



Fall  
2026

# DANIELLE FRIEL <sup>155</sup> OTTEN

## PA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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## DEAR NEIGHBOR,

As your state representative, my role is to ensure that you are well represented in the lawmaking process in Harrisburg. I am always mindful that the votes my colleagues and I take in the Capitol affect our constituents' everyday lives at home. That's why I have consistently fought for investments in public education, affordable housing, our workforce, and environmental protection.

I encourage you to share your views on state legislative issues that are important to you. An active and engaged constituency is essential to a government that works for all people, and your input and involvement help to ensure that the interests of the 155th Legislative District are well represented.

While my focus is on being the best possible legislator for our district, my staff strives to be the best at delivering constituent services. We can help with unemployment claims, property tax rebates, state forms, and questions about state offices, agencies, and public utilities.

Please email, call, or stop by our district office for assistance with any state-related issue. We strive to provide a welcoming, informative, and helpful experience to every constituent.

My team and I are here to help make state government work better for you!

## UPDATES FROM HARRISBURG AND HOME

Since reclaiming the majority in 2022, House Democrats have advanced a diverse and bipartisan agenda that lifts up the people of Pennsylvania. In the 2025-26 session, we've passed more than 450 bills addressing a variety of critical issues that affect the lives of Pennsylvanians.

Read on for more about what I've been working on in Harrisburg and at home, including:

- Highlights of the 2026-27 state budget
- Legislative wins
- What I'm doing about data centers, energy affordability, and grid reliability
- My role with the PA Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement Trust
- And more!

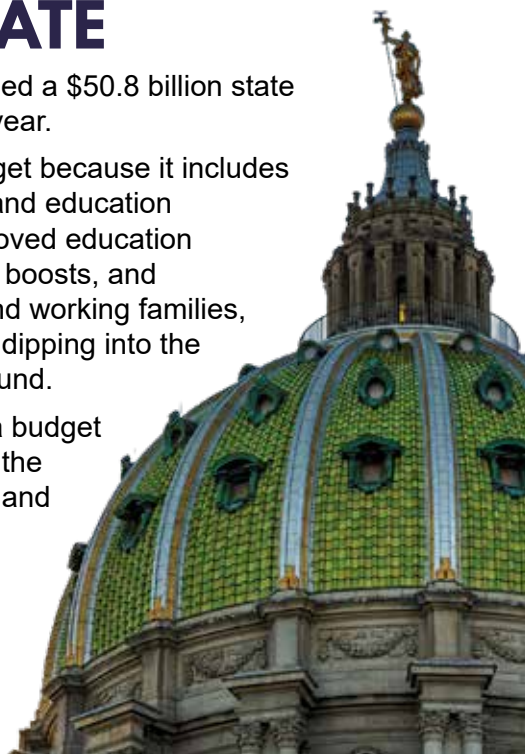
## BUDGET UPDATE

In July, Governor Shapiro signed a \$50.8 billion state budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

I voted Yes on this year's budget because it includes crucial affordability initiatives and education investments on top of an improved education code, public health and safety boosts, and investments to help seniors and working families, all without increasing taxes or dipping into the commonwealth's Rainy Day Fund.

This budget did exactly what a budget is supposed to do: provide for the funding of essential programs and services, including those like public education that we are constitutionally mandated to support and maintain.

**See Page 2 for details.**



## HOW I VOTED

State legislators' votes are always public record, but the reasons behind those votes may not always be clear. Visit the "How I Voted" section on my website to learn more about the bills that have come before the House, my positions on those bills, and why I voted the way I did. We strive to update this page as quickly as possible following the end of each session week to make it easy for you to stay up to date.



# DELIVERING FOR YOU

## INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION

This year's budget marks our fourth consecutive year of substantial investments in public education funding, in keeping with our constitutional mandate to fully fund our public schools and close the adequacy gaps identified in the 2023 PA Commonwealth Court ruling.

The Coatesville Area School District will receive an additional \$5 million over last year's allocation, while the Downingtown Area School District will receive an additional \$1.4 million.

Since 2024-25, the state has closed one-third of its school funding adequacy gap, leaving a remaining gap of \$3.3 billion to be closed over the next several budget cycles. I am committed to continuing this work and closing the gap. Every student, regardless of their ZIP code, deserves access to good, well-resourced public schools, and every dollar from the state helps to alleviate the burden on local property taxpayers.



## COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR RETIRED PUBLIC SERVANTS

For years, I have heard from constituents about the need for cost-of-living adjustments for pre-Act 9 retirees, who were left out when Pennsylvania last approved a pension adjustment in 2001. The House has passed COLA bills in the last several legislative sessions, only to see them stall in the Senate. This year, COLAs have finally passed, and many of our retired teachers, police officers, firefighters, and state employees will finally receive the long-overdue increase they deserve.

## CHESTER COUNTY PRIORITIES

This budget included many important wins for Chester County families, including an increase in funding for mental health services, food security, and rape crisis programs, and investments in nurses, social workers, and the childcare workforce. It continues all seven tax cut programs from last year's budget, including the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit, the Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Tax Credit, and the expanded Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.

## OTTEN INITIATIVES PASSED ALONGSIDE 2026-27 STATE BUDGET RECESS BILL

One of the very first bills I ever introduced, to guarantee recess for all K-5 students in Pennsylvania, has finally been signed into law as part of this year's Education Code bill. Recess is crucial to our children's social development, physical activity, and ability to learn and focus, and I'm happy that children in Pennsylvania will be guaranteed this crucial time for their mental and physical health.

