

# HARRISBURG *Report*

From State Senator  
**Stewart J. Greenleaf**

SPRING 2014

## Jobs and Economy. Education Funding. Transportation.

Dear Friends,

**S**tate budget negotiations are currently underway. Each year's state budget has a significant impact on Pennsylvania's economy. I am committed to working towards a budget that controls spending.

Pennsylvania's jobs and economy are my top priority in 2014, and I am looking for ways to support economic development both here in the 12th district and statewide.

Also, in this newsletter, I will discuss education and transportation funding.

**F**ollow Senator Greenleaf on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/senatorgreenleaf](http://www.facebook.com/senatorgreenleaf)) and Twitter ([twitter.com/SenGreenleaf](https://twitter.com/SenGreenleaf)) for news on the Pennsylvania Senate, government services, and Senator Greenleaf's work for the 12th Senate District.



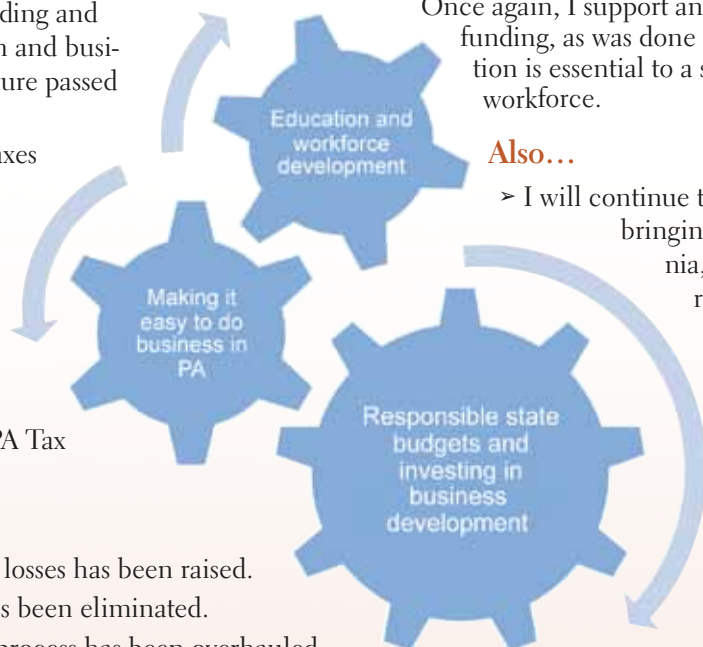
## Fueling Pennsylvania's Economic Engine

**I**n 2013, the Senate focused on making it easier to do business in Pennsylvania. Starting with a budget that controlled spending and taxes and invested in education and business development, the Legislature passed other important measures:

- Eliminated inheritance taxes on small businesses.
- Created community revitalization and improvement zones.
- Expanded the Local Government Capital Project Loan Program.
- Created the Innovate in PA Tax Credit Program.

### In recent years...

- The cap on net operating losses has been raised.
- Tax on corporate loans has been eliminated.
- The business tax appeals process has been overhauled.
- The state offers a \$5,000 startup business tax deduction.
- Programs such as **Innovate in PA** create a pool of investment capital for entrepreneurs and startup companies. Visit [www.newpa.com](http://www.newpa.com) for more information.



In 2014, I will continue to work towards passing another responsible state budget that controls spending and taxes.

Once again, I support any feasible increases in education funding, as was done in 2013. High quality education is essential to a strong economy and competitive workforce.

### Also...

- > I will continue to partner with the innovators bringing new industries to Pennsylvania, especially to the Philadelphia region.
- > I will seek improvements to our most critical transportation corridors to pave the way for additional redevelopment.
- > I will partner with local Main Street Redevelopment Projects to find funding and space for more new businesses, both large and small.

Senator Greenleaf recently toured Delaware Valley Concrete (DVC) in Hatboro, home of the first and currently the only cement truck running on compressed natural gas in PA. Here the Senator is pictured with Mario C. Diliberto, President of DVC, and his family. The company is planning on expanding their natural gas fleet.



# Transportation Funding at Work



January 24, 2014 – Senator Greenleaf joined state and federal officials and legislators at a groundbreaking ceremony at Middle Bucks Institute of Technology for a \$31.5 million improvement project for York Road between Bristol Road in Warminster and Sugar Bottom Road in Warwick. Improving our transportation infrastructure is the foundation of commerce and sustaining a healthy economy.

## Seeking Improvements to Route 611 Turnpike Entrance

On January 24, 2014, I called a meeting with PennDOT Secretary Barry Schoch; PA Turnpike COO, Craig R. Shuey; and local officials to ask for consideration of a second lane entering the Willow Grove turnpike interchange from Rt. 611 South. Willow Grove is the second busiest interchange on the Turnpike, and the Rt. 611 corridor is a vital economic hub. A second lane entering the toll plaza would ease traffic congestion as we expect further revitalization along this stretch. Ease of transportation is critical to creating and maintaining economic growth.



