



Serving the 57<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Tim Krieger**

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HARRISBURG, PA  
PERMIT NO. 432

Fall 2011

## On-Time 2011-12 State Budget Balanced With No Tax Increases & Common Sense Welfare Reform

### Dear Friends:

For the first time in eight years, the General Assembly approved a state General Fund budget that is balanced and on time.

While not everyone is fully pleased, the people of Pennsylvania can be satisfied that with this year's final **\$27.15 billion state budget**, state government is finally going to live within its means, without any tax increases.

Some perhaps are disappointed that the state did not spend away the alleged "surplus." We must be clear, however, that the collection of revenues in excess of what was anticipated at the beginning of last year does not make a surplus.

Put simply, there is no surplus. The unanticipated revenues received pale in comparison to Pennsylvania's outstanding liabilities, which are now in excess of **\$50 billion**.

### Welfare Reforms Address Waste, Fraud and Abuse

We will continue to face challenges in the coming year. Annual welfare spending, for example, has increased from \$6 billion to \$10.56 billion since 2003.

The final 2011-12 state budget included more than **\$400 million in spending reductions** to the originally proposed Department of Public Welfare (DPW) budget, as well as mandated several necessary welfare reforms.

Specific welfare reforms include:

- **Drug Testing for Drug Felons Applying for Public Assistance:** Tests will now be required for drug felons to ensure that welfare benefits are not being used to buy drugs.
- **Anti-Benefit Shopping:** This change ensures welfare recipients only receive the benefits they are eligible for in their county of legal residence and helps prevent fraud by prohibiting "shopping around" for the highest benefit.
- **Income Eligibility Verification System:** DPW will use an electronic cross-reference system to provide a 19-point check on applicants' eligibility and create a standard fraud detection system.

While these reforms are a good start, more needs to be done. The taxpayers of Pennsylvania rightly demand that abuse of the public welfare system must end. Along with my colleagues on the **House Republican Welfare Reform Task Force**, I will continue to demand that common sense welfare reform remains a top priority.

Should you have any questions, comments or concerns relating to state government issues, please do not hesitate to contact me. My staff and I are here to work for you.

Serving the 57<sup>th</sup> District,

*Tim Krieger*

Visit me on the Web at **REPKRIEGER.COM**



As a member of the PA House Coal Caucus, Representative Krieger recently toured the Consol Bailey Mine in Greene County.

## Krieger Calls Forced Retreat on Trillion Dollar Obama Ozone Mandate a Victory for Pennsylvania's Job Creators

The Obama administration's recent executive order for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to withdraw a reduction to the primary ozone emissions standard, estimated to cost U.S. businesses up to **\$1 trillion annually**, is a much-needed victory for Pennsylvania's job creators and economic recovery.

Pennsylvania has already made great strides in improving air quality. Any further reduction to the primary ozone standard, especially when air quality emissions were just reduced in 2008, is a prime example of the job-killing regulatory overreach that will prolong both our state and national economic recoveries.

The following excerpts are taken from a June 2011 letter I sent to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson in opposition to any reduction to the primary ozone standard:

*"Westmoreland County still struggles to meet present air quality standards. We are challenged by many forces beyond our control, including topography, weather, prevailing winds and a geographic location that subjects us to a steady stream of air pollutants from Midwest power plants, the Ohio River Valley, and industries and vehicles in other areas.*

*It seems blatantly unfair to impose even more stringent requirements on areas like mine knowing full well there is little realistic chance that they can be met. Our communities, local governments, small businesses, industries and workers will all suffer because of a heavy-handed federal regulatory mandate that they will never be able to satisfy.*

*Lowering the ozone limit would have direct, negative effects. A standard of 60 ppb would saddle Pennsylvania with estimated attainment costs of more than **\$50 billion** over the next 10 years. Our state gross domestic product would be reduced by **\$32.5 billion**, and by our estimates, **350,000 jobs** would be lost...I strongly urge you to reconsider this policy and leave the ozone level at its present level."*

## Legislation I Support

The following is a list of legislative proposals I have either voted for or have co-sponsored.

### Protecting Taxpayers

Passed unanimously by the House and signed into law on June 30, **House Bill 15** establishes the **PennWATCH** online database to allow state taxpayers to conveniently monitor government expenses and other statistical information to hold elected officials fiscally responsible and accountable.

### Castle Doctrine (Now Law)

**House Bill 40** makes Pennsylvania the **24<sup>th</sup> state** to adopt the **Castle Doctrine** to fully restore the legal ability of law abiding Commonwealth residents to use **lethal force** to defend themselves against violent criminals. Signed into law on June 28, the **Castle Doctrine** passed the House by a margin of 164 to 37.

### Lawsuit Abuse Reform (Now Law)

**Senate Bill 1131 (Fair Share Act)** reforms the state's joint and several liability law by ensuring that defendants found negligent or liable for an injury are responsible for only their share of the damages. Aimed at protecting taxpayers, job creators and the medical community from frivolous lawsuits, the **Fair Share Act** was also signed into law on June 28.

### Combating Voter Fraud

Modeled after Indiana's photo identification law, which was upheld as Constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2008, the **Pennsylvania Voter Identification Protection Act (House Bill 934)** would amend the state election code to require voters to present valid photo ID before voting. **House Bill 934** passed the House by a margin of 108 to 88.

