



Frank Burns

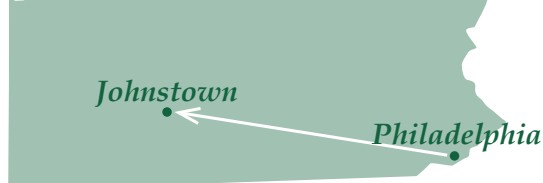
State Representative

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Burns uncovers City of Philadelphia Trustee ownership of Cambria County Assistance Office, questions unique arrangement

What's the connection?



"We must close the public housing loophole that incentivizes Section 8 seekers to make the 'Journey to Johnstown.'"

- Rep. Frank Burns

Rep. Burns is known for shining light in dark corners to illuminate the truth, so it should come as no surprise that his digging into the proposed move of the Cambria County Assistance Office out of downtown Johnstown unearthed a whopper.

His discovery that the CAO's current building is owned by the City of Philadelphia Trustee has Rep. Burns seeking answers to additional questions: How much is the state paying under this agreement? What are the lease terms?

Is there any connection between the Cambria County welfare office being owned by a Philadelphia entity and Cambria's status as a preferred destination for Philadelphia residents seeking public housing?

Rep. Burns has filed a Right-to-Know Law request with the state Department of Human Services, seeking information to answer some of those questions. When 80 families per month (mainly from Philadelphia) are moving to Johnstown just to live in public housing, and 50% of the Johnstown Housing Authority's 1,504 public housing units are occupied by people who came from outside Cambria County, Rep. Burns feels obliged to probe deeper.

Burns votes for \$1 billion tax cut to boost economy

Citing its positive ripple effect on businesses, communities and working families, Rep. Burns helped the House pass a \$1 billion state tax cut plan, embracing targeted relief to spur Pennsylvania's economic activity.

Rep. Burns believes strongly that these business tax reforms were needed to strengthen our economy, and workers and working families will also benefit from the changes.

The package includes:

- Expanding the state's Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Tax Credit by increasing the amount taxpayers can claim and increasing allowable expenses.
- Increasing the Net Operating Loss deduction.
- Investing in affordable housing to strengthen communities.
- Providing tax relief for vulnerable taxpayers with special tax forgiveness.
- Accelerating the reduction of the Corporate Net Income Tax, to make the state's CNIT one of the nation's lowest.



Burns: Use budget surplus to reduce property taxes

"If in bad financial times we ask our residents to pay more, then in good financial times we should let them pay a little less."

- Rep. Frank Burns

Rep. Burns knows that Harrisburg has an addiction to spending every single extra dime it finds in an account, instead of returning it to the hardworking taxpayers who fund state government.

To break that historic pattern, Rep. Burns is introducing legislation that would mandate that a portion of the state budget surplus – which currently sits in the billions – be returned to you through increased property tax or rent rebate checks.

Rep. Burns believes fatter rebate checks would share the state's economic prosperity with everyday Pennsylvanians, offering particular benefit to seniors.

Burns votes to expand Property Tax/ Rent Rebate Program, increase rebates

**Seniors with less than \$45K in income
now qualify, maximum rebate \$1,000**

“Knowing many seniors in our area are struggling to pay property taxes, I’m proud to have sponsored the legislation providing the largest targeted tax cut for Pennsylvania seniors in nearly two decades.”

– Rep. Frank Burns



Acutely aware of the financial struggles facing many seniors, Rep. Burns sponsored legislation making a major upgrade to the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program that takes the maximum rebate from \$650 to \$1,000 – and makes 175,000 more seniors eligible to participate.

The changes, now in effect mean many of the 400,000 seniors already in the program will see their rebates nearly double, and 575,000 seniors will now qualify. The 2024 maximum income limit for homeowners and renters will be \$45,000.

Noting that this is the first rebate increase since 2006, Rep. Burns said the program’s

income limits will now be indexed with inflation, so that in years to come participants won’t lose their eligibility due to annual Social Security payment increases.

Anyone who needs free help applying should contact one of Rep. Burns’ district offices.

Burns wants Google Certificates added to local job training offerings

Proposal would expand tech workforce, foster remote employment



In a move that would expand job-training opportunities and let Cambria County residents

tap into good-paying remote employment nationwide, Rep. Burns wants Penn Highlands Community College, Admiral Perry Vo-Tech and the Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center to make Google Career Certificates part of their curriculums.

Rep. Burns has written to those institutions, encouraging their participation in a program he heard about through his interactions with California U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna, during their ongoing discussions about how the federal government can help revive the U.S. steel industry.

Google Career Certificates are professional credentials that individuals can earn in the cybersecurity, data analytics, digital marketing and e-commerce, IT support, project management and UX design fields.

Burns supports voter ID to safeguard Pennsylvania elections



“The winds are changing, and more legislators are following my lead and supporting voter ID as a way to instill trust in our election process.”

