



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
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## Ending Human Trafficking Together

In 2024, I first introduced legislation to create a **training program for lodging staff to recognize human trafficking**. I learned a lot about the legislative process and commerce practices, especially as the lodging and hospitality industries were transforming with online reservations and short-term rental programs.

In the current 2025–26 legislative session, we hit the ground running by adjusting and reintroducing the bill. After many productive meetings, press events, a public hearing with the House Tourism Committee, and negotiations and tweaks with the Senate and stakeholders, **H.B. 1286 definitively passed with a final unanimous vote in the House. In July, it was signed into law by Gov. Shapiro as Act 31 of 2026.**

This has been a long time coming, and I'm so proud to have shepherded this concept into law. While our area in Philadelphia and Delaware County is a hotspot for the evils of human trafficking, this **legislation will benefit all of Pennsylvania** by ensuring that the people who interact with the public in hotels, motels, short-term rental units, online reservation platforms, and more are **trained to recognize the signs of trafficking** and know to whom they should report it.

**Together, we can do great things**, and this was truly a group effort to get this across the finish line. I'm proud to play a part in ending the evils of human trafficking in Pennsylvania.



# A PA Budget that Invests In YOU

It's never a quick and easy process, but we finally achieved a **state budget signed into law that works for you and your family**, and all with no tax increases!

The 2026–27 state budget delivers **meaningful investments to strengthen our communities** and create opportunities for our future. Not only are our **school districts in Philly and Delco receiving impactful increases**, but we're also seeing investments in school safety, school building remediation, career training, special education, and more.

**And that's just education!**

I'm excited that **job creation, technical innovation, and the Historically Disadvantaged Business Assistance program** are prioritized in this budget, as well.

There is so much to be thrilled about and proud of in this budget - with one major example being **increased funding for human trafficking enforcement and prevention** through the Attorney General's Office. That investment, combined with my legislation to increase awareness of human trafficking, is a major step toward **putting an end to trafficking and exploitation across Pennsylvania**.

## 2026-2027 PA Budget Wins

### School Funding Increases

**Interboro School District**  
**\$374K (1.9%↑)**

**School District of Philadelphia**  
**\$157 Million (7.6%↑)**

**William Penn School District**  
**\$5.6 Million (9.7%↑)**



## More Budget Highlights!

- **\$25 million** for Solar for Schools
- **\$30 million** for the Child Care Recruitment and Retention program.
- **\$10 million** to expand the Student Teacher Stipend.
- Cost-of-Living Adjustment for long-retired teachers, police officers, and firefighters.
- **\$979 million** for mental health services, including walk-in crisis centers and for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.
- **\$7 million** increase in Farmers' Market Food Coupons.
- **\$600 million** increase in healthcare funding for seniors and families, including over **\$5 million** increase for CHIP.
- Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit, helping you keep more of what you earn.
- **More \$\$** for veterans.



## 2026-2027

### Delivering for Pennsylvanians Protecting Taxpayer Dollars

This budget delivers practical solutions that help Pennsylvanians:

- ✓ Afford everyday life
- ✓ Find good-paying jobs
- ✓ Educate their children
- ✓ Build safer communities

And we do it all **without raising taxes.**



## Still waiting on the Senate...

The House passed **many great bills that I support**, but we're still waiting on **Senate Republican leaders** to act for Pennsylvanians and send those bills to the governor.

### ► Child Labor Violations

As state legislatures nationwide are weakening child labor laws, **my bill would ensure that Pennsylvania employers are held accountable for exploiting children** by **doubling the penalties to \$1,000 for a first offense and \$3,000 for each subsequent offense**. The House passed **H.B. 118** more than a year ago, but it is still awaiting action in the state Senate.

### ► Minimum Wage

This year marked **20 years since Pennsylvania last increased its minimum wage**. For two decades, Pennsylvania's minimum wage has remained at **\$7.25 per hour** despite the rising costs of housing, food, healthcare, and everyday necessities.

**House Bill 2189** would provide a long-overdue raise to thousands of Pennsylvanians who continue to earn wages that make it impossible to make ends meet.



# Still waiting on the Senate...

## ► Public Transit

**House Bill 1788** remains a bipartisan path forward to funding public transportation reliably. It incorporates bipartisan transportation priorities while addressing Pennsylvania's growing transit and infrastructure challenges **without raising taxes**. By failing to act, the Senate left communities without the resources needed to **maintain reliable transit service, support workers who rely on public transportation, and strengthen our transportation network**.

