



FALL 2026

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



Dear Neighbor,

State lawmakers and the Shapiro administration worked into the early days of July to pass a new state budget. While I am glad there are several concepts and ideals that I support included in the budget, our spending remains too high. However, it could have been much worse.

The governor's budget plan had proposed to cover state spending by tapping into the state's Rainy Day fund, which is meant for emergencies, but I and many of my House colleagues were firm in our opposition. I am relieved our efforts were successful. However, the final budget used an accounting maneuver to defer \$1.2 billion in payments due this fiscal year that now won't be paid until next year.

We are fortunate that anticipated revenues are significantly higher this year, likely due to federal tax cuts in the Big Beautiful Bill and PA House Republican 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.

The overriding issue that I am concerned about, and this budget doesn't solve, is our state's structural deficit, which remains around \$5 billion. This is debt that we will carry forward. In my opinion, our budget of \$50.9 billion spends far more than Pennsylvania taxpayers can afford. Unfortunately, if we continue to go down this road, tax increases will likely have to occur within the next few years unless we can increase revenues by growing the economy.

With the budget now complete, we must return our focus to the state revenue needed to support our spending. 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.

Sincerely,

Keith J. Greiner

Rep. Keith J. Greiner, CPA

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITIES, PUBLIC SAFETY

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. Many police departments in our area hosted events that included music, food, games, public safety demonstrations and family fun. I scooped ice cream at the National Night Out observance hosted by the Ephrata Police Department at LCBC Church grounds. I then traveled to Broad Street Park in Akron Borough to join an event hosted by the West Earl Township Police Department, which covers West Earl and Earl townships, as well as Akron and New Holland boroughs.



HONORING OUR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WORKERS



Les Martzall — Ephrata EMS

Before his recent passing, I had the privilege of presenting a House citation for Les Martzall, recognizing his contributions to our community through the Ephrata Community Ambulance Association (ECAA). Les was a driving force behind the ECAA during his 47 years there, twice serving as its president and two stints as treasurer. He was named president emeritus earlier this year.

Les was involved in the purchase of ECAA's current station, the purchase and replacement of several ambulances, and the formation of the paratransit service and bicycle team. His volunteer experience included firefighting, as well as vehicle and water rescue.

We are eternally grateful for his positive impact on the community and the lives he saved. We will remember Les as a friend and for the remarkable legacy he leaves.



Chief Darrell Fisher — New Holland EMS

I recently attended the New Holland Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Family Safety Day where Pennsylvania Bureau of EMS Director Anthony Martin presented EMS Chief Darrell Fisher (back row, center) with the 2026 Pennsylvania Dr. George Moerkirk Memorial Outstanding Contributions to EMS Award. The award is given to individuals who contribute significantly to Pennsylvania's EMS systems. Rep. Dave Zimmerman and I presented Fisher with a House citation in recognition of his service to New Holland EMS.



Chief Nissa Stoltzfus — Pequea Valley Fire Dept.

Pequea Valley Fire Department (PVFD) has 200 active volunteers, approximately 60 of which are EMS. The EMS team, under the leadership of Chief Nissa Stoltzfus, became IALS (Intermediate Advanced Life Support) certified nearly two years ago and responds to about 1,650 calls annually. I am pictured with Deputy Chief Dave Johnson, Lt. Mel Ebersol, Capt. Jonathan Ebersol, and Chief Stoltzfus.



HUNDREDS PARTICIPATE IN BROWNSTOWN SHREDDING EVENT

In late May, I hosted a free document shredding event at Brownstown Career and Technology Center (BCTC) to enable constituents to safely dispose of unwanted tax, financial, medical and other sensitive documents.

Over the course of three hours, my staff and I welcomed constituents in over 200 vehicles to the BCTC parking lot where their documents were shredded on-site. As cars lined up, we emptied boxes of documents into containers that were then sent through the industrial shredder provided by J & K Shredding. In all, we collected over 6,000 pounds of paper. Shredding events like this reduce the risk of identity theft and scams.



LICENSE PLATE AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK EVENT

Together with the West Earl Township Police Department, I recently hosted a license plate replacement and drug take-back event in Brownstown. Constituents stopped by the municipal building to drop-off expired or unneeded drugs for proper disposal, potentially keeping them from getting into our water system. Officer Ryan Blessing secured the medications, while also verifying hard-to-read license plates for my staff to process for replacement by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). Thank you to the dozens of residents who braved the stormy weather to attend and to Officer Blessing for his assistance.



EPHRATA TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR TY ZERBE RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS

I recently had the pleasure of honoring Ty Zerbe on his retirement from the Ephrata Township Board of Supervisors, a position he had held since 2001. At the time of his retirement, he was serving as treasurer.

Active in his community, Ty has served as a lobbyist and finance committee chairman for the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors and a member of the Lancaster County Association of Township Supervisors. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated remarkable leadership and integrity. We wish him well.



TIME CAPSULE OPENED AT FRITZ ELEMENTARY AFTER 50 YEARS

Students and faculty at Fritz Elementary School recently opened a time capsule that was buried in a brick planter at the school 50 years ago when I was a student in Mrs. Carson's fifth-grade class. Notable items unearthed included a newspaper, a piece of (unchewed) Fruit Stripes gum, bookmarks, and my fifth-grade class photo!

It was fun strolling down memory lane with classmates from the Leola area and teachers and sharing memories with the younger Buckskins. I am pictured with some of my teachers, Mrs. Frankhouser, Miss Frey and Miss Hogarth.



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR YOUTH

In June, I joined Garden Spot Fire Rescue for its sixth annual Cadet Fire Camp in New Holland, where more than 25 cadets, aged 10 to 14, learned about various aspects of fire service. The cadets received hands-on training skills and how to coordinate with EMS in emergency situations. I was thrilled to speak with the young cadets and witness their enthusiasm for learning. Hopefully, some of them will become future volunteer firefighters!



PENNSYLVANIA'S ICE CREAM TRAIL BEGINS IN LANCASTER COUNTY!

This spring, I attended the launch of the 2026 Ice Cream Trail, Pennsylvania's most popular culinary trail. This year's trail started at Lapp Valley Creamery outside of New Holland, a dairy farm that has been locally owned and operated for over 50 years, providing milk, ice cream and other dairy products to eastern Lancaster County residents.

Kaitie Burger, executive director of the PA Tourism Office, provided an overview of the Ice Cream Trail and told how state programs such as Visit PA and PA Preferred encourage support for local farms. Dave Lapp, owner of Lapp Valley, then shared the history of his family farm and explained why he participates in the Ice Cream Trail. I stressed the significance of farming in the Commonwealth and specifically here in Lancaster County. Finally, Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding stressed the importance of farming and the need to support our local farmers and agriculture-based businesses. At the conclusion of the event, we enjoyed some delicious Lapp Valley ice cream.

FIRE COMPANY NEWS

As a former firefighter, I appreciate the opportunity to honor those who have spent their careers protecting the lives and property of the citizens they serve. The following are just a couple of those to whom I have had the pleasure of presenting a Pennsylvania House of Representatives citation in recognition of their outstanding service.



Dale Martin, Lincoln Fire Co.
55 years of service



John Eitnier, currently an officer with
Ephrata Pioneer Fire Co.
65 years of service

LOCAL FIRE COMPANIES HOLD OPEN HOUSES



In July, Akron Fire Company held its annual open house. It organized a backpack giveaway and provided free food and plenty of family fun. I had the opportunity to catch up with fire company members Harold Zimmerman, Tom Murray, Jr., and Lavon Zimmerman.



In June, Ephrata Pioneer Fire Company hosted its annual open house, an event that always draws large crowds and community participation. Attractions included family-friendly activities, games, demonstrations and food. Volunteers enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the community they serve. I'm pictured with Ephrata Mayor Tom Reinhold.



I also stopped by Martindale Fire Department's annual Safety Day. Pictured with me are Chief Darrell Fisher, New Holland EMS; Officer Ryan Blessing and Chief Eric Higgins, West Earl Township Police; and Martindale Fire Department President Roger Stauffer.

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

Proudly Serving the 43rd Legislative District

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PENNSYLVANIA FAIRS: A CELEBRATION OF AGRICULTURE

As we move into the fall harvest season, local fairs in Lancaster County come alive with their annual celebration of Pennsylvania Agriculture. Throughout the summer months and into the fall, communities across the Commonwealth host dozens of fairs featuring food, family fun, and entertainment, as well as competitive exhibits highlighting farm animals, fresh produce, crafts, crops, baking and more. Fairs create great memories that last a lifetime.

In September, I look forward to attending the Ephrata Fair. Going strong since 1919, the Ephrata Fair is billed as the largest street fair in Pennsylvania! It runs from Sept. 23–26.

I will also attend the New Holland Farmer's Fair, which began in 1927. Each year, it shuts down the streets to traffic and Main Street serves as a midway, alive with food, games, rides and exhibits. It runs from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3. I hope to see you there!

To plan your visit to the fair, see the 2026 Pennsylvania Fair Guide here: <https://bit.ly/3RqBoEy>



Founded in 1928, the national FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America) is a youth leadership organization that focuses on agricultural education. Its motto, "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Learning to Live, Living to Serve," was celebrated at Pequea Valley's 70th Annual FFA Banquet where I had the privilege of meeting several FFA members and learning about their experience with the organization. I am pictured with FFA officer, Taylor Gentzler, and chapter president, Bella Biddle, at the new Pequea Valley Secondary School, where Biddle had addressed several hundred students, parents, teachers, and administrators who gathered.



In June, the FFA team came to my district office to rehearse a presentation that they are required to give to local leaders, businesses, and members of the agriculture community in preparation to compete at the FFA national competition in November.

I always welcome the opportunity to celebrate Pennsylvania's outstanding agriculture industry and show my appreciation for our farmers and their hard work. I had the opportunity to do so in May at the fourth annual "Blessing of the Balers" at the state Capitol.



**BLESSINGS FOR A
BOUNTIFUL HARVEST**