



State Representative **Eddie Day Pashinski**

121st Legislative District



Winter 2014

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An effort to reduce property tax

I recently introduced House Bill 1932, legislation that would authorize the Department of Revenue to establish and regulate video gaming machines in restaurants, bars, and clubs with a valid liquor license under Article IV of the Liquor Code. Each licensed establishment would be limited to a maximum of three video gaming machines and the proceeds would be distributed to Pennsylvanians by reducing property taxes on their primary residences.

This legislation has the potential to save the tavern industry, preserve the club system, infuse desperately needed dollars to our municipalities and continue to offer property tax relief to the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Prohibiting the sale of E-Cigarettes to minors

I am currently working on legislation that would ban the sale of e-cigarettes and similar products to those younger than 18.

E-cigarettes are products designed to look like cigarettes, cigars or pipes and used to deliver nicotine derived from tobacco in the form of a vapor. As you know, minors are currently banned from purchasing tobacco products and protecting the youth of this commonwealth is always a top priority. When a potentially unsafe product targets our young people, it is imperative that we move forward to extend our laws in order to put an end to such practices. Making e-cigarettes and similar products unavailable for sale to this demographic is imperative to the health and well-being of our youth of Pennsylvania.

Pashinski joins 3rd Class City Caucus

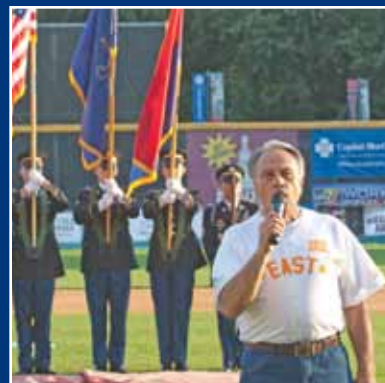
I am a member of the 3rd Class City Caucus which is composed of 51 legislators who represent third-class cities and will examine the changing demographics to better meet the needs of our citizens. We must address the issues facing third-class cities including public safety concerns and archaic tax structures. The caucus will allow legislators to formulate plans that will improve the overall welfare of our commonwealth and work with local officials to put those plans into action.

Priorities include an increase in economic and community development funds for the demolition of blighted properties, the establishment of the Main Street and Elm Street improvement project and offering tax incentives to homeowners who relocate to our cities.

Pashinski sings and swings to address hunger

In a truly bipartisan effort, I joined House and Senate colleagues for a charity softball game that raised over \$60,000 to fight hunger. In addition to playing in the big game, I had the honor of singing our National Anthem to get the game under way.

The funds benefited the Feeding Pennsylvania and Hunger-Free Pennsylvania organizations, who are dedicated to relieving hunger for more than 2 million needy Pennsylvanians through their statewide network of food banks, pantries and hunger-relief organizations.



Transportation vote

In November, the legislature passed Gov. Tom Corbett's transportation funding plan that increases or creates more than a hundred taxes, fines and fees.

I opposed this bill because the \$2.3 billion burden of these additional taxes, fines and fees falls disproportionately on the backs of those who can afford it the least, Pennsylvania's working and middle-class families. I fully support raising additional transportation funding for our crumbling roads and bridges; however, we needed a balanced proposal requiring the Marcellus Shale industry to share the funding responsibilities and reduce the cost to Pennsylvania citizens.

Gov. Corbett's transportation plan lets natural gas companies and private industry pay nothing at the expense of Pennsylvania's citizens. Some of the tax and fee increases contained in the Corbett transportation plan include:

- A 28 cents per gallon increase on gasoline over 5 years
- A \$2 increase for passenger car registrations with no cap
- An optional \$5 county vehicle registration fee
- A \$61 increase for personalized registration plates

- A \$2 increase for driver's license renewal
- A \$15 increase for photo ID cards
- A \$15 increase for replacement of driver's licenses
- A \$32.50 increase for certificates of title
- Ambulance, taxi and hearse registrations will increase \$28 over 5 years
- Motor home registrations will see a \$42 increase over 5 years
- Truck registrations, depending on their class, will see a \$557 increase over 5 years
- School busses and vehicles will see a \$16 fee increase over 5 years
- Certificate of title fee will increase from \$22.50 to \$55 over the next 5 years
- Farm equipment registration fees will see an \$82 increase over 5 years

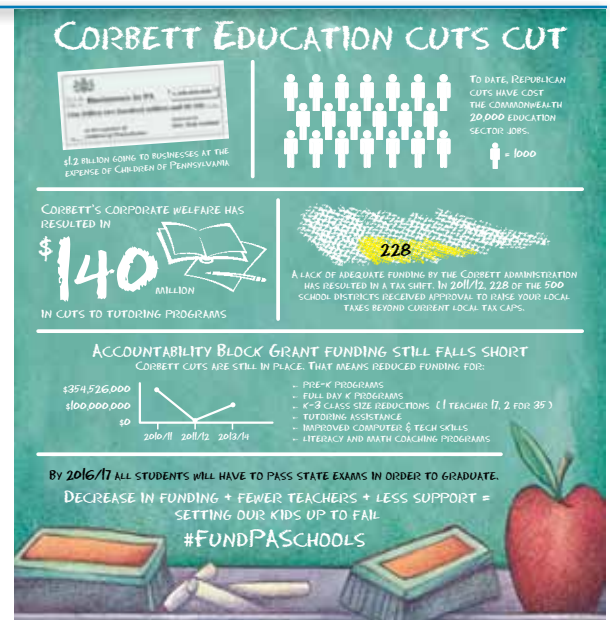
These fee increases will affect the cost of doing business which affects the price to transport goods passing the increase on to the consumer. Pennsylvania citizens deserved a better deal.

