



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

D-Bucks

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State Supreme Court OKs new districts for 2014 election

In early May, the state Supreme Court approved an overdue plan for reapportionment in Pennsylvania. State reapportionment, along with congressional redistricting, is required every 10 years following the U.S. Census to maintain equal representation based on population changes.

You will be hearing more about it in the next weeks and months, but the most important thing to remember for now is that the new boundaries are NOT IN EFFECT UNTIL AFTER THE NOVEMBER 2014 ELECTION!

I wanted to remind you that I will continue to be your representative for the 140th District in Harrisburg, and my office is and will remain ready to assist you in any and all

state or other governmental issues you may be dealing with.

When the new districts take full effect, the boundaries of the 140th will see some changes.

I will outline them as the time for the change gets closer. For now, though, just remember that regardless of where you live in the district, I will continue to represent you through the entire 2013-14 legislative term.

My office staff can answer any questions in the meantime.

My new Manufacturing Caucus aims to boost jobs

In May, western Pennsylvania Rep. Eli Evankovich, R-Armstrong/Westmoreland, and I met to create a House Manufacturing Caucus.

Evankovich and I developed the caucus to encourage manufacturing in the commonwealth in a bipartisan effort through a variety of methods:

- 1) Provide interaction with the manufacturing community on policies that relate to manufacturing in Pennsylvania;
- 2) Support caucus members with pro-manufacturing bills;
- 3) Provide caucus members briefings on manufacturing-related issues in Pennsylvania;
- 4) Raise the profile of the Pennsylvania manufacturing industry throughout the commonwealth; and
- 5) Provide an opportunity for visits and tours of manufacturing facilities across the commonwealth.

Supporting manufacturing is the key to creating and maintaining family-supporting jobs in Pennsylvania. Manufacturing provides over half a million jobs and supports three times as many throughout the commonwealth, and brings in hundreds of millions of

Walt Disney School dedicates new playground!

Walt Disney Elementary School in the Pennsbury School District held its third annual Walt Disney Day on March 31.

Walt Disney Day is one of the largest annual fundraisers for the local school, and the school has been using the funds to update the playground.

This year, the school dedicated the playground, and I was proud to be part of the celebration.

The annual event includes a 5K run, crafters and other vendors, an auction, raffles, prizes, entertainment and more.

Although the playground is open, the work is not done. The school will be focusing on purchasing additional equipment and landscaping the playground.

I applaud their efforts to improve the school playground through private fundraising activities!



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Supporting green ideas!

My bill would provide for renewable energy loans

In May, I introduced H.B. 1339, which would permit communities to provide low-interest loans to property owners looking to convert to sustainable energy products.

House Bill 1339 would allow for the creation of Property Assessed Clean Energy programs in Pennsylvania.

PACE programs would give townships and municipalities in Pennsylvania the option to offer sustainable energy project loans to eligible property owners. Property owners would be able to finance renewable on-site generation installations and energy efficiency improvements through voluntary assessments on their property tax bills. These financing arrangements would allow property owners to finance renewable generation and energy efficiency improvements through low-interest loans, repaid through the property owner's property tax bill.

Projects such as solar panel installation and high-efficiency heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems would be covered.

This is a real opportunity to spur homeowners and businesses to invest in green energy technologies. This bill would eliminate the biggest issue – the high up-front cost of the conversion, while limiting the risk for local governments by tying the repayment to annual property tax bills.

23 states have already passed PACE-enabling legislation, and two more allow PACE through existing authority. If we can make this bill law, then more than half of the 50 states will be on board with this energy-saving idea!

Currently, the bill is in the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee for consideration.

New electronic recycling law questions

In my previous newsletter, I explained a new state law which went into effect on Jan. 24 and prohibits the disposal of most electronic items into landfills.

Under the new law, if you put a TV or computer out for trash pickup, the collector is not allowed to take it. If you put out an item which is banned under the new law, you will not be fined, but your trash collecting service is required to leave it at your curb.

There is some confusion associated with the law, as recyclers are still evaluating their collection policies.

Electronics such as TVs, monitors, laptops and other computer items must be recycled by either a designated recycling facility, the equipment manufacturer or at a special electronic recycling event.

Large appliances, and items which contain Freon, such as refrigerators, must be disposed of through scrap metal agencies.

Each agency listed below may have specific requirements for their drop-off procedures and, in fact, may limit the number of and sizes of items they accept. Large items, such as televisions, may only be collected at specific times, so I urge you to use the provided phone numbers to contact the agency before you take a specific item.

Local drop-off locations are as follows:

- Waste Management – 1224 Hayes Blvd., Bristol – 215-788-6550 – covered devices
- Sims Metal Management – 300 Steel Road South, Morrisville – 215-295-4206 – covered devices only
- Best Buy – 310 Commerce Drive, Fairless Hills – 215-949-3006 – covered devices and other e-waste
- Staples – 2339 E. Lincoln Highway, Langhorne – 215-547-9880
- Goodwill Keystone Area – 2637 Street Road, Bensalem – 215-638-1540 – covered devices and other electronics
- E-Waste Experts, Inc. - 416 Green Lane, Bristol - 877-328-2927 – all electronics

Cell phones and PDAs are not covered under this new law. They may still be disposed of through the trash, but I urge you to erase all the data on these devices if you do throw them out.

