



STATE REPRESENTATIVE Joe Ciresi

146th Legislative District

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Summer 2024

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STATE BUDGET DELIVERS RECORD INVESTMENT FOR EDUCATION TO HELP REDUCE PROPERTY TAXES

This summer I voted for a state budget that makes historic progress in funding our public schools and invests in Pennsylvanians without raising taxes. The highlights of this budget include:

- **Education** – Thanks to the historic education funding we secured in this budget, the three school districts in our area will receive a combined increase of \$7.3 million in additional funding and cost savings. We've already seen increased state funding helping our school districts reduce their reliance on property taxes, expand programming, and improve educational outcomes, and this will continue that progress. I was also pleased to see the inclusion of part of my cyber charter school reforms, which will enact good governance measures and save taxpayers more than \$60 million each year.
- **Economic Development** – This budget invests in growing our economy and creating jobs with a new \$25 million Main Street Matters program to revitalize “main streets” in communities like Pottstown and Royersford, \$500 million for PA SITES redevelopment assistance to attract commercial and industrial jobs, and \$20 million to support large-scale innovation and research and development.
- **Mental Health & Community Services** – Continuing to make progress on reducing the intellectual disabilities services waitlist and addressing major provider and care worker shortages, this budget increases funding by \$261 million for the intellectual disabilities and autism community waiver program and by \$71 million for mental health services, so that all Pennsylvanians can have access to the supports they need and deserve.
- **Higher Education** – The new Grow Pennsylvania Scholarship Program funded in this budget will help students afford the cost of higher education and keep them here, in-state, after they graduate.



SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATES

If you are a resident of the Pottstown or Spring-Ford Area school districts and received a rebate through Pennsylvania's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program this year, you are likely eligible to receive an additional rebate from your school district! The Pottstown School District rebate is new this year and is largely possible thanks to the progress we've made in addressing the district's historic underfunding from the state.

Both the Pottstown and Spring-Ford Area rebates can be applied for after you receive your rebate payment from the state. To apply, you will need to provide proof of receiving the state rebate (a copy of the check or a statement of direct deposit) and a copy of your state Property Tax/Rent Rebate application. If you applied for the state rebate through our office, we already have this application on file for you.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. As a result of changes I was proud to push for and support, the income limit has gone up to \$45,000, not including half of Social Security income, for both owners and renters this year. This means you may be eligible for the state rebate even if you weren't in previous years.

For assistance in applying for the state or school district rebates or with any questions about eligibility, please don't hesitate to contact my office.



WORKING FOR YOU

My Bills Signed Into Law

As one of the most active legislators in the House, I've introduced over 60 bills this legislative session on a wide range of topics including consumer protection, education policy, economic development, and more. Earlier this summer, I was glad to see the following measures I proposed pass with bipartisan support and get signed into law:

- **Saving Decorated and Injured Veterans on PennDOT Fees** – Recognizing veterans for their service and sacrifice, my proposal to exempt veterans who were captured, injured, or received the Congressional Medal of Honor while serving from vehicle title and registration fees was included in an omnibus transportation bill.
- **Prohibiting Early Termination Fees for Deceased Individuals** – My commonsense consumer protection legislation to protect a deceased person's family or estate from being charged early termination fees when canceling certain service contracts and vehicle leases was signed into law.
- **Simplifying Unclaimed Property for Heirs** – By expanding the categories of relatives eligible to claim unclaimed property held by the state as heirs, using a simplified affidavit process to include grandchildren, nieces/nephews, and grandparents, the relatives of the deceased will be saved significant red tape, time, and legal expenses in getting the money that's rightfully theirs.

PUSHING BACK AGAINST RATE INCREASES

We all rely on public utilities to be safe, reliable, and affordable. When Aqua proposed doubling wastewater (sewer) rates for residents in Limerick Township in the first rate case after Limerick's system was privatized, I joined residents in opposing it before the Public Utility Commission (PUC). Now that Aqua has proposed new rate hikes on top of that, I'm pushing back again.

Earlier this summer I held a press conference with Limerick residents highlighting the negative impact that raising rates would have, especially for our seniors and those on fixed incomes. At my request, the PUC scheduled public hearings in Limerick on this rate increase and another one proposed by PECO, so the voices of local residents could be heard. I'm also introducing and co-sponsoring legislation to reform the process of utility privatization, provide relief for ratepayers, and provide more transparency in the rate process.

