



STATE REPRESENTATIVE Joe Ciresi

146th Legislative District

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Open Monday and Wednesday.

Office hours may vary; please call (484) 200-8265 to confirm hours

Spring 2023

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New Committee Assignments

For my third term in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, I am pleased to have been reappointed to the House Education Committee and the House Tourism & Economic & Recreational Development Committee, as well as appointed to the Game & Fisheries and the Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities committees.

These committees reflect many of the legislative priorities I've pushed for as a state legislator, including ensuring a fairly funded education system that looks to the future and delivers for all students, enacting comprehensive charter school reform, making sure consumers are treated fairly, and recognizing the important link between tourism and supporting our state's economy and local businesses. As a member of the majority in the PA House for the first time, I look forward to making progress on these issues and many more. I would also

like to congratulate my colleague Representative Joanna McClinton, who recently made history as the first female Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives!

In addition to my committee assignments, I am glad to now serve as a Co-Chair of the legislative Arts & Culture Caucus, as well as continue serving as a Co-Chair for the Litter Caucus and continue to serve the Film Industry Caucus.

Related to my work on these committees and caucuses, keep an eye out for legislation I'll be introducing to keep our roads clean and litter-free, make subscription services more transparent and less frustrating, and look at getting a new state song we can all be proud of – and more! I look forward to using these new committee assignments and appointments to continue working on your behalf, fighting for the issues that matter for you and your family.

SEPTA Senior Key Renewals Available

If you are a senior 65 or older with an expired or expiring SEPTA Senior Key card, take advantage of the quick and easy renewal process at my district offices. This year, as a result of the ending of COVID-19-related extensions, Senior Key cards with printed expiration dates of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 will expire on the last day of the month printed on the card. For example, if your card has a printed expiration date of April 2020, April 2021, April 2022, or April 2023, it will expire on April 30, 2023.

To renew, bring a photo ID with your date of birth, such as a driver's license, and your expiring SEPTA Senior Key card. You will receive a new card in the mail from SEPTA within 3-4 weeks. Please note that your current card will be deactivated once a new one is sent by SEPTA; same-day renewals are available at SEPTA Headquarters at 1234 Market Street in Philadelphia.

Don't have a SEPTA Senior ID card yet?

This free card enables seniors to ride all modes of SEPTA at no charge, including Regional Rail trains, buses, and subways. Appointments are not necessary – simply visit my district office with a form of photo ID that includes your birthdate.

Replace a lost SEPTA Senior ID card

The first replacement card is \$5, while subsequent replacements are \$25. When requesting a replacement, you will need to write your full name, current address (with apartment number, if applicable), phone number, and date of birth on a note indicating that you need a replacement and mail along with your payment (check or money order; NO cash) to:

SEPTA – P.O. Box 824833, Philadelphia, PA 19182-4833

You can also call SEPTA and pay by credit card or to report a lost or stolen card at (855) 567-3782. If you have lost your expired SEPTA Senior Key card and need to renew it, you do not need to request a replacement through this process before going for renewal.

Over \$48 Million in State Grants Delivered

I continue to advocate for my constituents by seeking out and supporting state grants and other funding to help our residents, businesses, schools, and local governments. Since taking office in January 2019, I am proud to have helped deliver over \$48.2 million in state grants to the 146th Legislative District, including almost \$20 million in grants since last summer's newsletter.

- \$8.2 million for economic redevelopment projects, including \$2.5 million to redevelop the old Nelson Ice Cream factory in Royersford, almost \$1 million for environmental remediation at the former Pottstown Plating Works, and \$500,000 for equipment to expand production at Pottstown's American Keg Company.
- \$2.1 million for local park projects, including improvements to Pottstown's South Street and Chestnut Street Parks, Royersford's Chestnut Street Park, and Pottstown's TreeVitalize initiative.
- \$2 million for infrastructure projects, including



converting Pottstown's 1,800 streetlights to energy-efficient LED lights, restoring Royersford's First Avenue, repairing Pottstown stormwater arch collapses, plus reconstructing and realigning Limerick's Lightcap Road.

