



State Representative **MATT BRADFORD**

SERVING MONTGOMERY COUNTY

REPRESENTING THE 70TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

SPRING 2022

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Dear Neighbor,

After a challenging few years and as we start to return to normal life in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, I remain in awe of the strength of our community. Friends, neighbors and countless local organizations have come together to share precious time and resources with one another to ensure that our community is safe, healthy and strong, and I am grateful for your collective work.

Now, as we move forward locally and as a nation, we continue to face uncertainty together on the international stage. While my work in Harrisburg is focused on state-related issues, I feel that it is critically important for our commonwealth to take a strong and intentional stand against the recent act of Russian aggression towards Ukraine. To that end, I have led the charge with my fellow board members at the Public School Employees' Retirement System to immediately divest all assets in Russia and Belarus. Furthermore, I have joined many of my colleagues in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives sponsoring legislation to condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine. If you would like to be connected to organizations that are working to help the people of Ukraine during this crisis, please contact my office for more information.



Meanwhile, in Harrisburg, I'm proud to report that I have been working with my colleagues to support those who serve every day on the front lines and answer the call to keep our community safe. As the process of building a 2022-23 state budget has begun, I am working to craft a final budget plan that will boost Pennsylvania's economy and set up our workers, children, and families for long-term success. As chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, I will always fight for a budget that puts your needs first and creates a brighter future for our commonwealth.

You'll find more information on the budget and other updates from the Capitol in this newsletter, as well as resources that I hope you will find useful. My staff and I are always ready to help with any state-related issues, so please reach out if you need assistance.

As always, thank you for the honor to serve as your state Representative.

Pennsylvania's 2022-23 Budget Proposal



The 2022-23 state budget process kicked off with Governor Tom Wolf's final budget proposal, delivered to a joint session of the General Assembly in early February.

The governor's proposal comes as many factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, continue to affect our communities – impacting Pennsylvanians' health, their job prospects, the care and education available for their kids, and their access to goods and services in the global economy.

With billions of federal rescue dollars remaining and a historic state surplus, we have an opportunity to enact a budget that prioritizes education, makes Pennsylvania a better place to live and work, and supports families and caregivers. We can pass a budget that supports all of these priorities without raising taxes.

The governor's budget would provide an additional \$1.25 billion to local school districts for basic education through the fair funding formula, an additional \$300 million in Level Up funding for the 100 most underfunded districts, and an additional \$200 million in special education funding. Further, it seeks to invest an additional \$70 million in early childhood education. Here is a snapshot of how this proposal would help schools in our community:

Education Funding Increases in Gov. Wolf's 2022/23 Proposed Budget	Basic Education Funding Increase		Special Education Funding Increase	
Colonial SD	\$1,324,187	35.2%	\$117,780	5.6%
Methacton SD	\$1,181,442	16.3%	\$192,104	7.5%
Norristown Area SD	\$7,142,819	43.8%	\$1,162,235	22.4%

Additionally, the governor's budget would make investments to support and protect our vulnerable populations – including seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. It proposes investing the remaining American Rescue Plan state fiscal recovery dollars to help Pennsylvanians, would increase the minimum wage to \$12 per hour with a path to \$15 per hour, provide additional funding for Medical Assistance programs, and reduce the commonwealth's high corporate net income tax to help make Pennsylvania a more attractive place to do business.

As chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, I will work with my colleagues over the next several months to meet with state agencies and learn more about their funding requests and priorities for helping Pennsylvanians. The information gathered will help us to refine a final budget by June 30th.

Throughout this process, I welcome your comments and input on the budget proposal to help craft the best final product for our commonwealth and community. Feel free to call my office or email me at RepBradford@pahouse.net.



LIHWAP Income Guidelines

Household Size	Maximum Income
1	\$19,320
2	\$26,130
3	\$32,940
4	\$39,750
5	\$46,560
6	\$53,370
7	\$60,180
8	\$66,990

Each additional person +\$6,810

More info: dhs.pa.gov/WaterHelp

Need Help With Water Bills?

