



Frank Burns

State Representative

72nd Legislative District

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Fighting for Seniors

Burns comes to the rescue of sidelined seniors

Bus trips to favorite destinations restored

When upset seniors sought Rep. Burns' help after the Cambria County Transit Authority cut out their favorite shared-ride bus trips, it didn't take him long to get that decision reversed.

Rep. Burns quickly got PennDOT involved, and after a three-way meeting in his Harrisburg office that included CamTran officials, bus service was restored to the most popular destinations in adjacent counties.

Rep. Burns' offices also collected 1,425 signatures on a petition supporting of the seniors, and he accompanied 65 of them to a Cambria County commissioners' meeting to make their feelings known.



Rep. Burns was ecstatic to run into these friends from the Portage and Ebensburg Senior Centers at DelGrosso's Park in Tipton, where they were enjoying an outing thanks to the CamTran shared ride bus service Rep. Burns helped restore.

"No one should ever underestimate the power of our seniors." – Rep. Frank Burns

Burns votes for safe reopening of state, protecting vulnerable seniors

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Rep. Burns has consistently voted and advocated to balance the safety of workers, families and seniors with the need to allow businesses to safely reopen.

Although he voted 28 times to reopen PA businesses and was the only Democrat to vote three times to end the governor's shutdown, Rep. Burns did so with the understanding that protocols established by health experts would guide the lifting of restrictions.

"While we should allow local business owners and their employees to be able to provide for their families, we need to remain cautious and safe to protect those who are most vulnerable, including our seniors."

– Rep. Frank Burns

Burns makes sure seniors' Property Tax/Rent Rebate payments arrive promptly

Bipartisan legislation supported by Rep. Burns ensured the state made quick Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program payments during the coronavirus crisis – a move that benefited many Cambria County seniors.

Under the bill supported by Rep. Burns, the state departments of Revenue and Treasury were instructed to begin making payments immediately to all approved homeowners and renters. It also authorized school districts to set up programs whereby senior citizens can volunteer in their school districts to receive partial credit against their school property taxes.

Rep. Burns urges qualifying seniors to apply or to go online to check the status of their claims – and to contact any of his offices for free, expert help in applying.

“As long as I’m a state representative our seniors will not be forgotten, and I’ll keep fighting to make sure their voices are heard in Harrisburg.” – Rep. Frank Burns



Rep. Burns presented Margaret Jones of Ebensburg with a House citation commemorating her 100th birthday. She’s the mother of three, grandmother of six and great-grandmother of 13. Think of all the wisdom and life experience she’s acquired!

Burns laments cancellation of 2020 Senior Fair

While Rep. Burns deeply regrets that he was forced to cancel this year’s Senior Fair due to COVID-19 restrictions, he feels that is a small price to pay for helping keep seniors safe from the virus.

Since many seniors have the underlying health conditions that make them more vulnerable to serious COVID-19 consequences – including death – Rep. Burns believes it’s better for everyone to be safe than sorry.

Here is a look at recent Senior Fairs, which always draw large crowds.



Burns votes to expand prescription drug coverage for 14,000 seniors



By voting to expand the PACENET income eligibility limits by \$4,000 – the first increase in 15 years – Rep. Burns made sure 3,000 seniors didn’t lose their prescription drug benefit, while adding another 14,000 older Pennsylvanians to the program.

Aided by Rep. Burns’ support of this bipartisan bill, total income for a single

person can now be between \$14,500 and \$27,500. For a married couple, combined total income can now be between \$17,700 and \$35,500.

PACENET, which is administered by the PA Department of Aging, offers low-cost prescription drug coverage to qualified residents.

Burns votes 'No' to tax hikes, increased debt

Rep. Burns consistently votes against higher sales, personal income and gasoline taxes – because he knows seniors living on fixed incomes are always hit hard when Harrisburg starts reaching out for more money.

