



Frank Burns

State Representative

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Burns: Johnstown prioritizes \$6-8 million for Central Park over other pressing needs

Money could build new police station, hire more officers or even tear down 650 abandoned homes

Stressing that no one has ever complained to him during his years in office about the need to 'fix' Johnstown's Central Park, Rep. Burns has qualms about city leadership's setting of priorities – which include spending \$6 million to \$8 million on a near-total park redesign. Rep. Burns has questioned who is actually setting the city's priorities.

Rep. Burns, noting that the council ignored his 2022 plea for Johnstown to beef up its police force with some of its \$30.7 million in federal American Rescue Plan grant money, believes more pressing and impactful needs are still not being put at the top of the city's priority list.

Citing federal guidelines, Rep. Burns said the money being spent on the park project could have been spent building a new police station, hiring more officers or funding the demolition of 650 abandoned houses.

The problem: For city officials to do the right thing, they would have to stop listening to Vision 2025 and start listening to the people.

“As a kid I was taught the difference between ‘needs’ and ‘wants,’ ‘must haves’ and ‘nice to haves.’ Spending \$8 million on Central Park is ‘nice to have’ if the police didn’t need a new public safety building. People high on the food chain ‘want’ the park to be completely redone while city residents ‘need’ a grocery store and pharmacy.”

– Rep. Frank Burns



Rep. Burns discusses proposed changes to Central Park with Joe Roc near the park fountain, a key attraction gifted to the community by the late Frank J. Pasquerilla, who was a beloved champion for the region and will forever be remembered.

Burns stands with Prospect residents in quest to return home



“It is amazing to see someone in elected office take up our cause and stand with us, when the easy thing would be to be quiet and go with the flow. We thank you that you cared about our situation from Day One.”

– Jeffrey Matula Jr. of the Prospect Homes People of 2023 Association

Housing Authority agrees to pursue repairs

As an elected official, Rep. Burns has made a priority of aligning himself with people over power – and the saga of displaced Prospect public housing community residents in Johnstown was no exception.

When the 110-unit complex was summarily emptied out on 30 days' notice, Rep. Burns got involved, not to pick a fight with the Johnstown Housing Authority or to chastise HUD, but to get answers and make sure residents' voices were heard.

When the collapse of a single ceiling triggered the mass eviction based on widespread “structural deficiencies,” Rep. Burns organized residents and started advocating for them, so they could return to the homes and community that they love.

When the JHA announced in September that it would pursue repairs, Rep. Burns considered it a victory for the tenants he had robustly supported, crediting them with organizing the Prospect Homes People of 2023 Association and for seeking help from a Community Justice Project attorney.

Burns' bill guaranteeing in-state tuition for students in military families becomes law

Students in military families will be guaranteed in-state tuition as soon as they lock in their enrollment under Rep. Burns' recent bill, just signed by the governor.

Act 14 of 2023, approved unanimously by the state House and Senate, ensures that students who enroll in the state's public postsecondary schools do not lose the benefit of the in-state tuition rate if their military parent is deployed out of state between the time the student accepts admission and the start of their first semester.

"Military families make huge sacrifices, including having to leave the comfort and stability of the communities they love when they are deployed out of state," Burns said. "But a student whose family is reassigned should not have to forfeit the benefit of the in-state tuition rate they anticipated because their parent is fulfilling their duty to our country."



"Rep. Burns – Thank you for your leadership for our military families and veterans!"

– Gov. Josh Shapiro

"I'd like to personally thank you, [Rep. Burns]. Thirty years active duty, twelve years out of the country, twelve moves and it obviously had a big effect on my family, especially my sons. So, thank you for looking out for our service members' families, who I do believe have the bigger sacrifice out there."



– Sen. Doug Mastriano

Steelworkers support Rep. Burns' 'American Made' bills

The largest industrial union in the United States – the United Steelworkers – has thrown its support behind Rep. Burns' three-bill package to revive our nation's manufacturing base.

Rep. Burns' "Rebuilding PA with American-Made Products" package previously gained support from U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna of Silicon Valley, Calif., who has put Johnstown atop the list of places to benefit from his federal steel-revival legislation.

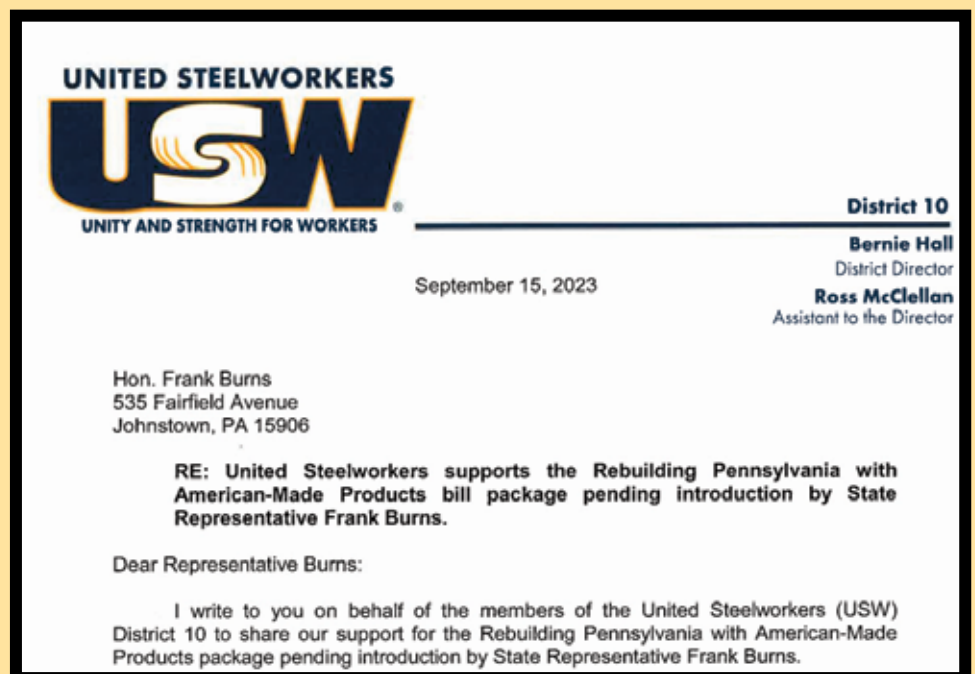
Long a champion of reviving U.S. manufacturing, Rep. Burns' state legislation would:

