



State Representative | 156th Legislative District

CHRIS PIELLI

115B East Wing | P.O. Box 202156 | Harrisburg, PA 17120-2156 | (717) 705-2075 | Fax: (717) 780-4751

121 W. Miner St., Suite 1E | West Chester, PA 19382 | (610) 696-4990 | Toll-Free: (833) 321-6544 | Fax: (610) 738-2163

RepPielli.com | RepPielli@pahouse.net | @RepPielli

Rep.'s Remarks

My staff and I hope this summer 2026 newsletter finds you all well! Throughout this legislative session, my colleagues and I have remained committed to advancing policies that empower working families and improve the quality of life for everyone here in our commonwealth.

This newsletter provides a snapshot of what we have accomplished so far this year and what still needs to be done.

In addition, as we prepare for the November general election, I encourage every eligible voter to make a plan to vote. Taking a few minutes now to register, verify your voter information, or request a mail-in ballot will help ensure you're ready when Election Day arrives.

As always, my staff and I are honored to serve you and look forward to any questions or concerns you may have. Until our next issue, stay well, stay safe, and stay strong.

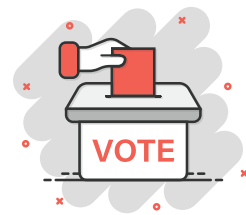
General Election Dates and Deadlines



Oct. 19: Last day to register to vote
vote.pa.gov/register



Oct. 27: Last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot
vote.pa.gov/ApplyMailBallot



Nov. 3: General Election Day
Polls are open on election day from **7 a.m. – 8 p.m.**

For more info and to register online, visit vote.pa.gov or contact my district office to obtain a voter registration paper application, available in English and Spanish.



**Remember, your vote is your voice.
Make sure you are ready to vote in the 2026 General Election.**

2026 Legislation Highlights

My House colleagues and I have been working tirelessly for the hard-working families of Pennsylvania through the introduction and passage of meaningful legislation. Despite the limitations of operating within a divided legislature, I am proud of what we have accomplished toward addressing affordability issues for all Pennsylvanians, including strengthening consumer protections, supporting our first responders, investing in public education, protecting vulnerable children and older adults, and advancing common-sense policies that improve the quality of life for families across our Commonwealth.

There is still much work to be done on affordable housing, raising the minimum wage, and generating much-needed revenue to address the growing needs of this Commonwealth. With this in mind, I look forward to continuing the fight for Pennsylvania workers and families.



BIG WINS FOR PENNSYLVANIANS FOLLOWING PASSAGE OF FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 BUDGET

I was proud to cast my vote for the 2026–27 state budget, which supports students, workers, seniors, veterans, small businesses, and communities across Pennsylvania—all **without raising taxes.**

The budget we passed delivers on affordability, invests in education and safe communities, and offers economic development opportunities to keep people, businesses, and jobs in Pennsylvania.

We also secured a long-overdue raise for our retired school employees, police officers, and firefighters.

Despite uncertainty and massive reductions in federal healthcare funding, this budget invests in working Pennsylvanians by:

- Investing \$680 million for public schools, including millions more for districts serving Chester County, bringing the four-year total to more than \$2.9 billion.
- Helping West Chester University students with the first increase in PHEAA State Grant award in four years.
- Securing first cost-of-living adjustment in nearly 25 years for retired teachers, firefighters, and police officers.
- Increasing funding for healthcare and human services, including childcare, mental health, and doubling funding for rape crisis centers, like the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County in West Chester.
- Supporting our seniors with a \$162 million increase in funding to nursing homes.
- Forcing large data centers to publicly report their energy and water usage.
- Improving electricity grid efficiency to lower long-term costs for consumers.
- Helping protect Pennsylvanians from massive Federal healthcare cuts with about \$774 million in increased funding for Medical Assistance Programs totaling nearly \$14 billion.

I'm Proud
to Deliver a Budget that...



- Continues to **increase education funding**
- Provides **Cost of Living Adjustments** for retired teachers and first responders
- **Increases funding** for childcare, medical assistance, and mental health
- Administers more PHEAA **college grants**
- **\$200 million tax credits** for PA Working Families and more...

