



State Representative • 172nd Legislative District

# Kevin J. Boyle



**CAPITOL OFFICE:** 102A East Wing • P.O. Box 202172 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2172 • (717) 783-4944

**Winter 2014**

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

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**NEW**

## CONSTITUENT SERVICES OFFICE OPEN

My constituent service office previously located at 7518 Frankford Ave. has moved.

I am excited to announce that my new constituent services office is open at 7420 Frankford Ave. in Philadelphia, at the corner of Frankford Avenue and Vista Street. We are available and ready to assist residents of the 172nd Legislative District in navigating state government agencies and services.

I encourage everyone to come to my office to discuss how we can assist you with any state-related issues. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Phone: (215) 331-2600, FAX: (215) 708-3135.

## FIGHTING TO KEEP KRAFT JOBS IN THE NORTHEAST

Rep. Brendan Boyle, Sen. Mike Stack and I are fighting hard to keep 300 jobs with the company Mondelez in Northeast Philadelphia. The company has threatened to leave the old Kraft plant at Roosevelt Boulevard at Byberry Road and relocate to Mexico. We have urged the company's leadership to work with us to help them find another location in the Northeast. There are plenty of industrial sites in the area where they could expand their operations and increase profits. We have offered to take them on a tour of the area to show them a number of locations that would be perfect for them.

We have seen collaborations between state officials and companies work in other areas of the state. For example, a few years ago, the Hershey Co. threatened to leave Hershey and move to Mexico. The state representatives and senators in the Hershey area met with the Hershey leadership and struck a deal that resulted in the company building a new factory in the area, saving hundreds of jobs. Last year, Hershey enjoyed its most profitable year ever, and we are positive that if Mondelez would work with us, we could create a deal that works for them while keeping these important jobs in Northeast Philadelphia. The workers at this plant are doing a tremendous job and giving their all for Mondelez, so it is imperative that the company not leave these workers behind.



**Rep. Kevin Boyle, Rep. Brendan Boyle and Sen. Mike Stack fight to keep 300 jobs at the old Kraft plant in Northeast Philadelphia.**

# FIGHT AGAINST METHADONE CLINIC ONGOING, APPEAL FILED

In July, along with state Rep. John Taylor and City Councilman Bobby Henon, I announced that we filed an appeal in Commonwealth Court seeking to overturn a Common Pleas Court Judge's ruling allowing The Healing Way Inc. to open a methadone clinic in Holmesburg.

I have led a nearly two-year fight to keep the methadone clinic from locating at 7900 Frankford Ave. because when you look at all the facts, it is clear that this site is not a good location for a methadone clinic. It would have a significant negative impact on the neighborhoods and residents in the area.

We believe that the proposed methadone clinic is not a permitted use under the area's current zoning and it would be too close to a residential neighborhood.

Along with the court appeal, I reintroduced legislation that would tighten regulations on methadone treatment facilities. My bill would require the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to notify all federal, state and local elected officials within five days of receiving an application for a proposed facility. It also would require the department to assess whether adequate parking is available at the proposed location.



***Rep. Kevin Boyle, Rep. John Taylor and City Councilman Bobby Henon are leading the charge to keep a proposed methadone clinic out of Holmesburg.***

At least one public hearing regarding the proposed facility also would be required. All property and business owners located within 500 feet of the proposed treatment facility would be required to receive written notice of the public hearing at least 30 days before the meeting is held.

In July, I held an informational meeting at Lincoln High School regarding the proposed methadone clinic. I provided information about the proposed clinic, the status of our legal appeal and ways to defeat the proposed clinic.

Let me assure you that I will not stop until we finally defeat this methadone clinic to keep it out of our neighborhood.

## DO YOU HAVE ANY UNCLAIMED PROPERTY?

Every year, the state Treasurer's Office obtains millions of dollars in unclaimed property. This property includes any financial asset that has been left with a bank, insurance company or business or organization without any activity for five years. Those entities are required by law to transfer abandoned property to the state Treasurer's Office, which maintains custody of the property until it is claimed by the owner.

### **Unclaimed property may include:**

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

It is estimated that nearly 10 percent of Pennsylvanians have unclaimed property. The state treasury may be in possession of what rightfully belongs to you, and it can be claimed free.

