



# Ben ★★★★★ Sanchez

PA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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## REP. SANCHEZ AROUND THE DISTRICT

**1.** Thank you to the Kiwanis Aktion Club for inviting me to their annual "Dinner of Thanks" as the evening's keynote speaker.

**2.** I'm always happy to be able to make it out to the Roslyn Car Show!

**3.** I had the privilege and honor of leading the dedication ceremony for the naming of the Cpl. Vincent J. Wargo, Jr., U.S.M.C. Memorial Highway. Cpl. Wargo was an Upper Dublin resident who gave his life in Vietnam while bravely saving multiple injured fellow Marines in combat.

**4.** It was an honor to partake in the dedication ceremony of the Edmund R. Micciolo Park at Abington's War Memorial on Veterans Day.

**5.** While connecting with Pennsylvania's organized labor force at the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 542, I had the opportunity to operate an excavator.

**6.** The Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership and Abington Township have made significant improvements to Alverthorpe Park's stormwater measures. Thank you for keeping our waterways clean and improving drainage and water flow!

**7.** I joined Governor Tom Wolf and many of my colleagues from both the House and Senate at &pizza in Willow Grove to call for a minimum wage increase.

**8.** I participated in the ceremonial ribbon-cutting celebrating the completion of the Limekiln Pike Bridge. The bridge is now stable enough for unrestricted travel and serves as a safe vehicle and pedestrian connection between Abington and Cheltenham.

# GRANTS AWARDED TO OUR COMMUNITY

One of my jobs as your state representative is to bring funding back to our district. I'm proud to share that the following projects have recently been awarded grants:

**Twining Valley Park project:** Twining Valley Park recently received two grants totaling \$289,100. One grant worth \$40,000 will go toward the construction of a bike park, including a bike playground and asphalt pump track. The second grant of \$249,100 will help fund the construction of a dog park, pump track, pickleball courts, pedestrian walkways, a parking area, stormwater management measures, installation of play equipment and ADA access.

**Salem Baptist Church:** The church received a \$750,000 grant from the Office of the Budget's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program. This funding will help cover campus renovations for an accessible community event and banquet space.

**Holy Redeemer Hospital:** Holy Redeemer Hospital in Abington Township was awarded a \$2 million grant

benefiting a cancer treatment option. This grant will go toward the construction of a Linear Accelerator Vault, which can destroy cancer cells without harming surrounding tissue.

**Hedwig House:** The mental health nonprofit was selected for a \$100,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. This funding will help Hedwig House continue providing mental health services and mental health treatment in our region.

**Manor College:** Manor College was one of 34 Pennsylvania higher education institutions to receive an "It's On Us" grant. This \$29,979 award will go toward combating sexual assault on campus and may be used toward reporting measures, support services for survivors, consent/intervention trainings for staff and students and more.

## PENNSYLVANIA ELECTION UPDATE: MAIL-IN VOTING

Recently, the Commonwealth Court ruled that Act 77 – which implemented no-excuse mail-in voting for Pennsylvania – was unconstitutional. The court reached this verdict because the judges said that changes to our election laws must be adopted via amending the state constitution. However, our state constitution does allow lawmakers to decide voting laws. Therefore, this decision is being appealed by the Wolf Administration.

As this legal process unfolds, Pennsylvanians may still request mail-in ballots. Until the state Supreme Court delivers its final verdict, this will have no immediate impact on voting by mail. However, these legal proceedings and others could postpone the upcoming primary currently scheduled for May 17. If that is the case, Montgomery County's voter services will make an announcement and I will post about it on my legislative social media platforms.

For up-to-date localized information on voting, visit [www.montcopa.org/753/Voter-Services](http://www.montcopa.org/753/Voter-Services).

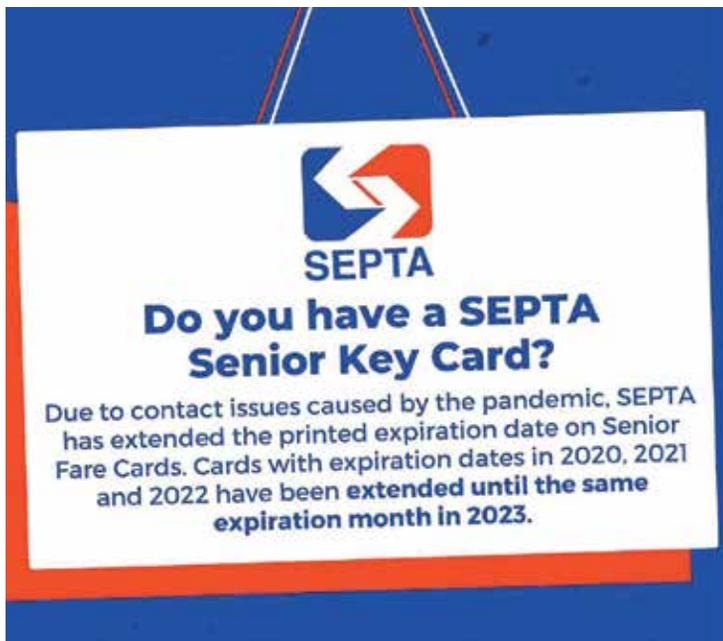
Anyone interested in applying for a mail-in or absentee ballot should visit [www.Vote.PA.gov/MailBallot](http://www.Vote.PA.gov/MailBallot).

