



STATE REPRESENTATIVE Joe Ciresi

146th Legislative District

Capitol Office:

325 Main Capitol Building
P.O. Box 202146 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2146
(717) 783-4086 • Fax: (717) 705-1891

District Office:

Park Towne Plaza
301 N. Lewis Rd., Suite 140C • Royersford, PA 19468
(484) 200-8265 • Toll-Free: (833) 821-1732 • Fax: (484) 200-8275
Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Satellite Offices:

TriCounty Active Adult Center
288 Moser Rd. • Pottstown, PA 19464
Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Montgomery County Community College
North Hall Room 119
16 E. High St. • Pottstown, PA 19464
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Spring 2025

✉ RepCiresi@pahouse.net • 🌐 RepCiresi.com • 📱 [f](https://www.facebook.com/RepCiresi) [X](https://www.x.com/RepCiresi) [IG](https://www.instagram.com/RepCiresi) @RepCiresi

Over \$60 Million in Grants Delivered

The continued success of our communities is my foremost concern. By securing grants through the state and various other sources, I've worked to champion the needs of our local schools, businesses, and municipalities. I am proud to have helped deliver over \$60 million in grants to the 146th Legislative District since taking office in 2019, including an additional \$4.3 million in grants since my last newsletter over the summer. Recent grant awards include:

- ▶ **\$350,000** to Pottstown School District, intended to assist in community learning centers that provide academic, artistic, and cultural enrichment opportunities to help improve academic outcomes.
- ▶ **\$2,500,000** provided by the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program. The grant is split among four projects in Pottstown and Limerick to construct new facilities and renovate existing ones. Additionally, funding is allocated for transportation improvements in Limerick along Lightcap Road.
- ▶ **\$126,000** to Genesis Housing Corporation, which supplies rehab grants to low-income homeowners with the goal of preserving affordable housing in Pottstown. The program provides assistance to seniors and disabled homeowners, providing funds for high-priority improvements such as roofing, plumbing, and heating.
- ▶ **\$53,000** awarded to the Schuylkill River Trail. The grant will go toward installing a new crosswalk and safety implements at the Grosstown Road crossing in West Pottsgrove Township.
- ▶ **\$168,000** delivered to Friendship Ambulance for emergency repairs and renovations to their facility, providing funding for urgent structural reinforcements, new hallway flooring, ceiling tile replacements, and the installation of energy efficient lighting.



Unclaimed Property Now Simpler to Claim

Money that is sitting in Pennsylvania's Treasury should be easier for you to access. I saw time and again constituents giving up on claiming money that was theirs because of a complicated and expensive process.

Act 65, signed into law by Gov. Josh Shapiro, makes it easier for relatives to claim property left by a deceased loved one. I introduced this legislation in 2023.

Act 65 will allow grandchildren and their descendants, nieces and nephews and their descendants, and grandparents of the deceased to file claims for unclaimed property using the simpler process of a notarized sworn relationship affidavit.

Our staff can help you find and claim unclaimed property.

As chairman of the newly-formed Communications and Technology Committee, I have been busy in Harrisburg putting together a staff and working with committee members on both sides of the aisle to make this session a productive one. I am pleased to announce that Alex Teplyakov, who served as my District Office Director since I took office in 2019, moved to Harrisburg to be the Executive Director for the committee. Nick Miller joins him as Research Analyst.

I'm also happy to let you know that Mike Hays, who has also been with me since 2019, has been promoted to be my new District Office Director.



Pictured left to right: **John Coppa**, **Mike Hays**, and **Robin Barrow**.

Additionally, we'd like to introduce **two recent hires and a new intern:**

► **John Coppa**, a recent graduate of Saint Joseph's University where he majored in communications, returns as a Constituent Services Advisor following a 2023 internship.

► **Robin W. Barrow** joined the office in December. She is the current Pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church and has extensive experience in social and customer services. Robin is active in Lower Pottsgrove, where she lives with her husband, Neil, and daughter, Naomi.

► **Liam Keenan**, our newest intern, is a recent graduate from the University of Richmond who majored in theatre. Liam is an avid enjoyer of Jazz and has an ever-growing vinyl collection.

You can continue to reach out to Mindi, Tracy, or anyone else at my District Office or one of my two Pottstown satellite offices for all of your constituent needs.

