

# BRANDON MARKOSEK



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**STAY UP TO DATE  
ON HOW I'M  
WORKING FOR YOU.  
FOLLOW ME:**

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## COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

I'm honored to have been appointed to serve on the following committees for the 2023-24 legislative session:

- Professional Licensure, Vice Chair
- Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities
- Government Oversight
- Transportation
- Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness

## HELLO NEIGHBOR,

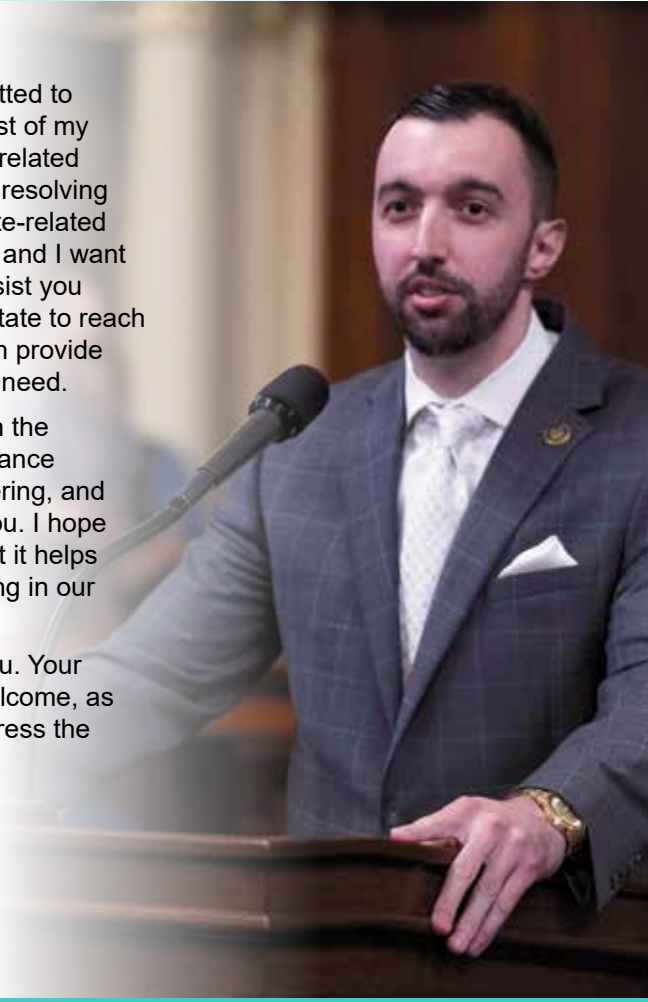
As your state representative, I am committed to serving you and our community to the best of my ability. I understand that navigating state-related services, understanding state legislation, resolving issues with state agencies, and other state-related concerns can sometimes be challenging, and I want to assure you that my office is here to assist you every step of the way. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office so that my team and I can provide you with the support and information you need.

In this newsletter, you will find updates on the state budget, my legislation to have insurance cover speech therapy for childhood stuttering, and information about services available to you. I hope you find this information valuable and that it helps you stay informed about what is happening in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome, as they help me to better represent and address the needs of our community.

Sincerely,

Rep. Brandon Markosek  
25th Legislative District



# STATE BUDGET

Over the last several months, I have worked alongside my colleagues to craft a state budget that reflects our morals and values as a commonwealth. The result was a spending plan that invests in the future of Pennsylvania – WITHOUT raising taxes.

This bipartisan spending plan is a huge win for all of us here in Allegheny County. It includes a historic \$1.3 billion investment that benefits every kid in every school and fulfills our moral, constitutional, and legal obligation to our kids, schools, parents, and taxpayers – all without a tax increase.

This is a long-overdue step toward real adequacy, fixing decades of underfunding and unfair funding. This investment represents more money than our public schools have ever received because we're finally investing money where it will do the most good, including in rural areas and landlocked city districts that simply cannot raise local taxes anymore.

Here are some more of the key wins in the PA Budget aimed at improving the overall quality of life for every Pennsylvanian.



**2024-2025 PA BUDGET WINS**

- No new taxes
- **Over \$1B increase** for Pre-K to 12 education funding
- **\$30M increase** for Career and Technical Education
- **\$100M** for Public school facility improvement grants
- **NEW \$3M** investment for menstrual hygiene products in schools to address period poverty
- **Over \$15M increase** for Community Colleges
- **Over \$140M** for grants, scholarships, and other programs to make higher education more affordable in PA
- **\$20M** for student teacher stipends
- **\$70M** for attainable housing initiatives through the PHARE Housing Program
- **\$16.5M increase** for anti-violence investments and after-school programs
- **\$20M increase** for county based mental health services
- **NEW \$2.5M** for legal services in eviction proceedings
- **\$7M increase** for Workforce Development
- **\$161M** for Public Transportation and Multimodal projects
- **\$261M increase** for Intellectual Disabilities Community Waiver Program
- **Over \$26M increase** for subsidized childcare services
- **NEW \$6M** for Urban Search and Rescue in Western PA
- **\$36M increase** for Neighborhood Assistance Program
- **\$5M increase** for Homelessness Assistance
- **Over \$2M increase** for Domestic Violence Prevention
- **\$5M increase** for Non-profit Security grants
- **\$7.5M** for indigent defense
- **AND MUCH MORE!**

This budget is a result of compromise and our ability to continue to work to pass good measures while navigating budget negotiations.

