



State Representative **KEITH J. GREINER, CPA**

Dear Neighbor:

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, while not quite as outrageous as his previous three, is no less disappointing.

On its face, it's \$3.1 billion higher than the budget just approved in November – more than four months late. It represents a 6.3% increase in state spending from the prior year (\$2.72 billion more after an additional \$380 million spending increase was approved following the budget's completion, representing a 5.4% increase from the prior year).

Under current law, revenues are projected to increase by just 1.9%, but the governor 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 are holding public hearings with various state department and agency leaders to determine what spending is justified. The General Assembly will then work to devise and approve a final state budget by the June 30 budget deadline.

House Appropriations Committee hearings began Feb. 25. Live and recorded hearings may be viewed at PAHouseGOP.com. Additional information about the governor's proposal is available at PABudget.com.

Sincerely,

Rep. Keith J. Greiner, CPA



GREETING CONSTITUENTS IN BROWNSTOWN



Just days before Christmas, I hosted an Open House at my district office. My staff and I welcomed several dozen constituents who stopped by for Christmas cookies and other light refreshments, to catch up with neighbors and friends, and learn about the services our office provides.



Thank you to those who took time during the busy Christmas season to visit. I am pictured with my staff, Donovan Thomann, district legislative aide; Cassandra Haldeman, administrative assistant - Harrisburg; and Shéena Neff, district office manager.

Local Fire, EMS Receive State Grants

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 staff. That is why I am pleased to announce that 14 fire and ambulance companies in the 43rd Legislative District have been awarded \$257,425 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. – **\$15,106**
- Bareville Fire Co. No. 1 – **\$14,075**
- Ephrata Community Ambulance Assn. – **\$15,000**
- Farmersville Fire Co. – **\$15,724**
- Garden Spot Fire Rescue – **\$27,724**
- Gordonville Fire Co. and Ambulance Assn., d/b/a Pequea Valley Fire Dept. – (EMS) **\$15,000** (Fire) **\$25,457**
- Intercourse Fire Co. – **\$13,251**
- Lincoln Fire Co. No. 1 – **\$28,137**
- Martindale Vol. Fire Co. – **\$13,457**
- New Holland Ambulance Assn. – **\$30,000**
- Pioneer Steam Fire Engine Co. No. 1 – **\$16,137**
- Upper Leacock Fire Co. – **\$12,220**
- West Earl Fire Co. No. 1 – **\$16,137**

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. Funding amounts are contingent on the recipients filling their grant agreements with the Office of State Fire Commissioner.



Presenting the Colors at Bareville Fire Co.

As a state representative, it is a true privilege to recognize those who serve and protect our communities. Bareville Fire Co. recently invited me to attend its annual banquet where I presented its president, Elias Stoltzfus, with U.S. and Pennsylvania flags to be displayed at the station.

LEGISLATION UPDATE

The following are updates on some of the noteworthy bills of which I am prime sponsor:

- **House Bill 1290** would permit licensed professionals to receive guidance from their state licensing boards and commissions concerning the meaning or interpretation of a law or regulation pertaining to the licensee. Under current law, licensing boards are not permitted to issue advisory opinions. I am sponsoring this legislation to help licensed professionals get the clarity they need to avoid violations and costly penalties.

- **House Bill 965** – would provide nonprofit organizations with a clear financial reporting standard that is aligned with federal requirements and raises the threshold for an audit. The bill specifies when a review or audit by a certified public accountant (CPA) is required. As co-prime sponsor of this bipartisan bill, I believe it would help our local fire departments and other small nonprofits by freeing them from onerous reporting requirements that interfere with their primary mission.

- **Act 27 of 2025** modernizes the Pennsylvania CPA Law to reflect the evolving nature of the accounting profession. Because the work of many CPAs crosses state lines, it was necessary for the new law to adopt the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' (AICPA) Code of Professional Conduct. Uniform ethical standards make it easier for CPAs to comply with regulations, thereby protecting the public and promoting sound business practices. While upholding the high standards of the profession, I also sought to reduce barriers to becoming a CPA by establishing an alternative path. It requires a bachelor's degree, passing the CPA exam, plus two years of relevant work experience. This alternative is less costly and puts young accountants to work where they can gain valuable professional experience.

