

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

R. Lee James

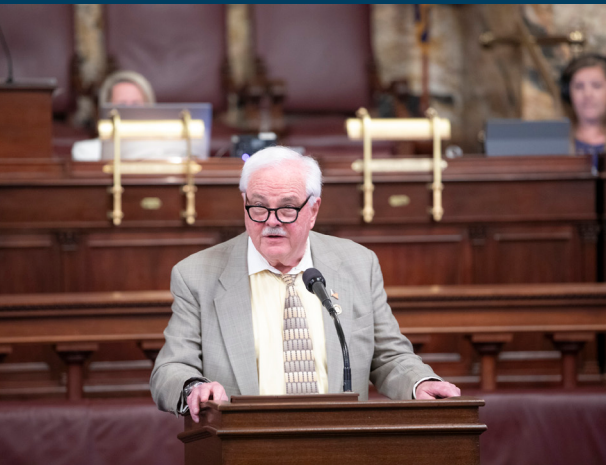
64TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

SUMMER 2026

Dear Neighbor,

Recently, the \$50.8 billion spending plan for the 2026–27 Fiscal Year went into effect. I supported the plan because it reflected meaningful progress toward fiscal responsibility. While no budget is perfect, the agreement was nearly \$2.5 billion below the governor's original proposal — a clear indicator of our successful efforts to rein in spending and create a sustainable final product.

My staff and I are eager to assist you. You can reach out to us by phone at my district offices or Harrisburg office, send in a contact form through RepJames.com, reach us by mail or attend one of our events.



Supporting Largest Tax Cut in Pennsylvania's History

With utility bills continuing to strain family budgets, I was proud to join in the unanimous support of legislation to eliminate a nearly 6% tax on electricity. House Bill 2224 would represent the largest tax cut in the history of the Commonwealth, saving Pennsylvania families \$1.7 billion.

We have been leading on affordability measures based on tax cuts that can immediately slash the bills paid by Pennsylvanians and put more money in the pockets of our working families. In addition to eliminating the Gross Receipts Tax on utility bills, we are also advocating for a six-month suspension of the tax on cell phone services and the gas tax, as well as a temporary reduction in the state's Personal Income Tax. Additional sales tax holidays have been proposed on an array of items, from baby supplies and sports equipment to gardening supplies and tools.

House Bill 2224 passed the House unanimously and is pending consideration in the Senate.

Keeping the Lights On and Costs Down

As residents in the 64th District experience significant heat waves, I joined House Republicans in unveiling a comprehensive 10-bill legislative package designed to keep the lights on, lower electricity costs, expand reliable baseload generation and cement Pennsylvania's role as America's energy leader.

This package of bills came on the heels of the House passing House Bill 2224, which I explained in the article to the left. Additional bills in the package would:

- Establish a one-year timeline for environmental permit appeals.
- Create a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Permit Ombudsman to assist applicants and improve permitting efficiency.
- Modernize Environmental Hearing Board appeals to focus on the administrative record developed during permitting.
- Eliminate the DEP regulatory petition process that allows outside organizations to initiate new regulations.
- Align state environmental permitting standards with applicable federal standards.
- Protect Pennsylvania ratepayers from subsidizing electric transmission costs driven by other states through a Pennsylvania-first grid reliability approach.
- Replace the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards with a Reliable Energy Portfolio Standard that prioritizes dependable, dispatchable generation.
- Protect consumer energy choice through a uniform statewide policy that preserves access to a variety of energy sources.
- Ensure projects with valid DEP permits are not unnecessarily stalled while permit appeals are pending.

Pennsylvanians were warned of a mounting strain on the regional electric grid, and our vision would create more stability and reliability.

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 RepJames.com

 /RepLeeJames

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Titusville Office

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Capitol Office

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UPCOMING EVENTS

14TH ANNUAL SENIOR EXPO

Wednesday, Aug. 19, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rocky Grove Volunteer Fire Department, 29 Shuffstall St., Franklin, PA 16323

Vendors will be there to provide information about programs and services for senior citizens. For more information, call 814-827-6054 or visit my website at RepJames.com.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING 101: SPOTTING THE SIGNS

Thursday, Aug. 27, 5 p.m.

**Oil Region Venango Campus, Rhoades Center
1801 W. First St., Oil City, PA 16301**

I am partnering with the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General to share valuable information to attendees about spotting the signs of various forms of human trafficking, such as digital grooming and ways to report it to law enforcement. Digital grooming happens when young people engage in discussions through their cell phones with people they have never seen or met, and parents are not aware of these communications. Worldwide trafficking generates up to \$200 billion per year. Please RSVP by calling 814-827-6054.

SHREDDING EVENTS

Saturday, Oct. 10

10 a.m. to Noon: Seneca District Office, 3220 State Route 257, Seneca, PA 16346

1-3 p.m.: City of Titusville Municipal Parking Lot

*Iron Mountain will provide this service. Acceptable shredding materials are any office paper and color file folders (no need to remove staples, paper clips, rubber bands). **The limit is four boxes per vehicle.***

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY

This year marked 250 years of our great nation, and I had the pleasure of participating in some terrific local events.



In April, I hosted a legislative 1776 Tea Party where I provided legislative updates on upcoming celebrations; brought in Martha Washington and Abigail Adams to re-enact some of our country's greatest moments; and supplied 1776-themed tea and refreshments.



In July, I joined the community for the LibertyFest Parade in Franklin, where everyone gathered to showcase their patriotism. It was great seeing red, white and blue flood the streets!