



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Marty Flynn
 113TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



WINTER 2016

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Is the state holding your unclaimed property?

The state Treasurer's Office is holding \$2.3 billion in unclaimed property, and it is estimated that about one of 10 Pennsylvanians has unclaimed property.

Please stop by or contact my office at 570-342-4348 and my staff will be happy to help you search the Pennsylvania Treasurer's Office website for unclaimed property for free. **Since my office starting assisting people with their searches, we have helped to recover more than \$200,000.**

Unclaimed property may include:

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

If you can't make it into my office, you can search your name, as well as your friends and family, in the Unclaimed Property database at www.patreasury.gov/Unclaimed/Search.html or call 1-800-222-2046.



Children's Health Insurance Program extended

A new law, which I voted for, extends the state's Children's Health Insurance Program, CHIP, through the end of 2017.

CHIP covers immunizations, wellness checkups, prescriptions, dental, vision and hearing services, diagnostic testing, emergency care, mental health benefits, and hospitalization, as well as substance abuse rehabilitation and other services.

CHIP coverage is available to any child in Pennsylvania whose family earns too much to qualify for Medicaid, but can't afford to purchase private insurance or isn't covered by an employer.

For an average four-person family, CHIP is free if household income is \$32,253 to \$50,440, low cost if the household income is \$50,440 to \$76,145, or full cost if the household income exceeds \$76,145. Premiums vary, depending on the carrier.

If your child doesn't have health insurance, or if you know of a child who isn't covered, you can find out more about CHIP, including providers in your area, and how to enroll at www.chipcoverspakids.com/ or by contacting my office at 570-342-4348.



State Rep. Marty Flynn in an "after" photo of one of the support structures for the Lackawanna Avenue bridge that he helped to clean from graffiti. This is in addition to the many underpasses, other bridges, buildings and fences that have been cleaned up as part of Flynn's commitment to eliminating blight in the 113th District.

Free notary service at my office

You can have most official documents notarized for free in my district office in Jay's Commons, 409 N. Main Ave., Scranton. Please call ahead – 570-342-4348 – to make sure the notary is in the office and can accommodate your type of document.

The person whose signature is to be notarized must sign the document in person in the presence of the notary and provide proof of identity such as a valid driver's license, photo ID card or passport. Please let my staff know if witnesses are needed, in addition to the notary, for your documents. My office has a limit of five notarizations per person.

Helping our heroes

To help veterans better access services and programs available to them, I want to encourage them to register with a new online Pennsylvania Veterans Registry.

The registry, operated by the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, is an online application that allows veterans to request information related to valuable state benefits, programs and services offered by the agency.

The registry features responsive design technology to make it accessible on mobile devices and computers. A registrant's information will be shared with the appropriate county Veterans Affairs Office and other relevant commonwealth agencies to facilitate local connections that aid in providing services to the veteran.

The site can be accessed at <https://register.dmvva.pa.gov/>, or visit my office and we can help you to register.



Persian Gulf veterans program deadline extended

The application deadline for the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans Benefit Program has been extended to Aug. 31, 2018.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, since 2008, the state has compensated more than 11,500 veterans for their service in the Persian Gulf conflict.

I voted for the law that extended the program.

The bonus pays \$75 per month for qualifying, active-duty service members, up to \$525 maximum. For personnel who died or whose death was related to illness or injury received in the line of duty in Operations Desert Shield or Desert Storm, there is an additional \$5,000 available to the surviving family. Service members who were declared prisoners of war also may be eligible for an additional \$5,000.

To qualify for the program, applicants must have:

- Served with the U.S. Armed Forces, a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces or the Pennsylvania National Guard.
- Served on active duty in the Persian Gulf Theater of Operations between Aug. 2, 1990, and Aug. 31, 1991.
- Been a legal resident of Pennsylvania at the time of active duty service.
- Been discharged from active duty under honorable conditions, if not currently on active duty.
- Received the Southwest Asia Service Medal.

For more information on how to apply, visit www.persiangulfbonus.pa.gov.

Property Tax/ Rent Rebate forms available

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program application forms for the 2015 tax year are available at my office, and my staff is ready to help you file yours **for free**.

Applications are also available online at www.revenue.pa.gov or by calling 1-888-222-9190.

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 and the maximum standard rebate is \$650.

Social Security cost-of-living adjustments no longer disqualify those applying for a rebate; and claims filed on behalf of claimants who lived at least one day during the claim year and meet all other eligibility criteria will be paid.

Claimants must reapply for rebates every year because they are based on annual income and property taxes or rent paid each year.

The deadline to apply for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2015 is June 30, 2016, and the rebates normally are distributed beginning July 1. So, the sooner you file, the sooner you will receive your money!



Residents of the 113th Legislative District helped Rep. Marty Flynn this winter to collect over 2,000 coats that were distributed at area schools and social service organizations. Blankets and school uniforms also were donated and distributed to those in need.



Monthly outreach events

Every month, my office hosts several outreach events to help you access state programs and services. To schedule an appointment for any of these efforts, please call my office at 570-342-4348. My regular office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Jay's Commons, 409 N. Main Ave., Scranton.