The law also includes automatic mobility, which aligns Pennsylvania with most states in allowing accountants licensed in other states to practice here without the need for an additional license. My legislation also extended the CPA Exam completion timeline from 18 to 30 months, giving candidates sufficient time to pass all four sections of the exam. This is in line with changes being adopted nationally. The law also removes the need for a reference letter when filing a licensure application.

Bill Aims to Fix Tax Disparity Hurting Community Banks

The House Finance Committee, of which I am Republican chairman, held a public hearing on **House Bill 788**, a bipartisan bill that I am co-prime sponsoring with Rep. Robert Merski (D-Erie). Our bill would correct long-standing inequities in the way Pennsylvania taxes mutual thrift banks on which many Pennsylvania residents rely.

Mutual thrift banks are community-focused financial institutions, including savings banks, savings and loan associations and building associations. Unlike commercial banks, they are owned by their depositors rather than stockholders, and they are a lifeline for many borrowers.

As nonprofits, they focus on residential mortgage lending and reinvest their "profits" into the local community through better rates and fewer fees. However, they are taxed at 11.5% - among the highest state tax rates in the country. This disparity makes it difficult for thrift banks to compete with financial institutions that are assessed more favorable rates. Our tax structure must align with reality.

House Bill 788 would reduce the tax rate for thrift banks from 11.5% to 8.99% and then gradually lower the rate to 4.99% over nine years. This aligns with the Corporate Net Income (CNI) tax rate enacted under **Act 53 of 2022**.

CrossNet Ministries Expansion Means Expanded Services



Late last fall, I attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new CrossNet Ministries facility in the former New Holland Machine Co. warehouse on West Franklin Street. Several speakers outlined the remarkable work being done by CrossNet Ministries to support the ELANCO community.

Pequea Valley TIN Seeks Answers to Housing Shortage

At a recent meeting of the Pequea Valley "Together Initiative Network" (TIN), leaders from the Pequea Valley community gathered to discuss various challenges the community faces, namely the housing shortage.

It was a productive meeting where we brainstormed to determine how to best deal with the local housing crisis. I joined others in providing my thoughts, not only from a state legislator perspective, but as one who previously served as a township supervisor.



The Pequea Valley community can be proud of the TIN's continued commitment to improving the community.

Case New Holland Plant Tour



Together with U.S. Sen. Dave McCormick, I recently visited the Case New Holland (CNH) production facility in New Holland. After a brief presentation on the company's history, we toured the manufacturing and production facility where we asked questions and learned how various New Holland farm machinery products are manufactured. One of the leading innovators in balers and forage equipment, CNH employs over 900 people in Pennsylvania, many of whom work at the New Holland plant.

43rd District Awarded Over \$1 Million in Grant Funding

More than \$1 million in grants has been awarded for fire apparatus and recreation projects in the 43rd Legislative District. These Local Share Account (LSA) grants provide funding for necessary projects throughout the Commonwealth. Whether it's upgrading emergency services, improving public spaces, or supporting local development, the grants help meet critical needs. I was proud to provide support for the following local projects to strengthen our communities.

- Akron Borough was awarded an \$850,000 grant on behalf of Akron Volunteer Fire Co. for the purchase of a new fire engine, a Pierce Enforcer, that will serve as their main fire suppression apparatus, replacing their aging apparatus.
- Ephrata Borough was awarded a \$260,851 grant on behalf of the Ephrata Recreation Center to upgrade the facility for the installation of two new HVAC units and improve the center's fire protection system by including new smoke detectors and additional alarm pull stations.

