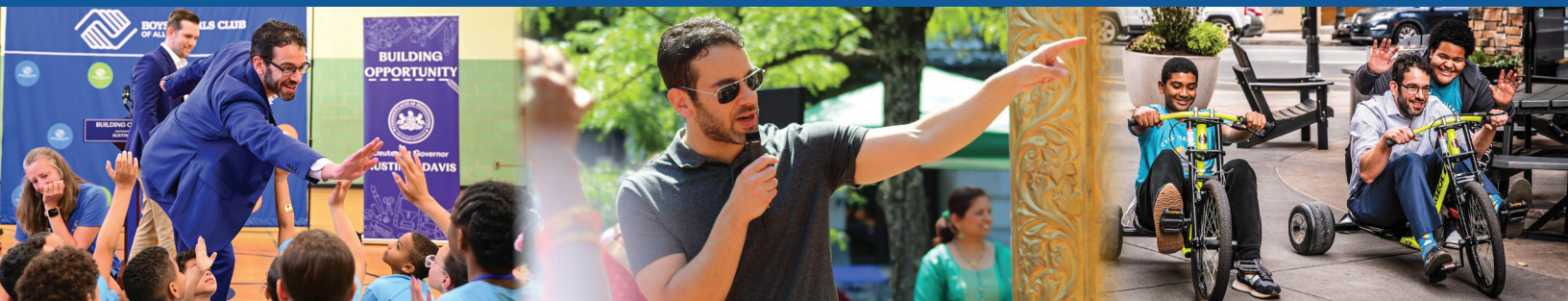




STATE REPRESENTATIVE

MIKE SCHLOSSBERG

FIGHTING FOR YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY



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Session Updates

Legislation that Matters: Bringing Down Costs

Higher costs are hitting Pennsylvanians of all walks of life. Last session, we expanded the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, making hundreds of thousands of people eligible for higher rebates on rent and property taxes. We also expanded the reduced vehicle registration for retirees, added cost-of-living allowances for prescription assistance and eliminated vehicle registration costs for 100% disabled veterans.

While this is progress, it is not enough and we have work to do. That is why I support several pieces of legislation that will have a real impact on Pennsylvania families, including the ones summarized below:

Working PA Tax Credits Approved

Similar to the federal Earned Income Tax Credit, this legislation would put money back into the pockets of working Pennsylvanians, including those families without kids. This legislation was approved in the House in May and awaits action in the Senate.



PA Lightning Plan

Pennsylvania's rising energy costs are hurting families, homeowners, and small businesses. In the past, efforts to rein in these costs turned into a fight led by big-energy companies with huge demands and resulted in no actions. With costs continuing to escalate, I joined as a sponsor for Gov. Shapiro's Lightning Plan, which gets to the root of rising energy bills. This package of legislation would lower costs for consumers, create jobs, address climate change, and make Pennsylvania a national energy leader for years to come.



Elected Majority Whip

As the session got underway, I was honored to be elected House Majority Whip by my colleagues. We are focused on providing real leadership that puts the needs of our communities first and makes life easier for Pennsylvanians. Serving as House Whip means Parkland and Allentown will be at the table as I work to be an effective voice and champion for our region.

Around the Capitol



I recently joined the Animal Protection Caucus, a bipartisan group committed to strengthening animal protection laws in Pennsylvania. Last session, several protection laws were approved and signed into law, but work is still needed to protect animals from cruelty.



There are two group visits I want to highlight: the Parkland Law Club and students from William Allen High School. I have visited with Parkland Law Club and many of the students from Allen at their respective schools over the past year. It was great to have them in the Capitol and hear from them again.



On session days, I have the opportunity to meet with constituents and organizations visiting the Capitol to discuss issues important to their lives. The members and staff at the Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living, headquartered in Allentown, met with me to discuss programs that support independent living for people with disabilities. I appreciate these meetings, whether in the Capitol or the Allentown office, because they remind us how our decisions affect lives of people in our community.

Mental Health Corner

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 (8256) • Call 988
- Text "PA" to 741741 • Visit [988Lifeline.org/Chat](https://988lifeline.org/Chat)

988
**SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE**

Getting People the Help They Need, When They Need It

We have all heard the nightmare stories: The person who could not get help, whose family could not convince authorities that their loved one was a danger to themselves. We know that well-intended decisions have resulted in people being discharged into the community at large, only to hurt themselves or others.

One of the biggest obstacles to addressing mental health is simply getting people the help they need when they need it. This spring, I worked with the House Judiciary Committee to explore how the Mental Health Procedures Act – approved in 1976 – can better address the needs of our world today and help people get the help they need. This is a tough conversation. It means aligning treatment, the criminal justice system, and financial resources to keep humans at the center of the issue.