Pennsylvanians have a constitutional right to clean, affordable, and accessible water, and I will continue to stand with ratepayers, not corporate profits. Find out more about how to submit a public comment to the PUC at www.puc.pa.gov.



OVER \$55 MILLION IN STATE GRANTS DELIVERED

I continue to advocate for my constituents by seeking out and supporting state grants and other funding to help our residents, businesses, schools, and local governments. Since taking office in January 2019, I am proud to have helped deliver over \$55.6 million in state grants to the 146th Legislative District, including over \$1.6 million in grants since my last newsletter in the spring. Recent grant awards include:

\$275,000 to replace the roof at the Robert P. Smith Towers apartment community in Pottstown, run by the Montgomery County Housing Authority.

\$36,000 to the Sanatoga Fire Company for the purchase of a new compressor for their self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) fill station and **\$25,000** for the Limerick Fire Department to purchase training equipment.

\$17,200 as a special education workforce grant to help Pottstown School District encourage new careers in special education, helping provide relief for the statewide teacher shortage.



PHOTOS FROM HARRISBURG AND A



It was my honor to welcome the members of Spring-Ford High School Indoor Percussion to the floor of the House. They were recognized for winning 1st place at the WGI World Championship with a score of 95.563 (and for an undefeated season). Well done!



I was proud to welcome House Speaker Joanna McClinton (center) and Majority Leader Matt Bradford (not pictured) to Pharma Resource Group, a business here in Limerick Township. Established in 2007, PRG employs over 65 people and is looking at a 16,500-square-foot expansion.



From new stores to new restaurants, the past 6 months have seen many new businesses open in the district. These businesses not only provide jobs, but they are a way to attract even more businesses to our area!



I joined the Woman's Club of Royersford in celebrating their 110th anniversary, honoring their history of serving our community and making a difference in the lives of others.



JOIN MY EMAIL UPDATE LIST

I maintain an email list for those who wish to receive periodic updates from me, including legislation updates, event announcements, traffic updates, state and local program information, and more. You can sign up on my website at www.RepCiresi.com. You also can follow me on social media, which is regularly updated with information from Harrisburg and local events right here in Montgomery County.

AROUND THE DISTRICT



I was invited to Limerick Green to speak to the residents about any issues of concern to them. We talked about the critical need for more affordable housing, legislation being considered in Harrisburg, the Property Tax/Rent Rebate expansion and more!



As a Co-Chair for the Arts and Culture Caucus, it was my pleasure to congratulate Philadelphia's The Wilma Theater and welcome them to the Capitol for winning the Tony Award, for Best Regional Theatre! The Wilma Theater is the first theater in Pennsylvania to ever win this award, and it's an exciting milestone for the arts in our state.



Congratulations and THANK YOU to Dennis Rumler, who recently retired from the Limerick Fire Department after 55 years of service. He was honored on the House floor in recognition of all he's done for his neighbors and community.

INTERN SPOTLIGHT

A big thank you to our summer interns: Camille and Isabella! Camille is a student at George Washington University majoring in Political Communications, and Isabella is a student at West Chester University majoring in Political Science. They worked hard this summer learning about constituent services and the legislative process, and I know we'll see many great things from them both in the future.

REAL IDs are now available



May 7, 2025
is the deadline
to get a REAL ID.

Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID to:

- Board a domestic flight
- Enter a federal building
- Enter a military base

Ready for a REAL ID? Get pre-verified.

ONLINE	IN PERSON
If you got your first license AFTER September 2003	If you got your first license BEFORE September 2003

REAL ID GOES INTO EFFECT MAY 2025

The enforcement of REAL ID will start May 7, 2025. Starting then, you will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card or another federal form of identification (such as a passport or military ID) to fly domestically, enter a military base, or enter certain federal facilities that require ID.

To obtain a REAL ID, you must take proof of your identity and lawful status (such as a U.S. birth certificate), proof of your Social Security number, two proofs of your current PA address, and proof of all legal name changes to a REAL ID center.

