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KOSIEROWSKI SUPPORTS 2024-25 STATE BUDGET WITH NO TAX INCREASE

I am very proud of the bipartisan 2024-2025 state budget, with NO TAX INCREASE, which delivers historic investments in public education, making good on our promise to address longstanding, chronic underfunding of school districts. This state budget takes a serious step forward in fulfilling the state constitution's requirement that Pennsylvania provide "a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the commonwealth."

The budget increases funding for our local school districts as noted on the graphic.

Among other highlights, the budget includes the following funding increases and new investments that will benefit Pennsylvania's schoolchildren.

This budget makes sure every child can learn in a safe and healthy learning environment by investing \$100 million to clean up and improve school facilities and eliminate health hazards like asbestos and lead, while also investing \$100 million for school safety and resources for students in crisis.

To address the lack of teachers entering the workforce, funding for the popular Student Teacher Stipend Program has been doubled to strengthen the teacher pipeline.

To help alleviate period poverty, which causes many students to skip school, menstrual products will be provided in schools.



2024-2025 PA BUDGET WINS

- NO NEW TAXES
- **Over \$1B increase** for Pre-K to 12 education funding
- **\$30M increase** for Career and Technical Education
- **\$100M** for public school facility improvement grants
- **NEW \$3M** investment for menstrual hygiene products in schools
- **Over \$15M increase** for Community Colleges
- **Over \$140M** for grants, scholarships, and other programs to make higher education more affordable in PA
- **\$20M** for student teacher stipend
- **\$70M** for attainable housing initiatives through the PHARE Housing Program
- **\$16.5M increase** for anti-violence investments and after-school programs
- **\$20M increase** for county based mental-health services
- **NEW \$2.5M** for legal services in eviction proceedings
- **\$7M increase** for Workforce Development
- **\$161M** for Public Transportation and Multimodal projects
- **\$261M increase** for intellectual Disabilities/ Autism Community Waiver Program
- **Over \$26M increase** for subsidized childcare services
- **\$36M increase** for Neighborhood Assistance Program
- **\$5M increase** for Homelessness Assistance
- **Over \$2M increase** for Domestic Violence Prevention
- **\$5M increase** for Non-profit Security grants
- **\$7.5M** for indigent defense
- **AND MUCH MORE!**

HERE'S A SNAPSHOT OF THE BUDGET'S INVESTMENTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH IN THE YEAR AHEAD.

Education

- **Historic Funding:** We've allocated over a billion new dollars to public education, setting us on a path to rectify decades of underfunding and unfair funding as laid out by the state Commonwealth Court.
- \$100 million in special education funding.
- \$100 million for school safety and resources for students in crisis.
- **Solar for Schools:** Solar for Schools Grant Program provides \$25 million to subsidize solar adoption in schools, reduce energy costs, and save districts hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.
- **School Infrastructure:** Our aging school buildings need significant work, and this budget addresses that need with \$100 million for facility clean-up and improvement to ensure our children have safe and conducive learning environments.

Health Care

- **Making Mental Health a Priority:** \$71 million for mental health services, including an increase of \$20 million over FY 2023/24 for county-based mental health services.
- **Supporting our Seniors:** We secured \$75 million in increased funding for the care of seniors and adults with disabilities living in skilled nursing facilities.
- \$1.9 million to create the first Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Division within the PA Department of Aging.
- **Addressing Maternal Mortality:** We directed almost \$2.5 million to address maternal mortality.

Criminal Justice

- **Community-Based Programs:** Over \$50 million has been allocated for community-based programs to reduce violence, including funding for the Violence Intervention and Prevention program to prevent tragedies before they happen.

Labor

- **Career and Technical Education:** An increase of \$30 million in funding for CTE will provide more opportunities for skills development.
- **Grow PA Scholarships:** These scholarships, given to students who commit to work in PA after graduation, will ensure their skills are benefitting the commonwealth.
- **Labor Law Enforcement:** Investments in labor law enforcement training will combat wage theft and hold bad employers accountable.

Human Services

- **Intellectual Disabilities and Autism (ID/A) Resources:** We've directed \$354.8 million towards resources, including \$74.8 million to clear the emergency wait list, ensuring Pennsylvanians receive the care they need.
- **Supporting our Youth:** We're directing \$26.2 million for subsidized childcare services
- \$4 million for Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- \$55.6 million for Youth Development Institutions.

Economic Development

- **Site Development:** We've allocated \$500 million to site development.
- **Main Streets and Commercial Corridors:** \$20 million will revitalize these crucial areas.
- **Minority-Owned Businesses:** An additional \$20 million is set aside to support small, minority-owned businesses.

Housing

- **Affordable Housing:** By raising the PHARE funding cap and increasing Homeless Assistance Program funding by \$5 million, we're enhancing our commitment to affordable housing.
- **Eviction Assistance:** We've invested \$2.5 million to provide access to counsel for those facing eviction.

