

ROB MATZIE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AMBRIDGE OFFICE:

1240 Merchant St. • Ambridge, PA 15003
(724) 266-7774 | Toll-Free: (833) 787-5108

CENTER TOWNSHIP OFFICE:

3589 Brodhead Road, Suite 5 • Monaca, PA 15061-3138
(724) 987-4341

CAPITOL OFFICE:

202 Irvis Office Building • P.O. Box 202016
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2016
(717) 787-4444

Website: www.RepMatzie.com

THE 16TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT SERVING BEAVER COUNTY

City of Aliquippa; Boroughs of Ambridge, Baden, Conway, East Rochester, Freedom, Monaca, Rochester and South Heights; and the Townships of Center, Harmony, Hopewell and Rochester.



Matzie helps secure budget funding to level the public school playing field

I voted for the 2024-25 Pennsylvania budget because it makes our public schools a priority, invests wisely in ways that will create jobs, and imposes no new taxes.

The new bipartisan plan, approved by a 122-80 vote, invests \$1.3 billion in K-12 public education and an additional half a billion to address decades of underfunding that has left students in less-affluent ZIP codes – including many students in our own district – trying to compete on an uneven playing field. *Every* student deserves the same chance to navigate a successful future, and residents deserve relief from rising property taxes.

Here at home, our school districts will receive an additional **\$7.2 million**. Our schools will see across-the-board increases, with additional equity funding to those that have faced chronic underfunding.

Beyond education, the new budget increases funding for programs that will strengthen workforce development, encourage industry innovation, expand ‘shovel-ready’ sites to attract new and expanding businesses, and bolster projects to continue revitalizing our downtown centers. That means a better-trained workforce, more jobs, and more commercial activity to stimulate our local economy.

Most important, the new budget includes *no new taxes of any kind*.

To be sure, there is no such thing as a perfect spending plan. Any budget requires a bipartisan consensus, which makes compromise an essential part of the process. But the new plan makes smart, strategic investments to boost our schools and create new jobs – without any added tax burden. To me, that’s a winning plan.



Don't believe the lies: budget has no new taxes

You may have been seeing ads or commercials lately claiming that the new state budget raises taxes. This is a lie being spread by special-interest groups – including certain private, for-profit schools and their backers who oppose our attempts to fairly fund our public schools. Don't be misled by groups who aren't brave enough to put their names to those claims – or the evidence to back them up.

Our budget includes no new taxes and no hidden agendas. Just a good plan backed up by a strong commitment to put the needs of our public school students first.

Matzie: Versatex expansion in Aliquippa to bring nearly 100 jobs

I recently welcomed Governor Josh Shapiro for an exciting announcement from Versatex Building Products, which will bring more jobs to our district.

Earlier this summer, the major building product manufacturer announced that it is constructing a 96,500-square-foot facility at the Aliquippa Industrial Park and

renovating its existing Steel Street facility to expand production. The \$40 million investment is expected to create at least 80 new jobs, building on the company's existing local workforce of 180.

Versatex's new investment is a sign of the company's faith in our future. It's also a smart investment that's sure to pay off, because it's based on the strength, talent, and industriousness of the men and women who keep Beaver County running and open for business.