**THIS BUDGET DELIVERS A WIN FOR ALL PENNSYLVANIANS.  
IT BUILDS A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL OF US.**



# AROUND THE DISTRICT

1. I was honored to be invited to a ceremony in Plum Borough honoring the first responders who responded to the Rustic Ridge tragedy. I was joined by my colleague state Rep. Joe McAndrew as we honored these heroic first responders.

2. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of East Allegheny Meals on Wheels in North Versailles Township

3. I had a great time at Monroeville's annual CommUNITY Day! It was great to see many friends and neighbors.

4. I presented the Monroeville Water Authority with a Pennsylvania House Citation in honor of its 75th anniversary.

5. I had the honor to speak at the Monroeville Memorial Day Ceremony. Prior to the ceremony I also participated in the Memorial Day parade. Thank you to all our service men and women who courageously serve our great nation.

6. I hosted the PA House Appropriations Committee at the Monroeville Convention Center for a public forum regarding the state budget. We had great discussion and dialogue with the audience. Thank you, Chairman Jordan Harris for organizing the event.

7. In North Versailles Township, I joined Lt. Gov. Austin Davis, state Sen. Jim Brewster, and local commissioners for the official ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Amazon facility. This facility will be a tremendous asset to our local economy.

8. I had a great time participating in Monroeville's annual Fourth of July parade!

9. My annual summer shredding event at Gateway High School was a success! More than 350 cars dropped off documents to be safely shredded.

10. Monroeville Councilman Dennis Biondo and I presented trophies at the 54th annual Monroeville Invitational swim meet at Garden City Swim Club.

11. I had the honor of presenting North Versailles Police Dept. Chief James Matrazzo with a PA House of Representatives Citation in recognition of his retirement. Thank you Chief for your years of dedicated service to our community.



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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OF SPEECH THERAPY FOR CHILDREN WHO STUTTER

Stuttering has always been part of my life. In fact, it's part of about 3 million Americans' lives. With the help of speech therapy at a young age, I was able to learn tools that I still use today that have helped me with my stutter and to build my overall confidence, which is why I know how crucial it is for children who stutter to have access to this treatment. However, many Pennsylvania families don't have insurance coverage for speech therapy or may not even know it is an option for their child. That's why I introduced legislation, H.B. 2268, that would require insurers to cover speech therapy costs to treat childhood stuttering.



In my journey to bring my bill to the floor of the House, I had help from NBA veteran Michael Kidd-Gilchrist. He has turned his struggles with stuttering into a non-profit organization that not only amplifies the voices of folks who stutter, but advocates for access to resources like speech therapy. In early June, Michael visited the state Capitol to advocate for my legislation, just like he did in Kentucky, which passed similar legislation earlier this year. A day after his visit, the House Insurance Committee unanimously approved my legislation, sending it to the full PA House for consideration.

I'm pleased to say the House passed H.B. 2268 with strong bipartisan support. It now heads to the state Senate for consideration, and it is my hope that this legislation will make it to Gov. Josh Shapiro's desk. I'm very proud to have played a role in ensuring access to speech therapy for children who stutter while also working to break the stigma surrounding stuttering.

## HELPING PUT MONEY BACK IN SENIORS' POCKETS

You may qualify for the expanded Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, which aims to assist seniors and individuals with disabilities stay in their homes by providing rebates on property taxes and rent paid in 2023. With the expanded program, approximately 175,000 more individuals are now eligible for a rebate.

This program benefits Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows or widowers 50 or older, and adults with disabilities 18 or older. The maximum income to qualify is \$45,000 a year; the maximum standard rebate has been increased to \$1,000.

This program is designed to account for cost-of-living increases in the coming years to ensure that seniors remain eligible, even with modest increases in Social Security benefits.

Online applications can be found on the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue's website, or my team and I would be happy to help you apply at my district office. The deadline for applications is Dec. 31, 2024. Don't wait – the earlier you apply, the sooner you will receive your rebate.

**PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE  
DEADLINE** EXTENDED TO  
DECEMBER 31, 2024

## Increasing the Pool of Health Workers By Using Multistate Compacts

Provides more flexibility for nurses and other health professionals to get work when and where they are needed, especially for health care workers in military families when relocation is required.



HB 2381

## GRANTS AWARDED

25TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT  
SUMMER 2024

**\$45,800** Plum Senior Community Center for capital improvements and renovations.

**\$25,000** Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments to fund its tool to fight blight in member communities.

Helped Allegheny Land Trust secure state funding for the Gateway Woods project in Monroeville and Pitcairn.



State Representative

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# MY OFFICE CAN HELP WITH:

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.
- PACE prescription drug cards for senior citizens.
- Information on financial assistance for higher education.
- Unemployment, disability or workers' compensation.
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments or milestones.
- Pennsylvania income tax problems.
- Problems or questions about PennDOT - car registrations, special tags, disability parking placards, titles and driver's license applications.
- Consumer complaints.
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC.
- Assistance with Pittsburgh Regional Transit ConnectCards for seniors.

