

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE

146th Legislative District

Constituent Services Office: Park Towne Plaza, 301 N. Lewis Road · Suite 140C · Royersford, PA 19468 P: (484) 200-8265 · F: (484) 200-8275 · Mon. – Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Capitol Office: 125A East Wing · P.O. Box 202146 · Harrisburg, PA 17120 P: (717) 783-4086 · F: (717) 705-1891

Pottstown Satellite Offices: TriCounty Active Adult Center · 288 Moser Rd. · Pottstown, PA 19464 Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Montgomery County Community College · North Hall Room 119 16 E. High St. · Pottstown, PA 19464 · Tues. and Thurs, 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Fall 2023

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#### **New Pottstown Satellite Office**

To better serve Pottstown-area residents, I am opening a second satellite office in Pottstown! This office will be in Room 119 at **Montgomery County Community** College's (MCCC) North Hall (16 E. High St.). Office hours will be **noon to** 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting on Tuesday, October 10.

Free parking is available (labeled on the map to the right as Lot 2) for this office at MCCC's South Hall, with a short path under the railroad tracks connecting the lot to North Hall. Alternatively, paid street parking is

also available on High Street. This satellite location will feature my regular constituent services, including applications for SEPTA Senior Key cards, the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, unclaimed property, birth and death certificates, and more. Please call ahead for notary services to make sure there is a notary in the office before you show up.

The satellite office on the third floor of the TriCounty Active Adult Center (288 Moser Road) in Pottstown will remain open part-time on Mondays and Wednesdays.



#### **State Budget Delivers Record Investment for Education**

While there is still more work to be done in finalizing the 2023-24 state budget, I voted for a budget that continues the investments we need in education and many other important priorities for our communities. These investments include:

- **Education** I continue to advocate for increasing state funding for our public schools and reducing the reliance on local property taxes. As a result, we will see funding increases of \$6 million for our area school districts: \$3.4 million for Pottstown (16.7%), \$1 million for Pottsgrove (8.5%), and \$1.6 million for Spring-Ford (10.4%). I was especially pleased to see the legislature include my proposal to continue "Level Up" funding to help our most-underfunded school districts, including Pottstown.
- ➤ **Health Care** In addition to providing funding to get home and community-based services for 850 individuals currently on intellectual disability and/ or autism waitlists, the budget invests \$100 million

- in school-based mental health supports to get more counselors and resources for students.
- **Outdoor Recreation** –People are increasingly interested in PA's state parks, forests, and trails, so we are creating a new Office of Outdoor Recreation to strengthen partnerships between these natural treasures and local businesses, invest in conservation and recreational opportunities, and make Pennsylvania a tourism destination for outdoor recreation.
- **Public Safety** An additional \$16.4 million for the Pennsylvania State Police will fund four new cadet classes, training 384 new State Troopers. This will help fill staffing gaps and provide more coverage statewide.

#### **Free Notary Services**

Most official documents can be notarized for free at my district office. No appointments are necessary, but it is recommended to call ahead to make sure a notary is available and your document is able to be notarized. My office cannot notarize certain types of documents, including wills, powers of attorney, car titles, and the Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9. The person whose signature is to be notarized must sign the document in person, in the presence of the notary, and provide proof of identity such as a valid driver's license, photo ID card or passport.

#### **Charter Reform Bill Passes House**

I am proud to announce that my comprehensive cyber charter reform bill passed the state House with a bipartisan vote, marking a major step forward for one of my priorities. My bill (H.B. 1422) would preserve school choice while holding cyber charter schools to the same rules and regulations as other entities that receive public funds – making sure taxpayer dollars are either spent on educating students or returned to the taxpayers.

This reform would standardize cyber charter tuition rates across the state, impose stricter rules for conflicts of interests, bring wasteful spending on advertising and event sponsorships under control, require compliance with state ethics and open records laws, and more. And, significantly for our underfunded local schools and overburdened property taxpayers, it would end \$455 million in overpayments – including \$3.6 million for Pottstown, Pottsgrove, and Spring-

Estimated Cyber Charter
Savings by School District

Pottstown Pottsgrove
School District School District
\$1.4 Million \$1 Million

Spring-Ford Area
School District
\$1.2 Million

Ford – through data-backed reforms that better align payments to actual costs. The bill is in the state Senate for consideration.

# Honoring Trooper Branden T. Sisca

This past spring, we honored a fallen State Trooper from Montgomery County with a road dedication ceremony. As a result of legislation I introduced with my colleague state Rep. Joe Webster, a section of State Route 4031 (Main Street) in Trappe will be known as the Trooper Branden T. Sisca Memorial Highway.

Trooper Sisca dedicated his life to protecting others in service of the community he loved. Although nothing can fill the void that Branden's tragic passing left, Rep. Webster and I thought weaving Branden's legacy into the fabric of the Trappe community through the road dedication would help us all heal.

Trooper Sisca was the fire chief of the Trappe Fire Co. as well as a State Trooper. He was struck and killed by a drunk driver on March 21, 2022, while on duty along a section of Interstate 95 in Philadelphia.



We held a ceremony in April unveiling memorial signs along the road, which was attended by Branden's family, many members of the firefighting and law enforcement communities, and the public. Now, everyone who travels through Trappe will be reminded of Branden's life of public service.

### Join My Email Update List

I maintain an email list for those who wish to receive periodic updates from me, including legislation updates, event announcements, traffic updates, state and local program information, and more. You can sign up on my website at **www.RepCiresi.com**. You also can follow me on social media, which is regularly updated with information from Harrisburg and local events right here in Montgomery County.

