

Seth Grove

Pennsylvania House District 196



Biography

Hard-working, dedicated and effective are three words to describe Rep. Seth Grove's approach to legislating. Seth has tirelessly served the 196th District since 2008, and during his three terms in office, he has consistently advocated for streamlined, more efficient government and conservative principles.

Seth's path to public service began in high school when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was selected for its nuclear engineering program and submarine school. Due to a heart condition, he was unable fulfill the enlistment. Undeterred, Seth opted for a major in public administration at York College to find another way to serve. He attributes this deep sense of civic responsibility to his grandfather's World War II stories and his father's service in the Navy during the Vietnam War.

Seth honed his knowledge of government while serving as a legislative assistant to Congressman Todd Platts (R-York) and Rep. Stan Saylor (R-Windsor) and as chief of staff for Rep. Keith Gillespie (R-Hellam). In these capacities, Seth was a dedicated advocate for residents in resolving conflicts with state and federal agencies. He continues to use this expertise to benefit the residents of the 196th District.

Along with advancing fiscally conservative policies, Seth's main priorities include encouraging private-sector job creation through tax cuts and free-market principles, promoting legislation to support small business growth, stamping out welfare fraud, reducing government red tape and increasing efficiencies, protecting law-abiding citizens, and defending our right to keep and bear arms.

During his three terms in office, Grove has shepherded 16 bills into law and 10 resolutions adopted by the House of Representatives. During his service he has served on numerous committees including: Aging and Older Adult Services, Appropriations, Consumer Affairs, Finance, Health, Human Services, Insurance, Intergovernmental Affairs, Labor & Industry, Rules, State Government (Secretary), Transportation (subcommittee chair on Public Transportation) and Education (subcommittee chair on Technical Education and Career Readiness).

He authored a law to reduce bureaucracy and save school districts money by exempting them from the Planning and Construction Workbook (PLANCON) approval process if they are not seeking state reimbursement for a construction project. During the 2013-14 legislative session, he authored a bill to overhaul the entire PLANCON process. This long and antiquated procedure is required of schools looking for state reimbursement of construction projects. Seth's bill passed the House and language found in it later became law, including an end to the Department of Education's moratorium on reimbursements. In addition, more funding was allocated for projects at schools across the Commonwealth. Seth continues to push for reform of PLANCON.

In his short tenure, Seth led the charge in limiting the Act 1 exceptions which allow school districts to bypass the voter referendum requirement for property tax increases above the inflation index. His efforts reduced these exceptions by 70 percent and have made school districts more accountable to the taxpayers.

Seth is a true friend to senior citizens. He authored a law which increased access for over 40,000 seniors to PACE and PACENET, a prescription drug assistance program for seniors, by excluding Medicare Part B premiums as income. He also extended the moratorium to ensure seniors whose Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) exceeds the income threshold, to remain on PACE and PACENET.

A fiscal watchdog, Seth authored the provision in the Unemployment Compensation (UC) reform law (Act 60 of 2012) which holds individuals responsible for making fraudulent unemployment claims. The law allows the Department of Labor and Industry a 10-year look-back window to collect on fault overpayments in the UC system. He followed this work by ensuring county jails are connected to the JNET system to ensure prisoners are not fraudulently collecting U/C benefits saving \$100 million to the UC Trust Fund.

He also co-authored the Taxpayers' Caucus report that identified \$3 billion in savings in state government. Some of the cost-savings measures have been implementing since the report was released in May 2016. They include: a tax amnesty program, expansion of the U.S. Treasury Offset Program, liquor reforms and an initiative which came to fruition as the Keystone Offset Program. The program requires the state to intercept payments for work done by state contractors who owe back taxes.