It all comes back to this: we need to make sure people who need help get the help they need when they need it. I am committed to doing exactly that.



Fighting for Mental Health Resources



More than a decade ago, the governor and General Assembly cut the funding counties use for mental health services. Until Gov. Shapiro was elected, those funds were never restored. Gov. Shapiro's budget plans have included increases to those funds so that we can get mental health services back in place. Recently, I stood with leaders from Lehigh and Northampton counties, Valley Youth House, KidsPeace and the United Way to reinforce the message that we desperately need to invest in community-based and school-based services to give our kids the help they need when they need it.

News You Can Use

Consumer Protection Resources

Looking for information on laws that protect consumers from fraud or scams? Below is some information my office provides when somebody is looking for a resource to help address a concern.

PA Attorney General: www.AttorneyGeneral.gov or (800) 441-2555

PA Consumer Protection Tools: www.pa.gov/consumer or 866-PACOMPLAINT

Federal Trade Commission: www.ReportFraud.FTC.gov or (877) 382-4357



Reduced Registration for Retirees

Pennsylvania offers retirees (collecting Social Security retirement benefits or other retirement benefits) who earn \$29,906 or less a reduced rate for their vehicle registration. Instead of the rate listed on the renewal card, the reduced rate for retirees is \$12. To take advantage of this rate, when it is time to renew your registration, use the card PennDOT mailed to you along with the MV-371. My office can mail you that form or help process the request online. Give my office a call at (610) 821-5577 to request the form or do the processing through my office.

PA Eliminates Registration and Title Fees for Disabled Veterans

Last session, Pennsylvania took steps to make vehicle registration and titling fees free for veterans who meet the following requirements:

- Purple Heart recipients
- Lost a limb or eye, or who became partially paralyzed while in service
- Prisoners of war
- Congressional Medal of Honor recipients

The elimination applies to registration and title fees for one passenger vehicle or truck weighing 9,000 lbs or less. Documentation is required. To apply, when it is time to renew your registration, use the card PennDOT mailed to you along with the MV-371DV. My office can mail you the form or help submit in submitting the paperwork to PennDOT. Please call (610) 821-5577 for the form or to set up a time to visit my office.



News You Can Use

PTRR Deadline Extended

Every year, my office helps hundreds of seniors to file for their Property Tax/Rent Rebate. The deadline was extended to December 31. If you would like to file your rebate and need help from my office, please call (610) 821-5577 so we can work with you to do this.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is open to:

- Eligible seniors 65 or older
- Widows and widowers 50 or older
- People with permanent disabilities 18 or older

To qualify, applicants must earn less than \$46,520 per year – and only HALF of Social Security or railroad retirement benefits count toward eligibility. All other income (pensions, IRAs, dividends, interest, etc.) count dollar for dollar. Residents in assisted living facilities may be eligible if they reside in a facility that pays property taxes and meets the income limits. If you're eligible – or you know someone who might be – give my office a call. We can answer questions, mail you the paper forms or file the application for you online.



Making our Roads Safer

Use of Hand-Held Devices Ban Goes into Effect

Pennsylvania law now prohibits use of hand-held electronic devices while behind the wheel on the roadway. This includes when drivers are temporarily stopped because of traffic, red lights, construction or other delays. Here are some important details about the law to ensure safety:

- This is a primary offense, meaning you can be pulled over for using a hand-held device
- Hands-Free devices (such as Bluetooth) are permitted
- Law went into effect on June 5, 2025
- Warnings will be issued for first year with fines beginning June 2026
- Penalty: \$50 fine PLUS court costs & other fees

Investing in Safer Roads

While dangerous drivers are a huge problem on our roads, there are significant investments needed to make roads in Parkland and Allentown safer. Below are some updates on projects I supported. For regular updates, visit my Facebook Page ([Facebook.com/RepSchlossberg](https://www.facebook.com/RepSchlossberg)).

309/Tilghman St. Construction Update

Perhaps one of the biggest projects in the Lehigh Valley right now, this project caused significant traffic issues while Broadway was temporarily closed for three weeks. Work will continue through 2026 along Tilghman Street between Hausman/Cetronia and 40th Street as utilities are moved. There will also be some ramp work at the 309 & Tilghman St. interchange. Expect lane restrictions along Tilghman St. periodically. There will be future times when Broadway will be closed. Advance notice will be provided when traffic patterns change. This project is scheduled to be completed in 2030.

309 N. Construction Update

Route 309 between Walbert Ave. and Shankweiler Road is scheduled for work in 2026 and 2027. Work includes milling and paving, guiderail upgrades, pavement markings, traffic signal upgrades & intersection widening (at 309/Walbert Ave., 309/Chapmans Rd., 309/Huckleberry, 309/Lime Kiln, 309/Orefield).



