



State Representative

KEITH J. GREINER, CPA

43rd LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

FALL 2023

Dear Neighbor:

Despite passage of the 2023-24 state spending bill, the budget process itself remains incomplete more than four months into the new fiscal year. I did not vote in favor of this year's state budget because it increases state spending by over 6% and does nothing to address Pennsylvania's looming structural deficit.

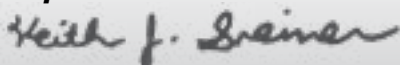
The budget passed in the House in early June and went to the Senate where language was added to include \$100 million in lifeline scholarships for students in Pennsylvania's failing schools – a provision Senate leaders and the governor agreed on. However, when the bill returned to the House on concurrence, it was flatly rejected by Democrat leaders who largely view the scholarship program as detrimental to Pennsylvania public schools. After the governor pledged a line-item veto to remove the Senate language from the bill, the House passed the budget by a razor thin margin though most Republicans, including myself, were disappointed with the governor's reversal on his commitment to scholarship funding.

While the Commonwealth now has a budget exceeding \$45 billion, the code bills that specify HOW some of the money will be spent, have yet to be finalized. Also, unresolved are hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for Pennsylvania's state-related universities – Penn State, Temple and Lincoln universities, and the University of Pittsburgh.

On a party-line vote in early October, the majority party advanced a costly Tax Code bill that would benefit special interests such as marijuana growers and Hollywood movie studios, and more than \$311 million was added to the funding earmarked for mass transit in Philadelphia. The additional spending and expanded tax credits included in the Tax Code bill would cost the state billions of dollars and ultimately lead to higher taxes for Pennsylvania citizens. I voted "no."

As of this writing, the Tax Code, Fiscal Code, Education Code and Administrative Code bills are awaiting further consideration in the Senate.

If you have questions about the information contained here or concerning any other state-related matter, please feel free to call my district office at 717-588-2044 or stop by. We are located in the West Earl Township Building, 157 W. Metzler Road. You can also email me at kgreiner@pahousegop.com or visit my website at RepGreiner.com.



Keith J. Greiner, CPA
State Representative, 43rd District

Expanding Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

As Republican chairman of the House Finance Committee, I played an active role in moving legislation to enhance Pennsylvania's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program for Pennsylvania's senior citizens. Legislation to make more Pennsylvania seniors and people with disabilities eligible for property tax or rent relief was approved in the House and signed into law.

Act 7 of 2023 increased income limits for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program for homeowners and renters to \$45,000. Half of Social Security income is excluded. The law also raised the maximum amount each homeowner or renter can receive from \$650 to \$1,000. The law expands the reach of property tax and rent relief to more than 150,000 additional individuals and helps make Pennsylvania a more affordable place to live. People will be able to apply for the expanded program early in 2024.

The rebate program benefits eligible residents 65 years and older; widows and widowers 50 years and older; and people with disabilities 18 years and older. Contact my office for additional information or assistance with filing an application for this year's program. Information is also available online here, www.revenue.pa.gov/IncentivesCreditsPrograms/PropertyTaxRentRebateProgram/Pages/default.aspx

Bill to Hold State-Related Universities Accountable for Use of Tax Dollars Advances

The House State Government Committee unanimously approved legislation that would make the Commonwealth's four state-related universities subject to the state's Right-to-Know Law. Currently, universities within the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, community colleges and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency fall under the Right-to-Know Law. The state-related universities – University of Pittsburgh, Penn State, Temple and Lincoln – are exempt from certain provisions of the law, even though they collectively receive annual state appropriations that last year exceeded \$600 million. While university leaders have claimed state funding is necessary to hold down the cost of in-state tuition, the heads of Pitt, Penn State and Temple testified during state budget hearings earlier this year that tuition rates would go up, regardless of how much money they get from the state. Taxpayers deserve to know how their tax money is being spent by these institutions. **House Bill 1556** is currently under consideration in the House.



ARE WE CONNECTED?

To ensure you are receiving the latest news from the state Capitol and how it impacts you, please visit my website at RepGreiner.com and click on "contact" at the top right of my home page. There you can sign up to receive my weekly legislative email updates. Also, you can follow me on Facebook at [Facebook.com/RepGreiner/](https://www.facebook.com/RepGreiner/). Once there, be sure to click the "Follow" button.

LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS

Early Primary Would Give PA Key Role in Choosing Presidential Candidates

This session, I reintroduced legislation that I have been working on every session since 2014 that would change the date of Pennsylvania’s presidential primary from the fourth Tuesday in April to the third Tuesday in March. I believe the lateness of Pennsylvania’s presidential primary diminishes its significance for all voters, but **House Bill 51** would change this.

As a crucial swing state with 19 electoral college votes, the Commonwealth should have a significant impact on the process of selecting presidential candidates. An early primary would achieve this. By moving the primary to the third Tuesday in March there would be no loss of delegates for either party and our primaries would remain “winner-take-all” for both parties’ primary elections, as they have been historically. It is unlikely the 2024 primary date will change.

