



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FRANK BURNS

Spring 2025

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Fighting *for* You

Burns submits
Right-to-Know
requests on Cambria
voting failure

Burns: Cambria unearths relevant
voting Right-to-Know document

BURNS: CAMBRIA COUNTY DENIES
VOTING FIASCO RIGHT-TO-KNOW REQUESTS

Burns wants State Department
to investigate Cambria
election snafu

Cambria election fiasco prompts Burns inquiries, action

Legislation would require better voting machine testing

Rep. Burns knows the powers-that-be in Cambria County government are downplaying the massive countywide Nov. 5 voting system failure, which left voters confused, frustrated and wondering about the integrity of the process.

County officials are blaming improperly printed paper ballots, which refused to scan properly, as the culprit. Yet, in information Rep. Burns worked to uncover, all 125 electronic scanners used on Election Day were tested beforehand – and all passed the inspection!

However, when the Cambria County scanners were tested, they were not being fed the actual paper ballots that were going to be used on Election Day.

That seems pretty stupid to Rep. Burns, who has proposed legislation – in line with a PA Department of State recommendation – that would require ALL counties in Pennsylvania to perform pre-election scanner testing using the ACTUAL BALLOTS printed for that specific upcoming election.

Rep. Burns' legislation would also allow observers from the public to witness the testing – and would require the Department of State, which oversees elections in the Commonwealth, to post the certifications of accuracy on its public website.

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“We need to bring greater standardization to pre-election preparations to ensure machines will function on Election Day ... My legislation is one way to put more teeth into the oversight role the Department of State plays in elections, making it more of a tiger than a kitten.”

– Rep. Frank Burns

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Burns major player in renewed voter ID push

For fairer and more secure elections

Firmly established as an elected official who rises above party politics and political labels, Rep. Burns is unafraid to serve as prime Democratic sponsor of a voter ID bill that would fulfill his longstanding commitment to election integrity.

His stance and lead role in this bipartisan effort are not surprising, as Rep. Burns at times in the past has been the only House Democrat to vote in favor of voter ID.

To address fears that requiring ID would disenfranchise some voters, Rep. Burns supports provisions to ensure that IDs are accessible to all voters, with free identification options for those who may need them.

Rep. Burns' bedrock view is that we need to have fair, transparent and secure elections – and that starts with making sure EVERY vote cast is legitimate.

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“I’m proud to sponsor the voter ID bill, and I believe everyone, regardless of party, should support it. It’s a basic, commonsense measure that guarantees only eligible voters are casting ballots.”

– State Rep. Frank Burns

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Burns urges Trump, McCormick to pare down Johnstown public housing

Pursuing every avenue to right-size the Johnstown Housing Authority – which continues operating as though the city's 1960 population of 54,000 has not plunged to its current less-than-18,000 – Rep. Burns took the case that 1,504 public housing units from a bygone heyday are no longer needed to President Trump and U.S. Senator McCormick.

Rep. Burns wrote the incoming President and Senator letters, asking them to use the weight of their federal offices to get HUD, which funds the bloated JHA operation, to correct the gross imbalance of public housing.

Noting that Johnstown has five times the number of public housing units as other cities its size, and that 80 families per month (mainly from Philadelphia) are moving to Johnstown just to live in public housing, Burns wrote that he is “able and eager” to work with Trump and McCormick to address this matter, “which would greatly benefit our local community.”

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President-elect Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

12/2/2024

Dear President-elect Trump,

As state representative for the city of Johnstown, Pa., I offer sincere congratulations on your resounding election victory – and my support for your high priority of eliminating waste and duplication in the federal budget.

I believe your commendable effort at curtailing excessive federal spending could start with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's bloated funding of the Johnstown Housing Authority at a level that far exceeds our local need for public housing.

Johnstown's population has shrunk considerably since the 1960s, plunging from nearly 54,000 to fewer than 18,000 people, yet HUD inexplicably continues to fund 1,504 public housing units that are no longer justified by true local demand.

It's estimated that HALF of the people living in Johnstown Housing Authority public housing came from outside Cambria County, primarily Philadelphia. News reports have documented that many of them stay in Johnstown public housing just long enough to obtain a Section 8 Program voucher, which they then "port" back home, tapping the Johnstown Housing Authority's federal funds to foot the bill for their subsidized housing in Philadelphia and elsewhere.

HUD allows this gaming of the system to continue, creating a revolving door of poverty, crime and drain on local resources. Our county district attorney and Johnstown school superintendent have both noted its debilitating effects on Johnstown.

“HUD allows this gaming of the system to continue, creating a revolving door of poverty, crime and drain on local resources.”

Burns takes governor on local tour...



...then delivers

\$5.5 million

**for FOUR Johnstown,
Westmont Hilltop projects**

Seeing is believing, so Rep. Burns used his clout and seniority in the House to bring Pennsylvania Governor Shapiro to Johnstown for a September tour and firsthand view of the area and its needs. Two months later – and with persistent advocacy from Rep. Burns – the state awarded **\$5.5 million for four big-ticket projects:**



\$2.5 million for construction of a new Johnstown Public Safety Building.