To see if you have unclaimed property, call my office at (215) 331-2600 or stop by and we will help you search.



# HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE



Keeping your home properly heated is essential for good health and in making sure your pipes do not freeze. But many families, particularly senior citizens on fixed incomes, will struggle to pay the cost of heating their homes over the next several months.

If you need help paying your home heating bills this winter, assistance is available through the federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. LIHEAP offers cash grants to help purchase home heating fuel and crisis grants for unexpected fuel shortages and necessary furnace purchases or repairs.

Grants are based on family size, income, type of heating fuel and heating regions.

If you received LIHEAP assistance last year, you should have received a renewal application. If not, you may want to check into the program.

***For more information on LIHEAP, call the Department of Public Welfare helpline at 1-800-692-7462.***

Household Size	Income Limits Cash/Crisis Program
1	\$17,235
2	\$23,265
3	\$29,295
4	\$35,325
5	\$41,355
6	\$47,385
7	\$53,415
8	\$59,445

*Each Additional Person ADD \$6,030*

## LOOKING TO HONOR VOLUNTEERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Do you know any people living in our area whose volunteer work is improving the community? As the first Pennsylvania state legislator to sign up as a certifying partner with the President's Volunteer Service Awards program, I am looking to honor these volunteers. These service awards honor citizens who, by their commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

To be eligible for the award, volunteers must live in the 172nd Legislative District, which includes parts of Fox Chase, Bustleton, Mayfair, Holmesburg, Holme Circle, Tacony, Winchester Park, Lexington Park, Rhawnhurst, Castor Gardens and Rockledge. Applicants must also provide proof of residency or parents' residency.

Awards are issued for service hours served within a 12-month time period or over the course of a lifetime. The 12-month service hour requirements for

each age group are as follows:

■ Kids (Ages 5 to 14): 50 to 74 hours for bronze level award, 75 to 99 hours for silver level award, 100 hours or more for the gold level award;

■ Young Adults (Ages 15 to 25): 100 to 174 hours for bronze level award, 175 to 249 hours for silver level award, 250 hours or more for gold level award;

■ Adults (Ages 26 +): 100 to 249 hours for bronze level award, 250 to 499 hours for silver level award, 500 hours or more for gold level award; and

■ Families and Groups: 200 to 499 hours for bronze level award, 500 to 999 hours for silver level award, 1000 hours or more for gold level award.

Anyone who volunteers 4,000 hours or more over their lifetime is eligible for the President's Call to Service Award. For more information or to nominate someone, call either of my constituent services offices at (215) 331-2600 or (215) 695-1016.



***Rep. Kevin Boyle and Rep. Brendan Boyle with Philadelphia Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers at the Fox Chase Night Out, which they sponsored to bring area residents and law enforcement closer together.***



***Rep. Kevin Boyle and Rep. Brendan Boyle joined with volunteers from the Burholme Civic Association and Town Watch for the Burholme Clean-Up of Five-Points.***

## COMMON SENSE GUN LAWS WILL SAVE LIVES



**Rep. Kevin Boyle speaks at a June rally to enact sensible gun laws to reduce gun violence.**

Sadly, we have all seen how gun violence affects our communities. People are dying way too often because the state won't do anything to keep guns out of the hands of criminals.

In an effort to prevent mass shooting tragedies like those that occurred in Newtown, CT and Aurora, Colo., I have introduced legislation that would prohibit the sale of large capacity ammunition magazines that hold more than 15 rounds of ammunition.

This summer, I joined several of my colleagues, the group Mayors Against Illegal Guns and CeaseFirePA at a news conference in the Capitol to advocate for commonsense reforms that do not violate anyone's rights under the Second Amendment.

These commonsense measures include background checks on all gun purchases, regardless of the size of the gun, a 48-hour waiting period to pick up the gun after purchase, and requiring gun owners to report when a firearm is lost or stolen.

I believe that if we can get some of these proposals adopted, it will reduce the number of senseless killings across the state.

## STATE BUDGET FAILS PENNSYLVANIANS

I voted against the 2013-14 state budget that the governor signed in early July because it again fails the people of Pennsylvania with its continued education cuts and less funding for human services programs.

