



# State Representative Adam Ravenstahl

## 20th Legislative District

**Capitol Office:** 322 Irvis Office Building • P.O. Box 202020 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020 • (717) 787-5470

**Constituent Service Office:** 3689 California Ave. • Pittsburgh, PA 15212 • (412) 321-5523

**North Boroughs Office:** Avalon Borough Building • 640 California Ave. • Avalon, PA 15202

*Open 8:30 a.m. to noon Thursdays or by appointment.*

**Polish Hill Office:** Polish Hill Civic Association • 3060 Brereton St. • Pittsburgh, PA 15219

*Open 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fridays.*

Email: RepRavenstahl@pahouse.net



www.facebook.com/RepARavenstahl



@RepARavenstahl

**PA STATE BUDGET**

## A step forward for education, fiscal sanity

I'm pleased to report the 2016-17 state budget has been completed – a positive change from last year's nine-month stalemate – without increases in broad-based taxes.

Although far from perfect, the spending plan features an additional \$250 million investment in education, with \$200 million more for basic education, \$25 million more for pre-K, \$5 million more for Head Start, \$20 million more for special education and \$40 million more to pay for school construction projects.

### State appropriations for local school districts are:

Pittsburgh			
Basic Ed	\$159,188,505	Increase over last year	\$3,053,818 or 2%
Special Ed	\$28,442,978	Increase over last year	\$263,277 or 0.9%
Northgate			
Basic Ed	\$4,099,092	Increase over last year	\$144,819 or 3.7%
Special Ed	\$878,254	Increase over last year	\$16,552 or 1.9%
North Hills			
Basic Ed	\$6,108,840	Increase over last year	\$252,059 or 4.3%
Special Ed	\$2,358,149	Increase over last year	\$34,938 or 1.5%

### The budget also includes:

- A 2.5-percent increase for the 14 state-owned universities and the state-related colleges such as Pitt and Penn State;
- \$20.4 million to expand the state's fight against opioid abuse and addiction; and
- New funding to reduce waiting lists for home- and community-based services to help seniors stay in their own homes and to help adults with intellectual disabilities stay in their communities.

Pennsylvania also avoided a back-door tax increase by voting to make required pension payments to the Public School Employees' and the State Employees' retirement systems.

There are still too many loopholes and gimmicks. But this budget makes solid inroads toward fiscal sanity and fairness, and ends the free-fall of budget deficits.

At the end of the day, Pennsylvania got what it needs: a responsible, bipartisan spending plan that provides crucial resources without any increases in broad-based taxes.

## Special session on opioid addiction set for fall

The state legislature and the governor have worked in a bipartisan fashion to fight the heroin and opioid addiction scourge.

Among the highlights is the bipartisan agreement to convene a special session this fall to continue to fight the opioid addiction epidemic.

### The legislative advances include:

- A new law that enables authorities to monitor those who may be over-prescribing opioids; and
- A measure that allows law enforcement and emergency responders to administer naloxone – the life-saving drug that can reverse opioid overdoses.

Overdose deaths in the state totaled 3,383 in 2015, and opioid abuse costs the state over \$12.2 million in hospitalization costs annually.

The current state budget includes \$20.4 million to expand treatment options and enable about 4,500 more people to enter recovery programs.

## Working to expand seniors' prescription drug coverage

I'm pleased to report that the state House of Representatives has unanimously passed legislation that would expand prescription drug coverage to over 32,000 older Pennsylvanians by increasing income eligibility guidelines for the PACENET program.

It's been more than a dozen years since the PACENET income limits have increased. By updating the income limits, we can ensure access to affordable prescription drugs and help thousands of senior citizens maintain their quality of life.

House Bill 2069 would increase the annual maximum income limits in the PACENET program to \$31,000 for a single person and to \$41,000 for a married couple.

Current maximum annual income limits for the PACENET program, which covers people with incomes above PACE maximums, are \$23,500 for an individual and \$31,500 for a married couple.

The PACE and PACENET programs offer lower-cost prescription medications to qualified residents 65 or older, thanks to roughly \$200 million a year in funding from the Pennsylvania Lottery. Advancing this measure would bring even more life-saving medicines to older Pennsylvanians.

H.B. 2069 is now before the state Senate for consideration.



## Deadline extended for Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

The application deadline for the popular Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program has been extended to the end of the year.

The extension gives everyone who is eligible the opportunity to apply for the rebate program. I encourage residents to stop by any of my district offices to find out if they qualify and for assistance with applying for rebates on 2015 property taxes or rent.