Safer Roads at Home

With safety concerns rising, I have been working with leaders in Allentown, South Whitehall, and Upper Macungie to find resources to address dangerous roads in our communities. Each of the municipalities have taken steps to create effective plans and allocated resources, which makes it easier for me to help secure state funding to make these projects happen faster. Here are some of the most recent projects the state has funded:



Hamilton Blvd. in South Whitehall

\$150,000 – audit to identify/remedy safety concerns

\$545,855 – to improve pedestrian/vehicle safety at Hamilton Blvd./Lincoln Ave.

Allentown Safe Streets for All

\$350,000 for streetlights on Martin Luther King Drive

\$250,000 for traffic signal improvements on 17th St.

\$1.38M for traffic signal improvements on American Parkway

Upper Macungie Twp.

\$317,600 to upgrade 13 intersections with camera or radar signal detections

Around Parkland and Allentown



Students from across Lehigh County converged on Covered Bridge Park in South Whitehall for the annual Envirothon, a science competition hosted by the Lehigh County Conservation District. I was asked to give some opening remarks and was relieved they didn't toss me into the creek. These are smart kids, and what they are learning is amazing.



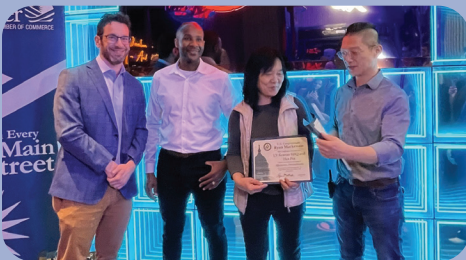
Just about every spring, I enjoy a visit with members of the League of Women Voters, who bring a range of questions of interest to members. These folks are super-informed and dedicated to providing information to the public about area legislators. It is always a good conversation.



For the past several years, I have attended the Parkland Community Resource Fair at the Parkland High School to meet students, parents, teachers and partners coming together to support families in our community. There is a strong sense of connection when you see who is invested in our kids.



Student athletes from across the region had the opportunity to participate in the AthLife Foundation's Leadership Day. Because my wife teaches at Harrison Morton Middle School, I wanted to find some of the students attending. The gathering focused on mental health. Athletes participating learned more about how their leadership facilitates resilience, character and relationships needed for strong mental health.



Small businesses are the lifeblood of the Parkland and Allentown community. Congratulations to Lehigh Valley Korean BBQ & Hot Pot for opening your new restaurant at Tilghman and Cedar Crest.



Every year, on Super Sunday, volunteers gather with the Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley to answer the call to feed the hungry, comfort those in need, and care for our neighbors. This year, I joined Senator Nick Miller in stuffing bags with period and hygiene products for local unhoused women.



Meet Gracie, whose family celebrated the grand opening celebration of the new Allentown Animal Care location after it moved a few blocks on Walbert Ave. Gracie and I are good friends now!



In 2024, the Parkland Community Library celebrated 50 years of service to our community. It was a pleasure to present a House Citation to Maryellen Kanaar, the Executive Director of the Library. For years, staff and volunteers from across the community have helped to create an import resource for Parkland residents. Congratulations to everyone who helped to make this milestone possible.



Every March, Read Across America celebrates the joy of reading, especially with kids. Any day that includes reading a book with kids is a fun time. Thank you, Community Services for Children, for having me as a guest reader this year.



Cetronia Fire Company celebrated 100 years in operation in 2024! Like all volunteer fire companies, the demand for skilled leaders and members is higher now than ever. The team of firefighters, social club members, officers and other volunteers help to make our communities safer. Thank you so much for all your collective work and congratulations on 100 years of service in our community.



Congratulations to Evan Biery on receiving his Eagle Scout award! His project involved work on a nature trail and fixing bridges at the troop's home church, Jordan UCC. It was an honor to celebrate this milestone with Evan, his family, and the troop and present him with a House Citation.



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Fighting for Our Schools

As a result of the 2024-2025 budget, we were able to invest in our community schools, not only through instruction in the classroom, but also in school safety measures and improvements in educational facilities where students learn. Here are a few examples of new funding made possible by this past year's budget:

Facility Funding

Allentown: \$113,000

for HVAC improvements at William Allen High School

Parkland: \$900,000

for facility improvements at Cetronia Elementary School



Joining Allentown students and leaders to celebrate new state funding for our schools.

Career Technical Education Investments

\$450,000 for ASD to support computer science and STEM education opportunities

\$75,000 for LCTI to support collaboration between schools



School Facility Safety Grants

\$478,000 for Allentown School District

\$286,000 for Parkland School District



Every student deserves access to world-class education, regardless of ZIP code.