



From Local Leader to Legislator

State Lawmaker Focuses on Controlling Costs, Staying Connected to Community

A former township auditor and supervisor, Rep. Keith Greiner of the 43rd Legislative District is passionate about promoting open communication between levels of government, being an active presence in your community, and encouraging tax fairness across the commonwealth.

BY ALI CAMPBELL / ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A lifelong resident of Lancaster County, Rep. Keith Greiner serves the 43rd Legislative District, which after redistricting is comprised of Earl, Ephrata, Leacock, Upper Leacock, and West Earl townships. Greiner, a former Upper Leacock Township supervisor, first began his journey in public service by working as a precinct judge of elections.

“My family was very involved in the local community, and after graduating from Penn State, I knew I wanted to be in public service as well,” he says. “I thought serving in that capacity was important because those who make

decisions at the local level affect the lives of residents more directly than any other governmental level.”

As a certified public accountant, Greiner worked as township auditor for about eight years until 2004, when he was elected as a township supervisor.

Greiner left that position in 2010 when he was elected Lancaster County’s controller. He oversaw the county’s finances for three years before moving up to the House.

“Being a state representative was never on my radar,” Greiner admits, “but when the opportunity presented itself, many people reached out and suggested I run because of my passion for the community. As a CPA, I knew

I had a unique skill set I could bring to Harrisburg.”

‘Good government is process-driven’

Now completing his fifth term, the lawmaker continues to bring his expertise in auditing, accounting, and tax law to the Capitol to help resolve Pennsylvania’s multi-billion-dollar public pension problem and correct what he says is out-of-control government spending. Greiner himself refuses to accept taxpayer-funded per diems, vehicles, meals, and cellphones, and gave up his defined benefit pension.

Job creation, agriculture, education, and cutting debt and wasteful spending

“Those who make **decisions at the local level affect the lives of residents more directly** than any other governmental level.”

“Whether serving in **municipal, county, or state government**, the lines of communication must remain open.”

are Greiner’s top priorities, along with state and municipal pension reform.

“As a legislator, I have always felt my primary issue was to hold the line on massive, proposed tax increases while passing responsible budgets and promoting regulatory reform,” he says.

Greiner also serves on the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, a natural fit as he has been an active firefighter and volunteer during his 30 years with Upper Leacock Fire Company, where he also served as fire prevention coordinator for 10 years.

“I have a strong desire to help our local ambulance and volunteer fire companies,” he says.

In the House, Greiner has spearheaded critical DUI legislation and been a strong proponent of election integrity.

“I’m proud of the many successes we have achieved, but there’s still more work to be done,” he says. “There should be an understanding that good government is process-driven.”

Keep lines of communication open

Greiner credits PSATS for bringing attention to troublesome commonwealth issues that can impact townships of the second class.

“PSATS helps by providing education on how to be an effective township supervisor,” he says. “The Association is a resource for dealing with critical municipal issues.

“Decisions made at the municipal level are very impactful to the quality of life in the community,” he adds. “Residents rely on you to do the right thing.”

The state legislator remains engaged in his local community. For many years, he volunteered at his church, was a 25-year member of the American Business Club of Lancaster, a non-profit service organization dedicated to creating mobility and independence for people with disabilities, and is the current president of the Ressler Mill Foundation, a non-profit organization that oversees a host of programs with community service goals.

In his time serving as auditor and



Rep. Keith Greiner continues to bring his expertise in auditing, accounting, and tax law to Harrisburg to pass responsible budgets and help resolve overspending in the commonwealth.

township supervisor, Greiner gained valuable experience communicating with the public and learning how to work effectively with colleagues and residents while also expanding his understanding of the ins-and-outs of municipal government. He encourages all township officials to share their concerns with their legislators by keeping the lines of communication open.

“Keep in touch. Whether serving

in municipal, county, or state government, the lines of communication must remain open,” Greiner advises. “I, myself, have made it a priority to stay in touch with the Lancaster County Association of Township Supervisors to stay abreast of pertinent issues. It’s beneficial to know where people stand on topics such as stormwater regulation, permitting, and first responder services.” ♦



Upper Leacock Township supervisors and staff, circa 2005-2006, pose for a group photo.

Back row from left: Keith Greiner, Ron Simmons, Rick Heilig, Jim Dum, Jim Greiner, Bob Brenneman, and Lloyd Dagen.

Front row from left: Ira Wyble, Winnie Kinzer (wife of former supervisor Reed Kinzer), Mary Clinton, and John J. Oberholtzer.

Photo courtesy of Rep. Greiner and Upper Leacock Township.