



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# Scott Conklin

WINTER 2022  
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77TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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## Conklin Fights to Protect Voters, Democracy

The last two years have been difficult ones for many of us, with a global pandemic affecting every facet of our daily lives. There have been ups and downs, but our community's strength has always been in its people – the people I was honored to be chosen to represent. I was elected to be your voice in Harrisburg, and I am dedicated to listening to your needs and taking them directly to the state Capitol.

As we head into the new year, I am rededicated to that task and making sure that democracy works in Pennsylvania. From fair districts where the people choose who represents them (and not the other way around), to a comprehensive election code update to make our elections freer, fairer and easier, I've been fighting to protect our democracy and society from those who would do it harm for personal gain.

As the Democratic chairman of the House State Government Committee, I have been on the front line of these efforts – especially the redistricting process.

Every 10 years, Pennsylvania undergoes redistricting, during which legislative boundaries are redrawn to reflect our state's ever-changing



*Rep. Conklin holds up a blank piece of paper during a State Government Committee hearing to draw attention to GOP efforts to undermine congressional redistricting.*

demographics. While this is supposed to be an apolitical process, in the past politicians have used their party's political power to choose who they represent, rather than having the people choose who represents them.

Taken to the extreme, this viewpoint, which puts political concerns first, results in a form of political narcissism and a broken system that is more concerned with power and control than with representing the people.

And that is, sadly, where we find ourselves these days, where the House GOP is using every trick in their book to try and not only protect their political power, but carve out more for themselves by circumventing the checks and balances of our democracy for their own gain.

The GOP majority has forced through votes on Congressional 'maps' that were literally blank sheets of paper, giving them total control over what the final product would be. They have also proposed constitutional changes to the redistricting process, to ensure they have final say – and essentially cut the people or dissenting opinions out of the process.

This process will continue to play out, but it must be rooted in facts – not fantasy or political hyperbole. The energy my colleagues are expanding on their narcissistic campaign for

political power could be better spent tackling the challenges that everyday Pennsylvanians continue to face – getting people back to work, improving our schools, investing in our communities and protecting our right to vote.

# Conklin drives state investment in our communities

**\$2.4 million for the Masters Boulevard/Waddle Road Extension project in Patton Township**

**\$418,000 for high performance vehicle battery technology development**

**\$375,000 to Centre County to address violence against women and expand victims' services**

**\$1 million to expand medical/dental care for the medically underserved living or working in Centre County**

**\$90,000 grant to Rush Township for blight demolition and rehab**

**\$69,767 awarded to combat the Spotted Lantern Fly**

**\$55,040 in grants to local fire and emergency medical services companies**

## Free gun locks available at PSP barracks

As a firearm owner, it is your responsibility to ensure that guns in your home are stored where they are inaccessible to children or other unauthorized persons.

Hiding a gun in a closet, drawer or similar location is not safe storage. Safe storage is employing precautions and multiple safeguards that provide an additional barrier against unauthorized use.

Gun locks are a simple way to safely store firearms in the home, and best of all – they're free.

They're very easy to use and are available for free at all state police barracks and most local police departments. Gun locks are a great safety device - especially if you have children and don't have a gun safe or a particular area to put them.



# Conklin introduces comprehensive election reform bill

As a former Centre County commissioner and election board chair, I am well aware of many issues local election officials confronted during the unprecedented 2020 general election. That is why I've introduced new legislation to address many of those issues and improve voting and voter access across Pennsylvania.

A few years ago, pre-COVID, House Republicans voted overwhelmingly to allow for mail-in voting, along with several other updates in the state's election law.

After the unprecedented election in 2020, county elections officials asked the state legislature for help in tweaking that update. Well, their voices were heard, which is why I introduced legislation to allow for pre-canvassing and fund necessary equipment purchases – just like county officials asked.

My bill would also require risk-limiting audits, provide for early voting and give county election boards flexibility when establishing ballot return locations. It would also make the “permanent” vote-by-mail list actually permanent; create a system for curing absentee and mail-in ballots; create a public voter fraud hotline; establish a voter bill of rights; and seek to have the state reimburse counties for the costs of voting machines, ballot processing machines and electronic record systems.

My legislation, which I've been working on with local elections officials and others, seeks to address their legitimate concerns, update our laws and create a system that not only expands voting access and makes voting easier, but also strengthens trust in the system.



*Rep. Conklin and Centre County Commissioners Michael Pipe and Mark Higgins drop off their mail-in ballots ahead of the November election in 2021.*

# Don't be cold this winter — LIHEAP is here to help!

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, (LIHEAP) is available to help families catch up with their heating bills. LIHEAP helps low-income families with a one-time payment sent directly to their utility company or fuel provider and credited to their bill or emergency repair. The payments can range from \$500 to \$1,500 and are based on income, household size, and fuel type.

You can apply online through COMPASS or contact my office for help. For more information on LIHEAP and to review eligibility, visit:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/LIHEAP.aspx>



NEED ENERGY ASSISTANCE?

# LIHEAP

{ LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM }

2021-2022 APPLICATION IS NOW OPEN!



State Representative  
**Scott Conklin**

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# Rep. Scott Conklin's Winter Update

## INSIDE:

- ✓ **FIGHTING TO PROTECT DEMOCRACY**
- ✓ **GRANT MONEY COMES TO OUR COMMUNITY**
- ✓ **VOTING UPDATES AND MORE!**

REPRESENTING PARTS OF FERGUSON, PATTON AND SOUTH TOWNSHIPS, AS WELL AS HUSTON AND RUSH TOWNSHIPS AND THE BOROUGHS OF PHILIPSBURG AND STATE COLLEGE.

## MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Issues with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Inquiries about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Issues with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program problems or questions
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

**Any state government-related matter!**

IF YOU NEED HELP WITH ANY STATE OR GOVERNMENT RELATED SERVICES, PLEASE CONTACT MY OFFICE AT 814-238-5477 FOR ASSISTANCE.