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DEAR NEIGHBORS,

I hope everyone enjoyed this holiday season.

We made great legislative progress in Harrisburg in 2023, and we look to continue to do so in the new year.

Locally, my staff and I look forward to continuing to serve you with both outreach events and personalized services in 2024. If you need help with any state-related issues, please feel free to call my district office at (267) 580-2660, email me at RepDavis@pahouse.net, or stop by my office at 3611 Green Lane in Levittown.



Funding our state-related universities



The PA House passed legislation that provides funding to the four state-related universities – Pitt, Penn State, Temple and Lincoln.

These are world class universities and state funding is used to reduce tuition for in-state students.

I'm proud the House took this important step to secure this funding to help our students AND hold tuition steady.

Gov. Shapiro signed this bill into law in November.



Events

Our spring shredding event is scheduled for Saturday, May 4. As this newsletter goes to press, we are in the middle of finalizing this and other 2024 outreach events. Please sign up for my emails at www.RepTinaDavis.com to get updates on when and where these events will take place.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Expanding the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit Program

I am pleased to report the House has passed an expansion of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit Program. House Bill 1259, which I sponsored, would help families ease the burden of childcare costs through an expansion of the program, providing a stepped, yearly increase to the tax credit eligible individuals can claim.

With return-to-work policies in full swing, families are once again faced with steep childcare costs and difficult decisions. This bill would provide a much-needed tax

break to families in the Bristol area and throughout the commonwealth. Our children deserve exceptional child care, and parents should be able to provide it without worrying about breaking the bank.

HB 1259 passed the House with bipartisan support and is in the Senate for further consideration.

In addition, I was also able to get the language of this bill amended into October's House tax code bill. This bill is also awaiting Senate approval.

Protecting Incarcerated Women

Over the past three decades Pennsylvania has seen a significant increase in the number of incarcerated women. While I believe in supporting a system that serves justice, incarcerated women face a number of unique issues regarding their health and the health of their children. Despite being incarcerated, these women are still our mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters, and it is in everyone's best interest to ensure we treat them with dignity.

I cosponsored House Bill 900, which passed the House unanimously, and would do the following:

- Prohibit solitary confinement of pregnant women.
- Provide for trauma informed care training of corrections officers interacting with pregnant and postpartum women.
- Provide for up to three days of post-delivery bonding time between mother and new born child.
- Provide for accommodation of adequate visitation time between minor children and incarcerated individuals
- (male or female) who were the sole legal guardian of those minor children at the time of their arrest.
- Prohibit full body searches of incarcerated females by male guards.
- Provide for appropriate amount of feminine hygiene products at no cost to incarcerated women.
- Provide for limited coverage of cost to transport individuals to a safe location upon release.

HB 900 is under consideration in the Senate.

Flood Insurance Taskforce

As parts of Bucks County had another wave of costly floods this year, we are again reminded of the rising cost of flood insurance.

The good news is we will now have a better understanding of why the cost keeps rising and how to combat it. House Bill 735, bipartisan legislation which I co-sponsored, creates a Flood Insurance Task Force. It passed both the House and Senate and was signed into law by Gov. Shapiro.

I will provide updates as this task force meets and offers its recommendations.

Saving Renters from Unnecessary Application Fees

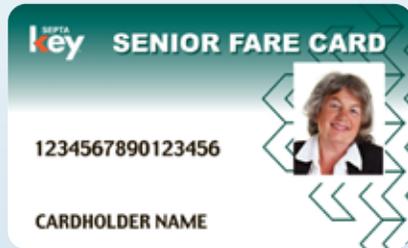
We are all aware of how competitive the housing rental market is right now. Potential renters are filling out applications by the dozens in the hopes of securing housing for themselves and their families. These applications often have fees associated with them. People across the state pay hundreds of dollars in application fees, only to find out after the fact that they have been denied an apartment.

I believe this process should be more transparent to help the working people of Pennsylvania keep their money in their pockets. I plan to introduce legislation that would require landlords and property management companies to list the minimum credit score they will accept for a rental application. This would allow those who are seeking housing the ability to use their discretion when deciding whether or not they will apply for housing, potentially saving them hundreds of dollars.

Pennsylvania State Police Open an Additional Application Period Without College Credit Requirement

The Pennsylvania State Police has opened a new cadet application cycle with no college credit requirement for women and men seeking careers as state troopers. Waiving the requirement for the previous hiring cycle proved highly successful at increasing the number of cadet applicants. Applications for the current cycle remain open through January 31.

Cadet applicants must possess a high school diploma or GED certificate and a valid driver's license from any state. Applicants must be at least 20 years old at the time of application, and they must be at least 21 years old and cannot have reached age 40 upon entry into the training academy. Cadets must be a Pennsylvania resident and possess a valid Pennsylvania driver's license at the time of graduation. For more information on becoming a Pennsylvania State Police trooper, visit www.patrooper.com. To apply for the current hiring cycle, go to www.governmentjobs.com.



If you have a SEPTA Senior Key Card that has expired, it can be renewed at my district office.

If you need your card renewed, stop by my office at 3611 Green Lane in Levittown. The hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Please call ahead. The number is (267) 580-2660.

Recent state funding for our area

Grants awarded to BTSD to help school children eat healthy

It is important to start kids eating healthy at an early age. That is why I am pleased the Bristol Township School District recently received two grants to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for our school children.