Introducing bills to help consumers and promote cyber charter reform

We are in the middle of a new session (2025-26) in Harrisburg. I'm proud to introduce nearly 50 bills that will improve your life in Pennsylvania. Among my colleagues, I rank near the top of the PA House for most bills introduced, including:

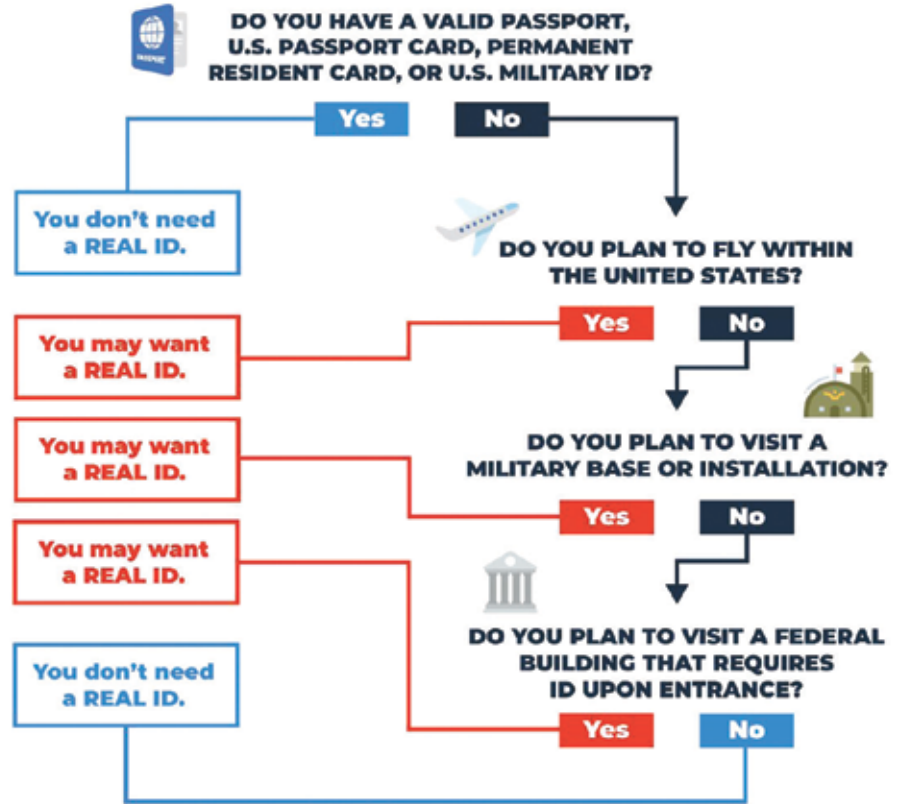
- **Gift Card Protections (HB 1067)** – Requires large retailers to train employees in how to spot and prevent gift card scams. They must also post clear signs to warn shoppers.
- **Rehabilitation & Preservation of Historic Homes (HB 1094)** – Creates a Historic Homeownership Preservation Incentive Tax Credit in Pennsylvania. This legislation would allow homeowners with a plan to rehabilitate a qualified historic home located in a qualified census tract to receive tax credits towards the rehabilitation project.
- **Exempting At-Home Medical Tests from the Sales Tax (HB 47)** – Exempts at-home pregnancy tests, COVID-19 tests, and all other test kits and equipment used for the diagnosis, treatment, or monitoring of diseases or medical conditions.
- **Cyber Charter Reform** – My legislation would add transparency and accountability by modernizing our out-of-date charter school law. It includes a standard statewide cyber charter tuition rate of \$8,000 (per student) to better align with the actual cost of education.

Do YOU Need Your Real ID Before May 7?

As we approach REAL ID full implementation in Pennsylvania, lines are only growing at PennDOT service centers. I want to remind you of a few things:

- ▶ If you do not plan on boarding a commercial flight in the near future and lack a valid passport, don't stress. The May 7 "deadline" is simply when REAL ID takes full effect at airports and federal facilities. **You can still apply for one at any time.**
- ▶ My staff is here to help. We encourage you to bring your documents to us for an unofficial review. We will let you know if your birth certificate or marriage license does not meet the requirements for obtaining a REAL ID (marriage licenses are needed to verify last name changes).
- ▶ If you have a valid U.S. Passport, you do not need a REAL ID.
- ▶ **The REAL ID is not mandatory.** However, you will need one (or an acceptable substitute such as a U.S. Passport) to board a commercial flight or enter a federal facility or military base. Still not sure? Visit pa.gov/realID.

In preparation for the May 7, 2025 enforcement deadline, PennDOT is offering a special dedicated time at many driver license centers to help Pennsylvanians get their REAL ID. Don't miss out on this opportunity!



Around the community



More than 80 veterans and their guests came out for our Veterans Appreciation Dinner.



