



State Representative
Paul Friel
 26th Legislative District

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WINTER/SPRING 2025

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As I return to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for my second term, I wanted to take a moment to highlight my top legislative priorities and acknowledge some of the budget uncertainties given proposed changes at the federal level. While many important things could be on this list, the areas where I feel I can have the most impact and can improve quality of life in our communities are education, agriculture, infrastructure, and economic policy that impacts families and small businesses. Throughout this newsletter, you'll find more information about each of these areas.

On the topic of federal programming, I understand and share concerns about the potential impact of proposed changes to programs like education, Medicaid and support for our veterans and seniors. As more information becomes available, and the impact becomes more defined, we will work to ensure we continue to support our communities at the state level.



I encourage you to follow me on social media, where I share regular updates about constituent services that my office offers, special events, and legislation moving through Pennsylvania's General Assembly. You can also sign up to receive e-newsletters at my homepage, RepFriel.com.

If you have any questions about my priorities and legislation, or issues of concern to you, please reach out to my office. We'd love to have a conversation with you about the issues you care about!

Best Regards,

Paul Friel
 State Representative
 26th State House District



2025-26 PA House Majority
Committee Assignments

- Appropriations
- Education
- Energy
- Gaming Oversight
- Agriculture & Rural Affairs

PAUL FRIEL

Looking back, looking forward

Last session I worked with colleagues and stakeholders to pass bipartisan legislation to allow employer contributions to PA 529 College and Career Savings Program accounts and to strengthen Pennsylvania's economic position by accelerating reform to the state's net operating loss tax deduction. We also developed important legislation related to education, small business, and agriculture which we will be able to advance this session.

This new year no doubt brings a lot of change but also a fresh start and a renewed commitment to building a brighter future for all of our communities in Pennsylvania.

This legislative term, to help attain those goals, I'm pleased to report that I've been appointed to the House Agriculture & Rural Affairs, Appropriations, Education, Energy, and Gaming Oversight committees. These committee positions allow me to effect public policy that matters to all Pennsylvanians.

EDUCATION

Pennsylvania's educational system and the students it serves have been at the forefront for me from the very first time I ran for public office – as a candidate for my local school board. I have seen firsthand the power that a quality public education has in creating opportunities for young people across our commonwealth.

I strongly believe we must continue the work to fully and fairly fund education in our state budget. Last year marked a historic change to the approach of funding education in Pennsylvania and I believe the Governor's proposed budget will continue us on a path which builds upon that success.

I've introduced and supported several education bills related to fairly funding schools, strengthening the teacher pipeline, expanding career and technical education, cyber charter funding reform, first amendment rights in schools, and improving school transportation.

Regionalizing distribution of commercial property tax

We need more creative approaches to solving the decades-long problem of funding Pennsylvania's school districts. With that in mind, I am proposing a resolution to study regional approaches to school property tax disbursement and efficiency.

I am also introducing a bill to move the distribution of large commercial property tax to a regional model. Sharing this revenue could allow us to make significant improvement in closing the opportunity gap for our students and help to reduce the pressure on local taxpayers- especially in areas with a high residential property tax burden.

School transportation reform is needed

Over the past several months I've been leading a workgroup focused on school transportation efficiency, which is co-chaired by my Republican colleague Rep. John Schlegel. We pulled together stakeholders from school districts, bus companies, the school business officials association (PASBO), the PA Department of Education, and beyond.

Our workgroup was tasked to identify bottlenecks and inefficiencies, recommend updates, and ultimately improve school transportation. I am happy to report we have made great progress. I plan to introduce legislation in the coming weeks.

Thank you to everyone who participated in these workgroups- your help was invaluable!

AGRICULTURE

Our farms are another area of great importance to me. Pennsylvania has a rich history of agriculture. It is essential that we are diligent in our support for farmers – helping to ensure that farming is viable for current and future generations. We must wisely preserve our farmland and work with our farmers as they implement environmentally and financially sustainable practices across the commonwealth. Three key pieces of agricultural legislation that I am working on are updates to the beginning farmer tax credit, my bi-partisan food processing residue bill package, and coming soon, a bill to support farmland preservation.



Dealing with food processing residue

I am re-introducing legislation to change the way Pennsylvania handles food processing residue – addressing the hazards this waste can cause for our rural and agricultural communities by updating the process and putting appropriate guardrails in place. This legislation passed the House last year, but the session ended before it could make its way through the Senate.

Food processing residue, also known as FPR, is the leftover product created by commercial food processing. It includes everything from vegetable peels, to raw animal byproducts, to the liquids and chemicals used in processing.

