



State Representative • 172nd Legislative District

Kevin J. Boyle



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Budget process begins

Last month, Gov. Tom Wolf joined us in the House chamber for a special joint session of the General Assembly to present his 2018-19 budget. I'm pleased to see the governor keeping the momentum going and restoring funding for cuts made by the former administration.

Pennsylvania cannot afford another budget impasse. Last year, S&P's Global Ratings downgraded the state's credit rating to the lowest it has been in 39 years. The financial services company cited our more than \$2 billion deficit and the reliance on one-time financial fixes in negotiating budgets over the last decade.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I had a seat at the table during three weeks of budget hearings. I advocated for working families, seniors, students, while staying aligned with the governor's budget proposal, including:

FOCUS ON EDUCATION:

- \$120 million more for school districts across the commonwealth;
- More investment in pre-kindergarten and Head Start programs; and
- Increased funding for state universities and career and technical education.

ATTENTION TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC:

- The governor is also building on the investments made in the fight against the opioid and heroin epidemic that is taking lives and destroying families in Philadelphia and across Pennsylvania.



During the 2017-18 budget impasse, I joined the Philadelphia Delegation for a news conference to urge solutions to fix recurring revenue gaps by placing a severance tax on natural gas drilling companies, closing corporate tax loopholes, and raising Pennsylvania's minimum wage.

MAKING GAS DRILLERS PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE:

- I support his call for a severance tax on natural-gas drilling. It's mind-boggling to see such a tax in neighboring states and yet, Pennsylvania fails to make the drilling industry pay its fair share for doing business here.

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Budget process

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It took four months beyond the June 30 deadline, but the 2017-18 state budget was finally done.

Here are some highlights:

- A \$34.2 million (2.8 percent) increase for the School District of Philadelphia
- Roughly \$650 million to aid our state-related universities like Temple and Penn State to help avoid tuition hikes for in-state students
- Making our communities safer by allowing the Liquor Control Board to immediately suspend the licenses of nuisance bars
- Adding \$25 million to the Pennsylvania Lottery Fund, which covers services for our senior citizens

To avoid the same issue in the future, I've re-introduced an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution that would require the General Assembly to stay in session until a state budget is adopted by both chambers and signed into law by the governor.

I've heard your concerns about the budget and the deficit all across the district. We owe it to you and we must conduct the people's business without needless delays.

I welcome your feedback through emails, letters and calls. It is a joy to be your state representative and something that I take very seriously. Please contact me if you need help with any state-related matter. I reaffirm my commitment to ensure that we are working to transform the quality of life of all Pennsylvanians.

\$500,000 grant awarded to Fox Chase Cancer Center

In February, I was joined by state Sen. Tina Tartaglione, Dr. Richard Fisher and Fox Chase Cancer Center leadership to present a \$500,000 check to the cancer center from the state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program.

The funding will be used to renovate the Infusion Center, doubling the square footage of the building from 9,245 to 18,085 square feet and increase the number of chairs available for patients from 36 to 50.

I am honored to have worked with officials from Fox Chase in obtaining this grant. This funding will help deliver efficient and safe patient care, while improving the overall patient experience.



Real ID update

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security granted Pennsylvania an extension through Oct. 10, 2018, on Real ID enforcement. This means Pennsylvania residents will be able to enter federal facilities and board commercial aircraft using current Pennsylvania driver's licenses and non-driver's ID cards, neither of which are Real ID-compliant yet, through that date.

PennDOT anticipates that Real ID-compliant licenses will be available in Pennsylvania in spring 2019. Until then, PennDOT will continue to request extensions from DHS until Real ID-compliant licenses and ID cards are available for purchase. No Pennsylvania resident is required to get a Real ID-compliant driver's license or ID card — you don't need a Real ID-compliant license

to drive, for instance. But if you choose to get one, you will be able to use it to board a plane and enter federal buildings when DHS ultimately enforces the Real ID Act requirements.

PennDOT will implement a one-time \$30 fee in addition to the current standard driver's license/photo ID fee for a Real ID Act-compliant license or ID card. Renewing a Real ID Act-compliant ID, however, won't cost anything extra.

