



State Representative | 189th Legislative District

TARAH PROBST

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COMMITTEES

Education
Local Government
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WELCOME TO THE DISTRICT!

Hello and welcome to the reconfigured 189th Legislative District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives comprising portions of Monroe and Pike counties. Some of you may be new to the district, having previously been part of the 115th District, while others may be longtime residents of the 189th. No matter where you live, I'm excited and proud to represent you at the state Capitol in Harrisburg.

It is a tremendous honor for me, because I was born and raised in East Stroudsburg, and I have lived in northeast Pennsylvania my entire life. My single mom worked hard, while raising 4 kids who attended public school. I know how important a quality public education is and that is why ensuring that Pennsylvania meets its constitutional mandate to provide "a thorough and efficient system of public education" is one of my top priorities. My siblings and I were the first generation in my family to graduate from college. Public education is the heart and soul of our community.

Before becoming your state representative in November, I was

the first female mayor in over 200 years of Stroudsburg's history. As Stroudsburg Mayor, I worked with residents and businesses every day to address their concerns and solve their issues. I brought significant positive change and business growth to the borough, along with the help of borough council. I also worked with other municipalities, Monroe County Commissioners, and legislators in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C. to address regional issues.

I graduated from King's College and Widener University School of Law.

My husband and I have a blended family of 5 and I want them to have every opportunity to be successful in life, just like I want those same opportunities for you and yours.

My priorities include good jobs, fighting for fair funding for public schools and lower property taxes, making sure health care is affordable and accessible for everyone, protecting a woman's right to choose, ensuring clean air and clean water, and being responsive to the residents of Monroe and Pike Counties.

PROBST OPENS PIKE COUNTY SATELLITE OFFICES

To serve residents of Pike County, I opened two satellite offices in Delaware and Lehman Townships.

It's my hope that these locations will make accessing services more convenient for people throughout the district, especially those who live quite a distance from my main office in Stroudsburg.

The locations and operating hours for the satellite offices are:

- Delaware Township: 116 Wilson Hill Road, Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328; open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Lehman Township: 193 Municipal Drive, Bushkill, PA 18324; open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We also can meet people from Middle Smithfield Township and Smithfield Township at the Middle Smithfield Township municipal building by appointment.

All my office locations are available on a walk-in basis during operating hours, but residents wishing to avoid potential wait times can schedule an appointment at any of the offices by calling the Stroudsburg office at 570-420-2850.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES
TARAH PROBST & MAUREEN E. MADDEN'S

WOMEN'S Expo

Saturday, June 24 | 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Stroudsburg High School Cafeteria
1100 West Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

- BUSINESS
Owning and managing a small business.
- CHILDREN & YOUTH
Supplemental programs, child-care services.
- HEALTH
Nutrition, Supplemental food programs, exercise and beauty.
- STATE RESOURCES
Providing resources and information to women concerning state programs.

ALL SCHOOLS SHOULD FOLLOW THE SAME RULES

WE NEED TO STOP THE CYBER/CHARTER THIEVERY!

Here's what I'm doing in Harrisburg to help save your tax dollars from improperly funding cyber/charter schools.

Audits are necessary

Despite being funded with taxpayer dollars, these cyber/charter schools are currently not subjected to state audits to ensure that they are properly using state funds to provide a quality education to students. I am introducing legislation that would subject all cyber/charter schools, cyber management companies, and other entities that operate cyber/charter schools to audits by the Pennsylvania Auditor General.

Special education funding changes

The system of funding special education services for cyber/charter school students is broken. Currently, special education payments from school districts to cyber/charter schools are overinflated based on an inaccurate assumption that each school district has a student population that requires special education services of 16%. My first bill would implement a three-tiered system that would determine the tuition rate based on the cost of services needed by the student. My second bill would require cyber/charter schools to invoice school districts for actual special education services provided to students by the cyber/charter school as opposed to the current method of calculating these tuition payments.

