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State Representative

TIM BRIGGS

149th Legislative District

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with the disfunction of our legislative rules, especially as they were used to minimize the voice of the minority party for over a decade and helped create the partisan gridlock.

Speaker Rozzi formed a bipartisan workgroup of three Republicans and three Democrats to work with him to develop a framework for our House Rules and address concerns to end the partisan gridlock in the House. The workgroup, which I served on, met frequently to have serious and honest conversations, ensuring the interests and opinions of our constituents were heard and well represented. We conducted statewide listening sessions to gain public input to make sure residents were included.

At the end of the day, we adopted a number of reforms and were able to address many concerns, including helping the voice of the minority party be respected in the legislative process, requiring hearings for constitutional amendments, and making it easier for bills to be moved out of committee. I want to thank the people of the 149th Legislative District for allowing me to be their voice in Harrisburg to move Pennsylvania forward and for supporting me as we work.

Sincerley,

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

For the first time in over 13 years, Pennsylvanians elected a Democratic majority in our state House. Our majority allowed us for the first time in our chamber's history to elect a female Speaker of the House, who is also the second African American legislator to have held this position. In the time that we've held the majority, we were able to pass over 100 bills that address the most prevalent concerns of Pennsylvanians. We prioritized bills to address gun violence, workers' rights, equality, the environment, and an update to our hate crimes laws, to name a few. I take immense pride

in our collective efforts to support our communities. Yet, there is still a significant amount of work that lies ahead, and I am excited to serve you during the remainder of our 2023-24 legislative session.

At the beginning of our session, due to three vacancies, the House was in a stalemate and couldn't agree on House Rules or who would serve as Speaker of the House. It allowed for a bipartisan compromise to elect an interim speaker, Mark Rozzi, to serve as the first independent Speaker of the House. Speaker Rozzi was frustrated, as many of us were,

2023/24 State Budget

This year's budget represents a significant milestone in our efforts to build an inclusive economy, enhance community safety, and ensure quality education for all Pennsylvania children. Our commonwealth is poised for growth thanks to its unprecedented funding for K-12 education, robust investments in workforce development, strong support for community and economic development, and substantial allocations for agriculture and public safety.

I was happy to vote yes because this budget includes a historic \$1 billion investment in K-12 public education, the largest increase in the Education Funding Formula in Pennsylvania's history. It also includes additional funding for underfunded schools, special education support, grants for school safety and environmental improvements, universal free breakfast and reduced-price lunch programs, stipends for student teachers, and support for dual enrollment opportunities. We still have work to do regarding the inequities of our funding formula, but I feel good that this budget puts us in the right direction.

For the first time in state history, the General Assembly made allocations to fund indigent defense in Pennsylvania, ensuring defendants who cannot afford legal representation receive proper

support. Previously, Pennsylvania was one of only two states in the country that did not allocate state funding for indigent defense, but that changed with this budget. \$7.5 million has been secured to ensure public defenders have the resources they need to provide legal representation to defendants who cannot pay for it on their own.

Additionally, the budget addresses public health concerns, including mental health, maternal mortality, and support for emergency medical services and healthcare providers. Public safety stands to benefit from sustainable funding for the Pennsylvania State Police, investments in trooper training, funding for violence intervention and prevention, and initiatives for pardons processing and campus safety.

This budget reflects the state's priorities, with investments benefiting students, teachers, seniors, families, farmers, workers, law enforcement, emergency responders, and business owners. Overall, this budget demonstrates critical investments in various sectors, aiming to improve the lives of Pennsylvanians and strengthen the state's future.

Pennsylvania has a divided state government with a Democratic Governor, a Democratic Majority in the House, and a Republican Majority in the



Testifying in front of the House Finance Committee.



Senate. This dynamic will require compromise and a willingness to work in a bipartisan manner. Some of our budget priorities, while funded, will continue to take work to draft the enabling language into law. I look forward to continuing to work in a bipartisan manner to move Pennsylvania forward.

Delivering Justice to Victims

In his final days in office, Governor Tom Wolf called for a special session of the General Assembly to address allowing adult victims of childhood sexual abuse to sue the perpetrators. I was honored to be appointed by the then-Speaker of the House, Mark Rozzi, to serve as chair of a special, five-member committee created for the Special Session to deliver justice to victims of childhood sexual abuse. The other members of this Special Session committee are the current Speaker of the House Joanna McClinton, House Democratic Leader Matt Bradford, House Republican Leader Bryan Cutler, and House Republican Appropriations Chairman Seth Grove.

