



State Representative
Jim Haddock
 118th Legislative District

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FALL 2024

State Budget Completed with No New Taxes

I am pleased to report that Pennsylvania's 2024-25 budget was completed *without raising taxes and has no new taxes*. The spending plan is a huge win for Lackawanna and Luzerne counties – starting with investing more than \$1 billion in our kids and schools. This is a transformative change that makes sure we're investing money where it will do the most for students and taxpayers.

We're creating jobs and supporting our communities, along with the small, local businesses that create the jobs. We're fixing more roads and bridges and we're building a better future – for all of us.

For an overview of the budget, scan this QR code.



Governor Signs Haddock 9-11 Remembrance Bill

In June, Gov. Josh Shapiro signed my bill into law requiring schools to observe a moment of silence annually to recognize September 11th.

Act 25 of 2024 will ensure that future generations of Pennsylvanians understand the events of 9/11, as well as the impact that day continues to have on the lives of all Americans. The tragedies that occurred on September 11, 2001, changed our country forever. It is 23 years later, and we are still studying and analyzing the effect that day had on our foreign policy, national security, society and our values.

The law also directs the PA Department of Education to identify model curriculum that would inform schoolchildren about the significance of 9/11 and why they should never forget the events of, or the lives lost, that day. The teaching of the curriculum will be optional for each school.

As a first-term state representative, I am grateful that my House and Senate colleagues unanimously passed my bill and that it was signed into law by the governor.



SENIORS

Joint Senior Expo 2024

Friday, Sept. 13, 2024
11AM – 2 PM

With State Legislators & Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging

FREE PARKING & FEATURING OVER 70 VENDORS!

The Mall at Steamtown
300 Lackawanna Ave
Scranton, PA 18503



Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging office will be providing:
bag lunches and transportation from Senior centers!

Lackawanna County Board of Commissioners



Com. Bill Gaughan



Com. Chris Chermak



Com. Matt McCliff



Sen. Marty Flynn
22nd Senatorial District



Sen. Rosemary M. Brown
46th Senatorial District



Rep. Kyle J. Akalins
177th Legislative District



Rep. Kyle T. Donahue
173th Legislative District



Rep. Bridget M. Kucherski
179th Legislative District



Rep. Jim Haddock
178th Legislative District



Don't Miss Out on your Property Tax/Rent Rebate

You may be eligible for the expanded Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, and my office is here to help.

I was proud to vote for a law that expanded and improved the state's PTRR Program. The law raised the income limit to \$45,000 for homeowners and renters and raised the maximum rebate to \$1,000. Cost-of-living increases will keep pace with inflation so that seniors retain eligibility with modest raises in Social Security benefits.

The program benefits eligible people aged 65 or older; widows and widowers aged 50 or older; and people with disabilities age 18 or older. Spouses, personal representatives, or estates may also file rebate claims on behalf of claimants who lived at least one day in 2023 and meet all other eligibility criteria.

Give my office a call at (570) 655-4883, send an email or stop by and see us and my team will be happy to help you apply before the December 31 deadline.

Keeping Prescription Costs Affordable

Pennsylvania's prescription assistance programs for older adults, PACE and PACENET, offer low-cost prescriptions to qualified residents age 65 or older. The program works with Medicare Part D plans and other prescription drug plans such as retiree/union coverage, employer plans, Medicare Advantage (HMO, PPO) and veterans' benefits (VA) to lower out-of-pocket costs for medications.

PACE Income Limits: for a single person, total income must be \$14,500 or less; \$17,700 for a married couple.

PACENET Income Limits: for a single person, total income can be between \$14,500-\$33,500; \$17,700-\$41,500 for a married couple.

Apply by phone at (800) 225-7223. Please have income and insurance information available. If you prefer, my office has applications that we can mail to you.



Pro-Family, Pro-Worker Bills Pass the House

I am glad to be a member of the House Labor and Industry Committee because I am at the forefront of discussions that impact working people and families. These are some of the pro-family, pro-worker bills that have passed the House in the last year and a half.