1. Cyber/charter schools are publicly funded, but privately managed.
2. 63% of charter schools had a graduation rate of 67% or higher on average.
3. 37% of charter schools had a graduation rate of 50% or higher on average.
4. On average, the cyber/charter schools are 2 years behind public schools.
5. Cyber/charter schools advertise "free public education," but they are not free. These are YOUR tax dollars.
6. \$35 million was spent on advertising last year for these cyber/charter schools. These are YOUR tax dollars.
7. Cyber/charter school surpluses are substantial, growing and unregulated.
8. Their surpluses rose nearly 674% during 2020-2021 – over 10x the 63% increase in enrollment.
9. The spike in surpluses cannot be explained by rising cyber/charter school enrollment.
10. 463 out of 500 school districts are calling for cyber/charter school reform with more coming in daily.
11. A Stroudsburg Area School District cyber child costs \$3,000 to educate / East Stroudsburg \$2,500 / Delaware Valley \$4,240.
12. Sending a SASD child to an outside cyber/charter school costs the district an average of \$22,000/East Stroudsburg \$15,603/ Delaware Valley \$15,111.
13. The Stroudsburg Area School District special education student cost to educate a child is between \$12,000-\$14,000/East Stroudsburg \$22,677-\$22,760/Delaware Valley \$13,375.
14. Sending a SASD child with special education to an outside cyber/charter school costs the district on average \$39,500/East Stroudsburg \$41,169/Delaware Valley \$29,895. YES, you read it right.
16. The thievery has been going on for well over a decade. These are YOUR tax dollars and the cyber/charter schools are robbing us blind.
17. We are in the 99th percentile in the state for the highest school taxes. People have a hard time affording to live here.
18. SASD will pay out nearly \$9 million/East Stroudsburg \$9 million/ Delaware Valley \$1.89 million to cyber/charter schools this year.
21. If these reimbursements were fair and all schools had the same rules, we would not have tax hikes and more importantly, there would be refunds.
22. School choice is fine, but ALL schools must follow the same rules. This cyber/charter school thievery is robbing us blind and certain politicians are lining their pockets to make sure these changes don't happen. Don't let it keep happening to our schools and our taxpayers. Demand cyber/charter school reform!

I-80 EXPANSION PROJECT IS BAD FOR THE AREA

PROBST MEETS WITH PENNDOT

As a member of the I-80 Project Impact AAA Task Force, I am a firm believer that the \$600 million reconstruction project proposed by PennDOT will crush Stroudsburg Borough, the Monroe County seat.

- 1. There should not be 6 travel lanes through Stroudsburg because more lanes = more speed.** More lanes induce more traffic and reduce incentives to find alternative travel times and routes. If lane capacity is increased, it should be between Bartonsville and Scotrun and connect to the already existing 3 lanes, not through Stroudsburg. PennDOT should follow the lead of Texas, Alaska, Washington and New Jersey transportation departments and include mass transit alternatives instead of increasing lanes. Stroudsburg Borough is the County seat and with a new courthouse expansion and a busy downtown, this expansion will take away crucial exits and a large tax base.
- 2. We want bridges reconstructed to provide required clearances and to meet current design, structural, and safety standards.**
- 3. Breakdown lanes should be the full 12-foot wide and 8-foot-wide medians for safety and emergencies.**
- 4. The existing entrance and exit at Dreher Avenue should not be closed and abandoned.** This route alternative already exists and can relieve traffic congestion on Route 80 and alternatives in the event of emergencies. This is also an important access for emergency services to service the west side of town. If this exit were to disappear, response times would increase a minimum of 5 minutes and a maximum of 15 minutes for fire and ambulance, threatening the lives of residents.
- 5. Future transportation capacity across the Delaware River must be addressed.** There is no point in increased lane capacity through Stroudsburg as bottlenecks will be created, decreasing safety and increasing accident potential.
- 6. PennDOT should establish 4 travel lanes for Route 611 from Stroudsburg to Bartonsville** as part of this project because it will relieve congestion on Route 80 and provide essential alternate routes for local traffic. 47% of traffic on I-80 is local.
- 8. Reducing the amount of property needed for the project requires every effort to avoid destroying people's homes, businesses and our quality of life, while preserving our property tax base.** This project will eliminate over \$400,000 in tax revenue affecting 175 properties, fully or partially. This will be a 7% change in revenue and 18% tax loss. If transferred to the residents, there will be an increase of about 15% in the borough tax, 2.75% in the school tax, and approximately 0.25% in the library tax.
- 9. This project has created the essential need for sound mitigation measures.** Locations will create a tunnel feeling in a currently wooded area. Residents will need relief from highway sounds created by this expansion but visibility of the natural beauty of the area will be impaired. "Welcome to the Poconos" will no longer be a good vision because of sound walls.
- 10. Increased mass transit and other transportation systems management technology options must be included in planning. Currently there is a lack of police patrol and signage is limited.**

WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT OUR FUTURE INSTEAD OF SPENDING \$600 MILLION ON A LEVEL F HIGHWAY AND ONLY GOING TO A LEVEL E. WE CAN DO BETTER AND WE NEED TO DO BETTER. Let PennDOT know how you feel at customer care.penndot.gov/ or 1-800-FIX ROAD.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.I80PROJECTIMPACTAAA.COM

WORKING FOR YOU

BILINGUAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN STROUDSBURG

If you or someone you know needs assistance from my office in Spanish, I am proud to have a bilingual staffer who can help you. Please call us at 570-420-2850 from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Thursdays and Carlos will do his best to get your problem solved.

PROBST SUPPORTS PIKE URGENT CARE

Everyone deserves access to quality health care facilities.

I am a strong supporter of the first urgent care center that is being proposed for Pike County.

Northwell Health, New York's largest healthcare provider, has verbally committed to open urgent care facilities in the Weis Market complex on Route 739 in Dingmans Ferry and along the Route 507 corridor in Palmyra Township.

My office will stay in contact with the Pike County Commissioners to ensure that we do everything possible at the state level to see this important health care project become a reality for residents of Pike County.



My office also stays up to date with PennDOT District 4 and keeps my municipalities in the loop with road work projects.

PROBST, MYCIL OFFER MONTHLY DISABILITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

A monthly outreach program offered by my office, in conjunction with the Center for Independent Living, helps people living with disabilities maximize their independence.

The program is held on the 1st Wednesday of every month at my Stroudsburg office. During that time, a representative from MyCIL is available to help people with disabilities. MyCIL assists people with services designed to maximize their independence, including securing transportation, housing, home and community-based services and more.

This new outreach program is just another way that my office can help people access local, county and state services that are best suited to their needs. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call my office at 570-420-2850.

REPRESENTATIVE
TARAH PROBST
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

DISABILITY OUTREACH APPOINTMENTS
1st Wednesday of every month
10AM-12PM | 570-420-2850
STROUDSBURG OFFICE
18 SOUTH NINTH STREET
SUITE 105
STROUDSBURG, PA 18360

The flyer features a circular portrait of Representative Tarah Probst, a photo of hands being held, and a photo of a person in a wheelchair. The text is arranged in a circular and rectangular layout with a blue and white color scheme.

NEED SOMETHING NOTARIZED?

If you have a personal document that needs to be notarized, give my office a call at 570-420-2850 and we can plan for Erica on my staff to help you. Please be aware that we cannot notarize election-related materials at my office.

STAY UP TO DATE!

If you want to know the latest with what's going on in the district and at the state Capitol, I encourage you to follow me on Facebook and Twitter @RepProbst – and also sign up to receive my biweekly email updates at www.pahouse.com/emailsSignup or scan the QR code.



LEGISLATION WRITTEN AND CO-SPONSORED

During the 2023-24 legislative session, I will introduce and co-sponsor numerous bills and resolutions. A few of the bills I've written include:

Property tax relief for disabled veterans

My proposed amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution would provide property tax relief to more disabled veterans and would enable many of them to keep their homes. The amount of the tax exemption would depend on the extent of a veteran's disability, as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Disclosing credentials of "life" coaches to protect consumers

All individuals who label themselves as a "coach," would be required to disclose their specific credentials qualifying them as a coach in all oral, written, and visual advertisements. My bill would also extend this same requirement to others in unlicensed professions that do not mandate credentials, including those individuals who use the titles of expert, advisor, guru, influencer, or master. The requirements of this bill would NOT apply to sports coaches.

