



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Gerald Mullery

Fall 2016

119th Legislative District

Capitol Office: 120 Irvis Office Building • P.O. Box 202119 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2119 • (717) 783-4893

District Office: 156 South Market St. • Nanticoke, PA 18634 • (570) 740-7031

Satellite Office: 532 Centre St. • Freeland, PA 18224 • (570) 636-3500

www.pahouse.com/Mullery • [Twitter@RepJerryMullery](https://twitter.com/RepJerryMullery) • www.facebook.com/RepMullery

Pennsylvania's budget: a step in the right direction

I supported passage of the 2016-17 state budget that increases funding for education and expands efforts to fight the commonwealth's growing opioid addiction crisis. The budget was adopted largely on time and prevented a repeat of last year's stalemate that put many of our schools and human service providers in financial peril. This year's plan also represents a true compromise between Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate and Gov. Tom Wolf.

The budget restores \$200 million in basic education funding for our schoolchildren, provides a \$20 million increase for special education, and a \$40 million increase in higher

Continued on page 4



It was my pleasure to join state Sen. John Yudichak and Plymouth Borough and Plymouth Township officials to cut the ribbon opening the new Coal Street Bridge. The old bridge was destroyed in a serious flash flood in July 2011, causing more than \$1 million in damage to the Coal Creek watershed.

LOCAL PROJECTS GET BOOST FROM STATE GRANTS

This summer, the Commonwealth Financing Authority announced nearly \$4.5 million in grants for several projects in our district. The scope of these projects is vast, but they will help to enhance the quality of life for our residents and visitors.

The grant amounts, purposes and recipients are:

- \$40,073 for improvements to the Newport Township Community Park walking trail;
- \$75,000 for improvements at Plymouth's John Mergo Community Park;
- \$1 million for the extension of Hazle Township Boulevard;
- \$673,000 for the acquisition and demolition of properties in Nanticoke City's downtown corridor;
- \$85,000 for upgrades of the Askam Borehole Mine Drainage Treatment System;
- \$505,000 for Nanticoke City to purchase road restoration and construction equipment;
- \$241,351 to excavate and resurface borough streets in Plymouth;
- \$500,000 to construct a new municipal complex in Freeland;
- \$200,000 to excavate and resurface township roads in Rice Township;
- \$184,000 to complete renovations at the White Haven municipal building;
- \$250,000 to construct a pole barn in Newport Township to store township and COG equipment;
- \$35,000 for improvements at the West Hazleton Little League complex;
- \$458,408 to Hazle Township for SHINE Luzerne County, an afterschool program;
- \$34,225 to Nuangola for the Grove Theatre Farmers' Market;
- \$85,415 to Rice Township for Ice Pond Dam repairs;
- \$125,000 to Wright Township for drainage improvements and paving of roads in Walden Park; and
- \$40,000 for Rice Township on behalf of Mountain COG for a storage building.

Act 13 of 2012 established the Marcellus Legacy Fund and allocates funds to the CFA for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks and beautification projects using the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program.

Bliss Bank Project recipient of \$734,600 state grant

The Earth Conservancy was awarded a \$734,600 Growing Greener grant for its Bliss Bank Project in Nanticoke. I worked with state Sen. John Yudichak to secure the grant.

The organization will use the money for Bliss Bank Phase II to reclaim 54 acres that are part of a large 200-acre tract known as Bliss Bank Phase I. The land is located on Prospect Street in Nanticoke across from Luzerne County Community College. The goal of the project is to make the land available for development.

The environmental benefits of the cleanup are important, but it will also have an economic benefit. The project will allow the property to be used for mixed-use development that could someday support economic initiatives.

Growing Greener grants are used for a variety of projects that include helping communities address land use, and provide new and upgraded water and sewer systems.

Blood drive Sept. 17 to support our first responders & corrections officers

Our first responders and corrections officers put their lives on the line every day to serve and protect us. To thank them for their dedication, I am partnering with the Red Cross for a blood drive.

