

JOHN A. SCHLEGEL

Proudly Serving the **101st** Legislative District



BUDGET PROCESS UNDERWAY

The 2026-27 state budget process began in early February when Gov. Josh Shapiro delivered his budget address before a joint session of the General Assembly. His \$53.26 billion proposal represents a \$2.7 billion increase or 5.4%.

It increases PreK-12 education spending by more than 4% to \$18.9 billion. This includes \$61 million more for Pre-K Counts, Head Start Supplemental Assistance, and Early Intervention. It also increases funding for Career and Technical Education (CTE) by more than \$14 million to a total of \$158.5 million.

The governor's budget increases funding for Human Services by more than 6%, including nearly 7% more for mental health services. And it will fund training for four more classes of state police troopers.

The governor's plan proposes to generate new revenue by legalizing and

taxing recreational marijuana, and taxing skill games at a rate of more than 50%. His plan also proposes to help balance his budget by using nearly \$4.58 billion from the state's Rainy Day Fund, which is meant for emergencies.

Fortunately, this is only the beginning of the budget process. The House and Senate Appropriations committees just wrapped up three weeks of budget hearings with various state department and agency leaders to determine if the amounts budgeted for them is appropriate. The General Assembly will now work toward devising and approving a final state budget by the June 30 deadline.

For additional information and to watch the recorded budget hearings, visit **PABudget.com**.

ARE WE CONNECTED?



To stay up to date on my Capitol activities and events here in our district, visit **RepSchlegel.com** and sign up for my Capitol Report, emailed to you weekly. You can also follow me on **Facebook.com/RepSchlegel**.



NOTEWORTHY LEGISLATION

DRY NEEDLING

This session, I introduced legislation to allow licensed physical therapists in Pennsylvania to perform dry needling, a common therapy already in use by physical therapists across the country. Dry needling is a treatment option to relieve muscle pain and stiffness and to improve physical range of motion by strategically inserting fine, sterile needles into the muscle at specific trigger points.

Many states already recognize dry needling as being within the physical therapy scope of practice and the American Physical Therapy Association supports the inclusion of dry needling in state regulatory frameworks. Because Pennsylvania law is silent on the use of this treatment, many physical therapists, including some here in Lebanon County, are reluctant to perform this treatment without clear direction from state regulators. **House Bill 2070** would achieve this by specifying the need for licensed therapists to complete a board-approved certification program, ensuring dry needling is only performed by physical therapists who are properly trained in the technique.

SLAMMING

Pennsylvania consumers can choose their electric and natural gas suppliers by shopping for the price and terms that work for them. However, they are sometimes taken advantage of by individuals who deceptively switch their utility suppliers without the consumers' knowledge or consent, a practice known as "slamming."

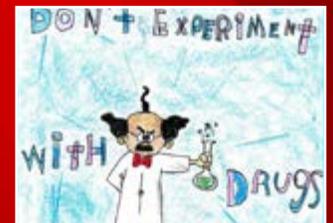
Slamming results in higher rates and unexpected charges, which is particularly problematic for senior citizens, care-dependent individuals and low-income people. To address this, I have introduced **House Bill 1079**, which would make it a crime to change consumer electric and natural gas suppliers without permission. It would also increase penalties for repeat offenders.

My legislation aims to protect consumers from financial harm and deceptive practices, restore consumer confidence in the competitive electricity market, and hold bad actors accountable. It also provides law enforcement the necessary tools to prosecute these crimes and get justice for victims.



Honoring Our Veterans

Together with Sen. Chris Gebhard and Reps. Russ Diamond and Tom Jones, I hosted a Veterans Appreciation Breakfast at the Campbelltown Fire Hall following the Veterans Day holiday.



Local Student's Art Selected for Drug Abuse Prevention Campaign

Artwork by Benny Root, a fifth grader at Union Canal Elementary School, was selected for the 2026 Drug-Free Calendar Contest, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. Benny and his family are pictured with me in the House chamber.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



As your state representative, it's important for me to interact with you and learn how I can better serve you. Throughout the year, I schedule events in our legislative district to provide you with information or a service you need. The following are just a few scheduled for this spring:

CLAIM UNCLAIMED PROPERTY | APRIL 22 | NOON TO 3 P.M. at my district office in the Lebanon Valley Mall, Lebanon

The Pennsylvania Treasury is holding more than \$5 billion in unclaimed property. Could some of it belong to you? Find out at my Unclaimed Property Event. A representative from the State Treasury will be on-site to process claim applications. This is a FREE event. No reservations necessary.

TOWN HALL MEETING | THURSDAY, MAY 28 | 6-8 P.M. at Lebanon Expo Center, 80 Rocherty Road, Lebanon

Join me for a legislative town hall meeting. Enjoy complimentary light refreshments while we discuss any state-related issues that interest you.

For more information, visit RepSchlegel.com/events or call my district office at 717-838-3823.

2025 PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM OPEN

The application period for the state's 2025 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is now open for eligible Pennsylvanians to begin claiming rebates on property taxes or rent paid last year.

Income limits increased again this year to \$48,110 for both homeowners and renters. This is due to a 2023 law I supported that calls for adjusting the income limit based on annual increases in the Consumer Price Index.

When applying, please remember to exclude 50% of Social Security when determining your income. The maximum rebate is \$1,000. The program is open to residents aged 65 years and older; widows and widowers 50 years and older; and people with disabilities 18 years and older.

Remember – you do not need to pay anyone for assistance to apply for the rebates. Apply online at mypath.pa.gov or contact my office for help. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/4tQ7d7U>.

Local Fire, EMS Services Receive \$238,000 in State Grants

Seventeen fire companies and emergency medical services (EMS) providers in the 101st Legislative District were recently awarded \$238,397 in state grants through the state Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program. The funding will help ensure our local fire companies and emergency medical services providers will continue to be there for us in our time of emergency.

The grants may be used for construction or renovation of a unit's station, the purchase or repair of equipment, training, debt reduction, education and public outreach, as well as staff recruitment and retention efforts.

LOCAL GRANT RECIPIENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Community Fire Co. of Cornwall Borough - \$12,633.
- Glenn Lebanon Fire Co. - \$12,633.
- Goodwill Fire Engine and Hose Co. No. 5 - \$12,014.
- Independent Fire Co. - \$12,839.
- Lebanon Chemical Engine and Insurance Patrol Co. No. 1 - \$14,282.
- Lebanon Fire Dept. - \$16,137.
- Lebanon Fire Dept. First Aid and Safety Patrol - \$15,000.
- Lebanon Hook and Ladder Co. - \$12,633.
- Mount Gretna Community Volunteer Fire Co. - \$13,045.
- Neversink Fire Co. - \$13,663.
- Perseverance Fire Co. - \$12,014.
- Quentin Volunteer Fire Co. - \$12,014.
- Rescue Hose Co. No. 4 - \$14,075.
- Rural Security Fire Co. - \$12,426.
- South Lebanon Fire Co. No. 1 - \$28,137.
- Speedwell Engine and Hose Co. - \$12,426.
- Union Steam Fire Engine and Hose Co. - \$12,426.



LCCTC Students Visit Capitol

Students from the Lebanon County Career and Technology Center (LCCTC) stopped by the Capitol recently to meet with all Lebanon County members of the General Assembly. As chairman of the House Education Committee's Subcommittee on Career and Technical Education, I was particularly interested in hearing about the students' programs of study and career plans. They were joined by LCCTC Executive Director Chuck Benton (right) and Assistant Executive Director Marilyn Lathrop.