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a temporary emergency program to help eligible families pay overdue water bills.

Crisis grants may be available for situations such as past-due water bills, termination of service or danger of having service terminated. Those eligible could receive one crisis grant for drinking water service and one crisis grant for wastewater service, up to \$2,500 each.

You may contact my office or visit www.dhs.pa.gov/WaterHelp for additional information about eligibility and applications.



Help For Health Care Workers, First Responders

This year, two pieces of bipartisan legislation were enacted to help those on the front lines in our community.

In January, legislation was unanimously adopted to deliver \$225 million in federal American Rescue Plan funding to support health care workers. That includes:

- \$100 million for hospitals in the state to provide much needed retention and recruitment funds for direct care staff.
- \$110 million for hospitals that provide behavioral health services, serve a high number of Medical Assistance clients, or are in some of our most rural parts of the state so they too can retain and recruit the staff they need.
- \$15 million in additional student loan forgiveness for nurses.

In February, we built on that by adopting legislation to provide \$25 million in federal funds to support EMS companies.

Health care workers and emergency responders have been at the forefront of our fight against COVID-19. I'm proud we were able to work together to support them.

COVID-19 Resources

While we work to finally put an end to this pandemic, getting vaccinated (and boosted if eligible) is the best way to protect yourself against COVID-19. Some COVID-19 resources are below, and you can always contact my office for assistance or with questions.

A comprehensive list of COVID-19 vaccine providers is available at www.vaccines.gov or by calling 1-800-232-0233.

Montgomery County's COVID-19 Hotline can be reached at 833-875-3967 (Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m).

A schedule of Montgomery County vaccine clinics is available at <https://www.montcopa.org/COVID-19Vaccine>.

Additional information on Montgomery County testing and other resources is available at <https://www.montcopa.org/9/COVID-19>.

Free at-home COVID-19 tests (four per household) can be ordered at <https://www.covidtests.gov/> or by calling 1-800-232-0233.



Skippack Pharmacy held a successful vaccine clinic for kids in December!

2021 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program Open

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

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



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



\$35,000
maximum household income*

* for homeowners \$15,000 maximum for renters

ON SOCIAL SECURITY?
Half of SSI/SSD income is excluded for eligibility.

Applications are now available for eligible Pennsylvanians to receive a rebate on their 2021 property taxes or rent!

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 or older; widows and widowers age 50 or older; and people with disabilities age 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, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975.

More details are available on the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue website at www.revenue.pa.gov/ptrr.

Applicants are encouraged to file online at www.mypath.pa.gov. My office can also help you with the application process. Please stop in or give us a call with any questions.

Around the Community



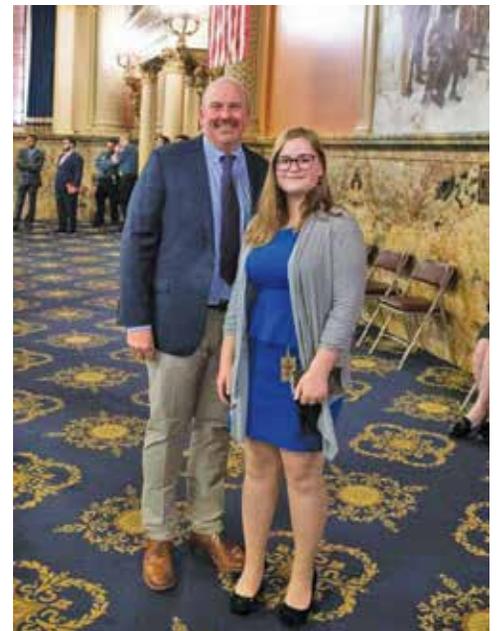
It is always exciting to return to my alma mater Villanova University and speak about career opportunities in public service! I enjoyed chatting with students in a Public Policy Paths class during the spring semester.



I recently had the privilege of visiting the Center for Loss and Bereavement and learned more about the important work they do to support those experiencing grief and those struggling with mental health challenges.



My Family Fair at Elmwood Park Zoo last fall was a great time to catch up with Will D. Cat! I'm looking forward to many events and opportunities to bring resources to our community this year.



