

**Capitol Office:**

103B East Wing  
P.O. Box 202074  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2074  
(717) 783-4103  
Fax: (717) 772-9910

**District Office:**

3496 E. Lincoln Highway  
Thorndale, PA 19372  
(484) 200-8256  
Fax: (484) 200-8257

**Satellite Office:**

Coatesville City Hall  
1 City Hall Place  
Coatesville, PA 19320  
*Please call (484) 200-8256 for  
satellite office hours.*

**Email:**

RepWilliams@pahouse.net



/RepDanWilliams



@RepDanWilliams



State Representative | 74th Legislative District

# DAN WILLIAMS



## DEAR NEIGHBOR,

It's an honor and a privilege to serve you here in the 74th Legislative District. As a lifelong servant to my community, I take very seriously my duty to represent your voice in Harrisburg. This is my first term, and I'd like to thank the many people who have shared with me their vision for our community and commonwealth, and I look forward to hearing many more.

I'm proud to continue fighting for progressive values in Harrisburg, and I'm honored to have been named to leadership positions that better position me to work for change.

In my freshman term as your state legislator, I serve on the Children & Youth, Urban Affairs and Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness committees with pride. These appointments

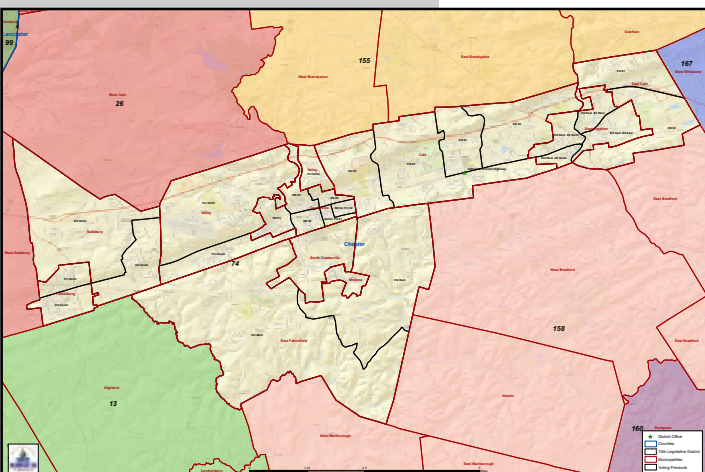
help me stay close to the bread-and-butter issues we face at home. Harrisburg can be a complicated place, but rest assured that my colleagues – from both sides of the aisle – and I are making a lot of headway bringing government back to the people.

In this newsletter, you'll find more information on how I'm working to put your needs first in Harrisburg.

Helping you with state programs and services also is a top priority for me, and my staff and I are always ready to help you with property tax/rent rebates, state outdoor recreation programs, PennDOT work, prescription drug help and much more. Feel free to call, email or stop by my district office any time from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. I'll be here to do what I do best – serve in your best interest!

Sincerely,

Dan Williams



# Meet My District Office Staff



Bill Schoell,  
District Office  
Director



Ricky Campbell,  
Sr. Constituent  
Services Advisor



Hans van Mol,  
Constituent  
Services Advisor



Gabrielle Hines,  
Constituent  
Services Advisor

## Working to protect children's health

The U.S. Surgeon General has declared e-cigarette use among youth an epidemic, and the Pennsylvania Health Department has warned of the potential health effects.

As a member of the House Children and Youth Committee, I'm pleased to report that the House passed H.B. 97 to make it illegal to sell vaping-related products to minors. The bill, which I co-sponsored, is as of press time with the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I've also co-sponsored H.B. 1823, which would raise the legal age to purchase tobacco, e-cigarette and similar products to 21.

Medical experts have warned that the high doses of nicotine available in many of these products negatively affect the developing adolescent brain, and the long-term effects of inhaling vaporized chemicals is unknown.



## In search of fair funding within PA's education system

This summer, I hosted a public hearing on fair education funding with my colleagues on the House Democratic Policy Committee. The hearing was held at The Spackman Center in Coatesville.

Pennsylvania has the most inequitable spending per pupil in the United States, according to a 2015 *Washington Post* analysis of federal data on state and local funding. The current formula is student-based but ignores the vast differences in local resources available to districts, as well as the research-supported evidence that some students require more resources than others to succeed.

Legislators from both sides of the aisle are working toward a more equitable system.

My hearing allowed many voices to be heard, mostly those of local professionals who are invested in our youth, who care about making sure our schools are properly funded, and that those funds are fairly distributed.

The committee heard testimony from Dr. Pamela Brown, president of PSEA Southeastern Region; Henry Assetto, school board director at Coatesville Area School District; Tomea Sippio-Smith, K-12 policy director for Public Citizens for Children and Youth; Reynelle Brown Staley, policy director for Education Law Center; and local senior citizens about property taxes.

I thank all of these policy makers for their participation and continued advocacy for a fair funding formula in Pennsylvania.





# CPR skills for students

This year, Governor Wolf signed into law Act 7, to enhance CPR training for high school students. This law requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education to provide curriculum to schools to teach hands-on CPR, a no-breath, compression-only technique recommended by the American Heart Association for sudden cardiac arrests. The curriculum must also include the use of automatic external defibrillators.

These are life-saving skills for our young people, and I was pleased to support this legislation.



