



Office of State Representative

JOE WEBSTER 150

Upper & Lower Providence, Collegeville, W. Norriton, Trappe

Dear Neighbor,

I hope this message finds you well. As we turn the page to spring, here's information about what's happening in the 150th Legislative District and in Harrisburg.

Since we last spoke, my colleagues in Harrisburg and I have been working hard on legislation that ensures career paths in our Commonwealth are incentivized, our environment is protected, human service programs and veterans are supported, health care improvements are set in motion, and the rights of each and every Pennsylvanian are protected. Pennsylvanians are concerned about these and many other topics, and I share their concerns. Please continue to reach out to my office so I can have your priorities in front of me every day as I work alongside my colleagues to address your needs. As we approach the state budget cycle, my top priorities are securing proper funding for education, ensuring consistent support services for people with disabilities, and fulfilling infrastructure needs along with flood mitigation.

Throughout this newsletter, you will find more information about the proposed state budget introduced by Gov. Josh Shapiro; an in-depth look at legislation I have introduced this session and other bills and resolutions I'm supporting; updates on the Ridge Pike/Germantown Pike Traffic Circle and the Perkiomen Flood & Mitigation Study; upcoming events my office is hosting; and more!

Remember, if you need state-related assistance or have any questions, please contact my office at 484-200-8263 and a member of my staff will help you.

Sincerely,

Joseph G. Webster, Ph.D.
Colonel, USAF (ret)



In February I attended numerous weeks of budget hearings in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.



I showcased some of the beautiful art from Perkiomen Valley High School students in my district office this winter!



In September I held a Witting Tree dedication in honor of Veterans Suicide Prevention Week.

My Introduced Bills & Resolutions this Session

HB 664



Road Salt Management

Directing PennDOT and the Department of Environmental Protection to collaborate and develop the best management practices for use and reduction of roadway salt.

HR 90

Climate & Resilience Study

Directing the Joint State Government Commission to study the projected costs of climate change adaptation and resilience measures in Pennsylvania.

HB 659

Comprehensive Storm Water Management

Requiring counties to prepare and implement a comprehensive storm water management plan based on watershed boundaries.

HB 473

One Voter, One Ballot Application

Prohibits third-party organizations from sending ballot applications to eligible voters to minimize confusion and ensure accurate ballots are received.

HB 497

Stopping Foreign Influence in Elections

Prohibiting corporations that are substantially foreign owned from making expenditures and contributions in support of a candidate or ballot question.

HR 56

Reduce Voting Time

This study from the Joint State Government Commission would identify legislative and administrative recommendations to reduce voting time.

HB 1054

Requiring Holocaust Education in Schools

Requires all Pennsylvania schools to teach about the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights violations.

HB 769

Requiring School Libraries

Requiring schools to have a physical space for a library or information center; there are currently no state laws or regulations for public schools to have one.

HB 776



Civics Education Graduation Requirement

Require high school students to pass (60%) a test identical to the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services' naturalization test to graduate.

HR 104

Examining "Housing First" Policies to Support Unhoused Pennsylvanians

Tasks the Joint State Government Commission with exploring housing-first policies as a less expensive and more successful alternative to the traditional shelter system.

Key:



With Rep. Sanchez



With Rep. Hill-Evans

HB 663

Regulating Massage Businesses to Prevent Human Trafficking

Requires massage businesses to have a valid facility license, manager's license, and table shower license to prevent human trafficking.



I attended the opening of Mitzvah Circle's new location in Lansdale, PA!



Visiting IBEW 126! Always great to visit a union hall and meet with hardworking individuals.



With Gov. Shapiro as he signed my Veterans' Records of Discharge bill into law.



I had a great time reading at The Pathway School for Literacy Celebration Week.

The Proposed State Budget

In February, Gov. Josh Shapiro delivered his annual budget address, and in the weeks that followed, we held budget hearings in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

The governor's proposed budget would help pave the way for the future of Pennsylvania through continued historic investments in basic and special education, support for working families, and making our government work for the people. Basic and special education are one of my top priorities this legislative session, and over \$1.2 million in additional funding is slated to enter our local school districts. Along with other investments, the proposal calls for a \$5 million increase for the Vocational Rehabilitation Fund to help maintain services for Pennsylvanians with disabilities seeking employment.

Other critical investments in the proposal include raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour for non-tipped workers and \$9 per hour for tipped workers and \$55 million to support programs and workforce recruitment and retention in childcare.

These priorities are a snapshot of the many items contained in Pennsylvania's proposed budget. We continue to work for a Commonwealth that is safe, forward-thinking and working for each and every Pennsylvanian.



If you take a trip to our beautiful State Capitol, make sure you tour the Pennsylvania House archives and check out my exhibit! I gladly donated my uniform and other pieces from my time in the service as part of an exhibit that honors state representatives who have served.

Committee Assignments:

*Appropriations | Environmental & Natural Resource Protection | Finance
Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness | State Government*



I am always pleased to support local nonprofits like St. James Outreach with a Winter Collection Drive. Thank you to all who help those in our community that most need it. Keep an eye out for announcements regarding my annual Summer Collection Drive!



