



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JOE WEBSTER

SERVING THE 150TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY.



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Revitalizing Main Street: Bringing the community together

In July, I hosted a community hearing on Revitalizing Main Street. With civil engineers, development specialists, and community leaders in attendance, we discussed ways to improve the Ridge Pike corridor.

From talking to community members, I've learned that responsible, cost-effective, walkable, and traffic-alleviating development of Ridge Pike is important to many constituents across the 150th District. The Main Street/Ridge Pike corridor plays a huge role in the lives of many of our residents. Ensuring that the route is appropriately developed and maintained is paramount if we are to capitalize on its potential to be a significant economic driver in Montgomery County.

Strong public interest and municipal commitment

During the meeting, the standing-room-only crowd and I listened to experts and heard the valid concerns of our residents. I learned how each of our municipalities have already done notable work on this issue for their residents. By implementing significant improvements to both businesses located along Ridge Pike and to traffic patterns throughout

the region, municipal governments have been spearheading this effort. The active local participation in this event highlights the powerful impact that we can make in our communities by uniting voices. Testimony from residents, however, indicates that there is a great deal more to be done. It's important that we focus on next steps to keep the momentum moving.



My staff – Heather, John, Ben, Dana, Marcus and Josh – and I wish you a joyous holiday season! I hope that, together, our gratitude fuels a spirit of generosity for those who face difficulties this holiday season and guides us into the new year. Our communities succeed together, and I look forward to joining arms and walking confidently into 2020!

If you need help or have any questions on state-related issues, please call 484-200-8263 or come by the office. We're here to serve you.

We do better when we work together

One of the big themes that we heard repeatedly from the panel is that when our communities work together, they can more successfully petition for grant funding from Harrisburg to use in the development of our local business corridors. These grants allow our communities to engage in important development projects that connect our region in a coherent way to attract businesses and residents.

That's why I am working with our local municipal leaders on developing a Council of Governments – a voluntary association for municipalities to coordinate on projects that benefit all of them and leverage planning efforts and grant requests, so that the entire Ridge Pike corridor can function as one cohesive unit. Our local governments still retain their independence and protect local interests while benefitting from a coordinated and concentrated effort on Main Street improvement projects!

I continue to look for other avenues, including a potential grant writing workshop, to assist with the vibrant and responsible development of the 150th District so that it remains a wonderful place to live for generations to come!



I'm proud to be part of the Plan for PA, designed to put people first. We're fighting for:

**Good Jobs • Affordable Health Care
Quality Schools • A Fair Economy**

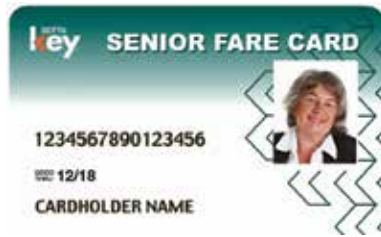
Together, we can build a strong economy that works for all of us.
Get the details at www.planforpa.com.

Get your SEPTA Key Senior ID card

Seniors 65 or older are eligible to ride SEPTA for free in Pennsylvania with a SEPTA Key Senior ID card.

My office can help you get your card! Stop by one of my district offices with your state ID or driver's license, and my staff can help you with the application process. Your card will arrive in the mail in a few weeks.

You should also know that SEPTA is no longer accepting the PA senior citizen transit ID cards, so it's important to get an updated Senior Fare Card in order to ride for free. Call my office at 484-200-8263 with any questions or visit www.septa.org.



Working to protect veterans

As an Air Force veteran myself, working to better serve our veterans is one of my greatest honors and responsibilities. My seat on the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee has positioned me well to work on issues that directly impact our veterans and emergency responders.

I've introduced legislation that would help protect veterans from identity theft

Veterans often file their DD214s and other discharge orders with their county's Recorder of Deeds in order to access an array of benefits through the county Veterans Affairs offices.

Unfortunately, scammers are trying to use those records to take advantage of elderly veterans and commit crimes such as larceny and identity theft.

My legislation, House Bill 1630, would make DD214s inaccessible to anyone other than a veteran, an immediate family member or an authorized agent of the veteran.



REP. WEBSTER'S First year in office



2,788
Constituent
Services
Provided

Legislation:

9
sponsored
399
co-sponsored

301
Community
Events
and Local
Meetings



Votes Cast:

149
committee
1,007
floor

2,116
Local Attendees at
Office Events



*Numbers as of 11/7/19



PA GI Bill signed into law

This past summer, I was thrilled to see Governor Tom Wolf sign the PA GI Bill, which extends education benefits to the spouses and children of National Guard service members who reenlist. The program is now open for enrollment. Visit www.pa.ng.mil online for more details. Click the "Offices & Programs" tab, then "Education Services."

