

State Representative ■ 179th Legislative District

# JASON DAWKINS



## DISTRICT OFFICE:

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Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.,  
Fri. 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

## CAPITOL OFFICE:

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## GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET WOULD BENEFIT PHILADELPHIA

In March, Gov. Tom Wolf introduced his proposed budget. He presented a bold plan that includes historic investments in education and health and human services.

The governor proposed a reduction in property taxes in exchange for a change in the sales-tax structure, and he also has called for a severance tax on the natural gas drillers in Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale.

Other highlights from Wolf's budget proposal include:

- Increasing the state sales and personal income taxes in return for \$3.8 billion in school property tax relief and eliminating school property taxes for 270,000 senior households;
- Restoring devastating cuts to public education by investing \$400 million more in basic education, \$100 million more in special education and \$120 million more in early childhood education;
- Expanding home- and community-based long-term care to enable more older Pennsylvanians to obtain care in their homes; and
- Reducing significantly the funding raided from the Lottery Fund, so the money is available to support programs for older Pennsylvanians.

Wolf's proposal would also mean relief from Philadelphia constantly shouldering more than its fair share. The city's current \$2-a-pack tax on cigarettes would be replaced with a statewide tax of \$1 per pack. The city's wage tax would also be reduced by 14 percent over the next five years.

Perhaps most importantly, the governor's proposal would increase funding for Philadelphia schools by \$159 million next year alone. After years of being underfunded by the previous administration, we finally have a governor who understands the need for great schools all across the state and is willing to fight to reach that goal.



Wolf's proposed \$29.88 billion spending plan is sure to undergo changes during negotiations between the Democratic governor and the Republican-dominated General Assembly, but it is important to understand what the governor proposed as we begin the budget process, so you know what we are fighting for.

I am eager to work with the governor and leaders on both sides of the aisle to ensure a state budget that truly serves the best interests of the 179th Legislative District and all of Pennsylvania.

# LONG-TERM CARE ADDRESSED AT AARP EVENT

In February, I was pleased to join Gov. Tom Wolf at the AARP's Philadelphia office as he announced critical and much-needed changes to how Pennsylvania addresses the long-term care needs of our senior citizens.

As a member of the House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee, I'm committed to working with the governor to make sure these important changes can be implemented.

Wolf announced that 5,500 additional older adults would be provided in-home care, expanding Pennsylvania's commitment to home- and community-based care. This will not only provide seniors with better options for their long-term care, it will save Pennsylvanians \$162.2 million in nursing home costs.

In addition to expanding services, the Department of Aging and the Department of Human Services will be cutting red tape to more efficiently deliver services to seniors. These, along with other important changes, will ensure that seniors have choices about where they age.



# MARGARET-ORTHODOX PROJECT TO START SOON

Beginning this summer, SEPTA will begin a \$38.5 million enhancement project at the Margaret-Orthodox Station. The project will focus on accessibility and safety. Improvements will include the installation of elevators from street level to the platforms and an overpass for full wheelchair accessibility

– as well as new platforms, security and communication systems, lighting, signage, and customer amenities.



# PUBLIC HEARINGS HELD ON EDUCATION, MINIMUM WAGE

As a member of the Pennsylvania House Democratic Policy Committee, I had the pleasure of inviting my colleagues from across the state to Warren G. Harding Middle School for a public hearing on education funding. At the hearing, I called for a fair education funding formula that would give students in urban districts an equal opportunity at a quality education.



# LIQUOR STORES: MODERNIZE, NOT PRIVATIZE

I recently spoke on the House floor about House Bill 466, a proposal to privatize Pennsylvania's Wine and Spirits Stores. This push for privatization is opposed by law enforcement and public safety and health advocates, and I voiced my concerns that expanding access while losing oversight could have a negative impact on our neighborhoods. This bill would also eliminate the 5,000 family sustaining jobs provided by the wine and spirits stores, and result in a loss of \$190 million per year for the state.

We should modernize, not privatize our wine and spirits stores. Simple changes, like expanding store hours and providing flexibility in product pricing, could provide an additional \$125 million in profits. Rather than giving up a steady revenue source in exchange for one-time money, we have an opportunity to provide the convenience, selection and good pricing that Pennsylvanians want and deserve.



I also attended a Policy Committee hearing hosted by my colleague, state Rep. Leslie Acosta, on the critical need to raise Pennsylvania's minimum wage. Currently, the minimum wage stands at \$7.25 per hour, but raising it to \$10.10 per hour would benefit thousands of low-income families and pull many out of poverty.

It is critical that we address these two issues, showing support for Pennsylvania's families by guaranteeing them a living wage and a quality education for their children.

# PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM DEADLINE IS JUNE 30

Pennsylvania's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program provides tax and rent relief to those age 65 and over; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. Since this program's inception

in 1971, older and disabled adults have received more than \$5.6 billion in support. If you fall within the income guidelines below, please contact my office at (215) 744-7901 for information on how to apply for this program.

| <u>HOMEOWNERS</u>    |                | <u>RENTERS</u>      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Income               | Maximum Rebate | Income              | Maximum Rebate |
| \$0 to \$8,000       | \$650          | \$0 to \$8,000      | \$650          |
| \$8,001 to \$15,000  | \$500          | \$8,001 to \$15,000 | \$500          |
| \$15,001 to \$18,000 | \$300          |                     |                |
| \$18,001 to \$35,000 | \$250          |                     |                |



## WORKREADY PHILADELPHIA – YOUTH SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM

Workready Philadelphia is a partnership between employers, schools, community groups and other stakeholders to provide educationally enriched work experiences for Philadelphia's young people. The program has placed thousands of young Philadelphians in year-round and summer work experiences with local businesses and nonprofits. If you know a young person who is looking for work over the summer, please contact my office for more information at (215) 744-7901.

## BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

I was happy to join Big Brothers Big Sisters Southeastern Pennsylvania to celebrate its 100th anniversary and the launch of its new Mentoring Partnership and Resource Center. Supporting young people in our communities with quality programs – like Big Brothers Big Sisters provides – has been one of my primary goals, and I welcomed the opportunity to honor an organization with such a long and impressive history of serving Philadelphia's children.



## OLNEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

In March, I was proud to honor 64 students from Olney High School at their induction ceremony for the National Honor Society. The NHS recognizes outstanding high school students, and honors those who have distinguished themselves by demonstrating excellence in scholarship, leadership, service and character. It was a privilege to meet so many bright young people who had not only performed at an exceptional academic level, but who had also proven themselves to be outstanding members of their school and local communities. I was proud to present each of them with a citation, and recognize their outstanding achievements and success.





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# BREAST CANCER SCREENINGS

**Wednesday, June 17**  
**9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**At my constituent service office**  
4915 Frankford Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19124

## Requirements for receiving a mammogram are:

- Must be 40 or older.
- Name and address of one of your doctors.
- Prescription from your doctor.
- May not be breast-feeding or have breast-fed within the last 9 months.
- Must not have had a breast cancer diagnosis within the past two years.
- Must not be under treatment for breast cancer.
- Must not have had a mammogram in 12 months.
- Must be able to board the van and stand while being examined.

**Screenings are done by appointment only. Please call my office at 215-744-7901 to schedule an appointment or for more information.**

## 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
  - Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
  - Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
  - Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
  - Birth and death certificates
  - Issues with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
  - Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
  - Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
  - Inquiries about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
  - Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
  - Issues with insurance companies
  - Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
  - Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
  - Questions about the state lottery
  - PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
  - Consumer complaints
  - Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
  - Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
  - Information about federal, state and local government agencies
- Any state government-related matters!***