Matzie hails passage of bill to curb predatory drug pricing

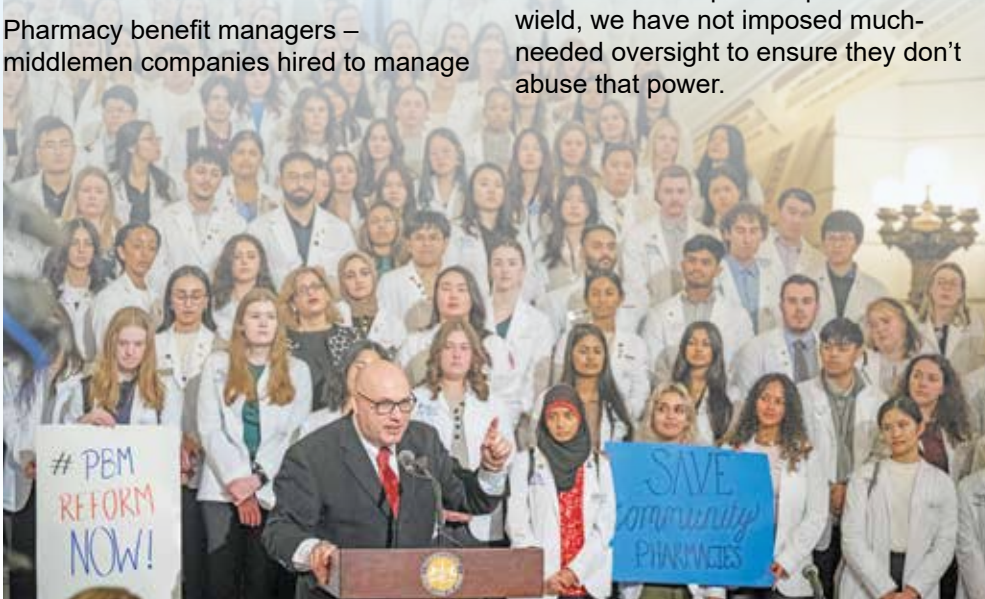
In June, the Pennsylvania House passed legislation I co-sponsored to help us tackle a major problem driving up prescription drug prices and forcing mom-and-pop pharmacies out of business.

Pharmacy benefit managers – middlemen companies hired to manage

prescription drug benefit plans – have tremendous power. As rate-setters, they determine which drugs will be covered by insurance and how much the pharmacies that dispense them will be reimbursed. Despite the power PBMs wield, we have not imposed much-needed oversight to ensure they don't abuse that power.

That lack of transparency is a big problem. Although PBMs are supposed to work on behalf of consumers to lower drug costs, many engage in predatory pricing that inflates drug prices and costs taxpayers millions. They are also driving trusted neighborhood pharmacies out of business by slashing drug reimbursement rates to well below the costs paid to obtain those drugs, making it impossible for these small businesses to compete.

As chair of the state Community Pharmacy Caucus, I was excited to work with the bill's prime co-sponsor, Rep. Jessica Benham, to help pass this legislation. House Bill 1993 would start to bring much-needed accountability by requiring PBMs to report the rebates and payments they receive from drug manufacturers and how those payments were distributed. The bill would also limit or ban certain predatory practices by PBMs.



Matzie brings more than \$13 million back home to benefit the district

One of the most important parts of my job is bringing your tax dollars back home, where they can go to work funding projects to benefit our district. I'm proud to announce that so far this year, we have helped secure **nearly \$13 million** in funding, including:

- Nearly \$3.3 million to allow Hopewell-based transportation company PGT Holdings Inc. to upgrade part of its fleet with zero-emission vehicles.
- \$2.5 million to strengthen county broadband connections.
- More than \$1.9 million to bolster school security, mental health, and food preparation resources.
- More than \$1.5 million to promote stable housing, support home modification programs, bolster emergency housing and anti-homelessness resources, and expand programs combating food insecurity.
- Nearly \$1.1 million for community and economic development and affordable housing.
- Nearly \$800,000 to strengthen adult literacy and digital literacy.
- Nearly \$750,000 to bolster workforce training.
- More than \$365,500 to support the work of museum and historical societies throughout southwest PA.
- Nearly \$267,000 to bolster fire, EMS, and police resources.

Matzie fighting for student athletes

Earlier this year, Beaver County Common Pleas Judge James Ross granted Aliquippa School District's request for a preliminary injunction to stop the Aliquippa High School football team from being bumped from Class 4A to 5A under the PIAA's competitive-balance rule. Appellate Judge Patricia McCullough upheld that ruling in July, ruling that "all other considerations in this matter are superseded by the health and safety of our youth."

