



STATE REPRESENTATIVE **JACK RADER** 176TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

www.RepRader.com



[Facebook.com/RepJackRader](https://www.facebook.com/RepJackRader)



[@RepRaderPA](https://twitter.com/RepRaderPA)

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am proud and honored to serve the 176th District as your voice in Harrisburg. Your input is very important to me. Learning about your concerns and experiences helps me to best serve our community. If you need assistance with state-related services, please do not hesitate to reach out to my district offices in Effort and Blakeslee. We are happy to serve you.

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](https://www.facebook.com/RepJackRader).

Thank you for reading this newsletter. My staff and I are always here to help.

Sincerely,

WHERE'S THE BUDGET?

As of this writing, the state budget has not been signed into law, despite the June 30 deadline. Gov. Josh Shapiro proposed a state budget for the 2025–26 fiscal year in February. The plan would spend \$51.47 billion, a 7.5% spending increase from the prior fiscal year. I am against it for a variety of reasons, including that it would compromise the financial stability of the Commonwealth. A budget that has a structural deficit will deplete the state's emergency and reserve funding and is not sustainable. I am a resounding “no” regarding this proposal, as this spending is too high. My hope is that we approve a fiscally responsible budget.



VISIT ME ONLINE!



RepRader.com



[/RepJackRader](https://www.facebook.com/RepJackRader)



[@RepRaderPA](https://twitter.com/RepRaderPA)

Representing **THE 176TH DISTRICT**



Flag Day Event



Identity Theft Seminar



License Plate Exchange



Fireman's Festival

DID YOU KNOW?



HEATING BILL HELP AVAILABLE

While most of us don't want to think about winter yet, I wanted to remind you that assistance with heating bills will be available to income-qualified residents again this year through 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 Guidelines (FPIG) for the cash and crisis components or 200% for the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Residents may apply for LIHEAP online at www.compass.dhs.pa.gov, 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 is scheduled to open for applications on Nov. 3, and to close on April 3, 2026.

ASSISTANCE FOR WASTEWATER EXPENSES

Attention Blakeslee residents — do you pay for wastewater services? You may be eligible for a discount on your monthly bill through Aqua's Customer Assistance Program (CAP).

Individuals earning a gross income of \$31,296 or less annually qualify for help through CAP. For a two-person household, the income limit increases to \$42,300. To review the full income guidelines and details of the program, visit www.aquawater.com or call 1-888-282-6816.



PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE DEADLINE EXTENDED

The deadline for senior citizens and Pennsylvanians with disabilities to apply for rebates on rent and property taxes paid in 2024 has been extended to Dec. 31.

Income limits for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program increased this year to \$46,520 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 my offices for help.

HANDHELD DEVICES BAN

A new Pennsylvania law banning the use of handheld devices while driving took effect in June.

Paul Miller's Law limits the use of handheld cellphones or other communication devices while operating a motor vehicle. The law is named for a young man who was killed in a crash involving a distracted tractor-trailer driver here in Monroe County in 2010.

Under the law, driving while holding a mobile device is a primary violation, meaning police can pull over drivers solely for the violation. For the first 12 months, the penalty is a written warning. Effective in June 2026, the penalty is a summary offense, which carries a \$50 fine, plus court costs and other fees. If a driver is convicted of homicide by vehicle and driving while distracted, they may be sentenced up to an additional five years in prison.

Drivers can still use their phones if using hands-free technology, such as a docking station, Bluetooth or speaker technology. You may also use your phone to contact emergency responders.

According to PennDOT, more than 11,000 crashes were the result of distracted driving, leading to 65 deaths and 6,700 injuries in 2023. Pennsylvania joins 28 other states with hands-free laws.

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 last year.

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 a \$12 processing fee to register their vehicle each year, rather than the standard \$48 registration fee.

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.

You 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. Vehicles must be a passenger car or truck with a registered gross weight of not more than 9,000 pounds.

Contact my offices for assistance with the program.



Community Photos

As your state representative, I enjoy traveling the district to meet with our citizens. It is a great opportunity to discover and support our small businesses, honor the district's finest individuals and participate in community events. Here are a few photos from recent months.



SUMMER 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

 **RepRader.com**

 **/RepJackRader**

 **@RepRaderPA**



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

**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 Home Energy Assistance Program)
- Copies of legislation
- Tours of the state Capitol
- Referrals to agencies to resolve state-related matters

SAVE THE DATES



WEST END FAIR

Aug. 17-23, 2 p.m.

570 Fairground Road
Gilbert, PA 18331

Don't forget to stop by our booth and say hello!

REMINDER

Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2 p.m.

Senior Day at the West End Fair! Admission is reduced to \$4 for seniors.

ANNUAL SHREDDING EVENT/FALL CLEANUP

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

Pocono Raceway

1234 Long Pond Road, Long Pond, PA 18334

This is a convenient, drive-through event! There is no need to register for this event, unless you are there for the hard-to-read license plate event.

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.

New this year, thanks to the Waste Authority, dispose of old gas grill propane tanks! (up to four per vehicle)

Is your current license plate fading or peeling? We will have a police officer present to authorize a new FREE plate if yours is eligible. (Please call our office to register for this and have your car registration handy.)