

BOB MERSKI

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Don't miss out! Each week, I send out an e-newsletter to keep folks up to date on new state programs, services and the latest happenings here at home and in Harrisburg. You can sign up for my e-newsletter by visiting www.RepMerski.com and scrolling down to the sign-up form.



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DISTRICT OFFICE:

3921 Buffalo Rd.
Erie, PA 16510
(814) 455-6319

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F

SATELLITE OFFICES:

Summit Township Municipal Bldg.
1230 Townhall Road W.

Erie, PA 16509

Wednesday ONLY 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
or by appointment.

Greene Township Office

9333 Tate Rd., Room 102
Erie, PA 16509-6055

Monday ONLY 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
or by appointment



DEAR NEIGHBORS,

After a long and snowy winter, spring is finally upon us in Northwest Pennsylvania! We've been working hard for you in the district and at the Capitol. I am excited to update you on the progress happening right here in Erie as well as in Harrisburg.

To kick off 2025, we took bold steps to invest in the infrastructure that sustains and enhances our daily lives. We secured \$16.5 million in funding for the Erie City Water Authority. This investment will drive essential improvements to our water system, replacing aging service connections and ensuring that every family has access to safe, clean water—a vital stride toward a healthier, more resilient Erie.

In addition, we've brought a wave of innovation to our local economy with a \$1.7 million investment in Erie's first major business in the life sciences industry. This funding supports the development of state-of-the-art research facilities and creates new job opportunities, positioning Erie at the forefront of medical breakthroughs and technological advancements. These efforts are a testament to our commitment to fostering a dynamic environment where science, health, and community thrive together.

I'm also thrilled to highlight that Summit Township's Upper Peach Street project has received \$400,000 in state funding. This initiative will enhance pedestrian connectivity along a bustling commercial corridor, making it safer and more accessible for residents and visitors alike. We also were able to secure \$100,000 in funding for the purchase of two new Wesleyville Borough police cruisers, along with \$60,000 in funding for critical upgrades to Morrison Park. Greene Township also received a \$50,000 grant to aid in creating a warming center and emergency management response unit.

Moreover, our first responders—those everyday heroes who keep us safe—are receiving much-needed support. We've secured critical EMS and Fire grant funding that will deliver essential equipment upgrades for local fire and EMS departments. This investment, totaling over \$185,000, underscores our commitment to ensuring that the brave individuals who protect our communities have the resources they need to carry out their vital work.

We're always here to support you. Whether you have questions, concerns, or need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out. You can call us at (814) 455-6319, visit our office at 3921 Buffalo Road, or stop by any of our satellite locations. We're here to support you in every way possible and ready to provide assistance whenever you need it.

Serving as your representative in the Pennsylvania General Assembly is the greatest privilege of my life. I am deeply grateful for the trust you've placed in me and the opportunity to work on behalf of our community. As always, my staff and I are here to serve you!

Respectfully,

Bob Merski

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY

We joined DCED Secretary Rick Siger and his team at the Mercy Center for Women for an inspiring unveiling of the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) awards. We're proud to share that the Mercy Center is among the select Pennsylvania organizations receiving tax credits for their innovative projects. Later, we toured their new housing project at the former Holy Rosary Rectory and witnessed firsthand the transformative work uplifting the Erie community.



We were thrilled to welcome Passalinqua's Pizza to our district! Nestled on McClelland just north of the Bayfront Eastside Connector, this local gem is impressing everyone with its fresh dough pizzas. The East Side just got a flavorful upgrade—don't miss the chance to stop by and savor a slice.



Despite the cold and blustery weather, our community united for this year's Annual Dr. Martin Luther King March. People from all walks of life gathered — their passion reflecting our shared commitment to positive change. The energy was contagious, and it was truly heartwarming to witness so many individuals coming together to honor Dr. King's enduring legacy.



I'm incredibly proud of the milestones we've reached together. From securing vital grant money for our legislative district to addressing countless constituent service cases, our community has shown what we can achieve when we work together.



