

SPRING 2025

State Representative JOHN A. SCHLEGEL

Proudly Serving the 101st Legislative District

Dear Neighbor,

The 2025-26 Legislative Session officially began in January when Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Debra Todd administered the oath of office to members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

This session I continue to serve on the Education, Human Services, Children and Youth, and Aging and Older Adult Services committees. Just a few weeks ago, I was honored to be named chairman of the House Education Committee's Subcommittee on Career and Technical Education (CTE).

As a career educator and Republican school administrator in Lebanon County – home to the Lebanon County Career and Technology Center (LCCTC) – I truly appreciate the value of vocational education and the difference it can make in the lives of our young people. Vocational education not only provides skills that can lead to good-paying jobs, but it also helps to support and grow our economy. Businesses and manufacturers looking to relocate typically select areas that can provide a skilled and ready workforce. LCCTC is a great asset in Lebanon County and a tremendous resource for our high school students.

Across the state and the nation, interest in vocational education has been growing sharply, particularly as college costs skyrocket. As for enrollment at career and technology schools across the Commonwealth, most are at capacity and have lengthy waiting lists to get in. We must do better to meet this demand.

To keep up to date with all the latest news from the Capitol and here at home, be sure to sign up for my weekly Legislative Email Updates at RepSchlegel.com and follow me on Facebook at [Facebook.com/RepSchlegel](https://www.facebook.com/RepSchlegel).

Sincerely,



Animal Health Discussed at Farmer's Breakfast



Concerns about animal health, particularly HPAI, were voiced by farmers at a Farmer's Breakfast I co-hosted in Lebanon County last month.

BUDGET PROCESS UNDERWAY

The House Appropriations Committee recently concluded three weeks of budget hearings at the state Capitol where members questioned cabinet members and other state officials about planned expenditures by their departments or agencies in the 2025-26 fiscal year. You can watch the budget hearings online at www.pabudget.com.

Gov. Josh Shapiro's proposed state budget would spend a record \$51.47 billion and drain state reserves. He unveiled his plan last month before a joint session of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. It would increase state spending by nearly \$3.6 billion or 7.5% more than the current fiscal year, while the Commonwealth's revenues are projected to rise by only 2.8%. His plan would increase spending for mass transit by \$293 million, PreK-12 education by 4.7% and human services by 10.2%. Together, education and human services account for about 76% of all state spending.

To help pay for it, the governor is proposing \$1.32 billion in new state taxes as well as tax structure changes that include projected revenue from the sale of recreational marijuana, which is still listed as a Schedule I narcotic by the federal government, and the imposition of a new 52% tax on winnings from skill games.

As we navigate our way through uncertain economic times, it is deeply troubling that the governor's plan would eliminate the \$2.89 billion General Fund surplus and transfer \$1.6 billion from the state's Rainy Day Fund to balance his budget. These reserve accounts are financial safeguards to fund the government in times of crisis or unforeseen need. They are not vehicles to increase state spending. A lot of work remains to hold spending below the levels in the governor's plan. The budget deadline is June 30.

WORKING TO PREVENT DEADLY AVIAN INFLUENZA

Gov. Josh Shapiro recently signed legislation I supported in the House to address outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). HPAI, also known as avian flu or "bird flu," is threatening Pennsylvania's poultry populations and is driving up the cost of poultry and eggs to consumers. It is also devastating to our farmers whose flocks must be destroyed when an outbreak is discovered on their farms. **Act 1 of 2025** will help prevent the spread of HPAI by increasing the number of certified poultry technicians available to meet the demand for testing.

Once thought to be limited to poultry, HPAI has also been discovered in wild birds, cows and even humans. Since the outbreak in 2022, the virus has claimed the lives of more than 162 million chickens in this country. It is spreading rapidly and changing. So far, health officials have not identified any cases of human-to-human transmission, but it remains of great concern. It's important to contain this virus or risk a new pandemic.