The economy is still struggling and the people of Pennsylvania are sacrificing because of the heavy-handed cuts of Gov. Tom Corbett past two state budgets. Homeowners are facing increased property taxes because of the \$766 million in education cuts since 2010. This budget does nothing to provide relief to struggling homeowners.

To compound the problem, state budget cuts by Gov. Corbett and Republican legislators have only shifted the burden to local taxpayers, while leaving significant revenue on the table.

Another year has gone by without Pennsylvania closing the Delaware Loophole, which allows multi-national corporations to avoid paying their fair share of taxes and costs the state hundreds of millions of dollars. In addition, Pennsylvania continues to be the only major gas-producing state that allows drillers to continue to take our natural gas resource out of the ground without having to pay an extraction tax.

Sadly, this Corbett-Republican budget is harmful to some citizens because the Department of Public Welfare will receive \$32 million less than last year, which directly impacts people who most need the assistance.

This budget doesn't force people to live within their means; it forces people to live below them.



**Rep. Kevin Boyle and Rep. Brendan Boyle with students from Nazareth Academy, who were the winners of the 2013 Academic Challenge.**

## LOW INCOME SENIOR CITIZEN REAL ESTATE TAX FREEZE

Did you know that the City of Philadelphia Revenue Department will "freeze" your real estate tax if you meet certain age and income requirements? Once approved, if your assessment changes or the tax rate changes, your tax due will not increase. If the tax

liability decreases (either due to a rate decrease or a lower assessment), the tax due will also be lowered to the new amount.

**To qualify you must meet the following requirements:**

**Age Requirements:**

■ Age 65 years or older; or

■ Spouse (in the same household) is age 65 years or older; or

■ Age 50 years or older AND is a widow or widower of someone who was age 65 years or older

**Income Requirements:**

■ \$23,500 or less for a single person; or

■ \$31,500 or less for a married couple

To get an application for this program, contact the Philadelphia Department of Revenue at 215-686-6442 or visit its website at [www.phila.gov/revenue](http://www.phila.gov/revenue). **The deadline to file for this program is January 31.**



## 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](http://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](http://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.

## BILL AIMED AT STOPPING SCRAP METAL THEFTS

State Rep. John Taylor and I introduced legislation to implement a statewide scrap metal transaction database to help prevent scrap metal theft. The bill would amend the Scrap Material Theft Prevention Act by creating a database and requiring scrap processors to register with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office.

Because the economy is still struggling and metal prices are high, scrap metal theft is a serious, ongoing problem that defies easy detection and apprehension of thieves. We owe consumers and law enforcement the best tools available to provide a simple, yet powerful solution that prevents theft.

Existing law gives law enforcement the power to physically inspect sales records at scrap processing plants. However, current efforts are proving to be disjointed and inefficient, requiring significant time commitment and follow-up by officers.

The legislation, based on similar effective laws in Tennessee and Ohio, is an effort to make investigation and enforcement simpler, while ensuring uniformity across the state.

## SAVING FOR FUTURE HIGHER EDUCATION NEEDS

The job market of today and tomorrow demands more than a high school education. But for many, the cost of a college education already is too expensive. And by the time a baby born today reaches age 18, the cost may be three or four times as much as it is today. Fortunately, there is a program that enables parents to lock in future college credits at today's prices.

Pennsylvania's Tuition Account Program – TAP 529 – offers two programs that can help families save for future higher education needs.

Through the TAP 529 Guaranteed Savings Plan, families can pre-purchase college tuition at today's lower prices for future use. The TAP 529 Investment Plan allows families to invest for the future based on market performance.

It's simple, affordable and flexible, and it's good at any college and trade or technical school anywhere in the country.

TAP 529 can be used to pay for a student's qualified higher education expenses, including tuition, books, fees, room and board, and supplies. Earnings are tax free and sheltered from the state inheritance tax. TAP 529 protects eligibility for financial aid and allows low-income families to qualify for state matching funds.

The Pennsylvania legislature created TAP 529 exclusively for Pennsylvania students.

For more information, you can call 1-800-440-4000, or visit the TAP 529 website at [www.pa529.com](http://www.pa529.com).



***Rep. Kevin Boyle hosted his annual Senior Fair in September, which was well attended by local seniors, who received free health screenings and information on available programs.***



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## INSIDE:

- Ongoing fight against methadone clinic
- Legislation to stop scrap metal theft
- State programs

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## 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