Bill Would Repeal Intangible Personal Property Tax Act

As a certified public accountant (CPA), I know how cumbersome our tax laws can be. That’s why I am sponsoring legislation to eliminate the Intangible Personal Property Tax Act, which became law in 1913, authorizing counties and cities of the first class to levy a tax of up to four mills on certain classes of intangible personal property. The tax applies to certain income-generating assets, including mortgages and other interest-bearing obligations and accounts and certain public or corporate loans and shares of stock.

After the General Assembly made levying this tax optional in 1978, the number of taxing authorities levying it gradually dwindled to zero by 1998. **House Bill 1631** would complete dissolution of the tax by repealing **Act 335 of 1913**, and it would prohibit any other local government from instituting a similar tax on intangible personal property. There should not be a tax on net worth.

Repealing this law simplifies our statutes and reduces taxpayers’ concerns about the tax climate in the Commonwealth.

Bill Would Allow State Licensing Boards to Issue Advisory Opinions

Earlier this year, I reintroduced legislation to permit licensed professionals to receive advice from licensing boards concerning the meaning or interpretation of a law or regulation affecting the licensee.

Current law outlines the powers and duties of licensing boards and commissions within the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. However, it does not specifically give the boards and commissions authority to provide advisory opinions to licensees.

Licensed professionals who are unsure whether a certain action is permitted by their respective licensing board may ask for guidance, but current law does not allow them to provide it. This was particularly burdensome for licensees during the COVID-19 pandemic. By permitting licensing boards to issue non-binding advisory opinions, **House Bill 1364** would enable licensed professionals to avoid violations that could threaten their licenses.

Eggs and Issues Breakfast



More than 100 local residents attended my recent Eggs and Issues breakfast at Yoder’s Restaurant in New Holland, where I provided an update on the budget; goals for this legislative session, including the Keystone Commitment; and how our office can assist you. I also answered numerous questions from those who attended. I value hearing from my constituents at these meetings and learning which topics are most important to residents of the 43rd District.

Pizza and Policy Luncheons



In August, I hosted Pizza and Policy luncheons in Ephrata and Intercourse to update area residents about the status of the state budget and policy initiatives we are working on at the state Capitol. Thank you to the more than 100 residents who attended these events and shared their input!

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Over the past year, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you in your community, at special events or observances, and through my participation at numerous festivals, fairs, school and local government activities. The following is a sampling:



Akron Volunteer Fire Co. Open House



Pequea Valley “Together Initiative”



Martindale Day in Earl Township



Heritage Days in Intercourse



Mental Health Awareness Event in West Earl Township



Historic Ephrata Cloister Annual Ice Cream Social



National Night Out in Akron



Flag Retirement Ceremony in Upper Leacock Township

State Representative

KEITH J. GREINER, CPA

Proudly Serving the 43rd Legislative District

P.O. Box 202043, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2043

FOLLOW ME ONLINE!

 **RepGreiner.com**

 **/RepGreiner**



Have questions or need help with state-related issues? Contact my district office!

DISTRICT OFFICE: 157 W. Metzler Road (West Earl Township Building), Ephrata, PA 17522 • **717-588-2044**

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 218, Brownstown, PA 17508

HARRISBURG OFFICE: 49 East Wing, P.O. Box 202043, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2043 • **717-783-6422**

Exploring Community Needs



Throughout the year, my staff and I participate in ELANCO Community Collaboration meetings, facilitated by CrossNet Ministries. Representatives from school districts, state and local governments, emergency services, business leaders, churches and others meet to discuss issues and address the needs of residents in the eastern Lancaster County area.

DCED – Keystone Communities Main Street



Recently, I attended the announcement by Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development deputy secretary Rick Vilello, designating Ephrata Borough a Keystone Communities Main Street. I have been very supportive of this initiative, which gives Ephrata greater access to state grants for economic development initiatives.

Area Business Celebrates 100 Years



I had the privilege of presenting a House citation commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Charles Wenger Jr. Garage in Groffdale. Pictured with me are John and David Wenger, third-generation owners.

PACE/PACENET Provides Prescription Assistance

Pennsylvania's prescription assistance programs for older adults, PACE and PACENET, offer low-cost prescription medication to qualified residents, age 65 and older. The program works with Medicare Part D plans and other prescription drug plans to lower out-of-pocket costs for medications. Eligibility is based on your prior year's income and requires applicants to be at least 65 years old, a resident for at least 90 days prior to applying, and not receiving Medicaid prescription benefits. Income limits are as follows:

- **PACE** – \$14,500 for a single person; \$17,700 for a married couple.
- **PACENET** – from \$14,500 to \$33,500; and from \$17,700 and \$41,500 for a married couple.

To apply online, visit ***PaceCares.MagellanHealth.com*** or call **1-800-225-7223**. Please have income and insurance information available. Applications can also be emailed to papace@magellanhealth.com, or downloaded, printed and mailed to: **PACE/PACENET, P.O. Box 8806, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8806**. If you need assistance, please contact my district office **717-588-2044**.