

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

R. Lee James

64TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

WINTER 2025

2025–26 Session Underway

It is an honor and privilege to be sworn in for my sixth term to serve the 64th Legislative District. The current makeup of the House Chamber is 101 Republicans and 101 Democrats due to the tragic passing of Rep. Matt Gergely of Allegheny County in late January.

I was appointed to serve as the Republican chairman of the House Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee. I am excited for this challenge because Pennsylvania offers a wonderful array of sights for all to enjoy, which benefit the local and state economies.

Thank you for putting your trust in me. We have a lot of work to do for the 2025–26 Session, and I look forward to voicing your concerns and wishes in Harrisburg to the best of my ability.



PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW



I recently spent some time at the Pennsylvania Farm Show with some great folks with PA Grange. Established in 1867 in Washington, D.C., the National Grange is the oldest agricultural and rural advocacy organization in the United States. Venango County has two granges: Wesley and Scrubgrass.

I enjoyed talking with them about our state's biggest industry, agriculture! From left to right, I am pictured with Brittany Covey, secretary; Terry Murray, lecturer; and Matt Espenshade, president.



I also caught up with Lt. Gov. Austin Davis at the state's WoodMobile exhibit, where we discussed the significant roles hardwood forests play for our recreation, habitats, environment and economy.

According to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Hardwoods Development Council, Pennsylvania has the most abundant hardwood forest in the United States and accounts for \$21.8 billion in direct and \$36 billion in indirect impacts on the state's economy. More than 60,000 Pennsylvanians, which is 10% of the state's manufacturing workforce, are employed in the forest products industry.

These forests bring significant value to the Commonwealth, and we must do everything we can to protect and enhance these wonderful features.

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Upcoming Events

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Clinics

Friday, March 7, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Franklin VFW, 411 9th St., Franklin, PA 16323

Thursday, March 13, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Oil City YWCA, 109 Central Ave., Oil City, PA 16301

Thursday, March 27, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Titusville First Presbyterian Church
216 N. Franklin St., Titusville, PA 16354

The program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians who are 65 years or older, widows and widowers 50 years or older, and those 18 years or older with disabilities. Income limits increased again this year to \$46,520 for both homeowners and renters. This is due to a 2023 law I supported that calls for adjusting the income limit based on annual increases in the Consumer Price Index. Remember to exclude 50% of Social Security when determining your income. The maximum rebate is \$1,000.

For additional information, please call 814-677-6413 or 814-827-6054.

REAL ID Seminar

Wednesday, April 16, 2-4 p.m.

Seneca Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall, 3494 State Route 257, Seneca, PA 16346

Please call 814-677-6413 to RSVP.

Illegible License Plate Event

Saturday, May 10, Noon to 2 p.m.

Titusville Municipal Parking Lot, 104 N. Washington St., Suite 2, Titusville, PA 16354

If your standard license plate is blistered, peeling or discolored, we will have the required paperwork to fill out. There is no fee for this service. Bring your vehicle and registration card with the affected plate, and an officer with the Titusville City Police Department will be available to help complete the application.

REAL ID Deadline Looming

The deadline for enforcement of the federal REAL ID Act is fast approaching.

As of May 7, you will have to present a federally accepted form of identification to board a commercial domestic flight or visit a secure federal building that requires ID at the door. Federally accepted forms of identification include a Pennsylvania REAL ID driver's license or ID card, a U.S. passport or passport card, or a military ID.

While all Pennsylvanians must comply with the new law, obtaining a state-issued REAL ID is not mandatory. PennDOT will continue to offer standard-issue driver's licenses and photo IDs.

Full enforcement of the law has been delayed several times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which was hindering efforts to process REAL ID applications across the country.

I will be hosting a REAL ID seminar in April. See the Upcoming Events section for details.