



State Representative • 172nd Legislative District

Kevin J. Boyle



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Spring 2014

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REPS. KEVIN & BRENDAN BOYLE SPEAK OUT ON NORTHEAST FACTORY CLOSURE

My brother, state Rep. Brendan Boyle, and I find the explanation and rationale behind Mondelez International's closure of its operations at the old Kraft plant unacceptable. While Mondelez asks the public to believe that they are closing a proven premium resource in order to take the next step in innovation and effectiveness, the reality couldn't be further from the truth.

Together, with state Senator Mike Stack, we offered to work with Mondelez in order to prioritize their needs and open up a new and state of the art factory right here in Philadelphia. This offer included invitations to tour the region, which never received a response. We were willing to provide incentives to keep the company here. In addition to these incentives, the hardworking people of Northeast Philadelphia, through their proven commitment and work ethic, would have taken Mondelez to a whole new level. Instead Mondelez held its employees hostage by demanding cuts to their pay and benefits.

It is clear, through their decision not to consider our offers and invitations, that Mondelez International's decision to close the factory at Roosevelt Boulevard and Byberry Rd. was driven by profits over people. It is sad and deplorable that they placed short term profits over what could have truly been the establishment of an elite and invaluable factory in one of the leading manufacturing regions of the United States.



Rep. Boyle speaks out against the closure of the old Kraft plant in the Northeast.



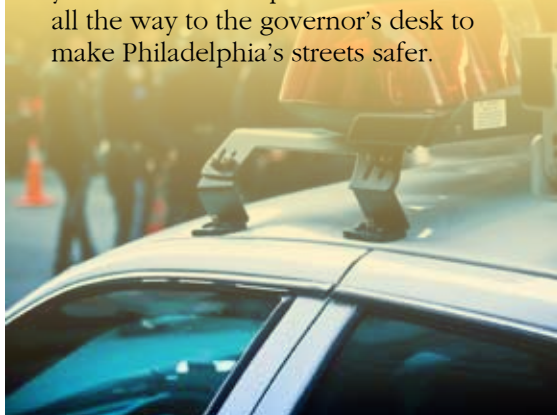
Rep. Boyle and actor Tony Danza participate in Read Across America at Fox Chase Elementary School.

BILL TO IMPROVE CITY PRISONER TRANSFERS OK'D BY COMMITTEE

Almost every day, prisoners are transported across our city between prisons and to and from court appearances. All of these transfers can potentially lead to problems if there are traffic issues and one of the prisoner transport units gets in an accident. To reduce the chance of these transports running into complications, I introduced a bill to provide an emergency vehicle designation for Philadelphia Prison System prisoner transport units.

By designating the prisoner transport units as emergency vehicles, they would be able to utilize flashing lights and sirens. Currently, prison transports are subject to high volume traffic, which poses a risk when moving prisoners from location to location. Also, the complex infrastructure of the City of Philadelphia makes it necessary for prisoner transport units to have a clear path to facilities. Granting prisoner transport vehicles emergency vehicle designation will allow them to operate using flashing lights, which will reduce risks associated with prisoner transfer.

I am proud to announce that my bill, House Bill 1317, recently was approved by the House Transportation Committee. I assure you I will lead the push for this bill all the way to the governor's desk to make Philadelphia's streets safer.



WE MUST MANDATE HOLOCAUST EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOLS

I recently joined my brother, Rep. Brendan Boyle, at the state Capitol to host survivors of the Holocaust.

The group arrived early in the morning to lobby elected officials to pass legislation that would require Pennsylvania schools to teach students about the Holocaust and genocide. We all stood in the main rotunda of the state Capitol for a news conference, where I stated my disbelief that we aren't already mandating that this be taught to Pennsylvania students. I believe that the Holocaust was the most evil event in human history and teaching students about it is essential to prevent future atrocities.

Brendan's legislation, House Bill 176, awaits action in the House Education Committee. Last year, an amendment mandating Holocaust awareness education came one vote short of being adopted by the House, so we are hopeful it will pass this year.



Rep. Boyle speaks in the Capitol Rotunda at a rally for legislation that would mandate schools teach students about the Holocaust.

PROTECTING PACE/PACENET ELIGIBILITY FOR SENIORS

Thousands of Pennsylvania senior citizens will keep their prescription drug coverage under legislation that I voted for, and which is now Act 12 of 2014. The new law maintains eligibility for Pennsylvania seniors in PACE and PACENET if their Social Security cost-of-living adjustment pushes them over the income eligibility limit through 2015. Without this legislative fix, more than 40,000 seniors could have lost their prescription drug coverage because their relatively small cost-of-living increase pushed them over the income limit. This could have ended up costing them hundreds or even thousands of dollars a year in prescription benefits.

