. I also want to thank B'nai B'rith residents and staff for hosting a town hall earlier this year. The turnout was incredible.



Humane Society ribbon-cutting and a new Schlossberg:

Last fall, I was able to take part in the Lehigh Valley Humane Society's ribbon-cutting. After years of hard work, staff and volunteers, with support from the community and Commonwealth, were able to complete an expansion and renovation of the facility. After spending some time with kittens, the Schlossbergs came home with another member of the family. Meet Chris, who is the second dog we've adopted from the Humane Society. She's adjusting well to her new home, and we feel more complete with her.

In December, I had a blast at **Kernsville Elementary School** talking to fourth graders! I said it a million times and I'll say it a million more, talking with kids is easily one of the most fun parts of the job.



This fall, Civic Theatre formally introduced an amazing mural, created by Rosemary Geseck. I was thrilled to join my friends at a community celebration for the mural.



Congratulations to **Yogi Gupte** who received his Eagle Scout rank. Yogi completed 26 merit badges and has served as Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader and Troop Guide in his local troop. It was a pleasure to attend and congratulate Yogi on his accomplishments.



I was able to join **Mission Autism** as staff opened its Allentown-area clinic in February, adding to the valuable and desperately needed services in our region.



Thank you **Upper Macungie Township** for hosting Barkfest at Grange Park. All the Schlossbergs enjoy meeting the neighbors.



Rep. Mike Schlossberg

P.O. Box 202132
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lpo.ks.0323

REAL ID Deadline Extended

The deadline for REAL ID enforcement has been extended until May 7, 2025. Enacted in 2005 by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Bush in the aftermath of 9/11, REAL ID will be required at that time to board domestic commercial flights, enter a military base or enter a federal facility that requires ID at the door. It is not required to drive, vote, access hospitals, visit the post office, access courts or receive Social Security or veterans' benefits. Valid U.S. Passports are considered REAL ID. For more information about obtaining REAL ID in Pennsylvania, visit www.dmv.pa.gov/REALID. If you are looking to obtain REAL ID in person, visit the PennDOT Driver License Center at 1101 MacArthur Road in Whitehall, which is open Tuesday through Saturday, 8:30 AM until 4:15 PM. My office has a REAL ID Guide available for more information. Give us a call at 610-821-5577 and we can get one to you.

The infographic features a woman with long dark hair holding a REAL ID card, standing next to a computer monitor displaying a website. The background is a light blue gradient with a yellow speech bubble containing text.

The federal REAL ID Act has been extended in Pennsylvania until
May 7, 2025

The best thing you can do to prepare for REAL ID is to get your documents together:

- ✓ Proof of identity
- ✓ Social Security card
- ✓ Two current, physical proofs of PA residency
- ✓ Proof of all legal name changes

Visit **PENNDOT.GOV/REALID**