*Students from Bishop Shanahan High School's STEM team won the grand champion title at Gov. Wolf's STEM Competition this year. The theme was "Improving Pennsylvania through STEM." The team of seven students won the overall medical category by creating a portable, life-saving device that improves the success rate of CPR.*



If you need help paying your heating bills or have a heating emergency, then PA's LIHEAP may be able to help you. You can visit my office now until April 10, 2020, to apply in person or go to [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us). Applicants could receive either a cash grant in the \$200-\$1,000 range for heating bills or a crisis grant up to \$600 for emergencies. To be eligible, household income must be:

Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
1	\$18,735
2	\$25,365
3	\$31,995
4	\$38,625
5	\$45,255

\*For larger households, add an additional \$6,630 for each person.

# A bipartisan bill to freeze seniors' school property taxes

This year I introduced a bipartisan bill – H.B. 1675 – that would freeze school district property taxes for Pennsylvania's senior citizens starting in 2021.

The bill was introduced in January and referred to the House Finance Committee in June for further review.

The design is to assist seniors with little to no income, providing our older population a peace of mind that their property taxes will not skyrocket in the coming years.

As property taxes increase, the property tax bills increase, and those property tax bills get harder and harder to pay for some of our older Pennsylvanians, straining their finances and fueling their worries. It's especially difficult here at home with ever-rising school taxes, and my goal is to relieve that tension.

H.B. 1675 would apply to seniors 65 or older who have qualified for a homestead property tax exemption at their current residence in the past five years.

Under my plan, seniors would be able to have confidence when it comes time to pay their property tax bills each year,



without any added uncertainty for schools. And school districts would not have to struggle with the loss of this funding. The state would reimburse school districts from the Property Tax Relief Fund.



# Thank you for attending my Senior Health Expo!



***My Senior Health Expo was a success!***

***Thank you to all the seniors who visited, and I look forward to seeing you again next year!***



## Farm-to-School Program and Healthy Benefits

Legislation I co-sponsored will help educate students about the nutritional benefits that come from our rich Pennsylvania soil. Act 34 of 2019, the Farm-to-School Program, will provide grants to educate pre-K through fifth-grade students and their families about the importance of choosing healthy, locally produced foods.

The new law, which is part of the PA Farm Bill Package, also will increase awareness of Pennsylvania agriculture and help farmers gain access to new markets. It's a great way to help our kids form healthy eating habits early on while ensuring that one of our most important state industries continues to thrive.

**GOOD JOB!**

With the help of nearly 40 volunteers from the district, my office and I took it upon ourselves to beautify the Old Evergreen Cemetery in Coatesville in honor of Memorial Day this year.

Old Evergreen Cemetery is the eternal resting place for many local African American veterans. Tombstones in the Old Evergreen Cemetery honor veterans from as far back as the Civil War.



# Funding Initiatives in the District

A large part of a state legislator's job is to advocate for state funding for local and regional projects.

That support has been robust in the 74th District, where my advocacy has led to returning tax dollars in our communities. The projects supported by these funding opportunities are all tied to our economic success and often prevent steeper local tax hikes.



Here are where several programs in our district stand.

- Schools in the Coatesville School District and across the Chester County Intermediate Unit received \$392,933 for school-police resource officers, safety equipment and program enhancements to help keep school classrooms safe from violence.
- Gordon Learning Center, South Brandywine Middle School and Scott Middle School were included in the award of a \$400,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and its 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant program to support before- and after-school programs.
- Coatesville Area Senior High School, East Fallowfield Elementary School, Coatesville Intermediate High School, Caln Elementary School, Rainbow Elementary School and Scott Middle School each received grants worth \$4,162 for their breakfast programs.
- The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County received extended funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Office of Victims'

Services. Based in Coatesville, the center will again be allocated \$204,022 through Sept. 30, 2020, to help the Domestic Violence Center provide services to survivors of domestic violence, including their children.

- Housing programs in Chester County received \$3.08 million through the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement fund, which comes from Marcellus shale fees, realty transfer taxes and the national housing trust fund.
- A trio of Multimodal Transportation Fund grants totaling \$3.9 million funded upgrades and improvements to Chester County Airport and to Mortonville Road in East Fallowfield Township. \$2.9 million across two grants went to Chester County Airport to extend the existing terminal building (first constructed in 1993), to allow for the addition of a public terminal, a new Fixed-Base Operator space, and expansion of the parking and access way. \$1 million was marked for repairs to Mortonville Road in East Fallowfield Township, including embankment stabilization, drainage improvements and roadway reconstruction.

## MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| ■ SEPTA passes   | ■ Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems  | ■ Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions                 |
| ■ Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications           | ■ Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information | ■ Problems or questions about the state lottery                  |
| ■ Information on financial assistance for higher education   | ■ Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones     | ■ Consumer complaints  |
| ■ Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds  | ■ Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission  | ■ Liquor Control Board concerns or questions                     |
| ■ Voter registration and absentee ballot applications  | ■ Complaints and problems with insurance companies   | ■ Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups           |
| ■ Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation  | ■ Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications   | ■ Information about federal, state and local government agencies |
| ■ Birth and death certificates   | ■ PACE cards for senior citizens   | ■ Notary services  |
| ■ Problems with the Department of Health and Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance) |  |  |

**If you need help with any state government-related services, please feel free to contact my office at (484) 200-8256 for assistance.**





State Representative

**DAN WILLIAMS**

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lpo.kaf.1119

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# DAN WILLIAMS

## DON'T MISS MY UPCOMING EVENTS!

### Social Media Update

You can follow me on Facebook at Facebook.com/RepDanWilliams. There you will find updates from Harrisburg, district news and other important state-related information.

You also can follow me on Twitter @RepDanWilliams.

### Join My Email Update List

I also maintain an email list for those who wish to receive periodic email updates from me about public meetings, community events, state and local programs and services, and other items of interest to the community. If you would like to be added to that list, please email my office at [RepWilliams@pahouse.net](mailto:RepWilliams@pahouse.net).