Extending the annual school district budget deadline

In Pennsylvania, the fiscal year for school districts runs from July 1 to June 30, which coincides with the state's fiscal year. Currently, school districts are required to pass an annual budget by June 30, which is also the deadline for the state budget that allocates education funding for schools. This requires a lot of guessing on the part of each school district to prepare and pass a budget by the mandated deadline when they do not know exactly how

much education funding they will receive by the state until the state budget is finalized. We must provide school districts with more time to prepare their annual budget. My legislation would move the deadline for districts to pass their budgets from June 30 to July 31.

Requiring PennDOT to publicly track calls from municipalities

In my seven years serving as the Mayor of Stroudsburg, I learned the value of a strong working relationship between the state government and local governments. Sadly, I also learned, both through my experiences and those of other municipal leaders, that certain state agencies have a responsiveness issue, most notably PennDOT. There are far too many instances where municipalities contact PennDOT about an issue only to receive a delayed or inadequate response. My bill would require PennDOT to develop and maintain a database that tracks communications from municipalities to the department's regional offices. This database would include information such as why the municipality contacted the office, how PennDOT responded, and a status indicating whether the issue was resolved.

A few of the bills I've co-sponsored include issues such as protecting our environment, higher education, labor, gun violence, business, women's rights, equal rights, animal rights and so much more.

SEEN AROUND THE DISTRICT



Doing an interview with Ameenah Thompson of BRC News 13 following the Pocono Chamber of Commerce Legislative Luncheon.



Touring the Monroe Career & Technical Institute located in Bartonsville.



Greeting some visitors during my Pike County satellite office open house.



Enjoying a moment at my Stroudsburg office open house.



Reading to a class at Morey Elementary School.



Celebrating the appointment of new Stroudsburg Mayor Michael Moreno.



Remembering Tyre Nichols during a vigil hosted by the Monroe County NAACP.



Thanking the volunteers from the Stroud Township Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless service to our community during their annual banquet.



State Representative

TARAH PROBST

18 S. 9th St., Suite 105
Stroudsburg, PA 18360-1630

A Spanish version of this mailer is available on my website www.RepProbst.com.

Hay una versión en español de este correo en mi sitio web www.RepProbst.com.

lpo.ad.0423

PROBST WELCOMES \$1.34 MILLION IN GRANTS

One of the most rewarding parts of my job is advocating that your tax dollars are returned to the area through state grant programs for various economic development, municipal assistance and equipment purchase projects. Because many of the funding programs are competitive, it's not as simple as filling out an application, and that's why I am always glad to see money returned to Monroe and Pike Counties.

Some of the funding that has come to our area already this year includes:

Delaware Township

\$176,755 to replace a culvert inside Akenac Park.
\$10,000 for recreation expenses at Akenac Park.

Delaware Water Gap Borough

\$52,725 for electronic radar speed-limit display signs.
\$10,000 for a Quick Response System for the volunteer fire company.

East Stroudsburg Area School District

\$72,215 in School Police Officer funds.
\$45,039 in communication safety equipment.

East Stroudsburg Borough

\$15,000 for security cameras for Dansbury Park and Zacharias Park.

East Stroudsburg North High School

\$20,295 for an electric convection steamer.

Lehman Township

\$10,000 for the Bushkill Outreach Food Pantry in the new community center.

Middle Smithfield Township

\$10,000 for acoustic wall panels at the community center/ seminar tables/museum display cabinets.

Porter Township

\$10,000 for a new sign and emergency radios.

Smithfield Elementary School

\$8,734 for a roll-through heated cabinet.

Smithfield Township

\$500,000 to Pocono Mountains Industrial Park Authority for Phase 2 of its expansion of Route 209.
\$367,500 for Phase II of the Marshall Falls Park Project, including construction of a 12-spot parking lot.
\$10,000 to hire a forester to eliminate the Emerald Ash Borer that is killing the trees on township parks and trails.

Stroudsburg Borough

\$15,000 for pavers at the Ann St. Park.

Stroud Township

\$10,000 toward a dog park.