

STATE REPRESENTATIVE **TOM JONES**

PROUDLY SERVING THE 98TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Responsible Budgeting *is a Must*

For years, Pennsylvania has done budgeting the same way, which has led to excessive spending during good years. During recessions it forced policymakers to choose between immediate spending cuts and tax hikes, evading the balance rule or being open to federal bailouts.

That is why I authored the Responsible Budgeting Act (House Bill 1947) that includes a spending limit that reflects trend economic growth with a deficit brake, limits on raising revenue, a reserve fund, and provisions for emergency spending and disposition of excess revenue through tax rebates and debt reduction.

As we quickly approach the fiscal year 2026-27 budget season, I believe it is of the utmost importance to ensure Pennsylvania is budgeting properly, within our means and with sound safeguards in place. My bill would provide policy stability even in a dynamic economy. The resulting increase in policy predictability promotes economic growth and reduces stress for policymakers and the public. Policymakers can focus more on higher-value policy than reacting to frequent economic and fiscal shifts.

Cash Now Accepted at School Events

Great news! A new state law makes cash an acceptable form of payment for admission to school-sponsored events in Pennsylvania.

Many schools across the Commonwealth stopped accepting cash as a form of payment for school-sponsored events and activities, instead requiring spectators to use credit or debit cards, or order tickets online or through an app. This doesn't work for people who, for various reasons, may not have credit cards or smart phones, or the technical capabilities to access the internet to purchase tickets.

Ticket purchases through the internet or apps also require buyers to surrender a lot of personal information, which is particularly troublesome for senior citizens, a group often targeted by scams.

For many who simply want to see their child, grandchild or friends play ball, the new law permits them to purchase tickets with cash – the legal currency of the United States.

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH!

There are numerous ways for us to stay connected regarding all the news coming out of Harrisburg. I send weekly email updates about important legislation, events in the district and other information you will find helpful.

It's easy to receive these updates by signing up at

RepTomJones.com/Email-Signup.

You can also follow me on social media at:

Facebook.com/RepTomJones and Instagram.com/RepTomJones.

AROUND THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND



It was an incredible privilege to tour the Lickdale Veterans Outreach Center and Fort Indiantown Gap with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Pennsylvania National Guard.



Rochelle and I had a fantastic time celebrating Reist Popcorn Company's 100-year anniversary in Mount Joy. This milestone honors a century of dedication and family tradition, now carried into the fourth generation of ownership.



The Pennsylvania March for Life was a great opportunity to stand together for life, for families and for our very first God-given right. May we all have the courage to stand and speak out for life every day!



Thank you to Auditor General Tim DeFoor for joining us for Coffee and Conversation. His perspective on the role of the office, along with his willingness to engage in an open dialogue, helped make this a valuable and informative discussion.

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TOM JONES

98TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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**COFFEE AND
CONVERSATION
IS BACK IN '26!**



The new year is here and so are my popular monthly Coffee and Conversation events!

Coffee and Conversations are held from 9-10 a.m. on the second Thursday of the month at my district office at 222 S. Market St., Elizabethtown. The next Coffee and Conversation will be held Thursday, Feb. 12, followed by events March 12, April 9 and May 14.

At each Coffee and Conversation, we will have an interesting topic or special guest with plenty of opportunities to ask questions.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

My office hosts numerous events throughout the year. To stay up-to-date on all the upcoming events, be sure to go to the events section of my website, RepTomJones.com.



SENIOR VALENTINE'S EVENT
THURSDAY, FEB. 12, FROM 2-3:30 P.M.

at Paramount Senior Living, 2760 Maytown Road, Maytown

Seniors are invited to enjoy refreshments and entertainment including the *"Not So Newlywed Game*. Couples married 40 years or more may sign up to participate in the game should they choose. Receive information about services for seniors.



CONCEALED CARRY EVENT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, FROM 6-8:30 P.M.

at Freedom Outfitters, 1658 Steel Way Drive, Mount Joy

Learn about federal and state laws regarding firearms, including concealed carry laws!



FREE SHREDDING EVENT

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, FROM 4-6 P.M.

in the parking lot of St. Paul's Church, 398 N. Locust St., Elizabethtown
Bring your outdated documents to be properly destroyed!

Papers must be in loose form. Residents only; no businesses, please.

To register for these events, please call **717-367-5525**
or visit the events page at RepTomJones.com.