Budget preview

As of this writing, the governor projects a budget shortfall of \$1.7 billion. At a time when the governor has offered \$1.2 billion in corporate tax breaks, the state has cut funding and failed to meet its obligations to education, and passed on the responsibility for local districts to shoulder the burden of the shortfall.

Experts contend that a reasonable tax on the Marcellus Shale industry (based on volume extracted) and the closing of the Delaware loophole could provide the commonwealth with the resources needed to maintain our natural resources and help educate our children, while relieving some of the tax burden at the local level.

We cannot continue to hand big business a blank check while the people of the commonwealth are struggling to pay their property taxes and children are being shortchanged in the classroom. We simply cannot afford "more of the same" from our governor.



Rep. Pashinski welcomes students from Dr. Kistler Elementary School to the state Capitol.

Corbett decision on Medicaid expansion places politics over Pennsylvanians

Gov. Tom Corbett's decision to reject Medicaid expansion in the commonwealth may make him a hero with Grover Norquist at a Tea Party convention, but to over 500,000 Pennsylvanians who will continue to live without the security of health insurance, many of them working parents, older residents and veterans, he is making a heartless and foolhardy decision.

Under Medicaid expansion, a component of 2010's Affordable Care Act, the federal government would pay 100 percent of funding needed for the expansion in the first three years of implementation, and no less than 90 percent after 2017.

It is estimated by several independent and respected organizations like the Kaiser Foundation and Rand Group that the expansion could generate nearly \$40 billion in federal investments in Pennsylvania over the next 10 years. Gov. Corbett's refusal does not save federal funds or direct them toward deficit reduction, to the contrary, Pennsylvania's share-your-funds will be given to over two dozen states that have already opted to expand their Medicaid programs.

Expanding Medicaid would create 35,000 to 40,000 jobs over the next two years in the health care industry while reducing the expense of uncompensated care that cost the commonwealth more than \$500 million in 2011 alone. These new jobs would then generate \$175 million to \$200 million back into the state's General Fund.

While governors across the nation line up to expand coverage in their states, including Republicans such as Chris Christie of New Jersey and Rick Scott of Florida, our governor has opted to take the low road and pass on billions of federal dollars.

Ironically, the Corbett administration has been reluctant to respond to a request from Senate Democratic lawmakers in November asking it to provide the analysis it used in deciding not to opt in to the plan and has instead elected to criticize the federal government for being slow in responding to its questions.

Given Gov. Corbett's less than admirable record on health care – eliminating adultBasic for 41,000 working Pennsylvanians in February

2011, dropping 89,000 children from Medicaid from August 2011 to January 2012, and most recently cutting an additional 55,000 people from Medicaid including chronically ill adults from General Assistance health care coverage in the last six months of 2012 – his decision not to expand health care shouldn't surprise Pennsylvanians.

Here is an opportunity to stop spending state dollars, and use federal funds to create family-sustaining, living-wage jobs and provide health care access for Pennsylvania citizens. The governor has handed out millions in tax credits to corporate friends without any guarantee of Pennsylvania jobs. He has invested time and resources to initiatives that have not improved the job climate, yet he is willing to pass on the opportunity of federal funding that would create over 35,000 jobs and dramatically improve our economy. Our governor's inaction is costing Pennsylvania millions every month. He must stop playing politics and make the decision to use the federal dollars that are generated from OUR citizens' tax payments, to insure Pennsylvanians and improve our job climate.



As a proud member of the Legislative Arts Caucus, Rep. Pashinski welcomed the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association to the state Capitol for Music Advocacy Day.



Rep. Pashinski takes part in the 3rd Annual Pennsylvania EMS Memorial Service at the state Capitol, a tribute to all affected by the attacks and a token of gratitude to those who responded and helped our country rebuild.

Postage stamp honors coal miners

I was honored to host the long-awaited ceremony to celebrate the historic achievement commemorating the courageous workers who helped build our country. On August 8, 2013, the Citizens Stamp Advisory Council of the United States Postal Service issued the Coal Miner Postage Stamp in a series titled Made in America: Building a Nation collection.

For over six decades, thousands have gathered support to commemorate and memorialize the deaths of over 100,000 miners and the hundreds of thousands more that devoted their lives in fueling the industrial revolution and transforming the United States into a superpower.

