



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PETER G. SCHWEYER**22ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

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DEAR FRIENDS,

As 2020 gets underway, it is my honor to serve as your state representative. Please accept my sincere thank you for your support as I continue to fight for the issues and values that are important to all of us from Allentown.

This past year, I introduced legislation on a wide range of important issues that will help make Allentown a better place to live, work and raise a family. Specifically, I am leading the fight against insurance companies who want to exclude people from being insured with pre-existing health care conditions. I've been working to prevent veterans' suicides and reduce the number of dangerous weapons on our streets. Through changing laws and fighting for our share of grant dollars, Allentown's economy is strong and getting stronger.

But most importantly, the kids of our city have better schools and more opportunity than ever. By securing millions more

for the Allentown School District, we protected taxpayers while making sure our kids have the teachers they need to be successful. We also completed a historic agreement between ASD and Bloomsburg University that will ensure that all children will have a chance to afford a quality college education.

The last six months of 2019 were a buzz of activity here in Allentown and in Harrisburg. My staff and I have been busy with various events throughout the community, and we are already working on more events for the coming months.

It has been my pleasure serving you in 2019 and I look forward to an even better 2020. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if my staff or I can be of assistance with any state-related matter.

Sincerely,

Peter G. Schweyer



FIGHTING TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

At \$7.25 an hour, Pennsylvania has the lowest minimum wage in the United States. In fact, all six states that border Pennsylvania (New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Ohio, West Virginia and Maryland) have a higher minimum wage than we do.

Think about all of your daily expenses -- rent/mortgage, food, clothes, taxes, utilities and transportation expenses. And maybe you want to save for retirement or pay for college. Now think about this: at today's minimum wage, on average, a worker must work 89 hours per week to cover

their rent, which means that folks living on this wage aren't paying for the rest of those things.

Not only is this morally unjust, this is an unsustainable model that threatens our local, and frankly, our national economy. With thousands of hard-working residents of the Lehigh Valley earning only \$7.25 an hour, it is imperative that we do right by these hard-working people. I will not rest until we ensure that these Pennsylvanians get the raise they deserve.

EXPANDED HOURS AT TASTING, TAP ROOMS

I am pleased to tell you that Gov. Tom Wolf signed my bill, House Bill 947, into law. This law expands operating hours for sales at tasting and tap rooms. The craft beer and spirits industry provides good manufacturing and hospitality jobs, invites urban redevelopment and boosts tourism. Here in the Lehigh Valley, we have dozens of tasting and tap rooms (including three in Allentown alone) that will be able to sell more of their product, thanks to this new law.

One such Allentown small-business owner told me that in the days after my bill was signed into law, he was able to book three new holiday parties. This is real business growth right here in our city. Breweries and distilleries are now permitted to sell Pennsylvania craft products between 9 a.m. and midnight Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday.





BUILDING TRADES JOB FAIR

In November, I was pleased to join my fellow Lehigh County colleagues, state Reps. Mike Schlossberg and Jeanne McNeill, for a Building Trades Job Fair at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 375 in Allentown. Our goal was to connect local residents with building trades organizations and their apprenticeship trainers.

By partnering with dedicated community organizations like Promise Neighborhoods, the Adult Literacy Center and Jordan Heights, we connected talented and hard-working people with good, family-sustaining jobs offered through the Lehigh Valley Building Trades. Job opportunities available through the building trades offer middle-class wages with health care and retirement packages. They also allow young people, folks re-entering the workforce or seasoned workers looking to try their hand in a new career an opportunity to earn family-sustaining wages.

GIVING STUDENTS AN OPPORTUNITY

As a first-generation college student, I know the challenges facing working class families who want their children to continue their education beyond high school. Financial pressures, over-reliance on testing and family concerns often get in the way of a student going to college. These issues are even more obvious for those living at or near the poverty level.

In the Lehigh Valley, our region's poverty is highly concentrated in our urban core. In other words, kids attending Allentown schools are far less likely to go to college than in surrounding districts. As an ASD dad, I know my kids receive an excellent education, but poverty will prevent some of my kids' classmates from going to college. Without a clear path to college, many of them will remain in that cycle of poverty.

In October, I was pleased to join leaders of the Allentown School District and Bloomsburg University to announce a first-of-its-kind agreement between the district and university that will reduce these



barriers and make sure more kids earn a chance at a college degree. ASD students who meet certain academic benchmarks now have guaranteed admission to Bloomsburg. With dedicated scholarships and parent engagement, these students now have the same chance as other kids.

SAVE THE DATE FOR MY SENIOR FAIR

Save the date for my annual Senior Fair!
This year, it will be held on **Friday, May 15**
from **10 a.m. to noon**.

There was a great turnout for my 2019 Senior Fair and it really is one of my favorite events of the year. Dozens of vendors from government and non profit agencies provide valuable information to older residents about programs and services that are available to them.

The Senior Fair is a great way to hear from our residents, help them get useful information and enjoy doughnuts and coffee! So, plan to join me at the **East Side Youth Center on May 15th**. Look for more information as the event gets closer.



VETERANS OUTREACH

Each month, I host a veterans' support program at my district office. A representative from the American Legion is available to assist veterans and their families with benefits and services available to them. The representative also will be available to discuss pensions and other compensation, as well as education, health care and death benefits.

Legion membership is not required, however, anyone interested in speaking to the service officer should call my office at 610-791-6270 for available dates and to schedule an appointment.

A graphic featuring a pair of brown leather combat boots and a camouflage helmet in the foreground. The background is a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. Text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

VETERANS
INFORMATION ON SERVICES
AVAILABLE TO VETERANS
CAN BE OBTAINED AT MY
DISTRICT OFFICE!

STATE REP. PETER G. SCHWEYER

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REAL ID REMINDER



This year you will need a Real ID-compliant driver's license or ID card to board a domestic flight or enter secure federal facilities. Real ID is necessary if you don't have a U.S. passport or active military ID. You'll need a Real ID for this purpose by Oct. 1, 2020.

To obtain one, take all of the following to a Driver's License Center:

- Original birth certificate with a raised seal or a valid U.S. passport.
- Social Security card.
- Proof of all legal name changes (marriage license or court order).
- Two proofs of current physical address.

To learn more, visit PennDOT.gov/REALID or call my office at 610-791-6270.

Lehigh Valley PennDOT Driver License Center:
1101 MacArthur Road, Whitehall, PA

October 1, 2020

The federal REAL ID Act takes effect in Pennsylvania.

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

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

Visit **PENNDOT.GOV/REALID**

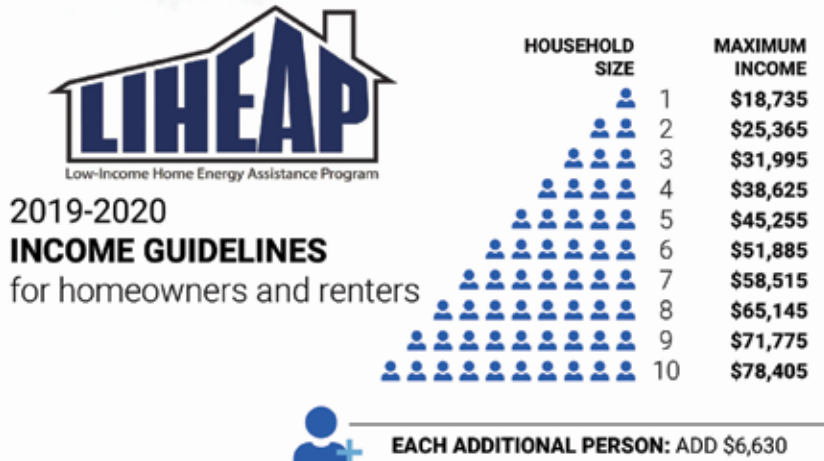
PROPERTY TAX/ RENT REBATES

Every year, my office helps hundreds of people file for a Property Tax/Rent Rebate. The best time to file is right now, early in the tax season, but the deadline is June 30th.

The program provides rebates up to \$650 on rent or property tax paid by Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older.

The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters. Half of Social Security income and all Social Security cost-of-living increases are excluded.

The application is available in my office and on the Department of Revenue's website at www.revenue.pa.gov.



HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE

The state's **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program** is now accepting applications. LIHEAP helps low-income families pay their heating bills and deal with heating emergencies such as a broken furnace, fuel shortage or utility service shutoff.

Renters and homeowners who qualify can have a cash grant, which does not need to be repaid, sent directly to their utility company or fuel provider. Grants range from \$200 to \$1,000 based on household size, income and fuel type. Crisis grants are also available.

Paper applications are available through local county assistance offices or my district office, and my staff can help you apply.





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Join my email list to receive my
monthly digital newsletter.

www.pahouse.com/Schweyer/EmailSignup

FOLLOW ME ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

  **@RepSchweyer**

lpo.km.0120

MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Car registrations, special tags, disability placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Real ID
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications and problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kinds -- bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

If you need help with any state or government-related service,
please feel free to contact my office at **610-791-6270** for assistance.