



STATE REPRESENTATIVE RYAN BIZZARRO

PROUDLY SERVING THE 3RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



WINTER EDITION

LOCAL DISTRICT OFFICE(S)



Peninsula Plaza ■ 1101 Peninsula Drive, Suite 209 ■ Erie, PA 16505 ■ (814) 835-2880
Open Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Extended office hours: Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

Edinboro Office ■ 124 Meadville St., Suite 222 ■ Edinboro, PA 16412 ■ (814) 734-2773
Open M, T, W, F: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Closed Thursday)

McKean Township Municipal Building ■ 9231 Edinboro Road ■ McKean, PA 16426 ■ (814) 476-7414
Open by appointment



I held a news conference at West Lake Fire Department last year on why emergency responders shouldn't have to pay background clearance fees. Days later, Gov. Tom Wolf announced he was waiving state background check fees for volunteers working with children.

Dear Neighbors,

I hope you're doing well, and you've had an enjoyable holiday season. I wanted to update you on what I've been working on both in our region and in Harrisburg. It is my sincere hope that you find this newsletter informative and helpful!

If you ever have questions or need help with any state-related service or program, I encourage you to contact one of my constituent service offices. My staff and I are eager to serve you! Please remember: We're always working for you and we love every minute of it!

All the best,

State budget update

After multiple attempts to pass a responsible spending plan containing increased education funding and property tax relief, political gridlock has prevailed.

The budget impasse has lasted long enough, and I'm frustrated and embarrassed that we haven't been able to agree on a comprehensive plan that addresses the needs and wants of Pennsylvanians. We shouldn't have to send our children to schools that are in danger of closing because they aren't fully funded, just as our food banks, rape crisis centers and other human service organizations must get the support they need for the long haul to serve our most vulnerable Pennsylvanians. In addition, our parents and grandparents shouldn't be priced out of their homes because of skyrocketing property tax rates. Pennsylvanians deserve better.

In the meantime, you can make your voice heard on the need for a responsible budget by contacting Speaker of the House Mike Turzai at MTurzai@pahousegop.com and/or Majority Leader Dave Reed at DReed@pahousegop.com.

INSIDE:

- Legislative information
- State-related programs and services
- Photos from Harrisburg and around Erie

Newest office open in Edinboro!

As you may know, Edinboro and Washington Township have been added to the 3rd Legislative District as a result of the newest state legislative redistricting plan. In an effort to better serve constituents in this part of the district, I have opened an office in Edinboro.

Edinboro Office Info:

Edinboro Municipal Building
124 Meadville St.
Suite 222

Edinboro, PA 16412

Phone: (814) 734-2773

Open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday and Friday

Please feel free to visit or call the office if you need assistance!



Above: I was pleased to see the Rev. Daniel R. Hoffman at my Edinboro Senior Fair & Older Living Expo at Our Lady of the Lake Parish.



I enjoyed meeting neighbors at the grand opening of my new Edinboro office.



Online voter registration now available in Pennsylvania

Recently, the state launched a website to make it easier for you to register to vote and participate in elections. You can access it by visiting: www.votesPA.com.

The new website is available in English or Spanish and it also 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.

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

If you do not have a driver's license or ID card, you can print, sign and mail the completed online application to your county voter registration office. If you are unable to print the application, you may request the Department of State mail you a signature card to complete and send back.

Free veterans assistance available



There's good news for veterans in the 3rd District: My office provides a free Veterans Assistance Program each month at my Millcreek office located at 1101 Peninsula Drive, Suite 209 in the Peninsula Plaza!

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month, veterans can meet with service officers to see if they qualify for certain benefits, learn about helpful programs and ask any questions they may have about available services.

If you have any questions, please call my office at (814) 835-2880.



My legislation

I have sponsored several pieces of legislation this session that I believe would vastly improve our communities and our state. As always, I would appreciate your feedback on these and other measures!

Preventing animal cruelty

My H.B. 869 is designed to prevent animal cruelty by requiring people convicted of animal abuse to forfeit abused animals to shelters. Moving animals to shelters, instead of returning them to their abusers, would not only keep our animals safe, but it would also cut down on the need for further seizure costs and frequent checks from law enforcement officers.



Looking after our veterans

I held a news conference in Harrisburg with state Sen. Rob Teplitz on my H.B. 887, which would establish a veterans' court in any Pennsylvania county without one. Erie County already operates its own court, which allows veterans charged with nonviolent crimes who suffer from service-related addiction

and mental illnesses to enter a rehabilitation program with veteran mentors. If they are successfully rehabilitated, the charges are dropped, saving counties thousands of dollars and greatly helping the men and women who have sacrificed for us.