I extend my appreciation to the tens of thousands who dedicated their time and fought hard to honor the legacy of the brave men and women who transformed our country. The legislation, news conferences, letters, petitions, websites and emails finally paid off. The ceremony and the unveiling of the stamp brought tears of joy

to the large crowd of supporters who demonstrated their love and commitment to this long-awaited success. It was a team effort.

Guests had the opportunity to purchase the stamp for the first time and enjoyed refreshments, including two large sheet cakes featuring an image of the coal miner stamp.

The coal miner postage stamp is available for purchase online at <http://is.gd/CoalMinerStamp> and at your local post office. I encourage you, your family and friends to purchase the series honoring the legacy of the brave men and women who transformed our country.



Affordable Care Act

I chaired a Policy Committee hearing to examine the recent opening of the Health Insurance Marketplace, where the uninsured can learn about and purchase health coverage, as well as other issues related to the landmark health care law. Health care experts shared their perspective on the advantages and fine points of the law and their concerns regarding enrollment. Those testifying at the hearing included: Dr. Steven Pierdon, executive vice president and chief medical officer, Geisinger Northeast; Athena Ford, advocacy director, Pennsylvania Health Access Network; and Rose Yanko, uninsured homecare worker.

There are many misconceptions about the Affordable Care Act and the hearing was a great way to get the facts and provide essential information to the citizens of Pennsylvania.

The ACA focuses on providing essential benefits by instituting a better system of health care delivery

concentrating on quality of care, rather than quantity of care. This produces healthier and more measurable outcomes. The ACA emphasizes less costly preventative care and provides access and choice in the private health insurance market at a reasonable and affordable cost.

The ACA was the first giant step needed to reform our health care industry in a series of steps that must be taken to reform the industry. Controlling costs and realigning unrealistic prices for pharmaceutical, medical equipment and procedures is the next big challenge we face and we must conquer in order to realistically lower costs and achieve quality, affordable health care.



PA's Dog Law

A state law requires that all dogs three months or older be licensed by Jan. 1 each year. Owners who fail to license their dogs could face a fine up to \$300 for each unlicensed dog.

An annual license costs \$8.45 and a lifetime license costs \$51.45. Discounted prices of \$6.45 for an annual license and \$31.45 for a lifetime license are available if an animal is spayed or neutered. Discounts are also available to older adults and people with disabilities.

Luzerne County residents can obtain licenses from the County Treasurer's Office.

Acting Treasurer – (570) 825-1780
Luzerne County Courthouse
20 North Pennsylvania Avenue, 2nd Floor
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18711

License fees support the Dog Law Enforcement Office in protecting the safety, health and welfare of dogs. Additionally, the department



licenses and inspects dog kennels, enforces activities related to dogs that are classified as dangerous and processes claims for livestock damage caused by dogs. Licensed kennels across the state are subject to a minimum of two unannounced inspections every year to ensure compliance with the law.

I am also working on increasing fines and penalties for the inhumane treatment of our animals.

Animal registry records are desperately needed to help lost animals find their homes and verify the health and ownership of pets.

More information is available at www.licenseyourdogPA.com.

New electronics recycling law

A new law changes the requirements for recycling electronics. Under Pennsylvania's Covered Device Recycling Act, TVs, desktop and laptop computers, tablets, and computer monitors must be

recycled and can no longer be placed curbside for trash pickup.

Before taking electronics to a recycling facility, please call to make sure they'll accept the items you have.



Luzerne County Solid
1600 San Souci Parkway
Hanover 18705
570-820-6300

Municipal Recovery Luzerne
495 Staton Street
Wilkes-Barre 18702
570-829-2206

Salvation Army Family Store
520 Kidder Street
Wilkes-Barre 18702
570-823-4191

The Salvation Army ARC
739 Sans Souci Parkway
Wilkes-Barre 18706
570-823-4191

Staples Luzerne 453
Arena Hub Plaza
Wilkes-Barre 18702
570-824-8304

Best Buy Retail Store 449
ARENA HUB Plaza
Wilkes-Barre 18702
570-819-0719



Rep. Pashinski begins the holiday season by ringing the bell with The Salvation Army.





State Representative
Eddie Day Pashinski

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Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program now accepting applications

Every year, the state offers assistance to thousands of Pennsylvanians 65 and older, widows and widowers 50 and older, and people with disabilities 18 and older through its Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.

You could be eligible to receive a maximum standard rebate of \$650 for property taxes or rent paid in 2013.

I encourage you to visit <http://is.gd/PTRRhelp> for more information about the program.

My staff and I are happy to help you complete an application form for free. The application process only takes a couple of minutes. **Make sure you call my office for an appointment and to receive preliminary instructions.**

The deadline to apply for the program is June 30, 2014. The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue will begin mailing checks in July.



Scan this QR code to watch a video about the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program:

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In the next issue: Protect the Pa. Lottery • Defending Seniors from Physical & Financial abuse

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 of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Public Welfare (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kind – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

ANY QUESTION ABOUT STATE GOVERNMENT!