



State Representative | 189th Legislative District

# TARA H. PROBST

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**COMMITTEES**

Education  
Local Government  
State Government

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## Probst votes to return \$456 million back to taxpayers

In July, I voted to bring \$456 million back to Pennsylvania taxpayers by requiring fairness in the way cyber/charter schools operate.

Millions of taxpayer dollars that are meant for brick-and-mortar public schools are being siphoned away to these cyber programs for reimbursement. The funding is not tied to actual costs and with little oversight. That is why I voted for House Bill 1422 to modernize cyber/charter school funding and prevent tax dollars from being spent on advertising, baseball tickets, and other non-educational items.

Families and seniors are losing their homes from local school taxes in Monroe and Pike counties. Cyber/charter schools take \$40 million out of our Monroe County school districts and almost \$2 million out of the Delaware Valley School District. This practice has gone silent for over two decades and I needed to bring it to light. These reforms are a must in our county to not only stop the hemorrhaging of money out of our brick-and-mortar public schools, but these reforms can help reduce property taxes in the future.

Here is one example of the inequity in reimbursements:

Educating a child in the East Stroudsburg Area School District cyber program costs the district \$2,500 each. Sending an ESASD child to an outside cyber/charter school costs the district an average of \$15,603. The cost to educate an ESASD special education student is between \$22,677-\$22,760. Yet sending an ESASD special education child to an outside cyber/charter school costs the district on average \$41,169. East Stroudsburg Area School District will pay out \$9 million to cyber/charter schools this year.

Let me be clear about one misconception that is being used by cyber/charter school supporters. This legislation does not 'cut' funding for those schools, but instead brings these institutions more in-line with how we are required to fund our traditional public schools. This ensures a more appropriate use of taxpayer dollars used by cyber/charter schools.

When we underfund and divert dollars away from our public school districts, it falls on local property taxpayers to make up the difference. This system is not making things better for our public schools or taxpayers.

The charter and cyber school law has not been reformed since it was enacted in 1997.

The bill awaits action by the state Senate.



Scan this QR code to watch a video of my comments about the cyber/charter bill during the House debate.



**I SUPPORT CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL REFORM IN PA!**  
WITH HOUSE BILL 1422

### Estimated Cyber Charter Savings by School District

**East Stroudsburg Area School District**

**\$4.9 Million (66%)**

**Stroudsburg Area School District**

**\$3.6 Million (60%)**

**Delaware Valley School District**

**\$1.1 Million (52%)**



### HOUSE BILL 1422 WOULD:

- ✓ Annually set a cyber charter tuition rate.
- ✓ Implement a tiered Special Education Fair Funding Formula used by public schools for cyber charter schools.
- ✓ Require transparency and reasonable restrictions for advertising, sponsorships and other expenses not related to student learning.
- ✓ Cap unassigned fund balances.
- ✓ Provide wellness checks for students to ensure their wellbeing and to verify participation.
- ✓ Require cyber charter school meetings to follow the Sunshine Act.
- ✓ Eliminate conflicts of interests.
- ✓ Require ethical reporting standards that public school board members and school district officials live up to.



# BETTER JOBS

My state House Democratic colleagues and I are 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 reaching across the aisle and 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, my House Democratic colleagues and I are fighting for you.

Visit [www.pahouse.com/deliveringforpa](http://www.pahouse.com/deliveringforpa) or scan the QR code to see more details about these proposals.



- A higher minimum wage for all working Pennsylvania families (HB 1500)
- Tax credits to help more people remain in the workforce (HB 1272)
- Tax credits to help working families saddled with rising childcare costs (HB 1259)
- Increase fines for companies in violation of the Child Labor Act (HB 1354)
- Establish safe staffing standards for all Pennsylvania hospitals (HB 106)
- Guaranteed workers' right to organize and bargain collectively (HB 950)
- Protection against wage theft by employers who misclassify workers (HB 413)
- Inspection and reporting standards for public-sector workers (HB 299)

**Increases the childcare tax credit year by year to align with the actual care expenses.**

**This helps keep people in the workforce.**

**HOUSE BILL 1259**



## Patient Safety Act

Establishes safe staffing standards for all PA Hospitals in order to fix the current nurse workforce crisis, save hospitals money and most importantly —

