



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

MATT SMITH

42ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Serving Mt. Lebanon, Scott Township, Green Tree, Bethel Park, Rosslyn Farms and Thornburg

Capitol Office: 323 Main Capitol Building • P.O. Box 202042 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2042 • (717) 783-1850

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SUMMER 2011

Dear Neighbor,

The legislature recently passed the state budget which Gov. Corbett signed. I did not support this budget because it unnecessarily slashed education investment even though taxpayer dollars were available.

I recognize the need to cut spending that is not paying dividends to taxpayers, but I strongly disagree with the governor's massive slashing at a time when funding was available without raising taxes.

I have consistently fought for increased education funding at the K-12 level, touted the return on investment with pre-K programs and advocated for affordable higher education and financial aid availability, but this budget slashes investment in each area.

The state collected over \$750 million in unanticipated tax revenue from taxpayers, yet this funding remains in Harrisburg and not helping those it should support, taxpayers. I support budgeting with real dollars, not hypothetical areas of savings as this budget relies upon.

During budget negotiations, I advocated for a reasonable budget that didn't increase taxes on working Pennsylvanians or impose extreme education cuts. I am disappointed that this balanced approach was not utilized.

Rest assured that I will not give up the fight to fully invest in pre-K, full-day kindergarten, basic education and higher education. Research consistently demonstrates that investments in early childhood education in particular represent one of the best returns on investment for taxpayers.

I will continue to advocate for a practical approach of cutting spending in some areas while ensuring that key areas of investment like education are supported.

Best Regards,


Rep. Matt Smith

Smith holds third document shredding and recycling event

SHREDDING EVENT

I am hosting another free shredding event for residents of the 42nd Legislative District in conjunction with the Municipality of Bethel Park.

Residents can bring boxes of unwanted documents that contain personal information, including Social Security numbers, credit card numbers and bank account numbers. Common types of unwanted items that should be shredded include credit card statements, credit card applications, bank statements, canceled checks, income tax information and insurance records.

Document shredding will occur on site with the shredded paper to later be recycled.

Saturday, Sept. 17 • 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Independence Middle School • 2807 Bethel Church Road, Bethel Park

Mark your calendars Upcoming Events:

FIFTH ANNUAL SENIOR FAIR

Thursday, Oct. 6

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Galleria of Mt. Lebanon

1500 Washington Road in Mt. Lebanon

A Special Tribute to Vietnam War-Era Veterans

Thursday, Nov. 3

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Bethel Park Community Center

5151 Park Ave. in Bethel Park

To hear what I had to say about the budget during debate, scan with your smartphone's QR reader.



During a rally at the state Capitol in April, Rep. Smith vows to fight to restore funding for higher education.

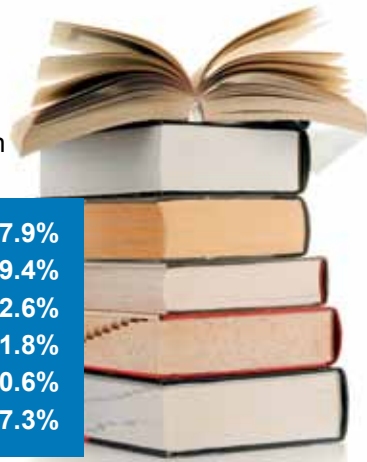
Please sign up for electronic updates and news from Rep. Smith at www.pahouse.com/MSmith.

What cuts to education mean to your school district:

The cuts to education investment passed in the recent budget are unprecedented. These cuts put education funding below pre-stimulus levels. The choice to slash state funding across the board from early childhood and K-12 to higher education only pushes the tough decisions down to local school districts and families. Local school districts are already furloughing teachers, cutting programs, instituting pay-to-play extra-curricular activities and raising property taxes. For these reasons and more, I could not support this budget.

The information I have provided below lists the education cuts to schools in the 42nd Legislative District.

Bethel Park School District	-\$729,620	-7.9%
Carlynton School District	-\$411,887	-9.4%
Chartiers Valley School District	-\$653,532	-12.6%
Keystone Oaks School District	-\$622,408	-11.8%
Montour School District	-\$445,442	-10.6%
Mt. Lebanon School District	-\$451,166	-7.3%



Education investment is crucial to maintain our competitiveness as a Commonwealth. Our students live in a world where they must not only compete locally for jobs, but also students across the nation and across the globe. Slashing education investment will cause a ripple effect resulting in a less educated, less trained workforce in the future. I will continue to fight for education funding.

Smith rejects increase in hospital assessment tax

As part of the budget process, I voted against a measure that will increase the hospital assessment from 2.95% to 3.22%. I did not support this increase because it will have a detrimental impact on many local hospitals in Western Pennsylvania. Under the increase, these hospitals stand to lose millions of dollars in funding. This comes at a time when hospitals are experiencing other negative impacts from the state budget, including reduction in uncompensated care funding and medical assistance funding. I will continue to fight for our local job creators such as local hospitals and will fight any attempts to increase the operating burden on such institutions.

