

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JOE WEBSTER

Serving Collegeville, Upper and Lower Providence, West Norriton, and Trappe



Dear Neighbor,

I hope this letter finds you well! As your State Representative, I've been busy in Harrisburg and in our community these past few months, and I wanted to provide you with an update. In this legislative session, I helped to pass critical legislation for veteran care and government reform; bills to fund mental health care in PA and improve conservation practices. I voted to increase safety in transportation, and implement gun ownership reforms. Tax rebates for working class Pennsylvanians and better safety regulations for our EMS workers. As Democrats continue to hold a humble majority in the House, we're passing legislation that Pennsylvanians have been asking years for and building back our economy.

In the district, I have also met with community members, local organizations, and state agencies to make sure your voices are heard, and progress continues on the projects we're focused on.

In this newsletter you'll find: an inside look at most of the legislation I've introduced this past year plus a short highlight on education funding in Pennsylvania. You'll also find my district office's upcoming events and some local infrastructure updates. As always, if you need any state-related assistance, from PennDOT to PA Department of State, please don't hesitate to contact my office!

Sincerely,

Rep. Joe Webster, Ph.D., Colonel, USAF (retired)

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED Session 23-24

HB 1275

Riparian Buffers

Builds out and protects our natural riparian buffers that clean our waters and reduces flash flooding.

HB 1587

Requiring Classroom-to-Workplace Coordinators In School Districts

Requires all school districts to hire a qualified coordinator that directly assists students with disabilities transition to the workforce.

HR 185

Geothermal Energy Projects in Communities Near Abandoned Mines

Studies the feasibility of geothermal energy projects in abandoned mining locations to produce renewable energy and revitalize post-industrial communities in PA.

HB 261

Temporarily Raising Maximum School Age Due to COVID-19

Allows students with disabilities who turn 21 now through the 2035-36 school year to receive an additional year of schooling that was lost due to COVID-19.

HB 266

Compensation for School Board Members

Provides the option for communities to compensate their school board members with a salary equivalent to the limits of locally elected officials compensation.

HB 1240

Transportation Electrification Planning

Brings together state agencies to create a comprehensive build-out of electric charging infrastructure and transportation planning.

HB 263

School Board Member Training

Increases the required number of training hours for new and re-elected school board members.

HB 276

All Hands on Deck

If the need arises, government employees would be allowed to volunteer as poll workers in the districts they reside in.

HB 699

Comprehensive Storm Water Management

Counties must prepare and implement a comprehensive stormwater management plan that would address stormwater runoff and assess current facilities.

HB 264

Free Tuition at PASSHE Institutions for School Board Members

Allows school board members to enroll tuition free at any PASSHE institution for courses relating to the role of School Board Director.



HR 32

Reduce the Time it Takes to Vote

Directs a study to review current utilization of poll workers, polling places, and voting machines to provide recommendations to minimize the time needed to vote.

HB 259

Civics Education Graduation Requirement

Requires high school students to take and pass a civics education course to better prepare them for civic engagement in our democracy.

HB 271

One Voter, One Ballot Application

Prohibits third-party organizations from sending ballot applications to eligible voters to reduce confusion over Mail-In ballots.

HB 277

Encourage Voter Registration Among Our Veterans

Encourages individuals with veteran status to register to vote upon their release from a correctional facility and remain a civically active member of society.

HB 1241

Regulations for Massage Businesses to Prevent Human Trafficking

Updates regulations for massage businesses to curb illicit massage business practices and reduce human trafficking.

HB 275

Ensuring Fully Staffed Polling Places

Provides the option for county boards of election to recruit qualified individuals for poll worker service, similar to jury duty, to keep our elections running smoothly.

HR 125

Veterans Week of Service

Designates the week of November 4-11, 2023 as "Veterans Week of Service" to recognize the veterans who continue to improve the lives of others.



HB 283

Town Hall Meetings for Constitutional Amendments

Requires every member of the General Assembly to hold a town hall to allow public comment on proposed constitutional amendments.

In Progress

Streamlining Name Change Process

Would replace the judicial name change process with a simpler administrative process to streamline the procedure.

HB 1239

Veterans Entering the Sustainability Sector Program

Establishes a program to provide veterans with apprenticeship training and opportunity to enter the workforce through the sustainability sector.

HB 588

Supporting Veterans Exiting Incarceration

Requires veterans who are incarcerated be given a "veterans benefits briefing" before they are released that explains what state and federal benefits are available to them.

HR 163

Redesigning the State Flag

Establishes the PA State Flag Commission to review the state flag, solicit updated designs and recommend changes.

Key



Bill passed the House and now waits in the Senate for vote



Bill passed out of Committee and now waits on the House floor for a vote



HB 269

Veterans' Records of Discharge

Ensures DD-214s are inaccessible to anyone other than the veteran and their family for 85 years to keep their personal information private.

