

State Representative

**ROB
KAUFFMAN**



Pennsylvania
House Of
Representatives

Proudly Serving the **89th** Legislative District – Franklin County

Summer 2026

2026-27 State Budget Recap

I voted “no” on the state budget this year because the proposal continues to increase spending without the needed revenue to pay for it. The “advertised” total for the 2026-27 budget is \$50.85 billion, which is already more money than what the state brings in each year. Couple that with accounting tricks to “hide” or defer roughly \$1.5 billion in additional costs, and the total budget number is closer to \$52.5 billion.

This total amounts to nearly \$4 billion more than the state raises in revenue each year, which means we are \$4 billion short the funding needed to cover our costs. This type of irresponsible management of tax dollars will eventually lead to higher taxes or accumulating large amounts of debt and raiding our state’s savings.

Creative accounting may create the illusion of a balanced budget, but we are just kicking the can down the road in terms of true fiscally responsible budgeting. We can and should do better so our state is on stronger financial footing.

However, I am pleased we were able to get a few concessions. This budget is less than what the governor originally wanted. It also doesn’t include the legalization of marijuana or compromise the successful Educational Improvement Tax Credit program. Chambersburg Area School District also will receive \$54.8 million in funding for basic education, special education and a Ready to Learn Block grant. That’s an increase of 11.5% over the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Update on Data Center Legislation

The rapid growth of data centers around the country and in Pennsylvania presents serious challenges for the Commonwealth and for our communities. While many of us do not want them in our community, there are many communities that would welcome the economic development. It is not legal or constitutional to simply say NO to data centers. Our local governments are on the frontline of ensuring that any potential development in our individual communities meets that community’s standards through their ordinances.

Gov. Josh Shapiro previously highlighted his desire to attract more data center development to Pennsylvania. However, many areas of the Commonwealth have not yet established the policies needed to manage this growth responsibly.

I co-sponsored and supported **House Bill 2496** to assist our local governments as they seek to update their ordinances to meet the ever-evolving challenges proposed data centers pose. This legislation would give municipalities the opportunity to place a 180-day pause on new data center applications, allowing local officials to study the potential impacts and determine what protections may be needed.

In addition, I supported **House Bill 2198**, which would eliminate a tax exemption originally enacted to encourage development in 2021, long before anyone understood the challenges data centers would bring. Data center corporations should compete on the same footing as other businesses in Pennsylvania.

Both House Bill 2496 and House Bill 2198 are in the Senate awaiting action.

Out and About...



The Bridge Educational Foundation presentation of \$15,000 in school choice scholarships thanks to Orrstown Bank and Waste Management.



Touring Occupational Services, Inc. (OSI) in Chambersburg.



Wishing Sam Worley a happy 105th birthday!



Meeting with Franklin County Career & Technology Center students and others for a great discussion about enrollment trends, programming, student placement and more.

Legislative Roundup

The following is a roundup of some recent bills I voted in support of that seek to make life in Pennsylvania safer and more affordable.

• **Cutting Consumer Electric Bills – House Bill 2224** would represent the largest tax cut in the history of Pennsylvania. It would implement the elimination of the nearly 6% Gross Receipts Tax on utility bills, saving Pennsylvania families a collective \$1.7 billion. House Bill 2224 passed the House unanimously and is pending consideration in the Senate.

• **Banning Forever Chemicals – House Bill 2145** would ban so-called “forever chemicals” from popular consumer products in the Commonwealth. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS, are found in many common household products, such as cosmetics, dental floss, menstrual products, and juvenile products, such as crib mattresses and strollers. The chemicals have been linked to serious health issues such as cancer; immune-system suppression; reproductive and developmental complications; and increased risk for thyroid disease, liver damage and more. The bill is pending consideration in the Senate.

• **Protecting Kids from Online Predators – House Bill 1098** would create a state grant program to help law enforcement find, investigate and prosecute internet predators who target children. Known as Alicia’s Law, the legislation is named after Alicia Kozak, a Pittsburgh-area girl who was abducted in 2002 at the age of 13 by a man she met online. The bill would specifically establish the Investigation and Prosecution of Internet Crimes Against Children Program. The program would establish a state-level funding structure to fund law enforcement task forces made up of state and local prosecutors dedicated to investigating and prosecuting online crimes against minors; supplement federal funding for task forces combating child sexual exploitation online; and train task force members on the latest techniques for detecting, investigating and prosecuting these crimes. The bill is now pending consideration in the Senate.

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Keeping In Touch...

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Saving South Mountain Golf Course



It was great to see the community come together and rally around South Mountain Golf Course when the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) threatened to close the course last year. Recently, the George family, who own the course, hosted an event to thank all its supporters who fought to save the golf course after DCNR renewed its lease for 10 years. It was an honor to stand up for the George family, South Mountain Golf Course and its supporters. The course, and what it provides for the community, was truly worth the fight.

Deadline Extended for 2025 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

The deadline for senior citizens and Pennsylvanians with disabilities to apply for rebates on rent and property taxes paid in 2025 has been extended to Dec. 31.

Income limits for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program increased again this year to \$48,110 for both homeowners and renters. Remember to exclude 50% of Social Security when determining your income. The maximum rebate is \$1,000.

The program is open to residents age 65 years and older; widows and widowers 50 years and older; and people with disabilities 18 years and older. Remember – you do not need to pay anyone for assistance to apply for the rebates. Apply online at **mypath.pa.gov**, or contact my office for help.

State Representative Rob Kauffman's

Senior Fair

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25

9 A.M. TO NOON

Grand Point Church

2230 Grand Point Road, Chambersburg, PA

FREE LUNCH INCLUDED!

**GRAB & GO
LUNCH**

COMPLIMENTS OF SHIPPENSBURG REHAB

• More than 60 vendors!

Various state agencies, local governments, businesses and non-profit agencies will be available to provide information and answer questions.

• Vendor Door Prizes!

Awarded throughout the event.

• Grand Prize Drawing!

Grand prize cards will be available to take to vendors; once completed you will be eligible to enter for the grand prize provided by Shippensburg Rehab & Health Care Center.

Sponsored by

Shippensburg Rehabilitation & Health Care Center,

121 Walnut Bottom Road, Shippensburg, PA

717-530-8300

"Where neighbors care for neighbors and friends take care of friends"