



State Representative • 172nd Legislative District

# Kevin J. Boyle



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Fall 2016

**DISTRICT OFFICES:** **Fox Chase** – 7801-A Hasbrook Ave. • Philadelphia, PA 19111 • (215) 695-1016  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATE

### SEPTEMBER SHREDDER EVENT IN MAYFAIR



**Saturday, September 10  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

The Triangle at 3500 Ryan Ave.  
(The intersection of Cottman Ave.  
and Frankford Ave.)

Please limit your documents to only those that contain personal information. You may bring up to 4 bags of documents to shred.

### SENIOR LUNCH AND EXPO IN FOX CHASE

**Thursday, September 29  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

The Villages of Pine Valley Club House  
8601 Pine Road, Philadelphia

This event is open to the public.  
Please call my district office at 215-695-1016 by  
September 23 to register and reserve a lunch ticket.

## INVESTIGATIVE HEARING INTO SEPTA TRAIN DELAYS

In July, I chaired a House Democratic Policy Committee hearing at CORA Services to hear from SEPTA and other interested parties about defective SEPTA train cars and affected services.

Since SEPTA's announcement in early July that it was taking the defective cars out of service, travelers have been affected by modified schedules and crowded trains. I called the hearing to determine SEPTA's long-term plans to improve the situation.

At the hearing, SEPTA General Manager Jeffrey Knueppel gave a presentation explaining the current situation and outlining the agency's latest plans. He said the agency has expanded services, including an extended rush hour, leased four trains to provide additional seating capacity (up to 2,420 seats) and increased parking options. He said they are continuing to work on optimizing railroad schedule operations and developing express bus services to supplement rail service.

Since my hearing, Silver Liner V manufacturer Hyundai Rotem and SEPTA came to an agreement to replace all equalizer beams on the rail cars. SEPTA reported that 10 cars per week will be returning to service starting Aug. 21. All cars should be returned by Nov. 6.



*I chaired a hearing on SEPTA's defective train cars and service disruptions.*



*I was thrilled to host students from New Foundations Charter School at the State Capitol.*

## APPLY NOW TO RECEIVE YOUR PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE

The deadline to file a 2015 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program application is Dec. 31st, and my office is here to help!

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 and older, widows and widowers 50 and older, and people with disabilities 18 and older. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates can boost rebates up to \$975.

To find out if you qualify, or if you need assistance with filling out your application, please visit my one of my district offices.



## TUITION FREEZE LEGISLATION WOULD MAKE COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

Many Americans today are noticing that the ever-rising cost of higher education is making college out of reach for too many high school graduates. Even after school is all said and done, many of those who went to college are saddled with tens of thousands of dollars in student loans. Pennsylvania's public universities are not excluded when it comes to funding higher education. In fact, our state-funded universities have the 3rd highest tuition rates in the nation.

To address this ever present issue, I have proposed implementing a tuition freeze at Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) universities. My colleague, state Rep. Nick Micarelli, and I have introduced a bill that would enact a five-year tuition freeze at PASSHE institutions. Following that five-year period, PASSHE institutions would be limited to a maximum annual tuition increase of 2 percent. Recently the PASSHE board put forth a 2.5 percent increase for tuition.

In an increasingly complex economy, having a well-trained, highly skilled workforce is paramount, and the State System of Higher Education should serve as an affordable alternative to private and for-profit schools in the state. Just as secondary schooling was expanded a century ago to meet the demands of the industrial economy, today we must ensure that the middle-class families in Pennsylvania are not priced out of the opportunity to attend public higher educational institutions and be straddled with debt that exceeds any other type of debt in the U.S. We need to help our next generation stay competitive in today's job market.

## MEDICAL MARIJUANA NOW LAW IN PA.

Pennsylvania recently became the 24th state to legalize marijuana for medical purposes.

This law will allow doctors to utilize medical marijuana to help ease the pain of patients, which has been proven effective in other states, especially with children who suffer from seizures.

Once the regulations are in place, doctors will be able to prescribe certain forms of cannabis to people who meet the proper requirements and suffer from one of the approved medical conditions. Under the new law, medical marijuana cannot be smoked, but can be prescribed in pill, oil, topical or liquid form.

Legalizing medical marijuana is a commonsense way to help people who are suffering in their daily lives – children experiencing daily seizures, veterans enduring post-traumatic stress disorder and many others who find this to be the only medicine that eases their pain. Medical marijuana also offers an alternative for pain relief to highly addictive opioids, which are a major contributor to the often-fatal heroin addiction epidemic plaguing our country.

Statistics show that states that have legalized medical marijuana have shown a decrease of nearly 25 percent in annual prescription drug overdose deaths.