There will also be a community electronic and household waste collection event on Saturday, Aug. 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bucks County Technical High School, 610 Wistar Road, Bristol Township.

Scenes from this year's property tax/rent rebate events. My staff works with seniors and other constituents who may be eligible for refunds for property tax or rent paid in the previous calendar

year. My events this year were held Feb. 28 at the Bristol Borough Area Adult Activity Center, March 7 at the Falls Township Senior Center in Fairless Hills and March 14 in the Morrisville Senior Servicenter. Look for information on next year's events early next year.



Budget must focus on transportation issues

As you receive this newsletter, the state's annual budget circus will be well under way.

This year, there are many topics being discussed along with the budget, including a continuing effort to privatize the Pennsylvania Lottery, several plans to change liquor sales in the state, pension funding issues and transportation.

I hope that the budget discussions stay on track and do not become a swap meet, with these different ideas all tied in to the budget and used as bait to get votes.

I do believe we need to look at transportation and infrastructure issues as an integral part of this year's budget, not as part of a negotiating tactic.

State funding for bridges and roads has been far below what is necessary just to maintain our current roads.

The average bridge in Pennsylvania is about 50 years old, and our highways were not designed for the traffic volume we have today.

There are more than 4,000 state-owned bridges listed as structurally deficient – meaning they are currently safe but in need of significant repairs – or closed or posted with vehicle weight limits. Pennsylvania has had

one major bridge collapse – Interstate 70 in 2005 – and several smaller collapses as well.

In 2010, the governor appointed a 40-member Transportation Funding Advisory Commission (TFAC) to “develop a comprehensive, strategic proposal for addressing the transportation funding needs of Pennsylvania.” In August 2011, the TFAC provided a report to Gov. Corbett with recommendations to raise \$2.5 billion in new annual transportation revenue. You can read the report online at www.tfac.pa.gov.

The governor has so far ignored the report his own hand-selected committee drafted because one of the major components of the funding recommendations included lifting a cap on the Oil Company Franchise Tax, which is paid by fuel distributors. Phasing out the cap over five years could generate \$1.4 billion in year five and beyond.

The structural integrity of our roads and bridges must be a vital concern. We all use them daily, and the trucking and shipping industries which are so important to Pennsylvania's economy rely on our roads to transfer goods throughout the northeastern United States.



MANUFACTURING CAUCUS

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dollars in tax revenue each year. It is in our best interest to help the industries grow.

We will both be encouraging our colleagues to join us in support of more and better jobs for all Pennsylvanians.

The House and Senate both use special caucuses like this as a method to cross party lines and find common ground on specific topics.

The true meaning of Memorial Day

This Memorial Day, I was honored to be invited to speak at the Falls Township American Legion Post 834 in Levittown on Sunday, May 26.

It is always a humbling experience to salute the brave men and women who serve and have served, especially those who made the biggest sacrifice for our freedom.

As we recognize the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg this year, it is only proper to recall some of Lincoln's words during his Gettysburg Address, probably the most articulate and dramatic brief speech in the history of the United States:

“that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

The bravery of all the soldiers we saluted on Memorial Day has helped ensure Lincoln's vision that the nation has not perished.



Rep. Galloway at the annual American Legion Post 834 Memorial Day parade in Levittown.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for my **7th Annual Senior Fair!**

**I will be hosting my annual Senior Fair on
Thursday, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.,
Westaby Hall, 425 Hood Blvd., Fairless Hills.**

Government, nonprofit agencies and local businesses will have information on programs and services benefiting local senior citizens.

While this event is still in the planning phase, I expect to be able to offer the following:

- Free blood pressure screenings
- Free hearing loss screenings
- Sign-up for senior SEPTA pass
- Door prizes and giveaways
- Light refreshments

My staff and I will be available to answer your questions.

Look for more information near the end of summer.

Bucks County St. Patrick's Day parade celebrates 25 years!

One of my highlights every year is the annual Bucks County St. Patrick's Day Parade. I love the pageantry and music, and pointing out that the Bristol Ancient Order of Hibernians Division # 1 is the oldest division in the United States!

My brother, George, was instrumental in the planning of the initial event, 25 years ago, and remains actively involved in the annual planning as the Parade Committee chair.

This year, the weather did not deter the celebration! Even though it was cold and snowy, almost 2,000 people marched in the parade, donning their colorful costumes and dancing to Irish music.

Rep. Galloway served as grand marshal of the 2011 Bucks County St. Patrick's Day Parade. He is joined by Tom Mullarkey, past Grand Marshall, of Fairless Hills. Galloway has also served as a former president and treasurer of the parade committee.

