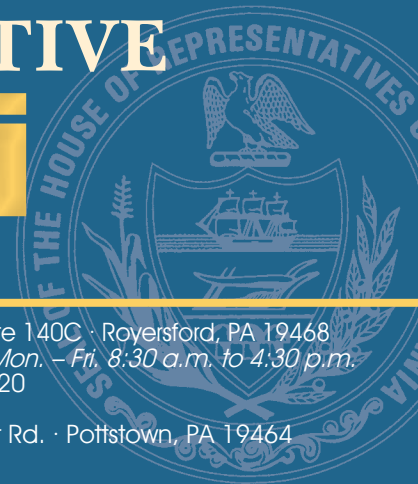




# STATE REPRESENTATIVE Joe Ciresi

## 146th Legislative District



Spring 2024

**Constituent Services Office:** Park Towne Plaza, 301 N. Lewis Road · Suite 140C · Royersford, PA 19468  
P: (484) 200-8265 · F: (484) 200-8275 · Mon. – Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Capitol Office:** 125A East Wing · P.O. Box 202146 · Harrisburg, PA 17120  
P: (717) 783-4086 · F: (717) 705-1891

**Pottstown Satellite Offices:** TriCounty Active Adult Center · 288 Moser Rd. · Pottstown, PA 19464  
*Mon. and Wed., 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.*

Montgomery County Community College · North Hall Room 119  
16 E. High St. · Pottstown, PA 19464 · *Tues. and Thurs., 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.*

Email: [RepCiresi@pahouse.com](mailto:RepCiresi@pahouse.com) · Website: [www.RepCiresi.com](http://www.RepCiresi.com)

   Follow me on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @RepCiresi

## Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program Expanded

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program was expanded this year, with higher rebate amounts and 175,000 more Pennsylvanians eligible for property tax and housing relief. This expansion was a major priority of mine that I had introduced legislation for last year, and I was proud to support it because it would help many of our local residents.

As a result of the expansion, the maximum rebate has increased from \$650 to \$1,000, and the income-eligibility limit has gone up to \$45,000 (not counting half of Social Security income) for both owners and renters. The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older.

### Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program Application Help in Pottstown

If you'd like to apply for a Property Tax/Rent Rebate for taxes or rent paid in 2023, my office is hosting mobile events in the Pottstown area to make it convenient for you to apply. If you wish to complete your application during your visit, please call our office beforehand to find out what to bring with you.

**May 21 & June 6**

Noon - 2 p.m.

Montgomery County Community College, North Hall, Room 119  
16 E. High St., Pottstown

Appointments are required for these events and can be made by calling (484) 200-8265.

You can also feel free to stop by my Royersford office or one of my Pottstown satellite offices, and my staff would be happy to help you apply for this rebate or answer any questions.

## Satellite Offices Open in Pottstown



To better serve my Pottstown-area constituents, I have satellite offices at Montgomery County Community College's (MCCC) North Hall, Room 119 (16 E. High St.) and the TriCounty Active Adult Center (288 Moser Road).

The office at MCCC is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 3 p.m. Free parking is available at the College's South Hall off of College Drive, and paid street parking is also available on High Street. MCCC's Pottstown Campus is a stop on Pottstown PART's Green Line and SEPTA's Route 93 bus.

The office on the third floor of the TriCounty Active Adult Center is open on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. On-site parking is free, and this is a stop on the Pottstown PART Yellow Line.

Our regular constituent services are available at these satellite locations, including applications for SEPTA Senior Key cards, the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, unclaimed property, birth and death certificates, and more. Please call ahead for notary services to make sure there will be a notary in the office before you show up.

# Over \$53 Million In State Grants Delivered

I continue to advocate for my constituents by seeking out and supporting state grants and other funding to help our residents, businesses, schools, and local governments. Since taking office in January 2019, I am proud to have helped deliver over **\$53.7 million in state grants** to the 146th Legislative District, including **over \$5 million in grants since my previous newsletter** last fall.

- ▶ **Almost \$900,000 for local parks** projects, including improvements to Royersford's Victory Park, West Pottsgrove Township's Old Timer's Field Park, and Pottstown's Pollock Park, as well as supporting trail construction along the Schuylkill River in Royersford and Limerick.
- ▶ Over **\$1.3 million for stormwater infrastructure** projects to help repair Pottstown's stormwater arch collapses, invest in preventive maintenance, replace a sanitary sewer main on Hilltop Road in Lower Pottsgrove Township, and provide backup generator power for a Pottstown sewer pump station.
- ▶ Over **\$2.7 million for school safety, security, and mental health** investments, including almost **\$150,000 to purchase equipment for career and technical education (CTE)** programs at the Western Montgomery Career and Technology Center and Pottstown High School, and **\$100,000 for physical security upgrades** at Spring-Ford Area School District.
- ▶ Over **\$250,000 for area fire and EMS companies**, including **\$30,000 for new firefighting gear** for Pottstown's North End Fire Co. and **\$20,000 to install traffic light preemption systems** for faster response times in Lower Pottsgrove Township.



