



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Marty Flynn
113TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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SUMMER 2018

Education, job training programs focus of new budget

The 2018-19 state budget shows a profound commitment to education and training people to find good jobs.

If we expect Pennsylvania schoolchildren to be able to compete in the worldwide marketplace, we must make them our top concern. I was glad to vote "yes" for this spending plan and support Gov. Tom Wolf's strong belief that all schoolchildren should receive adequate education funding regardless of their ZIP code.

It's important that we help our local school districts by providing more funding from the state level. While I would have liked to see more dollars pushed out to the schools, this \$100 million increase is a good step forward. By allocating additional money at the state level, it is our hope that local school districts will not need to lay off teachers, cut programs or raise property taxes.

Altogether, \$40 million is in the budget for PA Smart, the initiative proposed by Gov. Tom Wolf to boost workforce development, computer science and STEM training as follows:

- A \$30 million increase is in the career and technical education appropriation in the Department of Education. That includes \$10 million for the regular career and technical education subsidy and \$20 million for programs promoting employer engagement in postsecondary

education, expanding computer science course offerings, developing STEM educator development and training programs, and advancing workers in career and technical fields.



- A new \$7 million apprenticeship training appropriation in the Department of Labor and Industry.
- A \$3 million increase in the industry partnerships appropriation in L&I.

As a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, I have the opportunity to hear firsthand from agency officials about how state programs are helping people across Pennsylvania.

This budget reflects House Democrats' priorities offered in our Plan4PA. We're pushing for quality schools, good jobs and fair taxes for all Pennsylvanians. In order to move the economy forward, we believe that working people and families deserve more from Harrisburg rather than the special interests.

More information about the Plan4PA is available at www.planforpa.com.

Again this year, Rep. Flynn held his annual seminar on gun safety. This year's event was held at Roll Call, the new indoor range in the 113th District. Law enforcement officer and firearms training and safety expert Joseph Harris explained the many details of firearms safety, as well as took questions regarding the state's Castle Doctrine law.



Save the date for upcoming events!

**Family Day
at Montage
Mountain
Aug. 22**



Policy Hearing Aug. 23

**Senior Fair
Aug. 24**



Reps. Sid Kavulich and Marty Flynn were happy to welcome to the chamber of the House of Representatives Kyle Burke of Abington Heights, as they honored him for his athletic achievements. He won Gold at the State PIAA Track and Field Championships in May.



**Every Friday,
a member of
Rep. Flynn's
staff can be
found at the
Co-op Farmers
Market at 900
Barring Ave.
in Scranton
(near Memorial
Stadium) from
noon until 2:30
p.m.**

Monthly outreach events

Every month, my office hosts several outreach events to help you access state programs and services. To schedule an appointment for any of these efforts, please call my office at 570-342-4348. My regular office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Jay's Commons, 409 N. Main Ave., Scranton.

Medicare – 2nd Monday

I host a Medicare outreach session on the second Monday of the month where an Apprise counselor is available from 10 a.m. to noon in my office to help answer questions about Medicare, Medicare Advantage, Medigap, Medicare drug plans, PACE/ PACENET and various other low-income assistance programs, such as the Medicare Savings Program and Extra Help.

Abington Area Outreach – 3rd Wednesday

My staff holds constituent outreach visits from 9 a.m. to noon on the third Wednesday of every other month at the South Abington Township Building (2nd floor meeting room) 104 Shady Lane Road, Chinchilla, in August, October and December.

Monthly veterans outreach at district office

Area veterans are invited to take part in the monthly support program at my office from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday of every month.

A representative from the American Legion Service Office Outreach program is at my office – Jay's Commons, 409 N. Main Ave. – to provide information on services available to veterans and their families. The American Legion representatives are available to discuss pensions and other compensation, education, health care and death benefits.

Legion membership is not required to take advantage of the help, but anyone interested in speaking to the advisers is recommended to schedule an appointment by calling my office at 570-342-4348.



**Rep. Flynn and
Pennsylvania American
Legion Service Officer
Dominick Nati.**

Persian Gulf Veterans' Bonus Program deadline Aug. 31

I want to thank all of the veterans who have served and continue to serve our country so that we may enjoy the freedoms we have today as an independent nation.

To veterans of operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, I want to point out that the deadline for the Persian Gulf Veterans' Bonus Program is Aug. 31, 2018.

Those who served on active duty between Aug. 2, 1990, and Aug. 31, 1991, may qualify for the bonus.

The program pays \$75 a month for qualifying, active-duty service members, up to a \$525 maximum. For those whose death was related to illness or injury received in the line of duty in the operations, an additional \$5,000 is available to the surviving family. Service members who were declared prisoners of war also may be eligible for an additional \$5,000.

For more information about this program or other state programs that benefit veterans, please visit the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs website at www.dmva.pa.gov.

Groundbreaking held for Veterans Memorial

This spring, I spoke and participated in a groundbreaking for a Veterans Memorial park that will honor and acknowledge every Scrantonian who was killed in action in wars and conflicts from World War I through the current conflicts.

The area will include several "learning stations" that will provide details of each war and conflict, as well as information on each of the branches of service.

The park will be located on the grounds of Memorial Stadium, adjacent to Scranton High School.



Rep. Flynn was proud to stand with Project Chairman Pat Ahern, as well as the other members of the Veterans Memorial committee and supporters.



