



State Representative • 172nd Legislative District

# Kevin J. Boyle



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**Winter 2015**

**DISTRICT OFFICES: Fox Chase** – 7801-A Hasbrook Ave. • Philadelphia, PA 19111 • (215) 695-1016

**Mayfair** – 7420 Frankford Ave. • Philadelphia, PA 19136 • (215) 331-2600

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## WELCOME TO THE NEW 172ND DISTRICT

Dear friends and residents of the 172nd Legislative District:

Due to the reapportionment based on the 2010 Census, you are a resident of the 172nd Legislative District.

Many of you have resided in the district for years, but some of you have recently had your district changed to the 172nd. Welcome!

My staff and I pride ourselves on being attentive to your needs, concerns and requests.

Feel free to call my Fox Chase constituent service office at 215-695-1016 or my Mayfair office at 215-331-2600.

I look forward to meeting and serving you.

Kevin Boyle  
State Representative  
172nd Legislative District

## BOYLE ELECTED CO-VICE CHAIRMAN OF PHILADELPHIA DELEGATION

In November, the Philadelphia County Delegation in the House of Representatives selected its leadership team for the 2015-16 legislative session. Rep. Boyle was chosen as a co-vice chairman along with Reps. Jordan Harris and Steve Kinsey. Rep. Cherelle L. Parker was re-elected chairwoman. The Philadelphia Delegation supports legislation in Harrisburg that will benefit the city of Philadelphia.

“I look forward to working with Chairwoman Parker and the entire Philadelphia Delegation,” Boyle said. “These are challenging times for working families in our neighborhoods. I’m committed to making Northeast Philadelphia’s voice heard in our state Capitol.”

In the last legislative session, the Philadelphia delegation worked in a bipartisan manner to pass legislation that forces tax-delinquent landlords to pay their fair share; provided funds to fix Pennsylvania’s roads and bridges, putting over 1,000 Pennsylvanians back to work; and allocated more funding for the Philadelphia school district and schools in our neighborhoods.

“I am excited to work with Philadelphia’s 27 other state reps. to push for legislation that will protect our neighborhoods, fully fund our schools, and enhance our quality of life here in the Northeast,” Boyle said.



*Rep. Boyle participates with Reps. Mike Driscoll and John Taylor in an Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) check presentation with the Bridge Educational Foundation at Father Judge High School.*



*Rep. Boyle greets local residents at the 2014 Fox Chase National Night Out.*

## FOX CHASE MOVES TO TOP OF PLANNING COMMISSION'S PROJECT LIST

City Planner Mike Thompson recently announced that the "Fox Chase Town Center" has moved to the top of projects in the City Planning Commission's Philadelphia2035 project. Fox Chase Town Center includes the Oxford Avenue and Rhawn Street business corridors.

The planning commission launched Philadelphia2035 over four years ago to develop a long-term plan to improve physical development throughout the city. Fox Chase is part of the Central Northeast plan, which also includes Rhawnhurst, Lexington Park and Bell's Corner, along with portions of Lawndale, Upper Northwood and Castor Gardens.

The plan cites several concerns about the Fox Chase area, which includes a shortage of parking, a lack of sidewalks in some areas and property uses that do not conform to the zoning code. The plan recommends several specific projects, including the conversion of SEPTA's abandoned Fox Chase-Newtown Line into a park trail, the installation of sidewalks along Oxford Avenue from Hartel to Shelmire and reconfiguring the parking at the train station to increase capacity.

"This is very exciting news for the residents of Fox Chase and the entire Northeast," Boyle said. "I am thrilled that the city has decided to focus on our area because we have been seeking some of these improvements for years. I will do all I can to obtain any possible state funding that could be used to complete these projects."

## HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Pennsylvania's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program – LIHEAP – is now open for applications, a window expected to close April 3. LIHEAP helps low-income families pay their heating bills.

