



#### STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# PAUL TAKAC

#### DEAR NEIGHBOR,

It is truly an honor to represent you and the 62,000 other residents of the 82nd Legislative District. That is why I am so excited to take this opportunity to share some of the significant progress we've made both here in Centre County and in Harrisburg.

For example, in the new 2024-2025 state budget, school districts serving Centre County received **\$6.8M in new funding,** moving us ever closer to fulfilling our constitutional obligation to provide full and fair funding to every public school and student in Pennsylvania.

Another recent major accomplishment was the establishment of a \$10 million Agriculture Innovation Fund which I sponsored as House Bill 2310. This new program will be a game-changer for PA farmers and agribusinesses, offering reimbursement grants to help them adopt new technologies and best practices in order to improve efficiency and benefit the environment while boosting their bottom line. Critical investments such as this will help ensure that PA's agricultural sector remains a national leader in innovation and sustainability.

I am proud to note that **my bill** to improve the PA VetConnect program, to better connect veterans and their families to the help and resources they deserve, was also recently signed into law (more inside). And our efforts to

improve access to health care in underserved communities

led to the passage of legislation to protect our communities from losing access to vital services due to unnecessary health system consolidations and closures.

In addition to these budgetary and legislative successes, we have also made great strides in other critical areas here in Centre County. We've worked tirelessly to **secure** funding to improve infrastructure, enhance public safety, and support our first responders. And

and resources needed to expand our footprint and impact in every community we serve!

we have invested the time

I am committed to continuing our work with the same passion and dedication that have brought us this far. If you have any ideas or concerns about issues here in our community, contact my office and my team will assist you.

Thank you for your continued support and trust.

As we look to the future.

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Takac helps secure over \$715K in funding for Centre County Fire Companies

> \$2M for Shared Use Path along College Ave.

Takac scores additional \$75K for playground equipment in Snow Shoe

> Over \$10M in new funding for public schools serving the 82nd District

#### MORE THAN \$22.5M IN GRANTS AWARDED SINCE TAKING OFFICE

In the 82nd Legislative District, we've already received well over \$22.5M in federal and state funding since January 2023. This funding has been a game-changer for supporting vital community services, enhancing educational institutions, and bolstering our infrastructure. From fire and EMS companies to environmental restoration and school safety initiatives, these grant funds have touched every corner of our district, ensuring a brighter future for all our residents.

#### **BRINGING YOUR TAX DOLLARS BACK TO CENTRE COUNTY**

#### **Housing:**

Grants Totaling Over **\$1.2M** for Affordable Housing in Centre County.



\$1.2 Million
awarded to make housing more affordable for

residents of Centre County.

**Environment & Sustainability:** 

Nearly **\$1.8M** for Local Environmental Restoration Projects and Educational Programs



Water & Sewer infrastructure:
Over \$6.5M
for Public
Water & Sewer

**Improvements** 



**Transportation:**Over **\$4.8M** in Local
Transportation Projects







First Responders:
Over \$715K for Fire
& EMS Companies
serving the 82nd
District

And the **Mountaintop and Bald Eagle Valley Areas** have together received over **\$4.65M** in direct funding

#### **WORKING IN THE 82ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

The past few months, my district office team and I have been hard at work **organizing and supporting community-focused events** designed to enhance the lives of all Centre County residents. From our inaugural Grant Writing Workshop and our first Senior Fair/Scam Seminar to our Back to School Drives and mobile office hours, **we are committed to delivering the exemplary service you deserve.** 

If you have any suggestions for upcoming events, contact my office at (814) 308-0569 or email me at RepTakac@PAHouse.net.





## **GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP**

In February, our office held its **first Grant Writing Workshop**, equipping local organizations and individuals with **essential knowledge and skills** to further strengthen our communities. The workshop attracted a wide array of participants, from local nonprofit leaders and municipal employees to EMS volunteers and small business owners, **underscoring the crucial role of grant funding in bolstering community support.** 

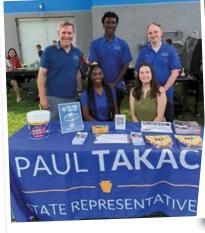
#### **SENIOR FAIR/SCAM SEMINAR**

In May, we hosted our first Senior Fair & Scam Seminar at Centre Care and it was an overwhelming success!

We brought together state and county agencies, local nonprofits, and other vendors to **provide resources for seniors** during the fair portion of the event, and our office put together a **diverse panel of experts** to provide attendees with the tools and resources needed **to help safeguard themselves against the latest scams** impacting our communities.









### **BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE & EVENT**

Our Back to School Drive in partnership with the YMCA of Centre County this year was a massive success! Building on last year's efforts, we worked over several months to collect supplies, all building to a fun and festive distribution event to hand out all the supplies at the YMCA of State College. Thanks to the incredible support from our community and our amazing partners, we were able to help hundreds of students get the supplies they need to start the school year strong. Not to mention a free cookout and slushies! Next year we plan to continue building on this success and help even more families in our region!