Rep. Flynn had the privilege of introducing the Abington Heights Boys Basketball Team to his colleagues in the House of Representatives chamber and to congratulate them for winning the PIAA State Five-A Boys Basketball Championship. The Comets won their first basketball state championship this year, and their head coach Ken Bianchi became the winningest basketball coach in the history of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Congratulations to the coaches and the team! We're all proud of your accomplishments!

Property Tax/Rent Rebate deadline Dec. 31

The deadline to apply for the state Department of Revenue's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is Dec. 31. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates up to \$975.

Eligibility requirements include: Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older; an income limit of \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, with half of Social Security income excluded; and spouses, personal representatives or estates may also file rebate claims on behalf of claimants who lived at least one day in 2017 and meet all other criteria.

Applications and FREE assistance are available from the Department of Revenue district offices, local Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers or at my Scranton office.



Rep. Flynn's chief of staff Thom Welby had the opportunity to present a special 100th Birthday Citation from the House of Representatives to Mrs. Gladys MacDonald. Also joining the celebration was Mrs. MacDonald's "little" sister, 97-year-old Mildred Sparacino.

PEER advocates recognized at Merli Center

My office was part of a ceremony with Scranton Mayor Bill Courtright honoring eight PEER advocates at the Gino Merli Veteran Center.

These eight people volunteered for a training program for residents of long-term care facilities to learn about their rights and how to advocate and maintain their rights for themselves and their fellow peers. Residents are taught how to work with facility staff to enhance their quality of care and life for all residents.

Congratulations to all of these men and women who made the time to work toward the improvement of their lives and their facility.



‘Cabinet in Your Community’ stops in Scranton

Gov. Tom Wolf’s “Cabinet in Your Community” made a stop in Scranton in May.

This initiative is a series of town hall-like events in which members of the community are given the opportunity to interact with cabinet secretaries and talk about the issues important to each region.

“It is important for the state to hear from communities in every part of the commonwealth to learn how we can support them and allow everyone to feel connected to Harrisburg,” Wolf said.

The Cabinet in Your Community secretaries provided specific updates on major projects, accomplishments, and answered questions from the audience.



“Cabinet in Your Community” guests included: Cassandra Coleman, director of the governor’s Northeast/Central Regional Office; Secretary Teresa Osborne, Department of Aging; Secretary Jerry Oleksiak, Department of Labor and Industry; Secretary Teresa Miller, Department of Human Services; Maj. General Tony Carelli, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; Secretary Jennifer Smith, Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs.



Rep. Flynn with Cassandra Coleman, director of the governor’s Northeast/Central Regional Office.



Twice a year, Rep. Flynn’s office holds a shredding event for residents of the 113th District. Traditionally they are held shortly after Tax Day in April and again in early fall. Check with his office for the date of the next event.

Committee discusses tourism



Members of the Pennsylvania House Democratic Caucus Policy Committee met in Scranton to discuss tourism as it relates to economic development and also discussed issues of handicap accessibility at Pennsylvania attractions with Lackawanna Convention & Visitors Bureau Executive Director Curt Camoni.



Visiting the Lackawanna County Trolley Museum to check out the set from the John Oliver "Last Week Tonight" Show that he donated to the museum were FROM LEFT: Reps. Sid Kavulich, Eddie Pashinski, Chris Sainato, Dom Costa, Pat Harkins and Marty Flynn.

Governor's Arts Awards presented

First Lady Frances Wolf announced that the 2018 Governor's Awards for the Arts will be held at the Scranton Cultural Center in downtown Scranton. This is the first time the state arts event has been held in Scranton.

"Scranton, and its neighboring cities and towns, stand as a benchmark for what can be nurtured and accomplished amid an energetic and tightly woven community," said First Lady Wolf. "It is this, coupled with the NEPA region's rich collection of arts and cultural organizations that make Scranton a wonderful place to host the Governor's Awards."

The awards recognize artistic accomplishment in four award categories: Distinguished Arts, Patron, Artist of the Year (the Hazlett Memorial Award), and Arts Leadership and Service.

The Governor's Awards for the Arts are administered by the



Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency under the Office of the Governor. The council's mission is to foster the excellence, diversity, and vitality of the arts in Pennsylvania, and to broaden the availability and appreciation of those arts throughout the state.



Some of the many visitors that Rep. Flynn had in Harrisburg this summer were representatives of the group PANDA/PANS. Barb O'Brien and Renee Lumeo were there to discuss this disorder. PANS and PANDAS are infection-induced autoimmune conditions that disrupt a patient's normal neurologic functioning, resulting in a sudden onset of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and/or motor tics and a variety of other symptoms. If your group would like to visit Harrisburg and discuss issues with Rep. Flynn and his fellow legislators, please contact his Harrisburg office at 717-787-8981.

Together with Rep. Sid Kavulich, Sen. Bob Casey and Treasurer Joe Torsella, Rep. Flynn proudly celebrated the first anniversary of the PA ABLE Program. Their special guest was national disabilities advocate Sara Wolff. Modeled after college savings accounts, the ABLE Act allows people to create tax-advantaged savings accounts that can be used to cover qualified disability expenses such as, but not limited to, education, housing and transportation.





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My office can help you with:

- PennDOT issues – vehicle registrations, special tags, handicap placards and driver's license applications
- Obtaining and completing state forms
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Requests for literature – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Unclaimed Property/Treasurer's Office claims



Office staff from left: Joe Triano, Senior Services Specialist; Thom Welby, Chief of Staff; Angela Rempe Jones, District Office Manager; Rep. Flynn; Greg Gianacopoulos, Legislative Assistant; Nolan Trently, Director of Legislative Affairs.

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- PACE/PACENET prescription-drug applications for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups