Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It remains my honor to represent you in Harrisburg and a privilege to serve you here at home. My staff and I are always available to help with any state-related matter at my district offices in Effort and Blakeslee. Simply stop by or contact us by phone or email. We send these mailings every few months to keep you up to date on news from the state Capitol and here in the 176th Legislative District. I hope you find them to be interesting and informative. Another great way for us to stay connected is to register for my Friday email updates at RepRader.com, under the "Resources" tab.

Thank you,



2023-24 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Finance • Insurance • Local Government

Tourism and Economic and Recreational Development

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM EXPANDED! ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

More Pennsylvania seniors and people with disabilities are eligible for increased property tax or rent relief this year under a new law I supported in 2023.

Under the expanded program:

- Income eligibility INCREASED to \$45,000 this year for both homeowners and renters. Remember to exclude 50% of Social Security when calculating income.
- Maximum rebate INCREASED TO \$1,000.

As always, my district office staff stand ready to help people apply for their rebates FREE OF CHARGE. Applicants should be prepared to provide all the necessary income, and property tax or rental information required to process claims quickly and accurately. Applications are due by June 30.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible residents 65 years and older; widows and widowers 50 years and older; and people with disabilities 18 years and older. More information is available at *RepRader.com*.

NEW LAW BENEFITS COMMUNITIES AND TAXPAYERS

Under a new law, the Commonwealth will be sending more money to our region in payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) for state-owned land located in the 176th Legislative District. This additional funding will benefit our communities, and most importantly, local taxpayers.

Act 34 of 2023 requires PILT payments by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to increase from \$6 to \$7.20 per acre, with the funding split three ways between municipalities, school districts and counties in which the land is located. DCNR's PILT rate was last increased in 2017.

The new law also increases payments required by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and Pennsylvania Game Commission from \$3.60 to \$7.20 per acre, also with the funding split three ways between municipalities, school districts and counties in which the land is located. The rate paid by these two agencies last increased in 2006.

The increases are funded by state gaming revenue.



REAL ID ENFORCEMENT STARTS NEXT YEAR

PennDOT is reminding residents that enforcement of the federal REAL ID Act will begin May 7, 2025. Full enforcement of the law has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which was hindering efforts to process REAL ID applications across the country. As of that date, you will have to present a federally accepted form of identification to board a commercial domestic flight or

As of that date, 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.

REAL ID is not mandatory. PennDOT continues to offer standard-issue driver's licenses and photo IDs.

To learn more about REAL ID and how to obtain one, visit www.penndot.gov/REALID.

WORKING FOR YOU IN THE DISTRICT





American Legion Service Officer Brian Stolarski assists local veterans at my Blakeslee office on the fourth Tuesday of each month.



I attended the Tunkhannock Township Volunteer Fire Company's annual open house. I've always been a strong supporter of all our local departments.



ceremony at Pocono Lake Cemetery.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS!

IDENTITY THEFT SEMINAR

Thursday, April 4, 6 p.m.
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Department
2162 Route 715, Reeders, PA 18352

Dave Shallcross, Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General director of senior protection, will provide information on identity theft and other recent scams. An RSVP is required by calling one of my district offices.

CONCEALED CARRY SEMINAR

Thursday, April 18, 6 p.m.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Monroe County Safety Center

100 Gypsum Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Learn about your rights and responsibilities when carrying a firearm from Monroe County District Attorney Mike Mancuso, Monroe County Chief Detective Eric Kerchner and Monroe County Sheriff Nicholas Cirranello. Registration is required for this free event at *RepRader.com/events* or by calling one of my district offices.

DISTRICT OFFICES:

EFFORT: 2785 Route 115, Suite 103, Effort, PA 18330 | **570-620-4341 BLAKESLEE:** 395 Route 940, Suite 104, Blakeslee, PA 18610 | **570-643-7683**