Summer 2024



State Representative David A. Madsen ____I04th Legislative District

Capitol Office: 102B East Wing • P.O. Box 202104 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2104 • (717) 772-2362 • Fax: (717) 780-6028 **District Office:** 383 S. Front St. • Steelton, PA 17113-2529 • (717) 986-1673 • Toll-Free: (833) 821-1758 • Fax: (717) 986-1677



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

My staff and I have been listening to you, and we understand how challenging these times are. We have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of Dauphin County residents by enhancing quality education for all children, investing in our economy and infrastructure, and providing relief for our most vulnerable citizens while holding the line on taxes. This year, we made significant progress in Harrisburg by passing many important pieces of legislation and a state budget that is a huge win for all of us here in the 104th Legislative District.

But we will not stop there. My colleagues and I will keep fighting for all at the state Capitol, and my staff and I will continue to work to help and serve you here at home. I am committed to advancing legislation that will improve the lives of our community members and protect your rights. If you need assistance, please reach out to my office. We are here to help and happy to do so in any way possible.

SUPPORTING DISPLACED TENANTS

I'm thrilled to announce the passage of H.B. 1549, which will ensure support for displaced tenants due to negligent landlords. This is my first bill to pass the House! If enacted, it will ensure safe and habitable housing for those in need. The measure aims to hold landlords accountable for maintaining safe and habitable housing, shifting the financial burden of relocation from tenants to landlords when properties are condemned due to neglect. The bill mandates that landlords provide financial assistance equal to six months' rent to displaced tenants. This law, developed with input from both landlords and housing advocates, seeks to ensure fair treatment and bipartisan support while emphasizing the landlords' duty to provide suitable living conditions.

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Ensuring safe housing means holding landlords accountable for their negligence. My legislation aims to shift the burden from tenants to landlords, providing crucial support to those displaced by unfit living conditions.

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Ensuring Safe and Habitable Housing

Rep. Madsen's H.B. 1549 requires landlords to provide relocation assistance to tenants displaced due to

condemned or uninhabitable rental properties, including six months' rent for permanent displacement.



2024-25 STATE BUDGET



MORE MONEY

FOR SCHOOLS

I wholeheartedly support this year's state budget as it makes historic investments in education, healthcare, and infrastructure to ensure a brighter future for all Pennsylvanians. Most importantly, it made transformative investments to fairly fund every school and give our kids the best education possible.

This budget includes a historic \$1.3 billion investment in our public schools to ensure every student receives a quality education. It addresses long-standing inequities and provides \$526 million to help level the playing field for all students and ease the burden of rising property taxes.

The budget reforms cyber charter funding, allocating \$100 million for reimbursements to public schools and ensuring a more realistic funding formula.

Higher education is also a priority, with significant investments aimed at making college more affordable. We're ranked 49th in the nation for public funding per student, and this budget sets a plan to change that and ensures more young Pennsylvanians can access higher education without the burden of debt.

Beyond education, this budget supports job creation, infrastructure improvements, and community development without raising taxes. We're investing in roads, bridges, mass transit, and housing to build a better future for all Pennsylvanians.

This budget reflects our commitment to creating a fairer, stronger, and more prosperous Pennsylvania for everyone.

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

PA BUDGET WINS

- \$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
- S161M for Public Transportation and Multimodal projects
- \$261M increase for Intellectual Disabilities Community Waiver Program

UPCOMING EVENTS

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59.3 Million

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STEELTON, PA THIS

(717) 086-1673



STATE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



Expanded Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

Under the new income guidelines, more people than ever are now eligible for the Pennsylvania Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. If you haven't applied yet, don't worry—the deadline has been extended to December 31st. This program benefits individuals aged 65 and older, widows and widowers aged 50 and older, and people with disabilities aged 18 and older. To find out if you qualify or to get help applying, please contact my office at (717) 986-1673.

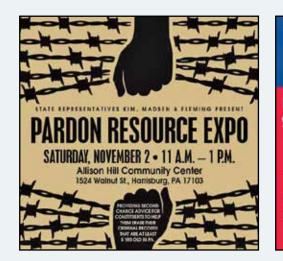
The expanded program raises income eligibility to \$45,000 for homeowners and renters, helping thousands of senior citizens across the Commonwealth. Even if you did not qualify in previous years, you may meet the requirements now. Rebates range from \$380 to \$1,000, depending on income level. The program also adjusts for cost-of-living increases to keep pace with inflation, ensuring that seniors remain eligible despite modest raises in Social Security benefits. For more information, visit the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue website or obtain a paper application from my office.

