

YEAR IN REVIEW 2024

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
**MANUEL “MANNY”
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127TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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Dear Neighbor,

As reflected in the following pages, I remain committed to ensuring equity in education, championing fair funding for our community and strengthening economic development.

I've also focused my efforts on improving the public transportation system in our county and combating food and housing insecurity.

This newsletter contains information on pivotal moments of my work as state representative of the 127th Legislative District and proud chairman of the PA House Central Pennsylvania Delegation.

As always, I encourage you to call or visit my office if you have any questions or need help with state-related issues.

I wish you all a fantastic holiday season full of joy and happiness. Have a remarkable 2025!



Manuel “Manny” Guzman, Jr.
State Representative



THIRD ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE AND TURKEY GIVEAWAY

The third installment of the annual Thanksgiving Resource Fair was incredibly rewarding. My team and I handed out 1,000 turkeys and 500 pork shoulders to help families in need prepare for the holiday.

Another key aspect of this event is to connect individuals to state programs that are available to them. This fair is about making the holiday season brighter for our neighbors and bringing the sense of community to life.



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION

In September, I had the pleasure of teaming up with my colleagues in the PA Legislative Latino Caucus – where I serve as vice chair — to honor the contributions of a group of remarkable Latinos whose hard work and dedication have made a difference in the city of Reading.



PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING ON TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

As chairman of the Central PA Delegation, I had the opportunity to team up with the PA House Transportation Committee to discuss priorities and investments in Berks County.

We must keep the conversation going about

issues facing our community and projects that residents deeply care about. Among those is the proposed Schuylkill River passenger rail service to re-establish passenger rail between Reading and Philadelphia.



CELEBRATING HISTORIC INVESTMENTS IN K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION

I'm proud to have joined Gov. Josh Shapiro, Secretary of Education Dr. Khalid N. Mumin, students and teachers during a visit to Amanda E. Stout Elementary School in Reading.

We highlighted historic Investments in K-12 Public Education secured in the 2024-25 state budget and the creation of a new adequacy formula to drive more funding to support public schools in need.



THIRD ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL RESOURCE FAIR

It has been an honor and privilege to put together this Back-to-School Resource Fair for the third year in a row. This is a community-wide event, where

Reading families were able to get backpacks, pencils, notebooks and even haircuts to prepare them for the upcoming school year.



FIGHTING HOUSING INSECURITY

I continue to champion efforts to address housing insecurity and advocate for the necessary funding and resources for our city.

I am glad to share that this year, the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) awarded the Reading Housing Authority

(RHA) a Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Service Coordinator grant totaling \$257,317. HUD also presented \$990,057 in funding to the Berks Coalition to End Homelessness Inc. via the Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) grant.



RALLY FOR EQUITY IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

In June, I had the pleasure to team up with state Reps. Ismail Smith-Wade-El and Justin Fleming in Millersville, Lancaster County, to emphasize the

critical relevance of H.B. 2370. This groundbreaking legislation would ensure fairness in the way that public schools across the state are funded.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

This year, I moved one step closer to removing barriers for Pennsylvanians who want to become real estate appraiser supervisors. My legislation, H.B.

2220, passed the House and was sent to the state Senate. It would allow people in the industry to “skill up” more easily as their career progresses.

NEARLY \$12 MILLION
IN STATE GRANT MONEY BROUGHT BACK TO THE DISTRICT

INTRODUCED
11 BILLS
2 RESOLUTIONS

COSPONSORED
132 BILLS

Manny Guzman ★★★★★
PA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
2024

9,847
SERVICES PROVIDED TO CONSTITUENTS

958
PROPERTY TAX/ RENT REBATES FILED

REP. GUZMAN | [REPGUZMAN.COM](https://www.repguzman.com)

Manny Guzman

Modernizing Rules for Real Estate Appraisers

Allows appraiser trainees to work with one certified residential or general appraiser per assignment and lowers the supervisory appraiser's experience requirement from five to three years.

Rep. Manny Guzman | HB 2220

SECURING RESOURCES AND FUNDING FOR OUR SENIOR POPULATION

Earlier this year, I joined Jason Kavulich, secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, state Sen. Judy Schwank, Berks community leaders and the Berks County Area Agency on Aging to welcome new grant funding for senior centers.

Forty-five Senior Community Centers from 26 counties across the Commonwealth will receive one of the department's 2023-24 competitive grants totaling \$2 million. This significant investment will certainly enrich the lives of our senior population.



HEROES WITHOUT A CAPE

I was immensely honored to welcome former U.S. Capitol Police Sgt. Aquilino Gonell and Officer Harry Dunn to the PA House as they were recognized for their exemplary service, courage and act of kindness toward others. Gonell and Dunn helped protect the U.S. Capitol from rioters during the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection.



STRENGTHENING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

I welcomed Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary Rick Siger to Reading in April. The visit underscored the pivotal role of the Main Street Matters program in fortifying our local economy.

The Main Street Matters Program will build upon the current Keystone Communities Grant Program, which is a proven, positive initiative that has significantly impacted our community.



IMPROVING JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Heartfelt thanks to all the residents who attended my job fair in Reading last May. The event, held in collaboration with the Reading Housing Authority, offered people the opportunity to network, explore

employment opportunities and score a job as part of a simplified process.

More than 40 employers participated in the fair.



A MAJOR STEP TOWARD ECONOMIC GROWTH

On October 16, the City of Reading announced the submission of its City Revitalization & Improvement Zone (CRIZ) application. I'm advocating for a CRIZ designation for Reading not just as a state representative but as a champion for the hopes and dreams of our community. I resolutely believe that this is the perfect time to reinvent the city of Reading and Berks County.





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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

On March 1, I concluded observations for Black History Month with a ceremony that highlighted the work of 26 community leaders from the city of Reading and other municipalities across Berks County.



EXPANDING ACCESS TO GREEN SPACES

It was such an honor to join Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn at an event that highlighted grant

opportunities for planting trees in underserved communities.

Expanding access to green spaces is more important than ever.