

State Representative

# KEITH J. GREINER, CPA

## Dear Neighbor:

Gov. Josh Shapiro's proposed 2025-26 state budget calls for record spending and would drain state reserves. State lawmakers are now delving into the governor's proposed \$51.47 billion spending plan, which he unveiled last month before a joint session of the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

The governor's plan for the next fiscal year is problematic for many reasons. First, it proposes to increase state spending by nearly \$3.6 billion or 8% more than the current fiscal year, while the Commonwealth's revenues are projected to rise by only 2.8%. His plan would increase state spending on mass transit by \$293 million. It would also increase funding for 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 whopping 52% tax on winnings from skill games – a tax that does not currently exist. I believe the governor's proposal is irresponsible and unsustainable and we should instead focus on enhancing our energy policies to grow the economy and create family-sustaining jobs.

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 accounts are financial safeguards to fund government in times of crisis or unforeseen need. They are not vehicles to increase state spending.

Fortunately, the governor's budget proposal is only the starting point in the annual budget process. The Appropriations committees in the House and Senate recently completed their annual budget hearings with leaders of state government agencies whose operations and programs would be funded by the budget. Now the real work begins to craft a final spending plan by the June 30 state budget deadline.

Sincerely,



Rep. Keith J. Greiner, CPA

## Scrutinizing Governor's Budget Plan

At House Appropriations Committee budget hearings, I questioned Revenue Secretary **Pat Browne**, about the level of spending proposed in the governor's 2025-26 budget, plans for combined reporting and shifting banks to a corporate net income tax. I also questioned state Treasurer **Stacy Garrity** about proposed spending of the Rainy Day Fund. You can watch the budget hearings at [www.pabudget.com](http://www.pabudget.com).



## Strengthening Laws to Protect Our Environment

Littering is a crime that is senseless and pervasive. Across Pennsylvania, along our roadsides, city streets, in our neighborhoods, even in our rivers and streams, food packaging, junk mail and other loose paper, glass or plastic bottles and aluminum cans are scattered about. In fact, it is not uncommon to find old tires, even sofas and appliances in our area! Monthly, I spend hours picking up litter along the roads near my house. Litter has become a part of our landscape and, sadly, few seem to take notice.

The intentional or careless discarding of waste products is not only uncivil and discourteous, but a blight on the environment and the critical ecosystems of our Commonwealth. I have always been bothered by how litter degrades our communities and makes them appear less beautiful and welcoming. It can leave one with the impression that some people simply don't care. That is why I am reintroducing legislation to strengthen the penalties for littering.

My legislation would increase the grading of the offense of littering from a summary to a misdemeanor of the third degree, carrying a fine of up to \$2,000. Second or subsequent offenses would be a misdemeanor of the second degree, carrying fines of up to \$5,000. Incarceration and community service may also be included in the sentencing for offenders. By increasing the criminal penalties, we can discourage individuals and businesses from further contributing to environmental harm and promote respect for public spaces.



## FEED SCURRY BENEFITS STUDENTS

At the 2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show, I once again participated in the Celebrity Feed Scurry competition to raise money for the Farm Show Scholarship Foundation. The proceeds go toward scholarships for students studying various agriculture disciplines. My thanks to Zook Ag Products for sponsoring me this year.

## MY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

In addition to my legislation to increase penalties for littering (page 1), I am sponsoring several bills this session that would impact our local governments, elections, agriculture, businesses and consumers. The following are highlights from a few of the bills I am sponsoring.

**Earlier Presidential Primary Date in Pennsylvania** – As the fifth most populous state in the country and an important swing state, Pennsylvania should play a more significant role in selecting our nation’s president, yet 38 states hold their primaries or caucuses ahead of us. I am reintroducing legislation that would move Pennsylvania’s 2028 presidential primary to the third Tuesday in March to give Pennsylvania voters greater influence in choosing their party’s nominees.

**Abolishing Taxes on Net Worth** – There had been discussions, particularly under the Biden administration, of assessing a tax on a person’s net worth. My legislation would eliminate a long-standing Pennsylvania law that permits counties and cities to impose a tax on certain income-generating assets, including mortgages and other interest-bearing obligations and accounts, certain public and corporate loans, and shares of stock. I am adamantly opposed to any legislation that would attempt to assess a tax on net worth!

**Agricultural Preservation Funds Use** – This legislation aims to protect Pennsylvania farmland and food supply from development by strengthening eligible nonprofit entities’ ability to invest in farmland preservation efforts. The Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program (ACEP), also known as the farmland preservation program, was created in 1988 to strengthen Pennsylvania’s agricultural economy and protect prime food-producing farmland from being sold for development or other non-agriculture uses.

