



State Representative

SETH GROVE

196th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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Spring 2011



LET'S TALK ABOUT THE NEWS ON MY SITES AT

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Dear Neighbor:

With the start of a new year and a new legislative session, I want to take this opportunity to bring you up to speed regarding the activities of our state government.

Although Pennsylvania continues to climb out of the worldwide financial slump, there is a new optimism in Harrisburg. The Commonwealth has a new governor, Tom Corbett, and a new majority in the House of Representatives, led by Speaker Sam Smith and Leader Mike Turzai.

What this new leadership means for the people of Pennsylvania is a new way of doing business. The House has already moved a series of reform bills aimed at improving the way government operates. We are also working diligently to develop and pass a package of welfare reforms.

Perhaps the largest hurdle we face is crafting a state budget which meets the needs of our state without breaking the proverbial piggy bank. Pennsylvania is facing a multi-billion dollar budget deficit, but we are working on plans to sell off Pennsylvania's liquor stores, merge

the Turnpike Commission with PennDOT, and implement performance-based budgeting. Unlike the previous eight years, tax increases are not even on the table as an option because the new chiefs in town believe government should live within its means, just as you and I do.

Finally, I want to remind you of the services available through my district office. If you need assistance applying for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate program, contacting a state department or agency, or if you want to discuss any legislative matter, feel free to contact my district office. We are always happy to help, and we want to hear what you have to say.

Sincerely,

Seth M. Grove
State Representative, 196th District

Community-Calendar

Following is a list of upcoming events I am hosting. I invite you and your family to join me at any of these events to discuss the issues most important to our state and our community. You can also cut out this section of the newsletter as a convenient reference to what is happening in the 196th District.



LEGISLATIVE EGGS AND ISSUES BREAKFASTS:

*All breakfasts will begin at 8 a.m. Please R.S.V.P. as soon as possible by e-mailing your name, address, phone number and date of the event to wleahy@pahousegop.com or by calling (717) 767-3947.

Friday, April 1

Roundtop Mountain Resort / 925 Roundtop Road in Lewisberry

Friday, April 8

Country Meadows / 1920 Trolley Road in York

Friday, April 15

Windy Hill Senior Center / 50 North East Street in Spring Grove

Friday, May 6

Dover Valley Restaurant / 3720 Carlisle Road in Dover

LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON:

Saturday, April 30

Noon

Chow Down Family Restaurant
7523 Carlisle Road in Wellsville

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISPOSAL EVENT:

Saturday, April 30

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

West Manchester Township Building
380 E. Berlin Road in York

DISABILITY RESOURCE EXPO:

Saturday, May 14

9 a.m. – noon

Old Main at the York Fairgrounds
334 Carlisle Avenue in York

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REPGROVE.COM

The Case for Selling off Pennsylvania's Liquor Stores

Do you know who the largest wholesale purchaser of wine is in the United States? It is the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB). Created by Gov. Gifford Pinchot after the repeal of the federal prohibition amendment to "discourage the purchase of alcoholic beverages by making it as inconvenient and expensive as possible," the PLCB's mission has changed over time and it now promotes and advertises alcoholic beverages.

Pennsylvania should not be in the business of promoting, selling or marketing alcohol. A more appropriate role for the PLCB would be education, regulation and enforcement. This is exactly the idea behind the plan to amend the mission of the PLCB and to auction off and privatize Pennsylvania's liquor stores.

Not only is the plan fiscally prudent at a time when we are facing multi-billion dollar deficits, but it also will lead to a more consumer-friendly environment and will remove government from a business which is beyond its mandate.

The plan to auction the retail and wholesale operations is expected to generate an estimated \$2 billion. The state would retain its taxing ability but would eliminate the 18 percent Johnstown Flood Tax and replace it with a "gallage tax," along with several other tax reforms.

The proposal calls for the PLCB to retain regulatory, licensing and alcohol education functions, and it would share in the enforcement of liquor laws with state and local law enforcement.

This would be a big step for Pennsylvania and would leave Utah as the only state in the liquor business. I would like to hear your thoughts about the plan, which you can post on my Facebook page at [Facebook.com/RepSethGrove](https://www.facebook.com/RepSethGrove). I look forward to reading what you have to say and to continuing to discuss this plan with you. I will keep you informed of the details as they evolve.



My staff and I are happy to assist you with any state-related matters. Your concerns are our concerns. Pictured from left are Lisa Burkholder of my Harrisburg office; myself; and Wendy Leahy and Sandy Bush from my district office.

2011 TROUT STOCKING SCHEDULE



Trout stocking schedules will be available this spring at my district office for your convenience. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for the schedules, contact my office today.