To find your polling place, visit [www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx](http://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx).



# SEPTA SENIOR KEY CARD UPDATE

No SEPTA Senior Key Cards will expire this year! See the graphic for information on SEPTA's decision to extend all Senior Key Cards until 2023.



## AFFORDABLE RX FOR SENIORS

Older Pennsylvanians living on fixed incomes should never have to choose between affording medicine or affording food or rent or heat. Pennsylvania's prescription assistance programs for older adults, PACE and PACENET, offer low-cost prescription medication to qualified residents, 65 or older.

In the fall I voted to help 100,000 more of our wisest friends and neighbors qualify for PACENET by raising the income limits to \$33,500 for a single person and to \$41,500 for a married couple.

My office is ready to assist with applications and answer any questions you may have about the program.

To find out more, visit [www.aging.pa.gov](http://www.aging.pa.gov) or call my office.

## 2021 PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM OPEN

Pennsylvanians can now apply for rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2021.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians aged 65 or older; widows and widowers aged 50 or older; and people with disabilities aged 18 or older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded.

Applications can be submitted online at [www.mypath.pa.gov](http://www.mypath.pa.gov). Anyone interested may also pick up a PTRR booklet from my district office, located at 1175 Old York Road in Abington.

If you have questions during the application process, give my office a call at (215) 517-6800.

## PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

for residents who are permanently disabled, 50+ and widowed, or 65+



### What we need from you:

#### EVERYONE

✓ All earned income tax forms (1099 SSI, W2s, etc.)

#### HOMEOWNERS

✓ Copies of all paid tax bills

#### RENTERS

✓ Signed form from the landlord



**\$35,000**  
maximum household income\*

\* for those on Social Security: half of SSI/SSD income is excluded for eligibility

# UPDATE ON MY LEGISLATION

## Reporting lost or stolen firearms

To help deter gun trafficking and discourage straw purchasing, my House Bill 980 would require lost or stolen firearms to be reported to law enforcement within 72 hours of discovery. This measure would help police trace how weapons come into illegal hands and could allow the missing weapon to be returned to its rightful owner upon recovery.

Last action: Referred to the House Judiciary Committee on March 19, 2021.

## Authorizing Pennsylvania to join the Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote

House Bill 270 would authorize Pennsylvania to join the agreement commonly referred to as the “National Popular Vote Bill.” If activated, this would guarantee the presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

This agreement would take effect only when states cumulatively possessing a majority of electoral votes, equaling 270, adopt the same agreement. Currently, 15 states and the District of Columbia with 196 electoral votes have enacted this legislation.

Last action: Referred to the House State Government Committee on Jan. 7, 2022.

## Ballot Question Reform

Amending our state’s constitution is an important process that ultimately requires approval by the voters in the form of a ballot question. Therefore, we should aim to hear from as many Pennsylvanians as possible when attempting to alter our state’s most fundamental document. My House Bill 2261 would ensure that lawmakers cannot discreetly submit a ballot question during an election notorious for low voter turnouts – like municipal primaries. This legislation would only permit ballot questions during a general election and only every two years when there is a presidential or gubernatorial election. This would help ensure that more voters have a say in amending our state constitution.

Last action: Referred to the House State Government Committee on Jan. 21, 2022.

## Simplify name-change process, one of three bills authored with LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus

Transgender Pennsylvanians must overcome countless barriers and copious amounts of red tape just to live their authentic lives. This is why I am proud to introduce three bills as part of the LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus’ Name Change legislation package. This is a bicameral effort to streamline the process of legal name changes in Pennsylvania and protect some of our commonwealth’s most vulnerable populations.

Some issues that this package aims to address include sex designations on birth certificates, publishing intended name changes in county newspapers, and funding for assistance and guidance for the name change process.

Legally changing your name can be daunting, tedious and costly, but it doesn’t need to be. By removing unnecessary bureaucratic roadblocks, we can better support Pennsylvania’s transgender community and others.

Visit <https://bit.ly/EqualityCaucus> to learn more about the name change package.

If you are transgender and are currently amid your own name change process and need help, visit [www.PATransEquity.org](http://www.PATransEquity.org) for assistance.