NOTE: If your driver's license expires before Real ID-compliant licenses are available in Pennsylvania, you will have to pay to renew your license and, if you choose to, pay again to get a Real ID-compliant license when it's available.

Boyle hosts House Democratic Policy Committee to discuss rise of anti-Semitic acts in Northeast Philly



Last November, I requested a House Democratic Policy Committee public hearing on the recent rise of anti-Semitic acts in Northeast Philadelphia.

We discussed recent incidents, including rocks thrown through windows at Temple Menorah Keneseth Chai in Tacony, and the more than 270 tombstones overturned at Mount Carmel Cemetery in Wissinoming.

The Anti-Defamation League reported that in 2017 the number of anti-Semitic incidents in Pennsylvania increased by 71 percent. I could not stand by and continue to hear of these stories of vandalism, harassment and vulgar acts against our neighbors and not take further action.

When teachers are receiving anti-Semitic letters with feces, or people are caught urinating on a religious building, there is a clear lack of respect and disregard for others. My hope is that we can determine a course of action that will significantly reduce the number of these unfortunate incidents.

The committee discussed how the community can work together to curb these senseless acts and was joined by Policy Committee Chairman Mike Sturla from Lancaster, along with other committee members from across the state.



The committee heard testimony from Jeremy Barnett, associate regional director, Anti-Defamation League; lawyer Naomi Adler, president and CEO, Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia; Michele Foster, president-elect, Hadassah Greater Philadelphia Region; and Chuck Feldman, president, Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center.

Hearing testimony, video and photos are available at www.pahouse.com/policycommittee.

House Democrats' Plan For PA puts people first



In December, the House of Representatives' Democratic Caucus launched our Plan for PA. I support this comprehensive strategy that puts people first,

supports good jobs, fights for quality schools and promotes a fairer tax structure.

The House Democratic Plan for PA focuses on four components:

1. A People First Plan for PA that would protect the safety, health, financial security, and dignity and opportunity that every Pennsylvanian deserves, not just those at the top.
2. A Jobs Plan for PA that would attract good jobs that support families, move the economy forward, expand opportunities for working people, and protect the financial security of the middle class.
3. A Quality Schools Plan for PA that would give every child access to a safe school and a quality education, and allow adults to gain the skills and training they need to do the jobs businesses are looking to fill.
4. A Fair Taxes Plan for PA that would ease the tax burden on working people and homeowners and prevent corporations and the wealthy from exploiting the middle class.

Unfair taxes in Pennsylvania means that working families pay more while big businesses can pay less. We must pass a severance tax that finally makes drilling companies pay their fair share. But because these big businesses write lots of checks to bankroll political campaigns, many legislators in the Capitol have not been willing to hold them accountable. It's time to change direction.

For more information and to stay up to date on the Plan for PA, please visit <http://planforpa.pahouse.com>.

Taking steps to expand insurance options for women and families

In the United States, 10 percent of women aged 15 to 44 experience infertility. That's close to 270,000 women in our commonwealth. Treatment options exist. However, they are costly. On average, an in vitro fertilization cycle in the United States costs approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Although the decision to have a baby with the assistance of infertility treatment is serious and sensitive, the option should not be discarded simply due to the burdensome cost of treatment. I have proposed legislation to make this option more affordable for families by providing insurance coverage for treatment.

In addition to fertility options, my colleague Rep. Leanne Krueger-Braneky and I unveiled a plan to protect access to birth control through health insurance coverage. In Pennsylvania, at least 2.5 million women depend on this coverage to access affordable, effective contraceptives – and recent federal rollbacks are threatening it.

The legislation would require that all state-regulated insurance plans in Pennsylvania cover any prescription or non-prescription method of birth control approved by the FDA. It would cover both contraceptives and vasectomies, eliminate most co-payments, enable women to receive 12 months of birth control at one time, and lift pre-authorizations on intrauterine devices (IUDs).

The preventive benefit under the Affordable Care Act saved women \$1.4 billion on birth control the first year it went into effect and contributed to an all-time low in unintended pregnancy. I am committed to ensuring that all women in Pennsylvania have access to affordable insurance options so they may choose when and how they start or grow their families.



