

72nd Legislative District

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## Standing Up for You!

### Burns' actions draw on pro-business, fiscal conservative background

As the son of a barber who grew up in the family restaurant business now operated by his mother, Rep. Burns learned early and often the unique challenges faced by small business owners – and the importance job-creating entrepreneurs have in any community.

Rep. Burns has carried those lessons to Harrisburg, where as a pro-business Democrat he's worked to foster job creation -- not just through a big chunk of the \$200 million he's bought back to the district, but by innovative measures like creating Cambria County's first Keystone Opportunity Zone and his personal outreach to companies such as Amazon, Sherwin-Williams and ExxonMobil.

Whether it's the family budget or the state budget, Rep. Burns operates with one credo: "Live within your means." That's why he's protected taxpayers by never, ever voting to raise your taxes.

#### Fought for businesses during shutdown

- ➔ Burns voted 28 times to safely reopen specific businesses and industries so they had a fighting chance to survive.
- ➔ He also voted three times – more than any other Democrat – to end the governor's disaster declaration.

#### Protecting your tax dollars

- ➔ Burns pays out of his own pocket to keep his Patton office from closing.
- ➔ He refuses a state cell phone and a state car.

- ➔ He's saved taxpayers \$285,000 since taking office by keeping office expenses to the bare minimum.

#### Ignoring party politics

- ➔ Burns is a throwback to the days of reaching across the aisle to get things done. He supported the Taxpayer Protection Act to limit the rate of state spending increases.
- ➔ He voted to add work requirements for able-bodied welfare recipients.

**Rep. Burns supported these bills not because they were put forth by a Democrat or a Republican, but because it was the right thing to do.**



*Rep. Burns with his mother, Agnes Burns, who took over the family business after his father Bill's death in 2010. The family-instilled values of hard work, fiscal conservatism and living within your means guide Rep. Burns' votes in Harrisburg.*

# Burns supports police, defends 2nd Amendment

As founder and chairman of the legislature's Blue Lives Matter Caucus, and as a longtime member of its Second Amendment Caucus, Rep. Burns stands as a testament to the fact that there still are Democrats who support the police and the right to bear arms.

Rep. Burns has even introduced legislation that would make assaulting a member of law enforcement – including police, prison guards and probation officers – a hate crime. His bill would increase penalties across the board for attacks on those who protect us.

And when Harrisburg politicians propose \$10-a-year gun registration fees, or local governments attempt to regulate firearms, Rep. Burns has one consistent answer: "Not gonna' happen on my watch."

Rep. Burns even hosts concealed carry seminars throughout the district, so you can be updated on gun training options, concealed carry rules, the Castle Doctrine and the stand-your-ground law. Attendance often surpasses 400 at these free events.



“ *I'll never vote to defund the police.* ”  
– Rep. Burns

## BURNS: No new taxes; cut wasteful spending

One thing's for sure: Rep. Burns has **never** voted for higher sales, personal income or gasoline taxes – and governors from both parties have found out they can't twist his arm enough to do so.

Rep. Burns rebuffed Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf's attempt to raise sales and income taxes, just as he refused to back Republican Gov. Tom Corbett's effort to raise the gasoline tax.

Rep. Burns also voted against numerous back-door tax hikes – such as those on tobacco products, an income tax on lottery winnings, and downloaded internet data and apps.

Instead of raising taxes or taking on additional debt – which Rep. Burns has also opposed – he believes in eliminating waste, fraud and abuse, starting with the welfare system.

“ *I've always believed that government should live within its means. And that's always how I'll vote.* ”  
– Rep. Burns





# Burns gets governor to reverse decision

When Rep. Burns and a handful of other Democrats refused to vote for higher taxes, Gov. Tom Wolf tried to punish them by insisting that all requests for help from state agencies run through Wolf's office.

While investigating whether his constituents were getting responses, Rep. Burns discovered that Chuck Onder of Lilly hadn't heard from the DEP about a flooding issue after nearly two weeks.

Rep. Burns made sure Onder's story spread statewide – and after it did, his ability to deal directly with state agencies was fully restored.



Rep. Burns' firsthand view of flooding problems on the property of Chuck Onder of Lilly resulted in statewide attention and restoration of his office's ability to deal directly with state agencies.

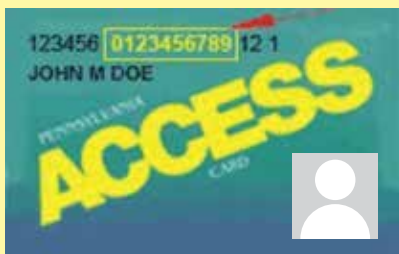
“ I'll stand up to anyone, including legislative leaders and the governor, to make sure families back home are listened to. ”  
– Rep. Burns

## Burns leads charge against welfare fraud, illegal workers

Rep. Burns is front and center when it comes to cracking down on welfare fraud. He supports putting IDs on ACCESS cards and has crossed the aisle to back Republican legislation that requires able-bodied people to get jobs instead of remaining on the public dole.

### Rep. Burns supported the following welfare reforms:

- ➔ preventing the use of public assistance benefits to buy tobacco or related products,
- ➔ requiring drug testing,
- ➔ requiring enhanced income eligibility and proof of U.S. citizenship to prevent fraud.



A bill sponsored by Rep. Burns that ensures construction companies hire only documented U.S. workers recently became law.

Rep. Burns has long favored an expansion of E-verify, an internet-based system to determine eligibility to work in the United States, because it levels the playing field for companies that already hire legal workers.

# Burns sides with residents to STOP wind turbines on Laurel Ridge

When the Greater Johnstown Water Authority hatched a plan to erect up to 60 electricity-generating wind turbines on scenic Laurel Ridge, Rep. Burns heeded residents' desperate call for help.

Unafraid to make himself a target, Rep. Burns hosted a town hall meeting at Westmont Hilltop High School, then articulated the group's concerns about secrecy and negative impact on their property values at the next water authority board meeting.

The company slated to profit from the wind turbines paid attention to the citizens' uproar – and its representatives personally informed Rep. Burns that they were backing out of the project.

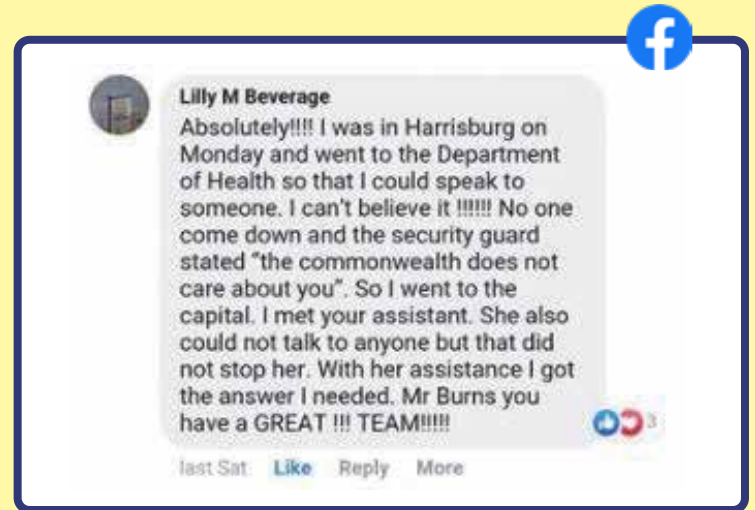


*Property values were kept from dropping 20 percent by Rep. Burns' involvement in helping residents quash a Greater Johnstown Water Authority plan to erect a wind turbine farm in their neighborhood.*

## Constituent praises results from Burns' staff

When the owner of Lilly Beverage traveled to the state Capitol only to discover that she couldn't get help from the appropriate department, she turned to Rep. Burns' office and was not disappointed.

Rep. Burns' legislative assistant wasn't taking "No" for an answer – and a very satisfied constituent posted her gratitude on Facebook: "I got the answer I needed. Mr. Burns you have a GREAT !!! TEAM !!!!"

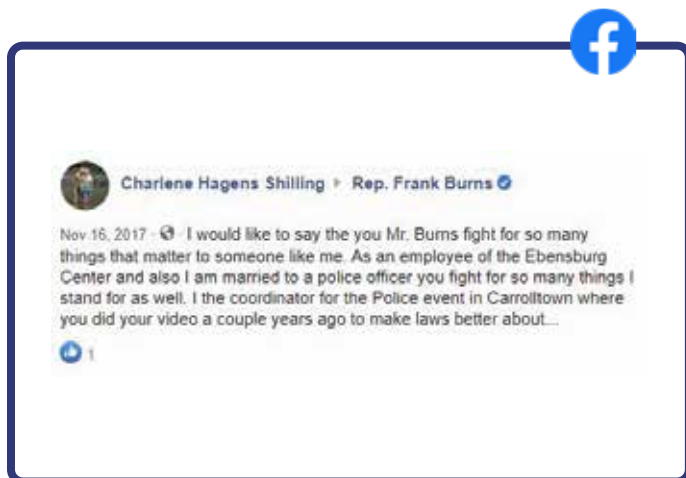


## Burns fights to save Ebensburg State Center, defend 700 jobs

Rep. Burns has consistently beaten back attempts to close the Ebensburg State Center, putting the needs of its vulnerable residents and the dedication of its 700 valuable employees ahead of the state's desire to shave costs.

After fending off a closure effort in 2017, Rep. Burns more recently supported legislation that would have kept the center open through 2025 – and robustly criticized Gov. Tom Wolf for vetoing the bill.

Rep. Burns is willing to vote to override the governor's veto, showing his independence in doing what he thinks is best for the people of his district. He has the proven stamina to never let up in that effort.



*Rep. Burns is grateful that this employee of the Ebensburg State Center took time to thank him for his efforts to keep the facility open.*





## Burns joins happy seniors after fight to restore bus service

When upset seniors sought Rep. Burns' help after the Cambria County Transit Authority cut out their favorite shared-ride bus trips, it didn't take him long to get that decision reversed.

Rep. Burns quickly got PennDOT involved, and after a three-way meeting in his Harrisburg office that included CamTran officials, bus service was restored to the most popular destinations in adjacent counties.

Rep. Burns' offices also collected 1,425 signatures on a petition in support of the seniors, whom he accompanied to a Cambria County commissioners' meeting to make their feelings known. The crowd was so large the meeting had to be moved to an empty courtroom.



*Rep. Burns, who fought to restore the service, was a welcomed guest when seniors were again able to board a CamTran bus for a trip to their favorite out-of-county destinations.*

## Burns fights LCB for people's right to know

When the state Liquor Control Board thinks it can keep public information secret, Rep. Burns knows there is something rotten in Harrisburg.

So even though the LCB and its taxpayer-funded attorneys – paid for by you – have forced Rep. Burns into a court fight, he's reaching into his own pocket to do battle with the state agency.

All Rep. Burns wants to know is how many

liquor licenses the LCB has available for auction in each county – information that the state Office of Open Records and Commonwealth Court have ruled should be made public.

The deep-pocketed LCB is appealing to the state Supreme Court, but Rep. Burns is pressing on because he believes that government works for the people, not the other way around.



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## 10-year-old lobbies Rep. Burns to protect puppies

Ruth Remillard, a 10-year-old dog lover from Ebensburg, recently contacted Rep. Burns' office urging him to support Victoria's Law. Burns was so impressed that he invited her to meet in person. Ruth came to the meeting with a commanding knowledge of the bill and a notebook filled with facts and questions for them to discuss. Ruth was so persuasive, Rep. Burns signed on as a co-sponsor to a House version of Victoria's Law.

**[Help Support Victoria's Law!](#)** by Ruth Remillard

In February 2019, S.B. 44, also known as Victoria's Law, was introduced in the state Senate. Victoria was a German Shepherd that was trapped in a puppy mill and forced to have litter after litter of puppies, like all other female dogs in puppy mills. She was rescued but left paralyzed.

Senate Bill 44 would not allow pet stores in Pennsylvania to get puppies from puppy mills from other states. (Puppy mills are regulated in Pa.)

Unfortunately, S.B. 44 is stuck in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Please consider contacting Sen. Wayne Langerholc, a member of the committee, to say you support this bill: [wlangerholc@pasen.gov](mailto:wlangerholc@pasen.gov).



Rep. Burns with Ruth Remillard, 10, and her mother, Kate Remillard, at his Ebensburg office where they met to discuss Victoria's Law.

“If you believe, like I do, that ALL dogs deserve a life with dignity, then we must all work to get Victoria's Law passed in Pennsylvania!”