- \$631,000 for police equipment, training, and personnel for the Pottstown, Lower Pottsgrove, and West Pottsgrove police departments.
- \$1.1 million for area fire and EMS companies, including \$25,000 to extend a water line to connect the Sanatoga Fire Company.

Pushing to Expand Property Tax and Rent Relief

I recently reintroduced legislation, along with Rep. Jim Haddock (D-Lackawanna/Luzerne), to expand the Property Tax/Rent Rebate (PTRR) Program, which helps keep many Pennsylvania seniors and individuals with disabilities in their homes. Our bill will make sure that as lottery and gaming revenues set new records every year, we're using that money for property tax relief – as promised.

The bill would expand the PTRR Program to account for inflation since the last increase in 2006, raising income limits to \$50,000

and \$25,000, respectively for homeowners and renters (up from \$35,000 and \$15,000), and rebate amounts up to a new maximum of \$800. We're also proposing to let homeowners receive even higher rebates by lifting the cap on supplemental rebates for those with high property taxes and letting homeowners deduct their paid property taxes from their PTRR eligibility income. With all these changes, hundreds of thousands of seniors and individuals with disabilities would qualify for this program or become eligible for

larger rebates, providing significant housing relief.

Unless we act this year, thousands of seniors will lose their eligibility for the PTRR as a Social Security Cost-of-Living-Adjustment pushes them over the income cap – which my bill would prevent by permanently preventing anyone from losing eligibility due to a Social Security COLA. I was glad to see Gov. Josh Shapiro highlight expanding this program this year as a major priority in his budget address, and I'll work to hopefully pass this needed and timely legislation.



Paper Tax Forms Available

If you still need to file your taxes, my office has paper tax forms available. My Royersford District Office has state and federal tax forms and schedules, state PA-40 instruction books, and a limited supply of federal Form 1040 instruction books. Feel free to stop by my office to pick up what you need!

Senior Food Box Program

If you are over the age of 60 and meet income qualifications, you may be eligible for a supplemental box of nutritious food every month! Made possible by the USDA and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the Senior Food Box Program includes milk, juice, grains, proteins, and canned fruits and vegetables. Local non-profit agencies assist in the distribution of the boxes.

Seniors who make up to \$18,954 annually for a household of one, and \$6,682 for each additional household member (which would mean \$39,000 for a household of four), can qualify for this program. Contact my office for an application.



Useful Phone Numbers for Seniors

**Montgomery County Office
of Senior Services: (610) 278-3601**

RSVP Medicare Counseling: (610) 834-1040 x120

Share Food Program: (215) 223-2220

**Senior Law Montgomery County
Helpline: (610) 910-0210**

Elder Abuse Hotline: 1(800) 734-2020

TransNet Senior Shared Ride Program: (215) 542-7433

Continuing the Momentum Toward Passenger Train Service

We continue to move closer to bringing back passenger train service to our part of Montgomery County, and I was proud to announce a \$250,000 state grant in March toward that goal. This funding is for the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority (SRPRA) to conduct an operational feasibility study, a necessary next step in the process to assess the capacity of existing tracks to accommodate both passenger and freight traffic.

Also in March, SRPRA applied to secure federal funding for this project, through Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification and Development Program. This program is being used by the federal government to distribute funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for new Amtrak train service. I led dozens of my colleagues from the region in jointly supporting this application, and I'll continue to work with SRPRA until we bring back train service to our community.

Upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Montgomery County will host several free hazardous waste collection events throughout 2023. You must register in advance at www.MontcoPARecycles.org for a specific time. Upcoming events in the area include:

Saturday, April 29

**Boyertown Middle School East
2020 Big Road, Gilbertsville**

Saturday, May 6

**Oak Ridge Elementary School
465 Moyer Road, Harleysville**

Saturday, May 20

**Temple University – Ambler Campus
Enter at 1431 E. Butler Pike, Ambler**

Saturday, June 17

**Norristown Area High School
1900 Eagle Drive, Norristown**

Materials should be boxed for event staff to unload from the trunk of a car, cargo area of an SUV, or bed of a truck. Note that electronic waste, including televisions, will not be accepted at these events. For more information, visit www.MontcoPARecycles.org, or contact Montgomery County at recycling@montcopa.org or (610) 278-3618.

Photos from Around the District



We were happy to get photos of the Ukrainian children with the bus that we helped get delivered last fall. Thanks to the amazing people and businesses in our community, these children have been able to continue their education despite the ongoing war.



What better way to kick off Women's History Month than with my friend and colleague Joanna McClinton being elected the first woman (and second African American) Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.



I met with Bruce and Marsha Graham. Bruce and Marsha own 12 McDonald's franchises, including the four in our district and employ more than 1,500 people!



I was honored to present a citation to Andrew Grabowy and Andrew Glick as they attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in the Boy Scouts of America and is truly a testament to their dedication and commitment to their community.



I appreciate the opportunity to serve not just in Harrisburg, but in our community. ManorCare in Pottstown invited me to help serve a holiday meal to the residents, and I loved seeing so many other volunteers ready to help whenever they can!



I had the opportunity to tour Aegis Technologies. They have been manufacturing pipe fittings right here in Pottstown since 2007!



We welcomed almost 100 veterans and their spouses to our Veterans Dinner on Pearl Harbor Day.



The PA Commonwealth Court delivered a major victory for our public school students in the fight for proper funding, but now the real work begins. As a sponsor of fair funding legislation and an advocate for education funding, I will continue to look for ways to work together and bring about real change.

Upcoming Events

Senior Expo

Co-Hosted with Limerick Township Parks & Recreation
Wednesday, April 12
10 a.m. – Noon
Copperfield Inn at Lakeside
 594 W. Ridge Pike, Limerick

This FREE event includes information for seniors, unclaimed property search, many vendors, and light refreshments. We encourage you to visit the many health, government, and service organizations that will be participating. Pre-registration at (610) 495-6432 is preferred.

SEPTA Senior Key Card Sign-Up Event

Thursday, April 27
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Pottstown Regional Public Library
 500 E. High St., Pottstown

Apply to get a SEPTA Senior Key card or renew your expiring card! SEPTA Senior Key cards allow free travel on SEPTA trains and transit for seniors (65+): please bring ID showing proof of age or your expiring SEPTA Senior Key card if you are renewing.

Paper Shredding Event

Co-Hosted with Limerick Township

Saturday, May 6 | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (or until the truck is full)
Western Montgomery Career & Technology Center (WMCTC)
 77 Graterford Rd., Royersford
 Please keep to a limit of five boxes of paper per household.

Veterans Discount ID Card & FraudSleuth Signup Event

Co-Hosted with Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds
 Jeanne Sorg

Thursday, May 11 | 10 a.m. – Noon
Pottstown Regional Public Library
 500 E. High St., Pottstown

For Veterans: Bring your DD-214 discharge paperwork to be recorded with the County and receive a Veterans Discount ID Card, accepted at over 500 County businesses.

For Homeowners: Sign up for FraudSleuth, a free County-run property fraud protection service, which will alert you if someone attempts to record a document matching your property within Montgomery County.

Sign Up for ReadyMontco Alerts

ReadyMontco is the most direct way of receiving timely, official information during a disaster, severe weather, or other emergency. This free service by the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety lets you customize which alerts you want to receive and how – phone, text, or email. Register today at ReadyMontco.org.



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Join My Email Update List

I maintain an email list for those who wish to receive periodic updates from me, including legislation updates, event announcements, traffic updates, state and local program information, and more. You can sign up on my website at www.RepCiresi.com. You also can follow me on social media, which is regularly updated with information from Harrisburg and local events right here in Montgomery County.



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