

BRANDON MARKOSEK



DEAR NEIGHBOR,

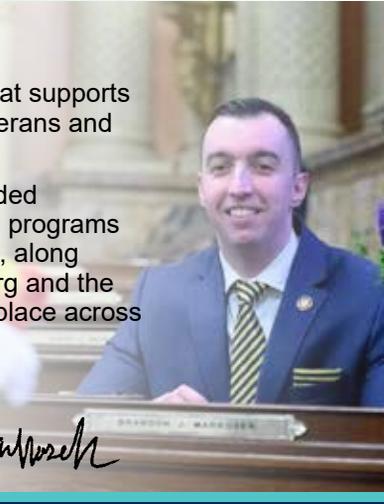
I hope this newsletter finds you well. In January, I began my third term as the state representative of the 25th Legislative District. Thank you for your faith in me, and, as always, it is an honor and a privilege to serve you!

Since the start of this year, I've been hard at work helping to secure funding for our communities, attending House Democratic Policy hearings on issues that matter to you and

advocating for legislation that supports our families, neighbors, veterans and first responders.

In this newsletter, I've included information on state-related programs that you may find beneficial, along with updates from Harrisburg and the projects and events taking place across our district.

Sincerely,



District Office:

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4232 Northern Pike
Suite 303
Monroeville, PA 15146
(412) 856-8284

**STAY UP TO DATE
ON HOW I'M
WORKING FOR YOU.
FOLLOW ME:**

@RepMarkosek
 RepMarkosek.com

POLICY HEARING ON TRAIN DERAILMENT

In March, I joined my colleagues for a bipartisan House Policy Committee hearing in Beaver County, not far from where the Norfolk Southern train carrying hazardous materials derailed in East Palestine, Ohio. We heard testimony from local and state officials about the response to the disaster and the impact on nearby Pennsylvania communities.

This hearing opened an important dialogue about railroad safety issues, pursuing answers about long-term environmental and health impacts and our commitment to help the families who live near the disaster area.

We will not let our guard down. I remain committed to working with my colleagues on long-term monitoring and other investments needed to ensure residents' safety,



supporting emergency personnel who respond to disasters like this and assessing what we can do in Harrisburg to hold those responsible accountable.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

I'm honored to have been appointed to serve on the following committees for the 2023-24 legislative session:

- Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities
- Game & Fisheries (vice chair)
- Government Oversight
- Professional Licensure (vice chair)
- Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness

HELPING VETERANS RECEIVE FULL BENEFITS FROM KEY STATE PROGRAMS

I believe that every Pennsylvania veteran is entitled to receive the full extent of benefits from important commonwealth programs. Some of those programs consider veterans' disability benefits as income, which reduces the amount of support veterans can claim.

I introduced House Bill 363 to exclude veterans' disability benefits from the definition of income for all commonwealth programs, including the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, PACE/PACENET and others.

The House unanimously passed the bill, which now awaits consideration in the Senate.

We should do everything we can to care for our brave veterans, and this bill is a step toward getting them the full benefits they so richly deserve.



INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- \$1 million to construct the East Pittsburgh Municipal Facility, which would be more centrally located to most residents and house all borough services in the same building.
- \$1 million for the Allegheny Petroleum Expansion in Wilmerding Borough, which includes improvements to the company's building and manufacturing capabilities.
- \$697,830 to repair sections of Pitcairn's sanitary sewer system.
- \$500,000 to relocate Naser Road in North Versailles Township to address safety concerns due to an increase in traffic and accidents.
- \$341,000 for access improvements at the Forbes Hospital Campus in Monroeville.
- \$250,000 to purchase a building and vacant land and demolish five buildings to assist in the Plum Creek Shoppes economic development project.
- \$200,000 for Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments to address the demolition of several structures in Pitcairn and Wall, playground renovations in Turtle Creek and street reconstruction in Wilmerding.
- \$140,000 to acquire the property at Parkway Jewish Center in Monroeville to build an emergency access road to the Sri Venkateswara Temple from South McCully Drive to Princeton Drive.
- \$100,000 to rehabilitate Maple Avenue from Grant Street to Oak Avenue Ext. to improve safety for drivers and pedestrians in Turtle Creek Borough.
- \$100,000 to repave and reconstruct critical infrastructure in Wilmerding Borough along Caldwell, Westinghouse and Marguerite avenues and Patton and Commerce streets.
- \$50,000 to rehabilitate and stabilize the hill along Patterson Street in Wall Borough.



I spoke at the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Westinghouse Castle, which was built in the 1800s and will reopen as a multi-purpose facility to serve the Wilmerding community.

OUTDOOR, RECREATIONAL & COMMUNITY SPACES

- \$2 million for renovations and improvements to the Jewish Community Center's Monroeville Family Park facility.
- \$521,000 to acquire 96 acres of land within Monroeville that can be used for open space and passive recreation.
- \$350,000 to help the Monroeville Baseball & Softball Association improve the infrastructure, facilities and resources at Monroeville Community Park West Baseball and Softball Complex.
- \$200,000 to correct uncontrolled stormwater runoff onto the Wilmerding Community Center and its parking lot located in the Ice Plant Hill area of East McKeesport.
- \$150,000 to revitalize the Crestas Terrace Community Center in North Versailles Township.
- \$121,931 to expand the sports complex in Pitcairn.
- \$24,000 to replace the flooring at Monroeville Senior Center's fitness area and install athletic rubber flooring.



