

HARRISBURG *Report*

From State Senator
Stewart J. Greenleaf

AUTUMN 2013

Pennsylvania Senate Continues to Work on Important Issues

JOBS AND ECONOMY

Sensible tax policies, building a strong workforce, and modernizing our transportation infrastructure are critical to creating jobs and making Pennsylvania more business-friendly.

Reforming Tax Policy

- To encourage job creation, the legislature has been working to reduce taxes on businesses.
- HB 465 increased the maximum amount of Net Operating Loss a corporation can deduct annually.

Responsible State Budget Invests in Business Development

- The 2013-2014 state budget did not increase taxes.
- The \$28.37 billion budget modestly increased spending by 2.3 percent over the previous fiscal year.
- The budget increased investments in business development and job creation through the Department of Community and Economic Development.

Linking Job Seekers and Employers

- The state website www.jobgateway.pa.gov helps jobseekers find positions that fit their skills.
- The site has over 200,000 job postings.

Job Training, Funding Community Colleges

- Millions of jobs go unfilled today because of training and education gaps.
- Community colleges are critical to closing the skills gap between available jobs and those seeking employment.
- I support more sufficiently funding Pennsylvania's 14 community colleges which are vital to building a stronger workforce.

Transportation Funding

- To move our economy forward, our transportation needs must be met.
- Many of Pennsylvania's roads and bridges are structurally deficient.
- The legislature needs to pass a transportation funding plan that will create jobs and modernize highways, bridges, and mass transit systems.

Welcome Souderton Borough and the Montgomery County portion of Telford Borough to the 12th Senate District.

PROPERTY TAX REFORM

The legislature continues to make efforts to reduce or eliminate school property taxes. One of my highest priorities is to reduce the impact these taxes have on senior citizens and working families.

Proposals Being Considered by the Senate:

- Elimination of property taxes: SB 76 would eliminate property taxes by replacing them with funding from the personal income tax and sales tax.
- Property tax freeze for seniors: SB 299 would freeze property taxes at their current rate for all senior citizens.

The Property Tax Rent Rebate Program remains one of the greatest benefits to seniors, the permanently disabled, and widows and widowers 50 and older. For more information visit, www.revenue.state.pa.us or call my office at 215-657-7700.

EDUCATION FUNDING

The 2013-2014 state budget provided funding increases for basic education and early childhood education. The education funding approved in this year's budget is the highest in Pennsylvania history.

Basic Education Funding

- Pennsylvania's public schools received a 2.4 percent increase (\$129.9 million) to \$5.52 billion. That total is \$40.4 million above the Governor's request.

Early Childhood Education Funding

- The budget increased funding for the Pre-K Counts program by \$5 million (\$87.2 million) and by nearly \$2 million for Head Start Assistance (\$39.17 million).



August 20, 2013 — Township officials and legislators gather to celebrate the completed connection of wastewater treatment systems between Upper Gwynedd Township and the North Wales Water Authority. Senator Greenleaf helped secure grant money and state approval for the project.

Senate Targets Child Abuse

The Senate has passed 11 bills to improve Pennsylvania's child protection laws. If passed, the bills would help ensure that child abuse is reported and child victims are protected. The House of Representatives is now considering the legislation.

Key measures of the legislation include:

- Strengthening criminal penalties for child abuse.
- Protecting reporters of child abuse from intimidation and violence.
- Identifying newborns affected by illegal drugs to ensure they receive needed care.
- Child victims would only have to provide one forensic interview that could be used throughout an investigation, preventing them from retelling their painful story many times.



August 29, 2013 — Mission Kids Advocacy Center in East Norriton offers a comprehensive team response to allegations of child abuse and works to help and seek justice for child victims.

PHEAA Grants for Online Education Signed Into Law

Today's college graduates often face massive debt, and for many students, online education is far more cost-effective. My proposal, providing state financial aid for students taking a majority of their college courses online, was signed into law. Until now, students had to earn half of their college credits in the classroom to qualify for state financial aid. I hope this will increase competition with traditional programs and help lower tuition costs for all students.

The legislation creates the Distance Education Program, a pilot program for 5 academic years administered through the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). So far, 55 schools are participating in the first year of the program.

