



MATTHEW R. GERGELY

HELLO NEIGHBOR,



With this being my initial opportunity to address residents in a newsletter, I'm honored to have the opportunity and privilege to be the voice of the 35th Legislative District in Harrisburg and back here at home.

Although not being in office for quite a year yet, I've already added my affirmative vote

to legislation that has the safety and overall well-being of Pennsylvanians front and center. Not only that, my first bill and resolution as a state legislator have already passed the House. Whether voting on the chamber floor or offering input during a committee meeting, I'm committed to improving the Commonwealth while at the Capitol.

I've also enjoyed every chance to visit with the people of our communities, provide services and resources, honor your achievements and dedication to communities, and find out how my staff and I can better assist you with the state questions and issues that matter most to you.

Please read on for more about legislative successes, important funding, districtwide happenings, and everything in between!

Yours in service,

Matthew R. Gergely



FINDING A HOME AT TUBE CITY CENTER

At the beginning of September, my staff and I moved to our present district office location at Tube City Center in McKeesport. We appreciated your flexibility and understanding during the two days that the former district office was closed to facilitate the relocation.

My district office also hosted its grand opening in November for everyone to come in and say hello, check out our legislative headquarters, and learn about how the office can assist with all things state-government related. I felt truly blessed by the incredible turnout!

Don't forget that you can sign up for weekly emails by visiting www.RepGergely.com and filling out the form near the bottom of the page.



MAIN DISTRICT OFFICE

409 Walnut St., 1st Floor
McKeesport, PA 15132
(412) 664-0035
Open Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

MUNHALL OFFICE

3905 Main St.
Munhall, PA 15120
(412) 476-3046
Open Mondays, Wednesdays,
& Fridays
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

CLAIRTON OFFICE

551 Ravensburg Blvd.
Clairton, PA 15025
(412) 233-2505
Open Tuesdays & Thursdays
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

CAPITOL OFFICE

117A East Wing
P.O. Box 202035
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2035
(717) 783-1018

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

I'm thrilled that my first bill and first resolution have both passed the House.

COVID-19 hit restaurants and bars hard in terms of staffing and hiring experienced employees. Current law prohibits workers at establishments with liquor licenses from working at more than one such establishment at the same time. My legislation (**H.B. 829**), which passed in early May last year, would remove this exclusivity and mark a win for the licensees, state and local economies, and workers in need of additional funds. As legislators, we must continue to identify where our small businesses are struggling and implement commonsense policies to assist them.

Kennywood, in West Mifflin, was named a National Historic Landmark in 1987. It is one of only two amusement parks in the nation with that designation and one of thirteen trolley parks still in operation. Kennywood celebrated 125 years in operation in 2023, and **H.R. 173** honored this impressive milestone. Adopted in October, the resolution designated the 20th day of that month as Kennywood Park Day. Here's to another 125 years of serving as a steadfast community economic pillar and to making fun memories that last a lifetime!

I've also introduced legislation (**H.B. 1795**) that would ensure donated source plasma undergoes extensive testing upon donation and before it is ultimately integrated into vital pharmaceuticals. This would allow more focus to be devoted to developing such pharmaceuticals by eliminating a significant portion of subsequent testing conducted in labs during the clinical development phase. Plasma is vital for treating rare diseases, chronic conditions, and emergencies like trauma and burns, and my bill would help ensure that PA has a safe and sustainable plasma supply necessary for improving and saving countless lives.



TALKING SAFETY AT KENNYWOOD

I presided over my first House Majority Policy Committee hearing at Kennywood in August, which focused on public safety and the overall safety of our communities. Law enforcement and public officials who testified made my House colleagues and me aware of the immediate need for detention centers to house juveniles who commit major crimes, to utilize new security technologies, and implement additional measures. Fostering healthy relationships between police and residents is the foundation for ensuring and promoting safety for all.

REACHING OUT TO RESIDENTS

In September, I partnered with the McKeesport Police Department and held a license plate replacement and prescription takeback event in the parking lot of McKeesport Area High School. We collected and safely disposed of unwanted pharmaceuticals and provided an efficient means to replace license plates that were unreadable, which benefits drivers and law enforcement alike. Thank you to Mayor Cherepko, McKeesport Police Department officers, and my staff for making the long lines move quickly!



STAY SAFE AND HAVE FUN OUTDOORS THIS WINTER



As a member of the PA House Game & Fisheries Committee, I wanted to provide you with some important information to keep in mind as you enjoy the outdoors this winter:

- Hunters can visit pgc.pa.gov to purchase licenses for the new year, find out the dates for the upcoming seasons, register for educational seminars, and much more!

- PA's lakes and streams are stocked with thousands of trout, and anglers can find the nearest trout stocking location by visiting fishandboat.com. You can also visit the website to purchase a license or launch permit.
- Additionally, life jackets are required for anyone kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding, or participating in small boat, less than 16 feet in length, activities during the cold weather period that lasts **until April 30th**.

Be safe and have fun!



Pictured above is the northern snakehead, an invasive species the PA Fish and Boat Commission urges anglers to report or dispose of if caught. To report one and for more information, click "Snakehead" under the "Conservation" tab on the fish and boat website.




State Sen. Jim Brewster and I hosted a senior wellness and safety expo in October at McKeesport Palisades. Individuals were on hand to administer flu shots and health screenings, seniors took in a bevy of helpful information and services, and door prizes were won at the packed hall. Thank you to our collective staffs and to all the seniors who came out. I look forward to hosting more of these events in the future!