The rulings are good news, but we need to do more to ensure that our student athletes remain safe and compete in appropriate classifications.

The PIAA's competitive-balance rule is dangerous because it forces teams that voluntarily play up to a higher level of competition, like the Quips, to be pigeonholed into a higher classification – regardless of the school's actual enrollment size. The result is that a football team with 144 players can end up being forced to play a school with 424 players. To address the problem, I have introduced legislation that would require that actual enrollment numbers be considered when classifications are made.

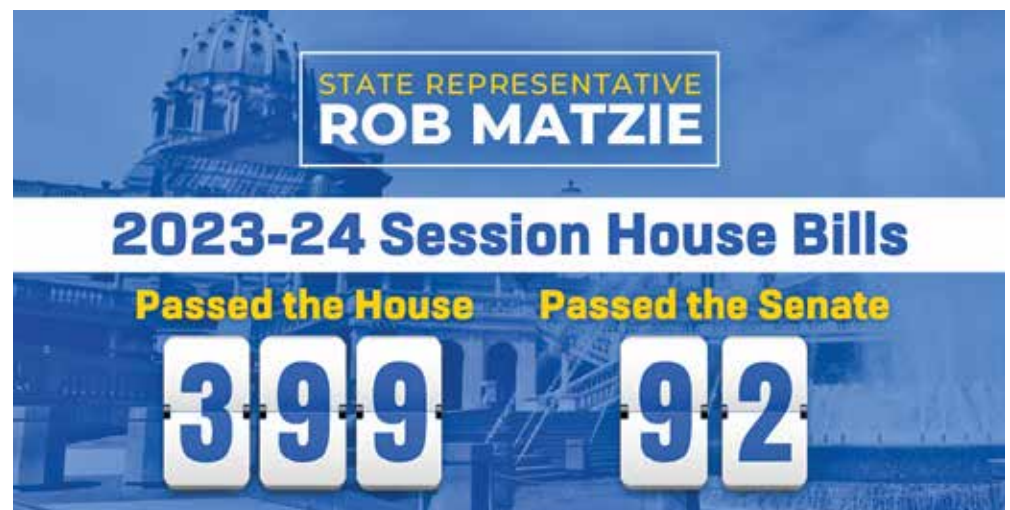
I am also planning to introduce legislation that would require a comprehensive study of PIAA's organizational structure, policies, and practices and would make lawmakers on the Pennsylvania Athletic Oversight Committee and the state secretary of education permanent voting members of the PIAA executive board.

Matzie helps secure more than \$2.5 million for stronger broadband service

In spring, Beaver County received more than \$2.5 million from the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority to expand high-speed internet in underserved areas. As a PBDA board member, I know that funding is essential to ensure speedy, reliable internet for residents in some parts of our region – including those in rural areas who need it most.

We worked hard to launch the Broadband Development Authority and get the infrastructure in place to bring those connections to residents and small business owners. Securing this funding is the next step on the way to making those connections happen. Additional funding from Comcast will bring total project funding to \$4.3 million.

The House is doing its job – where is the Senate?



Matzie leads committee work to protect consumers, spur jobs

The House Consumer Protection, Technology and Utilities Committee has been hard at work, and as chair, I have been focused on advancing bills to safeguard the interests of consumers and utility customers and boost PA's energy production.

Earlier this year, the committee advanced my package of bills that would add rate protections for utility consumers when private companies acquire municipal water and wastewater systems. The committee is also currently considering my bill that would jumpstart PA's production of sustainable aviation fuel.

Other bills originating in committee that later passed the House would:

- Jumpstart energy production and position PA to tap into billions in federal dollars available for energy projects (H.B. 2338).
- Create a community solar program in PA (H.B. 1842).
- Help safeguard consumers by requiring a disclosure on all AI-generated content (H.B. 1598).
- Set energy efficiency and water conservation standards for new commercial appliances sold in Pennsylvania (H.B. 1615).
- Require businesses to clearly post any surcharges or fees on credit or debit transactions in a visible place (H.B. 1977).
- Facilitate the use of mechanical insulation on pipes, equipment, and machinery in building projects to protect workers and save energy and costs. (H.B. 491).

