

BRANDON MARKOSEK



FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

I'd like to update you on some exciting developments since my last newsletter in the spring.

We recently finalized a new state budget for 2022-23. The \$45.2 billion spending

plan includes a historic investment in our public schools and funding increases to boost school security, improve access to child care, help residents with home repairs and expand affordable housing.

The other update I have is on the boundaries of the

25th Legislative District, which will be changing. New maps created by redistricting take effect this year.

Please keep in mind that if you need help with any state-related matter, my staff and I are here to help. Stop by my office at 4232 Northern Pike, Suite 303 in Monroeville or call (412) 856-8284 to schedule an appointment.

Take care,

Welcome to the 25TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

District Office:

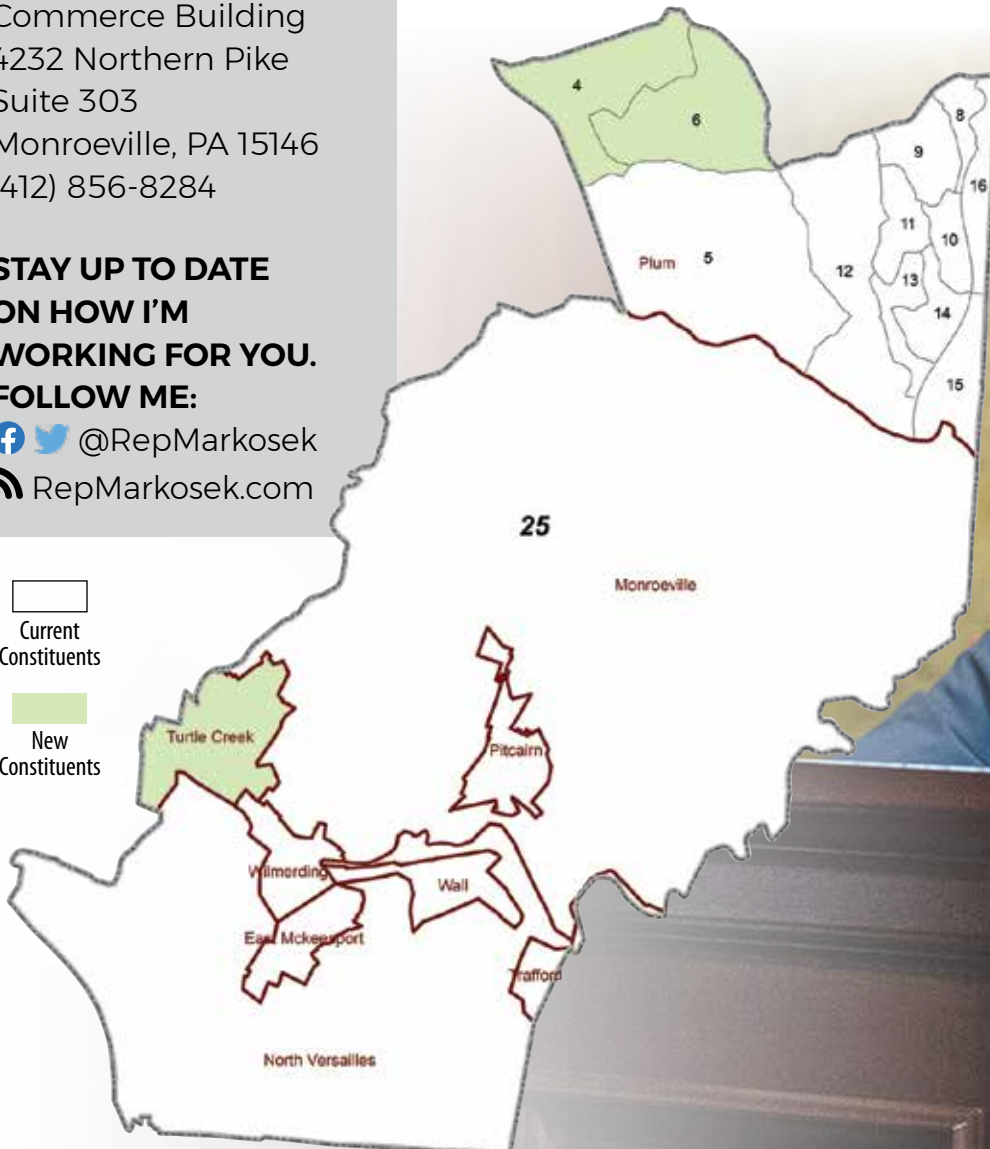
Commerce Building
4232 Northern Pike
Suite 303
Monroeville, PA 15146
(412) 856-8284

