

State Representative | 118th Legislative District

JIM HADDOCK

FALL 2023



Capitol Office:

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District Offices:

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More money in your pocket

The number of people struggling to get by is only growing, especially among our seniors.

For almost 20 years, many people lost access to the Property Tax/ Rent Rebate Program because of small changes in their income. Starting in 2024, a new law, which I voted for, will help an extra 10,000 renters and homeowners in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties to stay in the homes and communities they love.

The expansion:

- ✓ Raises the income limit to qualify for rebates to \$45,000 for both homeowners and renters.
- ✓ Ensures this income cap will keep pace with inflation beginning in claim year 2024.
- ✓ Increases the maximum rebate from \$650 to \$1,000.

Remember, when calculating your yearly earnings, you need to claim **ONLY** half of your yearly Social Security allocation to qualify.

Visit my office or give us a call at 570-655-4883 if you have any questions or need assistance applying.

REMINDER: You have until December 31 using the current income limits to apply for a rebate on the property taxes or rent paid last year.



Property Tax / Rent Rebate Program

MORE people eligible, **MORE** money back!

Homeowners Income

	This Year	Next Year
Up to \$8K	\$650	\$1,000
Up to \$15K	\$500	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$300	\$460
Up to \$35K	\$250	\$380
Up to \$45K	\$0	\$380

Renter Income

	This Year	Next Year
Up to \$8K	\$650	\$1,000
Up to \$15K	\$500	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$0	\$460
Up to \$45K	\$0	\$380

Questions? Contact my office for help receiving your refund by calling (570) 655-4883 or emailing RepHaddock@pahouse.net



It was great discussing the expanded Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program with Betty and Ziggy Romanczuk of Dupont.

\$7.9 million in state grants

One of the most gratifying parts of my job as your state Representative in Harrisburg is seeing your tax dollars returned to our area through various state grant programs. Many of the projects funded by these grants would either not be possible for local governments to afford, or they would require local taxes to be increased.

Some of the grants awarded to our area so far this year include:

Avoca Borough

- \$440,781 to purchase a new emergency rescue truck.
- \$221,600 to renovate the Avoca Borough VFW building.
- \$130,000 to renovate the Avoca Borough Community Center.
- \$50,532 to purchase a new police cruiser.

Dalton Borough

- \$105,000 to purchase a backhoe for public works.
- \$38,427 to purchase police cameras and safety equipment.
- \$35,410 to purchase a public works vehicle.
- \$33,847 to purchase a Kubota diesel tractor for the public works department.

Dupont Borough

- \$100,000 to acquire and develop greenspace for the Dupont Public Park Enhancement Project.
- \$45,825 to restore Dupont Community Park with new equipment.
- \$100,000 to construct a maintenance garage.
- \$30,000 to upgrade information technology infrastructure.
- \$15,000 to construct a veterans memorial monument.

Duryea Borough

- \$114,045 to renovate Germania Hose Co.
- \$25,200 to expand the storage facility for the Duryea Wildcats Junior Football Association.

Glenburn Township

- \$130,000 for the Department of Public Works Building Phase I.

Hughestown Borough

- \$116,200 to build a new salt shed storage.
- \$123,704 to purchase a backhoe.

Jenkins Township

- \$103,140 to purchase two new police vehicles.
- \$67,910 to purchase firefighter turnout gear.
- \$365,000 to mill and pave Carey Lane and Centerpointe Drive.

Lafin Borough

- \$225,340 for stormwater improvements.
- \$77,103 to purchase a work truck for the Public Works Department.
- \$62,800 for updated signal equipment at Route 315 and Lafin Road (SR 2026).
- \$17,435 to rehabilitate 58 fire hydrants.

Moosic Borough

- \$135,139 to replace the roof at the Moosic Youth Center.

Old Forge Borough

- \$121,542 to renovate the fire station.
- \$100,000 to improve field lighting at Pagnotta Park.
- \$90,990 to purchase LED signage and other safety equipment to improve safety of residents and visitors.

