

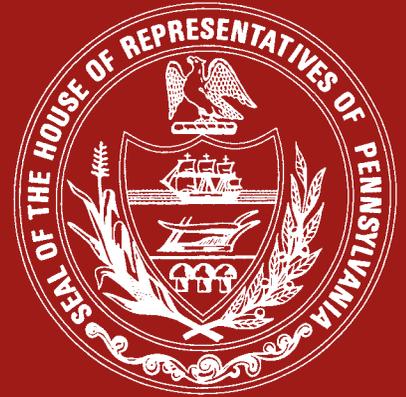
STURLA

Report

From State Representative
MIKE STURLA
96th Legislative District

Fall 2018

WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/STURLA



STURLA HOLDS LEGISLATIVE HEARING TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY-POLICE RELATIONS

In response to various incidents involving law enforcement and citizens across Pennsylvania, Rep. Sturla held a House Democratic Policy Committee hearing with the Senate Democratic Policy Committee in Pittsburgh at Hosanna House on July 17. The committees collected input from law enforcement, civil rights experts, and the public on how to better improve police-community relations while ensuring effective law enforcement training and diversity education. Go to www.pahouse.com/PolicyCommittee to watch the whole hearing and to read testimony.



POLICY COMMITTEE EXPLORES IMPORTANT ISSUES

As Chair of the House Democratic Policy Committee, Rep. Sturla has held public hearings all over the state on a variety of important issues, including raising the minimum wage, education funding, job creation, economic development, and affordable health care.



ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT HELPS NEARLY 2,000

Rep. Sturla's 7th Annual Back to School Giveaway was another huge success inside the Lancaster Barnstormers' Clipper Magazine Stadium on August 19. Visit www.pahouse.com/Sturla to see more pictures, a video, and a list of all of the various community partners that helped prepare for school nearly 2,000 K-8th grade students in the School District of Lancaster. They received free backpacks, supplies, books, uniforms, shoes, and haircuts.



STATE CHAMPIONS FROM MANHEIM TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT



Rep. Sturla is pictured here in the House chamber with the Manheim Township boys' lacrosse team who were recognized for winning the PIAA 3A state championship.

STURLA CO-SPONSORS BILLS TO HELP WITH RETIREMENT AND HEALTH CARE

House Bill 465 – Retirement Security

With the lack of retirement savings being a growing concern for too many, Rep. Sturla is co-sponsoring House Bill 465 to provide a simple way for Pennsylvanians who do not have access to an employer-supported retirement plan to put money aside for retirement through automatic payroll deductions.

The proposed Keystone Retirement Security Program (KRSP) for individual, low-cost, fully portable, Roth IRA accounts (with no additional administrative burdens on employers or

employees), would be managed by the state Treasury and give working Pennsylvanians more financial security in the years ahead.

Employers (with five or more employees) that do not already offer a retirement plan, such as a standard pension or a 401(k), would be required to offer their employees enrollment in KSRP. Workers could decline the structured savings plan if they choose, otherwise a small personally designated portion of their pay will be automatically deposited into an account that Treasury will manage for the employee.

House Bill 2552 – Protecting Coverage for Pre-Existing Conditions

In the event that the entire Affordable Care Act is invalidated by the courts, Rep. Sturla is co-sponsoring House Bill 2552 to preserve the pre-existing condition protection in Pennsylvania. This bill would prohibit health insurers from using an individual's pre-existing medical condition to deny or exclude coverage under a health insurance policy.

TOYS FOR TOTS APPLICATIONS

If you know of a family in need this holiday season, my Lancaster office will again serve as an application site for the Toys for Tots program. Registration will start on September 17 and my staff will provide free assistance with the application process. Call my office at 717-295-3157 for more details.

REP. STURLA'S BUDGET THOUGHTS: REPUBLICAN CONTROL PRODUCES MEDIocre STATE BUDGETS

In June, the General Assembly (Democrats and Republicans) passed a state budget that meets the constitutional muster of being on time, but that is about all it does. Unfortunately, this mediocre budget is precisely what we have come to expect from the Republicans who have controlled the state Senate for the last 31 years and the state House for 20 of the last 24 years even though there have been 12 years of Republican governors and 12 years of Democratic governors during this same time period.

Given these circumstances, Governor Wolf should be praised that this budget does anything at all.

While this budget has \$100 million more for basic education funding, it does not fix the cost disparity of funding; \$10,833 per student in some schools versus \$29,255 per student in other schools; that ranks our state worst in the nation. In a state where all children deserve an equal opportunity, nobody should find this acceptable. It also does little to close the inequitable state funding gap of what a school should get if all basic education funding were distributed through the fair funding formula. For example, 94 school districts get less than 80% of the funding they deserve (some as low as 30%) while 95 school districts receive over 200% of the funding they deserve. At the rate that Republicans want to address this issue, "fair funding" will be achieved 33 years

from now when today's kindergarten students are 38 years old.

This budget does have \$20 million more for Pre-K, but only 39% of eligible children in our state benefit from high-quality, publicly funded Pre-K. This line item needs another \$290 million to serve all at-risk children.

