



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The \$52.2 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27 is now in effect. Having never voted for a tax increase and to protect Columbia county families, I voted against the budget as it does not reduce the tax burden, restore fiscal discipline, support our local farmers and small businesses, or foster economic growth.

This newsletter shares my thoughts on the failing budget, defending the Second Amendment, lowering costs, strengthening our energy infrastructure, and more.

You can keep up with the news from Harrisburg by visiting RepLeadbeter.com and following me on Facebook at Facebook.com/RepLeadbeter.

State Representative

ROBERT LEADBETER
109TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



STATE REP. ROBERT LEADBETER: *STANDING UP FOR OUR CONSERVATIVE VALUES*

★ **IRRESPONSIBLE BUDGET SETS UP FUTURE TAX INCREASES, KILLS ECONOMY AND JOB GROWTH**

I refused to support Harrisburg Democrats' budgetary charades as the 2026-27 Fiscal Year budget is neither balanced nor fiscally responsible. You have probably seen the number \$50.8 billion pop up everywhere, but it is a dishonest figure because of accounting gimmicks. The true spending number is \$52.2 billion. This budget hurts Columbia County families because it:

- Believes last year's tax revenues will be the norm and excludes sustainable pro-job, pro-economy policies. Due to a stronger economy at the federal and state level, last year's budget had roughly \$2.7 billion in excess tax revenue. The anticipated figure for this fiscal year is estimated to yield \$46.3 billion, leaving a deficit of \$5.9 billion for our current budget. As the House Democrat majority gets too comfortable with complacency, there are no measures in place that would attract significant investment to the Commonwealth – making us fall further behind our neighboring states.
- Defers over \$1 billion in payments to Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) for Medicaid costs, delaying usage of the Rainy Day Fund before we ultimately see tax increases; and neglects having a tangible plan to solve the out-of-control inflation and gas prices.
- Omits any increases for Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) scholarships for students seeking better educational settings for their needs.

Dark days are looming ahead for Pennsylvania, and the only way to get out of this fiscal mess is to rid ourselves of bad budgetary habits and stick to the bread-and-butter basics.

★ **FIGHTING AGAINST DEMOCRATS' FAR-LEFT AGENDA**

Recently, the House Democrat majority prioritized criminals and politics over crime victims and public safety by their failure to find a legislative solution regarding sentencing for second-degree murder convictions. In March, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled mandatory life-without-parole sentences for second-degree murder are unconstitutional and gave the Legislature 120 days to act on the Commonwealth's Crimes Code. That put the deadline on July 24. House Democrats hijacked House Bill 1042, a bipartisan bill, and passed an amended version that contained "compassionate medical release" and soft sentencing guidelines – leaving it to the discretion of judges. This opened the floodgates that could see 1,100 murders walk free, re-opening a victim's family's deep wounds and putting innocent lives in danger. I voted against this legislation because I stand with victims and justice, not criminals and anarchy.

★ **STANDING FIRM FOR OUR SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS**

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee and defender of the Second Amendment, I opposed House Bill 2244, legislation that would enable the government to tell you how to store your guns when not in use. If a person is experiencing a home invasion or a life-or-death scenario, then they should defend themselves accordingly. However, this bill would delay a person having access to a firearm in those types of situations. Democrats have a track record of favoring criminals and government overreach, and this bill is no exception. Harrisburg has no business in micromanaging firearm storage in a citizen's home.



ROBERT LEADBETER

109th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
SUMMER 2026

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

DISTRICT OFFICES:

BERWICK: 134 W. Front St., Suite 102, Berwick, PA 18603 | **570-759-8734**

CATAWISSA: 555 River Hill Drive, Catawissa, PA 17820 | **570-387-0246**

CAPITOL OFFICE:

141B East Wing, PO Box 202109, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2109 | **717-783-1102**

*Follow me on Facebook
for **DAILY UPDATES***



Facebook.com/RepLeadbeter



\$34.5 MILLION

GRANT MONEY OBTAINED FOR THE 109TH DISTRICT

364

DISTRICT
EVENTS
ATTENDED

25

EVENTS
HOSTED

\$28,095

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY RETURNED
DIRECTLY TO RESIDENTS IN
THE 109TH DISTRICT

4,823

PROPERTY TAX/
RENT REBATES
COMPLETED

13,834

CONSTITUENTS
SERVED



311

BILLS SPONSORED
OR CO-SPONSORED

1

BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

YOU'RE INVITED TO MY UPCOMING EVENTS

CONCEALED CARRY SEMINAR, TUESDAY, SEPT. 22, 6-7:30 P.M.

The Barn at Boones Dam, 737 W. Fort McClure Blvd., Bloomsburg, PA 17815
Registration is required. Please RSVP by Thursday, Sept. 17, by calling our Catawissa district office at 570-387-0246.

VETERANS EXPO, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30

10-10:30 A.M. (CEREMONY AT THE FREE STAGE)

11 A.M. TO 6 P.M. (EXPO AT THE AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE PAVILION)

Bloomsburg Fairgrounds, 980 W. Main St., Bloomsburg, PA 17815