



LEGISLATIVE

Year in Review

159th Legislative District

REP. BRIAN KIRKLAND

Winter 2017



101-B East Wing • P.O. Box 202159 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2159 • (717) 787-5881 • Fax: (717) 780-4762
401 Avenue of the States • Chester, PA 19013 • (610) 876-6420 • Fax: (610) 447-3004

Dear Neighbor,

I've appreciated the opportunity to serve as your representative for the past year!

It's been a busy year, both in Harrisburg and in the 159th District.

Much of our time in Harrisburg was spent finalizing a 2017-18 state budget – which we did several months after the deadline. I'm happy that the final budget included a substantial increase in education funding and more funds for battling the opioid crisis.

But it didn't include measures such as a severance tax on natural gas drilling or a raise in the minimum wage – measures that would help secure the recurring revenue that Pennsylvania desperately needs to avoid having the same fight every year.

Later in the year, my House Democratic colleagues and I unveiled our Plan for PA, a comprehensive plan that puts people first, supports good jobs, fights for quality schools and promotes a fairer tax structure.

We want to put the needs of you, working families in Pennsylvania first. We want to ensure that our children receive a quality education no matter where they live and create more good jobs that pay family-sustaining wages.

Watch for more as we put forward legislation to get the job done.

In this newsletter, you'll find more updates from around the 159th District. You can also follow me on [Facebook.com/RepBrianK](https://www.facebook.com/RepBrianK) to hear more throughout the year.

Please feel free to reach out to my office if we can help with any state-related issue.

Sincerely,

Rep. Brian Kirkland

Grant funds secured to combat gun violence

In early November, I announced that the City of Chester, along with other areas in Delaware County, will benefit from \$500,000 in state money to combat gun violence and expand the Delaware County Gun Violence Task Force.

Chester has recently been plagued with an increase in homicides, mostly due to gun violence, as reported by the Delaware County Office of the District Attorney. The district attorney's office has enforced sentencing illegal gun suppliers with a mandatory minimum of five to 10 years in prison.

I've supported the development of the Delaware County Gun Violence Task Force, which came together this year to combat area gun violence. Local council members, community leaders, members of the Delaware County Office of the District Attorney, Chester mayor's office and other law enforcement officials have met to discuss how to reduce the incidence of gun violence and the source of the crimes being committed.

The funds secured through this grant will be used to expand the anti-gun violence task force with the addition of special agents and independently funding other law enforcement personnel.

State funds to help renovate Washington Park

I was pleased to announce in November that the Chester Economic Development Authority was awarded a \$150,000 grant through the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program to renovate Washington Park.

The grant comes from the Commonwealth Financing Authority, an independent agency of the Department of Community and Economic Development to administer Pennsylvania's economic stimulus packages.

Our residents, especially the youth and our seniors, enjoy the resources that Washington Park offers. These renovations will help support those activities, including our city's Summer Food Program and its operation.

Washington Park sustained damage to its playground equipment during a 2015 summer storm. Funds from the grant will aid in the installation of new playground equipment, sidewalks, benches and a shade structure for community use. According to the Chester Economic Development Authority, the total project cost is \$212,296.

Congratulations to the Chester Economic Development Authority for securing the funds for this important project!

Hosting family events in our community

As your representative, it's important to me to provide opportunities for our community members to gather, get to know one another and the first responders who serve our neighborhoods, and to connect people with the resources they might need.

That's why I held two events this year – June's Marcus Hook Family and Fun Day and September's Family and Friends Community Day in Chester – to do just that. These events offered fun and entertainment for families, plus a chance to learn about the services provided by my district office and other community organizations.

I was happy to see a crowd at both events, and I look forward to seeing many of you in 2018!

Marcus Hook Family and Fun Day at Mickey Vernon Park in Marcus Hook, June 17, 2017



Family and Friends Community Day, Sept. 16, 2017 at Memorial Park in Chester



Other events I hosted in the district in 2017 included:

- An expungement clinic in March
- A re-entry orientation event for ex-offenders in March
- Several senior health fairs



Grant to help with affordable housing project

Welcoming Chester students to Harrisburg

I was pleased to have students from STEM Academy and Chester High School tour the state Capitol in November. It's important that our kids see how government works and how they can make a difference!



In May, the Chester Economic Development Authority was awarded a \$99,800 Keystone Communities grant to help with site preparation work associated with the Arbor Homes affordable housing project.

Administered by the Department of Community and Economic Development, the Keystone Communities program is designed to encourage the creation of partnerships between the public and private sectors in the community, supporting local initiatives that grow and stabilize neighborhoods and communities; ensure social and economic diversity; and enhance the overall quality of life for residents.

It's so important that our residents have access to affordable housing, and I am pleased that the Chester Economic Development Authority was able to secure this funding for the project.

STATE FLAG PRESENTATION TO SCHOOLS

Throughout the year, I've been working to provide state flags to schools in the Chester Upland School District. Here are some photos from my visits to Chester Upland School of the Arts and Stetser Elementary School.



Breaking ground for U.S. 322 expansion

I joined Gov. Tom Wolf and other officials in April for a groundbreaking on the expansion of U.S. 322.

According to PennDOT District 6, this location at the interchange of U.S. 322 and PA 452 is being improved as part of the U.S. 322 Section 102 project.

