

State Representative

JACK RADER



176th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I joined my House colleagues in taking the oath of office on Jan. 7 to mark the official start of the 2025-26 Legislative Session. I am proud and honored to serve the 176th District and its residents for the next two years.

My staff and I look forward to continuing to assist residents at my district offices in Effort and Blakeslee. We are always happy to help with any state-related matter. Simply stop by or give us a call.

Residents are also invited to register for my Friday email updates on my website, www.RepRader.com. They include news from the Capitol and the district and are another great way to stay connected. You can also follow me on Facebook, at www.Facebook.com/RepJackRader.

Thanks for reading this newsletter, which includes some of last year's highlights and other information I hope is useful.

Sincerely,

HONORED TO SERVE AS A COMMITTEE CHAIR

I have been appointed to serve as Republican chair of the newly created Environmental and Natural Resources Protection Committee in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 2025-26 Legislative Session.

I look forward to taking on this added responsibility and am grateful to our House Republican leaders for naming me to this important position. As a lifelong Monroe County resident, I appreciate the great outdoors and understand its significant impact on the Commonwealth's economy. This new role gives me greater influence on environmental and economic development issues that are important to our community and our state.

The House Environmental and Natural Resources Protection Committee is responsible for legislative oversight of environmental laws administered by both the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

VISIT ME ONLINE!

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WORKING FOR YOU



Meeting with Monroe County officials



State Representative Jack Rader

Fun at the West End Fair



Clymer Library tree-lighting event



Discussing economic development

State Grants for Our District

In recent months, a variety of state grants were awarded for projects and programs in the 176th Legislative District. I am proud to have played a role in helping to secure the funding, which totals more than \$3 million.

The grants are as follows:

Monroe County Industrial Development Authority – \$750,975

for renovation of the Stone Arch Bridge in Eldred Township.

Pleasant Valley School District – \$1 MILLION

to replace the HVAC system, exterior windows and lighting at the high school.

Pocono Mountain School District – \$416,250

to replace the old water heating systems at West Junior High School, West High School, Clear Run Intermediate School and Clear Run Elementary School.

Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm in Hamilton Township – \$5,000

for operational expenses.

Tobyhanna Township – \$244,371

to assist with the rehabilitation of Locust Ridge Ball Field Park.

SCHOOL SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH GRANTS

**Colonial Intermediate Unit 20
\$70,000**

**Monroe Career and Technical Institute
\$70,000**

**Pleasant Valley School District
\$183,539**

**Pocono Mountain School District
\$261,801**

VETERANS Assistance AVAILABLE

Assistance is available to area veterans on the fourth Tuesday of each month at my district office in Blakeslee, located in the Blakeslee Medical Professional Complex, 395 Route 940, Suite 104.

An American Legion service officer will be on hand to meet with veterans and their dependents by appointment only to discuss benefits and file claims. Veterans do not need to be an American Legion member to take advantage of this free service.

Please call **570-643-7683** to schedule an appointment.

Vehicle Fees Eliminated for Some Veterans

A new state law, which I supported, eliminates vehicle registration and title fees for certain veterans in the Commonwealth.

Under Act 60 of 2024, fees are eliminated for a passenger vehicle or truck weighing 9,000 pounds or less owned by military veterans who meet one of the following requirements (license plate fees still apply):

- Vehicles registered to a veteran who lost a limb or eye or who became partially paralyzed while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.
- Vehicles registered to a veteran who, as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, was captured by the enemy in any armed conflict for which the Department of Defense authorizes a campaign medal.
- Vehicles registered to a veteran who has been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- Vehicles registered to a veteran who has been awarded the Purple Heart.

More Retirees Eligible for Reduced-Fee Vehicle Registration

A new state law to allow more Pennsylvania retirees to qualify for a reduction in their vehicle registration fee took effect in December.

The benefit now will be available to retired persons earning up to \$29,906, an increase of more than \$10,000 from the prior income eligibility limit. Those who qualify will pay an \$11 processing fee to register their vehicle each year, rather than the standard \$45 registration fee.

Qualified applicants must be retired and receiving Social Security or other pension payments. Please note, 100% of a veterans' benefit payment or payment to the unmarried surviving spouse, upon the death of a veteran, should be excluded from the income calculation.

The applicant must be listed as an owner on the vehicle's registration and only one vehicle per qualified applicant may be registered for the reduced fee. Qualifying vehicles must be a passenger car or truck with a registered gross weight of not more than 9,000 pounds.

Please contact one of my district offices if you need assistance with the form.

For more information about driver licensing and vehicle services for veterans and seniors, visit PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services website.

Apply Now for 2024 Property Tax/ Rent Rebate

Eligible participants can receive a rebate from \$380 to \$1,000 based on their



rent or property taxes paid in 2024. The state 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.

The income limit is \$46,520 a year for homeowners and renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded.

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

Property owners are also reminded that the Pocono Mountain, Pleasant Valley and Stroudsburg Area school districts are once again offering rebates on property taxes paid in 2024. Applications are available at my district offices. More information on the rebate programs can be found on each of the district's websites.



