



STATE REP. **PERRY WARREN** 31ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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Dear Neighbor,

This edition of our legislative newsletter includes information on the 2022-23 state budget, recent grant funding, legislative updates, state services available to you, events and achievements of members of our community. Much of the legislation that I have passed, introduced and advocated for, and the state grants that I have helped to obtain, were initiated or suggested by residents of our community. My legislative district office staff and I are here to help and to listen to you. Please reach out to me with your thoughts and suggestions as to how we can make this wonderful community even better. Our district office is located at 91 S. Main St. in Yardley and is open Monday to Friday 9:00 to 5:00. For more information about our community and state government, please subscribe to our roughly biweekly email updates by using your smartphone's camera to scan the QR code below to join my email list.

Thank you.

Perry Warren
State Representative, PA House District 31

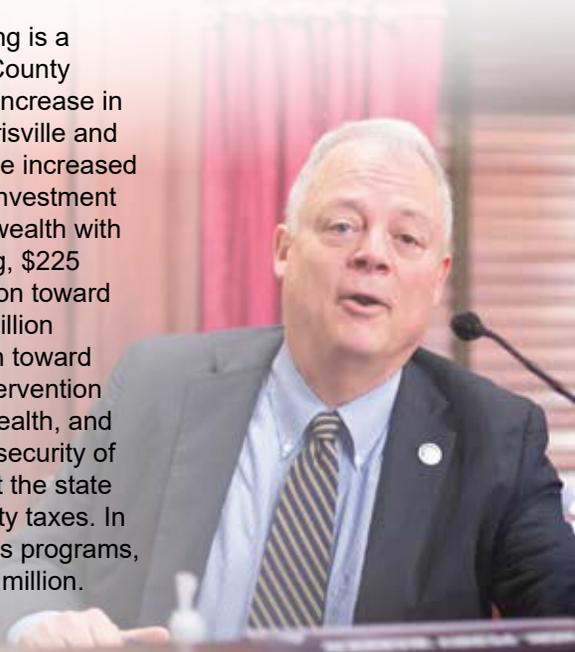


Budget Update:

Funds Secured for our Schools

The General Assembly passed, and Governor Tom Wolf signed into law, the 2022-2023 state budget. The state budget was the result of weeks of negotiations, including an extra week in July, among the governor, the House Democratic Caucus, the House Republican Caucus, the Senate Democratic Caucus and the Senate Republican Caucus. Ultimately the General Appropriations bill (SB 1100) passed the House 180-20 and the Senate 47-3.

A record investment in state education funding is a major success of this year's budget. Bucks County public schools will receive a collective 7.8% increase in funds from last year. The Council Rock, Morrisville and Pennsbury School districts all benefit from the increased state funding. This budget makes a historic investment in public education throughout the Commonwealth with \$525 million going to basic education funding, \$225 million to the Level Up supplement, \$79 million toward vocational training in school funding, \$100 million toward special education funding, \$60 million toward pre-K education, \$10 million toward early intervention funding, \$95 million toward student mental health, and \$95 million toward improving the safety and security of our schools. The increased school funding at the state level should help contain local school property taxes. In addition, the education scholarship tax credits programs, EITC and OSTC, receive an additional \$125 million.



State Grant Money Awarded in our District

As your state representative, I identify needs in our communities and seek out and advocate for state grants to fund projects and support organizations.

The graphics below provide information on some state grants recently awarded in our communities.

Please reach out to my office if you are aware of a need, project or organization in our community that may benefit from a state grant program. I am always looking for grant programs that may meet community needs and to identify projects and organizations that may benefit from state funding.

Newtown Township Receives More Than \$800,000 to Improve Sidewalks in Business Commons

The state Department of Transportation awarded Newtown Township \$873,000 to improve pedestrian safety and access in the Newtown Business Commons. This project will better connect the Business Commons to the rest of the community.

Situated on 300 acres, the Business Commons is home to more than 200 businesses including aeronautical, biomed, biotech, engineering, medical and general office locations.

Here's a rundown of the projected improvements that will result from this project:

Construction of 0.5 mile of five-foot-wide concrete sidewalks.



Construction of ADA curb ramps.



Installation of benches.



Stormwater management improvements.



Improved striping and signage.



Pennsbury School District was awarded **\$150,000** to provide tiered mental health and behavioral support to its students, staff and families, and **Bucks County NOVA** received **\$254,613** to teach second graders about appropriate relationships.

The funding, awarded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, will improve mental health outcomes for children and adults affected by violence in Bucks County.