Participating on a legislative panel at the Northwest PA Superintendent's Summit was a true honor. Our local superintendents are the driving force behind our school districts, expertly shaping educational programs, financial strategies, and operational systems that impact countless students and families.



Their unwavering commitment to advancing educational excellence is deeply inspiring, and it's a privilege to work alongside them as we build a brighter future for our community.



We secured vital grant funding for the Kuhl Hose Company to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment. This investment ensures our brave firefighters have the tools they need to stay safe while protecting us all.

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Spring is here, and with it comes the excitement of Pennsylvania's Trout season! I recently had an exciting experience helping to stock local waters with trout, ensuring that anglers throughout our community can continue to enjoy this cherished tradition.

As Vice Chair of the Pennsylvania House Game & Fisheries Committee, I have the unique opportunity to champion initiatives that safeguard our natural resources and enhance our thriving outdoor culture. In this role, I work to advance policies that support sustainable fishing practices and preserve our waterways for future generations.

With the season in full swing, it's the perfect time to celebrate our beautiful natural resources and the joy of fishing that brings our community together. Wishing everyone tight lines and memorable moments on the water!



My wife, Emily, and I were delighted to visit Erie's newest tailor, Bespoke Tailoring, and witness firsthand the creative vision of young entrepreneurs Barbie and Mitch. It's truly inspiring to see fresh talent and ambition in our community, and I wish them great success on their exciting venture.



Stepping back into the classroom felt like a delightful trip down memory lane to my teaching days! We had an absolute blast celebrating Read Across America Day with Dr. Seuss classics at Saint Luke School and Diehl Elementary, a vibrant community school. Remember, readers are leaders—so let's cheer on the young bookworms in our lives to dive into the magical world of reading!

The Erie Fire Department has unveiled a new Water Rescue Team unit thanks to a \$142,234 grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority—with additional support from the Multimodal Transportation Fund and the Statewide Local Share Account Program. This crucial enhancement boosts our ability to respond to emergencies on our waterways. Special thanks to Mayor Joe Schember, Fire Chief Len Trott, and the dedicated team of firefighters and divers who safeguard our Bayfront.



As we celebrated their jubilees in 2024, we honored these sisters, and congratulations were in order to the Benedictine Sisters of Erie for their decades of dedicated ministry. We proudly recognized the following:

70 years of service: Sr. Placida Anheuser (not pictured), Sr. Joan Chittister, and Sr. Lucia Marie Surmik

60 years of service: Sr. Carolyn Gorny-Kopkowski, Sr. Helen Heher (not pictured), Sr. Christine Kosin (not pictured), and Sr. Marian Wehler (not pictured)

50 years of service: Sr. Diane Cook, Sr. Diane Rabe, and Sr. Charlotte Zalot

Your unwavering commitment and remarkable legacy continue to inspire our entire community.



State Rep. Pat Harkins and I had an incredible time at the League of Women Voters event at the Erie Sight Center! The atmosphere was electric, the turnout was fantastic, and we engaged in truly inspiring conversations with passionate constituents and community members. It was one of those unforgettable experiences that leaves you feeling energized and optimistic about the future!

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY



The Ice Out Party, hosted by the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie, was a resounding success. The event buzzed with energy and excitement, drawing a standing-room-only crowd that truly showcased Erie's proud fishing heritage. Anglers and their families united to celebrate the eagerly anticipated start of trout season.

Kudos to the S.O.N.S. for their unwavering advocacy and dedication to our community—what a fantastic way to kick off the season!

The Afghan Community of Erie's Iftar dinner was a remarkable event, filled with genuine fellowship, connection, and an unmistakable spirit of unity. My wife Emily and I are sincerely grateful to the Afghan Community of Erie for their warm hospitality and for creating a setting where people could come together in such a meaningful way.