- Bristol Township School District is receiving a \$15,000 grant to purchase locally produced fresh fruit and vegetables through the PA Farm Bill Farm-to-School Grant. Funded projects connect local farmers to schools to supply fresh, in-season products to be served in cafeterias, expanding market opportunities for farmers. Other projects support school gardens, field trips, and other hands-on agriculture education, enriching early awareness of career opportunities.
- Keystone Elementary School, located in the Croydon section of Bristol Township, received \$68,832 from the federal Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. Under the program's guidelines, the funds will be used to provide students with fresh fruits and vegetables separately from the lunch or breakfast meal in one or more areas of the school during the school day.

Money for new police vehicles

- I recently helped secure a \$60,000 grant for police vehicles in Bristol.



New guidelines for Property Tax/Rent Rebate

Starting in 2024, the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program will expand to nearly 175,000 additional Pennsylvanians as the income limit will increase to \$45,000 for both homeowners and renters, and the maximum standard rebate will increase to \$1,000 (up from \$650).

For questions about the program or to get an application, please call my office at (267) 580-2660.

Report a pothole or other road issues

Providing safe transportation is one of the bedrock functions of government. Please help us help PennDOT. If you spot a pothole or other road issue, please contact my office at (267) 580-2660, and we will forward your concern to the responsible government entity whether it's PennDOT, the municipal government, or someone else.

Ending junk fees for concert, sports tickets

As the Phillies latest postseason run and Eagles current season has showed us, tickets to Citizens Bank Park, Lincoln Financial Field and other venues are in high demand. For those who have recently attempted to buy sports tickets, concert tickets or other event tickets, the added fees have become as grandiose as a Kyle Schwarber home run.

Thankfully, the House passed the Pay the Price You See Act that would end the deceptive practice of adding endless “service fees” and “administrative fees” after you’ve made your choice to buy. The price you see is the price you pay – no more Junk Fees.

HB 636 is now under consideration in the Senate.



Pennie is the only place to find the lowest costs on high-quality health coverage!

pennie
connecting Pennsylvanians to health coverage

Visit pennie.com today!

Pennie, Pennsylvania’s health insurance marketplace, is now open for enrollment for 2024 health insurance coverage.

Those who enroll by Jan. 15 will have a coverage effective date of Feb. 1.

Last year, many Pennsylvanians who enrolled in a health insurance plan through Pennie paid lower monthly premiums because of temporary subsidies included in President Biden’s American Rescue Plan Act. These subsidies are available for plan year 2024.

More information is available at Pennie.com/connect or the Pennie Customer Service Call Center at 1-844-844-8040.

LIHEAP now open

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program is taking applications for the 2023-24 heating season.

LIHEAP helps families living on low incomes pay their heating bills in the form of a cash grant.

Households in immediate danger of being without heat can also qualify for crisis grants. The income limit for LIHEAP will remain at 150% of the federal poverty level income guidelines. This equates to the following income limits listed on the accompanying chart.

For further information or help filling out the application, call my office at (267) 580-2660.

Need Energy Assistance? 2023-2024 LIHEAP Applications are Now Open!

2023-2024 Income Guidelines	
Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
1	\$21,870
2	\$29,580
3	\$37,290
4	\$45,000
5	\$52,710
6	\$60,420
7	\$68,130
8	\$75,840
9	\$83,550
10	\$91,260

Each additional person \$7,710

OUT AND ABOUT

1. *Labor Unions have a long and storied history in the Bristol area, and I am proud to support them.*

Unions remain an economic driver to help increase wages and improve job safety protections, but in Upper Dublin, Montgomery County, the International Union of Operating Engineers has also taken an active role in improving the health care options for its workers and their families.

IUOE Local 542 opened its own health care facility earlier this year. For the exclusive use of its workers and covered family members, the center provides primary care services – free of copays and deductibles.

I joined other members of the House Majority Policy Committee in touring the facility in October.

2. *I had a great time at the Bristol Township Fall Festival. Thank you to the organizers for a well-run event.*

I am pictured with state Senator Steve Santarsiero and Bristol Township School Board Director Gallus Obert.

3. *Bristol Borough: Raising the Bar unveiled its latest public art, a mural by Jared Bader, celebrating Bristol's celebrated history as a seaport.*

Located at Market Street and Wood Street, the mural is part of the larger Riverport Plaza @ Market project.

Congratulations to Bristol Borough: Raising the Bar for making this beautiful mural and plaza a reality. Chairman Bill Pezza, Council President Ralph DiGuiseppe, Mayor DiGuiseppe, and everyone involved should be very proud.

Please come and check it out for yourself.

4. *Thank you to all those who attended the 2023 Senior Expo and for all the exhibitors for providing important information and programs to our community.*

If you missed the Senior Expo, but would like information on the programs and exhibitors, please contact my office at (267) 580-2660.

5. *I joined with other Bucks County legislators to present the Bridge Scholarship. This will benefit students from St. Mark's in Bristol, St. Michael the Archangel in Levittown and Holy Family Regional in Levittown.*

6. *I was honored to attend the decennial (10 year) anniversary of St. George Malankara Orthodox Church in Fairless Hills.*

Congratulations to Fr. Peter and the entire church community.

7. *It was great meeting with some of our local veterans during the Bristol Twp. Senior Center Veterans Day Breakfast.*





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lpo.km.1223



Participating in the Women in Politics panel discussion at Bucks County Community College.



Visiting the New Creation of Life's summer camp.



Touring the Boilermakers Local 13 hall.



Ribbon cutting to complete the New Falls Road sidewalk project.