Protecting our first responders

Our committee also forwarded, and the House approved, several bills that aim to help our fire companies and emergency responders by expanding loan and grant programs. Additional provisions in the legislation package would establish mental wellness and stress management resources for emergency responders. These efforts are good – but not enough.

Our firefighters and other emergency responders face life-or-death situations every day, and we know these organizations are facing a crisis when it comes to recruiting and funding.

I'll keep working to make sure we support the men and women who risk their lives for us.

Working to reduce the property tax burden

From seniors on fixed budgets to young people trying to buy their first homes, many people in our community are feeling overburdened by high property taxes.

Why property tax rates keep going up

State-level education funding has been systematically gutted since the 1970s. Education is critical to our state's economy and our communities. Yet Pennsylvania ranks an abysmal 47th in the nation when it comes to state funding of our schools.

This reality leaves many of our schools woefully underfunded and dependent on local property taxes to fill the gap. Our communities are left with a false dilemma – raise property taxes or let school quality decline.

The importance of quality community schools

Excellent community schools are incredibly important. They create higher property values and allow our students to unlock more opportunity, and an educated workforce gives businesses a strong incentive to locate in Pennsylvania. Though this year's state budget increased school funding, it was set at a rate that barely keeps up with inflation and does little to fix the problem of underfunding.

We must find a better path forward that adequately addresses the funding disparities our schools face, while reducing the property tax burden for our residents.

A fairer tax system – where special interests and big business pay their fair share – as well as greater state-level contributions to education are needed to help address this problem.

Bills I've co-sponsored to hold the line on property taxes

Since I took office, I've co-sponsored numerous bills related to reducing the property tax burden for our residents.

Among them are measures that would update the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program to help more people qualify, as well as measures that would freeze school property taxes for seniors – who we know are particularly hard hit.

I've co-sponsored a bill that would amend our state constitution to extend a property tax exemption to all disabled veterans.

I'm also supportive of a measure to put 100% of our school funding through the

fair funding formula developed in 2016.

Transparency and Accountability

Compounding our problem, Pennsylvania has some of the worst transparency and accountability laws for cyber charter schools in the nation. **We need to provide quality cyber education to students who need it in a way that is cost effective, results oriented, and transparent.**

Even though cyber charters have significantly less overhead than traditional local brick-and-mortar schools, our local schools are forced to divert precious resources based on the district's costs. This kind of waste is unacceptable, irresponsible, and must be reined in.

I support Governor Wolf's call for reform of charter school laws, and I've co-sponsored legislation to make changes, including a bill to cap the amount of reimbursement that cyber charter schools receive for students who live in districts that operate their own cyber programs.

Be wary of so-called "property tax elimination" bills.



These are thinly veiled corporate tax giveaways that would further shift the burden of taxation to individuals.

Under some of these bills, the owners of shopping malls, pharmaceutical companies, business parks, and more would see a giant permanent tax cut, and not pay a single cent in the new tax formula proposed in these bills.

For example, just ONE commercial property in the Spring-Ford Area School District pays the equivalent property taxes of 200 homes in the district, or about \$1.3 million per year. It would be unfair and unethical to ask individuals to make up this shortfall.

The reality is that under these proposals the burden will pass to everyday Pennsylvanians. Our workers would pay higher income taxes, our families and consumers would pay higher sales taxes, our seniors would pay pension taxes for the first time, and (ironically) our renters would pay the same or higher rents, while corporations would contribute nothing to educating our students.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate deadline approaching



Dec. 31 is the deadline for the 2018 Property Tax/Rent Rebate program.

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded. Spouses, personal representatives, and estates of recently lost loved ones may also file rebate claims on behalf of claimants who have lived at least one day in 2018 and meet all other eligibility criteria.

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

My office can help you with your application! Call us at 484-200-8263.

REAL ID is here

REAL IDs are now available to Pennsylvanians who want one.

Starting Oct. 1, 2020,

Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, photo ID card or another form of federally acceptable identification, such as a valid passport or military ID, to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a federal building or military installation that requires ID.

To get your REAL ID, you need to bring the following with you:

- Proof of identity: Original or certified copy of a birth certificate filed with the state office of vital records with a raised/embossed seal — issued by an authorized government agency — or valid, unexpired U.S. Passport or passport card.
- Proof of Social Security number: Social Security card.
- Two proofs of current, physical PA address (if applicable): Examples include current, unexpired PA license or ID, PA vehicle registration, auto insurance card or utility bill with the same name and address.
- Proof of all legal name changes: Certified marriage certificate, court order, or divorce decree issued by your county's family court.