Older & Wiser Seminar

I am partnering with Neighborhood Legal Services Association and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh to offer another Older & Wiser seminar free to area seniors, as well as family members and caregivers.

The program will provide information relating to Social Security benefits, Employer Retirement Plans, and rights provided under the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). Attendees will learn what types of benefits they might receive and how to claim their benefits. This is a good opportunity to make sure you understand the difference between the various retirement benefits out there, as well as spousal rights to benefits.

This is a safe environment where older adults can obtain important information and feel comfortable asking questions.

Please call my office at 412-571-2169 for more information or to register.

Friday, Sept. 16
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
JCC – South Hills Branch
345 Kane Blvd. in Scott Twp.

Smith continues fight against distracted driving

A bill concerning the growing problem of distracted driving is closer to enactment.

House Bill 8 was recently amended to prohibit the use of an interactive wireless communication device, i.e. cell phone, PDA, smart phone or portable computer, for all drivers. Voice communication on the device in hands-free mode, entering a phone number into a device, or using a GPS or navigation system would be permitted. The amendment also states that emergency responders and people calling 911 would not be subject to the law. In sum, the legislation would ban texting

and handheld cell phone use while driving.

We have fought for years to institute a tough, comprehensive law to combat distracted driving, and bipartisan support exists in the House.

I expect the bill with these new amendments to come up for a full House vote in the near future because public outcry has generated a sense of urgency. The issue of distracted



driving is one of the most common issues about which constituents call, write or email. I hear from many individuals who have themselves or had loved ones in accidents resulting from distracted driving. This legislation is a potentially life-saving measure, and I will continue to fight for it.

SIGN REP. SMITH'S PETITION TO PASS THE BAN ON TEXTING AND TALKING ON HAND-HELD CELL PHONES WHILE DRIVING:

Studies from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Virginia Tech, Carnegie Mellon and the University of Utah have all shown that drivers who talk on their cell phones are three to four times more likely to be involved in a crash. A new study from the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute found that drivers who text while driving are 23 times more likely to be involved in a crash than when not texting.

Talking on a hand-held cell phone or texting while driving is a dangerous driver distraction. Please visit www.pahouse.com/MSmith and click on the link to sign my petition to end distracted driving in Pennsylvania.



Scouts prepare one of the U.S. flags for proper disposal during the recent flag retirement ceremony.

Veterans Issues:

Smith attends Flag Retirement Ceremony

I recently had the opportunity to attend and participate in the South Park Flag Retirement Ceremony on June 9. Allegheny County Council and the Allegheny County Parks Department put on this great event and public service each year. Local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts participate in properly retiring American flags.

The Flag Retirement Plaza, "By the Dawn's Early Light," in South Park is a one-of-a-kind facility that provides a location for the proper retirement of our nation's flags that have flown in various locations throughout the county but have become worn and tattered with age.



Rep. Matt Smith with the Scouts at the flag retiring ceremony.

Smith to host tribute to Vietnam War-era veterans

Veterans deserve our deepest gratitude and respect for the sacrifices they and their families have made for the freedom we currently enjoy. Upon taking office in 2006, I began efforts to properly honor and convey my respect for our local veterans. I held a tribute to World War II veterans, and an event last year honored veterans of the Korean War.

This year, I am respectfully asking for your assistance in honoring Vietnam War-era veterans. If you are or someone you know is a Vietnam veteran from the 42nd Legislative District and would be interested in being honored at this event, or if you would like to serve on a citizens' advisory group to help plan the event, please contact my office.

While we will specifically honor Vietnam veterans, the event is a commemoration of all our local veterans – from World War II to the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns. More information can be found by calling my office at 412-571-2169, visiting www.pahouse.com/MSmith and clicking on the Vietnam veterans' feature, or by visiting my office weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

A Special Tribute to Vietnam War-Era Veterans
7 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Thursday, Nov. 3
 Bethel Park Community Center
 5151 Park Ave. in Bethel Park

Mark your calendars for my

Fifth Annual

SENIOR FAIR

Thursday, Oct. 6, 2011

from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Galleria of Mt. Lebanon

1500 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228

Learn more about programs and services to help you and your family. My staff will be on hand to answer questions. There will also be

free flu shots (Medicare cards required) and health screenings.



For more information call 412-571-2169

www.pahouse.com/MSmith

Protecting PACE eligibility for seniors

The General Assembly recently passed legislation that will protect PACE and PACENET for seniors who may have otherwise lost benefits due to a Social Security cost-of-living increase. Many seniors rely on these programs that subsidize prescription drug costs, but without this measure, they would lose their benefits. Amendments to the bill also ensure that this law is effective immediately and applies retroactively to Dec. 30, 2010.



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- OCT. 6: FIFTH ANNUAL SENIOR FAIR
- NOV. 3: TRIBUTE TO VIETNAM WAR-ERA VETERANS

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Scott Township



Rep. Matt Smith and Rep. Nick Kotik pose with Scott Township Council President Pat Caruso and Manager Denise Fitzgerald on the floor of the House.