17 APRIL	SCAM JAM! UPPER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP BUILDING 1286 BLACK ROCK RD, PHOENIXVILLE, PA 10 AM - 12 PM
1 MAY	SENIOR FAIR GREATER PHILADELPHIA EXPO CENTER - HALL D 100 STATION AVE, OAKS, PA - HALL D 10 AM - 1PM
26 JULY	SHRED EVENT NORRISTOWN AREA HIGH SCHOOL 1900 EAGLE DR, NORRISTOWN, PA 9 AM - 12 PM
JUNE JULY AUG.	SUMMER COLLECTION DRIVE

Current Legislation Co-sponsored this Session

Proposed

Brain Scans for Veterans Suffering a TBI or PTSD Injury (Guenst)

Provides \$1 million for diagnostic technology along with hardware, software, and administrative costs to provide high-definition scans to service members and veterans.

HB 814

First Responder Line of Duty Death Tax Credit (O'Mara, Ciresi)

Establishes a tax credit against the personal income tax for spouses of first responders who died during performance of or as a result of their duty.

HB 851

Repealing the Prohibition on Sunday Hunting (Steele)

Repeals the prohibition on Sunday hunting in state law to give hunters more opportunities and ensure farmers' voices are heard regarding wildlife management.

HB 439

The Pennsylvania CROWN Act (Mayes, McClinton)

CROWN Act stands for Creating a Respectful & Open World for Natural Hair, and prohibits discrimination based on a person's hair type, texture, or style.

Proposed

Removing Barriers for Seniors Obtaining REAL ID (Malagari)

Exempts people 65 or older from the fee to revise a birth certificate to obtain a REAL ID.

HB 60

Pharmacy Prescription Transfer (Borowski)

Permitting the electronic transfer of certain prescribed controlled substances among pharmacies.

HB 200

Family Care Act: Putting PA Families & Small Businesses First (Miller)

Proposes a statewide paid family & medical leave insurance program and ensures small businesses can offer this benefit.

HB 411

Providing a COLA to SERS & PSERS (Malagari, Deasy)

Provides a COLA to both SERS and PSERS for the upcoming fiscal year while establishing a recurring COLA so pensions keep up with inflation rates.

HB 332

Media Literacy (Briggs)

Requires the PA Department of Education to establish a media literacy curriculum for K-12 students.

Proposed

Imagination Library Program (Hanbidge, Khan)

Partnering with non-profits and Dollywood Foundation to mail all registered children under 5 years old a free, age-appropriate book each month.

HB 118

Increase Penalties for Child Labor Act Violations (Young)

Doubles the criminal penalties for violations of the Child Labor Act.

Year in Review

152

sponsored legislation

3,197

constituent services provided

\$7.4M

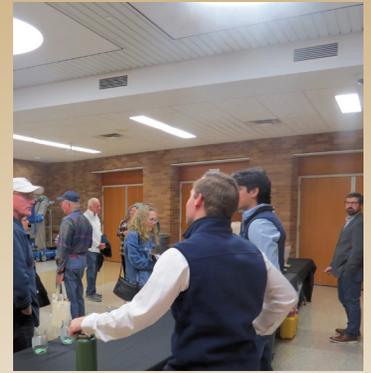
grants awarded

10

community events hosted

Perkiomen Mapping and Flood Mitigation Project

In February 2024, I announced that I had secured grant funding as part of the 2022-23 Pennsylvania state budget for the Perkiomen Mapping and Flood Mitigation Project. Through this funding, a team of experts led by Montgomery County launched Phase I to study flooding in the Perkiomen Watershed and identify mitigation methods. As of March 2025, progress is on schedule with a completion date estimated in mid to late August. To date, engineers have collected data from various sources, including direct correspondence with all 55 municipalities and the four counties within the Perkiomen Watershed. A hydrology and hydraulics model has been created using the PCSWMM model, a well-accepted model used by the Army Corps of Engineers. The model will help identify those areas most in jeopardy of flooding and causing property damage or risk to people.



The 20 Phase I flooding locations will be examined more closely to determine appropriate mitigation techniques, estimated costs, and an implementation plan. At least one demonstration project will be identified for planning-level design and construction.

The overall goal of the project is to identify the areas most at risk of flooding, identify potential mitigation strategies, and provide guidance for property owners going forward. More information can be found online at perkiomenwatershed.org/perkiomen-flood-study. Additional public information will be forthcoming later in the spring or early summer.

Critical to the success of the efforts to reduce flood damage in the watershed is participation by every property owner. Guidance for on-lot stormwater mitigation will be included in the final plan. Additionally, long-term funding for new and upgraded stormwater infrastructure will be needed. The plan will include grant and other funding options that municipalities can pursue to help accomplish the goals of the project.

Germantown Pike & Ridge Pike Roundabout Project

March 2025 Update

PennDOT's project to relocate part of Germantown Pike to form a roundabout and new intersection with Ridge Pike is underway. The final design includes a new intersection of relocated Germantown Pike with Ridge Pike approximately 1,300 feet east of the existing intersection. Two lanes of traffic (one in each direction) will be maintained throughout the reconstruction. Phase 1 of the project will include utility work, erosion and sedimentation controls, widening of the westbound lanes on Ridge Pike, beginning of the roundabout construction, and temporary signal modifications. Short term overnight detours may occur for drainage work between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Completion of all five phases of the project will occur in the summer of 2028. The total estimated construction cost is \$26,225,555.

The PennDOT project website is at:

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/penndot/projects-near-you/district-6-projects/ridge-and-germantown-pikes-intersection-improvements.html>

This office will provide additional updates as the project progresses.





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WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Perkiomen Flood & Mitigation Study Update
- Introduced Legislation
- State Budget
- Update on Lower Providence Traffic Circle
- Pictures & Events

SAVE THE DATE!

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