## Pennsylvania's Economy

- With a gross domestic product of more than \$600 billion, Pennsylvania is the twentieth largest economy in the world.
- Pennsylvania was ranked third in the U.S. for corporate growth with 453 new or expanded corporate facilities in 2011.
- PA is home to 125 bio-pharma companies and more than 2,000 life sciences-related enterprises.
- Eight of the largest U.S. pharmaceutical companies are within a 50-mile radius of Philadelphia.
- Pennsylvania is consistently ranked in the top five among states for biotechnology investment, projects, and jobs.

## Senate Appropriations Budget Hearings Videos at [www.senatorgreenleaf.com](http://www.senatorgreenleaf.com)

Following each year's budget proposal, the Senate Appropriations Committee holds hearings with each state department and agency to discuss their funding needs. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I have an opportunity to discuss a wide variety of state issues with department secretaries and state officials. Visit [www.senatorgreenleaf.com](http://www.senatorgreenleaf.com) to watch brief video clips of my questioning during budget hearings.







*January 5, 2014 - Senator Greenleaf presented a senate citation to the Huntingdon Valley Library in honor of their 60th Anniversary. Accepting the citation is Eleanor Schneider, President of the Huntingdon Valley Library Board of Trustees.*



*December 2, 2013 - Senator Greenleaf presented Senate citations to two retiring Upper Moreland Township police officers, Lt. Carl Robinson and Lt. Alex H. Levy.*



*January 8, 2014 - Senator Greenleaf took part in a meeting of the Bucks Coalition Against Trafficking attended by various Bucks County victims assistance organizations, concerned citizens, and law enforcement. The Senator discussed SB 75 to fight human trafficking. From left: Jen Horowitz of Women's Way; Senator Greenleaf; and Julie Dugery, volunteer coordinator for the Network of Victims Assistance.*



*December 14, 2013 - Senator Greenleaf attended a robotics team competition at Archbishop Wood High School, home of FRC Team #2607, the Fighting Robovikings.*



*November 19, 2013 - Advocates for Senator Greenleaf's SB 850, the Donate Life PA Act, held a rally at the State Capitol advocating for the legislation that would help to increase organ donation in Pennsylvania.*



*October 26, 2013 - Senator Greenleaf discussed human trafficking with the American Association of University Women at Doylestown Hospital. This is one of the many groups that is helping to raise public awareness and build the growing national movement to stop human sex and labor trafficking.*



*November 1, 2013 - Senator Greenleaf spoke to the graduating class of state parole agents at the PA Board of Probation and Parole.*

# Education Increases Despite Loss of Federal Money

High quality education is essential to a strong economy, an able workforce, and a fair chance at prosperity for all. Since the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year, state funding for education has steadily increased.

However, education funding was severely impacted by the loss of federal stimulus money. In 2011-2012, over \$1 billion in federal stimulus funding used for education disappeared. The following year, the state budget increased state dollars for public schools by over \$400 million. In fact, the state's allocation for overall education funding has increased by almost \$700 million since fiscal year 2010-11.

The 2014-15 budget, as proposed, would increase education funding by 3.3% to over \$12 billion.



## EDUCATION FUNDING (thousands)

Year	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 Proposed
State	\$ 10,928,284	\$ 10,942,525	\$ 11,357,075	\$ 11,625,438	\$ 12,012,414
Federal	\$ 1,135,787	\$ 5,730	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 12,064,071	\$ 10,948,255	\$ 11,357,075	\$ 11,625,438	

## Additional Funding For Southeastern PA School Districts



I am working towards getting additional basic education funding for our local school districts. Because basic education funding has not kept pace with increased enrollment in our local schools, a disproportionate burden is placed on local taxpayers as compared to other areas of the state. The current funding formula contains a “holds harmless” clause which guarantees that the same or greater funding go to each district. However, many districts throughout the Commonwealth are losing population and student enrollment. The funding formula should better reflect trends in enrollment to protect the quality of education, but also to ensure a fair and proportional distribution of property taxes.

## Senator Greenleaf's Legislative Offices

### DISTRICT OFFICE

711 North York Road, Suite 1  
Willow Grove, PA 19090-2124  
(215) 657-7700 • Toll Free (800) 924-3300  
Mon. - Fri. • 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### HARRISBURG OFFICE

Senate Box 203012  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3012  
(717) 787-6599  
Toll Free (800) 848-5013  
TTY (800) 364-1581

E-mail: [sgreenleaf@pasen.gov](mailto:sgreenleaf@pasen.gov) • Website: [senatorgreenleaf.com](http://senatorgreenleaf.com)