State Representative **JOHN A. SCHLEGEL**

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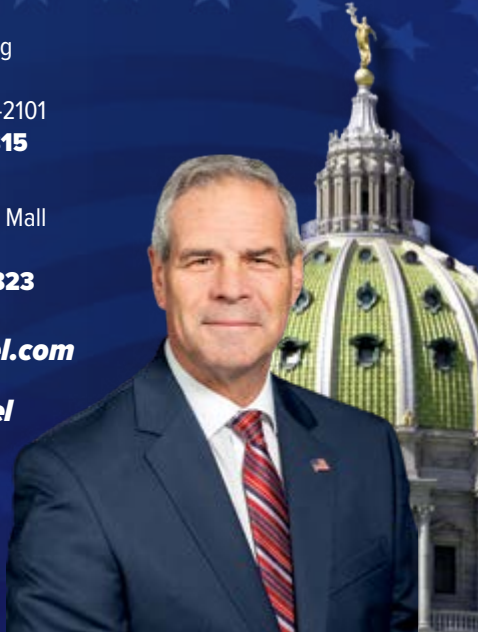
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REAL ID DEADLINE APPROACHING

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will begin enforcement of REAL ID requirements beginning May 7. This means that to board a domestic flight, enter a military base or a federal facility that requires identification at the door, one will need a REAL ID unless they have a U.S. passport, military ID or other federally acceptable identification. Obtaining a state-issued REAL ID is not mandatory, and PennDOT will continue to offer standard-issue driver's licenses and photo IDs. If you have any questions concerning REAL ID, visit PennDOT.pa.gov/REALID or call my district office at **717-838-3823**.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Concealed Carry Seminar – Thursday, April 3, from 6-8 p.m., at Lebanon Indoor Archery and Supplies, 2 E. Lehman St., Lebanon.

LIVE Town Hall – Thursday, May 8, from 6-8 p.m., at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center, West Hall, 80 Rocherty Road, Lebanon.

Paper Shredding Event – Saturday, Aug. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Lebanon Valley Mall.

To register, visit RepSchlegel.com/events or call my district office at **717-838-3823**.



We're Here to Serve You!

My district office staff has been a tremendous resource for me and they're here for you, too! Pictured (l-r) are **Nancie Coover, Jamie Miller** and **Amanda Forteza**. Amanda, our newest member, is fluent in Spanish and has been a great addition to our staff. If you have questions, need help filling out forms for state programs or services, or if you need assistance with any other state-related matter, please call us at **717-838-3823** or stop by our district office in the Lebanon Valley Mall. You can also email me at jschlegel@pahousegop.com or visit my website at RepSchlegel.com.

Local Fire, EMS Services Receive \$240,000 in State Grants

Here in Lebanon County, we rely heavily on our fire and emergency medical services (EMS) companies in our times of need. That's why I was pleased to learn that 17 fire and EMS providers in the 101st Legislative District have been awarded \$240,813 in state grants through the state Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program.

The grants are the local share of about \$38 million being disbursed statewide through the Office of the State Fire Commissioner. The funding 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:

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| Community Fire Co. of Cornwall Borough – \$12,879. | Lebanon Hook and Ladder Co. – \$12,879. |
| Ebenezer Fire Co. – \$12,664. | Neversink Fire Co. – \$13,525. |
| Glenn Lebanon Fire Co. – \$12,664. | Quentin Vol. Fire Co. – \$12,018. |
| Goodwill Fire Engine & Hose Co. No. 5 – \$12,234. | Rescue Hose Co. No. 4 – \$14,170. |
| Independent Fire Co. – \$12,879. | Rural Security Fire Co. – \$12,664. |
| Lebanon Chemical Engine & Insurance Patrol
Co. No. 1 – \$14,601. | South Lebanon Fire Co. – \$28,322. |
| Lebanon Fire Dept. – \$15,892. | Speedwell Engine & Hose Co. – \$12,879. |
| Lebanon Fire Dept. First Aid and Safety Patrol –
\$15,000. | Union Steam Fire Engine & Hose Co. – \$12,449. |
| | Weavertown Vol. Fire Co. No. 1 – \$13,094. |