



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Daniel McNeill

133RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

25A East Wing • P.O. Box 202133 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2133
(717) 772-9902 • Fax: (717) 780-4762

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NEW CONSTITUENT OFFICE OPENS IN WHITEHALL

In April, my new constituent services office opened in Whitehall. We are available and ready to assist residents of the 133rd Legislative District in navigating state government agencies and services.

We can assist with the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program for seniors, process PennDOT forms, PACE/PACENET prescription-drug coverage applications for seniors, or help with any state government-related questions or issues. I encourage everyone to come to my new office to discuss how we can assist you with any state-related issues.

My office is located at 1080 Schadt Ave., Whitehall, PA 18052. The office is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone number: 610-266-1273. FAX number: 610-266-2126.



Rep. McNeill is sworn in to his first term representing the 133rd Legislative District.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM NOW OPEN

The state is now accepting applications for eligible senior citizens and others to apply for a rebate on their 2012 property taxes or rent.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is open to residents 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with a disability 18 or older. To qualify, homeowners must have a household income of \$35,000 or less; renters qualify if their household income is \$15,000 or less. Applicants only have to count half of their Social Security, Supplemental Security, or federal Railroad Retirement Tier I benefits toward the income limit.

The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975. The supplemental rebate is automatically calculated by the state.

If you received a rebate last year, you should have received a 2012 application in the mail. If not, applications are available online at www.revenue.state.pa.us or by calling 1-888-222-9190. Residents can visit my Whitehall office or call 610-266-1273 to obtain the form. My staff is available to process your application and answer any questions.

The deadline to apply is June 30. Rebates will be distributed beginning July 1.

SENIOR FAIR COMING IN MAY

I will be hosting a Senior Fair with Rep. Steve Samuelson on Friday, May 17, 2013 from 9 a.m. to noon at the East Side Youth Center, 1140 E. Clair St., Allentown. More than 50 vendors and organizations will be there helping seniors with everything from the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program and PACE, to free health screenings and application assistance for federal, state and local programs. I hope to see you there.

POLICY MEETING IN BETHLEHEM FOCUSES ON EDUCATION BUDGET CUTS

I had the privilege to serve as the co-chairman for a House Democratic Policy Committee hearing in February to examine how two years of state budget cuts have impacted public education in Pennsylvania.

We heard testimony from public school administrators, a college president and education advocates, who said that Gov. Tom Corbett's funding cuts to basic education in his previous two budgets resulted in higher property taxes for many homeowners, as well as a reduction in class offerings for students and job losses for tens of thousands of teachers and other school workers.

Schools in Lehigh and Northampton counties have suffered inequitable cuts, which have affected some schools harder than others. Sadly, the governor's budget proposal for next year offers more of the same. I plan to work toward increased education funding to try to repair the damage these budget cuts have caused.



Rep. McNeill serves as co-chairman of a House Democratic Policy Committee hearing on education budget cuts in Bethlehem.

McNEILL VOTES FOR CHILD PROTECTION BILLS

In February, I was proud to vote for a package of child protection bills that are designed to close loopholes and provide better protection for our children and earlier intervention for child victims. I voted for them because I believe we should do everything we can to ensure the protection of our children and provide strong support for young victims. The bills, which were sent to the Senate for consideration, include:

- ★ **House Bill 316** would establish a grant program supported by a \$15 fee assessed on all defendants found guilty of a crime in Pennsylvania. The money would be provided to existing and future Children's Advocacy Centers. Children's Advocacy Centers provide a comprehensive treatment program for abused children, including child-focused programs, medical evaluations and victim support services. There are CACs in 20 of the state's 67 counties.
- ★ **House Bill 328** would require the plaintiff in a protection from abuse case to let the court know if the defendant is also the subject of a child abuse investigation.
- ★ **House Bill 350** would enhance penalties for adults who physically attack or harm a minor. Specifically, aggravated assault would increase to a first-degree felony for victims younger than 12, and simple assault would become a second-degree felony for victims younger than four.
- ★ **House Bill 378** would require magisterial district judges and municipal police officers to receive training in recognizing child abuse.
- ★ **House Bill 404** would make it a crime to intimidate or retaliate against a witness, victim or reporter of child abuse.
- ★ **House Bill 414** would require courts in custody proceedings to consider whether a child has been identified as a victim of abuse by a person seeking custody or a member of that person's household.

LIQUOR- PRIVATIZATION BILL WILL LEAD TO JOB LOSSES, MORE UNDERAGE DRINKING

I voted against a liquor-privatization bill in March because it would result in the loss of thousands of family-sustaining jobs for Pennsylvania workers.

The proposal favors the interests of giant retailers and corporate interests over those of small businesses and tax-paying citizens and would kill 4,000 jobs at state wine and spirits shops and put small family-owned beer distributors out of business.

The bill would triple the number of wine and spirits stores and more than quadruple the number of wine retailers, which would result in more underage children having increased access to alcohol. We cannot create a new system that makes it easier for children to obtain alcohol.

The estimated revenue from selling the state's 619 liquor stores could be as low as \$425 million, which would be used for a one-time education grant proposal.



Rep. McNeill visits Lehigh Valley Children's Centers Campus Center in April.

Families are struggling with increased property taxes and higher education costs that resulted from Gov. Corbett's \$1 billion education cuts in the past two years. This grant proposal does nothing to repair the damage of the governor's cuts.

This bill constitutes a disservice to Pennsylvania. There will be serious consequences if we expand access to alcohol, which has led Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the state DUI Association, fraternal and veterans' organizations, and others to oppose this plan.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS FOR YOUR REFERENCE

Lehigh County Government Center.....	610-782-3000
Northampton County Government Center.....	610-559-3000
PA Dept. of Revenue (Bethlehem Office)	610-861-2000
Internal Revenue Service (Bethlehem Office)	610-865-8208
Consumer Credit Counseling Service of the Lehigh Valley	610-821-4011
AARP- Allentown	610-434-2701
Crime Victims Council of Lehigh Valley	610-437-6611
Turning Point of Lehigh Valley 24 hr. Helpline	610-437-3369 or 1-877-438-4957
CACLV- Community Action Committee Lehigh Valley	610-691-5620
Lehigh County Department of Aging.....	610-782-3034
Northampton County Department of Aging.....	610-559-3245
Lehigh County Veterans Affairs Office.....	610-782-3295
Northampton County Department of Veterans Affairs	610-559-3199
CareerLink	610-437-5627
American Red Cross	610-865-4400
Social Security office (Allentown)	1-877-405-6746
(Bethlehem)	1-866-783-7458
LIHEAP (Lehigh County)	610-821-6509
(Northampton County)	610-250-1700
U.S. Representative Charles Dent	610-770-3490
State Senator Lisa Boscola	610-868-8667
State Senator Patrick Browne	610-821-8468



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MY STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU...

Bob Donchez
Chief of Staff

Maria Halkias
Legislative Assistant (Harrisburg)

Cara Bowen
Legislative Assistant (District Office)

Brenda Pagan
Legislative Assistant (District Office)

MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- 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
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Property tax/rent rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

ANY QUESTION ABOUT STATE GOVERNMENT?