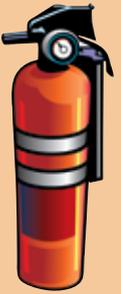
It will be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17 at the Plymouth Borough Building, 162 W. Shawnee Ave., Plymouth.

Come roll up your sleeve and donate blood!



White Haven Police Chief Thomas Szoke and Officer Richton Penn, Wright Township Police Chief Royce Engler and Sgt. Scott Rozitski, and Hanover Township Police Chief Albert Walker visited Harrisburg to rally for road safety.

LOCAL FIRE COMPANIES RECEIVE STATE GRANTS



The latest round of grants made possible by the Fire Company and Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Program were announced, and a total of 36 fire and ambulance companies in our district received awards.

Local fire and ambulance companies are made up of volunteers who sacrifice their time and safety for the safety of others. These men and women are a vital part of the community, and when the first sign of danger appears, they drop everything and run toward that danger. For that, they deserve unending thanks.

The grants may be used for repairing, building or renovating facilities; the money can also be applied toward the purchase of new equipment, training and certification of staff; or it can go to repay debt related to equipment purchases or facility building and maintenance. This grant program was set to expire on June 30 of this year, but I voted for legislation, since signed into law, that extends the program another four years.

Fire and EMS companies in the 119th Legislative District that received grants are:

- A. K. Mowery Hose Co. No. 3, \$11,511;
- Askam Fire Co. No. 6, \$12,651;
- Dennison Township Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1, \$11,739;
- Freeland Fire Department, \$13,790;
- Freeland Northside Ambulance Association, \$2,306;
- Glen Lyon - Alden Volunteer Hose Co., \$23,239;
- Goodwill Hose Co. No. 1, \$11,739;
- Goodwill Hose Co. No. 2 Plymouth, \$12,651;
- Hanover Fire Co. No. 4 NFD, \$12,651;
- Hanover Township Community Ambulance Association Inc., \$7,202;
- Hanover Township Fire Department, \$13,790;
- Hazle Township Volunteer Fire & Rescue Co., \$13,790;
- Honey Pot Volunteer Active Fire Co., \$11,739;
- Lape Hose Co. No. 2, \$12,423;
- Larksville Community Ambulance, \$5,906;
- Larksville Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1, \$11,511;
- Maltby Volunteer Fire Co., \$11,511;
- Mountaintop Community Ambulance, \$7,202;
- Nanticoke City Fire Department, \$13,106;
- Nanticoke Fire Department & Community Ambulance, \$7,202;
- Newport Township Consolidated Fire Co., \$11,739;
- Nuangola Volunteer Fire Department, \$11,511;
- Nuremberg Weston Volunteer Fire Co., \$13,790;
- Pioneer Hook & Ladder Volunteer Fire Co., \$13,106;
- Plymouth Borough Ambulance Association Inc., \$7,202;
- Plymouth Borough Fire Co., \$12,423;
- Plymouth Township Fire and Rescue Tilbury Station, \$11,511;
- Slocum Township Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1, \$19,169;
- Stickney Fire Co. No. 1, \$11,511;
- Sugar Notch Fire & Hose Co. No. 1, \$11,739;
- Warrior Run Volunteer Fire Co., \$11,511;
- Washington Fire Co. No. 5, \$11,511;
- West Hazleton Fire Hose Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1, \$13,790;
- White Haven Fire Co. No. 1, \$12,423;
- White Haven Rescue Unit Inc., \$7,202; and
- Wright Township Volunteer Firemens Association, \$13,562.

Working to reform Harrisburg

As your elected official, I was pleased to see bipartisan compromise on important legislation this year. We passed a medical marijuana bill this spring, which the governor signed into law, and of course the legislature passed the state budget in June. Despite these compromises, Harrisburg is still broken, and members of the General Assembly must be held more accountable.

