



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# Marty Flynn

113TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



JULY 2014

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## Budget based on transfers, gimmicks bad for Pa.

On the last day of the fiscal year, I voted against the 2014-15 state budget proposal put forth by Gov. Tom Corbett and legislative Republicans because it is built on accounting gimmicks and woefully underfunds education.

With my first term as representative more than half complete, I have learned many things. The two most important words in any piece of legislation are "may" and "shall." Another lesson I learned from the Corbett administration is that when you have a "fee increase" it is not a tax (no matter what we were taught in school). I don't know what school the administration went to, but they are not like those I attended in Lackawanna County. "May," means we are not doing it and a "fee increase," is a tax.

I sat in the House chamber all night and listened to many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle speak about history. He or she said this and that while they refused to speak about today. We were elected to lead and do the right thing now and this budget falls short of that to say the least.

Passing this budget and stealing from Peter to pay Paul is a slap in the face of all Pennsylvanians. There are no new

funding resources contained in the budget. The spending levels are close to the same as last fiscal year and will fall far short, just as we have in the past year by over a billion dollars.

Pennsylvania families can't afford budgets like this any longer. We need to expand Medicaid immediately and place a severance tax on Marcellus Shale natural-gas drilling and not use one-time fixes like raiding the state Lottery Fund, which benefits senior citizens.

We need to engage the problems of today and solve them, not pass the buck and blame yesterday.

John F. Kennedy once said: "Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future!"

On behalf of the residents in the 113th Legislative District, I thank the Republicans who voted for the budget for not increasing taxes, but I don't look forward to seeing the "fees" that will need to be raised tomorrow to pay for it.

## Enjoy the outdoors at state parks and trails



Our region is home to some of the most beautiful greenways, trails, streams, rivers and lakes.

A beautiful section of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail (LRHT) runs right through Scranton and our downtown! The trail has a crushed stone surface or pavement. People use it throughout the year for walking, jogging, bicycling, enjoying nature, exercising their dogs, socializing and fitness activities.

For more information on our trails, log on to [www.lhva.org](http://www.lhva.org).

Also, our parks include recreation and attractions for all ages!

McDade and Nay Aug Park in Scranton, Aylesworth, and Merli-Sarnoski County Parks, Covington Park, Lackawanna State Park, and Abington's Hillside Park.

This summer and fall get out and enjoy yourself in the great outdoors!

## Bill would help promote Pa.-produced products

If Pennsylvanians know that a product on the shelf was produced in our commonwealth, I'm sure they would be more likely to buy it.

That's why I am co-sponsoring legislation that would establish a "Made in PA" program to encourage Pennsylvanians to buy products made in the commonwealth.

House Bill 1800 builds on the successful PA Preferred program that the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture started in 2004 to promote food and agricultural products grown, produced or processed in the state.

The legislation would establish a new "Made in PA" logo to include a broader range of products made in Pennsylvania that are not currently covered by the blue and gold PA Preferred label.

The program would be administered by the state Department of Community and Economic Development. It would permit the use of a "Made in PA" trademark on products manufactured or produced in Pennsylvania.

The bill also would establish a database on the DCED website to help buyers identify products, locations and sources of made in Pennsylvania products.

I am hopeful that lawmakers, along with labor and business organizations, can work together to get this bill signed into law and help Pennsylvania's economy.

### HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF ITEMS THAT ARE MADE IN PENNSYLVANIA:

- Mrs. T's Pierogies, Shenandoah, Schuylkill County
- Zippo Lighters, Bradford, McKean County
- Crayola crayons and markers, Easton, Northampton County
- Harley Davidson motorcycles, York, York County
- Sylvania light bulbs, St. Marys, Elk County
- Mallo Cups, Altoona, Blair County

# Is the state holding your unclaimed property?

The state Treasurer's Office is holding \$1.9 billion in unclaimed property, and it is estimated that about one of 10 Pennsylvanians has unclaimed property.

### Unclaimed property may include:

- Closed bank accounts;
- Uncashed checks, including paychecks;
- Lost stocks and bonds;
- Contents of safe deposit boxes;
- Proceeds from the demutualization of insurance companies;
- Expired gift cards/gift certificates.

To find out whether you have unclaimed property, you can search your name, as well as your friends and family in the Unclaimed Property database at [www.patreasury.gov/Unclaimed/Search.html](http://www.patreasury.gov/Unclaimed/Search.html) or call 1-800-222-2046. There is NO CHARGE to claim your unclaimed property.

You can also stop by or contact my office at 570-342-4348. My staff will be happy to help you search the Pennsylvania Treasurer's Office website for unclaimed property for free.

# Mosquito season in full swing; here's how to fight back

## Summer is here!



For many, the long, warm days are a welcomed relief after a difficult winter. Unfortunately, the warm weather also brings the return of unwanted pests, including blood-sucking, virus-carrying mosquitoes.

In addition to being a nuisance, certain mosquito species carry the West Nile virus. In humans, the West Nile virus can cause fever, headaches and swollen glands. In rare cases, encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain that can include tremors, coma and paralysis.

The West Nile virus has already been detected this season in three Pennsylvania counties.

### Measures to help eliminate mosquito-breeding areas include:

- Properly disposing of containers and tires that hold water;
- Empty unused wading pools and don't let water stagnate in birdbaths or wheelbarrows;
- Clean clogged roof gutters;
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, and aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish.



