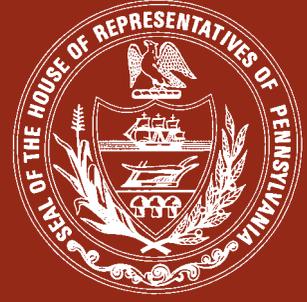


# STURLA

from State Representative  
**MIKE STURLA**  
96th Legislative District

*Report*

NOVEMBER 2023  
[www.RepMikeSturla.com](http://www.RepMikeSturla.com)



## STURLA CO-CHAIRING BASIC EDUCATION FUNDING COMMISSION

The Basic Education Funding Commission (BEFC) elected Rep. Sturla to be a co-chair with Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill, R-York. The BEFC is a bipartisan group tasked with developing and recommending a new formula for distributing state money for education to Pennsylvania school districts, which is more important than ever after the Commonwealth Court ruled that the current education funding system does not meet its constitutional requirements.

Rep. Sturla hosted a BEFC hearing on Sept. 21 at Lincoln Middle School to collect local input, including testimony from SDOL Superintendent Dr. Keith Miles (pictured below). To watch or read testimonies from this and other BEFC hearings, go to [www.BasicEducationFundingCommission.com](http://www.BasicEducationFundingCommission.com) and click on Meetings. You also can submit your own comments to the BEFC via the Contact Us section.

Rep. Sturla is working with BEFC members to come up with a proposal that will be adequate, equitable, and timely. The BEFC's report with recommendations is anticipated to be released in mid-January 2024.





## BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT HELPS OVER 2,000

On Aug. 13, Rep. Sturla's 12th Annual Back to School Event had nearly 200 volunteers help over 2,000 students from Lancaster, Manheim Township, and East Petersburg receive free backpacks, books, school supplies, uniforms, shoes, socks, haircuts, food, and a Barnstormers' game. Go to [www.RepMikeSturla.com](http://www.RepMikeSturla.com) to see more pictures and a video.

If your business or organization is interested in helping out next year, please contact Francis Miliano at [fmiliano@pahouse.net](mailto:fmiliano@pahouse.net) or 717-295-3157. **Thanks to all the event partners who helped make this event a success!**



## PENNIE AVAILABLE FOR HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Pennie is PA's official health insurance marketplace and the only place to get financial assistance to help lower the cost of coverage and care. Pennsylvanians can enroll in 2024 health insurance coverage through Pennie from Nov. 1, 2023, until Jan. 15, 2024. Those who enroll by Dec. 15 will have a coverage effective date of Jan. 1, 2024. Those who enroll by Jan. 15 will have a coverage effective date of Feb. 1, 2024. For enrollment assistance or more information, go to **Pennie.com** or call Pennie's Customer Service Call Center at 1-844-844-8040.

**pennie**<sup>®</sup> connecting Pennsylvanians to health coverage<sup>®</sup>

# STURLA HELPS EXPEDITE STATE LAND TRANSFER FOR MANHEIM TOWNSHIP

Rep. Sturla and Sen. Ryan Aument worked together to expedite SB 829 through the Senate and House to grant and convey certain easements across state land at the Landis Valley Museum to Manheim Township for the purpose of a road realignment project. Gov. Josh Shapiro signed it into law as Act 8 of 2023 to ensure work on this project can begin without delay.

## HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE IN LANCASTER

As the Majority Chair of the House Housing & Community Development Committee, Rep. Sturla held an informational meeting on housing development in Lancaster on Oct. 23. Panelists discussed non-profit and for-profit projects while suggesting how the state can help increase housing. Go to [www.RepMikeSturla.com](http://www.RepMikeSturla.com) and click under the News tab to see the committee's work and meetings so far this session. You also can watch the Lancaster meeting on the committee's video playlist or read the panelists' statements in the News Center.

**Here are notable bills reported out of the committee, passed by the House, and awaiting Senate consideration:**

**HB 1062** (introduced by Rep. Sturla) creates a statewide blighted property database to help communities combat blight.

**HB 1163** allows municipalities to designate blighted or abandoned property as available for acquisition by a land bank.