Protecting Pennsylvania's children is another priority for Seth. He authored the Commonwealth's groundbreaking sexting law to reduce child sexual exploitation and child pornography. Under this law, teens who are caught sexting are no longer subject to felony prosecution, but will now have the opportunity to participate in educational diversionary programs and have their records expunged. Seth also authored a law to require minors seeking a motorcycle license to complete a free motorcycle safety course and ensure motorcycle permit riders apply for their full motorcycle license.

He also authored legislation to close loopholes in the Commonwealth's DUI laws. Seth's bill, which became law, addressed situations where defendants are arrested for a second DUI while awaiting trial for the first. He also removed onerous requirements limiting the sales on pedal assist bicycles. Now instead of registering these bicycles like cars, individuals can enjoy them with less government intrusion.

Seth is dedicated to furthering the interests of the 196th District, York County and Pennsylvania, and he employs this passion outside his legislative endeavors. He has served as an APPRISE counselor for the York County Area Agency on Aging. He is a member of the HACC York Campus Advisory Committee, Dover Lions Club, the Dover Fish and Game Association, the National Rifle Association, and the Dover York YMCA. These associations illustrate his commitment to providing healthy and wholesome activities for York County residents, his conviction to uphold Second Amendment rights and his concern for senior citizens.

Showing a dedication to transparent government, Seth maintains an active Twitter and Facebook presence and reaches out to constituents using multi-media formats, such as email and video. He also posts his monthly legislative expenses online.

Seth resides in Dover with his wife, Kacey, and their sons, Andrew and Connor.

The 196th District is comprised of Dover, Jackson, North Codorus, Paradise and West Manchester townships, and the boroughs of Dover, New Salem and Spring Grove. [State Legislative Biography, [2/12/18](#)]

ALEC Legislator of the Week Q&A – 2/5/18

ALEC-FreedomWorks State Legislator of the Week: Seth Grove

This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks are proud to introduce Pennsylvania State Representative Seth Grove. Representative Grove is not only this week's Legislator of the Week, he was also awarded the 2017 Legislator of the Year at the ALEC States and Nation Policy Summit in Nashville, TN. Representative Grove has been a champion for fiscal restraint in Pennsylvania. As founder and Co-Chair of the Pennsylvania Taxpayers' Caucus, he regularly partners with ALEC and promotes sound fiscal policy. For years, Representative Grove has been a leader for taxpayers – opposing tax increases proposed by both parties. This year alone, he has warned against gross receipts taxes and severance taxes, which would have hurt the state's business climate and consumers. He is part of the State and Fiscal Policy Task Force and was instrumental in the latest Unaffordable Unaccountable publication showing the unfunded liabilities of state-

administered pension plans. Rep. Grove resides in Dover with his wife, Kacey and their sons, Andrew and Connor.

Why did you become a state representative?

I decided to run to stop the normal status-quo, Republican answer to every solution: incrementalism and water it down even more. These types of policies have not advanced Pennsylvania. Actually, I would argue they have held back Pennsylvania from becoming an economic powerhouse. We need big ideas and big changes to compete with other states and other nations.

Now that you have made strides in PA fiscal reform, what is next up on the docket?

We have a long way to go in Pennsylvania. We still need to contain our cost drivers, update our budget process, and remodel our government to focus on private sector job growth. The goal is always to take out the #1 state in Rich States, Poor States. Pennsylvania has the natural resources, the location and the skilled workforce to be a top-tier economy. We just need to remove the state government policies holding us back.

You were recently in DC for a panel on eliminating the state and local tax deduction, are you happy with the results in the federal tax bill?

Yes, very pleased. Ultimately it would be a negotiation, but the important aspects of tax rate reduction were accomplished. While SALT was curbed, I think we won on the merits of it subsidizing high tax states and state/local tax increases are treated like simple federal tax deductions. We were able to successfully interject free market arguments on a national policy, which every American will benefit. Every member of ALEC should be proud of our leadership team and dedicated employees of ALEC for putting this organization in a position to effectuate pro-growth policies at the national level.

How has ALEC helped you become a better state representative?