Unclaimed Property at PA Treasury

Did you know that the Pennsylvania Treasury is currently holding more than \$3.5 billion in unclaimed property? Did you know that one in 10 Pennsylvanians is owed unclaimed property? Did you know the average claim is worth about \$2,000?

My office is hard at work trying to notify residents of their unclaimed property, but you don't have to wait for us to reach out: you can search Treasury's online database at any time to see if you or friends and family have property waiting to be claimed. There is no fee to search for or claim property from the state. Learn more at www.patreasury.gov/unclaimedproperty.











Protection for Denied Health Insurance Claims

If you've had a health insurance claim denied and believe it was wrongly rejected, there's now a new way to seek a review. Under Act 146, consumers can request a review of denied health insurance claims. This law, which received unanimous support from the state legislature, aims to protect consumers who believe their insurer has wrongly denied a claim for medical services, treatments, or items.

After completing the internal appeal process with your insurance provider, you can request an independent external review if your appeal is rejected. The Pennsylvania Insurance Department will oversee this process, which is conducted by a certified independent organization composed of experienced doctors and healthcare professionals. Their decision on your health claim is final and binding. If the review finds that your claim should be covered, your insurer must comply. This external appeal process is available at no cost to you, ensuring Pennsylvanians receive the care they need and deserve.

To learn more, visit the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website at iro.insurance.pa.gov or call the PA Insurance Department at (877) 881-6388.

An Online Tool to Connect Pennsylvanians with Food, Housing, Childcare and More.

The Commonwealth has created a new online tool called PA Navigate to connect you with community organizations, county and state agencies, and healthcare providers for referrals to resources that help you meet basic needs like food, shelter, transportation and more. Administered by the PA Department of Human Services, PA Navigate allows you to find services in your area and filter your results based on your needs, desired program specifications or financial eligibility. Visit www.pa-navigate.org for more information or to find resources in your community. Always feel free to contact my office directly for help.

Making Consumer Protection Complaints Online

The Pennsylvania Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection provides mediation services for individuals who have not been treated fairly in commercial transactions. Typical complaints include disputes with home contractors, problems arising out of the purchase or repair of cars and health care coverage issues. The quickest way to file a complaint is online at: www.attorneygeneral.gov/submit-a-complaint. You can also call the Consumer Protection Helpline at (800) 441-2555 or contact my office for assistance.

AROUND THE DISTRICT AND IN HARRISBURG



Meeting with U.S. Secretary Pete Buttigieg to discuss new investments in Pennsylvania's transportation infrastructure, the new I-83 bridge project, and enhancing connectivity and economic growth in our region.



Working with the Governor on the newly formed Indigent Defense Advisory Committee to ensure that if you are accused of a crime, you will receive quality representation.



With the True Colors Program from Steelton-Highspire High School who came to discuss the advancement of students seeking post-secondary education and scholarships for seniors.

AROUND THE DISTRICT AND IN HARRISBURG



I welcomed the Steelton-Highspire football team back to the Capitol after winning the PIAA 1A State Championships for the second year in a row.



Spending time with some future leaders at an LHAC Youth Meeting.



With the finalists of the ACTSO writing competition.



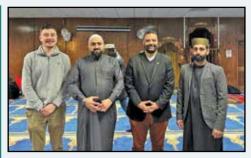
With Steelton-Highspire Fire Co. at the Roller Pride procession to celebrate Steelton's graduating class of 2024.



Recognizing the people who keep PA moving at our Workers Memorial event.



Supporting Halifax High School Tobacco Resistance Unit's cause at the Capitol.



Grateful for the invite to the Ramadan Iftar Dinner at Masjid Al Sabereen!



Hosting 4th graders from Ancillae Assumpta Academy for an engaging tour of the State House!



Celebrating Arbor Day in Highspire.



Congratulations to the Central Dauphin East High School cheer team for claiming the 2024 National Champions title!



STATE REPRESENTATIVE **David A. Madsen** P.O. Box 202104 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2104 RepMadsen.com () (a) (a) RepMadsen

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RepMadsen@pahouse.net

Available at My Office

- Pennsylvania Driver's Manuals and Commercial Driver's Manual.
- Assistance with the Department of Human Services.
- Obtaining Birth and Death Certificates.
- PennDOT Services: vehicle registrations, reduced vehicle registration, special tags, titles, driver's license applications and disability placards.
- Questions for the Department of Revenue.
- Liaison to state agencies.
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions.
- Information on financial assistance for higher education.
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications.

- Unemployment compensation, disability, and workers' compensation.
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance).
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information.
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications.
- PACE cards for senior citizens.
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions.
- Information about federal, state, and local government agencies.
- Unclaimed property search.