



# Frank Burns

State Representative



72nd Legislative District

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Fall 2014

## Burns works hard to save you thousands!



In what has become an annual tradition, Rep. Burns once again has limited his spending, saving taxpayers thousands.

Burns has saved over \$16,000 in unused expense money this session. He has estimated that he has saved taxpayers more than \$50,000 since taking office.

This money is unexpended funds the House

### Rep. Burns uses his own cell phone and pays the bill.

authorizes for office rent, mileage, utilities, telephones, furniture leases and office equipment.

“Legislative expense accounts is a controversial issue, and rightfully so. I use taxpayer

money to benefit you by operating my local district offices and sending you periodic information about important state programs, issues and services. I maintain offices in Lower Yoder, Ebensburg, and until recently, Windber, due to the large geographic makeup of my district, and this works well for the communities I serve.

### Rep. Burns drives his own car and does not accept a state vehicle.

*“I will continue to be a voice in Harrisburg and provide the high quality of service that you deserve in the most efficient ways possible,”* Burns said.

### Rep. Burns currently saves \$1,125 monthly with his district office leases, and is on target to save \$14,725 in rent by the end of this two-year legislative session.



*Rep. Burns with Chloe Bidelman, a fifth-grade student whose initiative inspired him to purchase Buddy Benches — a way for students to make friends on the playground — for each of the local elementary schools.*

## Burns declines pay increase, returns \$\$\$

Families all over Cambria County and beyond are tightening their belts in response to drab economic times. Rep. Burns said he understands these serious concerns and would like you to know that he returned a total of \$1,145 to the state for expenses not incurred during his last legislative term.

He regularly donates his state-mandated cost-of-living salary increase to local charities where he believes it can do the most good. This automatic COLA is authorized by a law passed in 1995, before he was elected to represent Cambria County in the state House.

## Burns makes pitch to televise AAABA games in 2015

Rep. Frank Burns reached out to executives at ESPN, NBC Sports, Root Sports and PCN asking them to consider televising the All American Amateur Baseball Association tournament that is held in the region every August.

“The AAABA tournament is one of our region’s greatest tourism assets, and having the games televised will create a huge benefit to the local economy,” Burns said. “The national tournament has been part of our community for over 70 years, and teams come from all over the East Coast to compete.

“It would be fantastic to see the games broadcast on a large scale,” said Burns, who is a member of the House Tourism and Recreation Committee.

## Crime Watch Seminars successful

### What you can do to create your own

In July, Rep. Burns held two Crime Watch Seminars to offer advice and guidance to area communities about how to start their own neighborhood crime watch.

“These events were very successful and many people agreed that a crime watch could help them address crime in their neighborhoods,” Burns said.

The seminars featured Roy Holtz, an expert in helping communities set up crime watches, and the Portage and West Hill police departments.

“Organizing a neighborhood crime watch is a relatively easy thing to do and it’s one of the most effective ways to make communities safer,” Burns said.

To learn more about setting up a neighborhood crime watch, contact one of Burns’ offices.



From left, Portage Police Chief Ed Miller, Galen Decort, Roy Holtz, Rep. Burns and Portage Office Bob Miller at the Crime Watch Seminar Burns recently held in Portage.

## 'I have and always will look for ways to eliminate or reduce property taxes.'

Rep. Burns said that earlier this session a "Burns Amendment" passed the House of Representatives unanimously and is waiting for a vote in the Senate. Burns said his amendment makes good on the promise of casino revenue from table games going directly to the Property Tax Relief fund. "As you can see, I have been trying my best to look out for all taxpayers!" Burns said.

## FREE Booklet of Benefits and Rights for Older Pennsylvanians

Pennsylvania offers more benefits and services to senior citizens than almost any other state in the nation. From employment opportunities and health care to transportation, recreation and leisure, the "Benefits and Rights for Older Pennsylvanians" booklet contains it all.

To receive this booklet of information about state programs and services for senior citizens in Pennsylvania, contact one of Rep. Burns' constituent service offices.



Rep. Burns gets his photo taken with the latest group of cadets from Camp Cadet, a summer program for Pennsylvania boys and girls between 12 and 15. Similar to the training of the state police academy, the camp introduces the students to the diverse criminal justice system and establishes a positive relationship with law enforcement personnel. Burns said it was a privilege to talk to the students about their experience and how they can use it to have a positive impact on their community as future leaders.

## Improvements planned for Do Not Call law

Rep. Burns was pleased to vote for a bill that bolsters Pennsylvania's "Do Not Call" law. Under legislation that now awaits the Senate's consideration, the bill would remove the five-year time limit between registration periods so the subscriber would only be removed from the list at their request. The bill also would bar telemarketing on legal holidays.

In the meantime, you can enroll in the Do Not Call list by calling 1-888-777-3406 toll free, or visiting: <https://dnc.attorneygeneral.gov>.

## Burns proposes property tax freeze for seniors

*'I believe people should not be taxed out of their homes.'*

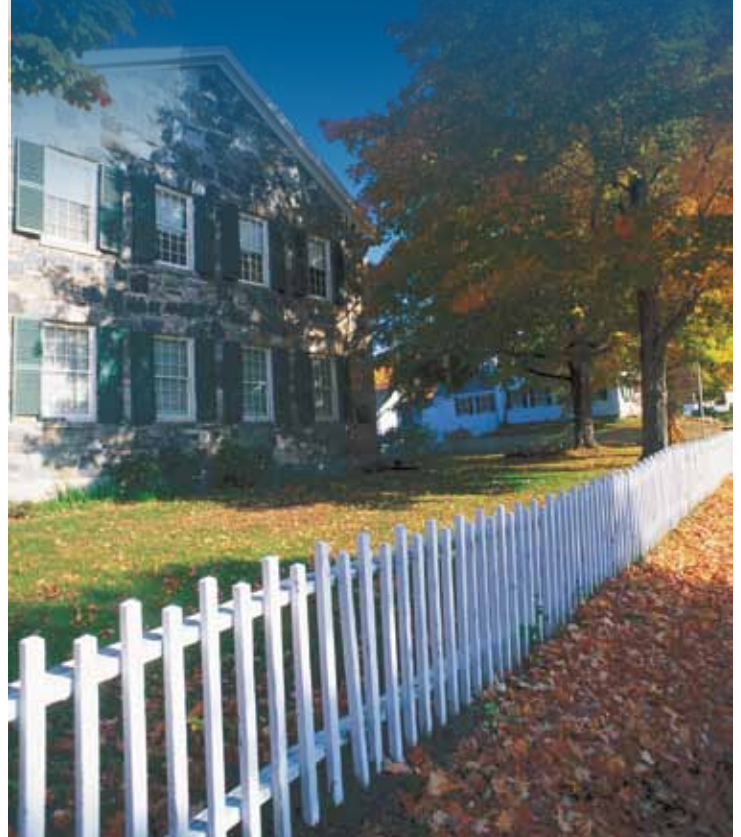
What if you received a break on school real estate property taxes simply because you were 65? Rep. Burns is proposing to do exactly that. He has introduced legislation that would freeze property taxes for senior citizens who are 65 or older.

Under the bill, property owners meeting the requirements would not pay for any increases in their property taxes over what they paid in 2013.

"Property taxes are on the rise in Pennsylvania, thanks in large part to the governor's failure to adequately fund public education," Burns said. "And it is the senior citizen who least can afford these increases. My proposal would provide some needed relief."

The freeze would be paid for by a \$500 per year fee per video poker machine. Establishments would only be allowed to have one machine for every 10 indoor seats. After payouts, the proceeds would stay local and be used for beautification grants and to fight blight in the community.

There are more than 2 million Pennsylvanians 65 or older. In Cambria County, 27,356 residents, or 19.3 percent of its population, are senior citizens.



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# You're invited to a... **Senior Informational Fair!**

## Howdy Pardner!

Join Reps. Frank Burns and Gary Haluska for a **Senior Informational Fair**. This year's event will have a western theme.

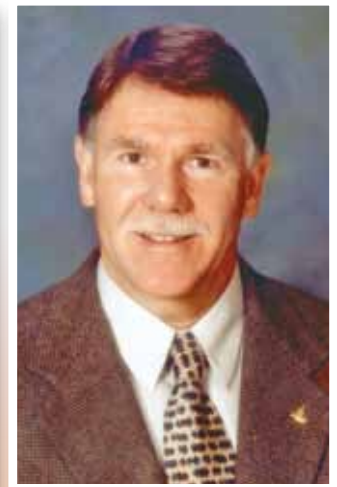
This FREE event will feature dozens of area vendors offering a wide variety of services, including health screenings and legal and financial programs. Information also will be available on state services and programs benefiting senior citizens including:

- **Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications**
- **Prescription assistance programs**

*And more!*



Rep. Frank Burns



Rep. Gary Haluska

**11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**Friday, Sept. 12**  
**Young Peoples Community Center**  
**Ebensburg, PA**

Stop in to meet Reps. Burns and Haluska and their staff, and enjoy light refreshments and great door prizes!