A Commonsense Approach to Quarter Auctions



Sometimes legislation just comes down to a matter of common sense. Such is the case with legalizing quarter auctions hosted by nonprofit organizations and civic groups to raise funds for our community. Quarter auctions are currently illegal under the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act. This fact has put many county prosecutors in a difficult position because they simply cannot turn a blind eye to unlawful activity. In York County and other counties in the region, it has created controversy when district attorneys have warned organizations to cease holding quarter auctions or risk prosecution.

The groups engaging in the quarter auctions claim they are a great way to raise money for good causes, and I agree, so I have introduced legislation to legalize the practice. My legislation would allow charities to continue their fundraising efforts and would provide relief to prosecutors feeling pressure from both sides of the issue.

Quarter auctions are essentially the same as raffles, punch cards and pull tabs, which are currently regulated under Pennsylvania law. Amending the law to include quarter auctions simply makes sense.

Go Green with Paperless Newsletters

If you would prefer to receive your state government news via e-mail rather than traditional mail, simply go to RepGrove.com and click on the "e-newsletter" icon on the upper right corner of the page to sign up. Even if you already receive regular e-mail updates, you must complete this form and include your full mailing address so you can be removed from the newsletter mailing list. You will be notified via e-mail when a new edition of the e-newsletter is available.



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Around the 196th District



On Jan. 14, I spent the day working at Roundtop Mountain Resort to learn more about what happens during a typical day at one of central Pennsylvania's largest tourist attractions. I spent the day handing out ski boots and assisting riders in the snow tubing lanes. I am always looking for district work day opportunities so if you have a business or organization you think might be appropriate for this type of experience, contact my office.

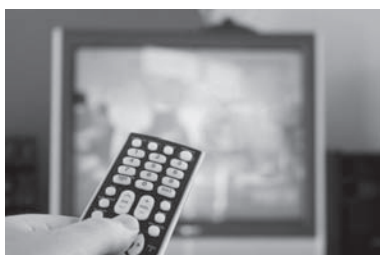


Recently, I was presented the Patriotic Employer Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). I was nominated by Seth Benge, my former chief of staff, who deployed in 2010 to Afghanistan and is now working full-time for the Pennsylvania National Guard. Pictured with me (from left) are Brigadier General Jerry Beck, Jim Astor of ESGR, Benge and Elizabeth Benge.

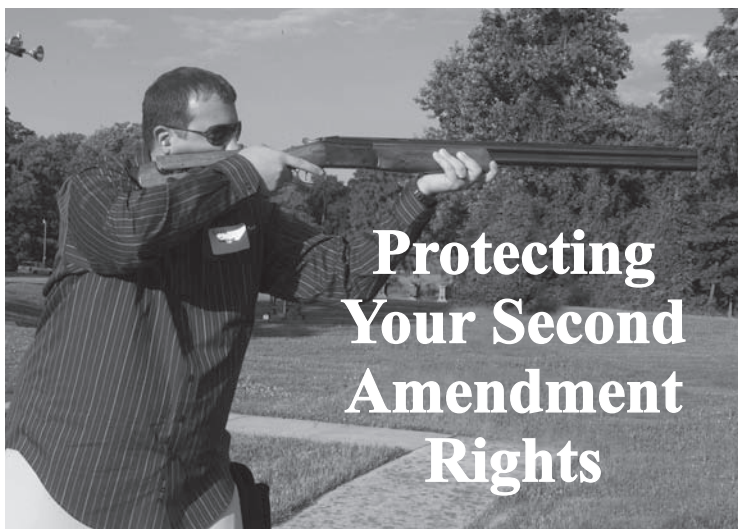
Keeping You Informed

Looking for a quick, easy and accurate source for state government news? Check out my videos, including my "Straight Talk with Seth" series, at my website, RepGrove.com. Videos are available by accessing the video option under the "Latest News" tab. I also post videos at [Facebook.com/RepSethGrove](https://www.facebook.com/RepSethGrove), and I invite you to post your comments about my clips there.

If you have a question about state government or legislation being considered by the House, I welcome your suggestions for future Straight Talk topics.



Recently, I visited the third-grade class of Renee Burgard at Paradise Elementary. The students invited me to the class and requested a flag, which I will proudly assist the students in raising for the first time in the near future.



Protecting Your Second Amendment Rights

Our Second Amendment rights are fundamental and a vital part of our national heritage, culture and freedoms. When I took the oath of office, I swore to support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and I will adamantly defend our Second Amendment rights, written into the Bill of Rights by our forefathers.

At this time, I have introduced three bills regarding the firearm rights of Pennsylvanians. These include:

- ◆ House Bill 819, which will allow individuals licensed or permitted to carry a concealed firearm in any other state to do the same in the Commonwealth.

- ◆ House Bill 820, which will prohibit during an emergency the confiscation or seizure of a firearm from an individual who lawfully possess one, including accessories and ammunition.

