

State Representative
Austin Davis

Travdy

Serving the
35th Legislative District



Dear Neighbor,

I am so honored to serve the 35th Legislative District as your state representative and wanted to take the time to provide you with an update on some of the work I have been doing in Harrisburg and here at home.

While in Harrisburg during the recent budget session, I was proud to advocate for and support a bipartisan budget that included a historic \$1.1 billion increase in education funding. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I worked to ensure that this budget invested in education, infrastructure, community safety, and relief for homeowners and renters. Passing a budget is not always easy, but I am glad that the 2022-2023 budget will invest in the people of Pennsylvania.

Additionally, I am happy to announce that since the beginning of 2022, I have been able to bring \$3.8 million in grants and tax credits back into the Mon Valley. It is always exciting to work to bring funding into the district to invest in projects that support infrastructure, recreational opportunities, and economic development.

As always, my offices are available and open to assist you with any of your state-related needs. I consider it a tremendous honor to serve you and look forward to continuing to work to represent the constituents of the 35th Legislative District.

Yours in Service,



STATE BUDGET INCLUDES HISTORIC EDUCATION INVESTMENT

This year's state budget delivered a historic \$1.1 billion in funding for education. The money will fund K-12 school programs, pay teachers, and provide record funding to underfunded schools.

I've always fought to bring back money to our Mon Valley school districts, and this year I'm pleased that the following school districts will see a significant boost in Basic Education Funding from the budget:

- Clairton City SD - \$9,186,956 (14.3% increase).
- Duquesne City SD - \$13,677,593 (7.8% increase).
- McKeesport Area SD - \$33,986,420 (21.7% increase).
- South Allegheny SD - \$11,135,240 (7.9% increase).
- Steel Valley SD - \$11,604,096 (17% increase).
- West Mifflin Area SD - \$10,396,963 (21.4% increase).

The state budget also increased funding for violence prevention, which is crucial in reducing gun violence in the Mon Valley and across Pennsylvania. Additionally, the budget deposited more than \$2 billion into the state Rainy Day Fund, bringing the fund total to nearly \$5 billion to address future state needs.

State budgets are always a compromise, and while there are certainly some things I would like to change in this year's state spending plan, on the whole, I think it is a good deal for Pennsylvania.



I was thrilled to join Pittsburgh Regional Transit staff and others to cut the ribbon at the grand reopening of the McKeesport Transportation Center, which features an upgraded facility and expanded park-and-ride service. This is a major step in the right direction in our efforts to revitalize our Mon Valley business districts!

BRINGING MONEY BACK TO THE MON VALLEY

In 2022, I've worked to bring more than \$3.8 million dollars in grants and tax credits back to the Mon Valley for a wide range of projects, including:

- **\$2.4 million** investment for the Pittsburgh International Airport for continued Commercial Air Cargo development, including aircraft and vehicular access and parking, environmental remediation, and site preparation.
- More than **\$345,000** to fund the continued construction of the Clairton Public Library's and the Allegheny County Library Association's ADA compliance upgrades.

- **\$600,000** in tax credits to strengthen efforts to provide safe, affordable, and accessible housing to vulnerable residents in our communities.

- More than **\$158,000** in grant funding for 11 fire and EMS companies in the Mon Valley that can be used for facility upgrades, equipment, training, recruitment and retention, and revenue loss due to COVID-19 impacts.

- Nearly **\$182,000** to support gun violence prevention, community outreach, and increased school safety.



Thanks to all of the folks who turned out for my annual spring shred event. It's always great to help the community with spring cleaning!



I had the tremendous honor of presenting McKeesport Area High School graduate Grace Walker with a 2022 James R. Roebuck Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus Scholarship. Grace has a bright future ahead at North Carolina A&T, and I wish her all the best!



I joined the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank for the grand opening of their Market in April. I was glad to help secure state RACP funds to make this project a reality!



It was an honor to join the ribbon-cutting celebration at the end of July for the \$16 million renovation project for the Clairton Inn to restore this historic property for residential and commercial use!

FIGHTING BACK AGAINST PRICE GOUGING

Hard-working Pennsylvanians are hurting right now as the price of just about everything -- from gas to groceries -- keeps going up. People are being forced to make stressful decisions about what they can and cannot afford. Some folks who've retired have been forced back into the workforce just to make ends meet.

This isn't just inflation, but also corporations taking advantage to drive up profits by increasing prices.

The lack of competition in the market has opened the door to price gouging at the gas station, grocery store, retail stores, restaurants, and pretty much every industry where only a handful of corporations control supply, demand, or both.

This isn't sustainable and this isn't right.

Coming from a working-class background, I know how tight budgets and rising prices can affect a family. I'm fighting to stand up for people in the Mon Valley and across Pennsylvania who are doing their best but are still being left behind thanks to greed.