### Elimination of Automatic COLAs for Elected Officials

**House Bill 1380** would eliminate automatic **Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs)** for the vast majority of Pennsylvania's publicly elected officials, including: members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly; the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Treasurer, Auditor General and the Attorney General; justices and judges of statewide courts, common pleas courts, Philadelphia Municipal Court, Philadelphia Traffic Court, and district justices.

Visit me on the Web at **REP KRIEGER.COM**

# REFORM REPORT

## Krieger Legislation to Bring Transparency to State Contracting Wins Unanimous House Approval

In early June, my legislation (**House Bill 1021**) to amend the Pennsylvania Procurement Code provision relating to competitive selection procedures for professional attorney services performed by non-Commonwealth employees was unanimously approved by the state House.

The past decade has witnessed a dramatic increase in the use of private contingency fee attorneys on behalf of state governments by both attorney generals and governors. While there is often a good reason for states to hire private outside lawyers in specific cases, the lack of uniform policies to govern such arrangements is ripe for potential abuse and conflict of interest.

Leading state attorney generals have called for reforms that recognize the discretion and independence needed to enforce state laws free from the influence of parties that may have a vested private interest in the outcome of litigation. Proposed reform measures have also sought to deliver maximum benefit for state taxpayers. Achieving both of these ends, **House Bill 1021** is carefully crafted to ensure that support for government transparency and accountability transcends an individual's tenure in office. This legislation also guarantees reasonable contingency fees and preserves the public's best interests by codifying requirements that the state remains in complete control of litigation when it hires outside contingency fee counsel.

**House Bill 1021** is now awaiting consideration in the state Senate. For the latest legislative updates, visit [RepKrieger.com](http://RepKrieger.com).

## 2010 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Deadline Fast-Approaching

The deadline to file for Pennsylvania's **Property Tax Rent Rebate** program is **Dec. 31**.

Funded by the Pennsylvania Lottery, the program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians who are 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 years or older, and those 18 years or older with permanent disabilities.

Eligible participants can receive a rebate of up to **\$650** based on their rent or property taxes paid in 2010. The income limit is **\$35,000** for **homeowners** and **\$15,000** for **renters**.

Applicants can exclude one-half of Social Security income, so individuals who earn substantially more than \$35,000 may still qualify for a rebate.

**2010 Property Tax/Rent Rebate claims forms** are available online at [RepKrieger.com](http://RepKrieger.com) or by contacting my district office.



Representative Krieger, wife Ellie and family welcomed more than 60 students from the Westmoreland Suzuki School of Music for a performance at the State Capitol. Prior to their performance, the students were officially recognized on the floor of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.



Representative Krieger assisted in the tagging of this black bear during his 2011 Sportsmen's, Family and Youth Event held at the Police Rod and Gun Club in New Alexandria. This bear was safely tagged and released for future identification and research purposes.

Visit me on the Web at [REPKRIEGER.COM](http://REPKRIEGER.COM)

# SAVE THE DATES!

## LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

**SATURDAY, OCT. 29  
9 A.M. TO 11 A.M.**

**HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP BUILDING  
GREENSBURG-HEMPFIELD BUSINESS PARK  
1132 WOODWARD DRIVE, SUITE A**

Breakfast is FREE, but reservations are required. Please contact the Greensburg district office at (724) 834-6400 by Monday, Oct. 24 to R.S.V.P.

---

## YOUNGWOOD CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

**THURSDAY, DEC. 15  
NOON TO 2 P.M.**

**YOUNGWOOD BOROUGH BUILDING  
17 SOUTH 6TH STREET**

Join Rep. Krieger and his staff for light refreshments and learn more about the wide variety of services offered through his district office.

## DISTRICT OFFICES

My staff and I are always ready to assist constituents of the 57<sup>th</sup> District with a number of state-related matters, including PennDOT paperwork, PACE and PACENET applications for senior citizens, 2010 Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms and many others.

### GREENSBURG OFFICE

101 Ehalt Street  
Suite 105 (at the Train Station)  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
Telephone: (724) 834-6400  
Fax: (724) 834-6799

### YOUNGWOOD OFFICE

Youngwood Borough Building  
17 South 6th Street  
Youngwood, PA 15697  
Telephone: (724) 925-5490  
Fax: (724) 925-5491

### EMAIL

[TKrieger@pahousegop.com](mailto:TKrieger@pahousegop.com)

---

## Response Form for Rep. Tim Krieger's Korean War Veterans' Commemoration Event

In 2012, I plan to honor Korean War veterans residing in the 57<sup>th</sup> Legislative District. If you or someone you know is a Korean War veteran, please fill out this form and return to **Rep. Tim Krieger, 101 Ehalt St., Suite 105, Greensburg, PA 15601**. Once we receive your contact information, we will add your name to a list to receive details on the Korean War Veterans' commemoration event that will be held in the upcoming year. For questions, call my Greensburg office at (724) 834-6400.

Name of Veteran: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Years of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person submitting info: \_\_\_\_\_

(if you are submitting for a friend or family member)

Visit me on the Web at [REPKRIEGER.COM](http://REPKRIEGER.COM)