



“Servant Leadership is all about prioritizing your needs. Our district offices in State College and Philipsburg strive to deliver excellent constituent services throughout the 77th Legislative District and Centre County.”

**REPRESENTATIVE**

# **SCOTT CONKLIN**

## **Servant Leadership for PA House District 77**

House District 77 includes the boroughs of State College (part), Philipsburg, and Port Matilda and the townships of Ferguson, Halfmoon, Huston, Patton, Rush, Taylor, and Worth.

## **HELLO, NEIGHBORS!**

I hope you're enjoying the summer and finding some time for outdoor fun with family and friends! I also hope that you will take a few minutes to look over my latest newsletter, which provides updates on my recent legislative efforts, information about new funding coming to the district, and news about helpful programs.

Please remember that my talented staff is available to help with a wide variety of state-related matters, from filing applications for programs and services to solving questions and problems involving PennDOT and other state agencies.

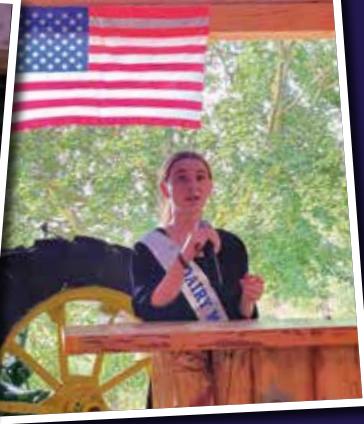
We have two offices. Our State College Service Center is located at **301 S. Allen St., Suite 102**, and can be reached at **(814) 238-5477**. Our Philipsburg office is located at **213 N. Front St.** and can be reached at **(814) 342-4872**. Both are open **Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Please stop by or give us a call to see how we can help!



## **HONORING DISTRICT OFFICE DIRECTOR TOR MCCARTNEY**



We are so fortunate to have such an extraordinary district office director as Tor McCartney. Earlier this year, four local nonprofit organizations – Centre Safe, Out of the Cold, Go Reentry, and CentrePeace – came together to honor Tor for his tireless work on behalf of our community. I was proud to present him with a PA House Legislative Citation honoring his service.



*Our district staffer Nanci Rommel had a blast at the Centre County Farm Bureau summer picnic at Wasson Farm. She was able to speak with Bureau President Dan Kniffen, Centre County Dairy Maid Kimber Hough, and Sen. John Fetterman's Regional Representative, Elliot Copeland.*

# STATE BUDGET UPDATE

Earlier this summer, my colleagues and I in the House passed a state budget bill. While no budget is perfect, our plan reflects compromise – it would cut nearly \$1 billion from the governor's plan while delivering critical investments for our public schools, health care, and other essential programs, all without raising taxes. As of this writing, the state Senate still needs to vote on our bill. I am urging our colleagues there to act quickly and send this legislation to the governor's desk so that it can begin funding the critical programs and services on which our communities rely.

## BRINGING YOUR TAX DOLLARS BACK TO THE DISTRICT

I'm proud to report that since the start of the year, we helped secure more than \$2.3 million for district and county programs and projects. Highlights include:

- ✓ \$800,000 to continue rehabilitating Philipsburg's James Stott building into affordable housing and commercial space.
- ✓ Nearly \$700,000 to support affordable housing projects and housing programs and assistance.
- ✓ Nearly \$400,000 to Patton Township for transportation improvements.

- ✓ \$300,000 to the State College Area School District to equip the new Park Forest Middle School with solar technology.
- ✓ More than \$115,000 to district fire departments and EMS companies for equipment, training, facility repairs and other needs.



You can read more about these and other grants by visiting my website at [www.pahouse.com/Conklin/NewsCenter](http://www.pahouse.com/Conklin/NewsCenter).

## REGULATING CRYPTOCURRENCY

With technology creating new forms of virtual currencies such as cryptocurrency, our laws need to keep pace to protect Pennsylvanians. Consumers deserve to know that the transactions they conduct using digital currencies are as safe as those involving traditional forms of money.

Under the original state law, virtual currency was not subject to the state's Money Transmission Licensing Law, which regulates businesses that transmit money or credit. To fix that, I introduced legislation to expand the law so that it covers virtual currency. My bill passed the House with strong bipartisan support.

A companion Senate bill was subsequently signed into law.

## HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES SUCCEED

Many small self-storage businesses face problems when a customer defaults or fails to sign their rental agreement. With no timeframe to enforce the unsigned or unpaid agreement, the unit sits occupied and unrentable.

To address the problem, I introduced legislation to allow for the electronic delivery of a storage unit rental agreement. This would make rental agreements enforceable against the occupant within 30 days of the document's delivery – the same as if it had been signed. Occupants who fail to sign or pay their agreements could have their unit access restricted or denied.

My H.B. 1359 passed the House in June by a strong bipartisan majority and is now in the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee.

*I was honored to join state Rep. Dallas Kephart, Osceola Mills VFW Post 5020, and PennDOT District Executive Tom Prestash for the dedication of the State Route 3027 bridge over the Moshannon Creek. The bridge was named the Osceola Mills Memorial Bridge in honor of 35 soldiers from Osceola Mills who gave their lives in the service of our nation.*



## ENSURING ALL PA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS STAY SAFE ON THE JOB

The Office of State Inspector General is a watchdog agency that roots out fraud and misconduct in state programs. Its agents investigate crime and serve warrants – often facing dangerous situations – yet they are the only law enforcement officers in Pennsylvania who are not authorized to carry a firearm.