Medicare – 2nd Monday

I host a Medicare outreach session on the second Monday of the month where an Apprise counselor is available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in my office to help answer questions about Medicare, Medicare Advantage, Medigap, Medicare drug plans, PACE/PACENET and various other low-income assistance programs, such as the Medicare Savings Program and Extra Help.

Mobile Constituent Service – 3rd Wednesday

My staff holds constituent outreach visits, alternating between South Abington Township and Clarks Green, from 9 a.m. to noon on the third Wednesday of the month. They will be at the Clarks Green Borough Building, 104 N. Abington Road, in March, May, July, September and November; and at the South Abington Township Building (2nd floor meeting room) 104 Shady Lane Road, Chinchilla, in April, June, August, October and December.

Veterans – 4th Wednesday

My monthly veterans support program is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday at my office in Jay's Commons. A representative from the American Legion Service Office Outreach program is in the office to provide information on services available to veterans and their families. The American Legion representatives are able to discuss pensions and other compensation, education, health care and death benefits. Legion membership is not required to take advantage of the help.

PennDOT services available online

Did you forget to renew your registration until the last minute? Do you need to change your address on a vehicle registration? Do you need to request a duplicate of your driver's license? PennDOT has added these services and more to the Online Driver and Vehicle Services section of its website at www.dmv.state.pa.us.



Have your registration and license information handy and a debit or credit card in your name. The process is easy, and PennDOT offers detailed instructions for navigating its site.

There are some services you cannot do online, such as requesting a duplicate vehicle title, duplicate vehicle registration or handicap placard. For those services and more, call my office at 570-342-4348 or visit us from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in Jay's Commons, 409 N. Main Ave., Scranton.

Join my email update list

To provide you with the latest information about state government, programs and services, and other items of interest, I maintain an email list. If you would like to be added to my email list, please contact my office or sign up at www.pahouse.com/Flynn/EmailSignup.



Primary election is April 26

Tuesday, April 26 is Pennsylvania's primary election. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

The last day to register to vote in the primary is March 28, and you can do that online at www.register.votespa.com. The new website allows you to make updates to your voter record, such as change of name, address or party affiliation. You can also request assistance at a polling place.

This online system is more secure because the form will be transmitted directly to the proper county voter registration office for processing, compared with the traditional paper application containing personal information that might pass through several hands before you are officially registered.

The site is directly linked to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, so if you have a driver's license or PennDOT ID card, your signature on file can immediately be linked to your voter record.

In this primary election, registered Democrats or Republicans can select nominees from their respective parties to represent them in the November general election.

Voters will cast ballots for president of the United States, U.S. senator, U.S. representative, state attorney general, state auditor general, state treasurer, state senator and state representative, and delegates to the presidential national conventions. Your polling place may have changed since the last election. Voters can verify their polling location at www.votespa.com.

Unless you are a first-time voter or voting at a new polling location, photo ID is not required.

IMPORTANT 2016 PRIMARY ELECTION DATES

March 28	Last day to register to vote
April 19	Last day to apply for an absentee ballot
April 22	Last day for county election offices to receive absentee ballots
April 26	Election Day – Polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Senior citizens can receive assistance with numerous state programs such as Property Tax/Rent Rebate, PACE/PACENET prescription-drug coverage and others through Rep. Marty Flynn's office. Hazel Humphrey, 99, visited the office to drop off some items during Flynn's winter coat drive.



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Upcoming Events

Save the date!

- The Free Shredding Event – Scranton High School/Stadium parking lot, Providence Road, Scranton – Saturday, April 16. (*Each attendee is asked to bring a nonperishable food item.*)
- Gun safety/Stand your ground seminar with Lackawanna County Sherriff Mark McAndrew and District Attorney Sean Scanlon – Thursday, May 5
- Diaper Drive – May 2016 – *watch for details!*
- Senior Crime Prevention Seminar & How to Avoid Scams with the Attorney General's Office – Divine Mercy Parish, St. Joseph's Hall, Davis Street, Scranton – Friday, May 13 at 10 a.m.
- Senior Fair – Divine Mercy Parish, St. Joseph's Hall, Davis Street, Scranton – September 2016 – *watch for details!*

My office can help you with:

- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems 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
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups

Keep your family warm this winter

Pennsylvania's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program – LIHEAP – is accepting applications, and expected to close April 1. LIHEAP helps low-income families pay their heating bills.

LIHEAP provides two types of grants – a cash grant sent directly to utility companies to pay a portion of the resident's fuel bill, and a crisis grant for households in immediate danger of being without heat due to a furnace failure or an unexpected fuel shortage.

LIHEAP cash grants – based on household income, family size, type of heating fuel and region – will range from \$100 to \$1,000 in 2015-16. LIHEAP crisis grants will range from \$25 to \$500.

Residents who received a LIHEAP grant last season should have received a postcard or a 2015-16 LIHEAP application with a registration number.

Those who did not receive LIHEAP last season may obtain an application by contacting my office, calling LIHEAP directly at 1-866-857-7095, or applying online at www.compass.state.pa.us.

Income eligibility is as follows:

Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$17,655
2	\$23,895
3	\$30,135
4	\$36,375
Each Additional Person Add	\$6,240