I attended the opening day festivities of the Monroeville Baseball & Softball Association. Best of luck to the players and coaches this season!

STATE GRANTS TO FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENTS IN OUR DISTRICT

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| ■ Monroeville EMS Inc. – Monroeville - \$10,000 | ■ Monroeville Vol. Fire CPNY No. 1 – Monroeville - \$15,000 | ■ West Wilmerding Volunteer Fire Department – North Versailles - \$12,843 |
| ■ Monroeville Fire Co. Number 6 – Monroeville - \$15,000 | ■ Pitcairn Fire Company #1 - \$13,089 | ■ Crestas Volunteer Fire Co. No. 4 – North Versailles - \$11,861 |
| ■ Monroeville Vol. Fire Co. No. 5 – Monroeville - \$15,000 | ■ United Volunteer Fire and Rescue – East McKeesport - \$13,580 | ■ Wilmerding Volunteer Fire Department – Wilmerding - \$13,826 |
| ■ Monroeville Vol. Fire Co. No. 4 – Monroeville - \$15,000 | ■ Eastern Area Prehospital Service – Turtle Creek - \$10,000 | |
| ■ Monroeville Vol. Fire Co. No. 3 – Monroeville - \$12,843 | ■ Fire Department of North Versailles (fire and EMS) – North Versailles - \$24,317 | |



Last fall, I participated in the Pittsburgh Fire Fighters Fire Ops 101 program. We had an intense day of hands-on learning about what our firefighters and first responders do to keep us safe.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

1. The East Allegheny High School orchestra performed inside the Capitol in Harrisburg. They did a fantastic job!



2. I welcomed Gateway High School's Racari El to the state Capitol for the introduction of the athletes chosen to play in this year's Big 33 matchup!

3. I toured the Vault Coffeehouse in Pitcairn. I'm proud to support small businesses in our communities.

4. Reading to the kids during story time at the Monroeville Public Library was fun!

5. Congratulations to the brave men and women who were sworn in as officers at United Volunteer Fire/Rescue in East McKeesport earlier this year.



6. It was an honor to present Noah Hudson of Plum with a Pennsylvania citation for his achievement of Eagle Scout.

7. I joined the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Eastern Area Prehospital Service in distributing 13,000 lbs. of food for the holidays in Turtle Creek.



8. Thank you to Plum Borough Police Department and my staff for helping folks at the free license plate replacement event I held at Boyce Park.

9. I had the honor of speaking at Monroeville's International Day of Peace at Monroeville Park in the fall.





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State Representative

BRANDON MARKOSEK

P.O. Box 202025

Harrisburg, PA 17120-2025

lpo.ts.0523

SAVE THE DATE **DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT**

My annual shred event will be back this summer! Protect yourself from identity theft by shredding documents with your personal information at my free event, where a veteran-owned company will destroy your documents on site.

Saturday, July 22

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Gateway High School football stadium parking lot
3000 Gateway Campus Blvd., Monroeville, PA 15146

Please bring up to three boxes or bags of documents.

Papers must be loose – no binders or paper clips.

For more information, call my office at (412) 856-8284.

IMPACTED BY THE END OF EXTRA SNAP PAYMENTS?

The extra Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Emergency Allotment payments that were issued during the COVID-19 pandemic ended earlier this year due to a change in federal law. Households now receive one regular SNAP payment each month.

To ensure you are receiving the SNAP benefits you are entitled to, you should report any changes to your address, household size, income or expenses to DHS by calling 877-395-8930 or visiting dhs.pa.gov/SNAPCares.

If your household has been impacted by the reduction in SNAP benefits, I want you to know that local food banks and multiple programs are available to help with access to nutritious food. Learn more about assistance programs and resources at www.agriculture.pa.gov/food_security.



I toured the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's warehouse and spoke to the staff about the resources they can provide our communities.

APPLYING FOR PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATES? MY OFFICE CAN HELP!

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program provides a state rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2022 to income-eligible residents 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older.

Applications can be submitted online at www.mypath.pa.gov. My office can also help you obtain a paper application and fill it out. The deadline to apply is June 30, 2023.

PROPERTY TAX/ RENT REBATE PROGRAM

for residents who are permanently disabled,
50+ and widowed, or 65+

Application Deadline: **June 30, 2023**



What we need from you:

EVERYONE

✓ All earned income tax forms (1099 SSI, W2s, etc.)

HOMEOWNERS

✓ Copies of all paid tax bills

RENTERS

✓ Signed form from the landlord



\$35,000
household income
for homeowners

&
\$15,000
household income
for renters

For those on Social Security:
half of SSI/SSD income is
excluded for eligibility

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE

The PACENET program can help income-eligible seniors 65 or older with the costs of prescription medicine. Income limits have recently increased and are now \$33,500 for single people and \$41,500 for married people. To learn more, visit www.aging.pa.gov and scroll down to the link titled PACE Program.

MY OFFICE CAN HELP WITH:

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.
- PACE prescription drug cards for senior citizens.
- Information on financial assistance for higher education.
- Unemployment, disability or workers' compensation.
- Requests for literature – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information.
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments or milestones.
- Pennsylvania income tax problems.
- Problems or questions about PennDOT - car registrations, special tags, disability parking placards, titles and driver's license applications.
- Consumer complaints.
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC.
- Assistance with Pittsburgh Regional Transit ConnectCards for seniors.