



State Representative Joseph C. Hohenstein

177th Legislative District

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Dear Neighbor,

I am both humbled and proud to represent the 177th and the neighborhoods where I grew up. The COVID-19 epidemic has challenged our concept of community, the concept of who we are. Some people might say that it has eliminated any sense of neighborhood or community. I disagree. A strong sense of community is more important than ever, and it requires us to expand our ideas of who “we” are by recognizing how much we have in common.

I was talking with a constituent recently and we both commented that the individualistic spirit of America is one of its greatest strengths; but that in the pandemic, it may be doing more damage than good. In my parents’ childhood during WWII, the concept of shared sacrifices resulted in Victory Gardens, scrap metal drives, and a sense of common purpose. Now, our shared sacrifices are wearing masks, keeping distance at community cleanups, and finding the strength that comes with dealing with adversity together (even at that socially acceptable distance). The shared experience of going through these difficult times is a building block to a stronger community, if we take the time to recognize it as something we are going through together.

Our recent neighborhood events pictured inside this newsletter and the future events in the calendar are my attempt to help build that greater sense of who “we” are. I hope you see your own experiences and those of your neighbors reflected in them, and I hope to see you at one of the events soon.



177th District Staff Janet Bernstein and John Hanssens at your service.

Thursdays are Rebate Days on the Front Porch

The popular Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program has a deadline at the end of the year, but many people could use the help now. Starting Sept. 10, we will welcome walk-ins for rebate applications on the front porch every Thursday from 12-3 p.m. Just come on in with your mask and your proof of income. We will keep everyone safe and socially distant, and we will get you the service you deserve. If you can't come on Thursday, or if you have a more complicated issue, call the office for an in-person appointment. 215-744-2600.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2020

SEPTEMBER

- Friday, 9/11** – Remembrance at St James Lutheran Church – 9 a.m.
- Saturday, 9/12** – Vogt Rec Bench Restoration – 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Saturday, 9/19** – Northwood Bench Restoration – 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Thursday, 9/24** – Virtual Town Hall w/ Oak Street Health, DOH

OCTOBER

- Saturday, 10/17** – Shredding E-Recycling at Kmart Port Richmond w/ Councilmembers Mark Squilla and Bobby Henon and State Senator John Sabatina – 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Thursday, 10/29** – Senior Stroll at Cione Rec w/ State Senator Christine Tartaglione and Congressman Brendan Boyle – 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- Saturday, 11/7** – Veterans BBQ at Pulaski Park – 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, 11/10** – Senior Drive-In Movie Night at Lincoln HS w/ State Senator Tina Tartaglione and Congressman Brendan Boyle – Sundown

It's OK to Reach Out for Help

The COVID-19 health crisis has created additional stress for many. Please know that it's OK to ask for help.

Crisis Text Line: Text 'PA' to 741741 for help 24/7.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: If you or someone you care about is experiencing thoughts of suicide, please call the Lifeline at 800-273-8255. [Español: 888-628-9454].

PA's new support helpline: Run by the Department of Human Services - 1-855-284-2494.

Disaster Distress Helpline: Experiencing emotional distress due to COVID-19? Call 1-800-985-5990 or text 'TalkWithUs' to 66746 to connect with a trained crisis counselor.

Get help now for substance use disorder: Reach out for support from the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs by calling 1-800-662-4357.

Veterans Crisis Line: Are you a veteran in crisis or concerned about one? Connect with caring, qualified responders, many of whom are veterans themselves, by calling 1-800-273-8255 and pressing 1.

ChildLine: The toll-free hotline, 1-800-932-0313, is available 24/7 to receive reports of suspected child abuse.

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE).

Find free food sites near you

Free meals remain available in Philadelphia. You can find food distribution sites closest to you online at: www.phila.gov/food. You can also call the WhyHunger hotline to find food pantry locations: 1-800-5HUNGRY.

Stay Informed!

For the latest on COVID-19 in Pennsylvania, please check out the following resources:

Health Department: health.pa.gov

Philadelphia: www.phila.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: cdc.gov

My website: RepHohenstein.com

Greater Philadelphia Coronavirus Helpline: 1-800-722-7112

Do I need a Real ID? That depends.

No Pennsylvania resident is required to get a Real ID-compliant driver's license or ID card — you don't need a Real ID-compliant license to drive.

However, beginning Oct. 1, 2021, a federally accepted form of identification must be used as identification to board a commercial flight or visit a secure federal building. If you have a valid passport or military ID, for example, you do not need a Real ID-compliant license. For a complete list of federally accepted forms of ID, visit www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/acceptable-IDs.

If you do not have one of these federally accepted forms of ID and wish to access a secure federal facility or board a domestic flight, you should consider getting a Real ID-compliant driver's license or photo ID.

If you do not need to access a secure federal facility or board a plane for domestic travel, you do not need a Real ID-compliant license or ID, unless you want one.

When will I need to have a Real ID? Oct. 1, 2021.



How do I get a Real ID?

The cost is a \$30 one-time fee, plus the renewal fee for your license/photo ID. Your initial Real ID-compliant license or ID will include any time remaining on your existing ID, in addition to the regular four-year term. Once you have a Real ID-compliant license or ID, there will be no fee to renew it, other than the regular renewal fee.

If you have applied for a driver's license or photo ID after 2003, you may be able to apply online because PennDOT may have your documentation already on file. If not, you must visit a Driver License Center with original or certified copies of your documentation.