The specialized work performed through NOVA and at Pennsbury School District reflects on the dedication that our community has for its children – and adults – affected by violence and crime.

Lower Makefield Township Awarded More Than \$300,000 via PennDOT

Lower Makefield Township was awarded \$305,320 from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's "Green Light-Go" program for upgrades to the traffic signal at Pine Grove Road and Big Oak Road.

Green Light-Go grants reimburse municipalities for updates that improve the efficiency and operation of existing traffic signals. The funding may be utilized for operational improvements including light-emitting diode (LED) technology installation, traffic signal retiming, developing special event plans, monitoring traffic signals and upgrading traffic signals to the latest technologies.



Upcoming Identity Theft and Protection Awareness Event!

Don't miss our upcoming Identity Theft and Protection Awareness event – free paper shredding included – on Saturday, Oct. 15.

State Rep. Perry Warren Co-sponsored by
Senator Steve Santarsiero




IDENTITY THEFT & PROTECTION AWARENESS EVENT

WITH FREE PAPER SHREDDING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022

10 a.m. – noon

LOCATION:
Holy Family University – Newtown Campus
1 Campus Drive, Newtown, PA 18940

The event is open to the public. The shredding company requests a limit of 3 boxes per person and that all plastic, notebooks, folders and non-sensitive papers be removed before shredding.

For more information, call Rep. Warren's office at (215) 493-5420.



\$225 Million Appropriated for Health Care Workers

The House of Representatives passed H.B. 253 (now Act 2 of 2022), which delivers \$225 million in federal money set aside by the American Rescue Plan for health care employees in Pennsylvania.

Of the \$225 million, \$110 million was allotted for hospitals that provide behavioral health services, serve a high amount of Medical Assistance clients or are located in some of the most rural parts of the state. Another \$100 million was earmarked for retention and recruitment funds for direct care staff, and the remaining \$15 million was designated student loan forgiveness to nurses.

This funding couldn't have come at a better time, as our health care workers had already been on the frontlines fighting COVID-19 for nearly two years. My colleagues on both sides of the aisle were able to come together during a time of crisis and swiftly move this funding bill through the House with a unanimous vote.



March was Theatre in Our Schools Month, and I joined Senator Steve Santarsiero in welcoming Pennsbury High School's Troupe 830 to the Capitol.



Bucks County Kehillah hosted the Bucks County Jewish Festival 2022 at Bucks County Community College.

I stopped by Pennsbury High School West to share my appreciation for the hard work of their faculty and staff during Teacher Appreciation Week.





Legislative Updates

Advocating for Gun Safety Measures, Universal Background Checks

A recent poll found that 89% of Pennsylvanians support universal background checks for all firearm purchases. Loopholes currently exist, though, and allow certain firearms to be purchased at gun shows without the buyer undergoing a background check. My House Bill 235 would close the so-called “gun show loophole” to ensure all firearm sales are subject to a comprehensive background check.

“This simple safety measure -- a background check on all firearm purchases -- respects the United States and Pennsylvania constitutions while protecting the lives of Pennsylvanians from gun violence.”

– Rep. Warren



Lost and Stolen Firearms Legislation

I recently reintroduced legislation to address “lost and stolen” firearms, which too often are used in violent crimes.

House Bill 2687 would require all gun owners to report the loss or theft of a firearm to law enforcement within 24 hours of the discovery of the loss or theft. Failure to report loss or theft of a firearm subsequently used in a crime could result in civil liability.

House Bill 2687 would be instrumental in reducing firearm theft, “straw purchasing” of firearms and gun violence.

This legislation has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

Progress with Kayden’s Law

I have advocated for the passage of Kayden’s Law, a crucial measure that would reform Pennsylvania’s child custody statute and ensure that the best interest of the child is the top priority in child custody matters.

Kayden’s Law passed the state Senate and was the subject of a House Judiciary subcommittee hearing.

Modernizing training and safety requirements in child custody cases has taken on added importance following the reauthorization and passage in Congress of the Violence Against Women Act, which released \$25 million in additional federal funds for states that reform child custody laws.

Made in PA

My “Made in PA” legislation, H.B. 1930, would make it easier for consumers to find and purchase Pennsylvania-made products by creating a Made in PA program through marketing, use of a Made in PA logo and a publicly searchable website. It would also feature a business-to-business component that will help Pennsylvania manufacturers connect with Pennsylvania suppliers.

The Made in PA program would complement the successful Pennsylvania Preferred program. This legislation is currently in the House Commerce Committee.