In Harrisburg, I was honored to welcome Mackenzie Keller, a 9th grade student at Norristown Area High School, to serve the House as a guest page.



I visited with Jason and Angela McFarland, owners of Vinyl Closet Records, and their son Jake. Jake, who has autism, started his own business, the Coffee Closet, inside his parents' store. The Coffee Closet is staffed with special needs teens and adults and donates a portion of proceeds to a local charity each month!

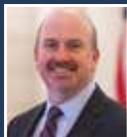


I had a nice time chatting with Montgomery County Community College political science students as part of the college's "Legislator in Residence" program. The students had great questions, and we touched on a lot of important issues like education funding, health care and business growth.

Upcoming Events

Save the dates!

Please join me and state Rep. Liz Hanbidge for the following upcoming events!



State Representative
MATT BRADFORD

Skippack Pike and Bustard Road
2000 Bustard Road, Suite 6
P.O. Box 118
Cedars, PA 19423
(610) 222-3490



State Representative
LIZ HANBIDGE

1098 W. Skippack Pike
Blue Bell, PA 19422
(610) 277-3230

VETERANS Expo

Sunday, March 27

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Montgomery County Community College
Health Science Center**

340 DeKalb Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

My staff, as well as state and local organizations, will be on hand to share information on resources and programs for veterans and their families. Organizations will include American Legion Post 901, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 25, the Pennsylvania Housing and Finance Agency, the Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds and more!

Drive-Thru Electronics Recycling

Saturday, April 30

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Stony Creek Sports Park
500 N. Wales Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422**

Bring your old electronics to have them recycled! Items accepted include small appliances, printers, computers, laptops, VCRs, miscellaneous wire, and random metal items. All data will be wiped or destroyed. (TVs and monitors will not be accepted.)

For any questions, call Russell at Junkluggers at 215-779-1644.



I'm happy to work with my colleague Rep. Liz Hanbidge to bring valuable resources to you! For information on either of these events, contact my district office at 610-222-3490 or Rep. Hanbidge's office at 610-277-3230.



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P.O. Box 118
Cedars, PA 19423
(610) 222-3490



State Representative
JOE WEBSTER

35 Evansburg Rd.
Collegesville, PA 19426
(484) 200-8263

To help make health care accessible for the community, state Rep. Matt Bradford and state Rep. Joe Webster have partnered with Temple Health Fox Chase Cancer Center for the following event!

MOBILE MAMMOGRAPHY EVENT

with Temple Health Fox Chase Cancer Center

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

**Skippack Township Municipal Building
4089 Heckler Road, Skippack, PA 19474**

**Appointments are required and available
starting at 10 a.m.**

To make an appointment, call Loraine Dunn today at (215) 214-0304.

Photo ID and a prescription for a screening mammogram required.

Staff from the representatives' offices will also be on hand to provide information on state resources.

Questions? Contact Rep. Bradford's office at (610) 222-3490.





State Representative
MATT BRADFORD

512E Main Capitol Bldg.
P.O. Box 202070
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2070

lpo.kd.0322

State Representative Matt Bradford's

District Office Services

My team and I can help you with:

- **Property Tax/Rent Rebate**
- **Unemployment Compensation**
- **Disability Placards**
- **Notary Services**
- **Birth/Death Certificate applications**
- **SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards**
- **Car registration, special tags, titles/license plate applications**



✉ RepBradford@PAHouse.net
☎ (610) 222-3490
🌐 RepBradford.com

📍 2000 Bustard Rd., Suite 6
Cedars, PA 19423
📱 @RepBradford

UPDATE: SEPTA Key Senior Cards!

As you may know, Pennsylvania seniors aged 65 or older with a valid form of identification are eligible to ride SEPTA Transit Routes and Regional Rail for free.

As a result of the pandemic, SEPTA has announced that no SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards will expire in 2022. Cards with printed expiration dates of 2020, 2021 and 2022 will now remain effective through the end of the month printed on the card in 2023.

Please contact my office for assistance applying for a SEPTA Key Senior Card.