## BMI PRIVACY BILL

Also adopted with this year's Education Code is the BMI Children's Privacy bill I introduced this session. School Body Mass Index (BMI) screenings have often failed to protect the privacy of children, with students lined up in a gym or other open area to be measured in front of their peers. And relying on BMI as a standalone metric for evaluating student health can lead to inaccurate assumptions and stigmatize children with a higher BMI. Under the new law, height and weight measurements will be confidential, and schools will not calculate or share students' BMI numbers.

## STUDENT TEACHER STIPENDS

Student Teacher Stipends have been fully funded at \$40 million, ensuring that every student teacher will be paid for their work, helping to build the teacher pipeline and ensure that the next generation of educators can afford to get trained.



# WHAT I'M WORKING ON

## PROTECTING RATEPAYERS

For more than a year, I've been working hard to prevent data center development from driving your electric bill through the roof.

As Pennsylvania's representative on the PJM Legislators Collaborative, I've learned the ins and outs of PJM, the regional grid operator that keeps the lights on for 67 million people across 13 states. I've worked with colleagues from across the region to advocate for PJM reform, urge PJM to keep its price cap in place (it already saved us \$9.9 billion), and stop shifting data center energy costs onto households.

In May, I met with PJM's board and FERC staff at PJM's Annual Meeting in Baltimore, pressing for PJM reform and for "phantom load" (speculative data center demand that may never materialize) to be stripped from energy grid forecasts and billed separately from regular ratepayers.

That advocacy helped contribute to a FERC hearing in July to reform PJM's broken governance process and ensure that states and ratepayer advocates have a seat at the table. We'll know more once PJM responds to FERC's directives in September, so watch my email newsletter and social media accounts for updates.

## PROTECTING COMMUNITIES

Land-use decisions in Pennsylvania rest primarily with local municipalities, which is why my House Democratic colleagues and I are focused on providing communities with the legally durable tools they need to manage data center development.

This session, we've advanced a comprehensive legislative framework addressing energy costs, water use, municipal planning, and transparency.

- **HB 1834** requires data center companies, not ratepayers, to cover the grid infrastructure costs they create.
- **HB 2246** requires water-use disclosure before construction begins.
- **HB 2151** directs the Local Government Commission to develop a draft model data center zoning ordinance that municipalities can voluntarily adopt to protect their communities.
- **HB 2150** requires annual public reporting on data centers' energy and water use.
- **HB 2496** allows municipalities to enact a 180-day pause on data center development while the municipality adopts zoning protections.
- **HB 2359** bans the non-disclosure agreements some developers have used to keep local officials from discussing proposals with residents.

The Executive Order signed by Gov. Shapiro on August 18 builds on the work we've done in the House to protect our communities, utility costs, and environment. This executive action was necessary, given Senate leadership's refusal to act on data center development. There is still legislative work to be done, but this Executive Order puts real protections in place that ensure transparency, local control, and ratepayer safeguards.

## PROTECTING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST

In addition to the legislation we've passed, I've introduced the following data-center related bills that I hope to see move this fall:

- **The Pennsylvania Water Resource Act:** Hyperscale data centers withdraw up to five million gallons of water a day. My bill would assess a fee on extraordinary water users like data center operators. The fees collected would be used for the protection, conservation, and remediation of our watersheds and freshwater sources.
- **The Data Center Electronic Waste Management Act:** Data centers generate enormous volumes of electronic waste, but there is no existing state law requiring operators to maintain disposal records or report to any state agency. My legislation would protect communities and municipalities across Pennsylvania by establishing a regulatory framework for commercial IT e-waste, with oversight by the Department of Environmental Protection.
- **Requiring Consideration of the Public Interest in PUC Proceedings:** This legislation would define "public interest" in our state law and require the Public Utility Commission to explicitly weigh the needs of everyday ratepayers in utility proceedings, not just balance the interests of utilities and their largest customers, like data centers.

Visit [RepDanielle.com](https://RepDanielle.com) and [RepDanielle.Substack.com](https://RepDanielle.Substack.com) to learn more.

## EXPANDING ACCESS TO TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

In 2025, I was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement Trust (POMAAT). This 13-member public board is responsible for receiving and investing opioid settlement funds and distributing annual settlement shares to Commonwealth agencies, counties, and organizations that use settlement funds to abate the opioid crisis.

This year, I was accepted into the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) Opioid Policy Fellows program, and in July, I attended the Opioid Policy Fellows Meeting

in Chicago, where lawmakers from across the country discussed approaches to substance use disorder support, access to treatment, and settlement funds, and listened to lived experience shared by affected individuals and families.

I am eager to bring the ideas and solutions from other states back to Pennsylvania and continue the important work of expanding access to treatment for substance use disorder.



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## STAY INFORMED!

Visit [RepDanielle.com/emailsSignup](https://RepDanielle.com/emailsSignup) to join my email list for regular updates from Harrisburg and the district.

lpo.kw.0826

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**FREE Paper-Only Shred Event**  
Saturday, October 24 | 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
North Brandywine Middle School  
256 Reeceville Road, Coatesville

Bring your confidential documents to be destroyed! Each car will be limited to 4 file-size boxes. Small paper clips and staples are OK, but please no binder clips, binders, or cardboard. Shredding is a great way to securely dispose of sensitive documents and protect yourself from identity theft and fraud. This event is first-come, first served. When the trucks are full, the event will end. All shredded paper will be recycled!

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## MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- PennDOT documents; disability placards and plates
- SEPTA Senior Key Cards
- Questions about REAL ID
- Birth certificate applications
- Unemployment Compensation issues
- SNAP, Medical Assistance, and utility assistance
- Citations for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Consumer complaints
- Concerns about road conditions
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications
- Unclaimed Property searches
- And more!

