

STURLA

Report

From State Representative
MIKE STURLA
96th Legislative District

Spring 2018

WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/STURLA



2018 BACKPACK EVENT COMING AUGUST 19

Go to www.pahouse.com/Sturla to register now!

Representative Sturla's 7th Annual Back to School Giveaway will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, August 19 inside the Lancaster Barnstormers' Clipper Magazine Stadium. The event, open to kids in K-8th grade, will include free backpacks, uniforms, shoes, haircuts, food, and tickets to attend the 5 p.m. Barnstormers game. State officials and local groups will also be on hand to share important information.

Anyone interested in volunteering, donating or contributing to the event in any way can contact Mena Rodriguez in Sturla's Lancaster office at (717) 295-3157 or mrodriguez@pahouse.net.



2018-19 BUDGET SEASON UNDERWAY

Governor Tom Wolf's budget address on February 6 was positive and promising. Rep. Sturla supports his proposed efforts, which would help move Pennsylvania forward.



Rep. Sturla on House floor listening to the budget address.

Highlights include:

- Providing an additional \$225 million to improve education for every student, including \$100 million for basic education, \$20 million for special education, \$30 million for Pre-K Counts and \$10 million for Head Start.
- Launching PAsmart, a \$50 million initiative to better align workforce development efforts across state agencies.
- Increasing the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$12 per hour, joining all neighboring states with wages higher than the federal minimum wage.
- Investing \$25 million in state funds, matched with \$5 million in federal funds, to expand access to high-quality child care.
- Continuing to address the opioid abuse epidemic with \$33 million.
- Proposing an additional \$74 million for services for individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism, including \$16 million to enroll 965 more individuals to receive services.
- Assessing a \$25 per capita fee on municipalities without local police coverage, a policy initiative strongly advocated by Rep. Sturla.
- Targeting \$300 million over the next five years for road and bridge construction and maintenance.
- Enacting a modest, price-sensitive severance tax, as Pennsylvania is the only natural gas producing state without such a tax.

Go to www.pahouse.com/Sturla to read Rep. Sturla's full statement on the budget and watch his video comments.



PLAN4PA ANNOUNCED

House Democrats have a Plan4PA, a new way forward that puts people first with good jobs, quality schools and fair taxes. The House Democratic Policy Committee, which is chaired by Rep. Sturla, is holding a series of hearings across the state to further discuss Plan4PA and get public input. Visit planforpa.pahouse.com for details and check out www.pahouse.com/policycommittee for hearing materials, photos and videos.

LANCASTER WATER WEEK IS JUNE 1-9, 2018

June's First Friday in Downtown Lancaster is the official kickoff to Lancaster Water Week. Celebrate art, community and the significance of water all week by enjoying the Susquehanna River trails. **Rep. Sturla's Conestoga River Cleanup will coincide with multiple cleanups and will close out Lancaster Water Week on Saturday, June 9.** If you would like to volunteer, please call the district office at (717) 295-3157 or email RepMikeSturla@pahouse.net.



MEDICAL MARIJUANA UPDATE



The Pennsylvania Department of Health is working hard to implement the state's Medical Marijuana Program, which Rep. Sturla voted for to become law. Dispensaries are starting to open up, so go to www.pahouse.com/Sturla to read a guide (click on the link in the top right corner) that will connect you with medical marijuana resources and information for patients and caregivers, including how to participate in the program.



EXPLORE PA

Are you looking for an adventure in Pennsylvania?

Visit www.pa.gov/guides/exploring-pa/ to learn more about planning your next trip. Whether it's the great outdoors, arts and culture or a history lesson, there's something for everyone.

SENIOR TRANSIT DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE



If you're 65 or older, you're eligible for senior transit discounts with SEPTA and Red Rose Transit. Rep. Sturla's district office can now help with applications for SEPTA's discounted senior passes that can be used when visiting Philadelphia. Staff can also help with Red Rose Transit (RRTA) discounted fares for seniors who live or travel more than a 1/4 mile from an existing RRTA bus route or have a disability that prevents using regular RRTA bus service. Call the office at (717) 295-3157 for more information.



STURLA SECURES STATE FUNDING

Rep. Sturla helped secure state funding through a variety of government programs that will benefit Lancaster's environment, economy, and quality of life. He will continue to work closely with the City of Lancaster, local developers, and community groups in helping to keep Lancaster a thriving community.

CFA PROJECTS

The Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) approved project grants and loans totaling \$12.65 million in the City of Lancaster:

- Lancaster City received a \$175,000 Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program grant to be used for Farnum Park renovations.
- Lancaster City received a \$1.225 million Multimodal Transportation Fund Program grant for S. Duke St. improvements that include improving ADA accessibility, the addition of a roundabout, street lighting and bike lane construction.
- A \$2 million Business in Our Sites grant and \$3 million Business in Our Sites loan will be used for the development of City Gate Corporate Center, which will generate nearly 500 jobs.
- The EDC Finance Corporation received a \$6.25 million Building PA loan for the renovation of the Hotel Lancaster, which will completely renovate 140,000 square feet of hotel property including improvements to the facade, lobby, rooms and core building systems. This project will create additional jobs and enhance room availability for the Lancaster County Convention Center.

DCNR GRANTS

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) administers the Community Conservation Partnerships Program to provide financial and technical assistance to local governments, river and trail organizations, land trusts and other nonprofits for planning, acquisition and development of park, recreation, conservation and greenway projects. Local grants awarded include:

■ Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Inc. received \$75,000 for construction of approximately 16 acres of riparian

forest buffers along waterways in the Susquehanna watershed. Work is to include landowner outreach and engagement, buffer plantings and post-planting establishment, and other related site improvements.

■ Lancaster City received \$50,000 for construction of approximately 14.5 acres of riparian forest buffers along waterways in the lower Susquehanna watershed.

■ Lancaster City also received \$300,000 for rehabilitation and further development of Farnum Park

and Conlin Field. Work is to include renovation of a softball field, press box, parking area, pavilion, comfort station, pedestrian walkways and a skate park; installation of decorative fencing, park lighting, and bleachers; and relation of play equipment with required safety surfacing and public art.

RACP PROJECTS

Gov. Tom Wolf approved two projects via the state's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program:

- Lancaster Housing Opportunity Partnership received \$500,000 to provide more affordable housing in southwest Lancaster.
- Fulton Theater received \$4 million to make renovations and improvements that will benefit Lancaster's economy.



HAND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT STATE CAPITOL

At Rep. Sturla's invitation, students who work on Hand Hurricane News travelled to Harrisburg on December 11 to get an inside look at the House Democratic Caucus' broadcast studio and the state Capitol. They used the studio to tape Hand Hurricane News segments, took a tour of the Capitol and were recognized on the House floor. Check out their Hand Hurricanes Channel on YouTube to view broadcasts. Rep. Sturla commends Advantage Lancaster for making Hurricane News a reality.



STAY IN TOUCH!

If you would like to receive email updates on state government issues, visit www.pahouse.com/Sturla and click Contact Me.



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 is June 30, 2018. If you need help, please call (717) 295-3157 before stopping by the 150 E. King St. office to ensure that you have all the necessary paperwork for staff to process your application. **To protect personal information, the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue now requires the filer's signature to enable staff to check on the status of a rebate.**

SUCCESSFUL TOYS FOR TOTS

In December, Rep. Sturla's office connected 142 families with Toys for Tots in time for the holidays. The office will again accept applications this year to help even more families in need.



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