Before you visit a REAL ID center, you should review the PennDOT REAL ID document checklist to make sure you have all the needed materials at www.dmv.pa.gov/REALID. The PennDOT centers in King of Prussia and Norristown are able to issue REAL IDs over the counter.

My office can assist in obtaining copies of Pennsylvania birth certificates or direct you to the proper agencies to obtain other needed documents.



PA NAVIGATE

A New Online Tool to Connect Pennsylvanians with Food, Housing, Childcare and More.

The Commonwealth has created a new online tool called PA Navigate to connect you with community organizations, county and state agencies, and health care providers for referrals to resources for basic needs.

Administered by the PA Department of Human Services, PA Navigate allows you to find services in your area and filter your results based on your needs, desired program specifications or financial eligibility.

Visit www.pa-navigate.org for more information or to find resources in your community. Always feel free to contact my office directly for help.



UPCOMING HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Montgomery County will be hosting a free hazardous waste collection event on Saturday, September 21 at:

Spring-Ford 9th Grade Center
400 S Lewis Road, Royersford

You must register in advance online for a specific time. Materials should be boxed for event staff to unload from the trunk of a car, cargo area of an SUV, or bed of a truck. Note that electronic waste, including televisions, will not be accepted at these events.

For more information, visit www.MontcoPARecycles.org, or contact Montgomery County at recycling@montcopa.org or (610) 278-3618.

Do you need help with PENNDOT?

My office can help you with

- Disability placards & plates
- Change of name or address
- Registration renewals
- Duplicate car registrations & titles
- Antique or classic license plates
- Personalized plates
- License plate surrender
- License restoration
- Reduced registration fees *for those who qualify

Questions? Contact my office to learn more about the PennDOT services we offer!

2024 General Election Important Dates

- Oct. 21** Last day to register to vote in the general election. vote.pa.gov/Register
- Oct. 29** Last day to apply for a mail ballot. vote.pa.gov/MailBallot
- Nov. 5** Election Day. Polls are open from 7 AM to 8 PM. vote.pa.gov/Polls
- Nov. 5** Completed mail ballots must be received by 8 PM. vote.pa.gov/County

vote.pa.gov





STATE REP. JOE CIRESI
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lpo.kw.0824



UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are some events that my office is organizing. Information is subject to change, especially for events happening farther out. Follow me on social media as my staff and I finalize all of the details, so you can stay up to date. Also, feel free to call my office before any of these events to confirm the date, time, and location.

Hard to Read License Plate Replacement Event

Co-Hosted with Rep. Joe Webster & the Upper Providence Police Department

Thursday, September 5
 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Anderson Farm Park
 499 Hopwood Road
 Collegetown, PA

Is your license plate fading, peeling or hard to read? Plan to attend our License Plate Restoration Event! Local police will be on hand to check your plate and complete the form needed to replace your plate.

Veterans Discount ID Card Sign-Up Event

Co-Hosted with Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds Jeanne Sorg

Thursday, October 3
 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. (noon)

Rep. Ciresi District Office
 301 N Lewis Rd, Ste 140C
 Royersford, PA

For Veterans: Bring your DD-214 discharge paperwork to be recorded with the County and receive a Veterans Discount ID Card, accepted at over 500 county businesses. This will also ensure that a copy of your discharge paperwork is protected and accessible to you or your family in case of loss, damage, or natural disaster.

Paper Shredding Event

Co-Hosted with Lower Pottsgrove Township

Sunday, October 6
 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 (or until the truck is full)

Pottsgrove High School
 1345 Kauffman Road
 Pottstown, PA

Please keep to a limit of five boxes of paper per household. We also cannot accept binder clips, spiral notebooks, hard-bound books, plastic, trash, binders, photos, batteries, or compact disks.

SEPTA Senior Key Card Sign-Up Event

Tuesday, October 29
 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. (noon)

Pottstown Borough Hall
 3rd Floor
 100 E High Street
 Pottstown, PA

Apply to get a SEPTA Senior Key card or renew your expiring card! SEPTA Senior Key cards allow free travel on SEPTA trains and transit for seniors (65+); please bring ID showing proof of age or your expiring SEPTA Senior Key card if you are renewing.

SAVE THE DATE!

Tax Credit Information Seminar

Co-hosted with Congresswoman Madeleine Dean
Saturday, October 12
 Pottstown-area, TBA