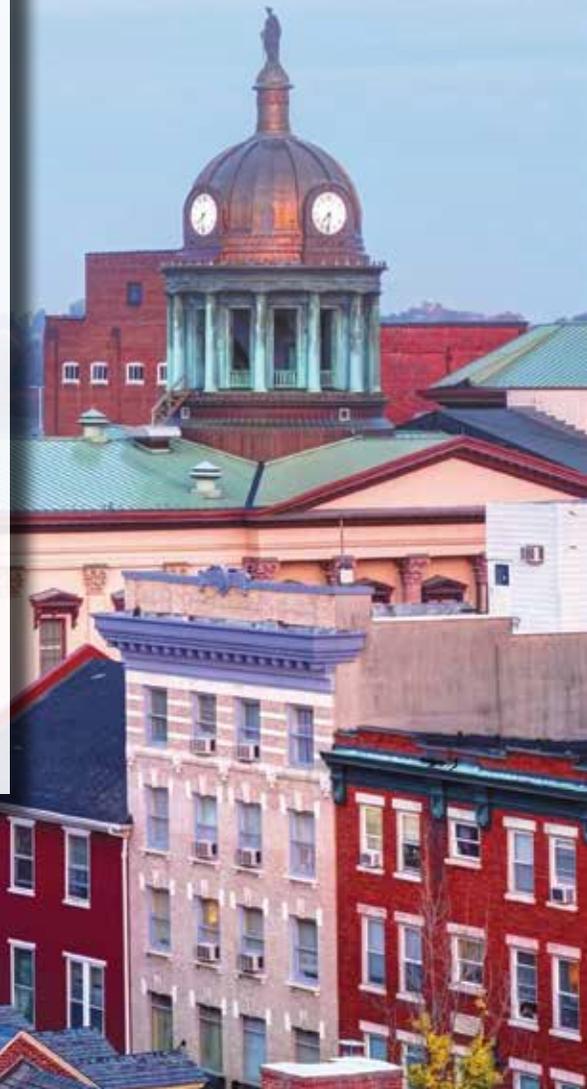
**HB 1207** gives all municipalities the option of creating land banks.

**HB 1316** provides additional funding to the PA Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund.

**HB 859** empowers local governments to deny a municipal permit to a LLC for various factors to ensure revitalization that benefits the community.

**HB 775** permits municipalities to create a registry of vacant properties that identifies the address and owner of those properties. (*expected to soon pass House*)

**HB 255** establishes a state grant program to fund new municipal code enforcement programs, including the hiring of enforcement officers and helping existing programs.



## TRANSPORTATION TOWN HALL LEADS TO INFORMATIVE DISCUSSIONS

On July 25, Rep. Sturla hosted a town hall with PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll at the Lancaster Airport after they toured the airport. They both provided transportation-related updates and took questions from the public.



## MORE STATE FUNDING FOR THE 96TH

Rep. Sturla has helped secure over \$3.1 million in state funding for local projects in 2023:

- \$250,000 for East Petersburg Borough to upgrade and renovate East Petersburg Community Park.
- \$2.6 million for Lancaster Airport to complete construction of a new hangar.
- \$258,160 for City of Lancaster to update signal equipment at Marietta and Race Avenues and to study signal removal at Buchanan and Race Avenues.
- \$40,000 for signal LED replacement throughout Manheim Township.

## HOUSE DEMOCRATS DELIVERING FOR PA

With Democrats having the House majority for the first time since 2010, Rep. Sturla and his colleagues have passed a wide variety of legislation (some even in a bipartisan manner) to deliver better jobs, better schools, and better communities to help Pennsylvanians. Here are some of these bills that are co-sponsored by Rep. Sturla:

**Fairness Act:** HB 300 prohibits discrimination in Pennsylvania based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

**Gun Safety:** HB 714 requires universal background checks on all gun purchases and HB 108 establishes extreme risk protection orders.

**Child Care Tax Credit:** HB 1259 increases the child care tax credit incrementally to keep up with rising costs over time and keep people at work.