I'm excited to continue our work as session resumes this fall!

These committee bills are now law!

The following bills advanced by the committee and later signed into law will:

- Allow PA to take the initiative on carbon capture projects (Act 78).
- Provide grants to help schools install solar panels (Act 68).
- Create the Max Manufacturing Act to encourage investment in fields like advanced manufacturing, agriculture, medical technology and biotech to create jobs, spur innovation and attract new high-tech industries to the state. (Act 24).
- Require companies affected by a data breach to provide a free credit report and one year of credit monitoring to affected consumers (Act 33).
- Protect a deceased person's family or estate from being charged early termination fees when canceling certain service contracts and vehicle leases (Act 29).



In July, I joined Gov. Josh Shapiro, Lt. Gov. Austin Davis, and representatives from government, organized labor, business, and environmental groups as the governor announced a \$396 million federal grant to combat pollution, invest in PA energy, and create jobs. I've said for years that energy development and the environment don't have to be mutually exclusive, and this is a prime example.

In June, I joined my colleagues from Allegheny County as we toured construction on the new Pittsburgh International Airport.



It's always an honor to stand with the champion Quips, who visited the state Capitol earlier this year and also met Lt. Gov. Austin Davis.



We serviced more than 100 applications for residents at our recent license plate replacement event in Monaca!



PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

for residents who are permanently disabled, 50+ and widowed, or 65+

Applications now being accepted!



What we need from you:

EVERYONE

✓ All earned income tax forms (1099 SSI, W2s, etc.)

HOMEOWNERS

✓ Copies of all paid tax bills

RENTERS

✓ Signed form from the landlord



\$45,000
household income
for homeowners
& renters

For those on Social Security:
half of SSI/SSD
income is excluded
for eligibility

Need help applying for a Property Tax/Rent Rebate?

Last year, I voted to help pass a major expansion of the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, which now provides larger rebates and serves more people. The state Department of Revenue is currently processing those rebates and will continue to accept applications through Dec. 31.

Please remember that my office can help you apply. Please be sure to bring all earned income tax forms (1099, SSI, W2s, etc.), copies of all paid tax bills (for homeowners), and copies of a signed certificate from the landlord (for renters).

Matzie to co-chair Nuclear Energy Caucus

The commonwealth has always been a leader in energy, and part of that success entails maintaining a diverse, “all/ everything” energy portfolio. This summer, I joined my colleagues in a bipartisan effort to relaunch the bipartisan, bicameral Nuclear Energy Caucus. I am excited to be co-chairing the caucus.

For years, nuclear energy has provided PA homes and businesses with reliable, carbon-free electricity. It’s an industry that sustains thousands of jobs and provides energy security to the commonwealth. We are relaunching the caucus to ensure that this clean energy is around to contribute to our baseload power for future generations.





STATE REP. ROBERT F. "ROB" MATZIE

P.O. Box 202016
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2016

lpo.ks.0824

Matzie's office can help

- Property Tax/Rent Rebates.
- PACENET prescription medicine assistance for seniors.
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.
- Senior ConnectCards.
- Handicap placards and other PennDOT services.
- Birth and death certificates.
- Problems or questions involving all state agencies.

If it's about state government, we can help!

**ROB
MATZIE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

Our Center Township office is open and ready to help!

This is a reminder that I recently opened an additional office in Center Township to make it more convenient for folks to get help with state-related matters. The office is located in Monaca at 3589 Brodhead Road, Suite 5, and can be reached at (724) 987-4341.

Of course, you can always visit my Ambridge district office located at 1240 Merchant St., First Floor, or contact the office at (724) 266-7774.

Both offices are open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Stop by or give us a call to see how we can help!

