

State Representative ■ 179th Legislative District

JASON DAWKINS



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DAWKINS INTRODUCES BILLS TO ADDRESS CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES

In June I introduced House Bill 2135 and House Resolution 915 that address the critical issue of life imprisonment. Our state is unique when it comes to life sentences; there are no life sentences with the possibility of parole, and the sentence is applied to a large number of offenses. As a result, we have the second-highest population of people serving life without parole in the United States. We also have the largest population of juveniles sentenced to life without parole, a sentence that has been ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

House Bill 2135 would eliminate life without parole in

Pennsylvania, and allow all of those serving this sentence to apply for parole after a minimum term of their sentence has been served.

This would not guarantee parole, but rather would allow those sentenced to life to make their case to the board. I've had the opportunity to speak to lifers from around the state, and I've met people who got a master's degree while incarcerated, volunteered with educational programs in prison, or learned a trade.

These folks have made a new start, and they deserve the chance to go before the parole board, who can make a thorough and informed decision.

The resolution I introduced, House Resolution 915, deals specifically with the issue of juvenile lifers.

After the Supreme Court's rulings in *Miller v. Alabama*

and *Montgomery v. Louisiana*, Pennsylvania must resentence those who were sentenced to a life in prison without parole when they were under 18. This resolution would create a task force to make recommendations to courts based on best practices for resentencing.

These pieces of legislation would bring about much-needed reforms to our criminal justice system, and I look forward to continuing my work on these issues once the legislature resumes its session this fall.



SECOND ANNUAL FRANKFORD COMMUNITY DAY

On Saturday, Aug. 13, I joined a number of community partners to host the Second Annual Frankford Community Day. Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, we were able to provide free food and live music, in addition to games and activities for kids. We brought out over 30 vendors from government agencies, nonprofits and local businesses to provide residents with information and services. Our Gospel Concert Series was a tremendous success again this year, and boasted performances by the Northeast Baptist Church choir and a number of local gospel acts.

Thank you to everyone who came out for Frankford Community Day this year. It is a great honor to host this event every year, and my staff and I are already looking forward to next summer!



2016-17 BUDGET INVESTS IN EDUCATION AND TACKLES THE OPIOID CRISIS

In July, Gov. General Assembly that was balanced and on time. While this budget wasn't perfect, I want to take this opportunity to highlight the significant accomplishments we made this year.

One of the greatest challenges facing Pennsylvania is inadequate funding for education, and this year we were able to increase funding for education by \$250 million. This includes \$200 million in K-12 funding, \$25 million for pre-K education, \$5 million for the Head Start program and \$20 million for special education. We also were able to increase funding for state-owned and state-related universities for the first time in years.

This budget also includes funds to address Pennsylvania's

opioid crisis. Last year, almost 2,500 Pennsylvanians died from drug overdoses; at least seven per day. Addiction affects one in four families in our state, and yet only a fraction of those affected are able to get treatment. That's why this budget provides over \$15 million to address this public health crisis. With this additional funding we will be able to provide treatment to those who need it, and confront the leading cause of accidental death in Pennsylvania.

There's still plenty of work to be done, but this budget is a step in the right direction. I will continue to fight for fair and equitable education funding, and to ensure that our district is provided with the funding and investment we need to confront the challenges our neighborhoods face, create family-sustaining jobs and move our communities forward.

DAWKINS HOSTS MOVIE NIGHTS IN OVERINGTON PARK



One of my favorite summer events is our movie night series, and this year we joined the Friends of Overington Park to provide two great nights of family-friendly fun. The folks at Overington Park always go above and beyond to make their park a success, and every month they host unique and creative events that draw large crowds and entertain people of all ages. It was great to work with them and Turning Points for Children – which provided popcorn and beverages – to make these events possible.

REMEMBER YOU CAN REGISTER TO VOTE ONLINE

With the election for president coming up in November, I want to remind you that Pennsylvanians are now able to register to vote online. You can complete an online voter registration form by visiting www.pavoterservices.state.pa.us.

Online voter registration services are available in both English and Spanish. You can also make updates to your voter record, including change of name, address or party affiliation. In addition, you can ask for assistance at a polling place.

The site is directly linked to the state Department of Transportation's Motor Voter systems, so if you have a driver's license or PennDOT ID card, your signature already on file can be linked to your voter record.

If you do not have a driver's license or ID card, you can print, sign and mail the completed online application to your county voter registration office. If you are unable to print the application, you may request the Department of State to mail you a signature card to complete and send back.

Don't delay! The deadline to register to vote in the upcoming election is Oct. 11.



WORKREADY PROGRAM PREPARES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR CAREER SUCCESS

Every summer, my office and the Frankford CDC hire high school interns through the Philadelphia Youth Network's WorkReady program. Through this program, we're able to provide a fun, productive and educational experience that keeps local students engaged throughout the summer, and helps prepare them for the working world.

I'm always impressed by how sharp and knowledgeable our students are, and inspired by their passion to help make their



community a better place. We were able to bring in experts to talk to them about financial literacy – and provide tours of Temple University, City Hall and the state Capitol. I'm proud of these young people, and can't wait to watch them succeed!



STATE REP. JASON DAWKINS
P.O. Box 202179
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2179

**You can
register
to vote
ONLINE –
more details
inside!**

lpo.kaf.0916

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JASON DAWKINS



SAVE THE DATE

Olney Youth Arts Festival
Saturday, October 1

Noon – 4 p.m.

West Chew Avenue,
off North 5th Street

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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!