

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ERIC NELSON

Proudly Serving the 57th Legislative District



FALL 2025



Dear Friends,

I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer, and that this newsletter finds you well. It is my humble honor to serve as your voice in Harrisburg and to lead a strong local team who has helped thousands of our neighbors resolve challenges and roadblocks related to state bureaucracy.

I remain committed to the principles of limited government, respect for our personal freedoms and the importance of good jobs in a safe community. We are blessed to live in a country whose Constitution ensures our right to speak, gather, worship and defend ourselves.

My goal for this newsletter is to provide a snapshot of activity in Harrisburg and here in the district. This includes the pending budget, key policy areas and legislation that impacts all of us here at home.

I represent everyone and do my best to tackle complex issues with the intention to improve the lives of our residents. We are here to serve. Should you need assistance with state-related matters, please stop into our office, call us, or we can schedule a time to meet in person at **724-834-6400**.

Sincerely,

Eric Nelson



PA BUDGET *Update*

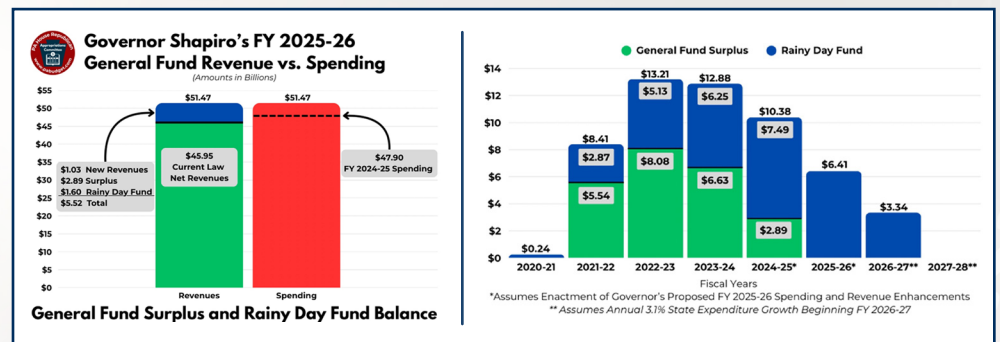
By the time this newsletter reaches you, I hope a commonsense budget will have finally passed.

Our challenge is overspending and the reality (from both sides of the aisle) is that our state savings will be gone after next year.

In short, Pennsylvania collects approximately \$46 billion a year in taxes and fees BUT Gov. Josh Shapiro's proposed budget would spend \$51.5 billion in that same year, overspending almost \$6 billion. Two years ago we had \$14 billion in our accounts.

If we agree to Gov. Shapiro's full plan, next year the money will be gone and there will be a massive shortfall. Unfortunately, that forces tax increases or program cuts and everyone loses. It is why Harrisburg must live within its means now, confront waste and work together to grow our economy.

We cannot tax ourselves into prosperity. I believe honesty, transparency and courage to fight back against the growing government bog is critical to put Pennsylvania on the right track.



MORE RETIREES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A REDUCED-FEE VEHICLE REGISTRATION!

A new state law I supported allows more retirees to qualify for a reduction in their vehicle registration fee.

The benefit is now available to retired persons earning up to \$29,906, an increase of more than \$10,000 from the prior income eligibility limit. Those who qualify will pay a \$12 processing fee to register their vehicle each year, rather than the standard \$48 registration fee.

Qualified applicants must be retired and receiving Social Security or other pension payments. However, 100% of a veterans' benefit payment or payment to the unmarried surviving spouse, upon the death of a veteran, is excluded from the income calculation.

For more information or assistance filling out the paperwork, contact my office at **724-834-6400**.



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BIG PROJECTS ON THE HORIZON: *Reclaiming Our Energy Future*

Pennsylvania's energy infrastructure and skilled workforce make us uniquely suited for new power plants and data centers. With an abundance of natural gas, nuclear power and proximity to major population hubs, our state has the "secret sauce" to create thousands of good jobs for everybody, both union and non-union.