**STAY UP TO DATE
ON HOW I'M
WORKING FOR YOU.
FOLLOW ME:**

@RepMarkosek
 RepMarkosek.com

Current
Constituents

New
Constituents



STATE BUDGET MAKES MAJOR INVESTMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

I am pleased to report the new 2022-23 state budget takes steps to address many of the issues important to our community.

The \$45.2 billion spending plan includes a historic increase in state funding for education, including an additional \$525 million for basic education and an additional \$100 million for special education. The budget also provides \$225 million in Level Up funding to Pennsylvania's most underfunded school districts.

In addition to the basic and special education funding, our school districts and others throughout the state will each receive more than \$200,000 to fund school safety and mental health resources.

Other highlights of the new state budget include additional funding for childcare; a one-time benefit increase for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, which helps seniors; the Whole-Home Repair Program, which will provide grants to homeowners for needed home repairs; and major investments in the outdoors to preserve and protect Pennsylvania's parks, forests, trails and streams.

While no budget is perfect, I believe this year's state spending plan makes important investments in our communities and more importantly, in our families.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE UPDATE

The 2022/23 state budget includes a \$140 million boost to the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, which means seniors and people with disabilities who receive the Property Tax/Rent Rebate will receive a bonus one-time payment.

Here are some things to know about this supplemental payment:

- The one-time check is equal to 70% of what they receive in this year's rebate.
- The extra payment will be made to applicants who qualified for a regular rebate on taxes or rent paid in 2021.
- There's no need to act. The supplements will be made automatically.
- Anyone eligible for the extra rebate will receive it in the same way they chose to receive their regular rebate, either by check or direct deposit.

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 and older; widows and widowers 50 and older; and people with disabilities 18 and older.

If you received a rebate last year, you should have received a 2021 application form in the mail. If not, applications are available online at www.revenue.state.pa.us or by calling 1-888-222-9190. Residents can also call or visit my office to obtain the form.

The application period closes on December 31, 2022, so please do not delay!

If you need help with the paperwork or have any questions about this one-time payment, contact my district office at **(412) 856-8284**.



1. I had the honor of attending and speaking at the American Legion Gold Star Post 820's annual Memorial Day parade and service in Monroeville.
2. Enjoyed an afternoon of fun at Monroeville's COMMUNITY Day in July.
3. I presented councilman Eric Poach and Police Chief Doug Cole with state citations at Monroeville's council meeting. They performed C.P.R. on a resident at a previous meeting. The man they saved, Mr. Sheats, was at the citation presentation and is recovering well!
4. Monroeville's Fourth of July parade.
5. It was great to see so many friendly faces at my annual summer shred event in July!
6. National Night Out festivities with Monroeville Police and Pitcairn Police.
7. I had the honor of presenting East McKeesport resident Luke Sutton with a Pennsylvania citation for his achievement of attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.
8. I had a wonderful time at the Holy Family Parish Festival in Plum. The food was awesome, and it was nice to see so many folks enjoying the festivities.
9. I had the opportunity to present the trophies at the 52nd Annual Monroeville Invitational held at the Garden City Swim Club.
10. I had a great time at the East Allegheny School District Back-to-School Community Day in North Versailles.
11. Another fantastic Pitcairn Hose Company #1 annual Fireman's Festival and parade!

AROUND THE COMMUNITY



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SUPPORT FOR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

Our veterans and first responders have given so much of themselves to protect our country and our communities. It's only right that we do everything we can to help and support them in any way we can. As a member of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, I hear the concerns many of our veterans and first responders face, which is why I've proposed the following legislation:

House Bill 2597 – This bill would amend the Tax Reform Code to provide a sales tax exemption to firefighters who purchase firefighting equipment with their own money.