Act 12 also lets applicants exclude the cost of their Medicare Part B premiums from being counted as income. Those premiums, which cover certain doctors' services, outpatient care, medical supplies and preventive services, are automatically deducted from a person's Social Security before the check is direct-deposited. This change helps an additional 8,200 seniors qualify for PACE or PACENET.



GOVERNOR FINALLY GIVES UP ON EFFORTS TO PRIVATIZE THE LOTTERY

Gov. Tom Corbett announced on Dec. 30 that he had dropped his efforts to sell the Pennsylvania Lottery's management. I have opposed this privatization maneuver and applauded the decision.

In July, the Department of Revenue

reported that the Pennsylvania Lottery set sales records in the 2012-13 fiscal year with \$3.7 billion in sales, an increase of more than 6 percent from a year ago. The lottery earned more than \$1 billion in profits, while keeping the total administrative costs at just 2.07 percent of sales. These records for sales and profits only raised more questions about why the Corbett administration tried for more than a year to execute a private management agreement with a British company.

I am upset, however, that the governor spent millions of state dollars to pursue this bad idea, which the state Attorney General's

Office found unconstitutional over a year ago. The governor wasted an estimated \$4.6 million, more than 11 percent of the lottery's annual operating budget, in pursuit of his plan. It's a shame that this money was not directed toward programs for senior citizens. That amount of money could have provided more than 213,000 additional prescriptions; over 1.7 million additional free transit rides; over 9,000 additional property tax rebates; or provided \$84,800 more in funding for each of the 52 Area Agencies on Aging.

The lottery has a sterling record of producing record sales and profits, and the governor's proposal would have taken money from programs and services that Pennsylvania seniors need and sent it to a foreign firm. I am glad he finally gave up on this misguided plan.

GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET ONCE AGAIN FAILS PENNSYLVANIA

Gov. Tom Corbett recently released his proposed 2014-15 budget and again it fails the people of Pennsylvania. After cutting almost \$1 billion in funding for public schools in his previous budgets, the governor's proposed budget does very little to address the shortfall that has resulted in increased class sizes, staff cuts and rapidly rising property taxes. Obviously, education funding is not a priority of the Corbett administration, and unfortunately, the burden of educating our children has fallen to local taxpayers, who will continue to see increased property taxes.

Instead of restoring funds to programs that have been proven to work, the governor wants to massively increase Pennsylvania's debt to help pay for new, unproven election-year education competitive grant programs and small increases in a handful of other programs.

I am also frustrated because these education cuts could be reversed if the governor would enact a nominal, competitive extraction tax on gas drilling companies. Every other gas-producing state in the nation has a tax on Marcellus Shale drilling, and to refuse to do so in Pennsylvania is irresponsible.

In addition, our state is losing significant tax revenue because many companies avoid paying the Corporate Net Income tax using a gimmick called the Delaware

tax loophole. It works like this: A company creates a shell company in a tax-haven state like Delaware. This "subsidiary" has no employees and is often nothing more than a post office box. The company then funnels its profits through the shell company, leaving no apparent income on the books in Pennsylvania.

With a reasonable tax on natural gas drillers and closing the Delaware tax loophole we could provide our schools with adequate funding.

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Rep. Boyle addresses the audience at the baseball field naming ceremony at Fox Chase Playground for deceased firefighter Daniel Sweeney. Sgt. Sweeney lost his life while protecting the citizens of Philadelphia.



Rep. Boyle had the honor to present House citations to members of a troop operating out of St. Cecilia's Church on moving up from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts.

PROPERTY TAX/ RENT REBATE FORMS AVAILABLE

There's good news for older adults and residents with disabilities: my office has received Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms for taxes or rent paid in 2013.

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, half of Social Security income is excluded.

The maximum standard rebate is \$650. About 600,000 households are expected to benefit from the program.

Applicants may obtain Property Tax/Rent Rebate claim forms (PA-1000) and related information online at www.revenue.state.pa.us, by calling 1-888-222-9190, or contacting my office.



JUDGE STRIKES DOWN PA'S VOTER ID LAW

A Commonwealth Court judge recently struck down the state's voter ID law, which was enacted two years ago despite my strong objections. I opposed the law because it would disenfranchise the elderly, the poor and students. Had it been carried out as written, it likely would have cost thousands of Pennsylvanians the most important right in a democracy – the right to vote.

This needless law also has cost the state millions of dollars that would have been better spent on priorities such as education, instead of making it more difficult, if not impossible, for many people to vote.

In his 103-page ruling, Judge Bernard L. McGinley said the law would unjustly burden the fundamental right to vote and that, "Voting laws are designed to assure a free and fair election; the Voter ID Law does not further this goal."