Making voter registration more convenient

Last year, I held a news conference at the state Capitol to unveil my H.B. 13, which would provide for same-day voter registration in Pennsylvania, allowing people to register to vote at their polling place on Election Day. Interested voters would need to supply specified proof of identification and their current address, and their ballots would not be counted until their applications were verified by the Pennsylvania Department of State.



Protecting our children

My H.B. 2012 would add adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD), a lysosomal storage disorder, to the list of genetic diseases for which hospitals must screen newborns in Pennsylvania. This disorder affects the nervous system and can be fatal if not treated before symptoms arise. ALD can be detected through the same heel prick newborns are already subjected to under the Newborn Child Testing Act, so it only makes sense to test for this disease, too.



Caring for older Pennsylvanians

I am proud to report the House passed my H.B. 299, designed to combat elder abuse committed by people with power of attorney. The bill would require the state's Power of Attorney Acknowledgment to indicate that failure to comply with the document's directives, which can result in theft or fraud, could bring about criminal charges. I have also introduced H.B. 511, which would amend state law to add theft offenses and corresponding minimum mandatory sentences for taking or extorting, disposing of, or deceiving to acquire prescription medications from adults older than 60.

Improving access to health care

My H.B. 1113 would have the state Health Department establish regulations to certify community paramedicine providers, allowing them to practice and treat patients throughout the state. It would also require insurance coverage and medical reimbursement for these services. Community paramedicine is an effective way for patients to be treated, and I believe it should be more widely available for patients whose injuries and ailments are not life threatening.



Out and about in Erie and Harrisburg



I always like spending time with residents at the Westlake Woods assisted living complex.



I was proud to present a \$93,000 check to McKean Township for the McKean Community Park Trail Expansion Project, designed to create a walking and nature trail. The funds were awarded by the Commonwealth Financing Authority.



Rep. Flo Fabrizio and I met with Teresa Osborne, Department of Aging secretary, to discuss the issues affecting older Pennsylvanians.



It's always a fun time when representatives from the Erie Zoo bring some of their animals to the state Capitol!

I enjoyed meeting area residents at my 3rd annual Senior Fair at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center in Erie.



I teamed up with Sen. Sean Wiley to present a \$100,000 check to representatives from Millcreek Township. The funds, awarded by the Commonwealth Financing Authority, were reserved for creating a park shelter at Veterans Park at Walnut Creek.

I listened to testers as part of Rep. Pat Harkins' House Democratic Policy Committee public hearing in Erie on education funding.



I had the privilege of welcoming students from Edinboro University, my alma mater, to the state Capitol. During their visit, they met with Gov. Tom Wolf's then-chief of staff, Katie McGinty.





I was honored to be named Erie Reader's Best Politician for 2015. It's a pleasure to serve the region where I grew up!



Home heating help now available

Do you need help heating your home? If so, I urge you to consider applying for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP. This particular program helps low-income families pay their heating bills and deal with such heating emergencies as a broken furnace, fuel shortage or utility service shutoff.

If you're living in a family of four and have a household income less than \$36,375, you qualify for LIHEAP. More eligibility requirements can be found on the state Department of Human Services' website at www.dhs.pa.gov, and clicking "Heating Assistance/LIHEAP" under the "Citizens" tab at the top of the page.

To get an application, please visit www.compass.state.pa.us or contact my office for assistance. My staff and I are happy to help!



As vice chairman of the House Democratic Policy Committee, I had the pleasure of hosting a public hearing last year on Pennsylvania's economy. The hearing, held at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center in Erie, focused on ways to grow jobs in our region. My House colleagues and I heard testimony from representatives of All Aboard Erie; Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership; Northwest Commission; and Visit Erie. We also toured Donjon Shipbuilding & Repair in Erie.

Our area provides great opportunities to further the state's economic development, from manufacturing to tourism. By capitalizing on these particular industries, we can help build up our state while also bettering our communities. I look forward to working with interested citizens to make our region an even better place to live, work and play.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Ryan A. Bizzarro

P.O. Box 202003

Harrisburg, PA 17120-2003

lpo.kl.0216



I enjoyed participating in the "Strikes and Spares for Hope and Healing" charity bowling event at the state Capitol. The event raised money for Ronald McDonald House Charities in Pennsylvania, and was sponsored by the Bowling Proprietors Association of Pennsylvania.



Above: Our young learners today will be the leaders of tomorrow, so it's important we give them the resources they need to succeed. That's why I advocate for fair, sufficient basic education funding.

My office can help you with:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- 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 Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- 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
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- 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
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