- ◆ House Bill 251, which will bring state firearm permit applications into agreement with the ATF Form 4472. This would allow a third party to assist an individual with his or her firearm permit application. My

legislation would apply to both the purchase of the firearm and the permit to carry a concealed firearm.

I also have drafted legislation to designate the Pennsylvania rifle as the official firearm of Pennsylvania. House Bill 910 will help to recognize the significance of the Pennsylvania rifle in the history of the United States and our great Commonwealth.

I will continue to diligently guard your rights, and I look forward to hearing your ideas on legislation to improve our community and our Commonwealth. Feel free to call my office at (717) 767-3947 or post your thoughts at [Facebook.com/RepSethGrove](https://www.facebook.com/RepSethGrove).

twitter

LINKS ARE AT RepGrove.com



Like

Legislation I Like

Like



Following is a list of legislative proposals I have either put forth myself or am co-sponsoring. Please note, this does not constitute a complete list. You can learn more about these bills at www.legis.state.pa.us. If you have any questions about this legislation, contact my office.

MY LEGISLATION

House Bill 245 would prohibit members of the General Assembly from being employed by or affiliated with a lobbying firm.

House Bill 246 would allow school-sanctioned educational experiences to count toward the required 180 days of instruction.

House Bill 247 would restrict the ability of telemarketers to reach individuals on their cell phones by establishing a "Do Not Text" list for those enrolled in the "Do Not Call" list.

House Bill 253 would allow the Department of Labor and Industry to garnish the wages of an individual who has been found to have fraudulently received an overpayment of unemployment compensation.

House Bill 254 would prohibit motorcycle learner's permit holders from renewing after one year and restricts re-application for the learner's permit to no more than three times in a 10-year period.

House Bill 255 would require the sentencing of a prior DUI offense before the sentencing of a subsequent violation to end multiple first offenses of DUIs.

House Bill 256 would increase the violation for DUI habitual offenders to a felony of the third degree and include a mandatory incarceration of no less than two years. It also provides for vehicle forfeiture.

House Bill 258 would create the "Prototypical School Facility Design Clearinghouse," which school districts would be required to use for construction projects in order to be eligible to receive state reimbursements.

LEGISLATION APPROVED BY THE HOUSE

House Bill 68 would amend Megan's Law to require sex offenders without a residence to register every 30 days with the Pennsylvania State Police as transients and sets penalties for sexually violent predators who knowingly fail to comply with monthly counseling sessions. The bill passed unanimously.

House Bill 75 would amend Megan's Law to provide for specific criminal sentences for sex offenders who fail to comply with registration requirements. The bill had one negative vote.

House Bill 103 would increase penalties for lobbyists engaging in prohibited activities. The bill passed unanimously.

House Bills 104 and 105 would strengthen whistleblower protections for *all* state employees and those in the private sector who are working on state contracts. These bills passed unanimously.

House Bill 107 would prohibit an individual who has been employed by a company offering a competitively sealed bid within the last two years from participating in the evaluation of such proposals. The bill passed unanimously.

House Bill 108 would make the Right-To-Know law applicable to public procurement contracts and provides for public inspection of non-competitively awarded contracts prior to execution of the agreement. The bill passed unanimously.

House Bill 109 would prohibit members of the General Assembly from creating or maintaining nonprofits receiving public funds. The bill had one negative vote.

I NEED YOUR INPUT ON PROPERTY TAXES!

I have recently been appointed to co-chair a policy development team to draft legislation that would improve Pennsylvania's school funding mechanisms – specifically, property taxes. I have heard from many citizens in the 196th District who list property tax reform as their number one priority.

I want your opinion on this issue. I invite you to visit my website, RepGrove.com, to take a survey about possible alternatives to property taxes. As I work with this policy development team, I will be sure to bring your ideas to the forefront.

Prescription Drug Disposal Event

Proper disposal of prescription drugs is vital to the health of our environment and ensures prescriptions do not fall into the wrong hands. Prescription drugs should never be flushed down the toilet because their chemical components can break down in our waterways. They also should not merely be thrown into the trash.

To help you properly discard unused, unwanted or expired prescriptions, I have partnered with the West Manchester Township Police to sponsor a drug disposal event, through the federal Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) National Take Back Initiative. In its National Take Back Initiative, held in September 2010, the DEA successfully collected tons of prescription drugs from across the country.

Saturday, April 30

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

West Manchester Township Building
380 E. Berlin Road in York

During the hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 30, you can drop off any prescription or over-the-counter tablets and capsules. Intravenous solutions, needles and illicit substances will not be accepted.

If you have any questions about the program, contact my office at (717) 767-3947.

CONTACT ME

clip and save

REP. SETH GROVE

196th Legislative District

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