And we do it all without raising taxes.



We're getting MORE MONEY to our retired public servants:



- ✓ **Teachers**
- ✓ **Police Officers**
- ✓ **Firefighters**

For the first time in two decades more than 80,000 Retirees will be receiving a pension bump!



2026-2027 PA Budget Wins

School Funding Increase

West Chester Area School District
\$217K (1.1% ↑)



I was honored to support a state budget that continues to invest in our local schools. The 2026–27 budget includes an increased investment now totaling \$20.3 million for the West Chester Area School District, helping ensure our students, teachers, and classrooms have the resources they need to succeed.

2026-27 STATE BUDGET
Delivering for Pennsylvanians

Helping Working Pennsylvanians



In 2025: Nearly \$217 MILLION returned to about 900,000 workers through the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit.

This budget continues to put more money back into the pockets of hardworking Pennsylvanians.



Life is already unaffordable between gas prices, groceries, medication, and housing. You shouldn't have to worry about the rising cost of your utility bill on top of it when Big Tech comes to town. PA House Dems have passed measures to keep Big Tech data center developers accountable and protect Pennsylvanians, including my House Bill 2674 to restrict data centers from obtaining public utility status. Now, it is up to the Senate to decide if they want to protect Pennsylvanians from this threat. Please contact the PA Senate leadership and demand that they vote on these bills.

Pennsylvania's new **Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit** is helping workers and their families cope with rising everyday costs by putting more money back into their pockets. The program has already delivered nearly \$217 million in tax relief to approximately 900,000 Pennsylvanians during the 2025 tax filing season. As more 2025 tax returns are processed, the Shapiro Administration expects the program to provide approximately \$220 million to as many as 940,000 residents by the end of 2026.



I Support
Regulating Data Centers



HB 1834	Requiring data centers to pay for their own electrical utilities without raising ratepayer costs
HB 2061	Requiring prevailing wage on all data center projects
HB 2150	Requiring energy and water reporting
HB 2151	Creating a model zoning ordinance
HB 2198	Repealing data center equipment tax exemption
HB 2246	Notifying DEP of predicted water use by data centers
HB 2359	Banning non-disclosure agreements between data centers and municipalities
HB 2496	Allowing municipalities to implement 6-month moratoriums to redraft zoning ordinances
HB 2535	Setting public safety regulations and standards
HB 2674	Restricting data centers from obtaining public utility status

TWO OF MY BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW BY GOVERNOR SHAPIRO IN 2026:

In a time of extreme partisan politics, I'm proud to report that two of my bills were passed by both the House and the Senate, then signed into law by Governor Shapiro.



Keeping our PA National Guard strong!

HB 1102 would expand the partial tuition reimbursement program to incentivize JAG, Chaplain, and medical officer enlistment.

 **Signed Into Law**




HB 96 | SIGNED INTO LAW 

Protects Vulnerable Individuals from Losing Their Homes



HB 96 HB 1102

SIGNED INTO LAW BY THE GOVERNOR

- ✓ **House Bill 96** – Helps vulnerable older adults and incapacitated individuals remain in their homes by creating an option for them to designate a person to receive notice should their property taxes fall into arrears.
- ✓ **House Bill 1102** – Expands recruitment efforts for the PA National Guard by expanding the partial tuition reimbursement program – **unanimously passed in both the PA House and Senate!**

MY LEGISLATION THAT PASSED THE HOUSE IN 2026:



LIMITING A.I. DECEPTION

If it's A.I., it has to say it's A.I.

A.I. TRANSPARENCY IN ADVERTISING ACT
HB 95 | REP. PIELLI

 **PASSED THE HOUSE WITH BIPARTISAN SUPPORT**




My House Bill 426 Passed the House

Moves to Senate

 **Promoting Growth of Pollinator Habitats at State-Owned Facilities**

- ✓ **House Bill 95** – Would require a disclosure on all AI generated content, including images, audio, video, and text used for the sale of consumer goods. If it's AI, it has to say it's AI. This disclaimer would ensure transparency by giving consumers the information they need to make informed decisions and not be misled.
- ✓ **House Bill 426** – Would address the dwindling habitats for monarch butterflies and other pollinators by encouraging any new construction of a garden, lawn, or green space at a state facility to include insecticide-free native plants and flowers.