**Enhanced Inspection Color Matching** – This legislation would allow vehicles that undergo an enhanced vehicle safety inspection to be equipped with body panels that do not match the original color of the vehicle. Pennsylvania law requires vehicles that are reconstructed, recovered from theft, or flooded to undergo an enhanced vehicle safety inspection and “be restored to their original operating condition and conform to the original manufacturer’s specifications and appearance.” My legislation would remove this costly requirement, allowing mismatched body panels if documented reasons for the color variation are provided to PennDOT, and PennDOT can verify the identity of the vehicle.

**Advisory Opinions for Licensees** – This bill would permit licensed professionals to receive guidance from state licensing boards and commissions concerning the meaning or interpretation of a law or regulation. Advisory opinions are not currently allowed. This legislation would help licensed professionals get the clarity they need to avoid violations.

**Optional Elimination of Municipal Tax Collectors** – This bill would allow municipalities under contract with the county for tax collection services to eliminate their municipal Office of Tax Collector. Municipalities that contract with counties have reported a decrease in the number of delinquent taxpayers, better cash flow and other financial benefits.

**Aligning State and Federal Law on Installment Sales Tax** – This would require the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue to conform to the federal Tax Code, which allows sellers to spread their tax liability over the duration of installments instead of paying in a lump sum – before they collect it from customers. Pennsylvania law requires the entire tax amount for installment purchases on certain assets and those on the accrual basis of accounting to be remitted in the year of the sale.

**Option to Abolish Office of Elected Auditor in Second Class Townships** – Most townships of the second class contract with a certified public accountant (CPA) to perform their annual audit, leaving elected auditors with no duties other than to set the wages for supervisors. My bill would permit the Office of Elected Auditor to be abolished and would establish a procedure for the board of supervisors to set salaries of roadmasters and other positions that may be held by a supervisor for six years, to avoid supervisors setting their own salaries.

## NEW COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

For the 2025-26 Legislative Session, I have been reappointed Republican chairman of the House Finance Committee. The Finance Committee oversees matters relating to taxation and fiscal policy, investment of the Commonwealth’s money and regulations of the Department of Revenue. In addition, it reviews legislation dealing with the operation of the Pennsylvania Lottery, as well as bills regarding the Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program and the Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly (PACE) program, both of which are funded by the lottery.

As a certified public accountant (CPA) with 10 years of service on this committee, I am uniquely qualified to help develop consistent and fair tax policies for the residents and businesses of the Commonwealth. During this session, I intend to focus my efforts on ensuring that Pennsylvania’s pending structural deficit does not get any worse, while promoting efforts to improve the business climate and bring more jobs to the state.

I will also continue to serve on the operational committee of the Pennsylvania Community Development Bank, which provides grant funding and liquidity financing for State Accredited Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). CDFIs create economic opportunities for individuals and small businesses and provide quality affordable housing and essential community services.

Finally, I was named to the House Insurance Committee, which oversees the Pennsylvania Insurance Department and ensures any insurance-related legislation is thoroughly examined before it reaches the full House for consideration. Given the increasing weather-related destruction resulting from wildfires, hurricanes, flooding and other natural disasters, the insurance industry is in a transformative time, and I look forward to working on those challenges with my colleagues to minimize the impact on Pennsylvania residents.

## HONORING AN EAGLE SCOUT

On behalf of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, I recently had the pleasure of presenting **Joshua Fidler** of Leola a House citation for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America. To fulfill the community service requirement, he installed an engraved bench honoring veterans, police officers and firefighters at the Bethany Grace Fellowship Church. I wish Josh all the best as he furthers his education at Liberty University!



## 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](https://www.PennDOT.pa.gov/REALID) or call my district office at **717-588-2044**.

# LOCAL FIRE, EMS RECEIVE STATE GRANTS

Here in Lancaster County, we rely heavily on our local firefighters and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel to protect us and our property in emergencies. To be effective, they need the right equipment and well-trained personnel. That is why I was pleased to announce recently that 14 fire and ambulance companies in the 43rd Legislative District have been awarded \$258,016 in state grants through the Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program.

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. This year's grant recipients are as follows:

**Akron Vol. Fire Co. – \$14,816.**

**Bareville Fire Co. No.1 – \$13,740.**

**Ephrata Community Ambulance Assn. – \$15,000.**

**Farmersville Fire Co. – 15,461.**

**Garden Spot Fire Rescue – \$26,718.**

**Gordonville Fire Co. and Ambulance Assn., d/b/a Pequea Valley Fire Dept. – (FIRE) \$26,601 (EMS) \$15,000**

**Intercourse Fire Co. – \$13,525.**

**Lincoln Fire Co. No. 1 – \$28,322.**

**Martindale Volunteer Fire Co. – \$13,525.**

**New Holland Ambulance Assn. – \$30,000.**

**Pioneer Steam Fire Engine Co. No. 1 – \$16,322**

**Upper Leacock Fire Co. – \$12,664.**

**West Earl Fire Co. No. 1 – \$16,322.**

All fire companies, EMS services and volunteer rescue squads are eligible to apply for the annual grant program, which is funded solely with state gaming proceeds. The funding amounts are contingent on the recipients filing their grant agreements with the Office of State Fire Commissioner.

