



State Representative
Steve Samuelson
 135TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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SENIOR CITIZEN UPDATE

SPRING 2013

SENIOR FAIR MAY 17

Please join me and state Rep. Daniel McNeill at our 2013 Senior Fair!

9 A.M. TO NOON • FRIDAY, MAY 17

**East Side Youth Center
 1140 East Clair Street
 (1/2 block south of Hanover Avenue)
 Allentown, PA 18109**

The Senior Fair will feature free health screenings, refreshments and door prizes, as well as more than 50 vendors and state agencies with information on programs and services for senior citizens in our area.

Contact my office at (610) 867-3890 if you would like more information on the May 17 Senior Fair.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program application deadline is June 30

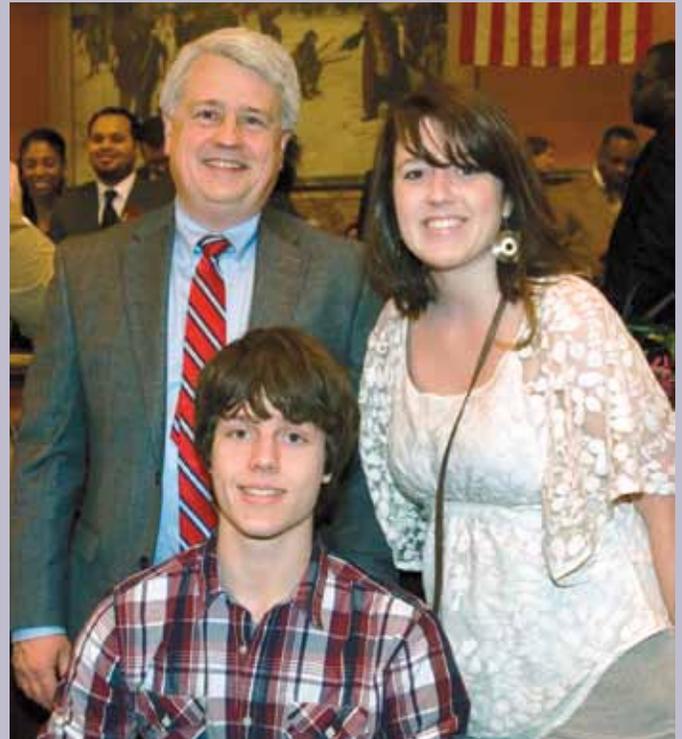
Currently, the deadline for senior citizens and others who may qualify for a state rebate on their 2012 property taxes or rent through the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is June 30, 2013. In past years, the application deadline has been extended to Dec. 31, so please contact my Bethlehem office for an update as the current June 30 deadline approaches.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program provides a state rebate on property taxes and rent to income-eligible residents who are 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with disabilities 18 or older. To be eligible, your household income must be \$35,000 or less if you are a homeowner, or \$15,000 or less if you are a renter. When applying, you only have to count half your Social Security or federal railroad retirement Tier I benefits toward your total income.

Standard rebates range from \$250 to \$650.

My staff has extensive experience in processing PTRR applications, including applications for Spanish-speaking residents.

Please contact my Bethlehem office at 610-867-3890 for free help determining if you are eligible and assistance in applying.



Rep. Samuelson is sworn in to begin the 2013-14 legislative session during ceremonies at the state Capitol on Jan. 1. Pictured with Rep. Samuelson are his daughter, Molly, and son, Michael.

Samuelson takes lead role in protecting seniors and senior services in Pennsylvania

APPOINTED DEMOCRATIC CHAIR OF AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE

In January, I was appointed by the Speaker of the House to serve as the Democratic chair of the House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee. The committee reviews all legislation pertaining to senior citizens in Pennsylvania and the services and programs that benefit them.

The committee also has oversight responsibility for the state Department of Aging and other state agencies that serve senior citizens.

The Aging and Older Adult Services Committee is one of the most important committees in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Pennsylvania currently ranks fourth in the nation in terms of the proportion of its residents who are senior citizens; nearly 15.5 percent of the state's population is 65 or older.

SERVING ON PENNSYLVANIA ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE STATE PLANNING COMMITTEE

As Democratic chair of the House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee, I am also a member of Pennsylvania's new Alzheimer's Disease State Planning Committee, which will work to address the growing Alzheimer's disease crisis in Pennsylvania. The committee was established by the governor in February of this year.

More than 400,000 Pennsylvanians are currently living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Someone new is diagnosed every 69 seconds in the United States.

The committee will examine the needs of Pennsylvania's Alzheimer's population and research trends in combating the disease. The committee will develop a plan of action to strengthen existing resources, and provide support for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease, their families and their caregivers. The committee includes representatives from various state agencies as well as those personally impacted by Alzheimer's disease.

You can find more information about the impact of Alzheimer's disease in Pennsylvania, and how the state is responding to it, by visiting my website at www.pahouse.com/Samuelson and clicking on the Alzheimer's Disease box at the top of the page.



Rep. Samuelson celebrates the governor's signing of an executive order creating the Pennsylvania Alzheimer's Disease State Planning Committee, which will work to address the growing Alzheimer's disease crisis in Pennsylvania.

Is the state holding unclaimed property for you?

1 in 10 PA residents has unclaimed property that belongs to them.

Is the state treasurer holding unclaimed property that belongs to you?