This past July, over \$90 billion of private investment in power generation, data centers and energy infrastructure projects were announced at Sen. Dave McCormick's 2025 PA Energy and Innovation Summit held in Pittsburgh. This exciting opportunity now hinges on getting timely permit approvals by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Earlier this year, I introduced the Accelerated Data Center Permitting bill. This bipartisan legislation enables faster permits for developers who commit to equal, or higher, environmental performance during their project. If we incentivize developers to meet and exceed federal standards, Pennsylvania can secure massive investments and bring major economic growth home.

One of the best ways to keep energy prices down is to continue producing as much of it as possible. Instead, our region saw several major projects canceled because of multi-year permit delays. This pushed big investment into Ohio and West Virginia, costing us millions of construction man-hours and forced younger families to leave the state to find work.

We can achieve higher environmental standards, get faster permits and reduce energy prices for everyone if we work together, acknowledge our permit failures and force improvements in the process.

Pennsylvania has the tools and talent. The world is watching. We need to rise to the occasion.



Eliminating Inheritance Tax



State inheritance tax is a wrongful second taking of a person's lifetime savings. It often forces children to sell their family home to pay the state assessed taxes. This is not right. In 2012, Pennsylvania exempted farmsteads from inheritance tax, and it is time we do the same for our homeowners.

I met with numerous constituents who sadly lost their parents, and then quickly found themselves struggling to keep their family home. Without a living person on the bank account, the deceased person's assets are frozen, and the surviving children have nine months to use their personal

funds, or take a government loan, to pay the inheritance tax.

In July, the federal government passed the One Big Beautiful Bill which increased the federal estate tax exemption to \$15 million per individual; however, the Pennsylvania Tax Code does not allow the same benefit.

I have introduced bipartisan legislation to include "homesteads" to be exempted from inheritance tax when passing to lineal decedents, meaning children and grandchildren of the deceased. The state takes in almost \$1.6 billion each year through inheritance tax, and I believe these dollars should remain within our families.

We must wean the Commonwealth from re-taxing a deceased person's hard-earned income. A great step forward is exempting the family home from inheritance tax and enabling homeowners the same benefit as farm owners!

Working to Reform Child Care Services



Safe, quality child care is a priority issue for our young families. A major roadblock for many workers and employers is PA's "cliff-based" approach to receiving assistance for child care. In our current system, a mom or dad loses 100% of their child care if they earn even a little bit over the government's set limit. This keeps people down.

We should be creating incentives for families to earn their way out of poverty. I have re-introduced bipartisan legislation to ensure a person can earn more, keep their child care and just increase their co-pay.

I worked across the aisle and with the PA Department of Human Services on **House Bill 1108**, which would solidify a pilot program. The bill was passed by the House with a strong bipartisan vote of 198-5 and has advanced to the Senate.

As a family earns more, they contribute more, and those dollars can be re-invested to help more children, without raising taxes. I am hopeful this bipartisan, commonsense policy improvement will make it to the governor's desk.

AROUND THE DISTRICT



My office helped city officials bring new restrooms to the playground and ballfield in South Greensburg! This is a big win for the Hufftown community, and another improvement made possible by casino revenue grants.



I was honored to receive the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association's (RCPA) Legislator of the Year Award for my work with seniors and individuals with disabilities. RCPA is a statewide association with thousands of members advocating for citizens in need. I look forward to continuing this fight for the residents in my district and all of Pennsylvania.



Jacob Shepler was presented with a PA House citation and State Police commendation, recognizing his life saving efforts, quick action and ultimately saving his peers from a tragic accident.

The Senior Care Struggle: Reforming CHC



The world of senior care is complex, expensive and getting more challenging with the closure of more than 70 skilled nursing, personal care and assisted living facilities.

This takes thousands of licensed beds away from seniors who need them.

Understanding challenges, and needed improvements, across the senior care continuum needs to be a higher priority in Harrisburg. The numbers just don't add up. More taxpayer dollars are being spent but increases are not reaching workers or senior facilities.

