

Rep. Kevin Boyle



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WINTER UPDATE

Dear Neighbor,

I hope this mailing finds you and yours happy, healthy and enjoying 2022, so far!

My hope with this newsletter is to provide you with helpful information about the work that I do in Harrisburg as well as the work that my staff and I can do for you here at home. My office is here to answer questions you may have about state services and programs, or to provide assistance as you navigate those services and programs. We can help with applications for many of the programs I detail inside this newsletter, and we're a phone call or an email away.

Additionally, if you don't have a question or a problem but instead have a suggestion about legislation that could help you or your neighbors, please get in touch and let me know.

You can reach me and my staff at (215) 695-1016 or (215) 331-2600, or by email at RepKevinBoyle@pahouse.net.

Being your representative in Harrisburg is a privilege and responsibility that I do not take lightly. I am excited to continue serving you in Harrisburg and here at home.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Boyle



In June, I was honored to visit Father Judge High School. Father Judge was a recipient of a RACP grant that I supported. It was interesting and rewarding to learn about the welding classes the students are able to take, among other things, during my visit.



As Democratic chairman of the House Finance Committee, I work with House Republicans and Democrats on the Committee to reviews bills dealing with financial issues for the state, including tax collection rates and policies and banking policies.

Governor urges lawmakers to support my bill to aid Ukrainian refugees

Governor Tom Wolf this month called on lawmakers to support legislation that I'm sponsoring to invest \$2 million to help Ukrainian refugees arriving in Pennsylvania.

The \$2 million will get immediate aid flowing to these displaced families. The funding would provide Ukrainian refugees with housing, food, and clothing, as well as work with relief organizations to set up longer-term support.

I'll be advocating that the bill be heard in committee, but it's ultimately up to the majority at this point how quickly we can

get the bill advanced. We know we must act fast, because this will only worsen until people all over the world step in and help the refugee crisis.

The \$2 million amount matches a recent federal infusion of funds to support refugees from elsewhere in the world. Pennsylvania has welcomed displaced persons in the past, and those efforts have expanded local resettlement partners' capacity to serve more refugees. Previous funds have been exhausted, however, and need to be replenished.

New assistance program for homeowners NOW OPEN for applications

The Pennsylvania Homeowner Assistance Fund, or PAHAF, is a housing-related program funded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury to assist Pennsylvania homeowners facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic that began after January 21, 2020, (including a hardship that began before January 21, 2020, and continued after that date).

The program is now open for applications to provide financial assistance to homeowners for qualified mortgage and housing-related expenses to avoid delinquency, default, foreclosure or displacement.

Learn more about the program, including how to apply, who's eligible and what's covered online at <https://pahaf.org>.



For homeowners hurt by COVID-19



Applications open February 1



pahaf.org (24/7)
888-987-2423
(M-F 8am-8pm)

Water assistance program now open

Do you or someone you know need help with a water bill? Help is available through a new program, the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), created by the American Rescue Plan Act, which is now accepting applications. LIHWAP grants are issued directly to water service providers, and families must meet income requirements.

You'll need the following information before applying:

- ✓ Names, Social Security numbers, and dates of birth for all people in your household.
- ✓ Proof of income for the applicant and all household members.
- ✓ A recent water bill.

Are you at risk of having your water shut off?

Help is available. Learn if you qualify at:
dhs.pa.gov/WaterHelp



LIHEAP is open for applications

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is now open for applications. If you or someone you know needs help paying your home energy costs, you might be eligible for assistance. Visit <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/LIHEAP.aspx> for more information, or reach out to my office.





The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is open for applications for rent and taxes paid in 2021

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is now accepting applications for rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2021. The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with disabilities 18 and older. Visit www.revenue.pa.gov and search for "Property Tax/Rent Rebate" for information on how to apply online. My office can also help you apply.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

for residents who are permanently disabled, 50+ and widowed, or 65+

What we need from you:

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 maximum household income*

* for homeowners \$15,000 maximum for renters

ON SOCIAL SECURITY?
Half of SSI/SSD income is excluded for eligibility.

Real ID enforcement postponed until 2023



REAL ID enforcement has been postponed until May 3, 2023, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Starting that date, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, photo ID card, or another form of federally-acceptable identification (such as a valid passport or military ID) to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a federal building or military installation that requires ID.

REAL ID is optional for Pennsylvanians. Additional details are available at penndot.gov/REALID.

Affordable Rx for seniors

Older Pennsylvanians living on fixed incomes should never have to choose between affording medicine and affording food or rent or heat. Pennsylvania's prescription assistance programs for older adults, PACE and PACENET, offer low-cost prescription medication to qualified residents, age 65 and older.

My office is ready to assist with applications and answer any questions you may have about the program.

To find out more visit www.aging.pa.gov or call my office.



House Supports Mental Health Community with 3-bill package

A bipartisan legislative package to create local fatality review boards to help prevent future overdose deaths and suicides and to modernize Pennsylvania's mental health and substance use disorder laws unanimously passed the state House of Representatives this session.

Under H.B. 1308, local communities and agencies across Pennsylvania would establish fatality review teams such as Pennsylvania's Methadone Death and Incident Review Team to bring together representatives from various public safety, public health, and social services agencies to identify system gaps and opportunities to prevent future suicides and overdose deaths.

The overdose crisis is not abating quickly enough, instead it is rapidly shifting and the need for timely, in-depth data and actionable

recommendations has become increasingly vital.

House Bill 1561 would amend the state Mental Health Procedures Act, and H.B. 1563 would amend the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Act to align with federal health privacy standards to permit providers, facilities and health plans to share patient mental health and substance use disorder-related information more easily.

Both bills would utilize terminology and requirements that are already familiar to providers, to create a consistent and easily understandable standard and revise outdated regulations to provide consistency between statutory and regulatory language and their intended requirements.

All three bills were referred to the state Senate for consideration.

Go to PA LINK for help with adults

Aging and Disability Resource Centers, also known as the PA Link, assist older adults and individuals with disabilities by providing information and connecting them to supports including assistive technology to access telehealth services, check-in calls and options to help reduce social isolation. Any older adult needing support can contact the PA Link Call Center by phone at 1-800-753-8827 or online at www.carelink.pa.gov.

In addition, Pennsylvania's 52 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), covering the commonwealth's 67 counties, provide virtual and in-person activities, including health and wellness programs.

For more information on mental health and SUD treatment options in Pennsylvania, county-based resources, and the Wolf Administration's efforts to connect individuals with mental and emotional support and to local resources, visit pa.gov/mental-health.



Do you have unclaimed property?

The Pennsylvania Treasury holds \$3.8 billion in unclaimed property that needs to be returned to the rightful owners!

One in 10 Pennsylvanians has unclaimed property waiting for them. To find out if you are one of them, visit patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property or call my office – we can help you search the database.

No SEPTA Senior Key ID Cards will expire this year

Due to continuing COVID-19 pandemic-related social distancing measures and staffing constraints that have limited SEPTA's ability to process as many renewals as needed, SEPTA is extending the expiration dates for Senior Key ID Cards with 2020, 2021 and 2022 expiration dates.



Those cards will now remain effective through the end of the month printed on the card in 2023.

For example:

A card with a **May 2020 (5/20)** expiration date will continue to be valid for travel through **May 2023**.

A card with a **May 2021 (5/21)** expiration date will continue to be valid for travel through **May 2023**.

A card with a **May 2022 (5/22)** expiration date will continue to be valid for travel through **May 2023**.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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My office can help you with:

- ✓ Car registrations, special tags, titles and license applications
- ✓ Information on financial assistance for higher education
- ✓ Unemployment compensation problems
- ✓ Birth certificate applications
- ✓ Pennsylvania income tax problems
- ✓ Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, welfare)
- ✓ Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information, student aid information, etc.
- ✓ Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
- ✓ Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
- ✓ Consumer complaints
- ✓ Complaints about road conditions
- ✓ Problems or questions about PennDOT
- ✓ Tours of the State Capitol for individuals or groups
- ✓ Disability plates and placards
- ✓ PACE cards for senior citizens
- ✓ Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- ✓ Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- ✓ Problems or questions about the state lottery
- ✓ Local government officials' problems with state agencies
- ✓ Notary services
- ✓ **Any problem with state government!**

