

# GREG 54 SCOTT STATE REPRESENTATIVE

WINTER 2024
PENNSYLVI

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#### **Happy New Year!**

As the seasons change in Montgomery County, I am in awe of the beauty of our community and this Commonwealth.

This is a time to reflect on the past year and the year to come. I am so grateful for many things this year, including the opportunity to serve the people of Conshohocken, Norristown, and Plymouth. I am also thankful for my family & friends for their support during my first year in office.

I encourage you to visit nearby orchards, produce markets, restaurants, and annual events. Your presence supports our local economy and is a wonderful way to spend time with family and friends.

As always, your issues and concerns are important to me. Please feel free to call or email me at any time. Serving the 54th Legislative District is an honor for our whole team, and we will be happy to hear from you!

Warmest wishes to you and your family for a happy, safe and prosperous New Year!

All the best.



# **2023 LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT**

#### 2023 Year in Review

We have accomplished a lot, together. I'm so grateful to my team and the constituents we serve. In 2023 I introduced 12 bills, 2 resolutions, and co-sponsored 141 bills. My team and I served over 10,000 people, resolved over 1700 unemployment claims and brought back over \$17 million to our District. We worked in a bipartisan way to get 1 bill signed into law by Governor Shapiro. We gave out 500 meals during Thanksgiving and Christmas so that families could enjoy a warm meal together. We've helped protect the identity of our residents by hosting multiple shredding events.



#### **House Bill 1628 - Sudden Cardiac Arrest Screenings**

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a condition where the heart stops functioning unexpectedly, cutting off blood circulation to the brain and other vital organs. SCA is the leading cause of death among student athletes in Pennsylvania and across the country. Around 1 in 70 high schools will experience an SCA event this year. In Pennsylvania, students are required to undergo regular screenings of hearing, vision, height and weight, and dental hygiene from first enrollment to high school graduation. Participation in school sports requires a physical examination and pre-participation screening, acknowledging the risk of SCA associated with athletic events.

Peyton's Law (Act 73 of 2020) introduced the importance of electrocardiograms for screening athletes for SCA risk factors. My legislation will require electrocardiograms for all students from first enrollment and biannually through high school graduation, and as a condition of participation in school-sponsored athletic activities. Additionally, every school in Pennsylvania will be equipped with automated external defibrillator (AED) machines, which have been found to increase the survival rate of SCA by 50% when combined with CPR.

#### House Bill 1571 – PFAS Chemicals in Firefighter Protective Gear

Bunker gear used by firefighters include harmful PFAS chemicals and pose health risks to firefighters due to their chemical properties. These chemicals repel dirt, water, and grease, but do not break down over time. Studies show they can impact liver enzymes, increase blood pressure, decrease birth weight, and increase the risk of kidney or testicular cancer. Research shows that almost two out of three firefighters who are diagnosed with apparent occupational cancer will die from the disease.

This legislation would require manufacturers of personal protective equipment containing PFAS to include a warning label on the products and provide written notice to the purchaser that the equipment contains these chemicals. While PFAS cannot be completely eradicated from use in firefighter gear, it can help warn firefighters of the long-term dangers of exposure.

#### **House Bill 1636 - Grantor Trust Legislation**

Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro signed S.B. 815 into law in December of 2023. This law will allow a grantor of an irrevocable trust to choose whether to pay state income tax on the trust's income, which would free the beneficiary from having to do so. I introduced companion legislation, H.B. 1636, that maximized the consideration of this legislation to make sure grantors get to choose to remain obligated to pay income tax.

#### House Bill 1416 - Cost of Living Adjustment for Retired Teachers

I voted in favor H.B. 1416, to address the lack of a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the past 20 years, which has negatively impacted the financial security of retired teachers and public servants. The bill targets retirees in the State Employees Retirement System and the Public-School Employees Retirement System who retired before 2001, as the lack of COLA coincides with a 50% inflation increase.

#### House Bill 957- Establishing Universal Pre-Kindergarten

The cost of child care has increased significantly. Universal Pre-K and kindergarten programs in the Commonwealth will provide more children with high-quality early education, ensuring they learn fundamental educational, social, and life skills. These skills are crucial for future success. While these programs offer economic benefits, their primary goal is to create educational environments that nurture children's overall well-being and advancement.

#### 2023-24 Budget Increases Education Funding

I supported the package of laws that made up this year's state budget, and on Aug. 3 the budget was officially signed into law. Since taking office in January, Gov. Josh Shapiro proposed a budget that contains money for several important initiatives, such as workforce development, education, and community safety. In particular, the school districts in the 54th District would get millions more in funding over the previous year, marking an unprecedented amount of support for education given the budget.