\$1.5 million for the Cambria County War Memorial renovations project, where significant construction work includes a new kitchen, new equipment installation and a parking lot upgrade.



\$1 million for Westmont Hilltop School District school renovations, where the elementary school is getting six additional classrooms, bathroom renovations and new cafeteria flooring; and the junior-senior high school is getting HVAC/environmental upgrades, a roof restoration, a new exterior door and a new bathroom with exterior access.



\$500,000 for Gallery on Gazebo, to renovate a downtown building to create a center for the arts, including classrooms, offices and rental space.

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“When I visited Johnstown earlier this year, Representative Frank Burns took me to the Johnstown Public Safety Building and Cambria County War Memorial – and I’m proud that thanks to his advocacy, my administration is investing in both.”

– Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro

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Burns' seniority, personal touch yield \$4.1 million for 19 projects

Rep. Burns brought Matthew McCarry, special assistant to the House Majority Leader, to learn firsthand the needs of the district – including this visit with Roxann Tyger, executive director of the Women's Help Center.

The naysayers who think seniority doesn't matter sure got their bubble burst in October, when Rep. Burns announced in one fell swoop a whopping \$4.1 million for 19 projects in his legislative district.

Rep. Burns' personal meetings with officials from many of these municipalities and organizations were a key factor in the following results – many of which prevent local tax hikes:



- 💰 **1st Summit Arena** – **\$220,693** to renovate the kitchen and **\$100,000** to renovate the parking area.
- 💰 **Blacklick Valley Foundation and Ambulance Service** – **\$202,713** for a new ambulance to be used in Nanty Glo.
- 💰 **Conemaugh Township** – **\$59,499** to purchase a crack sealing trailer to help repair roads, **\$150,000** for a new excavator and **\$72,861** to replace its 17-year-old Dodge Charger with an all-wheel drive Ford Expedition.
- 💰 **Conemaugh Valley Junior-Senior High School** – **\$2 million** for HVAC upgrades.
- 💰 **East Conemaugh Borough** – **\$107,805** to purchase an additional maintenance vehicle and replace a high-mileage police vehicle.
- 💰 **Ebensburg** – **\$52,747** to purchase and install two rapid flashing beacons at the corner of West High and Julian streets for increased pedestrian safety.
- 💰 **Hyndman Area Health Center** – **\$242,000** for new medical and dental equipment for its Johnstown office.
- 💰 **Jackson East Taylor Sewer Authority** – **\$57,500** to replace a damaged portion of sewer main along state Route 271 near Mundy's Corner.
- 💰 **Johnstown Redevelopment Authority** – **\$82,000** to create a community meeting space at the Cambria County Library in Johnstown.
- 💰 **Johnstown's Women's Help Center** – **\$31,431** to renovate the shelter's bathrooms, boiler and HVAC systems.
- 💰 **Lorain Borough** – **\$58,252** for a small excavator for various public works projects in the borough.
- 💰 **Lower Yoder Township** – **\$101,268** for the Elk Run culvert rehabilitation project.
- 💰 **Middle Taylor Township** – **\$25,821** to upgrade the antiquated siren at Middle Taylor Township Volunteer Fire Co.
- 💰 **Southmont Borough** – **\$324,315** for updates to the municipal building.
- 💰 **Upper Yoder Township** – **\$61,848** to buy a 2024 Ford SUV for the police department.
- 💰 **Upper Yoder Township Authority** – **\$150,000** for a van and related equipment to aid in the maintenance of the sanitary sewer.



State Representative
Frank Burns

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lpo.sh.0525

Hard work matters!

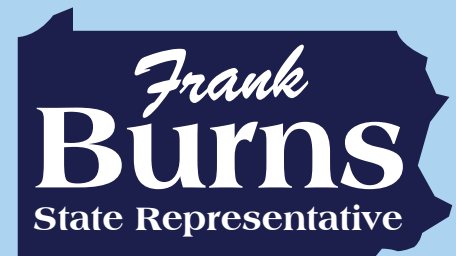
As your state representative, it is Rep. Burns' goal to improve our communities and assist you with state issues. He's ready to roll up his sleeves to:

- Answer questions about state laws, programs or issues
- Obtain grant money for recreation, schools, first responder units and local organizations
- Assist veterans with getting the programs they deserve
- Facilitate your PennDOT paperwork
- Get you in contact with PHEAA for help with higher education
- Help you sign up for state programs such as heating assistance, the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, prescription assistance or children's health insurance
- Address your complaints about utilities and road conditions
- Work with local officials for the good of the community

For questions, concerns or assistance, reach out to one of Rep. Burns' offices.

Did you know?

Rep. Burns' fiscal responsibility has saved taxpayers over \$300,000 in office costs.



72nd Legislative District

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