## Ephrata Mainspring Meet-Ups



In January, I attended both Ephrata Mainspring “Meet-Ups” at which Executive Director **Joy Ashley** highlighted her organization’s accomplishments and discussed future opportunities for the borough. I am pictured with **Rachel Bitner**, CFO of Ephrata National Bank.

## ELANCO Collaboration to Address Local Needs



Last month, I joined local community leaders across eastern Lancaster County at Garden Spot High School for CrossNet Ministries’ Community Collaboration meeting. School administrators, state and local officials, and other community partners met to discuss shared goals and pressing needs throughout the community. These meetings help to inform and strengthen the work I do at the state Capitol.

## NOTEWORTHY MILESTONES

There have been several noteworthy retirements, anniversaries and celebrations in our district over the past several months, which I have had the honor of recognizing with citations on behalf of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.



**Cindy Mellinger** retired recently from Blue Ridge Communications in Ephrata after a remarkable 40 years of service. Through her work and community involvement, she has brought comfort and hope to military service members, the elderly and those in need through such initiatives as Stockings for Soldiers, Spread the Warmth and Touch of Heart. She has also served on the boards of local libraries, chambers of commerce and organizations benefitting women, local theater, animals and the business community.



**William D. Leighty** retired as New Holland police chief after 38 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Lancaster County. Chief Leighty began his career in the Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office in 1987 and joined the New Holland Police Department two years later. After brief stints with the police departments in East Cocalico and Clay townships, and the Northern Lancaster County Regional Police Department, he returned to New Holland in 2017.



**Sue Davidson** recently retired after more than 30 years of service to the citizens of the Borough of Akron. In her time there, she held various positions, including borough manager, secretary, office manager, pension administrator, planning commission secretary, Akron Authority secretary, Right-to-Know officer and, currently, assistant borough manager.



**Lloyd Hoover**, executive director at The Potter’s House in Leola, recently retired after nearly three decades. In 1996, Lloyd and his wife, Elaine, acquired a house, moved it onto their property in Leola and dedicated it for the purpose of transforming lives. That year, a ministry to men transitioning from prison emerged, and by 2003, it became known as The Potter’s House. Since its beginning, over 1,000 men and 25 women have been served as students in the residential programs and received help in finding recovery from addiction, mentoring in life skills, reconciliation with family and more.

## Ephrata Teen and Stepfather Recognized for Heroism



At the Ephrata Pioneer Fire Co., I presented a House citation to **Ceytan Oliver** and his 17-year-old stepson, **Joshua Jones** (not pictured), for heroically saving their elderly neighbor and dogs from her burning home. As a former firefighter and life member of Upper Leacock Fire Co., I appreciate the selflessness and bravery demonstrated by these two men.

SPRING 2025

# 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](http://RepGreiner.com)  
 [/RepGreiner](https://www.facebook.com/RepGreiner)



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

## 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**



Conestoga Church of the Brethren is celebrating 300 years of fellowship in the Bareville area. It is the third oldest Church of the Brethren in this country, established on Nov. 12, 1724, five years before Lancaster County's founding. I am pictured with Pastor **Jere Cassel**.



**Lonnie and Stanley Kauffman's** Leacock Township fruit farm was one of eight Century Farms honored at this year's Pennsylvania Farm Show. To qualify as a Century Farm, it must be owned by the same family for at least 100 consecutive years and meet several other requirements. I am pictured with Agriculture Secretary **Russell Redding** and the Kauffman family.



## JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT PEQUEA VALLEY

I had the opportunity to observe a Junior Achievement event at Pequea Valley High School. Junior Achievement of South Central PA sponsored this financial literacy forum in a day-long program. I watched this enthusiastic group of 11th grade students as they applied these important skills to real life scenarios.



## HONORING OUR VETERANS

On Veterans Day, I had the privilege of serving as keynote speaker at the annual Veterans Day breakfast, hosted by the Upper Leacock Township War Memorial Association. I was happy to see so many veterans from my hometown come together for a delicious breakfast and to recognize **Dean Gross** for his service to our country and the community. Thank you to **Bob and Barb Zook** of the War Memorial Association, and all the volunteers and community members who contribute to making this annual event such a tremendous success. As always, a special thank you to all veterans for their service!