I know how hard it is for some constituents to get to our office, so my staff regularly visits senior living and Montgomery County Housing Authority communities to help with property tax/rent rebates and more! Pictured here are **Tracy Glover** (left) and **Liam Keenan** (right).



I am a passionate supporter of music and arts education in our schools and was happy to welcome students to support Music In Our Schools Week.



EZ Pass Smishing Scam

Since last April, a new batch of smishing scams – deceptive texts intended to swindle targets into revealing sensitive personal information – has come down the pike. You might have received messages from an entity claiming to be affiliated with the Pennsylvania Turnpike Toll Services stating you have an outstanding balance on your EZ Pass account.

Do not click on any links associated with these texts, as they are fraudulent.

To pay a bill related to EZ Pass, visit **paturnpike.com** and select “Pay a Bill” or download the PA Toll App. For any questions regarding payments, call the Pennsylvania Turnpike’s official number at 1-877-736-6727.

A Note on Notaries



My office is happy to provide complimentary notary service; however, we recommend calling in advance to ensure someone with a notary will be available. Our office is unable to process title work (which requires a tag agent), I-9 Employment Verification Forms, or forms requiring a medallion (which is issued by a financial institution or bank).

Please note that we do not notarize wills, powers of attorney, or advanced medical directives because of the liability associated with those documents. Also, wait to sign the document until you are in front of the notary.

The person whose signature is being notarized must appear in-person and must bring acceptable identification.



After 15 years of waiting, ground was finally broken on replacing the Keim Street Bridge! (pictured L to R: State Rep. **Paul Friel** (26th); Rep. **Ciresi**; Montgomery County Commissioners **Tom DiBello**, **Jamila Winder**, and **Neil Makhija**; and Pottstown Borough Councilman **Dan Weand**)



We have a packed May and June calendar at the Capitol. Pictured on the House floor are Rep. **Arvind Venkat** (Allegheny) and Rep. **Frank Burns** (Cambria).



I was honored to be nominated as a “Community Champion” by KenCrest, a non-profit serving individuals with disabilities.




I had the privilege to join other elected officials at Montgomery County Community College as they celebrated its 60th anniversary!

2025 PRIMARY ELECTION IMPORTANT DATES



MAY 5

Last day to register to vote in the primary election
vote.pa.gov/Register



MAY 13

The deadline to apply for absentee or mail-in ballot.
vote.pa.gov/ApplyMailBallot



MAY 20

Election Day: Polls are open from 7am - 8pm. Completed mail ballots must be received by 8pm.

vote.pa.gov

Make Your Voice Heard on May 20

May 20 is the Primary Election! Polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. Some important dates to keep in mind are Monday, May 5 and Tuesday, May 13. May 5 marks the last day you can register to vote ahead of the election and May 13 is the last day to request your mail-in or absentee ballot.

Upcoming Holidays and Office Closures

Memorial Day

Office closed Friday, May 23 and Monday, May 26

Juneteenth

Office closed on Thursday, June 19

Independence Day

Office closed Thursday, July 3, and Friday, July 4

Starting May 30, my office will close for one hour (11:30 to 12:30) on the last Friday of the month for staff meetings.

Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events

FREE Paper Shredding Event Sunday, May 4

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or until the truck fills up)

Western Montgomery Career & Technology Center
77 Graterford Road

Note that the truck won't begin running and shredding until 11 a.m.

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



Veterans Discount ID Card Event

Co-Hosted with Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds
Jeanne Sorg

Wednesday, May 14
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Located at our Royersford District Office

301 N. Lewis Rd., Suite 140C
Royersford, PA 19468

Veterans, please note:

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.

Town Hall Coming This Summer Stay Tuned for Details





STATE REP. JOE CIRESI
P.O. Box 202146
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2146

lpo.sh.0425

FREE Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Montgomery County will host several free hazardous waste collection events throughout 2025.

You must register in advance at **www.MontcoPARecycles.org** for a specific time.

Upcoming events in the area include:

Saturday, June 7

Temple University – Ambler Campus
Enter at 1431 E. Butler Pike, Ambler

Saturday, June 21

Norristown Area High School
1900 Eagle Drive, Norristown

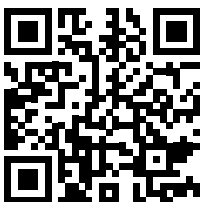
Saturday, September 20

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

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, contact Montgomery County at **recycling@montcopa.org** or **(610) 278-3618**.



Scan the QR code to join my email list
or go to **pahouse.com/Ciresi/emailsignup**

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 also can follow me on social media, which is regularly updated with information from Harrisburg and local events right here in Montgomery County.

