

STURLA

from State Representative

MIKE STURLA

96th Legislative District

Report

JULY 2024

www.RepMikeSturla.com



REGISTER FOR AUGUST 18TH BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

There is still time to register for Rep. Mike Sturla's and Rep. Ismail Smith-Wade-El's 13th Annual Back to School Event on Sunday, August 18 from 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Clipper Magazine Stadium (650 N. Prince St., Lancaster).



Students will receive free backpacks, books, school supplies, clothing, shoes, haircuts, food, and tickets to a Stormers' game. Register by August 12 at www.RepMikeSturla.com or scan the QR code. Please read the stadium's bag policy when you register.

If your business or organization is interested in helping out this year, please contact Francis Miliano at fmiliano@pahouse.net or (717) 295-3157.

STURLA SECURES EDUCATION FUNDING

Following Rep. Sturla's work as Co-Chair of the Basic Education Funding Commission, he introduced H.B. 2370 to make Pennsylvania's public education system more equitable and adequate. The House passed this bill in bipartisan fashion to make it a part of the state budget negotiations. As a result, Rep. Sturla helped secure a historic \$1.3 billion in education funding, including local **increases** for:

- School District of Lancaster - by \$6,836,057
- Manheim Township School District - by \$3,283,106
- Hempfield School District - by \$2,336,536

SUPPORTING PUBLIC TRANSIT



In Lancaster, Rep. Sturla, Gov. Josh Shapiro, and PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll expressed support for public transit.



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2024-25 PA BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Rep. Sturla voted for the bipartisan 2024-25 state budget and below are notable highlights. For all details, go to www.houseappropriations.com.

Historic Education Funding

Over \$1.3 billion will be invested in all students via basic education funding, special education funding, Ready to Learn Block Grants for Adequacy and Tax Equity, cyber charter changes and safety grants. Specifically:

- **\$526 million** to level the playing field 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, putting it 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 mental health resources for students in crisis.
- **\$100 million** to clean up and improve school facilities.
- **\$30 million** increase for Career and Technical Education.

Higher Education

To keep the best and brightest in PA so they can learn and earn. This budget delivers student-first improvements like a smoother path to graduation, improving access to grants and loans, and reducing the student debt load.

- The new **\$25 million** Grow PA Scholarships Program will get more students in the most needed careers like nursing and teaching.
- Doubles the Student Teacher Stipend Program to **\$20 million**.
- **\$54 million** increase for PHEAA to maintain maximum State Grants.

- **\$36 million** increase for the Ready to Succeed Scholarships.
- **\$35.1 million** increase for state system schools.
- **\$15.7 million** increase for Community Colleges.

Economic Development

This budget spurs job creation to make Pennsylvania more competitive with economic development nationally.

- **\$500 million** to develop more commercial and industrial sites.
- **\$20 million** for the Main Street Matters program to support small businesses.
- **\$20 million** for small minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses.
- **\$15 million** for tourism marketing to attract more visitors.

Human Services

A variety of increases were made to help make lives better.

- **\$261 million** for Intellectual Disabilities-Community Waiver Program.
- **\$71 million** for mental health services.
- **\$26.2 million** for subsidized child care services.
- **\$12.6 million** for Long-Term Managed Care to help keep seniors in their homes.

Affordable Housing

This budget raises the cap for PHARE funding to \$100 million per year by 2026, nearly doubling the state's commitment to building more affordable housing. It also includes a \$5 million increase for homeless assistance, \$2.5 million for emergency housing support, and \$2.5 million for legal assistance to those facing eviction proceedings.

STURLA CONTINUES COMMITTEE'S WORK ON HOUSING



With Rep. Sturla chairing the House Housing & Community Development Committee, it has continued to move legislation to address the affordable housing crisis. Go to www.RepMikeSturla.com and click under the News tab to see all the committee's work and meetings to date.



VOTING DEADLINES

The voter registration deadline is Oct. 21 to vote in the General Election on Nov. 5. The deadline to apply for mail-in and absentee ballots is Oct. 29. You can do both online at vote.pa.gov.

HOUSE PASSES CO-SPONSORED LEGISLATION

Here is a list of legislation co-sponsored by Rep. Sturla that recently passed the House:

- H.B. 78 to create the PA Medical Debt Repayment Program for low-income Pennsylvanians.
- H.B. 98 to ensure workers receive equal pay for equal work.
- H.B. 777 to close the loophole in state law that treats "ghost guns" like any other firearm.
- H.B. 1140 to preserve access to birth control.
- H.B. 1512 to ensure telemedicine access.

CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION MEETING



In May, Rep. Sturla participated in the Chesapeake Bay Commission's meeting at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Appalachian Laboratory in Frostburg, MD. Located at the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay, this laboratory's scientists advise state, national and international leaders on air and water quality, wildlife management, forest and agricultural management, and biodiversity conservation. You can review presentations from this meeting and any other meetings at www.chesbay.us/meetings.

FIND UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

You can contact Rep. Sturla's office for help locating unclaimed property held by the Pennsylvania Treasury or search by your name at www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property.

HELP FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

People are often not aware that there are many state and federal programs available to veterans and their families. Starting on Sept. 10, an American Legion Department Service Officer will be available in Rep. Sturla's Lancaster office on the second Tuesday of each month between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. to provide free assistance with veterans' benefits, scholarships, health benefits, survivor benefits, and more. Appointments must be scheduled ahead of time by calling Rep. Sturla's office at (717) 295-3157.

SCAM JAM



In February, Rep. Sturla hosted a Scam Jam at Calvary Homes that provided tips to seniors to help them prevent scams and identify theft.

PA SENIOR FOOD BOX PROGRAM

The Senior Food Box Program is available year-round for low-income seniors 60 years and older. Rep. Sturla's office can assist with applications, or you can enroll at Lancaster County Food Hub. Qualifying applicants will receive a monthly box with foods such as non-fat dry and shelf-stable fluid milk, juice, oats, ready-to-eat cereal, rice, pasta, dry beans, peanut butter, canned meat, poultry, or fish, and canned fruits and vegetables. Contact 211 for the most up to date information on food assistance programs open to all Lancaster residents.

PENNIE ENROLLMENT

To get financial assistance to help lower the cost of health insurance coverage, Pennsylvanians can enroll in 2025 coverage via Pennie from Nov. 1, 2024 until Jan. 15, 2025. For more info, go to **Pennie.com** or call Pennie at 1(844) 844-8040.

pennie[®]

connecting Pennsylvanians to health coverage[®]



PUBLIC SAFETY FAIR

In May, Rep. Sturla hosted his first Public Safety Fair at the Manheim Township Fire Rescue Station 201. It was a fun time with lots of good information shared. Go to www.RepMikeSturla.com and click on Galleries under the News tab to see more photos from the fair.

COLLECTING TOYS FOR TOTS



Starting July 22, Rep. Sturla's Lancaster Office at 1560 Lititz Pike will have a collection box in the lobby to accept toy donations for the Marine Toys for Tots Program. Toys must be new and unwrapped. Toys for Tots applications are open September through November 2024 with toy

distribution occurring in mid-to-late December. Please call the office at (717) 295-3157 for assistance in enrolling children 12 and under to receive a gift.

NEED A SEPTA SENIOR FARE CARD?



Schedule an appointment with Rep. Sturla's office at (717) 295-3157 to apply for a SEPTA Senior Fare Card. You will need to bring your PA ID/ driver's license or birth certificate. If renewing, bring your expired card. Please note that you will NOT receive your card the same day and the anticipated processing time is between six and eight weeks.



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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
- SEPTA Senior Fare Card

Sign Up for Weekly Emails

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

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