ALEC has proven to be a critical resource for networking, best practices, and listening to success stories from other states which have focused on policies which limit government, increase free markets, and return power back to the states. It is hard to argue the results of policies which create more free markets, limited government and return power back to the states when you are armed with the empirical evidence from states which have adopted these policies.

What is a fun fact that is not in your professional bio?

We have two boys, Andrew (8) and Connor (5). When Andrew was a few years younger I used to bring legislation home and read it to him. At age three he was quite an expert in property taxes and tax policy in general. At one point, he and his mom went out to lunch. I asked him how his lunch was and he responded, "Dad, it was a business meeting and we discussed the cumulative effect of the budget."

I tried the same thing with our youngest and he screamed “NO” and ran into the next room. Now, I tell them if they don’t behave, I brought home legislation or a PowerPoint and I will read it to them. Now, they both run into the next room screaming. I call it discipline via PowerPoint.

Any New Year’s Resolutions?

I have given up on New Year’s Resolutions. I prefer to just pledge to be a better wrecking ball to socialist policies. [ALEC: Legislator of the Week]

ALEC membership/ties

- [Signed Confirm Judge Brett Kavanaugh ALEC Letter 2018](#)
- ALEC Legislator of the Week 2/12/2018
- Communications and Technology Task Force Member, 2011
- Confirmed a legislator with ALEC ties by Keystone Progress
- Signed ALEC Letter to Speaker Ryan & Leader McConnell supporting AHCA, 2017
- Signed ALEC letter in February 2017 regarding Medicare
- Attended ALEC's 45th annual conference in New Orleans, 2018
- Signed on to ALEC SALT Letter to Congress in October 2016
- Attended ALEC’s 44th annual meeting in Denver, Colorado in July 2017
- Legislative Staffer Jordan Grant, representing the office of Seth Grove, attended ALEC’s 44th annual meeting in Denver, Colorado in July 2017
- ALEC Pennsylvania State Co-chair, 2018

Other Hits

Seth Grove sponsored a bill to make access to Medicaid more difficult. HB 1407 would make work requirements part of Pennsylvania’s Medicaid program, as well as impose a lifetime limit of five years for Medicaid eligibility. No other states have work requirements or time limits for Medicaid. A statement from Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf’s office said the bill would “reverse progress we’ve made on improving overall health outcomes and drive people further into poverty. Policies that arbitrarily limit the amount of time an individual can receive Medicaid move away from the core mission of the program, which is to improve outcomes and the overall experience of care, improve population health, and reduce health care costs through improvement.” [HB 1407, Referred to Health Committee, [5/19/2017](#)] [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, [6/4/2017](#)]

Seth Grove sponsored or supported a bill that replaces a defined-benefit pension plan with either a hybrid or a 401(k) type plan for newly hired public employees. According to the Center for Media and Democracy, this bill is similar to the ALEC “Pension Funding and Fairness Act” model bill. The Act combines a traditional spending limit with debt pay down, rainy day fund, and taxpayer refund provisions, while Removes pension benefits from the collective bargaining process [Center for Media and Democracy, [Pension Funding and Fairness Act Exposed](#); The Times Tribune, [1/22/2017](#)]

In 2018, Seth Grove sponsored a bill to preempt municipalities from passing paid sick leave, equal pay, and LGBTQIA protections. This bill, according to Billy Penn, “would preempt local labor ordinances and kill paid sick leave in Philadelphia.” If passed, the bill would also reverse Philadelphia’s equal pay ordinance and all town or city labor laws put in place since 2015. The executive director of the LGBTQ

advocacy group Equality PA, John Dawe, said, “A possible byproduct is that this would also mean reversing anti-LGBTQ discrimination employment laws in 15 municipalities across the state.” [Billy Penn, [9/24/2018](#)] [WHYY, [7/16/2018](#)] [HB 861, on table, [10/1/2018](#)]