Power brokers from both parties have failed every time they've tried to strong-arm Rep. Burns into voting for higher taxes. He refused to vote for Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf's higher sales and income taxes, or for Republican Gov. Tom Corbett's higher gasoline taxes.

Rep. Burns also voted against back-door tax hikes – such as those on tobacco products, income tax on lottery winnings, and downloaded internet data and apps. And he refused to saddle taxpayers with \$1.29 billion in debt for capital projects, because he knows borrowed money must be repaid.

Burns saves taxpayers over \$285,000

As a fiscally conservative Democrat, Rep. Burns has – and will continue to – vote against higher taxes.

By refusing a state car and cell phone, relying on a full-time volunteer staffer, and pinching pennies on office rent, mileage, utilities, telephones, furniture leases and office equipment, Rep. Burns has saved taxpayers more than \$285,000 during his time in office.

On top of keeping his office expenses to the bare minimum, Rep. Burns uses personal funds – not tax dollars – to operate his Patton office. You have his pledge that he'll continue running a tight fiscal ship, in Harrisburg and back home.

Refuses state phone!

Refuses state car!

Burns votes for \$59 million in health care savings, lower costs for 400,000 people

Working in a bipartisan fashion, Rep. Burns supported a bill that lowered insurance premiums for 400,000 people while saving the state \$59 million in annual health care costs.

Passed by a Republican-controlled legislature and signed into law by a Democratic governor, the bill achieved those results through an administrative change in operation of the state's health insurance exchange.

Rep. Burns believes that when partisanship is set aside and everyone works to find common ground, much good can be achieved.

Burns regular visitor to senior centers

While some people only talk about their concern for seniors, you'll actually see Rep. Burns at the senior centers throughout our district, interacting with seniors regularly to hear their concerns, find out their needs – and, yes, sometimes share a laugh or two.

Whether it's helping them pay for prescription drugs, making sure they aren't taken advantage of, or ensuring that after a lifetime of working they can take a public bus to a favorite restaurant or shopping destination, Rep. Burns is always ready to assist seniors.



Rep. Burns presented a House citation to the Ebensburg Senior Center in conjunction with Older Pennsylvanians Month.



Rep. Burns visited the Cresson Senior Center to present them with a Certificate of Appreciation for Senior Month.



As he often does throughout the district, Rep. Burns stopped by the Portage Senior Center just to chat with seniors, so he's constantly in touch with their issues and concerns.



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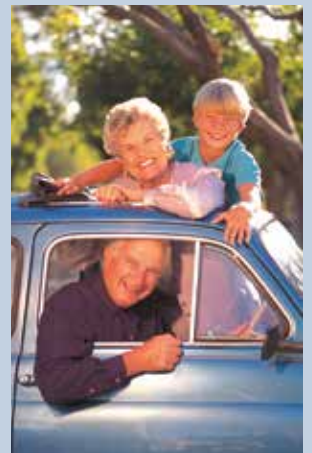
Rep. Burns is here to help seniors!

Visit or call any of Rep. Burns' offices to get help with a variety of popular state programs and services, such as:



✓ **Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program**, which provides a maximum standard rebate of \$650 (which could be boosted to \$975 through supplemental rebates) to eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older.

✓ **PennDOT assistance** – Rep. Burns' staff can help you obtain or renew your driver's license, vehicle registration or photo ID, among other things, and can often help cut through the red tape.



✓ **Safe Driving Classes**, which are geared toward mature drivers and earn you a 5% auto insurance discount, are offered throughout the year. Call Rep. Burns' office at 814-472-8021 to find the next one nearest you!

✓ **PACE and PACENET**, which offer low-cost prescription medication to qualified residents who are 65 or older.

✓ **Do Not Call List** – Rep. Burns' staff can help you enroll, verify that your number is on the list so you avoid telemarketing scams and general annoyance, or help you file a complaint.

✓ **Elder Abuse Helpline** – Rep. Burns' staff can direct you to the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Elder Abuse Helpline, where you can receive expert assistance.



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