#### **BUILDING BRIDGES IN HARRISBURG**

Since taking office, I have focused on championing initiatives that have significant, positive impacts for Centre County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The progress we have made in enhancing our schools, opportunities, and communities serve as proof of what can happen when we work together. From streamlining essential services for our veterans to securing \$10 million in new funding for agriculture innovation, we **continue to deliver real results for the people of Pennsylvania.** Here is a briefl update on some recent victories.



# PUTTING MONEY BACK IN THE HANDS OF MORE PENNSYLVANIANS

**Great news! The deadline to apply for PA's Property Tax/ Rent Rebate Program has been extended.** Seniors and those with disabilities aged 18 or older have until Dec. 31 to apply for this newly expanded program.

And the **new, higher income limits** established this year are now tied to the cost of living moving forward, so folks will not have to worry about losing their eligibility in future years. Applications are open now so the sooner you apply, the sooner

you will receive your rebate.

Property Tax / Rent Rebate
2024 Program Expansion

MORE people eligible, MORE money back!

Homeowner &
Renter Income Max Rebate
Up to \$8K \$1,000
Up to \$15K \$770
Up to \$18K \$460
Up to \$45K \$380

In addition, we recently TRIPLED the PA Child Care Tax Credit for working families. It's money back for dependent and child care expenses – one of the biggest burdens on working parents. To learn more about these programs, call my office at (814) 308-0569.

SIGNED INTO LAW

#### VETERANS REGISTRY BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

I am honored to let you know that my first bill signed into law, H.B. 1086, will ensure veterans and their families receive the full benefits they are entitled to.

This crucial legislation permits the PA Department of Military

& Veterans Affairs to share data from the voluntary Veterans Registry with community and service partners in the PA VetConnect program.

I have also been appointed to the PA Task Force on Agent Orange and Other Toxins, established by H.R. 335, a resolution I introduced in the PA House and that was adopted unanimously.

These milestones **highlight my dedication to recognizing the service and sacrifices of those who served** our state and nation.

# MY \$10 MILLION AG INNOVATION FUND BILL SIGNED INTO LAW



I'm proud to share that my legislation, House Bill 2310, has officially established the Pennsylvania Agriculture Innovation Fund.

This \$10 million initiative is a key pillar of Governor Shapiro's 10-year plan for economic development by helping PA farmers, cooperatives, and food

processors embrace cutting-edge technologies and sustainable practices.

This fund supports projects such as capturing methane emissions and waste products to create renewable energy (and new income streams), precision agriculture to improve efficiency, and so much more. These investments will ensure our agriculture sector remains efficient, profitable, and environmentally responsible for generations to come.

# CREATING JOBS AND SUPPORTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

In the 2024-2025 budget, I was proud to champion the \$50M Pural John &

the \$50M Rural Jobs & Investment Tax Credit (RJITC) program.

It assists rural businesses to **expand** and create new, family-sustaining jobs. By fostering public-private partnerships,

the program directs capital into the hands of those committed to

growing PA's rural communities and will be **a key driver of future economic development.** 



#### **ON THE 2024-2025 BUDGET**

The 2024-25 Pennsylvania state budget includes an historic \$1.1 billion increase in support for public education. This includes increased funding for basic education, special education, new adequacy grants and property tax relief for underfunded districts, and \$100 million for mental health and school safety programs.



## 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 to address period poverty
- Over \$15M increase for Community Colleges
- Over \$140M for grants, scholarships, and other programs to make higher education more affordable in PA



## PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Closing a local hospital or healthcare facility can have a devastating impact on local communities, which is why **Rep. Lisa Borowski and I introduced House Bill 2344.** This legislation allows for a review of mergers in order to prevent avoidable, unnecessary impacts leading to higher costs or decreased access. By empowering the state attorney general with new oversight tools, we can **help ensure that health services remain available and affordable. The House passed this bill with strong bipartisan support, sending a clear message** that health must come before corporate profits. Now, it's up to the Senate to stand up for the well-being of our communities by passing House Bill 2344 and sending it to Governor Shapiro's desk for approval.

#### **DELIVERING ON EDUCATION FUNDING FOR CENTRE COUNTY**

As part of the budget signed by Gov. Shapiro in July, schools serving Centre County received significant increases in overall education funding. This nearly \$6.8 million in total new funding includes:

- Basic Education and Adequacy funding: \$4.23 million
- Special Education funding: \$776,000
- Cyber Charter reimbursement and reform: \$857,000
- Mental health and school safety: \$936,000

Notably, this budget also begins to address the urgent need to **reform cyber charter funding** in order to

provide relief to overburdened local taxpayers by allowing school districts to keep more of their own money and ensuring more of our students have the resources they need to succeed. Admittedly, we still have a long way to go to fulfill our constitutional obligation to provide full and fair funding so that every student in PA has a meaningful chance to succeed, but we are making real progress!

As a member of the House Education Committee, I will continue to be a relentless advocate for increased funding for public education. It was a key to my success in life and to so many others. It is the best investment we can make in our future.





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150 Harvest Fields Dr, Boalsburg, PA 16827

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**





**ACCEPTABLE PAWS DONATIONS:** 

PEANUT BUTTER XYLITOL FREE
MEDIUM & LARGE EASY WALK OR FREEDOM HARNESSES

CANNED DOG/ CAT FOOD UNDPENED DOG/ CAT TREATS CLEAN BLANKETS