I introduced two bills to help put more accountability on the shoulders of elected officials. H.B. 2027 would require all legislators to contribute more toward the costs of their health insurance coverage. Under this legislation, each member of the General Assembly would be required to pay 10 percent of the annual premium for their health care starting Jan. 1, 2017. Currently, members contribute 1 percent of their annual salary toward their health care coverage.

The time is long overdue for state

lawmakers to pay a fair share for their own health care costs. The savings gained could be used to invest in vital Pennsylvania programs.

I also introduced H.B. 2024, which would eliminate the automatic cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for members of the General Assembly, judges, and various elected and appointed positions of the executive branch, including the governor and lieutenant governor.

State legislators already make a base salary that is one of the highest in the nation, and eliminating automatic pay raises is an important step in helping restore the public's trust in their elected leaders.

Here are other reform bills in the works:

H.B. 413: Would require all candidates for office and political action committees (PACs) in Pennsylvania to utilize the Department of State's online filing system to electronically file campaign

finance reports.

H.B. 1976: Would prohibit state representatives and senators from receiving their salaries or per diems if an annual budget is not completed by June 30 each year. Salaries and per diems would be restored and reimbursed once a budget is passed.

H.B. 1977: Would require applicants for state contracts to submit a disclosure statement listing all campaign contributions made by the applicant or intermediary to any elected official, candidate for state or local office, or political committee.

H.B. 1980: Would impose limits on campaign contributions for all state elected officials, including the governor.

H.B. 1983: Would ban gifts to elected officials and public employees in excess of \$25 in a calendar year.

I was proud to help break ground at Coordinated Health's new campus. This project brings \$15 million in private investment and dozens of new, family-sustaining jobs to our community.



Apply now to receive your Property Tax/Rent Rebate

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

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

My offices can help with the applications. **Please don't assume you won't be eligible!** Half of Social Security income is discounted, and claimants are not disqualified from rebates solely because of Social Security cost-of-living adjustments.

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

Free shredding event Oct. 8 in Mountain Top

I again will host a free shredding event to help you destroy unwanted documents that contain personal information and could be used by identity thieves.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 8 at Crestwood High School, 281 S. Mountain Blvd.

What to bring: Paper documents that contain personal information, such as Social Security, credit card and bank account numbers.

What not to bring: Business documents, cassettes, binders, plastics, magazines, newspapers or books.

For a complete list of items or for further information, please contact my Nanticoke office at 570-740-7031.



State Representative
Gerald Mullery
 120 Irvis Office Building
 P.O. Box 202119
 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2119

lpo.kaf.0816

Important 2016 Election Dates

Oct. 11

Last day to register to vote

Nov. 1

Last day to apply for an absentee ballot

Nov. 4

Last day for county election offices to receive absentee ballots

Nov. 8

Election Day, polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.



I was honored to speak at Mountaintop's Memorial Day service at St. Adalbert's Cemetery.

Welcome my new staff member

I am pleased to announce Cody Forgach has joined my staff. Cody is a lifelong resident of Newport Township. Over the past three months he has visited with most of our municipal and civic leaders, assisted with several local projects, and proven to be an energetic public servant. Welcome to the team Cody.



Several local and state officials joined me on the inaugural LCTA ride to Frances Slocum State Park. For more information check LCTA's website at www.lctabus.com.

Pennsylvania's budget

Continued from page 1

education. It also dedicates \$15 million to combat heroin and opioid addiction, including funds for emergency addiction treatment and behavioral health services.

Despite having an on-time budget this year, it is far from perfect. It is imperative that we find a sustainable way to lower property taxes in the commonwealth. We also need to implement an overdue tax on natural gas drillers.

As we progress through the budget year, it is my hope that we can build upon the spirit of compromise that was achieved through the most recent budget process. We must work together to solve problems and to help our citizens, and I will continue my efforts to achieve real results.