HEATING BILL HELP Available

Residents who struggle with their home heating bills this winter are reminded they can apply for assistance from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

LIHEAP is a federally funded program that helps individuals and families pay their heating bills through home heating energy

assistance grants. It also provides crisis grants to help in the event of an emergency or if a resident is in danger of losing his or her heat due to broken equipment, lack of fuel or termination of utility service.

The income eligibility guidelines for LIHEAP are set at 150% of the federal poverty income level. For example, the gross income limit for an individual is \$22,590 and for a family of four it is \$46,800.

Residents may apply for LIHEAP online at www.compass.state.pa.us, by phone at **1-866-550-4355** or by contacting the Monroe County Assistance Office at **570-424-3030**. If you need assistance with filing an application, please contact one of my district offices.

The program runs through April 4, 2025.

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE

The Rotary-Greater Poconos Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides free preparation of federal, state and local income tax returns, along with state Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms, for qualified low- to moderate-income residents of Monroe County.

Tax returns are prepared and reviewed for accuracy by trained and IRS-certified volunteers. To qualify for the free service, a resident's 2024 income must be less than \$70,000. First come, first served, but registration is requested.

The free service is available at the following locations:

- **Tuesdays** – Rotary Community Hub, second floor, 696 Seven Bridge Road, East Stroudsburg.
- **Wednesdays** – Middle Smithfield Cultural Center, 5200 Milford Road, East Stroudsburg.
- **Thursdays** – Pocono Mountain Library, 5500 Municipal Drive, Tobyhanna.
- **Fridays** – Clymer Library, 115 Firehouse Road, Pocono Pines.
- **Saturdays** – East Stroudsburg University, Rosenkrans Hall, 200 Prospect St., East Stroudsburg.

For more information, including how to register, visit www.rotary-gp.org/rotary-gp-vita.



Monroe County RECORD ALERT SYSTEM

Protect your property and mortgage from fraud! The Monroe County Recorder of Deeds office is now offering a record alert system to all county residents at no cost. Residents who sign up for the service will receive an email or text message when a document listing the resident's name has been recorded in the office. Businesses are also welcome to sign up for the free service.

Visit www.monroecountypa.gov to register for record alerts or call one of my district offices for assistance.

WINTER 2025

State Representative

JACK RADER

176th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICES:

EFFORT:

Carriage House Square
2785 Route 115, Suite 103
Effort, PA 18330
570-620-4341

BLAKESLEE:

Blakeslee Medical Professional Complex
395 Route 940, Suite 104
Blakeslee, PA 18610
570-643-7683

CAPITOL OFFICE:

423 Irvis Office Building
PO Box 202176
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2176
717-787-7732



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DISTRICT OFFICE SERVICES

My district offices are here to assist you.

Services we can provide include:

- Driver's license and vehicle registration applications and renewals
- Assistance with PennDOT paperwork (lost cards, changes, corrections, special registration plates, vanity plates, and temporary placards for persons with disabilities)
- Discount vehicle registrations
- PACE and PACENET applications for seniors
- Property Tax and Rent Rebate applications
- Homestead/farmstead exclusion applications
- Voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications
- State tax forms
- Unemployment Compensation questions
- Free state maps, state park information and PA Vacation Guides
- Do-Not-Call list enrollment
- Unclaimed property
- LIHEAP applications (low-income heating assistance program)
- Copies of legislation
- Tours of the state Capitol
- Referrals to agencies to resolve state-related matters

SAVE THE DATES



IDENTITY THEFT SEMINARS

Thursday, April 10, 6 p.m.

Blakeslee Community Center, 5669 Route 115, Blakeslee, PA 18610

Thursday, May 29, 6 p.m.

Monroe County Safety Center, 100 Gypsum Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

These seminars will be led by Dave Shallcross, director of senior protection with the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, who will provide information on the latest scams. Registration is required. Call one of my district offices to reserve your seat!

FREE HARD-TO-READ LICENSE PLATE EVENT

Thursday, June 12, 2-4 p.m.

Rep. Rader's district office parking lot, 395 Route 940, Blakeslee, PA 18610

A police officer from the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department will be on hand to authorize a new FREE plate if yours is illegible. Please call **570-643-7683** to RSVP with your title and plate information or register online at www.RepRader.com/events.



FREE HARD-TO-READ LICENSE PLATE EVENT

Wednesday, July 23, 2-4 p.m.

Chestnuthill Township Municipal Building parking lot, 271 Route 715, Brodheadsville, PA 18322

A Pennsylvania state trooper will be on hand to authorize a new FREE plate if yours is illegible. Please call **570-643-7683** to RSVP with your title and plate information or register online at www.RepRader.com/events.

WEST END FAIR | Aug. 17-23

570 Fairgrounds Road, Gilbert, PA 18331

Don't forget to stop by our booth for a visit!

SEVENTH ANNUAL SHREDDING/FALL CLEANUP EVENT

Saturday, Oct. 18, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pocono Raceway, 1234 Long Pond Road, Long Pond, PA 18334

Shred sensitive paperwork (up to four boxes). Dispose of old tires (up to four). Drop off expired prescription drugs. Also collecting cell phones, slightly used books and glasses/sunglasses. This is a convenient, drive-through event.