Smith honors Scott Township on 150th anniversary

On June 20, I had the privilege of welcoming Scott Township Manager Denise Fitzgerald and Council President Pat Caruso to the state Capitol. Rep. Nick Kotik and I jointly sponsored a resolution recognizing Scott's 150th anniversary which was unanimously adopted. I will soon join Rep. Kotik again to present the resolution to council at an upcoming meeting. I am proud to represent a community with such a rich history and to see residents come together at the community celebration and flag raising on July 4th. Scott Township remains a place where heritage is respected and community is fostered through the many organizations, businesses and families that call Scott home.

Rep. Smith's Electric Deregulation Information Session

Wednesday, Sept. 7 • 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

JCC – South Hills Branch, 345 Kane Blvd. in Scott Twp.

I am hosting a third electric deregulation information session to provide area residents with information on supplier choice.

With more choices can come more confusion on which company to choose or whether to switch at all. I am hosting this event to offer consumers, who are often being inundated with information, some assistance in selecting the appropriate supplier to fit their needs. We will have representatives from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC), as well as from Duquesne Light and West Penn Power (formerly Allegheny Power). You can feel comfortable that you will not be solicited and will receive helpful information to make an informed choice.

If you have specific questions, I encourage you to bring a copy of a recent electric bill to the meeting. Please call my office 412-571-2169 for more information or to register.



Rep. Matt Smith talks with constituents at the Electric Deregulation Information Session.



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Mt. Lebanon



Rep. Matt Smith reads the resolution honoring Martha Dixon before presenting it to Martha's brother, Bethel Park Councilman Paul Dixon.

Smith's resolution designates April 9th as Martha Dixon Day

I recently had the honor of presenting the family of the late Martha Dixon with a resolution naming April 9th as Martha Dixon Day in Pennsylvania during the post-race ceremony of the 15th annual Martha's Run to honor the life of the FBI special agent and Pittsburgh native.

Martha Dixon was an outstanding FBI special agent who gave the ultimate sacrifice. It is my privilege to honor her memory with this designation so that people across the Commonwealth will know the heroic sacrifice that she made for her country and the public's safety.

Dixon, a University of Pittsburgh graduate, sacrificed herself to protect her colleagues on Nov. 22, 1994, when the FBI's main field office in Washington, D.C., came under gunfire. Dixon wounded the gunman and prevented any further injuries to her friends and coworkers.

In her honor, the Dixon family subsequently established the Pittsburgh-based Martha Fund, which raises money for public playgrounds, including Martha's Playground in Mt. Lebanon.

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Rep. Smith is joined by House Speaker Sam Smith to welcome the Mt. Lebanon girls basketball team to the state Capitol and recognize them on their third consecutive PIAA class AAAA state championship title.



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Bethel Park

Smith supports welfare reform measures

Earlier this session, I supported several key welfare reform measures to ensure that taxpayer dollars are utilized in the most effective and proper manner. The bipartisan measures will guarantee that those who truly need assistance and support receive it and those who are not entitled to it do not receive such support. The measures are as follows:

- **House Bill 1251** would increase penalties for welfare fraud;
- **House Bill 1297** would establish a drug testing program for public assistance recipients who have been convicted of a drug-related felony within the past five years;
- **House Bill 1312** would replace an existing grant program with a loan program. Specifically, it would change the program to a series of "job transition loans," where recipients would have to pay back the loan through deductions to other benefits they receive. The loan may

be forgiven if a person leaves welfare before paying it back and does not return to the welfare rolls for a period of 18 months.

- **House Bill 1261** would prevent welfare applicants from "benefit shopping" in other counties by providing them with benefits based on their permanent residence. Because welfare payments vary by county, applicants currently can seek more generous benefits by applying in a county other than the one in which they live;
- **Act 22** establishes a 14 point verification system that matches each applicant and recipient's Social Security numbers to various state and federal databases to ensure proper eligibility and eliminate duplication of assistance.

I was happy to support measures designed to ensure that our state support system is available for those who truly need it and eliminates waste, fraud and abuse.



Smith honors Bethel Park on 125th anniversary

I recently joined with Rep. John Maher to sponsor a resolution recognizing Bethel Park's 125th anniversary. The resolution, H.R. 82, was unanimously adopted. As someone who was born and raised in Bethel Park, I recognize how fortunate I am to represent, and to have grown up in, a community with a rich history and tradition of community, high quality services, and first-class quality of life. It was an honor to inform my colleagues in the state House about the tremendous history we have in Bethel Park and relay my many experiences from childhood. We will present the resolution to council at an upcoming meeting.



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Green Tree



Rep. Smith's shredding event recap

On May 14, I teamed up with Green Tree Borough to host another document shredding and recycling event in Green Tree Park. We had approximately 200 cars drop off boxes of no-longer-needed sensitive documents that were shredded on site and later recycled. Attendees had the peace of mind that their old bank statements and tax forms were properly disposed of with the convenience of drive-up service. This shredding event is a continuation of my efforts to help provide information and protection against identity theft.

After unloading a car, Rep. Matt Smith and Green Tree Manager David Montz empty bags of unwanted documents to be shredded.

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