This budget increases funding for higher education by 3%, but it still keeps Pennsylvania ranked 49th nationally in terms of higher education per capita funding and 3rd in most student debt. This is not a formula to produce and retain a highly-trained workforce.

This budget provides funding to remove 100 adults with intellectual disabilities, whose parents are too old to care for them, from the emergency waiting list. But the list has 5,143 individuals still waiting. It also does not do anything to reduce the 3,252 individuals waiting for adult autism services.

This budget does include an additional \$6.8 million to provide subsidized child care for 1,600 more children, but it did not eliminate the waiting list for the other 9,336 children who still need quality child care.

This budget failed to reduce the \$227 million overcharge of charter and cyber charter school costs that cause higher local property taxes for homeowners. It also failed to implement a reasonable severance

tax on Marcellus Shale to protect the environment. This budget failed to fully close the Delaware loophole to provide a fair playing field for Pennsylvania small businesses. This budget even failed to address how to pay for the \$800 million in state police services for communities who refuse to take on the local responsibility of having a police department.

Governor Wolf also proposed raising the minimum wage to \$12 an hour to make it closer to a living wage. His proposal would increase revenues to the state while saving the state public assistance dollars. In his first budget, Governor Wolf even tried to do property tax relief, but the Republicans would not compromise. Governor Wolf tried to address all these areas, but the Republicans refused.

Instead, the Republicans continue to produce budgets that, at a bare minimum, only accomplish the compulsory things mandated by the Constitution and nothing else. If Pennsylvanians want better state budgets that significantly improve jobs, education, the environment, human services, and the economy, they need to change who controls the General Assembly. They have that opportunity this November.

Check out www.planforpa.com for a new way forward that puts people first, creates good jobs, produces quality schools, and ensures fair taxes.

STURLA CO-SPONSORS CONESTOGA RIVER CLEANUP

On June 9, Rep. Sturla speaks at his Conestoga River Cleanup that closed out Lancaster Water Week with other local environmental groups.



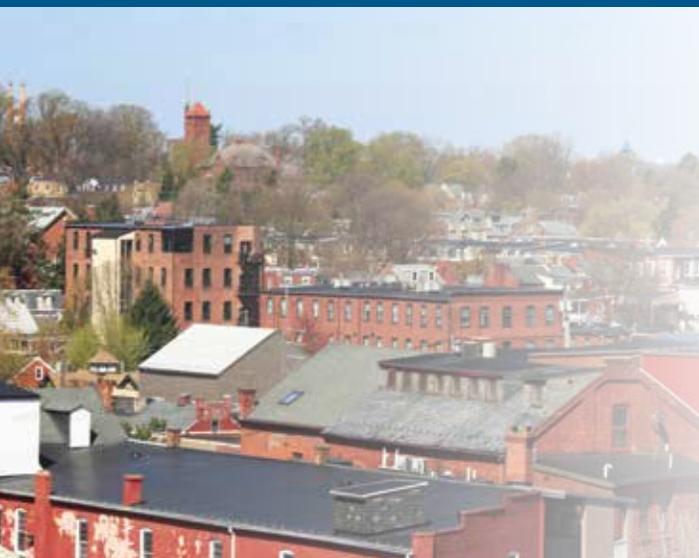
SDOL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS RECEIVE FRESH FRUIT/VEGETABLE GRANTS

For the 2018-19 school year, the School District of Lancaster was awarded \$126,706 to provide fresh fruits and vegetables during the school day at five elementary schools (Fulton, Lafayette, Martin, Wharton, and Wickersham) via the Pennsylvania Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. This program aims to create healthier school environments by increasing the consumption of fruits and vegetables in nearly 200 elementary schools. To qualify for a grant, a school must have a free and reduced meal eligibility of 50% or more.



DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR 2017 PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

Applications for the 2017 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program are now available in Rep. Sturla's Lancaster office and the deadline to apply has been extended to December 31, 2018. If you need help, please call (717) 295-3157 before stopping by the 150 E. King St. office to ensure you have all the necessary paperwork for staff to process your application. To protect your personal information, the Department of Revenue now requires your signature to enable staff to check on the status of your rebate.



POLICY POINTS OF THE DAY

Rep. Sturla produces a Policy Point of the Day each week with interesting facts about Pennsylvania and policy matters. Follow him on Twitter and Facebook to read these points each weekday. Here is an example:

Chairman Sturla's Policy Point of the Day

According to PHC4, babies born in PA with substance abuse issues cost Medicaid an extra \$20.3 million and spent 27,835 days in the hospital requiring care.



HERE TO SERVE YOU



From left to right: Greg Paulson (Chief of Staff), Mena Rodriguez and Howard Jones are available to help you navigate state government programs and services. Call Rep. Sturla's Lancaster office at (717) 295-3157 or stop by the office at 150 E. King St. for free assistance.

Ayuda disponible en español

Tengo la fortuna de tener personal bilingüe listo para ayudarle con cualquier problema relacionado con el estado. Puede llamar a la oficina al (717) 295-3157 o pasar por la oficina localizada en 150 E. King St., Lancaster. También puede contactar a Mena Rodriguez al mrodriguez@pahouse.net.

THE OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Requests for literature – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups