



# Frank Burns

State Representative



72nd Legislative District

323 Main Capitol • P.O. Box 202072 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2072 • (717) 772-8056 • Fax: (717) 772-9965  
 119 S. Center St. • Ebensburg, PA 15931 • (814) 472-8021 • Fax: (814) 472-1965  
 112-A Munster Rd. • Portage, PA 15946 • (814) 736-7339 • Fax: (814) 736-3233  
 Website: [www.pahouse.com/Burns](http://www.pahouse.com/Burns) • [facebook.com/RepFrankBurns](https://facebook.com/RepFrankBurns) 2015 Winter Newsletter

## The Portage Office is open and ready to serve you!

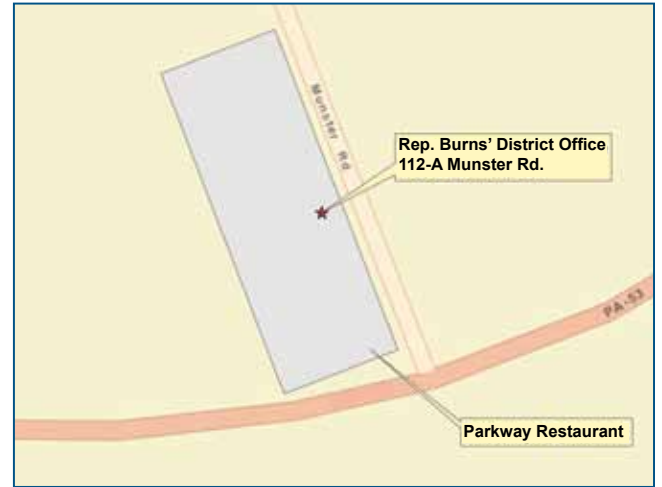
You're invited to an open house of Rep. Frank Burns' new Portage Office

**Friday, Feb. 20**  
**4 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

Free refreshments, meet the staff

Ask questions about the new district and any state-related issues

**112-A Munster Road, Portage 15946 (814) 736-7339**



## Meet Some of My Staff

### Maureen College

Director of Community Relations

Maureen has been Rep. Burns' director of community relations for the past three years. Maureen has two children, Tanner and Katie. Tanner attends Juniata College where he is an honor student and part of the football team. Katie is an eighth-grade student at Conemaugh Township Jr./Sr. High School and is a promising two-sport athlete. Maureen will mostly be working out of the new Portage Office.

*"Maureen is a professional who is extremely dedicated to her career; it won't take long for people to notice her impact on the district."*

– Rep. Frank Burns



### Trudy Thomas

Legislative Assistant

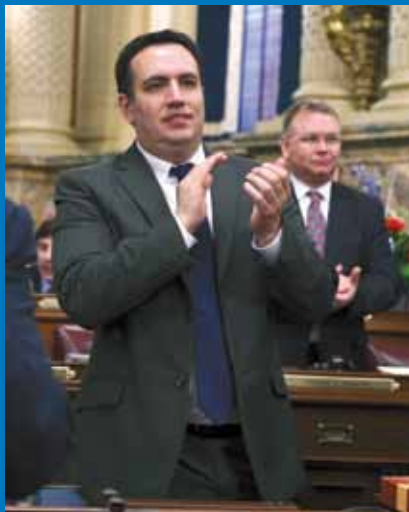
Trudy joins the team in Rep. Burns' Ebensburg Office after working 16 years as a legislative assistant for state Rep. Gary Haluska. Prior to that, Trudy worked nine years as a Title I aide for Cambria Heights School District. She was born and raised in Patton, where she lives with her husband Dan of 38 years. They have a son and daughter and six grandchildren. When she has spare time, Trudy likes to bake cakes and cookies, make candy and travel.

*"We are excited to welcome Trudy to our team. Her experience will prove to be a valuable asset to everyone in the 72nd District."*

– Rep. Frank Burns



## Swearing-in Day



Rep. Burns is sworn in for a fourth term as state representative of the 72nd Legislative District.

## Burns Around The District



## Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

Rep. Burns' staff can help senior citizens and other residents who qualify for the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.

Applications will be available Feb. 11 to apply for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.

Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with permanent disabilities 18 or

older may qualify for the benefits under the program. The annual income limit for homeowners is \$35,000 and \$15,000 for renters. When calculating annual income, applicants only need to count 50 percent of their Social Security income, and Social Security COLAS are excluded. The maximum rebate is \$650.



## Attention, retirees!

Retirees with incomes up to \$19,200 can register their vehicles for an annual fee of \$10, instead of the usual \$36. The necessary forms are available in Rep. Burns' constituent service offices.



## Legislation for the upcoming session

Rep. Burns plans to introduce the following legislation in the 2015-16 session:

- **Parental Involvement in Schools Bill** – Would require all school districts to establish a Parent Involvement Program, Parent Involvement Policy and Parent Involvement Committee. Currently, no state laws require school districts to have a parental involvement program or policy. However, the federal No Child Left Behind Act requires school districts to adopt such programs and policies to integrate them within school activities.
- **School Children Protection and Child Safety Bill** – Would require school districts to provide busing to any student living in a school district where a sex offender is registered. This legislation would ensure that students are not forced to walk in the path of sex offenders and, in return, offer families some peace of mind. Currently, schools do not have to provide transportation for students.
- **American Jobs Bill** – The legislation's number-one goal is to help promote and protect American jobs. It would address the Underground Utility Line Protection Law by requiring all natural gas pipelines be manufactured with U.S. steel.
- **Volunteer Recruitment Service Scholarship Act** – If signed into law, the act would allow PHEAA to award scholarships to active members of volunteer fire companies, volunteer ambulance services or volunteer rescue squads.
- **Cancer Parity Bill** – This would provide better access to care for cancer patients by requiring health insurance providers that cover intravenous cancer chemotherapy to equally cover oral chemotherapy treatment. Any co-payments, deductibles, co-insurance provisions and maximum out-of-pocket limits would have to be equal for all patients. HMOs would also be included.



## Burns secures over \$8 million in state funding for Portage

The Portage Area Sewer Authority received approval for \$8.1 million in funding from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority to help improve its sewer system, said Rep. Burns.

The authority will construct 50,000 linear feet of new sewers to provide a public sewage collection system in the Martindale area of Portage Township, as well as rehabilitate the sewage collection system in a portion of Portage Borough.

The Pennvest funding package includes a \$5 million low-interest loan. Twenty jobs are expected to be created by the improvements.

## Burns announces \$250,000 state grant for Cambria County

The Cambria County Solid Waste Authority will receive a \$250,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

The funding will help the authority purchase a front-loading compactor truck and recycling collection containers.

“These state funds will help ensure Cambria County continues operating its top-notch recycling program. The grant will also ease the financial burden to local taxpayers,” Rep. Burns said.



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2015 Winter Newsletter

## Rep. Burns' Portage Office Can Help You With:

- Car registrations, special tags, disability placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- 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
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

***Any problem with state government!***