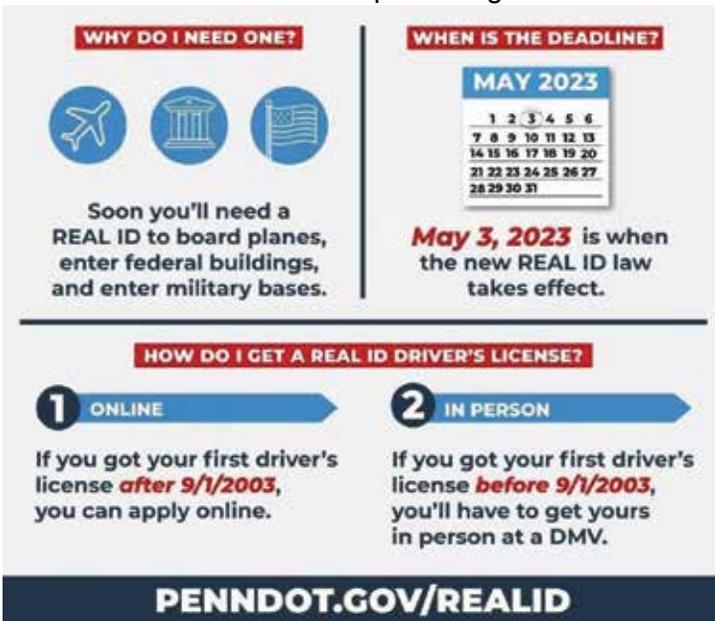


# REAL ID ENFORCEMENT POSTPONED UNTIL 2023

REAL ID enforcement has been postponed until May 3, 2023, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Starting on that date, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, photo ID card, or another form of federally acceptable identification (such as a valid passport or military ID) to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a federal building or military installation that requires ID.

REAL ID is optional for Pennsylvanians. Additional details are available at [www.penndot.gov/REALID](http://www.penndot.gov/REALID).



**WHY DO I NEED ONE?**

Soon you'll need a REAL ID to board planes, enter federal buildings, and enter military bases.

**WHEN IS THE DEADLINE?**

**MAY 2023**

1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**May 3, 2023** is when the new REAL ID law takes effect.

**HOW DO I GET A REAL ID DRIVER'S LICENSE?**

**1 ONLINE**  
If you got your first driver's license **after 9/1/2003**, you can apply online.

**2 IN PERSON**  
If you got your first driver's license **before 9/1/2003**, you'll have to get yours in person at a DMV.

**PENNDOT.GOV/REALID**



# Have you seen these?

## IN WINTER, WATCH FOR SPOTTED LANTERNFLY EGG MASSES

The spotted lanternfly has now been found in 34 Pennsylvania counties, and it's important to keep up efforts to squash this invasive pest.

Spotted lanternfly eggs are laid in the fall and hatch in the spring. During the winter months, you can be on the lookout for egg masses left on trees, plastic yard objects and other surfaces. If you see an egg mass, you should scrape and destroy it.

Find more details on how to identify spotted lanternfly egg masses and what to do with them on the Penn State Extension website at [www.extension.psu.edu/spotted—lanternfly](http://www.extension.psu.edu/spotted—lanternfly).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT

**Saturday, May 21**  
**9 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

***Parking lot at the corner of Old York Road and Brentwood Ave.***

(three blocks north of my district office in Abington)

Protect your identity and sensitive information by securely shredding your personal documents. This is a free event, and I will be there along with my staff to answer any legislative- or state-related questions.

## SENIOR FAIR

**Friday, April 29th**

**11 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Giant Food Store, Willow Grove**

I'm working with state Rep. Nancy Guent to plan a combined resource fair connecting our senior constituents with the state and local resources designed to help them live happy, healthy and independent lives. To learn more about this event, make sure you follow me on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/RepBenSanchez](http://www.facebook.com/RepBenSanchez).



State Representative  
**BEN SANCHEZ**

1175 Old York Road  
Abington, PA 19001

lpo.ad.0222

## NEED HELP WITH THE FOLLOWING? CONTACT MY DISTRICT OFFICE:

*As COVID-19 may have affected some of these services' availability through the departments, please contact my office for more information.*

- Free notary services
- SEPTA Senior KEY Card
- State tax forms
- Applications such as:
  - Birth/Death certificates
  - Disability placards
  - Car registrations, license and renewals
  - PACE/PACENET prescription drug coverage
  - Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program
  - CHIP
- Department of Human Services programs like SNAP, LIHEAP, etc.
- Background clearance checks
- State-related veteran information
- Senior services
- State literature and government documents, including maps, bills, regulations and statutes
- Brochures and pamphlets on services/area information
- Voter registration/absentee ballot applications
- PennDOT forms
- Department of Revenue
- Recognize and honor outstanding community leaders
- Tours of the Capitol for individuals, schools and groups

## STAY CONNECTED, STAY INFORMED

Want to stay in the loop with what's happening in the district and in the state?

Sign up for my regular email updates by going to [www.RepBenSanchez.com/emailsSignup](http://www.RepBenSanchez.com/emailsSignup).

You can also follow me on  @RepBenSanchez |  /RepBenSanchez