

STATE REPRESENTATIVE | 33RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

MANDY STEELE

SUMMER 2024

Working For You



DEAR NEIGHBOR,

As a freshman legislator, you go to Harrisburg with a bunch of ideas and issues that are important to your district, but you're often told not to expect much action on them. You're told to focus on learning the ropes, and you're told to sit back and watch how things work. That's just not acceptable to me.

That's why I'm proud to say that I've been making progress on issues that are important to #District33. So far this legislative session, I've had eight bills pass the House. That's unheard of for a freshman legislator. I'm not done yet, and I'm working to get these proposals passed in the Senate for the good of all Pennsylvanians.

I'm grateful to my colleagues for supporting me and my legislation.

You can learn more about these bills inside this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Mandy Steele

State Representative for the 33rd Legislative District



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INSIDE:

HOUSE PASSES MY BILLS | BRINGING MILLIONS BACK TO THE DISTRICT
FIRST RESPONDERS CORNER | VETERANS OUTREACH | OUT & ABOUT IN DISTRICT 33

PASSED THE HOUSE



At a House Game and Fisheries Committee meeting discussing her legislation.



BILLS DESIGNED TO PROTECT WILDLIFE, FARMS AND FORESTS

Farmers are being financially crippled by crop damage, while our woodlands are being decimated by the deer herd, and the legacy of hunting is waning. These bills are a collaborative effort with many organizations to revive hunting, while also being stewards of our wildlife and natural resources.

H.B. 2106 — Permit Sunday hunting through June 30, 2029. Sunday hunting would NOT be permitted in any of the 100 state parks that are normally open to hunting. It also would increase the penalties for hunting on private land without permission.

H.B. 2107 — Connect farmers to licensed hunters to manage deer populations on their property. The Pennsylvania Game Commission would create an online registry that farmers could access.

H.B. 2108 — Require at least one member of the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners to have experience in the agriculture industry. This would put a person knowledgeable in wildlife management on the board.

PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

Generating support for banning toxic driveway sealants in Pennsylvania.



With more driveway sealants available that are safer for public health and the environment, we should eliminate the sealants that are toxic.

H.B. 1166 — Ban coal-tar-based sealants for driveways and parking lots because they are high in PAHs – polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, which can endanger public health and the environment. With more sealants that are safer, we should eliminate the sealants that are toxic to the health of Pennsylvanians.

MAKING MENTAL HEALTH A PRIORITY



Rep. Steele at a Capitol news conference urging support for expanding mental health services in schools.

As the mother of four children, I worry about their mental health, just like many parents. This bill would prioritize students' mental health and well-being to help them better meet life's challenges with greater resilience.

H.B. 1665 — The School Counseling Services Act would require schools to implement comprehensive counseling services that provide support to all students, and direct school counselors to spend at least 80% of their time providing student services.

STUDYING THE MARCELLUS SHALE IMPACT FEE

Pennsylvania imposes an impact fee on drilling in the Marcellus Shale, but other states collect severance taxes. Which one is fairer to the state and to the company? That's what this resolution will find out.

H.R. 131 — The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee will study and compare impact fees and severance taxes in the top five gas-producing states and examine the competitive business climate for the industry in those states.

UNEMPLOYMENT FOR STRIKERS

Undertaking a strike is a serious decision; it's not made lightly and usually happens after negotiations have reached an impasse. This bill would:

H.B. 1481 — Provide financial relief for striking workers by permitting them to qualify for unemployment compensation benefits.

INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BP MONITORS

Hypertension and related disorders are a leading cause of maternal, neonatal and fetal health complications and death. Early identification and intervention is critical to the health of the mother and baby. Remote blood pressure monitoring is a reliable, effective strategy in getting control of the mother's blood pressure and avoiding costly and preventable complications.

H.B. 2138 — Require insurance coverage for home blood pressure monitors for pregnant women.

ALLEGHENY SHORES PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

Things are happening for the Allegheny Shores project that stretches from the Allegheny RiverTrail Park in Aspinwall to 13th Street in Sharpsburg.

The project recently received nearly \$35 million in combined federal/state funding.

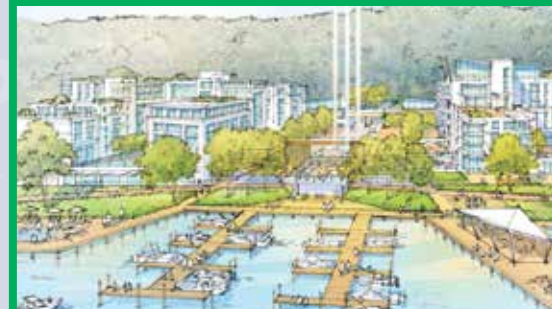
More than 50 acres will be revitalized along the Allegheny River that has been historically separated from the community by a rail corridor for nearly 100 years. Major improvements in

transportation access and mobility, enhancement of regional trail networks and revitalization of the waterfront will help connect residents with the river and breathe new life into the area.

