STATE REPRESENTATIVE TO5TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT **IDEAR NEIGHBOR,** Interview of all the committees because it "holds



Thank you for entrusting me with a second term in the PA House of Representatives. In my first term, we passed bills to expand popular programs such as the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program and the Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Tax Credit, institute Retired Status Vehicle Registration and, most importantly, make a historic investment in our public schools.

There's more to do, and I'm not wasting a second.

For my second term I've been reappointed to the Children and Youth Committee, the Environmental & Natural Resources Protection Committee, and the Local Government Committee, and will also now serve on the Finance Committee.

I am honored to be reappointed to the Appropriations Committee, as it has the

greatest responsibility of all the committees because it "holds the purse," and has jurisdiction over all discretionary spending legislation in the House. This position will enable me to investigate how taxpayer money is spent and advocate for smart and strategic investments in our district and throughout the commonwealth.

I'm excited to continue fighting for investments in public education, support for working families by raising the minimum wage, instituting paid sick/family leave, increasing investments in our mental health services and providing top-notch constituent services to our residents.

I was very proud to help re-elect Joanna McClinton as PA House Speaker (D-Phila.) who is the first woman and the second African American to serve as PA



House Speaker. Speaker McClinton is a brilliant leader who is fiercely committed to passing legislation that will benefit all Pennsylvanians.

It has been an exciting first two years in office, but I'm just getting started!

GRANTS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

As your advocate in the state Capitol, I fight hard to bring your hard-earned taxpayer dollars home to make critical investments that will improve your quality of life. Here's the grant money I recently obtained for our communities and organizations.

- \$3 million to Capital Blue Cross for the facility on Elmerton Avenue, including renovating the cafeteria area and constructing a multi-use meeting room for public health activities and available to community groups.
- \$400,000 for a transportation improvement project in Lower Paxton and Susquehanna townships.
- \$550,000 for the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank for a custom-made generator to protect over 22.8 million pounds of fresh and frozen food.
- \$350,000 for Susquehanna Township for a new Public Safety Building for the Progress Fire Co.
- > \$799,995 to repair Dauphin County Tech's roof.
- \$500,000 to Hawthorne SPE LLC for the build-out of the central green at Susquehanna Union Green, including site development, landscaping and construction of a

2,850 square foot pavilion and a utility/storage kiosk. Funds will also be used to purchase materials and equipment for an outdoor ice rink.

- \$257,500 for Lower Paxton Township's rehabilitation and development of Conway Park, enhancement of recreational facilities and creation of improved green spaces for the third phase of development along the Greenbelt's Paxtang Parkway, which includes trail rehabilitation and maintenance to improve accessibility and ensure sustainable use of this vital community resource.
- \$121,000 to install accessible walking trails at Susquehanna Union Green and stairs to the pedestrian bridge over Black Run tributary.
- ▶ \$88,218 to support local fire and EMS organizations.
- ▶ \$26,500 grant for the National Civil War Museum.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES In my first term I was proud to have several bills and initiatives that I worked on signed into law, including five I sponsored.

In my first term I was proud to have several bills and

LITERACY BILL

A Senate bill mirroring my House bill to strengthen literacy across Pennsylvania was signed into law as Act No. 135 of 2024.

Reading is foundational to our ability to learn, yet nearly half of Pennsylvania's fourth graders read below their grade level. This means thousands of Pennsylvanians leave school unable to read the mail, complete tax forms, or write an email.

The law allows school districts to pursue an evidence-based curriculum called the Science of Reading that has been proven to boost literacy among students, particularly in grades K-4. This program worked wonders for the state of Mississippi, which went from 49th in the country to 21st in ranking for childhood literacy levels.

The legislation presents a three stage approach. First, with evidence based reading curricula, instruction will be improved to ensure literacy achievement for children across the commonwealth. Second, a universal screening in the first 30 days of school will identify struggling readers. Finally, the screening data will be used to design and implement intervention plans to prevent children from falling behind.

These steps will put the necessary supports in place to keep all children on the path to reading proficiently by the third grade.

Literacy is the great equalizer and is the foundation of a flourishing democracy. In a time of increasing inequality, we must ensure that all our children have this basic skill. By doing so, we'll empower our communities to flourish economically, culturally and socially.

