



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# BILL KORTZ

38th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

West Mifflin, Dravosburg, McKeesport, Glassport, Port Vue, Liberty, Pleasant Hills and South Baldwin

**Dravosburg Office:**

751 Pittsburgh-McKeesport Blvd.  
Dravosburg, PA 15034  
(412) 466-1940

**Baldwin Office:**

5101 Old Clairton Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236  
(412) 886-2870

**Website:**

[www.pahouse.com/Kortz](http://www.pahouse.com/Kortz)



## Kortz opposes budget, education cuts

Earlier this summer, I voted against the Corbett-Republican 2011-12 state budget because of drastic cuts to local schools, the University of Pittsburgh and services for children, women and seniors.

### Education cuts

This budget includes devastating cuts to our entire educational system, from kindergarten through 12th grade and higher education. With this budget, we basically burned down our educational house in Pennsylvania as we know it. Our children will be the collateral damage in this war of budget priorities, and that is absolutely unacceptable. As we know, Good Schools = Good Communities.

The \$61 million cut for public schools in Allegheny County is already beginning to show its devastating effect on classrooms. Students will be crammed into crowded classrooms, hundreds of teachers will be laid off, and overburdened property taxpayers will get hit again.

Furthermore, these draconian cuts weren't necessary. We have more than \$700 million in surplus revenue that could have been used to restore these painful cuts. Instead, funding was slashed for accountability block grants for full-day kindergarten, charter school reimbursement and educational assistance programs. The bottom line is that Governor Corbett's Budget = All Children Left Behind.

### Higher education

The state funds schools like the University of Pittsburgh, Penn State, Temple and Lincoln to lower tuition for in-state students. The higher education cuts made in this budget – to the tune of \$286 million – are forcing students to go deeper into debt with college loans and may make the dream of a college education completely unaffordable for some middle- and low-income families.

Additionally, the cut to the State System of Higher Education's 14 facilities, including IUP, Slippery Rock, Edinboro and others, also will result in tuition increases.

### 'No tax' budget

Republicans also are claiming this is a no-tax budget, but it's simply untrue. Taxes will be increased because of this budget. This merely shifts the burden to middle-class homeowners and seniors who will be forced to pick up the tab through local property tax hikes.

### **Education cuts by school district (\$ lost)**

**West Mifflin - \$798,260**

**McKeesport - \$2,885,421**

**South Allegheny - \$977,000**

**Baldwin-Whitehall - \$1,268,676**

**West Jefferson Hills - \$696,059**

**Total cuts to K-12th grade in Pennsylvania: \$980 million**



Scan this symbol with your smartphone and watch my testimony to the House Appropriations Committee.



# Road & Bridge Updates

## Bridges

**Mansfield Bridge** – \$38 million refurbishment project scheduled to start in March 2012. *Note: Emergency Repair – \$1.3 million to replace Pier 10 rocker bearings **completed** July 2011.*

**Bettis Road Bridge** – \$2.6 million replacement **completed** November 2010

**Street Run Road/Prospect Bridge** – \$1.2 million project to replace and widen roadway **completed** November 2010

**Glassport Clairton Bridge** – \$4.8 million repair and replacement project currently under way, expected completion fall 2011.

**McKeesport Flyover Ramp** – \$9.3 million project, completion estimated late 2011.

**Curry Hollow Bridge (Pleasant Hills)** – \$6.4 million replacement project to start next year.

**Thompson Run Bridge** – \$12 million rehabilitation project, estimated start May 2014.

**15th Street Bridge McKeesport (Sen. Belan bridge)** – Dangerous 3-inch HUMP on Port Vue side removed per constituent requests on July 31, 2011.

## Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program deadline extended to Dec. 31

The deadline for senior citizens and other qualifying Pennsylvania residents to apply for a state property tax or rent rebate for the 2010 tax year has been extended until Dec. 31, 2011.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program benefits income-eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with disabilities 18 or older. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for senior homeowners with lower incomes can boost the property tax rebate to \$975. More than 600,000 older Pennsylvanians and residents with disabilities are expected to benefit from the program this year.

Those who received a rebate last year on their 2009 property taxes or rent should have received an application for the 2010 tax year in the mail. Other applicants may obtain a Property Tax/Rent Rebate claim form online at [www.revenue.state.pa.us](http://www.revenue.state.pa.us), by calling toll free, 1-888-222-9190, or at local area agencies on aging and senior centers.

Applications and assistance also are available in my constituent service offices, 751 Pittsburgh-McKeesport Blvd., Dravosburg or 5101 Old Clairton Road, Baldwin.

*Residents who have already applied for a rebate can check the status of their claim online at [www.revenue.state.pa.us](http://www.revenue.state.pa.us) or by calling toll free, 1-888-PATAXES.*

## Roads & Traffic Signals

**West Fifth Ave. (McKeesport)** – \$1.5 million repaving project **completed** November 2010. Grants acquired by Reps. Kortz and Gergely and Sen. Logan.

