



STATE REPRESENTATIVE | 176TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

JACK RADER

SUMMER 2024

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.

I hope you find this mailing 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 – 2024 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Finance • Insurance
• Local Government •
Tourism and Economic and
Recreational Development

WORKING FOR YOU IN THE DISTRICT



I co-hosted a special event with PA Treasurer Stacy Garrity at my Effort office in July that returned \$12,000 in unclaimed property to Monroe County residents.



I hosted a license plate replacement event at my Blakeslee office in June with the help of Pocono Mountain Regional Police Officer Josh Sato.



I discussed issues faced by small businesses with EZ Mountain Rustic Furniture Owner Tim Coover.



I hosted another informative Identity Theft Seminar in Tunkhannock Township in June that featured David Shallcross from the PA Office of Attorney General.

NEW LAW PROTECTS PROPERTY OWNERS AGAINST SQUATTERS

Legislation, which I supported, that makes it easier for property owners to get squatters out of their properties was signed into law in July. **Act 88 of 2024** provides more certainty and clarity for homeowners, landlords and law enforcement officers who must deal with squatters by codifying existing case law on the subject.

The growing problem of squatters unlawfully taking over homes poses a significant threat to the stability and security of communities nationwide. The new law clarifies the legal status of squatters in Pennsylvania and streamlines the process for removing them from residential properties.

Previously, property owners faced an exhausting and often painful journey to reclaim their properties. The requirement to issue a "notice to quit" to individuals who have no legitimate claim on a property burdened property owners both financially and emotionally.

STATE BUDGET SPENDS RECORD AMOUNT ON EDUCATION

One of the most important responsibilities we face as a society is the education of our children. As such, the 2024-25 state budget, which I supported, includes some important initiatives.

For PreK-12 education there were significant increases in overall funding for schools in the 176th Legislative District. The largest increases were for special education, which rose by over 8% in each of our school districts. The Ready to Learn Block Grants increased by almost 25% in Pleasant Valley, 112% in Pocono Mountain and by over 312% in Stroudsburg. The discrepancies are reflected in how the grant process was applied, but our area got major increases where others did not. There also were strong increases in Basic Education Funding.

My hope is that school districts will begin to explore the possibility of lowering school property taxes due to the strong possibility these types of increases will occur over the next seven years.

In addition, the highly successful Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program, which provides scholarships to help families send their children to schools that best meet their needs, receives an additional \$70 million, while the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program receives \$5 million more, bringing total funding for the two programs to a record \$630 million.

There is much-needed cyber-charter reform for our school districts without negatively impacting school choice for parents.

For higher education, the budget includes elements of the Grow PA plan, which aims to attract and retain more students to Pennsylvania schools and connect them with quality careers in their communities after graduation.

The budget package also includes some much-needed accountability for our state-related institutions by creating a Performance-Based Funding Council under the State Board for Higher Education. The council will develop a new process to distribute funding for these universities – which include PSU, Pitt, Temple and Lincoln – using performance-based metrics designed to increase degree attainment, encourage affordability, meet workforce needs and grow the economy.

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.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JACK RADER
176TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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

CAPITOL OFFICE:

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

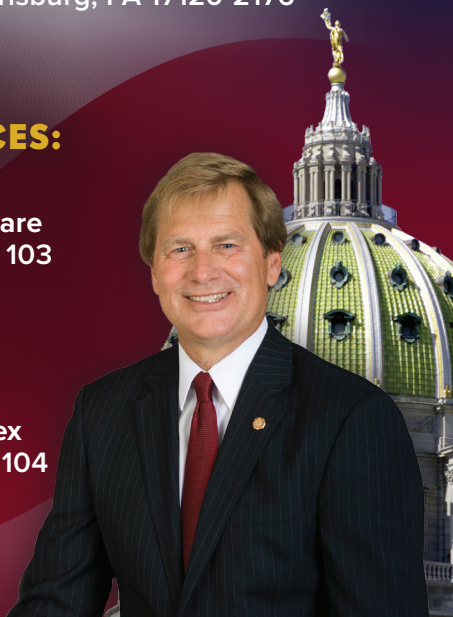
DISTRICT OFFICES:

EFFORT

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

BLAKESLEE

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



VISIT ME ONLINE!

RepRader.com [/RepJackRader](https://www.facebook.com/RepJackRader) [@RepRaderPA](https://twitter.com/RepRaderPA)

DEADLINE EXTENDED
for **PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM**

The deadline for senior citizens and people with disabilities to apply for rebates on rent and property taxes paid in 2023 has been extended to Dec. 31. (I have introduced legislation to make the Dec. 31 date permanent.)

Income limits for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program increased this year to \$45,000 for both homeowners and renters. If you were earning too much to qualify before, you may be eligible now. Remember to exclude 50% of Social Security when determining

your income. The law I supported to expand the program also increased the maximum rebate to \$1,000.

The program is open to residents age 65 years and older; widows and widowers 50 years and older; and people with disabilities 18 years and older.

Remember – you do not need to pay anyone for assistance to apply for the rebates. Apply online at mypath.pa.gov, or contact one of my district offices for help.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS!

WEST END FAIR

Aug. 18-24

570 Fairgrounds Road, Gilbert, PA 18331

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

**SIXTH ANNUAL SHREDDING/
FALL CLEANUP EVENT**

Saturday, Oct. 19, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pocono Raceway

1234 Long Pond Road, Long Pond, PA 18334

Shred sensitive paperwork. Dispose of old tires. Drop off expired prescription drugs. Also collecting cell phones, slightly used books and glasses/sunglasses. Free license plate replacement service available, but registration required at www.RepRader.com/event or call 570-643-7683 to provide plate and title numbers.