Environment

- **Clean Streams:** \$50 million will go toward cleaning local streams.
- **Abandoned Oil Wells:** \$11 million is allocated for capping abandoned oil wells.
- **DEP Permitting:** \$10.5 million will expedite DEP permitting processes and clear backlogs.

Transit

- **Funding for Public Transit:** We've secured \$80 million to keep our public transit systems running.
- \$175,000 to fabricate 50 portable vendor huts for events and festivals.

KOSIEROWSKI INTRODUCES LEGISLATION

Here are some details about the bills I have proposed to help improve the lives of residents across Lackawanna County and the state.

H.B. 1956 – PATIENT TEST RESULTS ACT

This legislation would require health care providers to inform patients that they will be receiving their test results in their electronic health record, or that they can ask the provider to mail the results to them. Pathology or radiology reports likely to show a finding of cancer, or tests that may reveal a serious genetic condition, could be delayed after they are finalized, unless the health care practitioner directs otherwise. This would allow time for the patient's doctor to verify potentially alarming and upsetting results and provide appropriate counsel.

Status: Passed the House, in Senate committee.

H.B. 2243 – ENSURING COMPREHENSIVE, COMPASSIONATE CARE FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS

This measure would require all hospitals or their respective emergency departments to have a certified sexual assault nurse examiner or sexual assault forensic examiner on staff at all times. A thorough and accurate forensic examination has proven to make a difference in a survivor's pursuit of justice and should be an inalienable right to survivors. It is imperative that our health care facilities adapt to the urgent need for tactful, trauma-informed medical care.

Status: in House committee.

H.B. 224 – EQUIPPING PARENTS TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES

This bill would require all PA school districts to publish on their public-accessible website the number of vaccinated and nonvaccinated students enrolled in each school year. This legislation would maintain confidentiality and remain sensitive to those who wish to refuse or delay vaccinations while equipping all parents with the information they deserve to decide on their own.

Status: in House committee.

H.B. 2442 – EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR USED VEHICLE DEALERS

This legislation would require online or in-person education for independent used vehicle dealers. The bill would require 20 hours of education for new applicants for licensure and two hours of continuing education for license renewals. Used vehicle dealers that have been operating for 10 years or longer will be exempt from the requirements. New vehicle dealers will also be exempt. Requiring education and training will better protect consumers, improve efficiency and reduce issues.

Status: in House committee.



30 YEARS OF HELPING VETERANS

This summer, I was exceedingly proud for my office to be a part of celebrating the 30 years of exceptional service given to our veterans at the Gino Merli Veterans Center in Scranton.

Commandant Vito Ruggerio and his team have provided such incredible, respectful care for our veterans and their families. The event was attended by Pennsylvania Adjutant General Mark J. Schindler who honored Charles Tansits of Scranton – a 103-years-young WWII veteran.

I am reminded that while we are forever grateful for the service these veterans gave to us, we can also be of service to them. Individuals and groups are encouraged to conduct fundraisers and provide donations to the Resident Welfare Fund to help to keep those residents active, healthy and engaged by providing a wide variety of activities, outings and entertainment. In return, you will experience the satisfaction that comes from selflessly giving to those who gave of themselves to serve our country and defend our freedom.

SCRANTON SCHOOL FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING VISITS CAPITOL

I am always happy to welcome groups and individuals from my district with visits and tours of the state Capitol in Harrisburg. If you or your group are interested in visiting, please contact my office.

One group that tries to get down for a visit and tour every year are the students and staff members from the Scranton State School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. This year, we brought them on to the floor of the House of Representatives where they were welcomed by Speaker of the House Joanna McClinton and Reps. Eddie Day Pashinski and Tarik Khan.

Joining these outstanding students were staff members Sarah Briggs, Assistant Principal; Carrie Rain, Executive Director of the Programs of WPSD (Western PA School for the Deaf); Josh Waltherhouse, Interpreter; Jessica Marks, Director of Outreach for the Programs of WPSD; Mackenzie Flanagan, Middle School Teacher; Kevin McDonough, Superintendent of the Programs of WPSD; and Dean Pettinato, Director of the Scranton School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



KOSIEROWSKI BRINGS HOME \$1.71 MILLION IN STATE GRANTS

In May, my Scranton colleague Rep. Kyle Donahue and I were pleased to announce that \$1.71 million in state Local Share Account grants were awarded by the Commonwealth Financing Authority for projects in Scranton and throughout Lackawanna County.

Not only do Pennsylvania casinos provide jobs and entertainment for thousands of people each year, but the taxes they pay also help to fund valuable projects like these ones in neighboring communities. Rep. Donahue and I worked in tandem with Sen. Marty Flynn to advocate for these grants and it's gratifying to see our diligence pay off for several organizations in our districts.

