

# BRANDON MARKOSEK

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## HI NEIGHBOR,

I hope you had an excellent and enjoyable summer! It was a pleasure to connect with so many of you at community events held across the 25th Legislative District, especially at my annual summer shredding event!

Over the summer, the state passed a budget that makes significant investments in our communities, including the largest increase in basic education funding ever, and the first expansion to the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program in 17 years.

We have much to look forward to as we head into the fall and beyond. I am ready to be back in Harrisburg to make sure your voice is heard and to work on legislation that benefits all Pennsylvanians.

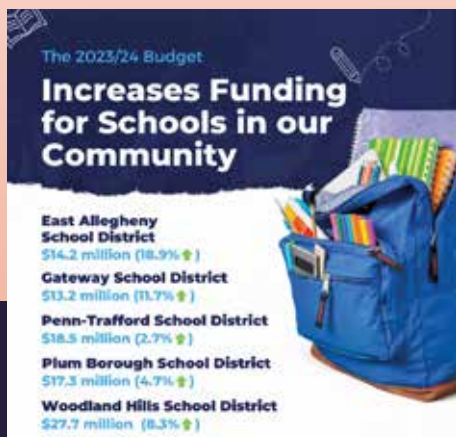
As always, if you need any state-related assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office or drop by to see how my staff and I can help.

## THE 2023-24 STATE BUDGET

In early July, the House passed the state budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year. I voted in favor of H.B. 611 because it makes significant investments in key areas that will benefit Pennsylvanians.

The new budget delivers a historic \$1 billion education investment, with K-12 public education seeing its largest investment to date. Funding also provides universal free breakfast for students in PA's public schools and increases Level Up, the funding initiative shared among the most underfunded school districts in Pennsylvania.

School districts in the 25th Legislative District will receive an approximate increase of more than \$89 million in education funding over last year's state budget. The funding for each school district is as follows:



## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STATE BUDGET INCLUDE:

- \$50 million in funding for the Whole-Home Repairs Program to allow folks to make critical improvements to their homes that they wouldn't otherwise be able to afford.
- \$136 million expansion to the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program to help older Pennsylvanians and those with disabilities stay in their homes.
- \$23.5 million for workforce training and career & technical education.
- \$20 million increase for county mental health funding.

This budget is just the beginning; we still have more work to do. I'll be working with my colleagues in the House to build on these investments for everyone in the 25th Legislative District as well as all Pennsylvanians.



# PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE EXPANSION

For the first time in 17 years, Pennsylvania is expanding its Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. The expansion will help nearly 175,000 more Pennsylvanians qualify for PTRR – including about 16,500 seniors right here in Allegheny County – and many of the 400,000 seniors who already qualify will see their rebates nearly double.

## STARTING IN 2024, THE NEW LAW:

- Increases the income cap from \$35,000 to \$45,000 for homeowners
- Increases the income cap from \$15,000 to \$45,000 for renters
- Automatically increases the income cap to grow with inflation, beginning in claim year 2024
- Increases the maximum rebate from \$650 to \$1,000

The rebate amounts and income limits will increase proportionally with inflation, so no senior becomes ineligible just because their Social Security payment increased. I am proud to support this long overdue expansion that will help so many folks in our community remain in their homes.

There is still time to apply for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2022. My office can help you apply by the Dec. 31 deadline. Visit us at 4232 Northern Pike, Suite 303 in Monroeville or call 412-856-8284.

## VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC OPENS IN MONROEVILLE



I was proud to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new VA outpatient clinic in Monroeville. This facility will provide convenient health care to veterans in our area.

## ANNUAL SUMMER SHREDDING EVENT



My annual document shredding event was held in July at Gateway High School in Monroeville. This day was a huge success with more than 350 cars stopping by to have documents safely shredded by a veteran-owned company. I am already looking forward to next year!



## Property Tax / Rent Rebate Program

**MORE** people eligible, **MORE** money back!

Homeowners Income	This Year	Next Year
Up to \$8K	\$650	<b>\$1,000</b>
Up to \$15K	\$500	<b>\$770</b>
Up to \$18K	\$300	<b>\$460</b>
Up to \$35K	\$250	<b>\$380</b>
Up to \$45K	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$380</b>
Renter Income	This Year	Next Year
Up to \$8K	\$650	<b>\$1,000</b>
Up to \$15K	\$500	<b>\$770</b>
Up to \$18K	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$460</b>
Up to \$45K	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$380</b>

Questions? Contact my office for help receiving your refund by calling (412) 856-8284 or emailing [RepMarkosek@pahouse.net](mailto:RepMarkosek@pahouse.net)



# AROUND THE COMMUNITY

1. I had the pleasure of meeting Roberto Clemente Jr. in the PA House chamber. His father, a Pittsburgh Pirates legend, was honored with a resolution to make Sept. 15 Roberto Clemente Day.
2. The Rotary Club of Monroeville held an International Day of Peace celebration in Monroeville Park.
3. Meet-and-greet ice cream social with seniors at the Monroeville Senior Citizen Center.
4. The Labor Day parade in Pittsburgh celebrates the hardworking folks of Southwestern Pennsylvania.
5. I partnered with the PA State Police, Sen. Jim Brewster, local police departments and the Allegheny County Camp Cadet program to provide back-to-school supplies to students.
6. 26th annual Plum Soccer Kick-off Classic tournament.
7. East Allegheny School District's Back-to-School Community Day event in North Versailles.
8. Pitcairn Hose Company #1 Fireman's Festival and parade.
9. National Night Out festivities with Monroeville Police Department and Pitcairn Police Department.
10. 53rd annual Monroeville Invitational with Monroeville Councilman Dennis Biondo.
11. Holy Family Parish Festival in Plum Borough.
12. Monroeville's 4th of July parade.
13. I recognized the retirement of Steve Shurgot of Eastern Area Prehospital Services in Turtle Creek with a citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.
14. Monroeville's Community Day.
15. I was the guest speaker at the Monroeville Memorial Day ceremony and took part in the parade.



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# TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Over the summer, PennDOT's Green Light-Go program awarded a total of more than \$675,000 to the following projects:

- Municipality of Monroeville – \$308,000 for updated signal equipment at Monroeville Boulevard and Northern Pike (SR 2081) Municipal Center.
- Pitcairn Borough – \$59,932 for updated signal equipment along Broadway (SR 130).
- Plum Borough – \$55,105 for pedestrian upgrades at Hulton Road (SR 2058) and Hulton Road/Coxcomb Hill Road (SR 2082).
- Plum Borough – \$252,300 for updated signal equipment at Coxcomb Hill Road (SR 2082) and Ramparts Boulevard.

## \$400 MILLION FEDERAL LOAN FOR EOS ENERGY'S TURTLE CREEK FACILITY

The U.S. Department of Energy made a conditional commitment of nearly \$400 million to battery manufacturer Eos Energy to support the company's Project AMAZE at its facility in Turtle Creek.

Project AMAZE – American Made Zinc Energy is a \$500 million expansion program designed to scale annual production to 8 gigawatt hours of clean energy storage production capacity. Eos aims to move to 100% U.S.-sourced material by 2026.

The federal investment will help Eos meet demand for Long Duration Energy Storage and will expand the workforce in the Mon Valley region with about 1,000 green jobs and 50 union construction jobs.

## REPLACING STOLEN SNAP BENEFITS

The state Department of Human Services will replace Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits if they were stolen due to electronic fraudulent activity, such as:

- Skimming: The use of electronic equipment to take someone's information without their knowledge.
- Card Cloning: Copying stolen electronic benefits transfer (EBT) information to a new card.
- Phishing scams: When scammers use fraudulent text messages or phone calls to obtain EBT card numbers and PINs to steal SNAP benefits.
- Scamming: Falsely convincing a SNAP recipient to give their EBT and/or personal information to someone else.

Learn more about how you can submit a benefit theft claim on DHS's website by calling the Customer Service Center at 1-877-395-8930, or by visiting a County Assistance Office.

## DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY LEGISLATION

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives recently passed my legislation that would increase accessibility to digital content offered by state and local government websites for people with disabilities.

All Pennsylvanians deserve full and equal access to information and services that will improve their lives. House Bill 1479 is a step in ensuring that content online provided by state and local governments is more inclusive and designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities so they can access essential services and information.

The legislation now moves to the Senate for consideration.





State Representative

## **BRANDON MARKOSEK**

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## **MY OFFICE CAN HELP WITH:**

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.
- PACE prescription drug cards for senior citizens.
- Information on financial assistance for higher education.
- Requests for literature – bills, regulations, statues, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information.
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments or milestones.
- Pennsylvania income tax problems.
- Problems or questions about PennDOT - car registrations, special tags, disability parking placards, titles and driver's license applications.
- Consumer complaints.
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC.
- Assistance with Pittsburgh Regional Transit ConnectCards for seniors.

## **ARE YOU READY TO VOTE?**

Municipal Elections will be held on Nov. 7, 2023. These elections help to shape the future of our neighborhoods, schools and local government. Polls will be open on Election Day from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. Visit [www.vote.pa.gov](http://www.vote.pa.gov) to find your polling location, update your voter registration, learn about Municipal Elections, or perform any of the following:

- Register to vote (by Oct. 23, 2023)
- Request a mail-in or absentee ballot (by Oct. 31, 2023)

Pennsylvania is now an automatic voter registration state. Eligible voters will be automatically taken through the voter registration process when obtaining or renewing a driver's license or photo ID at a DMV location, unless they choose to opt out of registering.

If you are not registered, I encourage you to do so and have your voice be heard!