**save lives**



## Delivering for working families



# BETTER SCHOOLS

- **Teacher Pipeline Scholarship program to bring more young people to the profession (HB 688)**
- **Historic investments in public schools, basic and special education and school safety (HB 611)**
- **Grow Your Own Educator program to help school districts fill teacher gaps (HB 141)**
- **Modernize our cyber charter school law to protect kids and taxpayers (HB 1422)**
- **Create the Solar for Schools Grant Program to help the environment and create jobs (HB 1032)**
- **Remove the growing financial burden to recruit more new teachers (HB 1331)**
- **Get more teachers of color on the job in districts suffering from shortages (HB 1067)**
- **Degree with a Guarantee Act to help earn a degree faster at less cost (HB 897)**
- **Help schools fix roofs, repair HVAC systems, and clean up toxic materials (HB 1408)**



Northampton Special Olympics at East Stroudsburg South with amazingly talented athletes and competitors!

## The 2023/24 Budget Increases Funding for Schools in our Community

**East Stroudsburg Area  
School District**

**\$30.2 Million (11.9% ↑)**

**Stroudsburg Area  
School District**

**\$24.5 Million (10.8% ↑)**

**Delaware Valley  
School District**

**\$20.3 Million (7% ↑)**



## PA Teach Pipeline Scholarship Program

would provide scholarships to eligible students studying within our state school system to become a primary or secondary school teacher or in a student teaching role.



House Bill 688

## SOLAR FOR SCHOOLS

Cutting the school utility bills you pay

Preventing higher property taxes you pay

Helping save the planet you live on



# BETTER COMMUNITIES

- Ensure adequate funding of 911 emergency services in all counties (HB 1304)
- Expand the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program for seniors (HB 1100; Act 7 of 2023)
- Create the Safer Communities Grant Program to keep our kids safe (HB 1130)
- Protect LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians from facing discrimination (HB 300)
- Open a window for survivors of childhood sexual abuse to pursue justice in civil court (HB 1 and HB 2)
- Distribute \$100 million to bolster behavioral and mental health supports (HB 849)
- Expand comprehensive background checks on all firearms sales (HB 714)
- Railroad safety improvements to lessen the chance of accidents (HB 1028)



Keith Loughney from the Center for Independent Living is in my Stroudsburg office on the first Wednesday of every month doing disability outreach and advocacy. Call my office at 570-420-2850 to make an appointment.



The weather held out at Saw Creek Community Day.

## The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is Getting Better

**575,000** seniors will qualify for a Property Tax/Rent Rebate with a top rebate of **\$1000.**

Helping more seniors stay in their homes.



## Fixing PA's Broken Mental Health Care

**\$100 MILLION** in funds to

Improve the behavioral health workforce

Improve the criminal justice system & public safety systems

Expand access and service delivery



I supported

## THE PA FAIRNESS ACT

because I want to end the discrimination that hurts our people and our economy.

## LOCAL WOMEN APPOINTED TO GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION

Congratulations to Christa Caceres of Pike County on being appointed vice chair on the Governor's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs. We are also fortunate to have Nasaiah Hoskins of Monroe County appointed as a commissioner.

The commission's purpose is to gather information regarding Pennsylvanians' experiences and needs; review, evaluate, and assess programs affecting them; provide the governor with information and recommendations regarding how best to meet their needs; and serve as a liaison from the governor's office to the community, providing information about programs and services that may be relevant to their needs.



## Probst lauds \$2.35 million in grants

In May, I was proud to announce that \$2.35 million in state grants were awarded to advance multiple area projects.

### Delaware Water Gap Borough

\$150,000 for upgrades to the fire station.

### East Stroudsburg

\$258,615 for Salvation Army East Stroudsburg Corps building renovations.

### East Stroudsburg University

\$375,000 to purchase new bleachers and scoreboard for the soccer facility.

### Metamorphosis Women's Empowerment Initiative

\$11,092 to purchase a van to deliver food and other items and transport clients throughout Monroe County.

### Middle Smithfield Township

\$21,298 to allow Determine LLC to purchase equipment for a manufacturing project.

\$20,000 for a sewer line relocation project.

### Monroe County Historical Association

\$10,000 to purchase furniture and other items at the Stroud Mansion Museum.