**Curry Hollow Road to Randall St. (West Mifflin)** – \$100,000 repaving project **completed** November 2010. Grant acquired by Rep. Kortz.

**Rt. 51 (Pleasant Hills)** – \$2.8 million project included minor drainage, repave, guide rails, ADA ramps, signals, signs and markings **completed** May 2011.

**Crossroads intersection (West Mifflin)** – \$35,000 project to add a left turn signal **completed** March 2011. Grants acquired by Rep. Kortz and Sen. Costa.

**Bettis Road (West Mifflin & Dravosburg)** – \$160,000 traffic signal upgrade to be completed by December 2011. Grants acquired by Rep. Kortz and Sen. Costa.

*A left turn signal was added at the Crossroads intersection in West Mifflin. From l-r: Jim Hess, West Mifflin Road supervisor; Rep. Bill Kortz; Brian Kamauf, West Mifflin Borough manager; Bob Harbula, resident where signal was enhanced; Rege Stevenson, West Mifflin Council president; and Sen. Jay Costa.*



## Rep. Kortz Legislation

Below is a highlight of some of the important bills and resolutions I've authored this session.

**H.B. 146** – would prohibit the use of hand-held cell phones, texting and laptops while driving. Exemptions would apply for law enforcement, operators of emergency vehicles, people reporting an accident or emergency, people stopped at an intersection or due to traffic obstructions and in neutral or park and drivers using hands-free devices. This bill also would prohibit our young or inexperienced drivers – those with a learner's permit or junior driver's license – from using a cell phone or other device while driving.

*Voted out of the House Transportation Committee June 2011.*

**H.R. 77** – designated Feb. 19, 2011 as a day of reflection for all Pennsylvanians and our fellow Americans to pay tribute to the courageous members of the U.S. Armed Forces who were involved in the Battle of Iwo Jima, as well as those brave men and women who are serving our country at home and abroad today.

*Adopted unanimously by the House of Representatives on Feb. 15, 2011.*

**H.B. 96** – would place a non-binding referendum on the ballot for the next primary election to ask Pennsylvanians whether they would like the General Assembly to pass legislation that would convene a limited constitutional convention to examine the restructuring and functioning of the General Assembly.

*Introduced and referred to the House State Government Committee Jan. 20, 2011.*

# Emergency mortgage help now available



The state has received an infusion of federal money to help people in danger of foreclosure. As a local homeowner, you can apply for the Emergency Homeowners' Loan Program if you are unable to make your monthly mortgage payments because of job loss or income reduction.

This program will only be **available through Sept. 16**. Homeowners facing foreclosure should call the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency at 1-800-342-2397.

**Homeowners may be eligible for a loan of up to \$50,000 or 24 months of mortgage payment assistance if they:**

- Have lost at least 15 percent of their income;
- Have missed at least three mortgage payments or received a foreclosure notice due to job loss, income reduction or illness;
- Are likely to be able to start making payments again within two years;
- Are at or below 120 percent of area median income;
- Are applying for help with a mortgage on their primary residence, which is a one- to four-unit residence or condominium unit.



*Rep. Kortz greets the TEACH group in Harrisburg to protest Gov. Corbett's proposed cuts to education.*



*Rep. Kortz presented a recognition citation to Scout Carissa Kratz in honor of her achieving the highest rank in Girl Scouting – The Gold Award.*



*Rep. Kortz testifies against the proposed 13.3 percent rate hike requested by Pennsylvania American Water at the PUC hearing in Dravosburg on Aug. 10.*



*Rep. Kortz, along with Reps. Harry Readshaw, D-Allegheny, and Bud George, D-Clearfield, at a Harrisburg rally in support of the 2nd Amendment rights of gun owners.*



*Rep. Kortz, in Civil War attire, poses with "President Lincoln" during the eighth annual Preservation Ball on March 19, which raised \$7,600 for the Pennsylvania Gettysburg Monuments Project.*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Rep. Kortz's annual Senior Fair will be held Thursday, Oct. 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Homeville Fire Hall, West Mifflin.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**BILL KORTZ**  
 38th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT  
 123 East Wing  
 P.O. Box 202038  
 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2038

lpo.kaf.0811



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**BILL KORTZ**  
 38th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

West Mifflin, Dravosburg, McKeesport, Glassport,  
 Port Vue, Liberty, Pleasant Hills and South Baldwin

**Dravosburg Office:**  
 751 Pittsburgh-McKeesport Blvd.  
 Dravosburg, PA 15034  
 (412) 466-1940

**Baldwin Office:**  
 5101 Old Clairton Road  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15236  
 (412) 886-2870

**Website:**  
[www.pahouse.com/Kortz](http://www.pahouse.com/Kortz)

**FIND REP. KORTZ ONLINE!**



Search  
 Facebook for  
 Rep. Bill Kortz



Just scan this  
 icon with your  
 smartphone!



Sign-up for email updates online at  
[www.pahouse.com/Kortz/contact.asp!](http://www.pahouse.com/Kortz/contact.asp)