The General Assembly had a unique opportunity to stand firmly on the side of survivors and to start the session off with a genuine show of bipartisanship, but political maneuvers by the opposing party once again halted the legislation. Despite all the parliamentary maneuvers by the House Republicans, we moved these bills out of committee and passed



Interim-Speaker Mark Rozzi (second from right) standing with the three Democratic members of his Workgroup to Move Pennsylvania Forward.

them in the House. Like many past sessions, legislation to deliver justice to victims is sitting idly in the Senate's hands.

PASSHE Tuition Freeze

For the last five years, I have had the honor of serving as the House Democratic Caucus' designee on the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Board of Governors. The Board of Governors has been committed to addressing the challenges that face all higher education as well as working to reform the State System. Expanding on its mission of providing a high-quality, affordable education close to home, with the support of the General Assembly and

the Governor we were able to freeze tuition rates for the fifth consecutive year.

As a Commonwealth, we are still not where we need to be in providing affordable in-state tuition for our residents, but with this commitment, the tuition rate for in-state undergraduate students will remain at \$7,716. This will help Pennsylvania residents expand on the skills and training they need to enter the workforce immediately upon graduating. In the 2023-24 state budget that was passed by the



I met with Governor Josh Shapiro at Millersville University, a PASSHE school, to announce a new partnership with Google.

House and Senate, PASSHE is receiving \$585.6 million, which is a \$108 million increase over the last two years.

Filing Campaign Finance Reports Electronically

I am proud to reintroduce a bill aimed at ushering in a new era of transparency and efficiency to our state's political realm. This bill calls for all candidates seeking state office and political action committees (PACs) in Pennsylvania to adopt the Department of State's cutting-edge online filing system for their campaign finance reports.

Antiquated paper filing proves to be costly and inefficient for both our government and aspiring candidates. In fact, many forward-looking candidates and PACs have already embraced electronic filing, recognizing its potential to elevate accountability and transparency.

By mandating electronic filing, we seek to not only enhance the credibility and openness of our government but also alleviate the burden on the Commonwealth's finances. Embracing our available resources and modern technology, we have the power to provide our residents with the transparent governance they rightly deserve while responsibly safeguarding the taxpayers' money. Numerous states have already embraced electronic filing, and it is imperative that Pennsylvania keeps pace with the evolving landscape of public transparency online.

A graphic shaped like a house with a blue background. At the top, it says "DEADLINE EXTENDED DUE DECEMBER 31". Below that, "PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM DEADLINE". It lists requirements for "EVERYONE", "HOMEOWNERS", and "RENTERS". It also shows income thresholds: "\$35,000 household income for homeowners" and "\$15,000 household income for renters". A note at the bottom says "For those on Social Security: half of SSI/SSD income is excluded for eligibility". A circular logo for "PA HOUSE DEMOCRATS" is in the top right corner.

DEADLINE EXTENDED
DUE DECEMBER 31

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM DEADLINE

What you need to provide:

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
household income for homeowners

&

\$15,000
household income for renters

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

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Application Deadline Extended

My office assists seniors in completing the forms for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. This valuable program had been unchanged since its inception. That is why I championed changes to the law, and we are now able to expand the rebate to more eligible seniors. Starting with the 2024 claim year, more Pennsylvanians will qualify for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.

In 2024, 575,000 seniors across the Commonwealth will qualify for a Property Tax/Rent Rebate. This is the first time the program has been expanded since 2006, and the rebate amounts and income limits will increase with inflation, so no senior becomes ineligible just because their Social Security payment increased. Rebates will increase by more than 50%.

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with disabilities 18 or older. The deadline for applications for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2022 is Dec. 31. You can apply online at <https://mypath.pa.gov>. or contact my office for assistance.



I joined UMASD Superintendent Dr. John Toleno and Board President Alice Budno Hope with the Winner and Finalists from my 2023 There Ought To Be A Law Contest.

This spring, I was proud to sponsor my annual “There Ought To Be A Law” contest for 5th-graders in my district. Now in its 14th year, this contest showcases the creative ideas and genuine concerns our children have for our planet and our community. Faith Francis of

Upper Merion Area Middle School was our 2023 winner. She authored a persuasive essay about a law for school dress codes that are fair to both boys and girls.

Congratulations to the finalists and I look forward to hearing more great ideas from students in 2024. With these potential leaders, the future is bright.