New Northeast passport acceptance facility

I attended a ribbon-cutting to officially announce that the Northeast Regional Library has been designated as a U.S. Department of State Passport Acceptance Facility.



Services include passport processing for new U.S. passports or passport cards, passport photographs and expedited service. It is important that we make U.S. passports more accessible to residents, especially as Pennsylvania works towards implementing Real ID-compliant driver's licenses and photo ID cards. The new location offers walk-in services, as well as weekend and evening hours.

The Northeast Regional Library is located at 2228 Cottman Ave., and its Passport Office, located on the first floor of the library, is open:

- **Tuesdays 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.**
- **Wednesdays 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.**
- **Fridays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.**
- **Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Appointments are available by calling 215-725-1740 or emailing passports@freelibrary.org. The office is staffed by two passport agents.

Costs for the available services are set by the State Department. The Passport Office accepts money orders or personal checks; it does not accept cash.

- **\$110 for 4–6 week passport delivery**
(check payable to U.S. Department of State)
- **\$170 for expedited passport delivery**
(check payable to U.S. Department of State)
- **\$25 processing fee**
(check payable to Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation)
- **\$10 photo fee, if necessary**
(check payable to Free Library of Philadelphia Trustees)

I would like to remind you that my office can assist you in applying for new birth certificates. If you have a pre-2001 birth certificate, it may no longer be valid when applying for a passport. My office has the forms and can help you fill them out, and transfer them to the appropriate state agency.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms now available

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program applications for the 2017 tax year are now available at my office – and my staff is ready to help you file yours for free!

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for

homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters. Half of Social Security income is excluded and the maximum standard rebate is \$650.

Claimants must reapply for rebates every year because they are based on annual income and property taxes or rent paid each year. Spouses, personal representatives or estates may file rebate claims on behalf of

deceased claimants who lived at least one day in 2017 and meet all other eligibility criteria.

The deadline to apply for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2017 is June 30, 2018, and the rebates normally are distributed beginning July 1. So, the sooner you file, the sooner you should receive your money!

Happenings around the 172nd District



I attended a Policy Committee hearing to discuss health care access in Pennsylvania as part of the House Democratic Plan for PA. We're working to build a strong economy with affordable health care for everyone.



I joined the Philadelphia City Council and the Parks and Recreation Department to celebrate the refinishing and reopening of Burholme Park. Residents will enjoy new playground equipment and many more upgrades!



I attended Bayada's Client and Family Home Care Day to meet with constituents and field employees that provide home health care services.



I went to the first ever George Washington Community School Fair to support the city's community school initiative. I'm proud to help and support our students, so they can be their best and overcome obstacles.



I enjoyed participating in the 7th Annual Mayfair Trunk or Treat.

Stay updated!

For more information, and to stay connected to what's happening in Harrisburg and in the community, just sign up for my email updates. Go to www.pahouse.com/Boyle to sign up.



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Senior SEPTA IDs available at my offices

My office is here to help our seniors get their SEPTA Key ID!

Hundreds of seniors attended my event at the Northeast Regional Library last September. If you missed the last event, you can still stop by my office to have your picture taken.

SEPTA Key is the modern fare payment and collection system used by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority. As SEPTA transitions to a modern fare payment, SEPTA issued photo ID cards will soon be required for all riders to receive the reduced or free fare. Medicare cards are no longer accepted to travel on SEPTA.

Seniors age 65+ ride free all day, every day, on SEPTA buses, trolleys, and subways. On Regional Rail lines, seniors ride within Pennsylvania for just \$1. Reduced transit fare is available for riders with disabilities.

My office can take your picture any time. Mobile photo sites will be available at select locations throughout the city. For more information, call us in Mayfair at 215-331-2600 or Fox Chase at 215-695-1016.



National Night Out



In conjunction with Town Watch, we hosted another successful National Night Out event in Fox Chase to promote the work that we can do together to build safer communities. We enjoyed an evening full of family-friendly activities, games, free food, entertainment and much more. I look forward to you joining me again this August for another great celebration. If you are a community business or organization interested in participating, please contact my office at 215-695-1016.