While I supported the budget because it represents a step forward, much more needs to be done to serve people in Pennsylvania who need our support. I am excited to continue working with my colleagues in Harrisburg to make Pennsylvania a better place for all of us!

#### **Navigating Affordable Housing in Our Community**

I want to spotlight an issue close to many hearts — housing affordability. As we navigate the evolving landscape of our community, we recognize the vital importance of accessible housing options for all residents. Below you will find information on programs and initiatives to aid in accessing safe and affordable housing. You can also find more information on housing on my website, www.RepGregScott.com/Housing

#### **Property Tax/ Rent Rebate Program Extension**

AN IMPORTANT WIN FOR SENIORS! House Bill 1100, which I co-sponsored, expands the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program to include more seniors. This bill, which has been signed into law, raises the income eligibility limit for both homeowners and renters to \$45,000 and raises the maximum rebate amount from \$650 to \$1,000.

This critical program will assist more Pennsylvanians in staying in their homes and paying for necessities. These higher income eligibility limits and rebate amounts took effect in 2024. If you would like me to visit your senior group or community to explain the new guidelines, please call my office to schedule a visit.







#### **LIHEAP Application period is open!**

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program is now accepting applications for 2023-24. As the weather gets colder, I want to make sure everyone knows about the resources available to help keep you and your family warm.

You can apply online at compass.state.pa.us or fill out a paper application with help from my office. Feel free to call my office, 484-685-3494, or email me at RepScott@pahouse.net. We would be happy to help.

After your application is reviewed, you will receive written notice explaining your eligibility and the amount of assistance you will receive. Please allow 30 days for a response.



#### Heart Health Screening Event

My office held a free Community Health Screening event at Norristown Area High School's Roosevelt Campus and saw an impressive turnout. The event focused on young adults, offering heart screenings, blood pressure checks, mental health resources, and flu shots to ensure their well-being and success. The event also served as a call for change, honoring those we've lost and stepping up for others. The community is committed to rewriting the story and looking out for the hearts of the future.



I was proud to stand with the Valley Forge Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta just as I did 30 years ago as we celebrated the anniversary of the Patriots of African Descent Monument at Valley Forge National Historic Park, honoring the contributions of Black Soldiers who fought in the American Revolutionary War. The 9-foot-tall granite monument stands on Route 23 as a lasting tribute to those who served during the Valley Forge encampment 1777-1778.





I joined the East Norriton community to celebrate the grand opening of the East Norriton Wawa! It was a great day of community, free coffee, and hoagies!

I partnered with state Sen. Vincent Hughes and Mayor Yaniv Aronson for our Fall Shred Event. It was great to see so many constituents out in the neighborhood and help get rid of some clutter.



I attended the Grand Opening of the VNA Family Health Center at North Hills, where I joined Rep. Ben Sanchez to celebrate Primary Care and Benefit Access for North Hills community residents.

I teamed up with Elmwood Park Zoo for our bike giveaway, just in time for Christmas! A heartwarming day filled with joy and excitement as we saw the smiles light up on so many kids' faces. We were able to give out 200 bikes in the spirit of Christmas. It's moments like these that remind us of the joy of giving and the power of community.



At the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Conshohocken Regional Rail Station, I joined SEPTA CEO Leslie S. Richards and community leaders to celebrate the ADA-compliant station, which enhances customer convenience and sets a forward-thinking standard for community development.



State Rep. Matt Bradford and I presented \$150,000 to the Norristown Area School District's weekly meal kit distribution, ensuring students have access to nutritious meals during summer breaks.



The Boo at the Zoo Family Resource Fair was a wholesome event filled with ghoulish costumes, candy, and fun resources for families and kids.



I presented a proclamation to Officer Edward Butterworth of Norristown Police Department for his heroic efforts of rescuing a 12 year old girl and her father from a sinking truck in the Schuylkill River near Riverfront Park in Norristown. Thank you for your courage, dedication to law enforcement and being a hero we all aspire to be.





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## **Upcoming Events**

• Property Tax/ Rent Rebate Clinic

Feburary 6, 10 a.m. - noon 515 Harry St., Conshohocken

February 13, 10 a.m. - noon 2910 Jolly Rd., Plymouth Meeting

February 21, 10 a.m. - noon 1705 Locust St., Norristown

February 22, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. 301 Fayette St. Conshohocken

Shredding Event

April 20, 10 a.m. - noon 2910 Jolly Rd., Plymouth Meeting

Please contact my office at 484-685-3494 or RepScott@pahouse.net for any questions.

### **District Office**

1019 W. Main St. Norristown, PA 19401 Mon - Fri: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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