LIHEAP provides two types of grants: a cash grant sent directly to the utility company to pay a portion of the resident's fuel bill; and a crisis grant for households in immediate danger of being without heat, such as a furnace failure or unexpected fuel shortages.

LIHEAP cash grants – based on household income, family size, type of heating fuel and region – range from \$100 to \$1,000 in 2014-15. LIHEAP crisis grants will range from \$25 to \$500.

The income guidelines for both LIHEAP cash and crisis grants are \$17,505 for one person and add \$6,090 for each additional person in the household.

Residents who received a LIHEAP grant last season should have already received a postcard or a 2014-15 LIHEAP application with a registration number.

Those who did not receive LIHEAP last season may obtain an application by contacting Rep. Boyle's office, calling LIHEAP directly at 1-866-857-7095, or applying online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us).

## APPLICATIONS FOR PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program provides a state rebate of up to \$650 on 2014 property taxes or rent to income-eligible residents who are 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and persons 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 retirement benefits toward your total income.

Social Security cost-of-living adjustments that push applicants over the limit no longer disqualify applicants, because of a new law enacted last year.

You can obtain information about the program, an application and help applying through Rep. Boyle's office.

For more information, visit <http://is.gd/PaPTRR>. You may also call 1-888-222-9190.



*Rep. Boyle's holiday food drive provided a local food pantry with over 300 pounds of food last year.*

## THANK YOU FOR MAKING FOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS

For the past several years, Rep. Boyle's office has hosted a food drive during the holiday season to benefit residents in the 172nd District. Last year, thanks to your generous donations, over 300 pounds of food were donated to a local food pantry that services more than 2,000 families in the area. Both his Mayfair and Fox Chase district offices continue to collect donations of nonperishable food items throughout the year and plan to make another donation in conjunction with Rep. Boyle's H.R. 48, recognizing March 20 as "March for Meals Day" in Pennsylvania.



*Rep. Boyle speaks at a rally in Harrisburg for reasonable gun safety legislation, which includes his bill to prohibit the sale of large capacity ammunition magazines.*

## CHOOSING AN ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER CAN SAVE YOU MONEY

Last winter was filled with brutally cold temperatures for extended periods, which required heavy utility usage to stay warm. Many who use electric heat were shocked by electricity rates doubling and tripling, or even more, from month to month. It pays to take steps to prevent electric rate shock.

Check your current provider contract to determine if your rate is fixed or variable.

Check your contract to determine when your rate agreement expires. Your provider is supposed to send a notice at least 45 days before your current contract expires, allowing you time to evaluate other options, including selecting a different provider.

You can also contact your current supplier for information regarding your rate plan. They can tell you whether your plan includes fixed or variable rates, the contract expiration date and whether your current contract includes a cancellation fee.

Visit [www.papowerswitch.com](http://www.papowerswitch.com), the Public Utility Commission's electric choice website, to compare prices and options.

You will want to consider actual price, amount of renewable energy, length of contract and any early termination fees.

Look for a good fixed rate, as the variable rates may be a bit cheaper initially but have the potential to rise on a regular basis, with no limits.

This is very important because changing your provider can take up to 40 days to take effect. As of now, the change does not happen until your regularly scheduled monthly meter reading.

To start shopping for an electricity provider, visit [www.papowerswitch.com](http://www.papowerswitch.com) and click on the "Shop for Electric Suppliers" tab.

## REP. BOYLE ACCEPTED INTO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Rep. Boyle was recently named one of the country's "rising political stars" after being accepted into the Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellowship in Public Leadership program.

Each year, 24 fellows are identified and selected by the program's leadership as America's emerging political leaders with reputations for intellect, thoughtfulness and a commitment to civil dialogue.

The program is designed to bring together elected officials who have demonstrated an outstanding ability to work responsibly across partisan divisions and bring greater civility to public discourse.

"I am honored to be selected to participate in this prestigious program," Boyle said. "I look forward to working with some of the best and brightest leaders from across the country. This collaboration will make us all better leaders and allow us to better serve our constituents."