## DO YOU BELIEVE YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY **WRONGLY DENIED A CLAIM?**

The PA Insurance Department may be able to help.

**GO TO**  
**PA.GOV/REVIEWMYCLAIM**

to request an external appeal by an independent panel of doctors & nurses.

If their review determines your request should be covered, **your health plan must do so.**

**CLAIM**



## New Appeal Option for Denied Health Insurance Claims

If you think your health insurer has wrongly denied a claim, the Pennsylvania Insurance Department may now be able to help. You can request an external appeal at no cost to you by an independent third-party panel that includes doctors and nurses. If their review determines that your claim should be covered, your health plan will be required to cover it. I was proud to vote for the law that started this program to help ensure Pennsylvanians receive the care they need and deserve.

Learn more about this option on the PA Insurance Department's website: <https://iro.insurance.pa.gov/> or scan the QR Code below.



# Fighting to Freeze Senior Property Taxes



I know that property taxes are a major issue in our area and across our state, especially for seniors on fixed incomes who have trouble staying in their homes because of them. That's why I'm co-prime sponsoring bipartisan legislation that would allow local governments to freeze an eligible senior's property taxes.

Eligibility for this proposed property tax freeze on a senior's primary residence would be limited to seniors ages 65 and older who have lived at the property for at least five years and have an annual household income not exceeding \$65,000 or pay more than 10% of their income in property taxes. This bipartisan proposal would keep more seniors in their homes, and I hope to see the House advance this bill.

In addition, I will continue my efforts to reduce our state's reliance on property taxes to fund education by continuing to increase state funding for our local schools and reduce costly state-mandated costs with common-sense, bipartisan charter school reform. We are already seeing a positive impact in our area from increased state funding. In Pottstown's case, the increased funding has helped a long-underfunded district improve educational outcomes and allowed the school board to issue a historic tax rebate last year.

## 2024 Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Montgomery County will host several free hazardous waste collection events throughout 2024. You must register in advance at [www.MontcoPARecycles.org](http://www.MontcoPARecycles.org) for a specific time. Upcoming events in the area include:

### Saturday, June 1

Temple University – Ambler Campus  
Enter at 1431 E. Butler Pike, Ambler

### Saturday, June 22

Norristown Area High School  
1900 Eagle Drive, Norristown

### Saturday, Sept. 21

Spring-Ford 9th Grade Center  
400 S. Lewis Road, Royersford

Materials should be boxed for event staff to unload from the trunk of a car, cargo area of an SUV, or bed of a truck. Note that electronic waste, including televisions, will not be accepted at these events. For more information, contact Montgomery County at [recycling@montcopa.org](mailto:recycling@montcopa.org) or (610) 278-3618.

## Working for You in Harrisburg

As your voice in Harrisburg, I take my responsibility seriously to introduce bills that will move our communities forward. So far, I've introduced over 60 bills this legislative session, among the highest in the legislature. Here are some of my bills that have passed in the House:

### Driving community revitalization through historic renovation:

For many older communities, like Pottstown, the high cost of renovating historic buildings is a barrier to bringing them up to modern building codes and returning them to productive use. This idea was brought to me by Pottstown Area Economic Development and would help with these costs, encouraging investment in our existing downtowns by renovating historic buildings.

### Exempting decorated and injured veterans from vehicle registration fees:

In recognition of their selfless service to our nation, this bill would exempt veterans who were injured, captured, or received our nation's highest military decoration while serving from vehicle registration or titling fees.

**Prohibiting early termination fees for deceased individuals:** This bill would prohibit utility service contracts and vehicle leases from imposing early termination fees when a customer dies so families don't have to deal with added fees and companies don't get rich off someone's death.

**Signage requirements for proposed development projects:** Residents deserve to know when development is proposed in their neighborhoods. My proposal would set requirements for clearly visible signage to be posted on land proposed for subdivision and land development, so that neighbors are informed and can have their voice heard before plans are approved.

**Facilitating the development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure:** With the growing popularity of electric vehicles, we need to make sure our infrastructure is ready. This proposal uses our existing Property-Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program to connect property owners with long-term financing through private capital to install electric vehicle charging stations throughout the state at no expense to the taxpayer.



# Around the Community



Our veterans' lunch, held each year on Pearl Harbor Day, continues to be one of my favorite events!



Going into local schools to talk to students is one of my favorite parts of the job.



More than 50 community members pitched in to remove trash from an abandoned encampment near MCCC in Pottstown.



I was glad to be part of a bipartisan effort to successfully secure \$225,000 in state funding to keep the Salvation Army's Pottstown shelter, the largest family shelter in Montgomery County, from closing, ensuring its continued contribution to helping address the homelessness crisis. Pictured left to right: State Sen. Tracy Pennycuik; the Salvation Army's Wendy Egolf, Leanne Robert, and Rev. Bonnie Camarda.



I was honored to be invited to the groundbreaking on the new Branden Sisca Community Park & Garden in Trappe, which will serve as a permanent reminder of Branden's service, bravery, and commitment to his community.



We had more than 200 seniors attend our Senior Fair, where they were able to pick up useful info on everything from their health to finances to personal safety.