**Minimum Wage Increase:** HB 1500 increases the state minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2026.

**Patient Safety Act:** HB 106 sets safe patient limits under the care of an individual nurse in a hospital.

**Cyber Charter Reform:** HB 1422 modernizes Pennsylvania's charter school law to specifically address cyber charter schools to ensure transparency, accountability and fiscal responsibility while ending \$455 million in overpayments to these cyber charters.

**Solar for Schools:** HB 1032 creates a state grant program for school districts, intermediate units, career and technical schools, and community colleges to fund solar energy projects that help the environment and create jobs.

**Addressing Teacher Shortage:** A legislative package to help schools fill teaching gaps by establishing a Grow Our Own Educators Program (HB 141), a Teacher Pipeline Scholarship Program (HB 688), and a Student Teacher Stipend Program (HB 1331).

The above bills are still awaiting action in the state Senate. For more information, go to [www.pahouse.com/DeliveringForPA](http://www.pahouse.com/DeliveringForPA).

# APPLY BY 12/31 FOR PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE



You have until Dec. 31 to submit your Property Tax/Rent Rebate application for taxes/rent paid in 2022. Due to a backlog, it is currently taking over 4.5 months to receive a rebate. You can apply at [mypath.pa.gov](https://mypath.pa.gov), or contact Rep. Sturla's office for assistance at 717-295-3157. At any time, you can drop off required documents in the office's black mailbox (pictured here) in an envelope with your full name and phone number.

## DO YOU HAVE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY?

To see if the Pennsylvania Treasury has any unclaimed property in your name, search at [www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property](https://www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property). Due to the high volume of claims, it typically takes approximately four months for payment.



## BEWARE OF STUDENT LOAN SCAMS

With the launch of federal student loan forgiveness programs, beware of scammers asking for payments to help determine if you qualify for these programs.

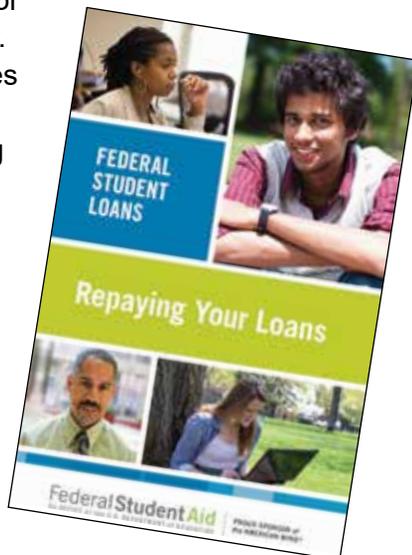
All information can be found for free at

[www.studentaid.gov](https://www.studentaid.gov) or from your loan servicer.

Rep. Sturla's office does have copies of Federal Student Aid's Repaying Your Loans brochure.

Stop by to pick it up or call 717-295-3157 to have it mailed to you.

Do not forget to go to [www.pheaa.org](https://www.pheaa.org) for state-based student loans and assistance.



## CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION IN PA

On Sept. 7-8, Rep. Sturla continued his clean water efforts with the Chesapeake Bay Commission meeting in the state Capitol. Pennsylvania is working to clean its streams for PA residents, which also helps other states downstream. Learn more at [www.chesbay.us/meetings](https://www.chesbay.us/meetings).





State Representative  
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lpo.ks.1023

## HERE TO SERVE YOU

Rep. Sturla's district office staff is happy to help you navigate state government programs and services. Call the 1560 Lititz Pike office at (717) 295-3157 for free assistance.

### **Ayuda disponible en español**

Tengo la fortuna de tener personal bilingüe listo para ayudarle con cualquier problema relacionado con el estado. Puede llamar nuestra oficina, localizada en 1560 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, al (717) 295-3157.

## MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Car registrations, special tags, disability parking placards, titles, and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Requests for literature – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups

## Sign Up for Weekly Emails

If you would like to receive weekly email updates on state government issues, go to [www.RepMikeSturla.com](http://www.RepMikeSturla.com) and scroll to the bottom of the page for the sign up form. For timely updates, you can follow [@RepMikeSturla](https://twitter.com/RepMikeSturla) on X, Facebook and Instagram.

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