



State Representative | 156th Legislative District

CHRIS PIELLI

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Hi folks,

We hope you enjoy this summer newsletter to update you on all the work we have been doing to help improve the lives of our district residents. In this issue, we have news on a historic budget, our latest hometown heroes, \$15 million in district grants, my legislative highlights, the wise whelps of our mascot, Penny the Pup, and more.

I'm writing to you from hot, hazy, and humid Harrisburg as we come to the end of the sometimes exasperating but always interesting "Budget Season." Political scientist Harold Lasswell once defined politics as, "Who gets what, when and how." And that, my constituents, is the budget season in a nutshell.

For too long, legislative leadership in Harrisburg has taken a backwards, parsimonious, and neglectful approach to investing in our future. Inadequate funding has resulted in many adverse impacts for our public education, transportation, and health, causing us to lose jobs, opportunities, and even population over the years to our neighboring states. What did their legislators do differently than ours? They chose to invest, while our past legislative leadership chose to sit on their hands.

With a record \$15 billion surplus (it is your money after all), I am happy to report that our PA House Democratic Caucus led the way in producing a historic budget that is not afraid to invest in your future. This bipartisan spending plan is a huge win for all of us here in Chester County – starting with investing more than a billion new dollars in our kids and our schools. This is transformative change that makes sure we're investing money where it will do the most good for students and for taxpayers. We didn't stop there. We're delivering a student-first agenda for our college students to keep our best and brightest here to earn and to learn – making it easier to afford college and keep a lid on student loan debt. We didn't stop there, either. We're creating jobs and supporting our communities – and the small local businesses that create the jobs. We're fixing more roads and bridges and investing in mass transit. We're doing more to get roofs over people's heads. We're building a better future – for all of us. All of this without raising any taxes!

Guess what? We're not done fighting yet. The House of Representatives already passed nearly 400 bills that cut costs and improve lives for Pennsylvanians – and we're not stopping now. In the meantime, I am proud to say that this is a Budget that Delivers for you and your family. Learn more about our budget wins at www.pahouse.com/deliveringforpa.

General Election Dates and Deadlines

**REGISTER
TO VOTE**

Oct. 21, 2024 -
Last day to register before the November election.



Oct. 29, 2024 -
Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot.

Nov. 5, 2024 -
Last day for county election office to receive completed mail-in and civilian absentee ballots. (must be received by 8:00 P.M.)



Nov. 5, 2024 -
General Election!

Nov. 12, 2024 -
Last day for county election office to receive completed military and overseas absentee ballots (submitted for delivery no later than 11:59 P.M. on Nov. 4)

Hometown Heroes

Our Hometown Heroes include Dr. Clifford DeBaptiste and Dr. Mian Jan.



DR. CLIFFORD DEBAPTISTE

Physician and trailblazer as First African American Mayor of West Chester

Dr. Clifford DeBaptiste, a trailblazer in both business and politics, made history

as the first African American mayor of West Chester. Beyond breaking barriers, he has left an indelible mark on his community through innovative leadership and a deep commitment to inclusivity and progress. Recently, he celebrated his 100th birthday and I am honored to present him with a citation acknowledging his unparalleled lifetime achievements.



DR. MIAN JAN

Physician, philanthropist, and community leader

Dr. Mian Jan is president of West Chester Cardiology and Department of Medicine Chair at Chester County Hospital. He was named a top interventional cardiologist for his

extensive experience in balloon angioplasty and coronary stenting. His achievements extend beyond medicine into the realm of charity and philanthropy. Earlier this year, Dr. Jan received the inaugural Drs. Christopher and Susan Fiorentino Award for Diversity and Sustainability from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. I am honored to present him with a citation acknowledging his professional and community achievements.

My 2023-24 Legislation Highlights

I came to Harrisburg seeking to protect our seniors, children, veterans, and environment, while also supporting our law enforcement and business communities. I am proud to report that I have had two bills pass into law during my first term, and I am dedicated to continuing to work hard for you and your families.

House Bills:

H.B. 695 – Credit Report Protection

H.B. 877 – Hunting and Fishing Licenses for Military Personnel & Disabled Veterans (passed the House unanimously)

H.B. 1271 – Updating the Poll Worker Oath

H.B. 1273 – Severance Tax on Natural Gas Production

H.B. 1278 – The Wiretap Act (passed into law - Act 53)

H.B. 1369 – Investigation of Correctional Officers and Forensic Employees

H.B. 1419 – Consistency in Domestic and Foreign Filing under Title 15 (passed into law - Act 20)

H.B. 1598 – Disclosure of AI-Generated Content (passed the House)

H.B. 1645 – Protecting Vulnerable Individuals at Risk of Losing Their Homes

H.B. 1646 – Protecting Seniors from Foreclosure (passed the House)

H.B. 1753 – Combatting AI-Generated Child Sexual Abuse Material

H.B. 1771 – Automatic Voter Registration

H.B. 1803 – Limiting Light Pollution

H.B. 1963 – Veterans Preference Death Certificates for Spouses and Dependents of Deceased Veterans (passed the House unanimously)

H.B. 2058 – Explicitly Codifying Automatic Voter Registration at PennDOT

H.B. 2170 – Protecting Our Hospital Security Employees

H.B. 2470 – Protecting and Conserving Monarch Butterfly Habitats

H.B. 2471 – Protecting and Conserving Terrestrial Insect and Pollinator Habitats

House Resolutions:

H.R. 110 – Studying Location-Based Pay for State Government Employees

H.R. 275 – Recognizing Pennsylvania's Contribution to the Battle of the Bulge (passed the House)

H.R. 404 – Urging Congress to Support the Major Richard Starr Act





Rep. Pielli Brings in More Than \$15M in Grants in 2023 through June 2024

I am proud to report that through much hard work, collaboration, and perseverance, we were able to help bring crucial grants and funding into our district to support our schools, infrastructure, environment, law enforcement, emergency services, and health and human services.