There are several bills House Democrats have introduced that I co-sponsor, which would end corporate inflation and price gouging to protect Pennsylvania consumers:

- The **End Gas Gouging Act** would have us join the five other states who already ban oil companies or gas retail operations from raising prices more than once in a 24-hour period or during an emergency and give the attorney general more tools to investigate and prosecute.
- The **Stop Price Fixing Act** would enhance the attorney general's ability to prosecute individuals and businesses artificially raising prices and taking advantage of Pennsylvanians.
- The **Open Markets Act** would end behavior that hurts fair business competition and give the attorney general more power to investigate and prosecute any anti-trust violations.

These are immediate steps we can take to provide relief to Pennsylvania families and help them keep their hard-earned money. We must protect consumers over corporations.



It was wonderful to welcome State Reps. Aerion Abney and Martell Covington to the General Assembly during their swearing-in back in April.



I was honored to help break ground for United at Twin Rivers. It's a new community resource at Twin Rivers Elementary School that will provide modern, energy-efficient spaces where students, educators and learning will thrive.



I attended a House Democratic Policy Committee hearing with EMS companies from Allegheny County to learn how we can better support our first responders.

REPLACE YOUR HARD- TO-READ OR DAMAGED LICENSE PLATE

Have a license plate that is peeling, discolored or damaged?

I'm holding a free event in conjunction with the Pennsylvania State Police to have your illegible license plate replaced. Please note this event is only to replace standard-issue license plates. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate specialty, vanity, or handicap plates. You must register for the event ahead of time by calling my office at 412-664-0035. My staff will complete the necessary paperwork prior to the event to help streamline the process. You will NOT be receiving a new plate at the event. You must bring a valid driver's license and current registration to the event.

**Thursday, Sept. 15
4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Rainbow Volunteer Fire
Company
2916 Jacks Run Rd.
White Oak, PA 15131**

The Allegheny County Sheriff's Department will also be on hand to collect unused or expired medications to dispose of them safely.

My office can help: Property Tax/Rent rebates!

The state is now accepting applications for eligible senior citizens and others to apply for a rebate on their 2021 property taxes or rent.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is open to residents 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with a disability 18 or older. To qualify, homeowners must have a household income of \$35,000 or less; renters qualify if their household income is \$15,000 or less. Applicants only have to count half of their Social Security, Supplemental Security, or federal Railroad Retirement Tier I benefits toward the income limit.

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

If you received a rebate last year, you should have received a 2021 application form in the mail. If not, applications are available online at www.revenue.state.pa.us or by calling 1-888-222-9190. Residents can also call or visit my office to obtain the form. My staff is available to process your application and answer any questions.

We help hundreds of folks each year with this process, so please reach out if you have questions. The application period closes on Dec. 31, 2022, so please do not delay!

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE UPDATE

As part of the state budget passed in July, folks who receive a 2021 Property Tax/Rent Rebate will receive a one-time bonus payment! My colleagues and I fought hard to include this funding in the state budget because we know how hard things are for older folks on a fixed income.

If you already received your rebate, you do not need to do anything. The state Department of Revenue will send the additional funds in the coming weeks in the same manner as the initial rebate, either by direct deposit or check.



As vice chair of the House Democratic Policy Committee, I hosted legislators from across the commonwealth in Allegheny County earlier this year to get a look at our public transit system. We need to make decisions in the legislature that support access to transit and strengthen a system that so many folks rely on every day.



State Representative

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lpo.ad.0722

Ways my office can assist YOU!

- Provide COVID-19-related resources and information
- Process applications for birth and death certificates
- Provide you with Pennsylvania state tax forms
- Notarize any state form for free
- Search for unclaimed money in your name through the Pennsylvania Treasurer's Office
- Notarize and process applications for disability parking and placards
- Field questions or handle problems concerning PennDOT, including complaints about road conditions
- Explain the Real ID application process
- Help with unemployment compensation questions or problems
- Field questions or complaints about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Provide you with recognition from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
- Provide you with state forms or brochures
- Send state forms for you to the appropriate departments in Harrisburg to expedite their processing
- Answer questions about proposed legislation

DISTRICT OFFICES:

627 Lysle Blvd. | McKeesport, PA 15132 | (412) 664-0035 | Fax: (412) 664-0039

3905 Main Street | Munhall, PA 15120 | (412) 476-3046 | Fax: (412) 476-3048

SATELLITE OFFICE:

551 Ravensburg Blvd. | Clairton, PA 15025 | (412) 233-2505

KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN HARRISBURG

Find me on social media or visit my website at www.RepAustinDavis.com to sign up for my email updates about programs, services, events and news involving our district!