HANDY GUIDE TO

SENIOR CITIZEN Programs

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE

If you are:

- 65 or older; a widow or widower 50 or older; or 18 or older and permanently disabled; and
- A homeowner and have a total income not exceeding \$35,000 annually; or
- A renter and have a total income not exceeding \$15,000 annually,

you may be eligible for a property tax or rent rebate of up to \$650, or even more if additional requirements are met.

Claimants can deduct half of any Social Security or Railroad Retirement Tier 1 benefits from their income when determining eligibility. Those receiving federal veterans' disability payments and/or state veterans' benefits may exclude that income when applying.

REDUCED AUTOMOBILE REGISTRATIONS

If you are:

- retired; and
 - have a total income not exceeding \$19,200 annually,
- you may qualify to register your passenger vehicle or light truck for a reduced annual fee of \$10 instead of the usual registration fee.

PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE

If you are:

- 65 or older; and
- have an individual

income from all sources of up to \$14,500 or, if married, a total income from all sources of up to \$17,700, excluding any Medicare Part B premiums,

you may be eligible for the state's low-cost prescription plan. You pay only the first \$6 (\$9 for brand-name drugs) of a prescription's cost with the state Lottery Fund paying the remainder.

A second tier covers seniors who are single with an income of up to \$27,500 and seniors who are married with incomes up to \$35,500. To receive benefits under this tier, seniors must pay a monthly premium – averaging \$37 per individual – and a copayment of \$8 for generic drugs and \$15 for brand-name drugs.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

If you own your own home or rent a residence and meet income requirements, you may be eligible for aid in paying heating bills through the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

If you qualify, payments will be made directly to the utility for credit to your account or, if your heat is included in your rent, to the head of your household.

Income limits and funding availability are determined annually. Check with your county assistance office for up-to-date information.

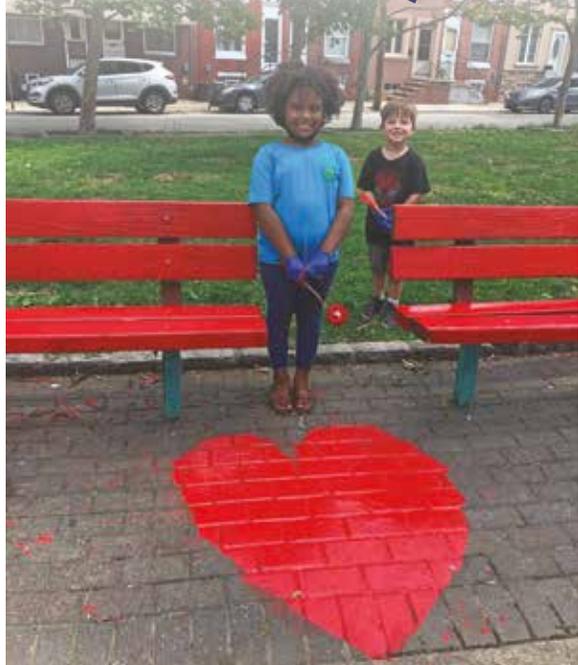


TO LEARN MORE CONTACT OUR OFFICE

Call (215) 744-2600 or visit RepHohenstein.com/contact.

SUMMER IN THE CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE AND SISTERLY AFFECTION

WE ❤️ CAMPBELL SQUARE



We had a great afternoon making much-needed upgrades to the benches at Campbell Square. Nearly three dozen friends and neighbors came out to clear brush, sweep the paved walkway and paint! Thank you our local Sherwin Williams Paint store on Castor Ave. for their kind donation. We have two more bench resoration days coming up at Northwood Park and Vogt Rec. Check our Upcoming Events Calendar and contact our office to get involved!

Block2School Supply Drive

We wanted to offer an extra special thank you to those of you who donated school supplies during our July 11th Shredding Event in front of Ellis Coffee in Bridesburg. Through your kind donations we were able to fill our entire box and more for our friends at The Block Gives Back. Over 1,000 backpacks filled with notebooks, folders, crayons, glue stickers, pencils, rulers, and hand sanitizer.



GAME ON AT NORTHWOOD

We are thrilled to have so much enthusiasm for our public spaces. Let's keep it up!





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Make a plan to **VOTE!**

You can avoid any concern about whether your vote will count on Nov. 3 by making your plan today!

You can vote in one of three ways.

I encourage mail-in voting as early as you can. If you return your ballot by mail you can make sure it is received by tracking it online at: pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/BallotTracking.aspx.

The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27. You can request one at:

VotesPA.com

Please call my office at 215-744-2600 if you need help, or for a list of ballot drop-off locations in our area.



Request a **MAIL-IN** ballot online or by phone and return it as **EARLY** as possible.



DROP-OFF your mail-in ballot at the Philly Commissioners' office or a satellite site **IN PERSON**.



Go to your polling place, mask up, wash your hands, keep your distance and **VOTE** November 3



My office can help you with:

- Auto Registration
 - Unemployment Problems
 - Birth Certificate Applications
 - Disability Plates
 - Property Tax/Rent Rebates
- ANY PROBLEM WITH STATE GOVERNMENT!**

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YouTube Playlist

Hover your camera over the QR code and click the link that appears.

Morning Joe

You can catch up on action in Harrisburg and here in the district by watching "Morning Joe" on my YouTube channel and social media pages. Each week, I take the morning to discuss the issues impacting our state and our community.