There are three ways you can get your REAL ID:

- Apply online if you've been pre-verified
- Visit any PennDOT Driver's License Center with your documents and receive your REAL ID in 15 days
- Visit a REAL ID Center with your documents and receive your REAL ID at time of service.

There are two centers in Montgomery County that can issue REAL IDs over the counter:

1700 Markley St., Norristown
143 S. Gulph Road, King of Prussia

REAL IDs are now available



Grants for our community

It's a pleasure to be able to help bring state grant money back to our community! I've been proud to support funding that aids our schools, police, transportation, environment and more. Here are some of the funding highlights from this year:

- **Lower Providence Township**, \$342,025 Green Light-Go grant for traffic signal improvements along Egypt Road
- **Lower Providence Police Department**, \$45,000 grant to help with municipal security upgrades
- **West Norriton Township**, \$164,774 Commonwealth Financing Authority grant to retrofit a stormwater basin to limit polluted water entering Stony Creek
- **Laurel House, Norristown**, \$366,226 grant through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for its domestic violence shelter and supportive services
- **Norristown Area School District**, \$1.5 million, and **Spring-Ford Area School District**, \$386,192, in school safety grants through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
- **Lower Providence Township**, \$1 million Multimodal Transportation Fund grant to improve intersection at Park Avenue, Eagleville Road and Crawford Road along SR 4004
- **Ursinus College**, \$670,442 Multimodal grant, for pedestrian safety improvements on Main Street in Collegeville
- **Lower Providence Township**, \$50,000 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant for a comprehensive recreation, park and open space plan

Holiday Non-Perishable Food and Personal Care Drive

In the spirit of the holiday season, my office is collecting non-perishable food and personal care items to donate to a local food pantry. We are accepting donations through Dec. 14 at either of my district offices:

Collegeville office

488 E. Main St.

Hours: 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday

West Norriton office

2121 W. Main St.

Hours 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday to Friday

Items needed include:

- Canned meat, fruit or tomato products
- Cereal and other non-perishable food
- Cleaning products
- Soap/shampoo
- Feminine hygiene products

Thank you in advance for supporting our local community.



Upcoming Events



Holiday Meet and Greet

I'm very much looking forward to spending time with residents of the 150th District at our Holiday Meet and Greet! Join me and my staff for a festive afternoon and light refreshments. Please consider bringing a non-perishable food or personal care item to donate to our holiday drive.

Saturday, December 14 • 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Jeffersonville Golf Club – Club House
2400 W. Main St., Jeffersonville, PA 19403

Stay Tuned: We are planning the following events for 2020. Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for details of these events and more!

Grant Workshops • Shredding Event

Pet Registration • Tele-Town Hall

What Joe's doing around the 150th



It was an honor to attend the Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony in Eagleville and see five Scouts awarded the rank of Eagle Scout! Congratulations to these hard-working young men.



Fly, Eagles, Fly!
It was a dream come true to see the Eagles practice during preseason training camp.

I was pleased to present a flag flown over the Capitol to the Collegeville Fire Company, in recognition of the selfless work our firefighters do every day.



I was honored to participate in the Collegeville-Trappe Memorial Day parade and service to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom.



I had a great time at the Lower Providence Fall Festival!



My staff and I visited the Elmwood Park Zoo to learn about the amazing conservation work they are doing!



I visited the John James Audubon Center to discuss local tourism, wildlife and more.



It was an honor to serve dinner to my fellow veterans at the Trappe VFW on Veterans Day.



I joined Reps. Mike Zabel, Ben Sanchez, Melissa Shusterman and Joe Ciresi for a cleanup event to draw attention to the problem of litter in our communities.



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lpo.kaf.1219



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DECEMBER 2019 HOUSE REPORT

■ \$4.5 MILLION + FOR OUR COMMUNITY IN YEAR 1

Stay in touch!

Feel free to email me at RepWebster@pahouse.net. If you would like to receive email updates on news from Harrisburg and the 150th District, please visit www.pahouse.com/Webster. You can also like my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RepJoeWebster or follow me on Twitter [@RepJoeWebster](https://twitter.com/RepJoeWebster).



Take me out to the ballgame! I had a blast singing with Rep. Joe Ciresi and Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski at the Capitol All-Stars charity softball game in Harrisburg. Great time for a good cause – fighting hunger.