There are two mainline projects to rebuild, widen and improve 6.7 miles of U.S. 322 from U.S. 1 to just east of PA 452. The eastern section, from Featherbed Lane/Mattson Road to east of PA 452 is in final design and expected to move to construction in 2019. Construction on the western section (Featherbed Lane/Mattson Road to U.S. 1) is just beginning.



Visiting Penn Terminals with Gov. Wolf

In March, I enjoyed visiting Penn Terminals with Gov. Tom Wolf to highlight the state investment there. Penn Terminals and Crowley Maritime Corporation were commended for bringing more than 500 jobs and weekly container service to the ports of Greater Philadelphia, injecting millions into the local economy.

Creating more good jobs is part of the House Democrats' Plan for PA, and it's exciting to see state investment pay off.



Good news on REAL ID

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security granted Pennsylvania a REAL ID enforcement extension through Oct. 10, 2018.

That means that Pennsylvania residents won't face issues using their current IDs to access federal facilities or to board a plane for domestic travel through that date.

The federal REAL ID Act, passed in 2005, set minimum standards for driver's licenses and identification cards, in order for them to be accepted as identity documents by the federal government. Pennsylvania continues to work on REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and anticipates that they will be available at the customer's option in March 2019.

Learn more about this subject at www.penndot.gov.

Applications open for home heating financial aid



Temperatures have fallen, and the cold winter months have arrived, so it is a good time to think about whether you will need help heating your home.

LIHEAP, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, began accepting applications on Nov. 1. LIHEAP offers cash grants of \$200 to \$1,000 that are sent directly to the utility company to defray heating costs for eligible households, as well as crisis benefits of \$25 to \$500 for households in immediate danger of being without heat.

This season's income guidelines for both LIHEAP cash and crisis grants are \$18,090 for an individual, \$24,360 for couples and increases for each additional person in the household.

Please contact my office if you need help. You can also visit www.compass.state.pa.us for more information.

New anti-cruelty pet law includes cold weather protections

Act 10 of 2017, the overhaul of Pennsylvania's animal protection laws, took effect last year, and now is a good time to remember that it contains provisions related to the winter weather.

Under the new law, a dog cannot be tethered for longer than 30 minutes in temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. In the summer, the same restriction applies when it is 90 degrees or warmer.

Under the law, animals must be provided sanitary shelter that allows the animal to maintain normal body temperature and keeps the animal dry all year.

The law also provides dogs these commonsense protections:

- No more than nine hours tethered in 24-hour period;
- Tether must be the longer of three times the length of the dog or 10 feet;
- Must have water and shade;
- Must be secured by an appropriate collar during longer-term tethering – no tow or log chain, nor choke, pinch, prong, or chain collars;
- Tethered space must be clear of excessive waste; and
- No open sores or wounds.



Tour and visit to New Hudson Facades



Allen Cohen, managing partner of New Hudson Facades, a manufacturer of curtain wall systems, established a facility that created 168 jobs in Linwood. He provided a tour of his 180,000-square-foot, more-than-\$16-million manufacturing facility.

Turkey giveaway to the families of the 159th District



For the holidays, I like to provide turkeys to as many families as possible around the 159th District. This year we donated over 150 turkeys.



Walk through Chester High School with Superintendent Baughn



After the tragic loss of a student, I visited Chester High School in September with Superintendent Juan Baughn to ensure the safety of our students and lend my moral support.

Tour of Fare & Square



Mike Basher of Fare & Square provided a tour of the supermarket, explaining a wide variety of affordable foods. He also explained health programs, such as the Green Light, Yellow Light, Red Light system, where healthier items will be marked with green stickers, less healthy items with yellow, and unhealthy items marked with red. Healthier items will earn customers bigger discounts on their purchases.





STATE REP. BRIAN KIRKLAND

P.O. Box 202179
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2179

lpo.kaf.1217

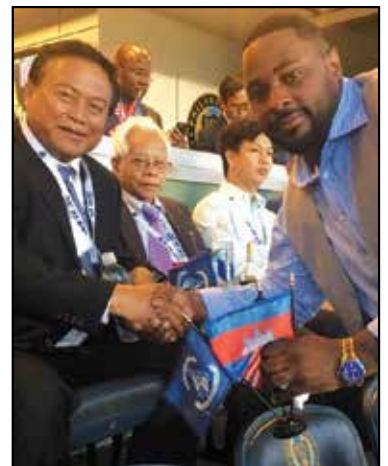
Working for you – Satellite Offices

I'm proud to announce my office will be hosting Satellite Offices around the 159th District. Our Community Liaison will be available to provide any service you need and answer all your questions. Watch Facebook.com/RepBrianK or sign up for my emails at www.pahouse.com/kirkland for updates on these and other events.



Cambodian ambassador visits Chester City

In July, I met Chum Bun Rong, Cambodian ambassador to the United States and Mexico, who visited the City of Chester. Bun Rong, along with key officials from the ambassador's economic development staff, met with Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland, Chester City Council members and other key city, county and state officials.



The ambassador and his staff also met with a number of top business and educational leaders from Chester, including representatives from Widener University, SIG Combibloc Inc., and Harrah's Casino and Raceway.