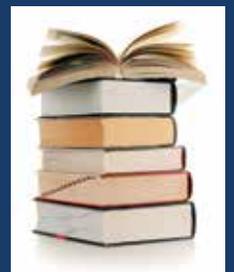
The Pennsylvania Department of Health is in the process of developing the regulations and infrastructure for the program, a process the governor said could take approximately 18 to 24 months.



## BACK TO SCHOOL BOOK DRIVE

A local Fox Chase resident has teamed up with my office to ask our neighbors

to support student-driven community literacy programs. You can drop off new or gently used children and young adult books at both of my district offices in Mayfair and Fox Chase.



*I spoke with the seniors in the Mayfairers Senior Citizens Club about recent changes to a number of state programs benefitting them.*

## BILLS WOULD ENSURE STATE SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

I have sponsored two bills that would ensure Pennsylvania is using its economic power to support Israel by prohibiting the state from investing pensions or contracts with companies that engage in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.

The BDS movement is a global campaign designed to weaken the Israeli economy in an attempt to punish the government of Israel for policy decisions it has made.

The first bill would prohibit commonwealth agencies from entering into contracts with people who engage in boycotts against or divestment from Israel. Under this legislation, the Department of General Services would compile a list of firms and people with stated BDS policies. The list would be updated every 180 days. DGS also would have to certify that a person's name does not appear on the list before a contract is signed.

The second bill would require the state treasurer, the State Employees' Retirement System and Public School Employees' Retirement System to divest from companies boycotting Israel.

These state organizations would be required to identify all companies boycotting Israel in which the public fund has direct holdings, and subsequently divest from those companies.

It is vital that the government of Pennsylvania does its part to support an important U.S. ally, Israel. Protecting Israel has been a principle of our foreign policy, and consequently, economic actions such as boycotts and divestment should not be tolerated.



*Everyone had a great time again this year at Fox Chase Night Out.*



*I was honored to join state Sen. Christine Tartaglione and Mayor Jim Kenney at a ribbon cutting for Temple University Hospital's Bone Marrow Outpatient Clinic.*

## MY PRISONER TRANSPORT BILL IS FINALLY LAW

My bill expanding emergency vehicle designations for both the Philadelphia Prison System and additional ranking members of emergency responder units was finally signed into law by Governor Tom Wolf in July.

This new law allows the Philadelphia Prisoner Transport Unit to operate using flashing lights when transferring prisoners throughout the vast State Road complex and across Northeast Philadelphia. It will undoubtedly keep the unit operators and our streets safer when navigating through high-volume traffic.

The bill was also amended to allow for high-ranking fire department officials to use flashing lights in both official and private vehicles when responding to emergencies. This is especially needed for volunteer forces, like those in Rockledge Borough.

I am thrilled this bill is now law because it will make our streets safer and help minimize unnecessary danger for our emergency responders who work tirelessly to protect our communities.



## PA. ABLE SAVINGS PROGRAM WILL HELP FAMILIES WITH DISABILITIES

A new program will allow families to ensure that relatives with a disability are taken care of by enabling them to have a savings account without jeopardizing their eligibility for important programs.

The ABLE Act, which stands for Achieving a Better Life Experience, allows the savings accounts to be used for a wide range of disability-related expenses including health care, housing and transportation.

The program will be administered by the Pennsylvania Treasury, which also administers the Pennsylvania 529 College Savings Program. Under this new law, benefits of the program include:

- Save up to \$14,000 per year;
- Tax-free growth;
- Use the account to pay for a wide range of disability-related expenses;
- Federal and state income tax-free withdrawals when used for qualified disability expenses; and
- Exemption from Pennsylvania inheritance tax.

One of the most vital aspects of the ABLE Program is that savings are excluded from eligibility determinations for many government-related benefits. This means Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medical Assistance and other disability and health benefits cannot be taken away because of ABLE savings.

For more information, please visit [www.PA529.com/ABLE](http://www.PA529.com/ABLE) or contact my office. The goal is to have the ABLE Program running by the end of 2016.



**State Representative**  
**Kevin J. Boyle**  
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lpo.kaf.0916

## 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!

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## MONTHLY VETERAN'S SERVICES

After the successful Veteran's Outreach Day I hosted in July, I am excited to offer a monthly outreach initiative to better serve our veterans and their family members. Every third Monday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. a Department Service Officer from the American Legion will be available to assist veterans and their family members with cases related to active duty, disabilities, educational opportunities, completing paperwork and more.

For more information or to schedule an appointment for an upcoming service day, please call my office at 215-695-1016. Walk-ins are also welcome. All services will be provided at my Fox Chase office.