- ✓ **H.B. 299** would create the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act, to establish workplace safety standards for public sector employees that are consistent with federal OSHA requirements.
- ✓ **H.B. 413** would increase specifications for classifying employees as independent contractors in the construction industry.
- ✓ **H.B. 577** would create the Keystone Saves Plan – a voluntary retirement account for workers who don't have access to an employer-based plan.
- ✓ **H.B. 760** would allow workers' compensation claimants to have benefits delivered via direct deposit.
- ✓ **H.B. 930** would ensure that workers who suffer from serious and permanent disfigurement are eligible for workers' compensation benefits, increase number of eligible weeks for compensation, and allow claimants to collect disability and disfigurement benefits simultaneously.
- ✓ **H.B. 950** would guarantee workers the right to organize and collectively bargain and prohibit any other laws that may interfere with or diminish collective bargaining rights.
- ✓ **H.B. 1449** would establish clear requirements for firms bidding on public infrastructure projects, including having a state or federally registered apprenticeship program.
- ✓ **H.B. 1465** would apply prevailing wage rates and minimum safety standards to all contracted construction work on underground systems regulated by the Public Utility Commission.
- ✓ **H.B. 1481** would extend eligibility for unemployment compensation to workers who are unemployed due to a work stoppage.
- ✓ **H.B. 2153** would protect worker pay and prohibit the use of "split rates" by which some contractors pay workers at two different rates for the same job on the same day.

Working Families Deserve a Break

Nearly 250,000 working parents and caregivers are able to keep more of their hard-earned money thanks to the work we did to triple the state's Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. The previous one-child credit of \$180 is now up to as much as \$1,050, and the previous two-or-more children credit of \$360 is up to as much as \$2,100.

This is not just for child care. If you are paying for care of someone who is elderly or living with a disability, you could also qualify for the tax credit. If you qualify for the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, you now also qualify for the state credit.



FACTS DON'T LIE

Don't believe anyone who says the House hasn't been working!

2023-24 Session House Bills

Passed the House

Passed the Senate

399

92





Protecting Sportsmen Across PA

As an avid sportsman, I am fortunate to have a coveted spot on the House Game and Fisheries Committee. This position gives me the opportunity to discuss important issues that affect hunters and anglers across PA. When the PA Game Commission bungled the rollout of online sales, I was able to question them about how it happened and worked to ensure that the next round was done in a more efficient manner.



Helping Veterans and First Responders

As a member of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, I am happy to help our veterans and first responders access state programs and services.

The PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs can assist veterans with locating their lost DD Form 214 (DD-214). Anyone needing assistance from the DMVA to locate their DD-214/215, or other military documentation, can call toll-free 1-800-547-2838 or e-mail RA-REQ@pa.gov. Another way to stay in touch is for veterans, family members and people who work with veterans to sign up for the DMVA's Veterans Registry by visiting www.register.dmva.pa.gov.

If you or a family member are a veteran, please contact my office at (570) 655-4883 for information about state programs that can benefit you.

Thank you for your service to our country and our communities!



Make a Plan to Vote!

It only takes a few minutes to make sure you're ready to vote in the November 5 General Election. Get started by registering to vote or updating your voter registration at vote.pa.gov/register.

October 21 – Last day to register to vote in the general election

October 29 – Last day to apply for a mail ballot.

November 5 – Election Day. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

WORKING FOR YOU!

Since taking office in 2023, I have brought home **more than \$20 million in state grants** for communities, organizations, schools, fire/EMS/police and infrastructure projects throughout Luzerne and Lackawanna counties.



◀ My Lackawanna and Luzerne County colleagues and I are pushing back against utility companies that continue to raise rates for customers. The rate increases are a threat to homeowners and businesses.

In July, we had another successful Community Shred Day in Duryea to help people protect themselves from identity theft. ▶





State Representative

Jim Haddock

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  **@RepHaddock**

lpo.ks.0824

MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH...

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Obtaining and completing state forms
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Health and Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Requests for literature – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the PA House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- PACE/PACENET prescription drug cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

Since taking office in 2023, my office has helped people with **over 35,000** state-related issues and concerns.



I am proud to work with Gov. Shapiro to get stuff done for PA!

STAY UP TO DATE!

Sign up to receive my email updates at www.pahouse.com/haddock/emailsignup or scan the QR code.