- ✓ **House Resolution 66** – Directs the Pennsylvania Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study invertebrate conservation policies. The study of all living things and taking action, when necessary, are key to preserving Pennsylvania's biodiversity and multi-million-dollar agriculture economy.
- ✓ **House Resolution 259** – Designates "Ukrainian Independence Day" on August 24, 2026, marking 35 years since Ukraine declared independence from the Soviet Union. Our state has made important contributions to Ukraine's defense and fight for freedom, with Pennsylvania munitions plants providing critical weaponry. Moreover, honoring Pennsylvania's history as the cradle of freedom and democracy, it is vital that we recognize and support the same spirit of 1776 exhibited by the brave Ukrainian freedom fighters.




 **Adopted by PA House**

HOUSE RESOLUTION 259

Resolution Designating Ukrainian Independence Day in PA on August 24, 2026




 **Adopted by PA House**

HOUSE RESOLUTION 66

Conducts a study on wild native terrestrial invertebrate management



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West Chester, PA 19382
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   @RepPielli

WORKING FOR YOU!

2026 THUS FAR

We helped **1,958** unique constituents and organizations

We delivered **2,477** total services to constituents and organizations



- Consumer Rights Issues and Complaints
- PA Birth and Death Certificates
- PennDOT Vehicle and Licensing Services
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program (Deadline: Dec. 31, 2026)
- SEPTA Senior Key Card applications (Residents 65+ ride free!)
- State Benefits like LIHEAP (heating assistance) (Open Nov. 2026 - April 2027); **SNAP**; and **Medicaid**
- And many more **state government-related services!**

STAFF MEMBERS:

Julie K. Mesaros, District Office Director

Matthew DeWese, Constituent Services Advisor

Ryan DeStefano, Constituent Services Advisor

Olivia McClain, Constituent Services Advisor

Jenaea Davenport, District Office Intern

lpo.km.0826

FIGHTING FOR THE FUNDING WE DESERVE

Over \$15.1 Million in State Grants Awarded to Our District since January 2025!



OVER \$15.1 MILLION

Brought to Our District Since January 2025



\$15,188,164 — TOTAL:
JANUARY 2025 - JULY 2026

Properly funding our infrastructure, safety programs, and health services is one of my top priorities. Bringing this essential support to our district is exactly what every good legislator should do for the benefit of their constituents. I am pleased to report that the total grant funding secured for our district this session is now approximately \$15.2 million!

- **\$5,367,634** – PA Department of Education to Schools & Libraries
- **\$4,357,866** – Commonwealth Financing Authority for Roads, Water Treatment & Infrastructure
- **\$1,940,000** – PA Housing Finance Authority for Housing Security Programs
- **\$948,576** – PA Department of Community & Economic Development to First Responders
- **\$823,300** – PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- **\$800,254** – Office of the Budget for Goshen Fire Station Renovation
- **\$500,793** – PA Department of Environmental Protection
- **\$246,614** – PA Department of Labor and Industry for School-to-Work Program
- **\$188,512** – Office of State Fire Commissioner to Fire & EMS Companies
- **\$12,090** – PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency for Crime Prevention
- **\$2,525** – PA Department of Aging for Services to Older Residents

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE A LIVING WAGE FOR WORKERS INCREASED STATE REVENUE



It's been 20 years since the minimum wage was raised, leaving tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians to continue working without earning a living wage. While Washington passes tremendous tax cuts for billionaires, PA House Democrats have continually passed bills to raise the wage to \$15 and tie it to inflation thereafter. Each time, the State Senate leadership has ignored our pleas and the pleas of thousands of the working poor. No one can live on \$7.25 an hour. It's time for the State Senate leadership to stop supporting tax breaks for billionaires and start supporting Pennsylvania's workers.

Raising the minimum wage would not only benefit working Pennsylvanians and the economy, but it would also bring in \$53.3 million in estimated revenue and save \$300 million in Medical Assistance benefit costs.