#### **Committee Leadership Assignments Update**

As I continue working for you in Harrisburg, I am honored to have been appointed to committee leadership roles that reflect some of my top priorities as a legislator. This year I was appointed to chair the Basic Education Subcommittee of the PA House Education Committee. Education has been a focus since I've taken office, and I look forward to continuing to work to strengthen our public education system through fair funding for our schools, comprehensive charter school reform, and creating a comprehensive vision for an education system that is ready for the future.

I have also been reappointed Chair of the Arts & Entertainment Subcommittee for the House Tourism

& Economic & Recreational Development Committee. The renamed committee has been working to recognize the link between a thriving tourism industry, economic growth and opportunities for our state, and recreational choices for our residents. As chair of this subcommittee, I'm able to use my experience and passion for the arts to highlight the role that the arts-and-culture sector has in attracting tourists, supporting Pennsylvania jobs, and being a major engine for our economy.

I look forward to using these new committee assignments to continue working on your behalf, fighting for the issues that matter for you and your family.

### **Low-Cost Dental Services in our Community**

Did you know that there are low-cost dental cleaning options in our area? In Pottstown, Community Health & Dental – located at the Coventry Mall – offers a wide array of health services, including dental.

In addition to dental, the facility offers services such as medical, vision, OB/GYN, podiatry, physical therapy, medication-assisted treatment (MAT), integrated behavioral health, care and case management, and free transportation to and from all CH-DC health center locations in Pottstown and Barto. Most major insurance plans are accepted, and discounts are offered to uninsured/underinsured patients. For more information, visit https://ch-dc.org or call (610) 326-9460. Between September and May, the Blue Bell campus of Montgomery County Community College offers low-cost dental cleanings.

To schedule an appointment, patients should call (215) 641-6483. The Dental Hygiene Clinic is located in Room 1400 (first floor) of MCCC's Health Sciences Center, 340 DeKalb Pike, Blue Bell.

According to MCCC, services at the clinic include risk assessments, prophylaxis (cleaning), non-surgical periodontal therapy (scaling & root planning), patient education and oral hygiene instructions, dental sealants, nutritional counseling, tobacco cessation counseling, intraoral photographs, impressions and study models, fluoride treatment, and comprehensive referrals for continued care.

The cost for dental hygiene services for adults and children is \$20; \$15 for senior citizens (55 or older); and free for MCCC students. Sealants with a dentist prescription are \$5 per tooth, and x-rays with a dentist prescription are \$15. Fees are payable by cash or check at the time services are rendered.



In April, I presented \$50,000 in state funding to Pottstown's North End Fire Co. for needed facilities improvements.



#### **Photos from Around the District**



I was happy to welcome students from Royersford Elementary to Harrisburg this Spring. They were able to get a tour of the Capitol, and I was able to take them onto the floor of the House!



David Newell, who many of you may remember as Mr. McFeely, the delivery man on Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, came to Harrisburg. I remembered all the days that I spent watching him on the show and it made me feel like a kid again!



National Night Out was celebrated in Royersford, Pottstown, and West Pottsgrove. It is so good to see so many people attend this fun and free family event!



It was another great year for the Pottstown Go Fourth celebration!

I continue to meet with the police, EMS, and fire chiefs to discuss their needs and any challenges they are facing. We will continue to work together to ensure that everyone in our communities receives the exceptional service that they deserve.



#### Veterans Discount ID Card & FraudSleuth Sign-Up

Co-hosted with Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds Jeanne Sorg

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

10 A.M. – 12 P.M.

REP. CIRESI ROYERSFORD DISTRICT OFFICE
PARK TOWNE PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER
301 N. LEWIS ROAD, SUITE 140C, ROYERSFORD, PA 19468

For Veterans: Bring your DD-214 discharge paperwork to be recorded with the County and receive a Veterans Discount ID Card, accepted at over 500 county businesses.

For Homeowners: Sign up for FraudSleuth, a free County-run property fraud protection service, which will alert you if someone attempts to record a document matching your property with Montgomery County.

# FREE SHREDDING

Co-hosted with Lower Pottsgrove Township



Please keep to a limit of five boxes of paper per household.

Sunday, October 22 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. (or until the truck is full)

### Pottsgrove Senior High School

1345 Kauffman Rd. Pottstown, PA 19464

### Hard-to-Read License Plate Replacement Event

**Co-hosted with Lower Pottsgrove Police Department** 

Thursday, October 26, 2023

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Gerald Richards Park

2150 Buchert Rd., Sanatoga, PA 19464



Is your license plate fading, peeling or hard to read? Plan to attend our License Plate Restoration Event on Thursday Oct. 26 at Gerald Richards Park in Lower Pottsgrove. Local police will be present to check your plate and complete the form needed to replace your plate.



**STATE REP. JOE CIRESI** P.O. Box 202146 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2146

LPO.KW.092

#### My office can help you with:

- Assistance getting and filling out state forms of all kinds
- ➤ Applying for state programs such as the Property Tax/Rent Rebate and PACE
- > Birth and death certificates
- > SEPTA Key Senior ID cards (age 65+)
- ➤ Free notary service for most documents\*
- > Filing unclaimed property applications
- ➤ Disability parking placards/plates
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) information
- > Problems or questions about PennDOT, including car registrations, titles, and license applications
- ➤ Complaints about state road conditions
- Public benefit applications or issues, including SNAP and Medical Assistance
- ➤ Property Tax/Rent Rebate assistance
- Unemployment compensation questions
- ➤ Questions about utilities or the PUC
- ➤ Problems with Pennsylvania income taxes

- Tours of the State Capitol for individuals or groups
- Citations from the House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
- ➤ Consumer complaints
- > PHEAA information
- ➤ Getting paper tax forms
- ➤ Issues with professional license applications

Contact my office by stopping in, calling at (484) 200-8265, or sending a message through my website at www.RepCiresi. com for help with these or other issues.

