

State Representative
JOHANNY CEPEDA-FREYTIZ
129th Legislative District

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Dear Neighbor,

As we pass the halfway point of 2026, I would like to inform you of the work my colleagues and I have accomplished to support Pennsylvanians and ensure that Berks County is heard and represented in Harrisburg.

This year has been marked with many successes, with our work across the aisle leading to the creation of a state budget that will work for all Pennsylvanians. Locally, we will see our schools get the investments they deserve, with a \$30 million funding increase for our local districts, and a cost-of-living update for our retired teachers, firefighters and police officers – all without raising any taxes.

Earlier this year, we also saw the passage of four bills I introduced to protect our workers who spend every day around natural gas in response to the R.M. Palmer factory tragedy right here in our community.

My work for you extends not just to Harrisburg, but throughout our community as well. My staff and I have hosted several events this year, including a discussion on how to improve Black health outcomes

in Pennsylvania, a shredding event to safely dispose of sensitive documents, and a Scam Jam to help protect our neighbors from common scams.

In addition, since the start of the year, I have worked to secure nearly \$11 million in grant funding for our district, which has gone to projects ranging from revitalizing our main streets and providing opportunities to celebrate the World Cup to securing long-needed new vehicles for our local boroughs.

Representative is not just a job title – it is a duty that I am honored to carry for our neighbors every day, whether that be right here at home or in the halls of power in Harrisburg. The most important part of that duty is to ensure that government works for all of us, and that is what my work so far this year does.

If you ever need assistance with state programs or services, please don't hesitate to contact my office; my dedicated staff is always ready to help.

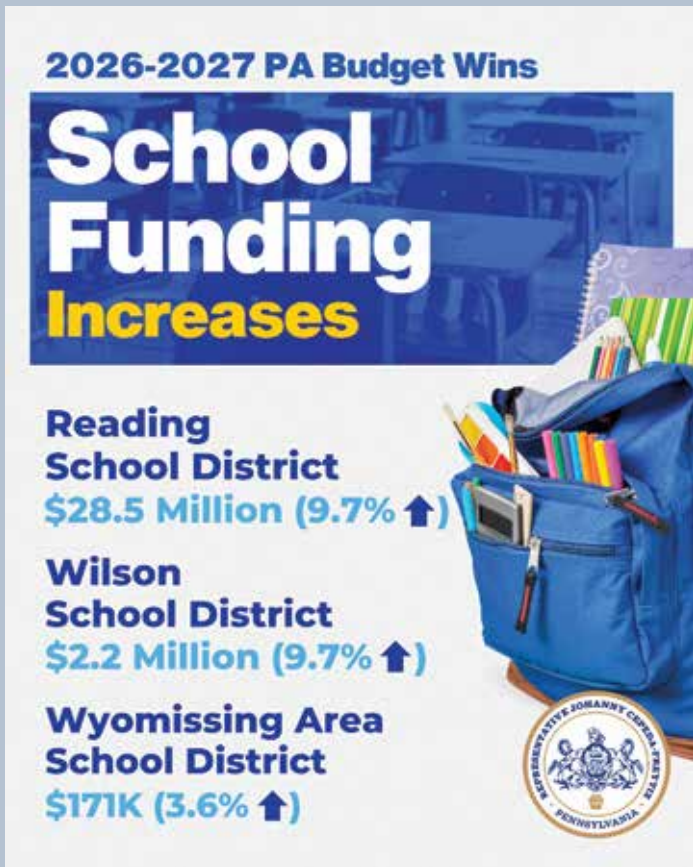
Best Regards,

Johnny Cepeda-Freytiz



Please scan the QR code to read the full Spanish-language version of this newsletter.
Escanee el código QR para leer la versión completa en español de este boletín.

KEEPING OUR SCHOOLS FUNDED



This year's state budget will support major investments in education across Pennsylvania, with significant increases for our local school districts. I will always work to ensure that Reading, Wilson, and Wyomissing Area school districts have the resources they need.

SO FAR IN 2026

REPRESENTATIVE
Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz



2026: Halfway Review



Secured Nearly
\$11 MILLION
In Grant Funding

498 Property Tax/ Rent Rebates
Completed by our Office

Totaling **\$240,000**

13,245 Constituent Services
Provided

\$37,388 Introduced
Returned in unclaimed property **8** Bills & Resolutions

HOUSE PASSES MY NATURAL GAS SAFETY BILLS

Three years ago, our community was irreversibly changed when the R.M. Palmer chocolate factory in West Reading experienced a natural gas leak, leading to an explosion that took seven lives and injured 10 others.



The lives of our neighbors should not just be remembered with words, but with action to ensure no one else suffers a similarly devastating loss. That is why I am grateful to share that the House this year passed four of my bills, with overwhelming bipartisan support, that would address the root causes of the Palmer factory accident. These bills include:

- **HB 306:** Increase transparency for Public Utility Commission records during state and federal investigations.
- **HB 1522:** Require installation of natural gas alarms in buildings that use natural gas.
- **HB 1525:** Require owners of steam pipelines in public areas to register with the Pennsylvania One Call System.
- **HB 1526:** Require the PUC to develop guidance programs for degrading plastic pipelines.