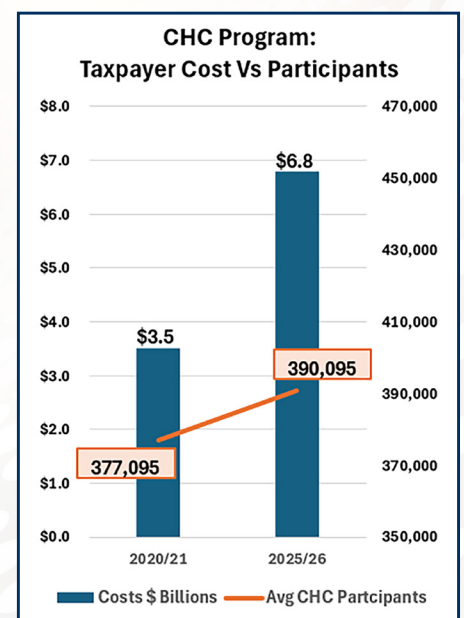
In May, I hosted a roundtable to address growing concerns about Pennsylvania's Community Health Choices (CHC) program. The event was held at **Westmoreland Manor, which is operating just above 50% resident capacity due to staffing shortages and state-mandated ratios**. CHC was created five years ago to provide medical coverage to older adults and individuals with physical disabilities. This benefit program is completely non-transparent and will cost taxpayers more than 10% of the entire state budget. That is not right.

For example, this year's proposed CHC increase would cost around \$1 billion more BUT help fewer than 15,000 more participants in five years. **That's almost \$7 billion in medical coverage for fewer than 400,000 people in a year, and it is all completely non-transparent.** We must better understand what is happening inside CHC, and recent findings reveal serious flaws in its administration.

A 2022 audit by the Pennsylvania auditor general uncovered one of the program's managed care organizations failed to report participant status changes, such as death or relocation in a timely manner. This failure led to overpayments exceeding \$357,000, with \$121,000 unrecoverable due to contract limitations.

At our roundtable, providers and community members voiced frustration and called for greater transparency and oversight. CHC has the potential to be a model of compassionate, community-based care, but only if managed care organizations are held accountable.

We must ensure taxpayer dollars are used responsibly and that those relying on CHC receive the timely, quality care they deserve.



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Please join me at these District Events!



COFFEE TALK – MUSEUM OF ART MONDAY, OCT. 20 | 8:30 – 10 A.M.

Westmoreland Museum of American Art,
221 N. Main St., Greensburg

Please RSVP to my office by calling
724-834-6400.



SAFE DRIVING SEMINAR WITH SENIORS FOR SAFE DRIVING WEDNESDAY, NOV. 5 | 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

Youngwood Volunteer Fire Department,
104 S. 2nd St., Youngwood

Join me at my first Seniors for Safe Driving event! If you're 55+, you'll receive a multi-year discount on your auto insurance for participating. This classroom course offers reminders for safe driving techniques. It costs \$17, and registration is required. Sign up at SeniorsForSafeDriving.com or call my office at 724-834-6400.



BLOOD DRIVE WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS THURSDAY, OCT. 30 | NOON TO 5 P.M.

North Hempfield Volunteer
Fire Department,
1284 Business Rt. 66, Greensburg

Appointments are required.
Schedule online at redcrossblood.org or
call 1-800-RED CROSS.



AIM TO HONOR: VETERANS APPRECIATION EVENT SATURDAY, NOV. 8 | NOON TO 5 P.M.

Defenders Armory,
915 E. Pittsburgh St., Greensburg
Registration by Oct. 30 is required.

Veterans are invited to this appreciation event to enjoy an afternoon of camaraderie and free use of shooting ranges. Register by calling my office at 724-834-6400, or Defenders Armory Indoor Range at 724-374-5850.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Eric Nelson

My staff and I are always ready to assist constituents of the 57th Legislative District with a number of state-related matters, including PennDOT paperwork, Unemployment Compensation issues, PACE and PACENET applications for senior citizens, and Property Tax and Rent Rebate forms. Stop in and say 'hello' to Meaghan, the newest member of our team.