Our offices held a successful veterans breakfast at Clairton VFW Post 803 in November as well. The event was a meaningful occasion to recognize retired service members for their commitment to protecting our country and citizens. We salute you and thank you!



The 2023/24 Budget

Increases Funding for Schools in our Community



Clairton City School District	\$950,100 (9% ↑)
McKeesport Area School District	\$3,587,283 (9.4% ↑)
Duquesne City School District	\$1,166,235 (8% ↑)
Steel Valley School District	\$883,682 (6.6% ↑)
South Allegheny School District	\$1,089,983 (8.5% ↑)

BUDGET INCLUDES INCREASED FUNDS FOR DISTRICT SCHOOLS

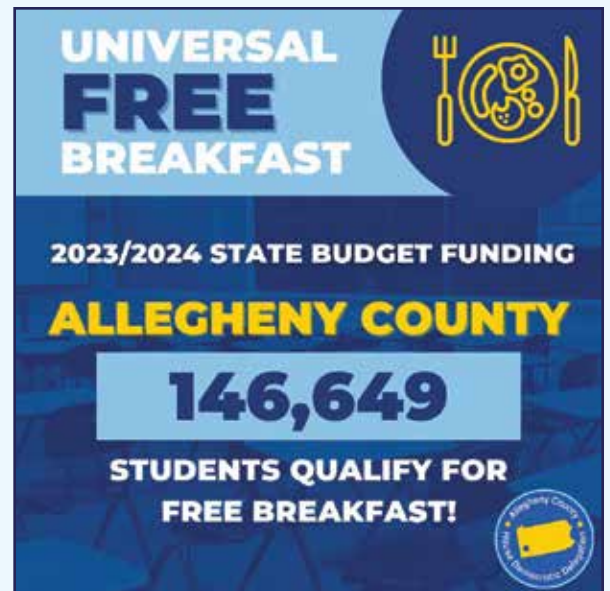
I proudly voted to pass the 2023-2024 fiscal budget in July last year. A large component of the budget was an increase in funding for basic and special education throughout the Commonwealth, and I'm happy to say that several school systems in the district were beneficiaries.

The graphic to the left breaks down school districts that received such an increase by dollar and percentage when compared to previous fiscal year money allotted for basic and special education. The total increase over the previous year for school districts was more than \$7.6 million.

These funds are crucial to keeping enough teachers in classrooms, giving them the tools and resources they need, and helping students to achieve at the highest academic level possible.

UNIVERSAL FREE BREAKFAST FOR STUDENTS

Passing the main budget bill allows 1.75 million public school students across the Commonwealth to enjoy universal free breakfast during the 2023-24 fiscal year, and 146,500+ are in Allegheny County. Working in the education sector for multiple years, I can truly appreciate the positive impact these dollars will have on the students I'm privileged to represent and statewide. Students starting their days with vital nourishment and nutrition excel in the classroom and feel motivated to work to their highest possible potential.




UNIVERSAL FREE BREAKFAST

2023/2024 STATE BUDGET FUNDING

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

146,649


STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR FREE BREAKFAST!



I SUPPORT CYBER CHARTER REFORM IN PA!
HOUSE BILL 1422

Estimated savings to local school districts and taxpayers

Clairton City School District	McKeesport Area School District
\$278,416	\$831,478
South Allegheny School District	Steel Valley School District
\$361,703	\$1,228,794
Duquesne City School District	West Mifflin School District
\$476,152	\$562,656



CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL REFORM

House Bill 1422 passed the House in early July last year and would help to ensure that brick-and-mortar schools and their cyber charter counterparts benefit from funding that is based on their respective enrollments and respective cost factors, rather than a blanket influx of dollars for both. The graphic to the left illustrates how much certain school districts and taxpayers in the district would save, with the total savings to be estimated at \$3.7 million.

This legislation is a win-win – tax-paying citizens would be better informed of where their contributions are going, and school districts would receive the financial assistance they rightfully need.

OUT & ABOUT IN THE 35TH



Facilitating the donation of a new AED machine to Mt. Olive First Baptist Church in Clairton.



Presenting a \$25,000 check to the Munhall Borough Police Department for road safety measures.



Assisting neighbors during Clairton Community Day.



Beautifying Richard J. Gergely Riverfront Park in McKeesport.



Petting a four-legged friend during the opening of cat rescue Fur All Kittys in West Mifflin.



Recognizing Robert Erkel for serving as Port Vue's mayor and his contributions to the community.



Staffer Karen Lischner helps White Oak Mayor Ina Marton mark the borough's 75th anniversary.



Honoring John J. Dindak for his 50 years as mayor of West Homestead.



Celebrating the opening of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's new facilities in Duquesne.



State Representative
MATTHEW R. GERGELY
 P.O. Box 202035
 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2035

LPO.KS.1123

State Representative Matt Gergely

District Office Services

I'm ready to work for you!

- **Property Tax/Rent Rebate**
- **PRT (Port Authority) Senior Bus Passes**
- **Various PennDOT Services including Drivers License Renewal, Vehicle Registrations, Disability Placards & more**
- **LIHEAP**

My District Office is Now Open!



📍 Tube City Center
 409 Walnut St. First Floor
 McKeesport, PA 15132
 ✉ RepGergely@PAHouse.net

☎ (412) 664-0035
 🌐 RepGergely.com
 📱 @RepGergely

My staff and I are here to assist with an assortment of state services and with the issues that matter to you most.

We are available at:

The main district office in Tube City Center
Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Munhall office
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Clairton office
Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Please don't hesitate to stop by, even if it's just to say hello. We're eager to see and help you!