### Pocono Center for the Arts

\$250,000 to purchase and renovate a building on Main Street in Stroudsburg to create a center for the visual and performing arts.

### Smithfield Township

\$555,533 to expand the lanes of Route 209 at the Smithfield Gateway.

\$75,000 for a Smithfield Sewer Authority sanitary sewer expansion project.

\$15,000 to help resolve dam spillway issues at the Sweetwater Dam.

### Stroudsburg Borough

\$500,000 for pedestrian safety improvements on Main Street.

### Stroud Township

\$10,000 to erect a pavilion at the Helen Amhurst Park.

### Suburban Emergency Medical Services

\$100,000 to purchase an ambulance.

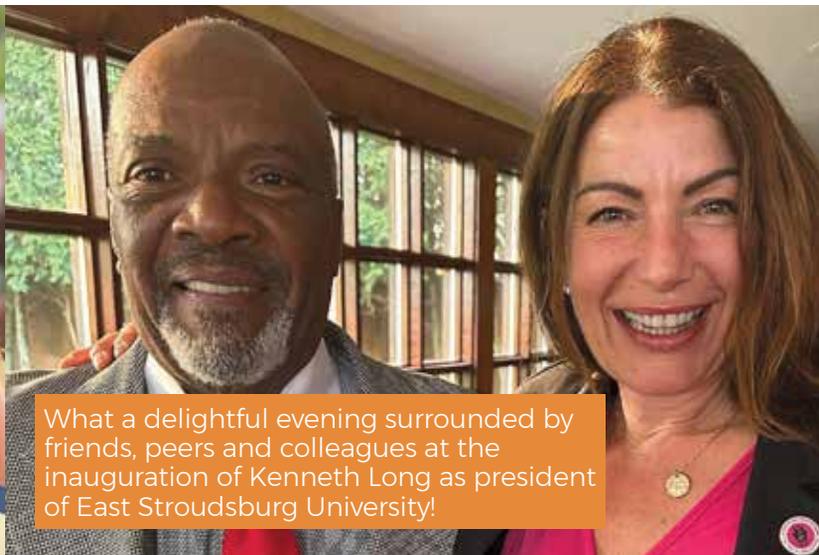
## SEEN AROUND THE DISTRICT



Our Women's Expo was a huge success! Thank you to all who attended and especially the organizations that participated. See more photos from the expo on my Facebook page @RepProbst.



I was humbled and honored to receive a citation at the rededication of The Ann Street Park in Stroudsburg.



What a delightful evening surrounded by friends, peers and colleagues at the inauguration of Kenneth Long as president of East Stroudsburg University!



State Representative

**TARAH PROBST**

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A Spanish version of this mailer is available on my website [www.RepProbst.com](http://www.RepProbst.com).

Hay una versión en español de este correo en mi sitio web [www.RepProbst.com](http://www.RepProbst.com).

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REPRESENTATIVE  
TARAH PROBST

PIKE COUNTY  
**SATELLITE  
OFFICES**

**LEHMAN TOWNSHIP  
SATELLITE OFFICE**

193 MUNICIPAL DRIVE,  
BUSHKILL, PA 18324



**TUE & THU**  
9AM - 2PM

**DELAWARE TOWNSHIP  
SATELLITE OFFICE**

116 WILSON HILL RD.,  
DINGMANS FERRY, PA 18328



**TUE & THU**  
8:30AM - 4PM



**570-420-2850**

We will be offering constituent services, PTRR, and more!



## Probst office can help you!

- Car registrations, special tags, disability placards, titles and driver's license applications.
- Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds.
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation.
- Pennsylvania state income tax questions or problems.
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications.
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms and application assistance.
- Information on financial assistance for higher education.
- Problems or questions about the state lottery.
- PACE cards for senior citizens.
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups.
- Information about state and local government agencies.
- Questions about the Veterans Property Tax Exemption.
- Assistance applying for Human Services: Medicaid, SNAP, CHIP, and LIHEAP.
- There is a notary on staff to help with personal documents.
- Any state government service or issue!

## STAY UP TO DATE!

Sign up to receive my email updates at [www.pahouse.com/Probst/emailsignup](http://www.pahouse.com/Probst/emailsignup) or scan the QR code.

