

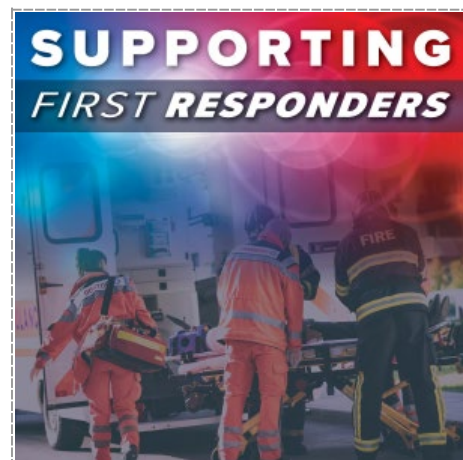
PCN Interview Examines Property Tax Elimination



On Monday, I was a guest on Pennsylvania Cable Network's (PCN) "On the Issues." Host, Larry Kaspar and I discussed the need for property tax elimination in Pennsylvania and my legislation to achieve it. Since being elected to the House, I have been a tireless advocate for property tax elimination. I believe it is essential to ensure Pennsylvania's solvency. On the program, we also discussed the state budget and why it is essential for the state auditor general to have the training and tools to conduct fraud and forensic investigations.

Supporting First Responders

The House unanimously approved legislation aimed at helping fire and emergency medical services (EMS) organizations recruit and retain personnel and maintain the vital services they provide. To encourage people to join their local fire or EMS company, [House Bill 1178](#), which is now pending action in the Senate, would provide \$1,000 in tuition assistance per year for full-time students and \$500 a year in assistance to part-time students who volunteer. To be eligible, the students must participate in 30% of the company's activities, must have been a volunteer for at least one year and promise to



volunteer for another five years after graduation. The bill directs \$1 million in funding for the program. It also would provide \$1 million for scholarships to EMS providers who complete approved training. Affordability of training is a major hurdle for EMS companies looking to both recruit and retain volunteers. The bill also would allocate \$250,000 to the current firefighter online training program and \$250,000 for a public service campaign on the safe operation of fireworks. An additional \$2.5 million in grant money is included to assist fire and EMS companies with capital improvements to facilities and the purchase and maintenance of equipment. Finally, the bill provides fire or EMS companies that have consolidated with the ability to continue to receive as much grant funding as they would have received if they hadn't consolidated.

Legislation to Support Small, Veteran-Owned Businesses Passes House

Legislation that would restore contracting opportunities for small, veteran-owned businesses recently passed the House. Prior to 2015, veteran-owned, small businesses in Pennsylvania enjoyed prime contracting opportunities with the Commonwealth under the Department of General Services' Small Diverse Business program. In September 2015, Gov. Tom Wolf changed the program to include small, diverse and veteran-own businesses. [House Bill 2682](#) would specify that veteran-owned businesses are small diverse businesses and would not be required to seek separate small business verification to qualify as such. This would make veteran-owned businesses eligible for certain state contracting opportunities. The bill is pending in the Senate.



Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

September is National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, which is designated to promote awareness and lead to cures. The most common cancer in children is leukemia, a type of blood cancer. Cancer can also occur in organs and tissues such as the lymph nodes (lymphoma), nervous system (brain tumors) and muscles, bone and skin (solid tumors).

According to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 43 children in the United States are diagnosed with cancer every day. Worldwide, about 400,000 children and adolescents are diagnosed with cancer each year. Cancer is the

leading cause of death by disease past infancy for U.S. children. However, due to improved treatment and therapies, more than 80% of childhood cancer patients in the U.S. now become long-term survivors. In fact, about 483,000 childhood cancer survivors live in the U.S., with many more around the world. Learn more about childhood cancer at the [National Cancer Institute](#).



Heading To College Next Year?



If you or someone you know will be attending college in the 2023-24 term, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form may be submitted starting this Saturday, Oct. 1. The FAFSA is required to qualify for various types of student aid, including the [Pennsylvania State Grant Program](#) offered through the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency. The new FAFSA application form will be available beginning Saturday morning and can be accessed by [clicking](#)

[here.](#)

'Tis the Season



Did you know Pennsylvania has a longer and more varied fall foliage season than any other place in the world? The “season” starts this Friday as leaves in some of the northern border counties begin approaching their best color. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources monitors the seven-week season on a map, which is updated every Thursday and can be viewed starting Friday by [clicking here](#).