House Bill 2708 – Currently, a veteran's disability benefits are considered income for several state senior citizen programs. This bill would exempt those disability benefits from being counted as income for the Property Tax/Rent

Rebate Program, the PACE/PACENET pharmaceutical drug assistance program funded by lottery proceeds and the reduced vehicle registration fee program.

I am also supporting the following legislation:

House Bill 2492 – The collapse of the Fern Hollow Bridge in Pittsburgh earlier this year highlighted the need for a second type 1 urban search and rescue team in Allegheny County. Right now, the only team that exists is based out of Philadelphia. This legislation would create

a new team that would assume primary coverage in western Pennsylvania with the same level of capabilities, resources and training.

House Bill 2237 – This bill would provide a cost-of-living adjustment or COLA to retired municipal police officers and firefighters. This proposed COLA would add an additional \$480 annually to the pension of an officer with 20 years of experience and 20 years in retirement. The last time the General Assembly provided a COLA to our retired public servants was nearly 20 years ago.



In August, I hosted an informative and productive hearing at CCAC Boyce Campus on my legislation to ease the tax burden on equipment that volunteer firefighters have to purchase themselves. Both statewide leaders and local first responders in my district gave valuable testimony at the hearing.

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

One in 10 Pennsylvania residents has money being held by the PA Treasury. It could be something like an old savings account, a forgotten paycheck or refund, an expired gift card or an insurance claim.

You can check for your name by visiting www.PaTreasury.gov or by calling my office at (412) 856-8284 to have us check for you!

Claim What is Yours
Search PA's Unclaimed
Property Database

NEW NUMBER OFFERS QUICKER CONNECTION TO CRISIS SERVICES

Pennsylvanians in crisis will now have easier access to help, thanks to a new three-digit dialing code. Dialing 988 will link callers directly to trained counselors who are part of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Veterans can reach the Veterans Crisis Line by dialing 988 then pressing "1."

Counselors can activate a mobile mental health crisis team that will arrive on site to provide a therapeutic intervention, or they can make referrals for outpatient services or transportation for further evaluation. According to data from the Department of Human Services, 90% of calls are resolved by phone, without the need for further intervention. All counseling is free, confidential and available on a 24/7 basis.

The current Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) remains active.

Lifeline reports that in 2020, it received more than 76,000 calls from Pennsylvanians.



State Representative

BRANDON MARKOSEK

P.O. Box 202025
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2025

lpo.ts.0822

MY OFFICE CAN HELP WITH:

- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications.
 - Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation.
 - Port Authority Senior ConnectCard applications.
 - Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications.
 - Information on financial assistance for higher education.
 - Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds.
 - Birth and death certificates.
 - Problems with the Department of Health and Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance).
 - Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems.
 - Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones.
 - Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information.
 - Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications.
 - Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission.
 - Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions.
 - Problems or questions about the state lottery.
 - PACE cards for senior citizens.
 - Consumer complaints.
 - Liquor Control Board concerns or questions.
 - Information about federal, state and local government agencies.
- If you need help with any state or government-related services, please feel free to contact my office at (412) 856-8284 or send mail to 4232 Northern Pike, Suite 303, Monroeville, PA 15146.

ARE YOU PREPARED TO VOTE THIS NOVEMBER?

The General Election is right around the corner, happening on **Tuesday, Nov. 8**. Unlike our closed primaries, **this election is open to all of Pennsylvania's registered voters**, so I wanted to ensure you have all the information you need to carry out your civic duty.



- The last day to request a mail-in/absentee ballot is **Tuesday, Nov. 1**. Anyone interested may request one online at <https://bit.ly/3yoeDmS> (link is case sensitive). If you'd prefer a paper application, my district office can provide you with one.
- **The county election office must receive all mail-in/absentee ballots by 8 p.m. on Nov. 8.** Postmarks are not enough. For more information about voting in Allegheny County, visit: <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/elections/index.aspx>.
- Voting in person? Visit pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx to find your polling place. **Polls will be open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Election Day.**

If you have questions on Election Day or encounter problems at your polling place, call the Department of State's toll-free Election Day hotline at 1-877-868-3772.