## ► Healthcare Affordability

The rising cost of healthcare continues to impact families throughout Pennsylvania. **House Bill 79** would require hospitals to provide clear, accessible information about financial assistance programs and ensure that patients understand what help is available to them.

## ► Corporations Dodging Taxes

Another missed opportunity was **implementing a fairer corporate tax system that better supports small businesses and families**. Today, **73% of national companies doing business in Pennsylvania and subject to our corporate net income tax pay no tax due to a loophole in the law**. **House Bill 1610** would address this imbalance by requiring multistate corporations to pay taxes based on the portion of their income connected to Pennsylvania.

## ► Taxing Digital Ads

Every day, large corporations collect personal data and use it to target advertisements based on our interests and online activity, yet they face **no tax on this business model**. **House Bill 1678** could generate millions of dollars in annual revenue for our budget by taxing digital advertising.

In August we said a heartfelt goodbye to our **summer interns, Byshir Randall, who is majoring in criminal justice, and Asante Johnson, who is majoring in computer science**.

Over the course of the summer, they helped our office organize contact information for new community partners, provided our constituents with a younger perspective on the challenges facing our communities, and observed my staff in action, expanding their knowledge of government and **the importance of public service**.

I also was excited to welcome them to the state Capitol in June to get a firsthand look at how the legislature operates and the policy issues being debated in state government.

From day one, they jumped in with curiosity and a passion for public service. We're grateful for their hard work, energy, and the positive mark they left on our community. **We can't wait to see where their journeys take them next!**



## Meeting You Where You're At

In 2026, my office has already hosted **more than 20 community events** to bring the services of our office closer to you and celebrate all our wonderful neighborhoods. Just this summer, we've **knocked on more than 1,000 doors** as part of our Summer Neighborhood Walking Tour to ensure you're receiving the state and local services my office can provide. **Did we miss you? Reach out to my office anytime to find out how we can serve you!**





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## Make Your Plan to Vote

Your vote is your voice and your future. Be sure you're registered and **make your voice heard at the ballot box**. Don't sit elections out!

## Important Election Deadlines

|                |                                                                                                                                          |               |                                                                |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>OCT. 19</b> | <b>LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE</b><br><a href="https://vota.pa.gov/Register">vota.pa.gov/Register</a>                                   | <b>NOV. 3</b> | <b>GENERAL ELECTION DAY</b><br>Polls Open from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. |
| <b>OCT. 27</b> | <b>LAST DAY TO REQUEST A MAIL-IN OR ABSENTEE BALLOT</b><br><a href="https://vota.pa.gov/ApplyMailBallot">vota.pa.gov/ApplyMailBallot</a> |               |                                                                |

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## Investing in Our Community

One of the most important and exciting parts of my job in state government is delivering grant money for Philadelphia and Delaware counties. I was thrilled to announce **six projects, which received a total of \$10.2 million** from Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program earlier this summer. I'm proud to be able to support these investments in our **cultural well-being, health and safety, plus job creation and innovation**.

- **\$500,000** to Bartram Village for site preparation for affordable housing.
- **\$1 million** to Bartram's Garden campus for construction of the Ecosystems Education Center at Bartram's Garden, reconfiguring the main driveway and restoring a pedestrian bridge.
- **\$350,000** to FloatLab IX and Philadelphia Mural Arts for the final phase of construction for FloatLab at Bartram's Garden.
- **\$350,000** to GPHA Medical and Behavioral Health Campus for development of a comprehensive medical campus.
- **\$4 million** to the Philadelphia Eagles Training Facility to expand, develop and construct several integral parts of the facility.
- **\$4 million** to Rhoads Industries Building to construct a new waterfront building.



## Pennsylvania MONEY MATCH

**1 in 10 Pennsylvanians have unclaimed property.**

The House helped pass a law to allow the PA Treasury to automatically return certain unclaimed property to **YOU** including:

- ✓ Dormant bank accounts
- ✓ Uncashed checks
- ✓ Rebates
- ✓ Insurance Payments *and much more!*

Visit [PATreasury.gov/unclaimed-property](https://PATreasury.gov/unclaimed-property) to search anytime, or contact my office if you need assistance!

## Does the State Owe You Money?

Are you one of the **nearly 30,000 people in our area who has unclaimed property in the PA Treasury vault**? It could be anything from lost paychecks and jewelry to forgotten savings bonds - or so much more. Our office is reaching out to neighbors who have something valuable in the vault, but **you can search your name at [patreasury.gov](https://patreasury.gov) to find out for yourself and make your claim even faster!**