As a result, you will NOT be required to show an ID when you vote, including in the upcoming Primary Election in May, except if you are voting for the first time in a polling place. This is a huge victory for our constitutional rights.

LEADING THE CHARGE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTHEAST

I have been leading the charge in the Northeast to bring much-needed development to our area. The City Planning Commission has been holding meetings across the city, including several in our area, to create a physical development plan for the entire city, and we are working to ensure that our area is included in the plan. This is especially important because since the 1990s, much of the neighborhood development in the city has focused on Center City.

A lot of Northeast Philadelphia development happened during the post-World War II days, following the Levittown mindset. We can change that by bringing people my age, 34 and younger, who want that sense of community with restaurants and shops, to settle down and raise a family in Northeast Philadelphia. Initial ideas include streetscaping, pedestrian walkways and mixed-use development.

The City Planning Commission will come up with a final plan this winter, which I am working to ensure includes the Northeast. This plan is part of Philadelphia 2035, the first citywide development blueprint since 1960.

LEADING THE WAY TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM WAGE

I co-sponsored a bill to increase the state's minimum wage as an effort to help struggling families pay their bills and reduce their reliance on government assistance programs.

The bill, H.B. 1896, would increase the minimum wage to \$9 per hour and then to \$10.10 per hour a year later. The current minimum wage, \$7.25 per hour, simply does not provide a livable wage. For example, a single mother with two children who works 40 hours per week, for 52 weeks a year, makes \$15,080. This is almost \$4,500 below the poverty line, which is \$19,530 for a household of three, requiring many people to use government assistance programs just to get by.

Increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour would boost the earnings of a full-time worker by more than \$5,900 to \$21,008, which would be enough to move a family of three out of poverty.

The effects of the low wage are especially felt by women, who account for two-thirds of workers earning minimum wage. This bill would benefit an estimated 855,000 low-wage workers, including 514,000 women.

As the economy continues to sputter, many people are struggling to pay bills, put food on their tables and provide for their families. Salaries are stagnant while inflation has driven up the cost of just about everything we buy. The time has come to give Pennsylvania's low-wage workers a raise.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is now available for students planning to attend a college or university in the fall. Information from the FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for federal grants, the Pennsylvania State Grant program, scholarships, reduced-cost federal loans, work-study programs, and many school-based scholarships and financial aid programs.

The FAFSA may be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Items required to fill out the application include Social Security numbers, the student's driver's license, W-2 forms, federal income tax return and current bank statements.

Pennsylvania students and families can also find more information about the FAFSA by going online to www.PHEAA.org/FAFSA. The website also offers a list of information that will be needed in order to submit a complete application.

This is a vital step that students and families should take when looking into financial assistance for higher education. College preparation is a very busy time packed with deadlines so I encourage prospective students to fill out the FAFSA form as soon as possible.



Reps. Kevin and Brendan Boyle join Sen. Shirley Kitchen at the groundbreaking for a project on the property of Medical Mission Sisters in Fox Chase called Mission Green, which will create housing for people living with disabilities.

FILE YOUR TAXES FOR FREE

You may qualify to file your state and federal tax returns simultaneously for free using reputable tax preparation software. Go to www.pafreefile.com and answer a couple of questions to determine which e-file options you qualify for. The two options include:

■ Free File tax software – available online from reputable vendors. It prepares state and federal filings simultaneously for free for individuals with federal adjusted gross income of \$58,000 or less for the tax year.

■ Free File fillable forms – online versions of tax forms designed for people comfortable preparing their own tax returns. These forms include basic math calculations and are generally available to all Pennsylvania taxpayers except nonresidents and part-year residents. These forms can be filed electronically for free or may be printed and mailed to the department.



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INSIDE:

- Leading the charge for development in the Northeast
- Bill to improve city prisoner transfers OK'd by committee
- State programs

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FREE

Save the date for this upcoming event!

DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 5 | 11 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

State Rep. Kevin Boyle's District Office

7801 Hasbrook Ave. (Hasbrook Ave. and Hartel Ave.) | Philadelphia, PA 19111 | **Rain date: April 6**

Bring personal financial documents that are no longer needed, and any other papers with confidential information, such as account numbers and signatures. The documents will be shredded on site. You can bring up to 4 shopping bags of personal documents to be shredded on site and recycled.

Examples of items to bring:

- Documents containing Social Security, credit card and bank account numbers
- Credit card applications
- Canceled or unused checks
- Insurance and income tax records
- Bank and credit card statements
- Pension information

Please call my district office at (215) 331-2600 for more information.

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
- Assistance in 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
- Notary services
- 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