It was another great opening day for the Pottsgrove-Pottstown Little League, and I was honored to be asked to sing the National Anthem.

# PHEAA Grant Deadline Extension

The submission deadline for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), with relation to the PA State Grant Program through PHEAA, has been extended to June 1, 2024. PHEAA urges students who have not yet submitted their FAFSA for the upcoming 2024-25 academic year to do so as soon as possible.

More information is available at [www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org) and you can complete the FAFSA at <https://studentaid.gov/>.

# SEPTA Launches Contactless Payment

SEPTA has launched contactless payment where you can now tap any contactless credit or debit card, or use an app (such as Google Pay, Samsung Pay, or Apple Pay) at a turnstile or when boarding a bus or trolley. SEPTA Key cards are also still accepted.

To receive free transfers on buses and transit, you must use the same form of payment for each trip.

SEPTA is currently working on implementing contactless payment on Regional Rail.

Did you know that seniors ages 65 and older are eligible for free travel on all SEPTA travel within Pennsylvania? You can apply for a SEPTA Senior Key card at any one of my offices by bringing proof of age, and your card will be mailed directly to you by SEPTA within 4-6 weeks.

**Do you need help with PENNDOT?**

**My office can help you with**

 Disability placards & plates	 Change of name or address	 Registration renewals
 Duplicate car registrations & titles	 Antique or classic license plates	 Personalized plates
 License plate surrender	 License restoration	 Reduced registration fees <small>That those who qualify</small>

Questions? Contact my office to learn more about the PennDOT services we offer!

**Property Tax / Rent Rebate 2024 Program Expansion**

MORE people eligible, MORE money back!


Homeowner & Renter Income	Max Rebate
Up to \$8K	\$1,000
Up to \$15K	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$460
Up to \$45K	\$380

Questions? Contact my office for help receiving your refund!

**State Rep Joe Ciresi**

**2023 Constituent Services**

<b>5,187</b> Constituent Services Provided	<b>850+</b> Event Attendees	<b>\$5.1 Million</b> in Grants Awarded
<b>350+</b> Senior SEPTA cards processed	<b>800+</b> LC claims assisted	<b>250+</b> Property Tax/Rent Rebates Filed

 @RepCiresi

## Veterans Discount ID Card & FraudSleuth Sign-Up Event

Co-Hosted with Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds Jeanne Sorg

**Thursday, May 16**  
**11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Pottstown Regional Public Library  
500 E. High St., Pottstown

For Veterans:

Bring your DD-214 discharge paperwork to be recorded with the County and receive a Veterans Discount ID Card, accepted at over 500 county businesses.

For Homeowners:

Sign up for FraudSleuth, a free County-run property fraud protection service, which will alert you if someone attempts to record a document matching your property with Montgomery County.

## Upcoming Events

### Paper Shredding Event

Co-Hosted with West Pottsgrove Township

**Saturday, May 18**  
**10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

(or until the truck is full)

Off Upland Square Drive in Pottstown (Behind the Upland Square Shopping Center's Target)

For traffic purposes, we recommend turning onto Upland Square Drive from Sell Road. The shredding event entrance will be on the right.

Please keep to a limit of five boxes of paper per household. We also cannot accept binder clips, spiral notebooks, hard-bound books, plastic, trash, binders, photos, batteries, or compact disks.

## SEPTA Senior Key Card Sign-Up Event

**Wednesday, June 12**  
**10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

TriCounty Active Adult Center  
288 Moser Road, Pottstown

Apply to get a SEPTA Senior Key card or renew your expiring card! SEPTA Senior Key cards allow free travel on SEPTA trains and transit for seniors (65+); please bring ID showing proof of age or your expiring SEPTA Senior Key card if you are renewing.

## Join My Email Update List

I maintain an email list for those who wish to receive periodic updates from me, including legislation updates, event announcements, traffic updates, state and local program information, and more. You can sign up on my website at [www.RepCiresi.com](http://www.RepCiresi.com). You also can follow me on social media, which is regularly updated with information from Harrisburg and local events right here in Montgomery County.



**STATE REP. JOE CIRESI**  
P.O. Box 202146  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2146

lpo.kw.0524

## My office can help you with:

- Assistance getting and filling out state forms of all kinds
- Applying for state programs such as the Property Tax/Rent Rebate and PACE
- Birth and death certificates
- SEPTA Key Senior ID cards (age 65+)
- Free notary service for most documents\*
- Filing unclaimed property applications
- Disability parking placards/plates
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) information
- Problems or questions about PennDOT, including car registrations, titles, and license applications
- Complaints about state road conditions
- Public benefit applications or issues, including SNAP and Medical Assistance
- Unemployment compensation questions
- Questions about utilities or the PUC
- Problems with Pennsylvania income taxes
- Tours of the State Capitol for individuals or groups
- Citations from the House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
- Consumer complaints
- PHEAA information
- Getting paper tax forms
- Issues with professional license applications

**Contact my office by stopping in, calling at (484) 200-8265, or sending a message through my website at [www.RepCiresi.com](http://www.RepCiresi.com) for help with these or other issues.**