It's a dangerous gap in our law that leaves these officers unprotected and forces them to rely on local law enforcement, which in turn burdens those resources.

To address the issue, I introduced H.B. 36, which would authorize OSIG agents to arm themselves on the job. The bill – which also requires firearms training for these officers – passed the House and is now in the Senate State Government Committee.



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# MOVING THE BALL ON MY BILL TO PROTECT STUDENT ATHLETES

School sports should be about building confidence and teaching lessons of fair play. Unfortunately, our current playoff system, administered by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, leaves some students at a disadvantage before they even set foot on the field.

The current system forces students from public schools, which are limited to recruiting athletes from within district boundaries, to compete against students from private schools that can recruit from wherever they like and compile teams

that are larger and stronger. The system jeopardizes student safety and can cause students to lose out on scholarships and recruitment opportunities.

This spring, we took a step toward leveling the playing field when the House Intergovernmental Affairs and Operations Committee advanced my H.B. 41, which would allow the PIAA to establish separate playoff and championship systems for public and private schools. The bill now heads to the full House for consideration.

## SAFEGUARDING STUDENTS ON THE ROAD

Pennsylvania has well-defined rules of the road when it comes to protecting students in school buses, including laws requiring motorists to stop a specific distance behind a stopped school bus.

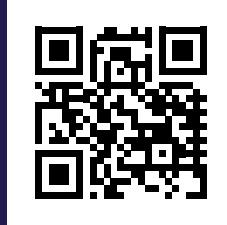
Unfortunately, those same laws do not apply to school vans, leaving thousands of student passengers – including many with disabilities – vulnerable to being struck by other drivers or injured when passing traffic causes the van to shake.

To fix the problem, I introduced H.B. 1708 – legislation that would require vehicles traveling in the same direction as a school van to stop when the van is loading or discharging children, immediately before and after the stop, and while four-way flashers are activated. Vehicles traveling in the opposite direction would be required to proceed with caution and at a reduced speed.

The bill is currently in the House Transportation Committee.

## SENIORS: OUR OFFICE CAN HELP YOU FILE FOR THESE PROGRAMS!

- ✓ The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, which benefits income-eligible seniors 65 or older, widows or widowers 50 or older, and residents with a disability 18 or older. To learn more, visit <https://www.revenue.pa.gov/ptrr> or scan the QR code at right.



- ✓ The PACENET program, which helps seniors afford the cost of prescription drugs and is available to single people earning up to \$33,500 annually and married couples earning up to \$41,500. Visit <https://www.pa.gov/services/aging/apply-for-the-pharmaceutical-assistance-contract-for-the-elderly.html> or scan the QR code to learn more.



- ✓ The reduced \$12 vehicle registration fee for retirees earning up to \$29,906. (The fee is eliminated for certain veterans.) Visit <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dmv/vehicle-services/title-and-registration> or scan the QR code and scroll down to the specialty title/registration section.



*It's always wonderful to welcome students to the state Capitol. Our May visit from the Friends School was no exception!*



*In May, our district staffer Caroline Paterno (far right) attended the 50th Anniversary celebration of Centre Safe, which has saved countless lives and provides critical resources to protect residents from domestic violence. Caroline is pictured with (from left): Centre Safe Board Chair Katie Blume-Bruno, Centre Safe Executive Director Jennifer Pencek, and Laura Shadle.*



*I had a wonderful time attending the Special Olympics Pennsylvania Summer Games in June and getting to meet some of the athletes and organizers. It was an honor getting to speak at the opening ceremony!*



# REP. SCOTT CONKLIN

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## COMMERCE COMMITTEE PROMOTES PENNSYLVANIANS' FINANCIAL WELLBEING

As majority chairman of the House Commerce Committee, I help advance bills designed to promote financial security for Pennsylvanians and help businesses thrive. Two bills approved by the committee and recently signed into law will:

- ✓ Allow home borrowers to pay discount points to lower the interest rate on their mortgage (Act 16 of 2025).
- ✓ Ensure that transmissions involving virtual currency are regulated similarly to those involving paper money (Act 7 of 2025). My companion bill calling for the same provisions passed the House with strong bipartisan support in April.



The committee also advanced bills recently passed by the House that would:

- ✓ Help vulnerable older adults and incapacitated people remain in their homes by allowing them to designate a person to receive notice should their property taxes fall into arrears.
- ✓ Establish "Keystone Saves" – a voluntary employee retirement savings program for more than 2 million Pennsylvania workers who have no retirement plan available to them through their job.
- ✓ Cap overdraft fees at \$15 or the actual cost of processing a transaction – whichever is lower – and banning these fees if the transaction is declined.



*Our staffer Nanci Rommel attended the 2025 Celebration Banquet hosted by Go Reentry Specialists – a nonprofit that helps incarcerated people go home from jail, stay home, and be successful. Attendees included Inside Out Cookies CEO Nick Freed, who learned to bake while in federal prison and now gives back to formerly incarcerated and disadvantaged people through his business.*



*Rockview Penitentiary and Quehanna Boot Camp have served our region for more than a century. Their closure would have a devastating impact on nearly 850 workers and their families, with ripple effects throughout our economy. In July, the state House adopted my resolution urging the governor and Department of Corrections not to close these vitally important facilities.*

*July marked another wonderful Philipsburg Heritage Days Parade! Joining me to soak in the sights, sounds, and celebrations were (from left): Laura Shadle, staffer Caroline Paterno, Philipsburg Mayor John Streno, my wife, Teri, and our district office director, Tor McCartney.*