

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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NEWS YOU CAN USE

Expanded Property Tax & Rent Rebate Program in Effect

For the first time in decades, the Property Tax & Rent Rebate Program is changing to make more seniors and people with disabilities eligible.

Applicants must be 65 or older, a widow/widower 50 or older, or someone 18 or older with a permanent disability as determined by the Social Security Administration. There is an income limit of \$45,000 which will be calculated using income from 2023. Only HALF of Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits are counted toward the income limit. Interest, dividends, capital gains, wages and all other income is counted



Property Tax / Rent Rebate 2024 Program Expansion

MORE people eligible, **MORE** money back!

Homeowner & Renter Income	Max Rebate
Up to \$8K	\$1,000
Up to \$15K	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$460
Up to \$45K	\$380

Questions? Contact my office for help receiving your refund!

dollar-for-dollar. You can see the chart below to see the rebates available by income limits.

Every year my office helps hundreds of people apply and receive these rebates. We file applications online which helps to ensure delivery for processing and ensures forms do not get lost in the mail. This year, we're prepared to help even more people as the program income limits and rebate amounts increase, and more people are eligible.

If you would like the booklet with forms, give my office a call (610-821-5577) and we will mail it to you. If you would like our assistance in applying, please call to make arrangements and schedule an appointment.

The deadline to apply is June 30, 2024. The earliest payments can be sent (for those who apply early) is July 1, 2024.

Search PA's Unclaimed Property Database

One in 10 Pennsylvania residents 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 people claim \$2.2 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 www.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 (610-821-5577) and we'll answer any of your questions or concerns.

There is no cost to file your unclaimed property claim if you do it on your own or through my office.



Let us search www.PaTreasury.gov for you!

Around the District



Allen Government & Civics Class

It was a pleasure to visit Ms. Sterner's class at Allen to discuss state government. If you really want to know the pulse of the community, talk to high school students about their concerns. You will learn a lot.



Students at Kratzer

The best days as a state representative involve visiting a classroom and talking with kids who ask a wide range of questions. Thank you to 4th grade students at Kratzer Elementary for inviting me and being wonderfully prepared with questions.



Joining the Fight for American Jobs

Workers at the local Mack Truck plant were on strike this fall. When asked, I stood with them in their fight for fair wages and the promise to keep these jobs in America.



Celebrating Diwali

Diwali is the Hindu festival of lights, and the Indian American Association hosted a joyful, colorful, and delightful festival which I attended in November. Thank you for the invitation.



India Heritage Day

Allentown hosted India Heritage Day at the Arts Park downtown. It was a great event with delicious food and wonderful performances. Thank you to the organizers of the event.



Fall Town Halls

Thank you to everyone who came to the two town halls hosted at Cedar Crest College and the Upper Macungie Municipal Building in November. I appreciate the informal setting where we can exchange thoughts and ideas on how to make Pennsylvania a better place. Look for additional town halls in the fall of 2024.

In the Capitol

2023 Session Wrap Up

The General Assembly ended 2023 with a flurry of activity. Some of the highlights include:

- Record increase in Basic Education Funding
- \$175 million in new funding for school facility improvements to bring older facilities up to date
- \$10 million to help pay for student-teacher stipends and address PA's teacher shortage
- Fully funded Penn State, Pitt, and Temple to help keep education affordable for more than 70,000 PA students
- Authorized \$100 million for school-based student mental health services
- Increased violence prevention measures by \$10 million
- Required insurers to cover preventative breast and ovarian cancer screenings for high-risk patients at no cost



- Instituted bipartisan probation reform and clean slate legislation
- Increased penalties for “porch pirating”
- Updated Pennsylvania’s dog laws
- Updated rules for automated enforcement for drivers who fail to stop for school buses with flashing red lights

It was a busy year but make no mistake: we have more work to do for 2024 and I look forward to continuing to fight for the Parkland and Allentown communities.

Celebrating Light During a Dark Year

In December, Gov. Josh Shapiro hosted a Hanukkah celebration at the Governor’s Residence. I was honored to attend with my family. The Governor spoke about the importance of fighting to make sure everyone feels welcome. Watching my children play with dreidels in the Governor’s Residence offered a great deal of comfort that even in the most terrifying times, there are a lot of us fighting to make sure everyone feels safe and loved in Pennsylvania, no matter who they are.



My family with Governor Shapiro.

Parkland Volleyball Team Honored for State Title

The Parkland Boys’ Volleyball Team captured the 2023 state championship, finishing undefeated at 23-0! This fall, we were able to welcome the team, coaches and families to the PA House to recognize their hard work and celebrate the team’s incredible success!



Raising Funds & Awareness for Hunger Action

September is Hunger Action Month and every year members of the General Assembly participate in a slow pitch softball game to raise money to fight hunger in Pennsylvania. It’s a good cause and a lot of fun. I’m not entirely sure how this picture materialized, but I made the catch and I’m sure it will be used for nefarious reasons for years to come.



Information for Tax Season

Expanded Child & Dependent Care Tax Credit Takes Effect

First enacted in 2022, Pennsylvania's Child & Dependent Care Tax Credit is expanding and will benefit more than 200,000 Pennsylvania families who would otherwise face the increased cost of care. The credit is claimed on your PA Personal Income Tax Return and helps to offset care expenses for children under the age of 13, a spouse who is physically or mentally incapable of self-care, or someone who was physically or mentally incapable of self-care (was your dependent or could have been your dependent). Use the PA Schedule DC to file the claim. Please know: my office cannot provide tax advice, so please speak to a tax preparer or reference guidance available through the PA Department of Revenue and use myPATH.PA.gov to file.