## State help available at Co-Op Farmer's Market

This is the 75th year for the regional Scranton Area Farmers Co-Op Market, which opens July 18. If you're heading there for fresh fruits or vegetables, please note that my staff will be on-site every Friday to help with your questions and concerns about state government programs.

They are available from noon to 3 p.m. every Friday through the growing season in November to assist with Property Tax/Rent Rebate inquiries, help with Pennsylvania Treasury unclaimed property searches, and provide assistance and information on any other state-related issues. They also have important information on child safety, preventing identity theft and much more.

The open-air market at 900 Barring Ave. consists of more than 40 vendors every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from noon to 7 p.m.



*In May, Rep. Flynn provided and presented flags to numerous veterans groups and cemeteries in order to be sure that our deceased veterans were properly honored for their service. Left to right – veterans Bob Miscavage, George Leggin, Mario Tomarelli, Michael Argonish, Nick Colacicco, Rocco Valvano, Rep. Flynn, Robert Benjamin, Jack Harris, Vito Williams, Joseph DeNero, and Bill Thompson.*

*Rep. Flynn's staff and a group of volunteers conducted an electronics recycling and paper shredding drive for Earth Week, collecting over 20,000 pounds of electronic waste that will be recycled and kept out of our landfills.*



*Diocese of Scranton Bishop Joseph Bambera was Rep. Flynn's guest in offering the opening prayer to the House of Representatives. Left to right – Speaker of the House Sam Smith, Bambera, Flynn and Rep. Frank Farina.*





*In May, Rep. Flynn had the honor of participating in the Lackawanna County Armed Forces Day Parade. The celebration honoring those who have served our country began at the Gino Merli Veterans Center. Every year, these three gentlemen (left to right – Samuel Cadora, William Bernavage, and Dominic Rinaldi) take these seats of honor and review the parade – standing and saluting each time a veterans unit or flag passes. We should all hold such honor toward our veterans and the symbol of our country.*



*Rep. Flynn and his staff participated in a celebration of the 70th Anniversary of D-Day at West Scranton High School where 28 veterans, who never received their high school diploma because of military duty, were awarded graduation certificates – including a 102-year-old World War II veteran. Also participating in the ceremony and dedication were veterans and active duty soldiers. Front row, left to right: Northeast Detachment Marine Corps League Commandant Joel Sofranko; Nick Dunkailo; Second row: Vincent Carden; James McLain; Tom Rummerfield; Leo Wentline; and Moosic native Brigadier General John Gronski, Commanding General 28th Infantry Division.*

# Property Tax/Rent Rebate application deadline extended

I have some good news to share. The deadline to apply for Pennsylvania's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program has been extended from June 30 to Dec. 31.

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded.

The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975. About 600,000 households are expected to benefit from the program.

Feel free to contact my Scranton office for Property Tax/Rent Rebate claim forms or free assistance completing them. My office is located in Jay's Commons at 409 N. Main Ave. The phone number is 570-342-4348.

Please remember, there is never a fee to claim what is yours.

You may also obtain applications and related information online at [www.revenue.state.pa.us](http://www.revenue.state.pa.us) or by calling, toll free, 1-888-222-9190.

# Take precautions when hiring home improvement contractor



Pennsylvania's Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act requires all home improvement contractors, with limited exceptions, to register with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office and to display their registration number on all advertising and contracts.

To determine if a contractor is registered, you can call the Home Improvement Consumer Information Toll-Free Helpline at 1-888-520-6680 or visit [www.attorneygeneral.gov](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov).

The Pennsylvania Attorney General offers the following advice to those considering hiring a contractor:

- Thoroughly check your contractor's references.
- Obtain more than one bid for the job.
- Check for complaints filed with the Better Business Bureau.



*Three very talented West Scranton High School students presented Rep. Flynn with a portrait of President Theodore Roosevelt and one of Flynn's favorite quotes: "The Man in the Arena" to be displayed in his district office. Left to right: Staff member Thom Welby; Miana Michaylo; Emily Gerrity; P.J. Hart: Rep. Flynn and Principal Robert Gentilezza.*





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# Be the first to know!

If you want to stay in the know, be sure to visit my website and sign up for email alerts to receive updates on state and district issues – [www.pahouse.com/Flynn](http://www.pahouse.com/Flynn) – look for the “Email Alerts” tab on the left side.



[facebook.com/RepMartyFlynn](https://facebook.com/RepMartyFlynn)



[@RepFlynn](https://twitter.com/RepFlynn)



*Rep. Flynn hosted a group of students and administrators from the Scranton School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Harrisburg. While there, they saw legislative action in the House of Representatives and took a tour of the Capitol.*



*This spring, two local residents (Pat Solano and Stephanie Jallen) were honored for service to the community and achievements. Solano held numerous positions in state government and worked with 10 Pennsylvania governors and is also a decorated World War II combat veteran. Jallen is a world-class Olympian and winner of two bronze medals at the Paralympics in Sochi.*

# My office can help you with:

- ☐ Car registrations, special tags, disability placards, titles and driver’s license applications
- ☐ Information on financial assistance for higher education
- ☐ Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- ☐ Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- ☐ Unemployment compensation, disability and workers’ compensation
- ☐ Birth and death certificates
- ☐ Problems with the Department of Public Welfare (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- ☐ Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- ☐ Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- ☐ Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- ☐ Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- ☐ Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- ☐ Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- ☐ Problems or questions about the state lottery
- ☐ PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- ☐ Consumer complaints
- ☐ Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- ☐ Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups