



State Representative • 172nd Legislative District

# Kevin J. Boyle



Fall 2013

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## HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Keeping your home properly heated is essential for good health and in making sure your pipes do not freeze. But many families, particularly senior citizens on fixed incomes, will struggle to pay the cost of heating their homes over the next several months.

If you need help paying your home heating bills this winter, assistance is available through the federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. LIHEAP offers cash grants to help purchase home heating fuel and crisis grants for unexpected fuel shortages and necessary furnace purchases or repairs.

Grants are based on family size, income, type of heating fuel and heating regions.

If you received LIHEAP assistance last year, you should have received a renewal application. If not, you may want to check into the program.

**For more information on LIHEAP, call the Department of Public Welfare helpline at 1-800-692-7462.**

Household Size	Income Limits Cash/Crisis Program
1	\$17,235
2	\$23,265
3	\$29,295
4	\$35,325
5	\$41,355
6	\$47,385
7	\$53,415
8	\$59,445

*Each Additional Person ADD \$6,030*

## DO YOU HAVE ANY UNCLAIMED PROPERTY?

Every year, the state Treasurer's Office obtains millions of dollars in unclaimed property. This property includes any financial asset that has been left with a bank, insurance company or business or organization without any activity for five years. Those entities are required by law to transfer abandoned property to the state Treasurer's Office, which maintains custody of the property until it is claimed by the owner.

### Unclaimed property may include:

- Closed bank accounts;
- Uncashed checks, including paychecks;
- Lost stocks and bonds;
- Contents of safe deposit boxes;
- Life insurance policies;
- Expired gift cards/gift certificates.

It is estimated that nearly 10 percent of Pennsylvanians has unclaimed property. The state treasury may be in possession of what rightfully belongs to you, and it can be claimed free of charge.

To see if you have unclaimed property, call my office at (215) 331-2600 or stop by and we will help you search.

## PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE DEADLINE EXTENDED TO DEC. 31

There's good news for older adults and residents with disabilities: The deadline to apply for Pennsylvania's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program has been extended until Dec. 31.

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded.

The maximum standard rebate is \$650. About 600,000 households are expected to benefit from the program.

Applicants may obtain Property Tax/Rent Rebate claim forms (PA-1000) and related information online at [www.revenue.state.pa.us](http://www.revenue.state.pa.us), by calling 1-888-222-9190, or contacting my district office.

My office offers Property Tax/Rent Rebate assistance (or help with any other state-related matter). In recent years, organizations have sent letters offering to file the forms for a fee. There is no charge for filing these forms.



# LOW INCOME SENIOR CITIZEN REAL ESTATE TAX FREEZE

Did you know that the City of Philadelphia Revenue Department will “freeze” your Real Estate Tax if you meet certain age and income requirements? Once approved, if your assessment changes or the tax rate changes, your tax due will not increase. If the tax liability decreases (either due to a rate decrease or a lower assessment), the tax due will also be lowered to the new amount.

**To qualify you must meet the following requirements:**

## Age Requirements:

- Aged 65 years or older; or
- Spouse (in the same household) is aged 65 years or older; or
- Aged 50 years or older AND is a widow or widower of someone who was aged 65 years or older

## Income Requirements:

- \$23,500 or less for a single person; or
- \$31,500 or less for a married couple



To get an application for this program, contact the Philadelphia Department of Revenue at 215-686-6442 or visit their website at [www.phila.gov/revenue](http://www.phila.gov/revenue).  
**THE DEADLINE TO FILE FOR THIS PROGRAM IS JANUARY 31, 2014.**

## BILL AIMED AT STOPPING SCRAP METAL THEFTS

State Rep. John Taylor and I have introduced legislation to implement a statewide scrap metal transaction database to help prevent scrap metal theft. The bill would amend the Scrap Material Theft Prevention Act by creating a database and requiring scrap processors to register with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office.

Because the economy is still struggling and metal prices are high, scrap metal theft is a serious, ongoing problem that defies easy detection and apprehension of thieves. We owe consumers and law enforcement the best tools available to provide a simple, yet powerful solution that prevents theft.

Existing law gives law enforcement the power to physically inspect sales records at scrap processing plants. However, current efforts are proving to be disjointed and inefficient, requiring significant time commitment and follow-up by officers.

The legislation, based on similar effective laws in Tennessee and Ohio, is an effort to make investigation and enforcement simpler, while ensuring uniformity across the state.



## PLEASE HELP MAKE HOLIDAY CANNED FOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS

Sadly, many of our neighbors are going hungry every day. Please help to provide food for those in need. My constituent services office will be accepting non-perishable food items for area food pantries.

Donations may be dropped off between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at either of my offices:

**7518 Frankford Ave.  
Philadelphia**

**7801-A Hasbrook Ave.  
Philadelphia**



*Your assistance is  
greatly appreciated.*