ELIMINATING RACIAL DEED RESTRICTIONS

I am very proud that my bill makes it easier for property owners to repudiate discriminatory deed covenants was signed into law as Act No. 54 of 2023.

Although racially discriminatory real estate covenants were struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1948 under the Shelley v. Kraemer decision, and discriminatory deed covenants against protected classes were prohibited by the federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, harmful and discriminatory language still exists in many property deeds.

The shameful legacy of restrictive covenants and practices like redlining have created massive inequality in wealth and homeownership rates among people of different races. My legislation makes it easy and affordable for homeowners to repudiate discriminatory language from deeds with a simple one-page form that can be obtained at the county's recorder of deeds office at little or no cost.

MIXED USE REDEVELOPMENT

My H.B. 2174 establishes a PA Mixed-Use Housing Development pilot program to assist with redeveloping abandoned or blighted commercial properties.

As large commercial properties such as shopping malls can be expensive to demolish or convert to other uses, they are often left standing vacant and falling into disrepair. These looming eyesores are negatively impacting communities by cutting into tax rolls, failing to pay utility bills, deterring traffic to nearby businesses, draining local services, and often posing significant safety concerns.

By providing matching grants to incentivize the purchase and revitalization of these large commercial properties, we can encourage developers to choose blighted sites over undeveloped land while eliminating vacant buildings and spurring further investment, development, and job creation. The program also would assist with creating much-needed housing by encouraging the redevelopment of exclusively commercial buildings into mixed-use properties.

TYPE 1 DIABETES PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

My experience as a dad of a child with Type 1 diabetes drove me to introduce legislation that became Act No. 117 of 2024, which directs the Department of Education to develop and distribute information about the warning signs of Type 1 Diabetes to public and private schools.

The most common age range for a diagnosis of Type 1 Diabetes is between ages 6 and 16. By knowing the warning signs, parents and guardians can identify the disease and save their kids from needless suffering.

BIPARTISANSHIP IS THE FUTURE

In 2023, state Rep. Thomas Kutz (R-Cumberland) and I became the new co-chairs of the Pennsylvania Future Caucus with the intent to bring together forward-thinking leaders to work across the aisle. In the last year, we've been able to introduce several bills that meet our legislative priorities to improve the lives and futures of Pennsylvanians.

We were very proud to have our work recognized with the 2024 Cherisse Eatmon Collective Impact Award!



OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Affordable childcare is no longer an option or even available for many Pennsylvania families and residents because of staffing shortages and a lack of support. So far in 2025, I've held a public town hall and a House Democratic policy hearing to look for solutions to this crisis.



Central Dauphin High School Junior Achievement of South Central PA's REAL Life program was teaching students about financial literacy and career readiness.



I always have an amazing time meeting residents and letting them know about our state resources at my Senior Fairs.





In January, I welcomed Gov. Josh Shapiro and four of my fellow lawmakers to CrossPoint Early Learning Center to see firsthand the hard work of childcare professionals. We entrust these providers with our children, and we need to make sure they're compensated for this critical work. Gov. Shapiro's proposed budget would build on last year's Child Care Tax Credit through investing more than \$50 million to help childcare centers hire and pay the best teachers.



I geared up for the new school year with friends and disability advocates at a Back to School Fair hosted by enter for Independent Living of Central PA! It was great to see so many familiar faces!

I loved attending the Humane Society of Harrisburg Area Fur Ball where I got to snuggle puppies and kittens and help raise needed money for the shelter!





Clockwise: The fun was non-stop at the Susquehanna Township School District Trunk or Treat! I had a great time taking kids back to 1776 at Independence Hall through a re-enactment of the musical Hamilton!

I am a proud ally of the Bhutanese community here in Harrisburg. I had a great time speaking with them about mental health services, grant applications, funding for home health care, and the concerns of legal immigrants.

I had a great time in December at the Lower Paxton Community Foundation's Christkindlmarkt!



GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

NOW

PTRR APPLICATIONS OPEN

The state began accepting Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program applications in late January. The program is accepting applications for rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2024 until June 30. The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is for residents who are 18+ and permanently disabled, 50+ and widowed, or 65+. The household income limit for homeowners and renters is \$46,520 and is based on 2024 income. Half of Social Security income is excluded.

If you haven't applied, don't forget that you can contact my office to set up your appointment or visit mypath.pa.gov to electronically submit your application.



2024-2025	Income
Guideli	nes

	Household Size	Maximum Annual Income	
Still Need Energy	1	\$22,590	
Assistance?	2	\$30,660	
LIHEAP Cash	3	\$38,730	
applications	4	\$46,800	
will continue	5	\$54,870	
to be accepted	6	\$62,940	
through	7	\$71,010	
April 4, 2025	8	\$79,080	

Each additional person \$8,070

OPEN Difference Property Tax / Rent Rebate Applications Giving money back to PA renters and homeowners Homeowner &

 Renter Income
 Max Rebate

 Up to \$8,270
 \$1,000

 Up to \$15,510
 \$770

 Up to \$18,610
 \$460

 Up to \$46,520
 \$380

Applications due by June 30, 2025



LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can help you keep your home warm and safe during the coldest seasons. You can apply until April 4 for a cash grant to help pay your heating bill. If you qualify, you can receive from \$200 to \$1,000 based on your household size, income, and fuel type. This program is renewed annually during approximately the same timeframe.

My office can help determine if you qualify and help you apply.

RETIRED STATUS VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Thanks to new legislation signed into law, the income-eligibility cap for the Retired Status Vehicle Registration was raised for the first time in two decades. As of Dec. 15, 2024, seniors with income of \$29,906 or less qualify for an annual vehicle registration fee of \$11 on their primary vehicle. This \$10,000+ increase in the income-eligibility limit means you may now qualify!

Please contact my office for assistance with you registration application.

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

You may have unclaimed property held by the Pennsylvania Treasury and not even know about it. Examples of unclaimed property include money remaining in closed or abandoned bank accounts, unredeemed gift certificates, and uncashed accounts payable and payroll checks. The Treasury also holds in its vault the contents of abandoned bank deposit boxes, military decorations, and other valuables.

If you'd like my staff to help you learn if you have unclaimed property, please reach out to my office.





4807 Jonestown Rd., Suite 145 Harrisburg, PA 17109-1744 (717) 230-1172

CONNECT WITH ME ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

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UPCOMING EVENTS SAVE THE DATES

DISTRICT OFFICE OPEN HOUSE — MARCH 28. 2 P.M. TO 5 P.M.

4807 Jonestown Road, Suite 145, Harrisburg

Come to my office for refreshments and learn how my staff can help you with a state related issue. Please call my office to RSVP to attend!

LICENSE PLATE REPLACEMENT — APRIL 26, 10:30 A.M. TO NOON

Susquehanna Township Middle School, 801 Wood St., Harrisburg

Come to this free event to replace your damaged license plate. Registration for this event will open March 24.

VETERANS' LUNCH – MAY 23. 11 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

American Legion Post 730 (Penbrook), 3813 Walnut St., Harrisburg.

Rep. Dave Madsen's and my offices are joining to celebrate and honor the service of those who sacrificed to protect our country and our freedoms. Come meet our district office staff and get information on state services benefitting veterans. Registration for this event will open April 25.

SHRED EVENT MAY 31, 8:30 TO 10:30 A.M.

Linglestown Middle School 1200 N. Mountain Road, Harrisburg

My office will be offering FREE shredding services. Please call my office beginning April 28 to register.

EVENTS LATER THIS YEAR:

- Children's Resource Event June 14 \triangleright
- \triangleright Senior Fair - Sept. 12
- Veterans' Breakfast Nov. 7
- Home Energy Savings Nov. TBD

Events are subject to change, please call (717) 230-1172 or email RepFleming@pahouse.net to confirm.

MY OFFICE IS HERE TO HELP

- PennDOT problems or questions.
- Obtaining birth or death certificates.
- CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program).
- Voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications.
- Information on PA's 529 College Savings Plans. \triangleright
- PACE (pharmaceutical assistance) for qualified senior citizens).
- Questions with any state agency.