To find out, visit the treasurer's website at www.patreasury.gov and click on the "Unclaimed Property" drop-down menu along the top of the page.

You can also contact or stop by my Bethlehem office and my staff will be happy to help you search.

DISTRICT OFFICE:

Open Mon.-Fri.,

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

104 E. Broad St.

Bethlehem, PA 18018

Phone: (610) 867-3890



Pennsylvania Lottery should benefit Pennsylvania seniors

Many of the programs and services for senior citizens discussed in this newsletter, and at my May 17 Senior Fair, are funded by proceeds from the Pennsylvania Lottery, which was created in 1971 by the General Assembly exclusively to benefit older Pennsylvanians.

Now Gov. Corbett is pushing a plan to privatize management of the Pennsylvania Lottery, and has signed a contract with a company in Great Britain to do so.

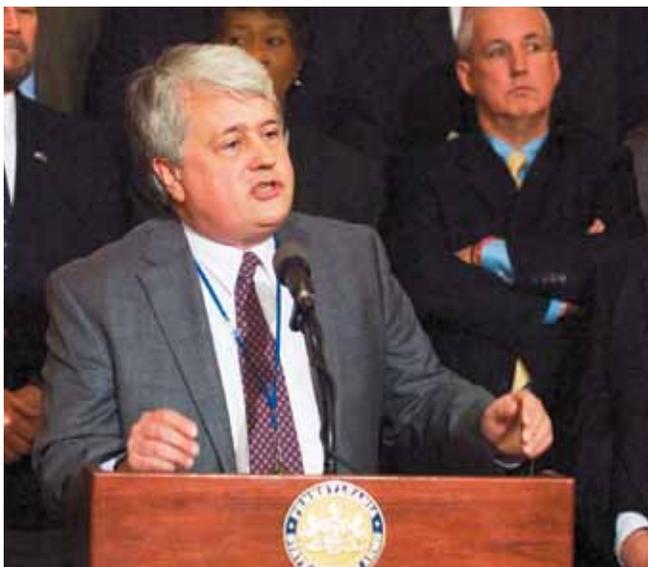
It's not at all clear why the governor is taking this step. The state-managed Pennsylvania Lottery is generally acknowledged as one of the best-run lotteries in the nation, and is a model for many other state lotteries. Administrative costs are minimal – much less than some other privately managed lotteries.

Right now, every dollar the state lottery brings in goes directly to benefit senior citizens in Pennsylvania. Under private management, millions of those dollars would be siphoned off for management and consulting fees. Also, lottery funds could be used for profits and bonuses to managers in Great Britain, and for the benefit of the Canadian teachers union that owns the management company.

The governor says if we sell off management of the Pennsylvania Lottery, he'll be able to provide an additional \$53 million for senior services in next year's budget. But I've joined in support of a House Democratic plan that would provide an additional \$120 million for senior programs next year while keeping management of the lottery – and all of the lottery proceeds – in Pennsylvania.

As Democratic chair of the House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee, I'm concerned that the governor's plan jeopardizes many of the senior services and benefits currently paid for by the lottery. The Pennsylvania Lottery was created to benefit PENNSYLVANIA senior citizens, not teachers in Canada and corporate CEOs and managers in Great Britain. Let's keep it that way.

You can watch my remarks at a recent press conference on the lottery by visiting my website at www.pahouse.com/Samuelson and clicking on the "Video" tab on the left side of the page.



At a news conference in the state Capitol, Rep. Samuelson calls for rejection of the governor's plan to privatize management of the state lottery and send millions in lottery revenues to an overseas company.

Do you have difficulty paying for your prescriptions?



PENNSYLVANIA'S PACE PROGRAM CAN HELP

PACE, PACENET and PACE plus Medicare are Pennsylvania's prescription assistance programs for senior citizens. The programs offer low-cost prescription medication to eligible Pennsylvania residents who meet the income qualifications.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible for PACE and PACENET, you must be:

- 65 or older
- A Pennsylvania resident for at least 90 days prior to application
- NOT enrolled in the Department of Public Welfare's Medicaid prescription benefit

What are the income qualifications?

PACE and PACENET eligibility is determined by your previous calendar year's income.

PACE

- For a single person, total income must be \$14,500 or less
- For a married couple, combined total income must be \$17,700 or less

PACENET

- For a single person, total income can be between \$14,500 and \$23,500
- For a married couple, combined total income can be between \$17,700 and \$31,500

What is the PACE Plus Medicare program?

Under PACE Plus Medicare, PACE/PACENET coverage is supplemented by federal Medicare Part D prescription coverage and offers older Pennsylvanians the best benefits of both programs. Older adults continue to receive the same prescription benefits while, in many cases, saving more money.

My office can provide you with more information about PACE, PACENET and PACE Plus Medicare, and help you with the application process.

Please contact my Bethlehem office at 610-867-3890.



State Representative Steve Samuelson

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Bethlehem, PA 18018

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ATTENTION VETERANS

**Learn about important services
and benefits just for you.**

The Northampton County Veterans Affairs Director Freddie Ramirez, Jr. will meet with local veterans and their families at my Bethlehem office from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, May 24.

Please feel free to share this information with any veteran you know.



As Democratic chair of the House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee, Rep. Samuelson quizzes Secretary of Aging Brian M. Duke about how the governor's budget proposal will impact senior citizens in Pennsylvania.