- Amend the Underground Utility Line Protection Act to require American-made steel to be used in all construction and repair of underground pipelines.
- Require any construction or repair projects done by a private entity that receives taxpayer funding to use American-made steel.
- Provide a 2% bid discount on bids for public projects when American-made materials are used in the price quote.

In a nutshell, Burns' legislation seeks to restore manufacturing jobs by requiring the use of U.S.-made steel in construction or repair of all underground pipelines, and in any private project that receives taxpayer funding. To further assist in the repatriation of jobs, Burns wants to give a 2% bid discount to companies that agree to use American-made materials on publicly funded projects, such as those carried out by school districts, municipalities and state agencies.

"If the project is funded with tax dollars, then it should be done with materials produced by American workers."

– Rep. Frank Burns



"(The) USW welcomes the leadership of State Representative Frank Burns for introducing these important measures."

– Bernie Hall, United Steelworkers District 10 Director

Dorothy Day Center thanks Rep. Burns for 'Imagination Library' state grant

Recognizing its immense literacy benefit to children, Rep. Burns partnered with the Dorothy Day Outreach Center at St. Francis University to bring Dolly Parton's "Imagination Library" to Cambria County back in 2021.

After hearing the country music legend speak about it at a national legislative conference, Rep. Burns worked more than a year to bring the program to fruition locally. The program sends free books to children every month from birth to age 5.

The Dorothy Day Center recognized Rep. Burns in its Summer 2023 newsletter for matching its own donation to keep the program going. Rep. Burns knows strategic partnerships like this are needed to accomplish the greater good for Cambria County.



Sign up for the Imagination Library

All children under age 5 living in Cambria County are eligible and will receive a free, age-appropriate book by mail every month.

To register your child go to <https://imaginationlibrary.com/usa/affiliate/PACAMBRIACOUNTY/>.

Complete the online form or print out a .pdf version to mail in with your child's information.

Burns gets Johnstown another \$363,000 in recent months

Rep. Burns may be representing Johnstown for the first time, but his ability to deliver state grants for important projects is in full swing. He has brought back more than \$300 million to help Cambria County during his time in Harrisburg – and is working hard to accelerate that success for EVERYONE living in the 72nd Legislative District.

In August and September alone, Rep. Burns announced \$363,184 in grants to benefit Johnstown and its school district:

- ✔ **\$100,000 to bolster emergency services** in the city, money that can be used to fund facility improvements, repairs and equipment.
- ✔ **\$150,000 for a comprehensive recovery plan** to guide the city as it emerges from Act 47 state oversight, using a sound strategy based on input from residents and business owners – and one that Rep. Burns believes should not raise taxes.
- ✔ **\$113,184 to Greater Johnstown School District to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to students.**



Croyle Township received \$792,000 to resurface Oaks and Lane Roads. From left: Mayor Eric Miller, Police Chief Steve Parks, Rep. Burns, Brad Motchenbaugh of the EADS Group, Township Supervisor Rich Potter, Township Supervisor Lynn Bourdess and Township Treasurer Dan Schrift.



Franklin Borough received \$87,053 for a multi-functional tractor. Rep. Burns is pictured with Borough Council and the Franklin Borough Volunteer Fire Department.



Ground was broken on the **Bottle Works Ethnic Arts Center's** new pavilion and outdoor classroom, improvements funded by a **\$500,000 state grant** obtained by Rep. Burns.



East Conemaugh Borough received \$140,000 to repair and replace stormwater inlets. From left: Rep. Burns, Council President John Andrews and Councilman London Graham.



State Representative
Frank Burns

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*Rep. Burns is always pleased to return to his alma mater, **Bishop McCort High School**, to acknowledge student achievements, like these student cheerleaders, wrestlers and forensics team members.*



Earlier this year, Ebsburg Police Chief Terry Wyland retired after 41 years of exemplary service on the force.



Burns urges JHA to downsize as part of ‘transformation’ plan

Since it’s common knowledge that ‘out-of-towners’, especially from Philadelphia, are flocking to Cambria County just to obtain public housing, Rep. Burns has called on the Johnstown Housing Authority to shrink supply to meet only local demand.

Rep. Burns has called on the JHA’s five-member board of directors to pass a resolution guaranteeing that any transformation of public housing will include downsizing from 1,900 units – a number that has carried over from Johnstown’s heyday as a much larger city.

In addition to believing that any JHA modernization should include demolition, Rep. Burns has championed full, beforehand transparency on whether and where any new public housing would be built.

“Johnstown has five times as many public housing units as comparably sized cities. It’s time to tear down the excess and end our status as a welfare migration magnet.”

– Rep. Frank Burns

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