2023-2024 totaled per source:

- \$6,000,000** – PENNVEST
 - \$3,006,686** – PA Small Water and Sewer Program
 - \$2,197,653** – PENNDOT
 - \$1,500,000** – PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
 - \$875,000** – PA Department of Community and Economic Development
 - \$750,000** – Commonwealth Financing Authority
 - \$570,000** – Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program/Watershed Restoration Protection Program
 - \$305,582** – PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency
 - \$250,473** – PA Department of Education
 - \$64,699** – Office of State Fire Commissioner
 - \$50,000** – ARPA/PA State Appropriations
 - \$40,000** – PA Fish and Boat Commission
 - \$30,000** – PA Department of Environmental Protection
 - \$25,000** – ARPA/PA Department of Human Services
 - \$25,000** – ARPA/PA Department of Health
- \$15,690,093 TOTAL**

Historic Investment In Our Children's Education

This budget invests massive, historic money – a **\$1.3 BILLION INVESTMENT** – that helps every kid in every school and finally meets our moral, constitutional, and LEGAL obligation to our kids, schools, parents, and taxpayers. This is a long-overdue step toward true adequacy, fixing decades of underfunding and unfair funding. This is more money than they've ever received because we're finally investing money where it will do the most good – including in rural areas and landlocked city districts that simply cannot raise local taxes anymore. In addition, our education plan results in over **\$1.8 million in savings for our WCASD taxpayers** through long overdue Cyber Charter School spending reform.

Let's look at the numbers:

- **\$1.3 billion** in new investments for public school students.
- **\$526 million** – more than a half-billion – to level the playing field for every K-12 student and help homeowners who've been shouldering the heaviest burden to pay for their schools.
- **\$100 million** more to help districts teach kids with special needs.
- **\$60 million** starting Jan. 1 for real cyber charter reform back in the pockets of taxpayers by treating cyber charter schools like the taxpayer-funded schools they are – and finally delivering accountability on special education.
- **\$225 million** to make sure every district keeps the money they're already investing – delivering stability to schools, plus another \$60 million to help struggling districts.
- **\$100 million** for school safety, including improving resources for students in crisis.
- **\$100 million** to clean up and improve school facilities – including saving taxpayer dollars by investing in schools installing solar energy generation.
- We added funding for BOOST afterschool programs.

We made it easier for our best and brightest to stay here to learn AND to earn – delivering student-first improvements like a smoother path to graduation, improving access to grants and loans, and reducing the student debt load that prevents our graduates from being part of our economy and getting their part of the American Dream. We even changed it so students with outstanding loans can get money back.

There's a new scholarship program to get more students in the most needed careers like nursing and teaching.

We're making it easier for students to transfer from community colleges to state system universities and smooth the path to a degree.

We're helping get more teachers on the job in our elementary schools and high schools by doubling the funding for the massively popular Student Teacher Stipend program.

We got more money for schools, more money for safer schools, and money for menstrual products in schools, so students can focus on learning.





H.B. 1419 Signed into Law

I am proud to announce that my business reporting legislation was signed into law in May 2024.

Last session, the General Assembly overhauled Title 15 (Corporations and Unincorporated Associations) to require entities and businesses registered with the Department of State to file an annual report with the agency stating their existence. Previously, the report was required every 10 years.

Previously, in-state businesses had a first annual report due date of Jan. 4, 2027, while out-of-state businesses had a Jan. 3, 2026, deadline.

House Bill 1419 ensures that in-state and out-of-state businesses have the same transitional annual reporting due date of Jan. 4, 2027.

In order for Pennsylvania to succeed, we need to be more welcoming to businesses. For purposes of efficiency and consistency, my bill would change the requirement so all companies doing business in Pennsylvania have the same reporting date.



Q: What does the PA Department of Human Services oversee – and how can your office staff help?

A: The PA Department of Human Services (DHS) administers care and support services to our most vulnerable residents. Services include health care programs such as Medicaid; programs for people with cognitive and intellectual disabilities; mental health and substance abuse services; the Office of Children, Youth, and Families; and income programs like SNAP & TANF.

Our district office staff is here if you need help applying for and communicating about any DHS services – or if you want more info and to see if you qualify. Please feel free to contact us at (610) 696-4990, RepPielli@pahouse.net, or 121 W. Miner St., Suite 1E, West Chester Borough. Please come and visit us! And call for parking info in advance.

**Major Casework Totals Thus Far
(Dec. 2022 to June 2024)**

54	Birth/Death Certificates
82	Citations/Certificates Awarded
531	Constituent Policy Issue Letters/Emails Sent
79	Human Services Applications
187	PennDOT Applications
277	Property Tax & Rent Rebates
203	Revenue Tax & Other Cases Resolved
450	SEPTA Senior Fare Cards
122	Unclaimed Property Claims
141	Unemployment Compensation Claims



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WORKING FOR YOU
For December 2022 to June 2024...

We helped **3,863** unique constituents and organizations

We delivered **6,706** total services to constituents and organizations

My team is proud to serve you! Please contact my office staff at 610-696-4990 or RepPielli@pahouse.net for assistance with:

- Consumer Rights Issues and Complaints
- PA Birth and Death Certificates
- PennDOT Vehicle and Licensing Services
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program [Deadline: Dec. 31, 2024]
- SEPTA Senior Key Card applications [Residents 65+ ride free!]
- State Benefits like Heating Assistance (LIHEAP) [Opens Nov. 2024], SNAP, and Medicaid
- And many more **state government-related** services!

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