Flood Insurance Premium Assistance Task Force

Much of our district is located along the Delaware River, the Delaware Canal and the Newtown Creek. While beautiful, these and other bodies of water present the risk of flooding, and the owners of many properties in our communities must purchase flood insurance.

My legislation, H.B. 70, would establish the Flood Insurance Premium Assistance Task Force. The task force would issue recommendations regarding potential programs that provide premium discounts, programs that incentivize local governments to support flood mitigation efforts and the implementation of any necessary changes to state statute or policy regarding the administration of flood insurance.

House Bill 70 was the first bill adopted this session by the House Insurance Committee, and I continue to advocate for a vote in the full House for this cost-saving program.

FLOOD RECOVERY SAFETY TIPS

» Call your insurance company as soon as possible & keep a log of all of your conversations with them.

» After the waters recede:

- Place yourself and get support
- Avoid electrocution & electrical/ fire hazards
- Avoid unstable buildings & structures
- Treat all wounds immediately
- Wash your hands periodically during cleanup
- Wear protective gear for cleanup work



State Services Available to You

The federal REAL ID Act has been extended in Pennsylvania until
May 3, 2023

The best thing you can do to prepare for REAL ID is to get your documents together:

- ✓ **Proof of identity**
- ✓ **Two current, physical proofs of PA residency**
- ✓ **Social Security card**
- ✓ **Proof of all legal name changes**



Visit [PENNDOT.GOV/REALID](https://www.penndot.gov/realid)

Real ID update

We are less than a year from the federal government's launch of REAL ID enforcement.

REAL ID is a federal law that will require a REAL ID to board planes, enter federal buildings and access a military base. A federally acceptable form of identification (whether it's a Pennsylvania REAL ID driver's license or ID card, a valid U.S. Passport/Passport Card, a military ID, etc.) must be used for these purposes on and after May 3, 2023.

PennDOT currently offers REAL ID-compliant driver's license options.

If you have questions about REAL ID, stop by my district office in Yardley or give us a call at 215-493-5420.

Recycling Tips

 <p>✓ Recycle Mixed paper, glass, metal, aluminum & plastic can be recycled.</p>	 <p>✓ Reuse Rinse bottles and containers & remove caps/lids.</p>
 <p>✗ Plastic bags are not accepted, but they can be returned at some grocery stores.</p>	 <p>✗ Mirrors, window glass & ceramic items are not accepted.</p>
 <p>✗ Caps & lids are not accepted.</p>	 <p>✗ Paint cans & oil cans are not accepted.</p>

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Reduce, reuse, recycle. While this alliterative reminder may seem straightforward, some products aren't recyclable.

To be recycled, an item must be clean, completely dry and have all labels removed. Most products made from glass, aluminum, tin, steel, and paper are accepted for residential recycling. Some plastics – bottles, jars, jugs, and tubs – are accepted.

Common plastics such as grocery bags and polystyrene (Styrofoam) are not accepted for recycling.

While recycling is good, reusing products is even better. Avoid reusing single-use items like water bottles due to the deterioration of the plastic. Instead, use a bottle designed to be reused.

Reducing is always best. That is why I introduced H.B. 496, which would require all new public buildings to have water bottle filling stations. Visitors and employees would refill a safe reusable water bottle and reduce consumption of single-use plastics.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Update

This year's state budget provided funding for the expansion of the Property Tax Rent Rebate (PTRR) Program and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Last year, the PTRR program provided \$213.2 million in funds for seniors and disabled people. If you have questions about applying for PTRR or LIHEAP, our office is here to help. Call or come by to pick up a form. My staff can assist you with the application process.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

NEW

Participants will get an **additional, one-time payment of 70% of their 2021 rebate.**

For residents who are permanently disabled, 50+ and widowed, or 65+ with

\$35,000 household income for homeowners or

\$15,000 household income for renters

On Social Security? Half of 50K/50K income is excluded for eligibility.

Payments will be made automatically the same way you got your regular rebate by August 31st - no additional application required.



Congratulations to Dr. Felicia Ganther on her inauguration as president of Bucks County Community College!



Memorial Day parades in Newtown and Yardley



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With Upper Makefield Township Supervisor Yvette Taylor at McConkey's Market at Washington Crossing Historic Park



With Newtown Township Police Chief John Hearn and residents at Newtown's Welcome Day 2022



National Prescription Drug Takeback Day with Newtown Borough Police



The recent release of Downton Abbey: A New Era, is a reminder that Lesley Nicol, who plays the chef, Mrs. Patmore, is an advocate for humane treatment of animals. Nicol visited the Capitol in support of House Bill 1299, Victoria's Law, which would shift the pet market toward humane sources.