



State Representative
JIM GREGORY
80TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



House Democrats leave Pennsylvanians in Bad Spot with State Budget

After an irresponsibly prolonged budget process, Pennsylvania finally completed the 2023-24 fiscal year budget. The budget ran 166 days late due to the failed leadership of House Democrats who delayed the adoption of the final elements of the more than \$45 billion spending plan. Failing to complete the budget in a timely manner negatively impacted several key initiatives, such as slowing funds for community colleges, career and technical schools, public libraries, and many other services included in the state budget allocates. Mismanagement from House Democratic leadership left Pennsylvania in a bad financial situation that will impact the state for years to come.

Through the budget process, House Republicans fought for our principles and delivered results, including education reform, and increasing funding for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (ETIC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs, which are significant investments in school choice.

On the revenue side of the budget, concern has grown that the General Fund is falling short in most categories, including the total corporation taxes, and total Personal Income Taxes collected. Such decreases indicate concern about the fiscal health of our Commonwealth moving forward.

The economic outlook over the next six months remains questionable and with the economy showing no significant improvement, Pennsylvania faces a structural deficit that will only be improved with significant budgetary reforms. There are still several emerging budget issues heading into the 2024-25 fiscal year that must be addressed for the Legislature to do its part in providing Pennsylvania with a more positive financial outlook.

As we turn to the second year of the current session, the Legislature needs to deliver with a timely bipartisan budget that focuses on responsible governing in a fiscally responsible manner. The state budget should always be done in a way that puts Pennsylvania first, and this year's must be an example



Mental Health and Substance Use Work

I was recently honored with the 2023 Mental Health and Substance Use Legislative Champion award by the national office of Mental Health America.

I have dedicated much of my time and energy to helping people who are struggling with addiction here in our community and across the Commonwealth. Receiving this award means a great deal to me. It further hardens the rock upon which I stand in fighting for all Pennsylvanians to get the help and support they need. Ensuring we as legislators in the Commonwealth provide our citizens with the resources and services necessary to begin and continue down the path of recovery is paramount. I will continue to fight for the people of the 80th District and across Pennsylvania on this issue.

Recently, I have been working on bipartisan legislation in Harrisburg that would establish a lifetime recovery from substance abuse grant program within the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. This grant program would aid in the development, growth and overall improvement of our Commonwealth's systems supporting recovery. Recovery support providers play a critical role in assisting those in recovery from substance abuse, and they deserve the Legislature's support and assistance in helping people get into recovery and stay for the rest of their lives.

Check out my social media!



RepGregory.com



Facebook.com/RepJimGregory



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SAVE THE DATES!



FARMERS BREAKFAST Friday, March 22

Area farmers and those with agriculture-related businesses are invited to a Farmers Breakfast with Rep. Jim Gregory and Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russel Redding. The secretary will provide an update on issues faced by farmers in the Commonwealth and answer questions. Please RSVP by calling my district office at 814-695-2398.



LICENSE PLATE REPLACEMENT

Wednesday, April 3 and 10

If your license plate is blistered, peeling or discolored, my staff will help begin the process of getting a replacement license plate. Please call my offices for more information.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM OPEN

The state's 2023 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is now open.

This year, more Pennsylvanians who are 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 years or older, and those 18 years or older with disabilities will be eligible to receive a rebate on the property taxes and rent paid last year. With Act 7 of 2023, the General Assembly passed the first expansion of the program in 20 years, with provisions for cost-of-living adjustments each year and increasing the income limits to \$45,000 and the maximum rebate to \$1,000. Applicants are encouraged to apply early. The Department of Revenue will begin processing applications in April and start sending payments July 1.

If you do not wish to apply online at www.mypath.pa.gov, assistance is available from my office at no cost. Please stop in with your proof of income (must be 1099s and W-2) and either your paid property tax receipts or a rent certificate signed by your landlord. If you have any other questions, please feel free to call my district office at **814-443-4230**.

Claimants can view information about their rebates and requirements online at www.revenue.pa.gov, or by calling, toll-free, **1-888-PATAXES**.

Check out my social media!



RepGregory.com



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