This important revitalization of a brownfield site has regional implications throughout the Allegheny Valley, and it is exactly the kind of project that we need to encourage in our small riverfront communities. I'm proud to support this project.

From this ▶

To this ▼





VETERANS OUTREACH

Each month, my Cheswick office hosts a veterans outreach specialist so veterans and their families may seek help and ask questions about the benefits and services owed them – from pensions and compensation to education, health care and death benefits, and more.

The service officer is available on the 2nd Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please call (724) 826-5151 to schedule an appointment.

📍 1296 Pittsburgh St., Cheswick, PA 15024

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OUT & ABOUT IN DISTRICT 33



BRINGING MILLIONS BACK TO THE DISTRICT

STEELE-OBTAINED GRANTS FOR #DISTRICT33

Transportation
\$2,268,966

First responders
\$409,068

Utilities
\$7,431,833

Recreation
\$246,750

Municipal/Schools
\$5,089,995

TOTAL:
\$15,446,612

I've been committed from Day 1 to making sure our communities get their fair share of state grant funding, and so far communities in the lower part of the district have received **more than \$6 million** in the last 18 months alone. It's my privilege to secure this funding. Here is a sampling of the grants I have obtained so far:

- **\$1.4 million for various transportation and pedestrian safety improvements, including:**
 - In **Blawnox** along Freeport Road
 - ADA access ramps and sidewalks, as well as pedestrian bridge renovation in **O'Hara Township**
 - Traffic signal improvements in **Fox Chapel**
 - Connector road for the new Allegheny Shores development in **Sharpsburg**
- **\$4.6 million for municipality/recreation improvements:**
 - Installing solar panels to reduce energy costs for **Fox Chapel**
 - New vehicle for plowing **Blawnox** roads
 - Community park improvements in **Fox Chapel** and **Blawnox**
 - Regional development plan to address stormwater management, traffic, transportation, and more for the **Ohara** and **Fox Chapel** communities
 - Expand the Seneca Program building at Camp Guyasuta in **Sharpsburg**
 - Affordable housing in **Sharpsburg**
 - Assistance with the Allegheny Shores development project

Other public safety grants include:

- **\$35,000 for public safety, including equipment for a new fire truck for Blawnox Volunteer Fire Co., new firearms for Aspinwall Police Department and to help S.A.V.E.S. update its signage and uniforms.**

These are state dollars going to work right here in our neighborhoods to improve residents' quality of life, and I continue to work to bring state money back home to benefit the district.

FIRST RESPONDERS CORNER

One of my jobs as state representative is to fight for state funding for local communities and organizations at home. I'm pleased to note that recently, I was able to obtain \$18,043 for the Southern Allegheny County Emergency Services, formerly known as the Aspinwall and Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire departments. The merged fire department used the funding to pay for the new signage on all vehicles, buildings and new uniforms for the 30 firefighters. I also secured \$50,000 for the Allegheny Valley Regional Police Department's new pickup truck they recently added to their fleet.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank area first responders for their cooperation and partnership to make my recent events a success for the community. Thanks to them and everyone who participated, 154 fire alarms were installed, area children learned bicycle safety and were able to get up close to emergency vehicles and see the equipment firsthand, and many drivers were able to get their illegible license plates replaced.

Sound the Alarm Smoke Detector Event with Pioneer Hose Co., Summit Hose Co., Eureka Fire & Rescue and Highland Hose Co.



Kids Safety Event with Harrison Twp. PD, Tarentum Borough PD, Hilltop Hose Co., Harrison Hills VFD and Citizens Hose Fire-Rescue-EMS



Illegible License Plate Event with Allegheny Valley Regional PD



The Bike Rodeo and safety event in Harwick with the Allegheny Valley Volunteer Fire Co., Allegheny Valley Regional PD and Lower Valley EMS



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UPCOMING EVENTS

OUTDOOR RECREATION & CONSERVATION EXPO

Sunday, September 15 • 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Pittsburgh Shrine Center, Cheswick

Access state resources, celebrate outdoor traditions and explore the work of local organizations in outdoor recreation & conservation. Some vendors include:

- PA Game Commission
- Allegheny Parks Foundation
- PA Fish & Boat Commission
- Erie to Pittsburgh Trail
- The Audubon Society of Western PA

Lunch will be provided.

SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR

Friday, September 27 • 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Allegheny Valley Volunteer Fire Co., Harwick

- Flu shots, blood pressure checks & stroke education
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Clinic
- PRT Bus Pass Clinic
- Unused prescription takeback
- Hot, to-go meal will be provided

SHRED EVENT

Saturday, October 5 • 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Cheswick District Office

Protect yourself from ID theft by safely shredding your confidential documents.

VETERANS BRUNCH

Wednesday, October 30 • 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Springdale Veterans Association

Learn about services and benefits available to veterans.

- Hot, catered brunch



Visit
RepSteele.com/events
or scan the QR code to learn
more and RSVP.