While FPR can be used to fertilize the soil, it can also create numerous problems for the community-such as extremely noxious odors and groundwater contamination- if care is not taken. Compounding the issue, surrounding states have heavily restricted or banned the use of FPR, making Pennsylvania a target for cheaply offloading the commercial waste.

My bill is a solution to the problem and is the result of working with lawmakers from both sides of the aisle, the departments of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, affected community members, farmers, conservation experts, and industry stakeholders.

STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY

On Pennsylvania's economic front, it is important that the commonwealth attracts top talent and new businesses, allowing for quality job opportunities and higher wages for all who live and work here. There is no reason our commonwealth can't be a leader in technology and innovation. I will continue to work on legislation that supports both businesses and families, strengthening the whole state.

Bipartisan Competitiveness Caucus launched

To ensure we have an informed legislative focus on economic policy, I recently announced the formation of a new bipartisan, bicameral group within the state General Assembly: the Pennsylvania Competitiveness Caucus.

I am proud to be a founder and co-chair of this caucus and believe the work we will do to promote business and workforce development across the state will have an important impact. Our group will work across political lines to strengthen Pennsylvania's ability to attract and retain business investment in the commonwealth.



Spurring Innovation in Pennsylvania: Tradable Net Operating Loss Legislation

Pennsylvania is fortunate to be home to many new and exciting technology and biotechnology start-ups. However, competition for capital often results in the relocation of such businesses to other states with more favorable conditions.

With this in mind, I'm re-introducing legislation to allow these early-stage businesses to sell their net operating losses to unrelated companies, converting these losses to capital. This bill will permit funding received from these sales to be used to build and grow the business here in Pennsylvania, investing in high paying jobs and strengthening Pennsylvania's economy now and into the future.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Finally, I remain focused on infrastructure – particularly our roads and bridges. If I've said it once, I've said it a million times – I hate potholes. In my first term, my team and I worked persistently to secure funding to fix the collapsing portion of St Peters Road, and to ensure that a five-mile stretch of that same road was repaved. We were successful on both fronts, though the actual rebuild is a multiple-years long project- see more on that below!

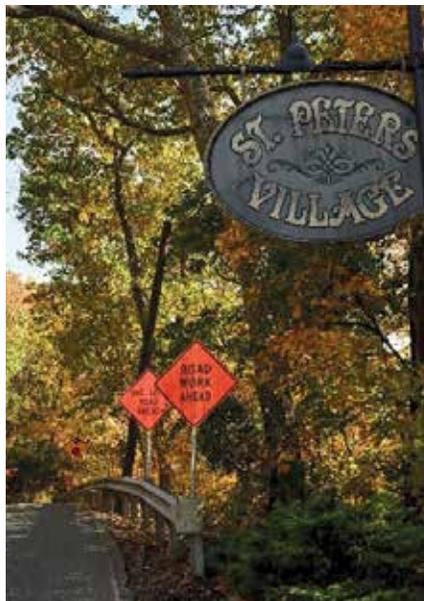
We also advocate with PennDOT and county officials about area bridges and roads that need to be addressed. In addition, I continue to push for more state funding for Southeast PA- we need increased investment in this dense and highly traveled area of the commonwealth.

St. Peters Road project ongoing

The St. Peters Retaining Wall Project continues to move through the initial engineering phase, with two different designs being thoroughly investigated. You might recall that we secured \$5.5 million in state funding to rebuild the collapsing portion of St. Peters Road. This section of road, just south of the village, has been a major priority for me and my team since day one.

Erosion of the steep slope between St. Peters Road and French Creek has created unstable conditions in the roadway embankment. This project will stabilize the slope and reconstruct St. Peters Road in the problem area.

I will continue to report on its progress.



Keim Street Bridge progress

After being closed for 15 years, construction to rebuild the Keim Street Bridge has begun. Communities on both sides of the Schuylkill River will be glad to have this connection point reopened!

The Keim Street Bridge, built in 1935, connects Montgomery and Chester counties. The Keim Street Bridge was closed in 2010 due to structural deficiencies and is still planned for a complete rebuild for vehicles and pedestrians.

Local Happenings

Veterans Breakfast

FRIDAY
MARCH 28TH
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Doors open at **8:30 am**,
breakfast begins at **9:00 am**

 **Phoenixville Country Club**
355 Country Club Rd., Phoenixville

RSVP IS REQUIRED

Please call my office at (610) 427-8782 or visit my website, repfriel.com, to reserve your spot today!

PAUL FRIEL

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Rep. Paul Friel's

TOWN HALL MEETING

Representative Friel will discuss legislative updates, constituent services offered by our office, and answer questions.

If you would like to submit a question ahead of time, please email it to RepFriel@pahouse.net and include the words "Town Hall Question" in the subject line.

 **The Colonial Theatre**
227 Bridge Street,
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Thursday, May 1
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Join Rep. Friel and the North Coventry Police for a

SHREDDING & E-WASTE EVENT

*PLUS FOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH
10 AM-1 PM OR UNTIL TRUCKS ARE FILLED



 Bring up to 3 boxes or bags of personal documents for secure shredding

 E-waste: bring personal items for secure disposal

Small TVs, monitors, computers and laptops, cellphones, DVD players, printers, wires/chargers, etc.

 Chester County Food Bank will be on site to collect much needed food donations!

MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

- Breakfast Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Pasta
- Brown Rice
- Hearty Soups
- Beans
- Canned Tuna, Salmon & Chicken
- Healthy Snacks

 **COVENTRY MALL PARKING LOT**
Near Dick's Sporting Goods

PAUL FRIEL



VISIT OUR LOCAL OFFICES!

MONDAY - FRIDAY | 9AM - 4:30PM

- Our District Office
68 Glocker Way, Pottstown, 19465

EVERY TUESDAY | 10AM-3PM

- In the Phoenixville Rec Center
501 Franklin Ave, Phoenixville, 19460

EVERY THURSDAY | 10AM-3PM

- Our Elverson Office
60 East Main Street Elverson, 19520

1ST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH | 10AM-12PM

- In the Spring City Library

2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH | 10AM-12PM

- At the Phoenixville Area Senior Center

PAUL FRIEL

In The District

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

It is my privilege to help constituents, groups and businesses with state-level grant funding. With your support, I have been able to advocate for millions in state tax funded grants to our communities.

Spring City Borough awarded \$350,000

I'm happy to report that Spring City Borough was recently awarded \$350,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for development at Spring City Boat Launch Park! The Community Conservation Partnership Program grant will go toward streambank restoration, construction of a pavilion, picnic area, pedestrian walkways, a parking area, and more.



Our team had a wonderful time serving with PA Wounded Warriors at the Southeastern Veterans' Center for the Eagles celebration.

Other state grants across the 26th Legislative District

- Owen J. Roberts School District, Boiler Replacement, \$1.32 million
- East Coventry Township, Public Works Vehicle and Equipment, \$102,300
- East Pikeland Township, Police Department In-Car Cameras and Tech, \$41,100
- East Pikeland Township, Public Works Department Volvo Loader, \$165,211
- Elverson Borough Municipal Authority, Sanitary Sewer Collection System Rehabilitation and Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade, \$250,000
- North Coventry Township, Police Vehicle Purchase, \$61,250
- North Coventry Water Authority, NCWA Acquisition of Aqua PA Suburbia Shopping Center Water System, \$400,000
- North Coventry Water Authority, NCWA Emergency Generator, \$425,000
- South Coventry Township, Well Development, \$90,377
- Fire Departments that serve the 26th District, \$136,292
- Elverson, Skatepark and Pump Track, \$70,209
- East Vincent Township, Park Improvements, \$100,000
- Chester County Conservation District, Chesapeake Bay Watershed, \$67,000
- East Coventry Township, Ellis Woods Road Bridge Rehabilitation Project, \$350,000
- Spring City Borough, Main Street Crosswalks Safety Improvements, \$100,000



I recently joined the Phoenixville Area Seniors Center, which apparently was cause for some smiles.



Paul Friel

68 Glocker Way
Pottstown, PA 19465

lpo.kg.0325

My office can help you with:

- ✓ Applying for state programs such as the Property Tax/Rent Rebate and PACE
- ✓ Birth and death certificates
- ✓ SEPTA Key Senior ID cards (age 65+)
- ✓ Free notary service for many documents (please call ahead for an appointment)
- ✓ Filing unclaimed property applications
- ✓ Disability parking placards/plates
- ✓ Problems or questions about PennDOT, including car registrations, titles, and license applications
- ✓ Complaints about state road conditions
- ✓ Public benefit applications or issues, including SNAP and Medical Assistance
- ✓ Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
- ✓ Unemployment Compensation questions
- ✓ Issues with professional license applications

- ✓ Information on financial assistance for higher education
- ✓ Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- ✓ Consumer complaints
- ✓ Getting and filling out state forms of all kinds

Any state government service or issue!

Contact my office by stopping in, calling at (610) 427-8782, or sending a message through my website at RepFriel.com for help with these or other issues.