HB 279, HB 280, HB 281

Ethics Reform Package

Limits campaign donations to federal levels, establishes a gift ban, and ends the revolving door of politician-to-lobbyist and back.

HB 282

Implementing the Bipartisan Joint State Government Commission Report Regarding Mail-In Ballots

Clarifies and streamlines the Mail-In voting process in Pennsylvania.

If you have questions about these bills or the others that I've introduced, give my district office a call at (484) 200-8263 or send an email to RepWebster@pahouse.net

EDUCATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

In February of 2023, after a long and drawn-out court case, the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania declared the Pennsylvania school funding system to be unconstitutional – that Pennsylvania fails to adequately fund and provide every child with a high-quality education. To that end, the legislature has been tasked with finding a solution to comply with the court's decision and provide a better education to the children of this Commonwealth.

A bi-partisan, bicameral Basic Education Funding Commission has been established with members of the legislature and the Governor's Administration to create a new method of funding public schools and then report its findings to the General Assembly no later than November 30th. Public comments are welcomed and can be submitted to basiceducationfundingcommission.com.

In the meantime, know that this year the legislature approved the biggest increase to public education we've ever seen. This includes a \$567 million increase to basic education funding, \$46.5 million to provide universal free breakfast, \$100 million for school-based mental health counselors, and an additional investment of \$50 million in special education funding. In our district, every school district received an increase in education funding with Methacton receiving 7.3%, Norristown 18.5%, Perkiomen Valley 7.1%, and Spring-Ford with 10.4%. These investments are critical in providing our children with the resources and opportunities to achieve academic success now and in their future endeavors.

I've also supported bills this Session that would modernize our laws regarding cyber charter schools, such as HB 1422 which would keep taxpayer money in our school districts and end the increasing overpayments to cyber charter schools. I've also opposed bills that included public school vouchers that would strip millions of dollars away from Basic Education Funding. I will continue to apprise you of any developments regarding the funding of education in Pennsylvania as they occur. Please feel free to reach out to my district office directly with any questions, comments, or concerns you have.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Clean Up



On October 20th, my staff and I will host a Fall Clean Up event to pick up and remove trash, litter, and plastics from our community.

Veterans' Breakfast



In November, my office will host a Veterans' Breakfast and informal discussion on veterans issues and legislative action.

Winter Collection Drive

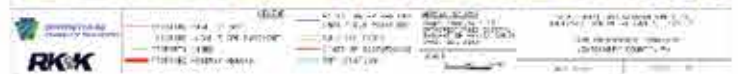


This December, my office will hold our third-annual Winter Collection Drive for local organizations.

GERMANTOWN & RIDGE PIKE'S INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

PennDOT will soon begin construction on the Germantown and Ridge Pikes' Intersection Improvements project. This project is scheduled to alleviate congestion and traffic delays, improve safety and enhance overall regional mobility. As you can see in the concept plan, the intersection of Ridge and Germantown Pikes will be removed from its current location and moved about 1,000 feet southeast on Ridge, with the addition of a new street light and roundabout. River Road will be extended eastward and connect into the roundabout.

The project, which was originally announced in 2018, is estimated to last about a year and



will also include road widening and new storm water drainage and management facilities. More information on the project as well as any updates can be found online at penndot.pa.gov.



My team and I helped to set up and greet for Montco PRIDE Fest.



I joined Norristown School District and elected officials in school renaming ceremonies.



Joined my colleagues for many of the pro-union protests this summer and fall, walking in support of our union families and all those who would benefit from joining a union.



I donated POW/MIA flags to the Methacton School District and joined my colleagues, Lower Providence Police, and school students for a flag raising ceremony.



STATEREPRESENTATIVE

JOE WEBSTER

35 Evansburg Rd.
Collegeville, PA 19426
(484) 200-8263

lpo.jc-cw.0923

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JOE WEBSTER

Serving Collegeville, Upper and Lower Providence, West Norriton, and Trappe

35 Evansburg Rd. | Collegeville, PA 19426 | (484) 200-8263 | Hours: 9:30AM-4:30PM

Email: RepWebster@PAHouse.net | www.PAHouse.com/Webster | [f @RepJoeWebster](https://www.facebook.com/RepJoeWebster) | [i @repjoewebster150](https://www.instagram.com/repjoewebster150)

What's Inside?

- Snapshots of Legislation Introduced
- Education Funding in Pennsylvania
- Important Local Infrastructure Updates
- Upcoming Events and More!

Municipal Election Dates

October 23

Last day to register to vote

October 31

Last day to apply for Mail-In /
Absentee ballot

November 7

Election Day! Polls are open 7AM-8PM

What is on the ballot?

School Board Directors, Township Supervisors / Commissioners,
Borough Council Seats, Township Auditors, State Supreme Court
Justices, Pennsylvania Superior Court Judges

vote.pa.gov