Sharing this meal during Ramadan served as a beautiful reminder of our shared strength and the bonds that unite us all. Thank you for opening your hearts and orchestrating such an inspiring and welcoming celebration.



The business community is thriving in the 2nd Legislative District! CheesErie opened a brand-new location on East 38th Street recently. We are excited to welcome this fantastic local business to our district. Here's to savoring cheesy delights and cultivating vibrant community connections—congratulations!

BRINGING STATE FUNDING BACK TO ERIE COUNTY

Public safety is the cornerstone of thriving communities, and investing in our law enforcement capabilities enriches our shared quality of life. We helped bolster the Wesleyville Borough Police Department by securing a state grant that funds two new police vehicles and critical equipment upgrades, ultimately saving borough property owners nearly \$100,000.



I was honored to join Wesleyville Borough officials and the Morrison family at Morrison Park to present a \$60,000 grant from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This funding represents a pivotal step toward the park's full reconstruction, ensuring safer equipment and ADA-accessible features for everyone.

Summit Township has secured a \$200,000 grant to enhance Picnicana Park with playground upgrades and ADA improvements. This important investment not only revitalizes our public spaces but also benefits the entire community by making the park more accessible and enjoyable for everyone. Pictured is Summit Township Supervisor Jack Lee at the check presentation.



WORKING FOR YOU IN HARRISBURG



I had the honor of delivering the opening prayer at the start of a Session Day—a truly humbling moment. Sharing words of reflection and hope with colleagues as we began our crucial work for the people of Pennsylvania was profoundly moving. I remain deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve and to seek the guidance and wisdom needed to make a positive impact on our community.



At the beginning of the 2025-26 legislative session, I was appointed as vice chair of both the Pennsylvania House Gaming Oversight Committee and the Pennsylvania House Game & Fisheries Committee. These roles will allow me to ensure fair and responsible gaming operations and advocate for sustainable wildlife management and outdoor recreation opportunities. I remain committed to serving the diverse needs of Pennsylvania's residents and natural resources.



We had the honor of hosting the Consulate General of Canada at the Pennsylvania House. As one of Pennsylvania's—and the United States'—top trading partners, Canada is integral to our shared prosperity. During our meeting, we engaged in an exciting dialogue about the value of free and fair trade, exploring promising opportunities for collaboration between our business communities. Let's continue to strengthen these ties and pave the way for mutual growth.



I had the incredible privilege of joining the unveiling of the striking America 250 PA mural at the Pennsylvania Capitol—a vibrant celebration of our shared history and heritage. Former Gov. Mark Schweiker delivered an inspiring keynote that set the tone for the event.

Adding to the excitement, Erie is proudly represented with its iconic lighthouse showcased in the great Northwest, a symbol of our enduring legacy. It was a truly memorable day that celebrated our past while lighting the way for our future.



Welcoming folks from Erie to the PA State Capitol is always a highlight of a session week. The PA Homecare Association recently hosted an advocacy day that brought together several agencies from Erie. We were excited to have Harborcreek's own Kelly Barrett, crowned Miss Wheelchair Pennsylvania 2025, join us for the event.

The Erie delegation was honored to welcome key representatives to the state Capitol for the governor's budget address, including leaders from Erie Insurance, the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership, and Infinite Erie. These organizations play a vital role in driving growth and development in the Erie region, and their presence at the Capitol underscores their unwavering dedication to our community's progress.



My bill, H.B. 273 has passed in the Pennsylvania House—a transformative step toward addressing blight and revitalizing neighborhoods across our commonwealth.

This legislation establishes a county property maintenance code, introduces a Municipal Codes Enforcement Grant Program, and creates a municipal neighborhood mitigation fund, providing our communities with the essential tools to thrive. Together, we can build safer, more vibrant neighborhoods for everyone. Let's keep the momentum going as this bill moves to the Senate for consideration.



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State Rep. Bob Merski, 3921 Buffalo Rd., Erie, PA 16510.