NEW IN 2024
CHILD & DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT

	Income Under \$43,000		Earning Above \$43,000	
	Prior to Change	Expanded Tax Credit	Prior to Change	Expanded Tax Credit
Max Credit for One Eligible Dependent	\$315	\$1,050	\$180	\$600
Max Credit for Two+ Eligible Dependents	\$630	\$2,100	\$360	\$1,200

PA HOUSE DEMOCRATS

PA Income Tax Forms Available

My office has Pennsylvania state income tax forms, schedules, envelopes, and instructions available. Give a call (610-821-5577) to make arrangements to get them.

MyPath.PA.GOV: Best Way to File PA Income Taxes



If you are filing Pennsylvania income tax returns, the best way to do so is using MyPath.PA.GOV. This self-service tool allows you to accurately and securely file returns, make payments, track claims, submit follow up documentation, manage accounts and is available 24/7. Based on our experiences, using MyPath helps to reduce delays in processing for refunds or payments compared to using paper forms. It also allows you to file claims without fear of your forms being lost in the mail. You can access many features directly without needing to create a username or password.

Mental Health Corner

Congresswoman Wild & Pinebrook Fight Suicide



Standing with Congresswoman Wild to fight suicide.

Congresswoman Susan Wild recently announced federal support to bolster suicide prevention work through Pinebrook Family Services and the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Lehigh County.

NEED HELP?
It's okay to not be okay.

If you or a loved one are struggling, help is a call, text, or message away:

- Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
- Call 9-8-8
- Text 'PA' to 741741
Crisis Text Line
- Visit 988lifeline.org/chat
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline online chat

PA HOUSE DEMOCRATS



Standing with advocates for mental health care.

Pennsylvanians Rally for Mental Health Care

During National Suicide Awareness Month, advocates for mental health funding and better access to mental health care visit the state Capitol to share their stories with lawmakers. We have made a lot of progress in raising awareness about the need for more resources to deliver better mental health care and I remain grateful to the folks who take on this challenge every year.

Statewide Behavioral Health Council Launches

In October, Governor Shapiro established the Behavioral Health Council, following a recommendation issued by the Behavioral Health Commission in 2022. I was appointed by the Speaker of the House to join the council and our work began in December when we held our first meeting. I am hopeful the council will prove effective in breaking down barriers to mental health care throughout Pennsylvania and result in bipartisan support for more resources critically needed in Parkland and Allentown.

Constituent Milestones & Business Openings



Darlington Earns Eagle Scout

This fall, I was able to join Christopher Darlington when he became an Eagle Scout. Christopher has done incredible service for the community and deserves this recognition.



Celebrating 100 Years

Mary Shaffer recently turned 100 years old, and I was able to visit and celebrate with a PA House Citation. She is a joyful and fun-loving woman! May we all enjoy life as much as Mary!

Truffle Bar Opens

Brooke Dietrick is the owner of Truffle Bar. She has been in business for a few years but found a permanent location in the 132nd District very close to my office. It was a pleasure to join her for the ribbon cutting in the fall.



Goodwill Celebrates Remodeling



Goodwill recently remodeled its Tilghman Square Store & Donation Center where it will continue to use generous donations from the community to sustain its services and help people develop career skills to find good jobs in the community. I was able to attend and see the incredible work done by staff, volunteers and supporters in making these improvements.



Assembly 88 Grows

Santo Napoli lives in the West End and has run successful businesses in Allentown for years. You might also know him as a member of Allentown City Council. This past year he expanded the footprint of his clothing store and opened

Assembly88 Women in Downtown Allentown. My office was there to help present a proclamation celebrating the continuing economic development of our area.



Welcome Dance Dietitian

Corrine Kantski lives in Allentown and recently opened the Dance Dietitian, where she offers dance instruction and nutritional counseling in the West End. Jean from my office was able to attend her grand opening celebration and present a PA House Proclamation on my behalf.

If you know a resident or business owner of the 132nd District celebrating a milestone and wish to arrange recognition, please give my office a call (610-821-5577) to discuss.



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Consumer Resource for Travel Insurance

Travel insurance covers non-refundable travel expenses and can cover trip cancellation or trip interruption. Travel insurance is by no means required, but like many insurance policies, people often have questions and sometimes have complaints. It is critical to read the policy to fully understand it before buying and ask the seller any questions you might have. My office has a Consumer's Guide to Travel Insurance we can send to you. Give the office a call (610-821-5577) and we will mail you a copy.

Get Outdoors and Enjoy Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's outdoors offers incredible activities. My office keeps a copy of Trout Stocking and Fishing Pocket Guides from the PA Fish and Boat Commission and the State Park & Forest Guide from the PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources. All of this information is also available online at www.FishAndBoat.com and www.dcnr.pa.gov. My office can mail a copy if you give us a call (610-821-5577).

Download PA Game Commission Mobile App: Seasonal Hunting Pocket Guide Available At My Office

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has a mobile app for Pennsylvania hunters to download. Features include: what's near me, what's in season, legal hunting information, bag limits, current issue of Hunting & Trapping Digest, allows you to report a harvest, road-killed deer, or wildlife emergency, allows license and permit purchases online, check status of applications and more. To download the app, go your phone's app or play store and search "Pennsylvania Game Commission."

The same information is also available at the PGC website: www.PGC.Pa.Gov. My office keeps copies of the most recent Hunting & Trapping Pocket Guide. My office can mail a copy if you give us a call (610-821-5577).

2024 Election Calendar

- Last Day to register to vote in the primary: April 8
- Last Day to apply for mail-in or absentee ballot: April 16
- Primary Election Day: April 23

- Last Day to register to vote in General Election: October 21
- Last day to apply for mail-in or absentee ballot: October 29
- General Election Day: November 5

A reminder about mail-in or absentee ballots: they must be in the Voter Registration Office (17 South 7th Street) by 8 PM on the day of the election.