The projects were approved by the Commonwealth Financing Authority, an independent agency of the Department of Community and Economic Development. LSA Grants are not financed with taxpayer dollars. They are supported by revenue collected as part of Pennsylvania's Gaming Act and are competitively distributed statewide for projects in the public interest.

Honoring Local Veterans at Veterans Day Breakfast



I was the keynote speaker at the Veterans Day breakfast at the Upper Leacock War Memorial building where I provided a brief overview of the origins of Veterans Day, shared stories about local veterans and their historic roots to the Upper Leacock community and commended our nation's veterans throughout history who have fought to preserve our freedom.

War Memorial Monument Rededicated



On Veterans Day, I attended a rededication ceremony for the Upper Leacock Township War Memorial Monument located at the Upper Leacock Township building. As guest speaker, I had the privilege of sharing the monument's history, details of its construction, for whom it honors and the many ways our community has been served by our veterans.

Veterans in attendance were recognized and the New Holland Band honored them with the playing of marches identified with the various military branches.

Noteworthy Retirements

On behalf of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, I have had the privilege of presenting citations to several noteworthy public servants in our district who have retired over the past several months. Each of these dedicated public officials has demonstrated remarkable knowledge, ability and integrity in carrying out their many responsibilities and have earned the respect and gratitude of all who have received the benefit of their tireless devotion to public service. Congratulations to all!



In September, the vice chairman of Leacock Township Board of Supervisors, **Frank Howe**, was honored for his more than 35 years of service to the community. He has also served on numerous Lancaster County boards and committees.



In late December, West Earl Township Supervisor **Harold "Butch" Keppley** retired after 24 years of service that began in 2001 and, for a period, included concurrent service on the township sewer authority.



Ephrata Township Supervisor **Clark Stauffer** retired in December after more than 30 years of service and as a member of the Ephrata Area Joint Water Authority board of directors for 26 of those years.



Retiring Ephrata Mayor **Ralph Mowen** began his tenure in Ephrata as a member of borough council in 1979 and was elected mayor in 1994. He has also served on the Ephrata Borough Authority Board since 1990, holding various leadership positions.



Akron Mayor **John McBeth** retired recently after 43 years of distinguished service to the community. He was appointed to the Planning Commission in 1982 and elected to borough council eight years later. He initiated Akron's annual New Year's Eve celebration, which is going strong after more than two decades. As mayor he presided over the creation of Colonial Park and Loyd H. Roland Park.

Pequea Valley, Where Each Learner Counts



Recently, I had the pleasure of attending Pequea Valley School District's Open House and dedication ceremony for its new secondary school. This spectacular building took years of thoughtful planning by school board directors, administrators and residents. There is no question this facility is going to be a hallmark of the community for many years to come. I am pictured with Dr. Erik Orndorff, superintendent (center) and Lancaster County Commissioner Ray D'Agostino.

SPRING 2026

State Representative **KEITH J. GREINER, CPA** Proudly Serving the 43rd Legislative District

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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**

The PA Farm Show Offers Something for Everyone



There was plenty to see and do at this year's Pennsylvania Farm Show. Hailed as the nation's largest agricultural exposition under one roof, the

Farm Show features something for everyone.

Farmers and members of FFA and 4-H gather in Harrisburg every January to show and sell their prized livestock and produce and to participate in various agriculture-related competitions.

I visited with several young people, including 2025 Pennsylvania Rabbit King, **Luke Speck**, as he cared for one of his fuzzy friends. I also checked out the New Holland farm equipment including one of its new forage cruisers.

You're Invited to my FREE Document **SHREDDING EVENT**



WHEN: Saturday, May 30, from 9 a.m. to noon.

WHERE: Parking lot Lancaster County Career and Technology Center Brownstown campus, 231 Snyder Road, Ephrata.

WHAT: Bring any unwanted sensitive documents for safe disposal. These documents may contain Social Security numbers, sensitive medical or bank account information, or anything else you deem personal or confidential. Please bring loose documents. No books, magazines or trash accepted. Limit: three copy paper-sized boxes per vehicle.