



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JOHN A. SCHLEGELProudly Serving the **101st** Legislative District

PA's 2026-27 State Budget Spending Too High

State lawmakers and the Shapiro administration worked into the early days of July and passed a \$50.8 billion budget that will increase state spending by \$700 million or about 2% more than last year. Notably, the budget contains additional state funding for public education, and it will not tap into the state's Rainy Day Fund, meant for fiscal emergencies.

While I am glad the budget contains several line items favored by Republicans, I voted against it because it spends far more than is necessary. One example is the appropriation for the school testing program, which now exceeds \$50 million. This funding line continues to grow even though students now take the required tests electronically, eliminating the substantial cost of printing and distributing the paper tests.

The overriding issue I am concerned about, and this budget doesn't solve, is our state's structural deficit, which remains around \$5 billion. This is debt

we will continue to carry forward.

We are fortunate that anticipated revenues are significantly higher this year, likely due to federal tax cuts and initiatives such as historic permitting reform, investments in career and technical training, leaving the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and meaningful welfare reforms that were included in last year's state budget.

With the budget now complete, we return our focus to the state revenue needed to support it. In doing so, we must work toward a responsible fiscal solution to the skill games issue. It must be one that is fair for social organizations, businesses and the Commonwealth. We also need to enact pro-business policies that encourage job creation and economic growth, including the development of a robust energy program. These policies provide the greatest promise for a more sustainable state revenue stream into the future.

Lebanon Area Fair — A Celebration of Pennsylvania Agriculture

The Lebanon Area Fair is a showcase of Pennsylvania agriculture at its best. From our farm families to the food, livestock, music, fun and games, the Lebanon Area Fair has something for everyone. I had the privilege of participating in the official opening ceremony and made several stops throughout the week. A great time!



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**.



Bill to Cut Consumer Electric Bill Advances

With utility bills continuing to strain family budgets, I was proud to support legislation to eliminate a nearly 6% tax on electricity. House Bill 2224 would represent the largest tax cut in the history of the Commonwealth, saving Pennsylvania families \$1.7 billion. House Republicans have been leading on affordability measures based in tax cuts that can immediately slash the bills paid by Pennsylvanians and put more money in the pockets of our working families. House Bill 2224 is now awaiting action in the state Senate.

Lebanon Receives \$1 Million State Grant for Downtown Parking

State Sen. Chris Gebhard and I recently announced a \$1 million state grant to construct a five-level municipal parking garage in historic downtown Lebanon. The garage, which will be built on an existing lot on Willow Street, behind city hall, is key to the city's downtown revitalization plans.

For Lebanon area residents, it will provide greater access to the downtown shopping district and restaurants, as well as city and county departments and services. We were pleased to support this grant and look forward to seeing the transformation in our downtown.

The funding was awarded through the Commonwealth's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP), administered by the Office of the Budget. Earlier this year, Congressman Dan Meuser secured an additional \$1 million federal grant for the same project.



If you need help with a state agency or any state-related matter, please feel free to contact our district office in the Lebanon Valley Mall or call **717-838-3823**. My staff and I are happy to help!

State Representative **JOHN A. SCHLEGEL**

CAPITOL OFFICE

Room 163A, East Wing
PO Box 202101
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2101
Phone: 717-783-1815

DISTRICT OFFICE

2272 Lebanon Valley Mall
Lebanon, PA 17042
Phone: 717-838-3823

 **RepSchlegel.com**

 **/RepSchlegel**



PRSR STD U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARRISBURG, PA
PERMIT NO. 432

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On Aug. 4, communities across the country celebrated National Night Out, a community building event aimed at strengthening ties between residents and the law enforcement community. Residents are encouraged to leave their porch lights on and go outside to visit with their neighbors. Many police departments in our area hosted events that included music, food, games, public safety demonstrations and family fun. In our area, I am pictured at events at Hilltop Playground, Salvation Army in Lebanon city and The Park at Cornwall Center in Cornwall.



Shredding to Protect Your Privacy

In June, I held a free document shredding event at the Lebanon Valley Mall where residents brought over 100 boxes of unwanted medical and financial documents, old tax returns and other personal, confidential or sensitive documents to be shredded. In all, my staff and I collected over 3,000 pounds worth! Shredding helps to protect against identity theft and scams. Thanks to all who participated!

Area Residents Claim \$25,000 in Unclaimed Property

In April, I hosted an Unclaimed Property event at my district office, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Treasury and Treasurer Stacy Garrity, to help local citizens claim assets held by the state Treasury. With the assistance of Aizaz Gill of the Pennsylvania Treasury, we were able to help 40 residents identify and claim about \$25,000 in unclaimed property. You could have unclaimed property too! Visit www.PATreasury/unclaimedproperty to learn more. The online search and claim process is easy and FREE! Try it today! If you need assistance, contact my office.

Dec. 31 is Deadline to Apply for Property Tax/Rent Rebate

If you qualify for Pennsylvania's 2025 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, you have until Dec. 31 to apply for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid last year. Income limits increased again this year to \$48,110 for both homeowners and renters.

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. Apply online at mypath.pa.gov or contact my office for help. You DO NOT need to pay anyone for assistance. For more information, visit www.pa.gov/agencies/revenue/ptrr.

