



State Representative

Ken Smith

P.O. Box 202112
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2112

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State Representative
112th Legislative District

Ken Smith

Satellite Office:

123 Van Brunt St.
Moscow, PA 18444
(570) 842-8115
Mon. & Wed. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
or by appointment

**Constituent
Service Office:**

1414 Monroe Ave.
Dunmore, PA 18509
(570) 342-2710

Capitol Office:

28B East Wing
P.O. Box 202112
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2112
(717) 783-1359

Fall/Winter 2009



It was my pleasure to welcome the Dunmore Oilers Pee Wee Football Team to the state Capitol.

Rep. Smith organizes blanket drive

In this difficult economy, some families are struggling to make ends meet. This means that they may be struggling to keep warm this winter. As the weather grows colder, I have organized a blanket drive to help those less fortunate stay warm. My offices are collecting the blankets, which will be donated to the St. Francis of Assisi Soup Kitchen in Scranton.

If you would like to help, consider donating a new or gently used blanket.

Blankets may be dropped off at either of my constituent service offices:

1414 Monroe Ave. in Dunmore
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

123 Van Brunt St. in Moscow
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday and Wednesday

The blanket collection will continue through Dec. 18.

Dear Friends,

Having just completed the most challenging budget in the history of Pennsylvania, I must share with you how frustrated I am with the entire process. I, along with other representatives, am working on legislation to prevent this from ever happening again.

At the same time, I am relieved and happy to report that we fought back against many of the slash and burn cuts that were proposed in Senate Bill 850. The easy approach would have been to pass Senate Bill 850 by the end of June, but the consequences of those actions would have had devastating effects on Northeast Pennsylvania.

The House Democrats fought for a more responsible approach that would include both cuts and the addition of new revenues. With a \$3.2 billion deficit and a collapse of the national economy, we could not in good conscience just cut our way out of this problem.

This budget reflects many of our key priorities, which are to protect our seniors, our children, and those citizens most vulnerable among us. One example is the investment in our schools so that the burden would not be shifted to our local property tax payers.

The final budget is far from perfect. It certainly doesn't include everything I would have liked. It is important to me that you know that I fought hard to prevent broad based tax increases such as a proposed personal income tax increase and a proposed increase in the state sales tax. Additionally we were able to avoid extreme cuts to important services.

It is my hope, as the economy continues to improve, we as a Commonwealth will emerge as leader in job creation, education, and renewable energy as a driving force in the 21st Century.

Sincerely,



Ken Smith
State Representative
112th Legislative District

Apply for your property tax/rent rebate

Pennsylvania has extended the deadline to Dec. 31 for senior citizens and other eligible residents to apply for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.

Under the program, senior citizens and other eligible homeowners and renters can apply for a rebate of up to \$650 on their 2008 property taxes or rent. The program is open to senior citizens 65 or older, widows or widowers 50 or older, and residents 18 or older with a permanent disability. The income limit for homeowners is \$35,000; the income limit for renters is \$15,000. Residents only have to include half of their Social Security or federal railroad retirement Tier I benefits when calculating income.

Information and applications are available by contacting any of my offices. Forms and assistance are also available by visiting www.PaPropertyTaxRelief.com online or calling toll free 1-888-222-9190.

You're Invited!

WINTER TOWN HALL MEETING

7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, 2010
Dunmore Community Center
1414 Monroe Ave., Dunmore

Help for your heating bills

We've already had a blast of Old Man Winter in Lackawanna County. That's a good indication that it's never too early to start thinking about heating costs this winter.

Pennsylvania's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which helps low-income and moderate-income families pay their heating bill, began accepting applications Nov. 2 for the 2009-10 winter heating season.

The program has two components. The first provides cash grants to families to help pay regular monthly heating bills. The second component of LIHEAP provides crisis grants to families that are facing heating emergencies, such as broken heating equipment or leaking lines that must be fixed or replaced, a fuel shortage,

termination of utility service, or the danger of being without fuel or of having utility service terminated. The crisis grant portion of LIHEAP opens Jan. 4. Both programs will run through March 15, or as long as funds remain available.

Eligibility is based on family size and income. This winter season, a family of four earning up to \$33,075 may qualify for LIHEAP.

Please contact either one of my constituent service offices for more information:

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Monday and Wednesday

PACE and PACENET offer low-cost prescription medications for eligible seniors

To be eligible for PACE, you must be 65 or older, a Pennsylvania resident for at least 90 days prior to the date of application, and you cannot be enrolled in the Department of Public Welfare's Medicaid prescription benefit. Income limits are \$14,500 or less for a single person; \$17,700 for a married couple.

To be eligible for PACENET, you must be 65 or older; a Pennsylvania resident for at least 90 days prior to the date of application, and you cannot be enrolled in the Department of Public Welfare's Medicaid Prescription benefit. Income limits are between \$14,500 and \$23,500 for a single person; between \$17,700 and \$31,500 for a married couple.

Contact my office for more information or for help in applying.



I recently volunteered at an event, a Help Bag Hunger benefit for local food pantries in the community. The event was part of "Daleville Shop Rite's Partners in Caring Day."