Projects funded by these grants include:

- \$200,000 for the construction of a sanitary sewer extension along Church Street in Moscow.
- \$144,000 for the Lackawanna County SWAT Team to replace their aging Lenco Bearcat with a new one to improve effectiveness.
- \$129,130 to repave the entrance and parking area at the Spring Brook Township municipal building.
- \$107,000 for a roof replacement at the Victor Alfieri Literary Society in Scranton.
- \$100,000 for a roof replacement at the Holy Rosary Center in Scranton.
- \$100,000 for the construction of a new playground on the grounds of the Beth Shalom Academy in Scranton.
- \$100,000 to pave a new driveway and parking lot at the Scott Township Hose Co. fire hall.
- \$80,000 for the Fellowship House streetscape improvements along Green Ridge Street and Sanderson Avenue in Scranton.
- \$65,000 to furnish a Senior Advocacy Center at Telespond Senior Services in Scranton.
- \$65,000 to purchase two vehicles for the Clarks Summit Police Department.
- \$60,000 to the West Scranton Junior Invaders for the demolition and reconstruction of bathroom facilities at athletic fields on Jackson Street in Scranton.
- \$60,000 to purchase a K-9 vehicle for the Scott Township Police Department.
- \$57,626 to upgrade and rehabilitate Clover Park and Harmony Park in Moscow.
- \$50,000 for improvements to the North Scranton Vikings Field located in Scranton.
- \$50,000 to revitalize the Green Ridge Little League field and facilities.
- \$50,000 to make improvements to the Little League batting cages on Theodore Street in Scranton.
- \$50,000 for construction of a semi-permanent structure to be used as indoor batting cages for the Tripp Park Miss-E League on Dorothy Street in Scranton.
- \$50,000 to purchase a municipal support truck in South Abington Township.
- \$45,000 to purchase kitchen equipment at the American Ukrainian Veterans Association of Lackawanna County in Scranton.
- \$44,000 for renovation of Point Balance Community Center that provides a recovery-friendly space for individuals and families to gather, socialize, enjoy leisure time and learn.
- \$38,349 to Connell Park Little League to purchase a drag machine and tractor to maintain the infield of three baseball fields in Scranton.
- \$28,001 to purchase boxing equipment for the Irish Boxing Club in Scranton.
- \$25,000 for the restoration, renovation and improvement of the Brooks Mine at Nay Aug Park in Scranton.
- \$21,375 for North Pocono Dandy Lion Little League to assist with the purchase of field grooming and maintenance equipment at a field in Spring Brook Township.

HEARINGS DISCUSS WAYS TO STOP HOSPITAL CLOSURES

Hospital closures and consolidations have left too many Pennsylvanians without the health care they need in the places they need it. For too long, we have experienced the horrible negative effects of closures and consolidations in Lackawanna County.

I recently hosted a public hearing on this issue with my colleagues Sen. Katie Muth and Sen. Marty Flynn in a joint House and Senate hearing to explore solutions to health care deserts in Pennsylvania. The conversations generated in these hearings will hopefully lead to improved health care across the full spectrum of care and hospitalizations and they have already resulted in improvements in health care staffing issues.



ABINGTON HEIGHTS MOCK TRIAL TEAM WINS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP!

What an incredibly proud day in Harrisburg this past June!

Back in March, the Abington Heights High School Mock Trial Team won their third State Championship in four years, and then they traveled to Delaware to compete against 48 states in the nationals - and came back home with the National Championship. This is the first team ever from Pennsylvania to win the National Championship in the nearly 40 years of the competition.



It was great to welcome this incredible group of young men and women when they were honored on the floor of the House of Representatives.

CO-OP FARMERS MARKET CELEBRATES 85 YEARS!

This summer marked the 85th Anniversary of the Co-op Farmers Market in Scranton!

This market is the only open-air market of its kind in Northeastern Pennsylvania and is member-owned by "producer only" regional farmers, allowing for a farm fresh "touch of country" in Scranton, where residents and visitors alike can stroll the stands, buying locally cultivated fruits and vegetables.

I am proud to be their state Representative and I salute these heroes of agriculture as they endeavor every day to promote healthy lifestyles and provide "farm-to-table" produce to all visitors of the Co-op Farmers Market.



Joint Senior Expo 2024

Friday, Sept. 13, 2024
11AM – 2 PM

With State Legislators & Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging

FREE PARKING & FEATURING OVER 70 VENDORS!

The Mall at Steamtown
300 Lackawanna Ave
Scranton, PA 18503

Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging office will be providing:

bag lunches and transportation from Senior centers!

Lackawanna County Board of Commissioners

Sen. Marty Flynn
33rd Senatorial District

Sen. Rosemary M. Brown
40th Senatorial District

Rep. Kyle J. Mullins
112th Legislative District

Rep. Kyle T. Donahue
113th Legislative District

Rep. Bridget M. Kozlowski
114th Legislative District

Rep. Jim Haddock
115th Legislative District



State Representative
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- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the PA House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE/PACENET cards for senior citizens
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies



**STATE REP.
BRIDGET KOSIEROWSKI**
Since taking office ...

\$29 Million 
in Funding Awarded to the District

54,596 
Constituent
Services Provided

   @RepBridget

Any issues with state government! Please contact us at (570) 562-2350.