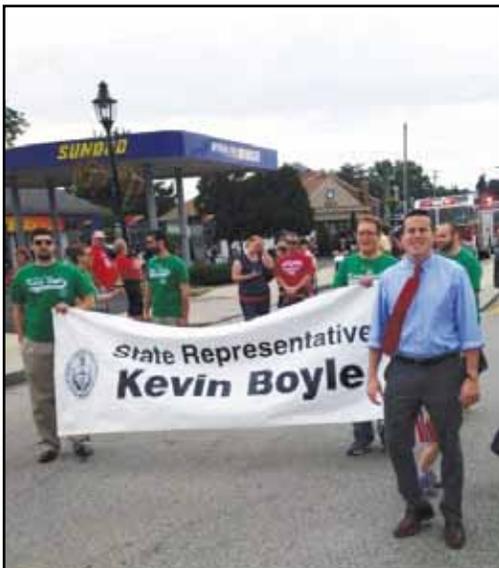
According to the Aspen Institute, the fellowship program seeks to enhance our democracy by identifying and bringing together the nation's most promising young political leaders to explore the underlying values and principles of western democracy and the responsibilities of public leadership; to support and inspire political leaders committed to sustaining the vision of a political system based on thoughtful and civil bipartisan dialogue; and to help America's brightest young leaders achieve their fullest potential in public service.

Prior fellows include Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Congressman Paul Ryan, HUD Secretary Julian Castro, California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom and former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords.

The Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellowship in Public Leadership is a nongovernmental, nonpartisan educational program for men and women, ideally under age 50, holding elective office at the state, local or federal level. The Rodel Fellowship program provides an opportunity for our country's young leaders to analyze and discuss historical texts and contemporary commentaries on topics such as democracy and leadership.

## ISSUANCE OF 2ND PHILADELPHIA GAMING LICENSE

In November, the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board granted Philadelphia's second casino license. Stadium Casino, LLP received a permit to operate a casino-hotel at the stadium complex in South Philadelphia. The company currently operates the Parx Casino in Bensalem, Bucks County. SugarHouse Casino, located in the Fishtown neighborhood of the city, opened in September 2010. Dates have yet to be set for groundbreaking and construction of this new casino.



*Rep. Boyle participates in the Rockledge 4th of July parade.*



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## PA. TREASURY MAY BE HOLDING YOUR UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Each year, the state Treasurer's Office receives millions of dollars of unclaimed property. It is estimated that roughly one in 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; and
- Proceeds from the demutualization of insurance companies

To find out if you or someone you know has unclaimed property, search your name and the names of your friends and family in the Unclaimed Property database at <http://is.gd/unclaimedproperty> or call 1-800-222-2046. There is NO CHARGE to claim your unclaimed property. Please feel free to contact Rep. Boyle's office at 215-331-2600. Rep. Boyle and his staff are happy to help you search the database.

## HELP FIX POTHOLES WITH 1-800-FIX-ROAD

It's that time of year again when potholes begin to appear on our roads. There is something you can do to help get potholes filled. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has a toll-free phone number motorists can call to report potholes and other highway maintenance concerns on state routes.

The phone number is available year-round for concerns, such as shoulder drop offs, roadway washouts, potholes and damaged guide rails.

The hotline is staffed between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. On weekends, holidays and after normal business hours, complaints are recorded by a voice mail system.

Callers should be as specific as possible when providing the location of the maintenance concern, and report the county, municipality, street name and state route number, which can be found on small black-and-white signs posted along state highways. Callers also should provide a description of any familiar landmarks that would help PennDOT find the problem area.

The number is 1-800-FIX-ROAD or 1-800-349-7623.

## REP. BOYLE'S OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap 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
  - Issues with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
  - Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
  - Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
  - Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
  - Inquiries about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
  - Issues with insurance companies
  - Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
  - Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
  - 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
  - Information about federal, state and local government agencies
- Any state-government related matters!