Nearly \$280,000 for local fire, EMS companies

Our first responders answer the call every day and go above and beyond to keep our communities safe. I am pleased to see local fire and emergency medical service companies receive essential grant funding so they can do everything necessary to protect us and provide emergency aid.

The funds can be used for facility upgrades, equipment, debt reduction, training and certification, education and public outreach, and recruitment and retention efforts.



I recently met with firefighters from Duryea.

118th District recipients include:

- Dalton Fire Co. - \$13,335
- Greenwood Hose Co. No. 1 - \$15,000
- Eagle McClure Hose Co. No. 1 Station 93-3 - \$14,563
- Old Forge Hose and Engine Co. - \$13,580
- Taylor Fire and Rescue - \$14,317
- Avoca Hose Co. No. 1 - \$14,808
- Avoca Ambulance Association – EMS - \$10,000
- Dupont Vol. Hose Co. No. 1 - \$11,861
- Excelsior Hose Co. No. 2 - \$14,317
- Germania Hose Co. - \$14,808
- Lafin Volunteer Fire Department - \$13,335
- Eagle Hose Co. No. 1 - \$26,063
- Greater Pittston Ambulance & Rescue Association - EMS - \$30,000
- Hughestown Hose Co. No. 1 – Fire - \$14,071
- Hughestown Hose Co. No. 1 – EMS - \$10,000
- Jenkins Township Volunteer Hose Co. - \$11,861
- Pittston Township Volunteer Fire Department - \$14,071
- Pittston Township Ambulance Association – EMS - \$10,000
- West Pittston Hose Co. No. 1 - \$13,335

Grants to help our area

Old Forge School District

- \$100,000 to improve internal site traffic flow at the Old Forge Campus.

Pittston Area Middle School

- \$10,077 to purchase an electric convection oven.

Pittston Area Senior High School

- \$128,439 to purchase a dishwasher.

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Pittston City

- \$500,000 to assist with blight remediation of six properties located in the city.
- \$500,000 to construct an 80,000-square-foot development project in the downtown business district.
- \$100,000 to renovate the YMCA facility.
- \$78,400 for updated signal equipment at five intersections in the city.

Pittston Township

- \$295,000 to upgrade emergency services.
- \$200,000 to make infrastructure improvements on Armstrong Road.

Riverside Elementary School West

- \$33,512 to purchase an outdoor freezer.

Riverside Junior Senior High School

- \$30,090 to purchase an indoor freezer.

Taylor Borough

- \$50,000 for Department of Public Works garage upgrades.

West Pittston Borough

- \$200,000 to make sidewalk improvements in the borough.
- \$150,000 to renovate dated and dilapidated building at 555 Exeter St.

- \$115,000 to renovate the municipal building.

Wyoming Area Kindergarten Center

- \$8,684 to purchase an electric convection oven.

Wyoming Area Primary Center

- \$15,867 to purchase an electric tilting kettle.

Wyoming Area Regional Police Department

- \$250,000 to renovate their new facility.

Yatesville Borough

- \$134,684 to renovate basketball courts.

PennDOT also announced a large \$1.8 million grant to help fund the development of a 138-acre business park – CenterPoint Commerce & Trade Park South – including a signal intersection, turning lanes, internal roadways, SR 2004 access road, road widening and a bus transit shelter.

My bill to remember 9/11 passes House

I am proud to report that the House of Representatives unanimously passed my bill that would require schools to observe a moment of silence to annually recognize September 11, 2001.

My bill (H.B. 1097) would ensure that future generations of Pennsylvanians understand the events of 9/11, as well as the impact that day continues to have on the lives of all Americans. It would direct the Department of Education to identify model curriculum that would inform school students about the significance of 9/11 and why they should never forget the events of, or the lives lost, that day. The teaching of the curriculum would be optional for each school.

