

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

SPRING 2026

WHOLE MILK FINALLY BACK IN SCHOOL CAFETERIAS

Schools across the Commonwealth and the nation can finally offer delicious whole milk and flavored milk to our students again thanks to passage of the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act in Congress.

This is a win-win for the health of our children and the health of the dairy industry.

Milk offers our kids 13 essential nutrients that support health and academic success, but many had been missing out on these nutrients because the Obama administration banned these tasty options in favor of milks most kids would

never even think of drinking.

In fact, studies have shown a 35% reduction in student milk consumption since those regulations took effect. At the same time, the state has lost thousands of dairy farms. Clearly these trends are connected.

I have worked on this issue for several years at the state level and am grateful to Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson for his commitment and persistence in the fight to get real milk back into our schools across the nation.



ADDRESSING UNSPEAKABLE EVIL

Our children are our most precious resource, and it is heartbreaking to hear about the evil some of them experience at the hands of their own family members.

In talking with a local prosecutor, I learned some defendants in child sexual abuse material (CSAM) cases revealed how it would be easier to raise and use their own children and relatives rather than employ human trafficking methods to find victims to create these materials. That is simply horrific.

I have introduced legislation that would provide a sentencing enhancement when a defendant is convicted of creating, distributing or possessing child sexual abuse material (CSAM) that depicts the defendant's relative. Our first priority is always to prevent such crimes, but it is also important to ensure justice is served when heinous acts are committed against children.

House Bill 1835 is pending consideration by the House Judiciary Committee.



Attorney General Dave Sunday, Wyoming County DA Joe Peters and Lantern Rescue Founder Korrin Moon help lead the fight against human trafficking.

THE FACTS ABOUT ZONING

As conversations around data centers continue to grow, commissioners from Tioga and Bradford counties have been meeting with municipal officials to discuss planning and zoning. The meetings generated a lot of great discussion, and I think it is important for all of us to understand how zoning works.

The General Assembly gives the power and responsibility to plan for and control land use to local governments. They can plan for development through preparation of a comprehensive plan and govern such development through zoning, which directs where different uses may be placed in a municipality. **Land use planning is not mandatory, but if a municipality chooses not to zone, it cannot restrict where a use may be placed.**

Under state law, each municipality that chooses to zone must provide for every allowable use within its borders. Municipalities that choose

to participate in a multi-municipal comprehensive plan are relieved of this "fair-share zoning" requirement if the use is adequately provided for within the area of the multi-municipal plan.

The meetings the commissioners hosted were led by the county planning departments and featured officials from the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, as well as local consulting groups, to help answer questions and ensure local officials have the information, tools and resources necessary to best meet the needs of their communities.

I have heard from people on all sides of this issue. If you would like to share your thoughts, please contact one of our offices and I'll be happy to talk with you. I would also encourage you to share your views with your local elected officials.

80/20 ISSUES DEMAND ACTION: **VOTER ID**

While it is true ideological differences often lead to political gridlock in the halls of the Capitol, some of these issues actually have broad, bipartisan support among voters.

Voter ID is one such issue.

According to the Pew Research Center (2024), more than 4 in 5 Americans (81%) support requiring voters to show photo identification to vote. Supporters come from all political parties because everyone wants secure, accurate elections.

I introduced **House Bill 759** to both require voters to show ID each time they cast a ballot AND require the Department of State and county boards of elections to provide a durable voter registration card to ensure ALL registered voters have the identification necessary to vote. The bill was referred to the House State Government Committee last March.



There is so much good in our community! Thank you to the folks at Chopped Out Hunger in Towanda and Goodies for Our Troops in Wellsboro for their great work to fight child hunger and support our troops and veterans. I'd love to learn more about your business or nonprofit. Call our office to schedule a visit!

State Representative

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MAKE THE CONNECTION!

Community Connection is our weekly email that aims to share stories that bring us together as a community and connect us to one another in ways that demonstrate there are so many more things that unite rather than divide us. The email includes important news from here at home and your state Capitol. Thank you for reading!



DON'T MISS OUT!
SIGN UP TODAY AT
REPOWLETT.COM

YOU'RE INVITED!

Breakfast Meeting on Agriculture | Co-hosted with Sen. Gene Yaw
Thursday, April 9, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Tioga County Fairgrounds, Main Building | 2258 Charleston Road, Wellsboro

Join us for an informative conversation about farm legacy and succession planning, as well as policies under discussion to support Pennsylvania farmers.

Seating is limited, and registration is required at
www.senatorgeneyaw.com/ag-breakfast-reg/.

The deadline to register is Thursday, March 26.

Future Entrepreneur Summit: Focus on the Trades

Thursday, April 16, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Lambs Creek Events | 200 Gateway Drive, Mansfield

Please join us for an informative summit geared to high school juniors and seniors interested in building a future in the trades, as well as people who have started a business in the trades in the last two years or are looking to do so in the near future.

To RSVP, visit www.RepOwlett.com/events or call the Wellsboro office at 570-724-1390 or the Troy office at 570-297-3045.

Our summer/fall event lineup is coming soon. Watch our weekly Community Connection email for updates!

DEFENDING OUR DAUGHTERS

Join me in the fight to protect the rights of female athletes to have a safe, fair and equal playing field; to compete to win games, championships and titles; to earn scholarships; and to have private locker rooms spaces, without males being present.

Learn more and sign the "I Believe" promise at defendingdaughters.com.