– Rep. Frank Burns

Knowing that 70 percent of Pennsylvania’s registered voters support a position he’s held for years, Rep. Burns voted as recently as October to require voters to show ID at the polls.

Rep. Burns believes this is a key move to ensure election integrity – and has broken ranks with his party in the past on the issue, in order to allay fears of election fraud.

Noting the gain of bipartisan support, Rep. Burns said that requiring ID of voters isn’t a new idea, as Pennsylvanians already present identification the first time they vote, and when they sign up to vote by mail.

Rep. Burns said photo ID is often required as proof of identity in many other instances, and should be expanded to ensure the integrity of such a sacred right as voting.

Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights

Burns seeks to protect students

Seeking to make schools safer, Rep. Burns has introduced legislation to create the Pennsylvania Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights, which would clearly spell out the rights of students, parents and schools as they relate to bullying.

Rep. Burns' bill would require schools to designate an anti-bullying specialist to track, investigate and follow up on reports of bullying and cyberbullying. It also specifies detailed information for each verified incident of bullying or cyberbullying that schools would have to submit monthly to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Additionally, under the legislation school administrators who fail to report or follow through on

resolving bullying incidents could face punishment by the Education Department, up to and including loss of teaching or principal certifications.

Separately, but in the same vein, Rep. Burns has sponsored legislation to require public school districts to establish "Parent Involvement" programs, policies and committees.

Through a change in the Public School Code, it would direct districts to create programs to identify resources for parents to supplement classroom instruction, and create a pathway to open communication between parents, teachers and school boards regarding curriculum, academic goals and support programs.

"We all know that students who have parents actively involved in their education have better test scores, grades and academic achievement."

- Rep. Frank Burns



Rep. Burns delivered to Moxham Food Pantry volunteers the donations collected through his office's annual holiday food drive, to which Bishop McCort Catholic High School students and faculty were big contributors this year.



Rep. Burns dedicated the Charles J. Vizzini Memorial Bridge in Cambria Township to acknowledge a decorated WWII veteran who has given much of his life in service to his country, his community and his fellow veterans. Rep. Burns sponsored the legislation that named the bridge in Vizzini's honor.

Burns: \$1.2 million state grant brings 120 jobs to Jackson Twp. Keen vision, seed money over 15 years develops new business park

A strategic vision that began 15 years ago – and includes Rep. Burns obtaining Keystone Opportunity Zone tax incentives, along with \$500,000 in state grant seed money – is bringing an additional \$1.2 million state investment and 120 full-time jobs to the fledgling Jackson Township Business Park.

The latest grant obtained by Rep. Burns will extend a natural gas pipeline into the park, enabling Waste Management to connect its Laurel Highlands Hauling Co. and CNG Fueling Station, thus providing the park's first tenant.

Along with laying all the other groundwork, Rep. Burns knows that getting natural gas to the Jackson Township Business Park is critical to attracting additional businesses and jobs to the area, so he is glad to have done his part to make that happen.



Back in 2009, Rep. Burns got the ball rolling with this \$500,000 state grant to start development of the Jackson Township Business Park.

Jackson Township supervisors Bruce Baker, John Wallet and Fred Meier joint statement:
"This grant for natural gas to the park is vital to us securing our first tenant. This tenant will create approximately 120 family-sustaining jobs and be a draw for additional tenants. They will use natural gas to fuel their fleet of trucks. The gas line extension will also serve approximately 62 homes along the way. The business park will ultimately be a vital part of our community financially for many years to come."



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Burns secures \$18 million for water, sewerage projects

**State funding spares
local taxpayers
the cost**

Three major infrastructure projects will advance the area's growth while saving local taxpayers added expense, as Rep. Burns announced an \$18 million state grant and low-interest loan package to foot the bill:

- \$8.5 million is going to the Ebensburg Municipal Authority to replace 23,200 feet of aged cast iron pipe with PVC pipe, and to replace fire hydrants, curb boxes and non-lead service lines.
- \$1 million is going to the Cambria Township Sewer Authority to modify its treatment system to replace the chlorine disinfection system with an ultraviolet unit.
- \$8.65 million is going to the Forest Hills Municipal Authority to build an aerobic digestion system, storage basins, biofilter and equipment building with pumps and blowers to improve the quality and quantity of dewatered sludge. The authority's 4,350 customers include those in Summerhill and Croyle Township.



7,250+

Constituent
Services Provided



**\$29
Million**

in Grants, Loans, Tax Credits
Brought Back to the District



11

Bipartisan Bills
out of House
Professional
Licensure
Committee
**While Serving
as Chairman**

Authored Law
to Preserve
In-state Tuition
Rate for Military
Families



@RepFrankBurns



Rep. Burns' offices collected eight boxes of donations – five from the Blacklick Township Supervisors and Country Auction Barn in Blacklick Valley – for this year's Toys for Tots drive.