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|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| ■ Shaya Fineman | ■ Chase Seiders | ■ Shane Clayton |
| ■ Elaina Cohen | ■ Noah Palladino | ■ Reagan Pio |
| ■ Yoni Aidman | ■ Viraat Batham | ■ Yuritza Pineda-Barrios |
| ■ Ben Tzion Danielli | ■ Sam Wasef | ■ Emelia Dooner |
| ■ AJ Kazanjian | ■ Alice Yang | ■ Vindhya Nadimpalli |
| ■ Neil Houser | ■ Ritvik Sahu | ■ Ayomide Makinwa |

House Brain Injury Caucus

As the Democratic Chair of the House Brain Injury Caucus, I have joined with my two Republican co-chairs to introduce legislation that would help address the challenges faced by Pennsylvanians with moderate-to-severe brain injuries. Currently, there are 543,288 Pennsylvanians living with an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI), and each year, there are 138,600 new brain injuries, with 18,788 being severe enough to require hospitalization. Many of these patients are discharged from hospitals without follow-up care, making resuming life in the community difficult without long-term services and support.

The proposed legislation will mandate commercial health insurers to cover post-acute neurorehabilitation in their insurance policies. With bipartisan support, this bill aims to bridge the gap between private and public sector responsibilities for neurorehabilitation, benefiting the well-being and productivity of all Pennsylvanians.

Funding in Our District

- \$9 million to Discovery Labs for multiple renovation projects.
- \$5.75 million for Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center to build its Child Advocacy and Training Center.
- \$3.5 million for the Office of the Montgomery County District Attorney to create a specialized and centralized Gun Violence Task Force.
- \$3 million for Mitzvah Circle Foundation to expand its critical services delivering immediate needs to vulnerable families.
- \$2 million for Innovation 411, a life sciences, health care, and technology hub.
- \$2 million to Lower Merion Township’s Department of Parks and Recreation for the construction of the Ardmore Community Center.
- \$1.25 million to West Norriton Township for the construction of the new Jefferson Golf Clubhouse building with a restaurant and banquet facility.
- \$1 million to Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority for the construction of a rooftop farm/garden at the medical facility.
- \$500,000 to the Center for Breakthrough Medicines for the design, construction, and conversion of a cGMP lab and manufacturing space.
- \$500,000 to the Kaiserman Jewish Community Center for renovations to the gymnasium, preschool, and lobby.
- \$500,000 to the Friends of Valley Forge for the construction of an addition to the Maurice Stephens House.
- \$500,000 to Lower Merion Township for the Ashbridge House by New Horizons.
- \$550,000 to Upper Merion Township for a Street Sweeper and upgrades to First Avenue Linear Park.

Snapshots with Tim



Standing with Gov. Shapiro to remove out-of-pocket costs associated with genetic testing for hereditary breast and ovarian cancer.



Touring the historic La Mott Community Center and Museum to discuss historic preservation and tourism.



Taking part in the Speaker's Listening Tour at State College to gain residents' input.



Speaking on the importance of keeping our kids safe from radon contamination through regular testing.



Supporting CeaseFirePA in their mission to put an end to gun violence



On the House floor with 2022 There Ought To Be A Law winner Sara McCarthy and family.



Touring Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown.



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Rep. Briggs' Free Document Shredding

Protect yourself from identity theft and responsibly dispose of unwanted documents at one of my community shred events.



October 7 • 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church
 630 Clothier Road, Wynnewood, PA 19096

October 28 • 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Upper Merion Area Middle School
 450 Keebler Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406

PENNSYLVANIA Municipal Election VOTE 2023

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

OCTOBER 23

Last day to register to vote
 in the Municipal Election

vote.pa.gov/Register

OCTOBER 31

Last day to apply for a
 mail ballot

vote.pa.gov/ApplyMailBallot

NOVEMBER 07

Election Day. Polls are
 open from 7 AM to 8 PM

vote.pa.gov/Polls

NOVEMBER 07

Completed mail ballots
 must be received by 8 PM

vote.pa.gov/County

Vote.pa.gov

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 Human Services (food stamps, medical, and income assistance)
 - Pennsylvania income tax questions
 - Consumer complaints
 - Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
 - Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
 - Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
 - Complaints and problems with insurance companies
 - Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
 - Property Tax/Rent Rebate questions
 - Questions about the state lottery
 - PACE prescription discount cards for senior citizens
 - Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
 - Liquor Control Board concerns
 - Information about federal, state and local government agencies
- Any issue with state government!

Notary Services

Free notary services are available for constituents at my district office! Appointments are required. Call (610) 768-3135.