UPDATES ON MY OTHER BILLS

Along with my four natural gas bills, several other pieces of legislation I introduced have moved through the legislative process. Bills that have passed the House and are now under consideration in the Senate include:

- **HB 1077:** Ensure that our students have access to eyeglasses.
- **HB 2300:** Establish a program to help businesses become sales tax compliant.

In addition, bipartisan legislation I partnered on, **Act 19 of 2026**, passed the House and Senate unanimously and has been signed into law by Governor Shapiro. The new law will create a seal for high school diplomas to recognize students who are proficient in English and another language.

STANDING UP FOR OUR IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

Nearly all of us, in one way or another, are the result of our nation's rich history of immigration. As we mark the 250th anniversary of our nation this year, I have proudly used my position to stand up for immigrant communities who make Pennsylvania the state it is.

Both in Harrisburg and our district, I have been honored to recognize many different communities that proudly call Pennsylvania home, including recognition of Dominican and Venezuelan independence days.

In my role as Chair of the Legislative Latino Caucus, I also stood side-by-side with my colleagues in other caucuses representing immigrants and communities of color to condemn attempts to build ICE facilities in Berks County and applaud the Supreme Court's recent decision to uphold birthright citizenship.

No matter where you are from, or how long you have called Pennsylvania home, you have a place in this state and this nation, and I will continue to support and fight for our immigrant communities.



IN OUR DISTRICT

Nearly \$11 Million in Grant Funding Secured!

One of my most important duties as your state representative is to bring state funds back to our community to support crucial projects. Since the start of 2026, I have secured nearly \$11 million in funding for local governments and organizations, with highlights including:

- **\$3.6 million** for expansion of the Student Union Center and HVAC upgrades at Reading Area Community College.
- **Over \$1.2 million** to support water and sewer repairs in Wyomissing, West Reading, Sinking Spring, and Spring Township.
- **\$1 million** to create a new mixed-use development in Spring Township, which will include nearly 800 new residential units to the community.
- **\$1 million** for the development of West Wyomissing Park in Spring Township.
- **\$675,227** to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility in West Reading.
- **\$250,000** to the Berks County Latino Chamber of Commerce to support regional events celebrating the World Cup.
- **\$113,304** for Sinking Spring Borough to purchase a wheel loader tractor for snow removal and waste disposal.
- **Over \$60,000** for operational support to fire companies across the district.
- **\$60,000** to the West Reading Community Revitalization Fund to improve the façade of the West Reading Motor Club.
- **\$60,000** for Reading-based Latin Fusion Baseball to expand youth Little League opportunities and tournament participation.
- **\$50,000** to VoiceUp Berks to support in-school leadership programming.
- **\$50,000** to support operations and equipment purchases for Star City Boxing.



It was an honor to join Governor Josh Shapiro, Mayor Samantha Kaag, and other state and local leaders to welcome new funding to revitalize Penn Avenue in West Reading.



My staff and I joined volunteers from Wilson School District and VoiceUp Berks for Martin Luther King Jr. Day to prepare weekend bags to help with food insecurity.



Staying informed about what matters most to our neighbors helps me fight for the policies our community needs. It was great to join Councilman Chris Miller and Senator Judy Schwank for a town hall in Reading.



During Black History Month, I hosted a community discussion to work toward how policymakers and the health industry can improve Black health outcomes across Pennsylvania.



As a member of the House Agriculture and Gaming Oversight committees, I had the opportunity to tour Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania Casino in Wilkes-Barre to learn more about our state's horse racing industry.



In April, I hosted a successful shred event with Sen. Schwank to help our neighbors easily and safely dispose of sensitive documents.



This year, I attended walking tours in both Reading and Allentown to learn how we can create new homes and revitalize existing housing across our state.



It was an honor to attend the groundbreaking for West Wyomissing Park, which will soon become Spring Township's newest park.



During the World Cup, our region was able to celebrate and connect through the 222 Summer Corridor Summer Soccer Series, funded with grant money I proudly supported.



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Wyomissing, PA 19610

My Youth Council provides local high school students with the opportunity to get civically involved in our community and make changes in our local and state government. I was proud to welcome them to Harrisburg to recognize their hard work! If you know any students interested in civic action, contact my office for more details.



VISIT OUR SATELLITE OFFICE HOURS!



CENTRO HISPANO CASA SENIOR CENTER



25 N. 2nd St. • Reading, PA 19601
Every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.



SPRING TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING



2850 Windmill Road
Sinking Spring, PA 19608
1st and 3rd Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ATTENTION VETERANS:

Disabled American Veterans (D.A.V) offer services for you every other
Monday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

1111 Penn Ave. • Wyomissing, PA 19610

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Help us serve you better by sharing how you prefer to receive updates on important issues, community events, and legislative news. Your feedback will help us reach you in the way that's most convenient and effective for you!



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Please contact my office at (484) 577-2756 if you need help with...

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate
- PACE Prescription Assistance
- Children's Health Insurance
- SNAP and Medicaid
- Unemployment Compensation
- Utility Problems
- And more!