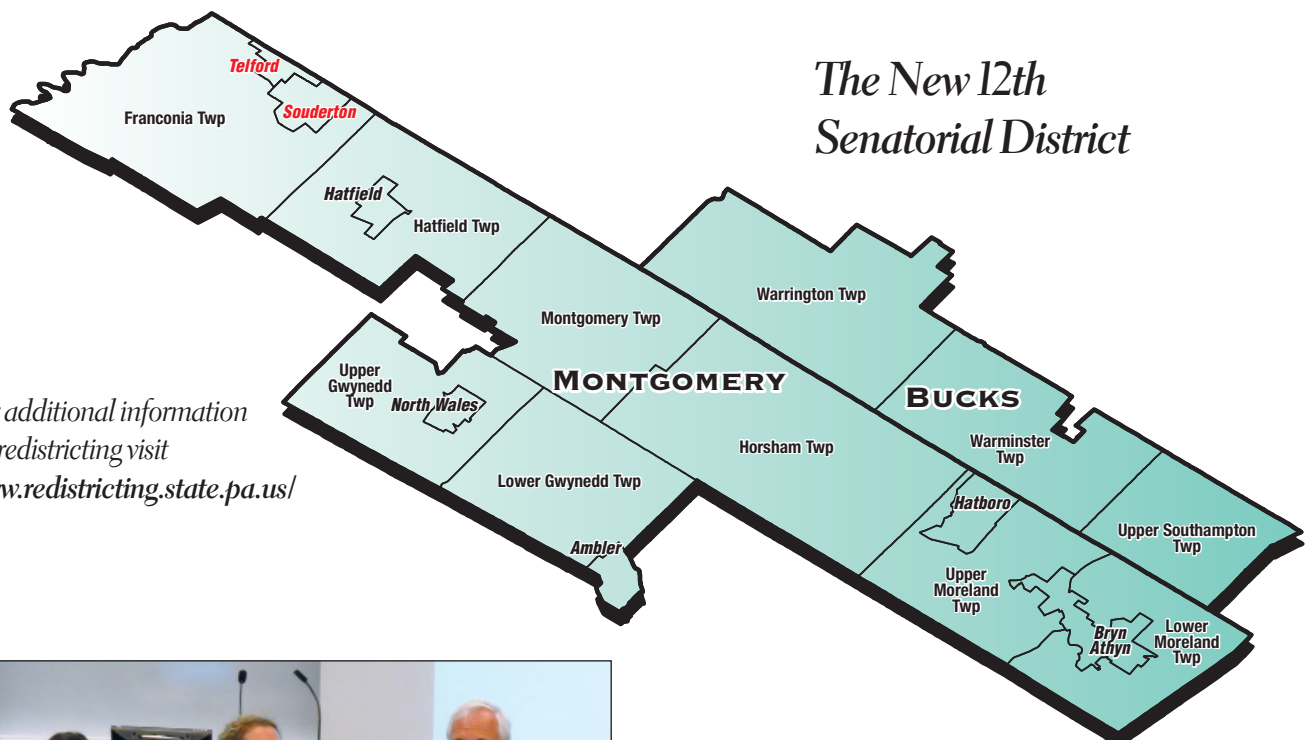
To Participate in the Distance Education Program:

- Full and part-time students who attend public and private institutions in Pennsylvania that offer two and four-year academic degrees may be eligible.
- The criteria for obtaining state aid for online classes is the same as for traditional classroom courses and will be based on the income level of the individual and their family.
- Students will not have to complete additional forms; however, it is up to the student to find out if their institution of higher education will be participating in the program.

Souderton and Telford now Part of 12th District

As a result of the Legislative Reapportionment Commission's redistricting plan, the 12th District now includes

all of Souderton Borough in Montgomery County and the Montgomery County portion of Telford Borough.



For additional information on redistricting visit www.redistricting.state.pa.us/

The New 12th Senatorial District



October 18, 2013 — The Matthew J. Ryan Law and Public Policy Forum at Villanova School of Law brought together academics, advocates, and members of law enforcement to discuss efforts to fight human trafficking in Pennsylvania. Senator Greenleaf has introduced SB 75 to help prosecutors convict traffickers, prevent trafficking, and help trafficking victims.



(Left) July 23, 2013 — Christ Home Retirement Community received a Senate citation in honor of their 90th anniversary. The event was held at their newly constructed residential facility in Warminster.

(Below) October 17, 2013 — In honor of National School Lunch Week, Gwyn Nor Elementary School invited local legislators to talk with students about the importance of healthy school lunch programs. More than 32 million children eat school lunches every day across the country.



(Above) September 26, 2013 — Fourth graders at Penn View Christian School in Souderton were eager to answer questions about state government and learn about the job of a legislator.



(Right) August 23, 2013 — Montgomery County Community College held a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new Culinary Institute. Pictured are State Rep. Bob Godshall, State Rep. Kate Harper, and members of the Montgomery County Community College Board.



(Left) May 31, 2013 — Local veterans received Senate certificates of appreciation at the Lion's Club of Warrington annual charity golf outing honoring wounded warriors.

(Right) August 7, 2013 — Upper Moreland Soccer League held its opening day ceremony.



August 20, 2013 — My staff and I regularly attend events throughout the 12th District to meet with constituents and help with any state-related matters.



August 7, 2013 — New inductees to the Nor-Gwyn Baseball Hall of Fame received a congratulatory Senate citation.



Senate Passes Legislation to Allow Volunteer Doctors to Provide Free Mental Health Services to Veterans

On October 23rd, the Pennsylvania Senate unanimously passed legislation I introduced to allow volunteer doctors to provide free mental health services to military personnel and their families.

SB 81 would allow psychologists, psychiatrists, or counselors to volunteer to provide free mental health services to military personnel at community centers, churches, schools, or libraries.

Mental health professionals practicing in good faith would be exempt from civil liability, currently a major roadblock to volunteer doctors.

SB 81 will now go to the House of Representatives for consideration.



August 6, 2013 — Franconia Township held its annual National Night Out Against Crime.



September 12, 2013 — Dave Mullen, President of the Warwick Township Historical Society, shows Senator Greenleaf a copy of the minutes from a council of war meeting attended by General Washington and Marquis de Lafayette in August, 1777 at the Moland House, a restored colonial home in Warwick Township. The site served as headquarters for Washington and his troops from August 10th through the 23rd, 1777. Senator Greenleaf helped pass legislation allowing townships to acquire historic sites for preservation purposes.

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