My staff has ample experience helping folks with the application. More information is available by calling my main district office at 412-321-5523.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is available to eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and

people with disabilities 18 or older. Homeowners are limited to a \$35,000 maximum annual income, while renters' income may be no more than \$15,000, although applicants may exclude half of Social Security income.

The maximum standard rebate is \$650. The program is supported by the Pennsylvania Lottery and from slots gaming revenue.

Applications are available at my offices, online through the state Department of Revenue at [www.revenue.pa.gov](http://www.revenue.pa.gov), or by calling 1-888-222-9190.

Since the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program's 1971 inception, seniors and adults with disabilities have received more than \$5.9 billion in property tax and rent relief.



Rep. Ravenstahl was happy to welcome Mikaela Jessamy of Aliquippa, left, and Alexandra Plummer of Pittsburgh to the Capitol in June. The students were visiting as part of GirlGov Day to learn about civics, advocacy, philanthropy, community involvement, youth organizing, women's history and leadership.

### Stay up to date!



You can stay updated on legislative activities in Harrisburg and state-related issues that affect your life by signing up for email alerts on my webpage, [www.pahouse.com/Ravenstahl](http://www.pahouse.com/Ravenstahl). Click the envelope icon.

You also can stay updated on social media. Just "like" my legislative Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/RepARavenstahl](http://www.facebook.com/RepARavenstahl). I'm also on Twitter: @RepARavenstahl.



## Local police provide drug take-back services



Please be aware that police departments throughout Allegheny County provide locations where unwanted and unused prescription and over-the-counter medicines can be disposed of properly.

### Local departments offering the service include:

- Bellevue Borough Police Department, 537 Bayne Ave., 412-766-7400
- Ross Township Police Department, 1000 Ross Municipal Drive, 412-931-9070;
- West View Police Department, 441 Perry Highway, 412-931-2800
- Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, 1203 Western Ave., 412-323-7837

Some restrictions on hours might apply, so calling first is recommended.

More information about the Pennsylvania Prescription Drug Take-Back Program is available on the state Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs' website, [www.ddap.pa.gov](http://www.ddap.pa.gov).

Prescription drug misuse is a growing concern across the nation. According to a 2011 survey in Pennsylvania, 14 percent of youth surveyed admitted to taking prescription drugs that were not prescribed to them, while 18 percent felt that prescription drugs were not harmful.

## Expanded wine sales on tap

The governor in June signed into law legislation that will allow the sale of wine in grocery stores, for take-out at restaurants and make the sale of spirits at state liquor stores more convenient.

I supported the legislation because it will modernize rather than dismantle

a state-store system that annually delivers millions of dollars to help balance the state budget and provides nearly 5,000 good-paying jobs to Pennsylvania residents.

Besides more convenient store hours, Act 39 of 2016 gives the Liquor Control Board more flexibility to set competitive prices and offer discounts. The new law also permits the direct shipment of wine by licensed producers to residents.

Act 39 is projected to increase state revenues by almost \$150 million in the fiscal year that began July 1.



## My office can help you with:

- Car registrations, special tags, titles and license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Unemployment compensation problems
- Birth certificate applications
- Pennsylvania income tax problems
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, income assistance)
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information, student aid information, etc.
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
- Consumer complaints
- Complaints about state road conditions
- Problems or questions about PennDOT
- Tours of the State Capitol for individuals or groups
- Disability plates and placards
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- Local government officials' problems with state agencies

***Any problem with state government!***



State Representative

## ADAM RAVENSTAHL

20th Legislative District

3689 California Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

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### Join State Rep. Ravenstahl for a **FREE Shredding Event**

**SATURDAY, OCT. 1**

**10 a.m. to noon**  
**Avalon Community Park**

#### Also inside:

- Budget news
- Legislative update
- Sign up for email alerts

lpo.ts.9816



## WE ARE HOSTING A FREE-OF-CHARGE

# Shredding Event

**SATURDAY, OCT. 1 • 10 A.M. TO NOON**

**Avalon Community Park**  
**708 New Brighton Road**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15202**

### Are you concerned about privacy when disposing of confidential papers?

Consumer fraud and identity theft are becoming an epidemic in our communities. To raise awareness and to promote prevention, we are hosting a free-of-charge shredding event to give local residents the opportunity to securely dispose of documents they no longer need.

On Oct. 1, bring to Avalon Community Park personal financial documents that are no longer needed, and any other papers with confidential information, such as account numbers and signatures:

- Documents containing Social Security, credit card and bank account numbers
- Credit card applications
- Canceled or unused checks
- Insurance and income tax records
- Bank and credit card statements
- Pension information

There will be a limit of five bags or boxes per person.

**Documents will be shredded on site by a reputable and bonded company.**

**Please call my office at 412-321-5523 if you need more information.**