The tragedies that occurred on September 11, 2001, changed our country forever. It is 22 years later, and we are still studying and analyzing the effect that day had on our foreign policy, national security, society and our values.



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Scan this QR code to sign up for my emails detailing items of interest in the district and at the state Capitol in Harrisburg.



House Majority Policy Committee visits NEPA!



In Old Forge, we explored the growing demand for career and technical education, which has a built-in pipeline to foster students from the classroom to the workforce. This issue is a personal one for me, as I'm a graduate of Wilkes-Barre Vo Tech.



We held a separate meeting in Lackawanna County to discuss supply chain transportation issues which are a vital component of our economy.



Finally, we held an informative meeting at the Trolley Museum to help get more federal infrastructure money for Lackawanna County to restore passenger rail service to the Poconos and New York City.

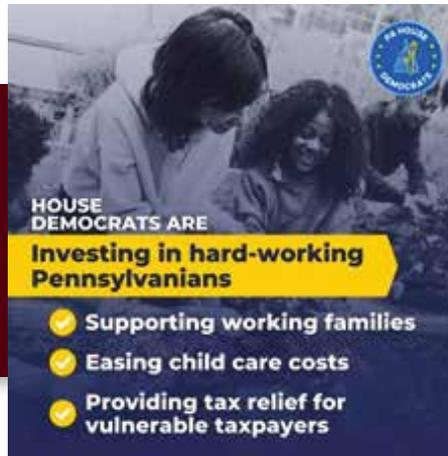
Democrats are delivering for PA

Since taking over the majority in the state House of Representatives this year in Harrisburg, Democrats have been working together and have led the charge to lower your taxes, help you save for retirement, put more teachers in your schools, and make your community safer.

We're putting people ahead of politics – because better jobs, better schools and better communities benefit everyone. And we're just getting started. In Pennsylvania it doesn't matter where you live, how old you are or who you love, House Democrats are fighting for you.



To learn more, visit <https://www.pahouse.com/deliveringforpa> or scan this QR code.



PACE/PACENET prescription assistance for seniors

Pennsylvania's prescription assistance programs for older adults, PACE and PACENET, offer low-cost prescription medication to qualified residents, age 65 or older. The program works with Medicare Part D plans and other prescription drug plans such as retiree/union coverage, employer plans, Medicare Advantage (HMO, PPO) and veterans' benefits (VA) to lower out-of-pocket costs for medications.

- PACE and PACENET eligibility is determined by your previous calendar year's income.
- You must be 65 years of age or older.
- A Pennsylvania resident for at least 90 days before the application date.
- You cannot be enrolled in the Department of Human Service's Medicaid prescription benefit.

PACE Income Limits: for a single person, total income must be \$14,500 or less; \$17,700 for a married couple.

PACENET Income Limits: for a single person, total income can be between \$14,500-\$33,500; \$17,700-\$41,500 for a married couple.

Applications can be filed online at pacecares.magellanhealth.com or by calling 800-225-7223. My office has applications you can mail if you prefer.

OUT AND ABOUT!

1. Thank you to everyone who attended and provided information at the joint Lackawanna Senior Expo.
2. New state flag for Columbus triangle in Pittston City.
3. The House Game & Fisheries Committee held a public hearing with the PA Game Commission to get to the bottom of the trouble with their recent rollout of online license sales.
4. Recognizing Women Veterans Day.
5. Preventing identity theft with a shredding event in Duryea.
6. Touring new Jenkins Township Police Department building.
7. Chatting with Gov. Josh Shapiro in support of our state police.
8. PA Farm Bureau tour in Luzerne County.



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State Representative

JIM HADDOCK

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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
- Obtaining and completing state forms
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Health and Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the PA House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE/PACENET 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 problem with state government!



We had a great turnout for my Taylor office open house earlier this year.

Committee assignments:

- Game & Fisheries
- Gaming Oversight
- Insurance
- Labor & Industry, Subcommittee on Workers Compensation and Worker Protection - Chair
- Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness