Summertime Greetings!

If, like many people I’ve chatted with this summer, you’re noticing it’s been quiet, legislatively speaking, I am happy to report there is good reason for that!

We have a state budget that was approved on time by the Legislature on June 30 and became law July 12. This means school districts, nonprofits and many other groups that suffered during the budget impasse this past fiscal year are getting vital new support now.

There is also an important new program unfolding to help stop the growing epidemic of heroin and opioid abuse. Details of this effort are included in this newsletter on page 3.

While we are still not delivering the proper level of resources to our schools, we turned the corner with the new budget and added another $200 million more for schools across the state.

Locally, school districts in the 25th District are receiving a total of $59 million in basic education subsidies in 2016/17, and $11.8 million in special education funding.

### Funding Increase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Basic Education Funding Increase Over 2015/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Allegheny SD</td>
<td>$315,119, 5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gateway SD</td>
<td>$321,447, 4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plum Borough SD</td>
<td>$189,340, 1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland Hills SD</td>
<td>$626,139, 4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penn-Trafford SD</td>
<td>$164,735, 1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17 Special Education Funding Increase Over 2015/16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Allegheny SD</td>
<td>$376,130, 5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gateway SD</td>
<td>$385,880, 4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plum Borough SD</td>
<td>$618,345, 1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland Hills SD</td>
<td>$736,447, 4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penn-Trafford SD</td>
<td>$580,222, 1.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Bus Tour to Harrisburg/Gettysburg

Many people love when we charter a bus tour to see the Capitol and Gettysburg, and we’re going to do it again Sept. 29.

We’re planning to leave at 6:30 a.m. that Thursday from my office in the Commerce Building on Northern Pike. We'll return home from Gettysburg at 9 p.m.

Lunch at the Capitol and Gettysburg, and a charter a bus tour to see the Capitol and Gettysburg, and

For K-12 classrooms, across all our districts, the average increase is $323,000 or 3.3 percent. For special education, the average increase is $48,000 or 2.2 percent.

This is good news for our hometown classrooms! The new revenue helps students and it eases the pressure school districts face to raise property taxes.

I hope you have enjoyed your summer and are looking forward to fall, football, and time with friends and families under bluer and cooler skies. Thanks for reading!

My best to you,

Joe Markosek

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**Unclaimed Property Notice**

It used to be that if there was no activity on a savings account or some other financial vehicle you owned for five years, your financial institution would deem it to be inactive and the funds would be transferred to the commonwealth treasury for safekeeping. “Unclaimed property” is the familiar term people use today.

The window for calling something “unclaimed” was shortened to three years under Gov. Tom Corbett, and this year the legislature adopted new language requiring institutions that hold unclaimed property to notify the owner before they send it to Treasury.

Also, the legislature and Gov. Tom Wolf approved a measure extending the three-year window of inactivity to U.S. Savings Bonds. This might seem alarming, at first, because the idea behind savings bonds is to hold them longer than three years. Rest assured, the three-year clock will not begin until the bonds mature and they no longer are accumulating interest.

Have questions or want to know if Treasury is holding anything that belongs to you? Call my office and we’ll help. Or visit www.patreasury.gov/claim.
Driving home traffic improvements in the 25th

We are a community of commuters, and we need to be able to get to school, work or the grocery store as smoothly, safely and quickly as possible. I believe we’ll be able to better accomplish all three goals in our communities now that they have been awarded more than $200,000 in grants from the state’s Green Light-Go program for traffic light upgrades and intersection improvement projects:

Monroeville Borough – The Northern Pike/West Patty Lane intersection will get new and better traffic lights thanks to a $114,170 Green Light-Go award. Pedestrians will also have safer paths to follow as a $38,802 grant will replace vehicle and pedestrian lights with new, brighter LED displays at 25 intersections throughout Monroeville (as indicated by the map’s red dots):

North Versailles Township – Motorists approaching the Route 30/Leith Avenue intersection will be better warned about changing traffic lights with the installation of an advanced overhead “signal ahead” warning sign. Green Light-Go award: $17,953.

Plum Borough – A $30,000 Green Light-Go grant will replace traffic signal controllers at the following four intersections along the Golden Mile Highway (Route 286): New Texas Road, Pine Valley Drive, Sandune Drive, and Holiday Park Drive.

Green Light-Go funding is made possible by Act 89 of 2013, the state’s comprehensive transportation funding plan.

PA’s new medical marijuana law

For cancer patients who need nausea relief, for people with spinal cord injuries who suffer every day with unending nerve pain, and for children who never seem to stop having seizures brought on by epilepsy, help is finally on the way.

The legislature approved a bill the governor signed into law allowing the use of medical marijuana in Pennsylvania.

Medical marijuana isn’t recreational pot. An individual with a qualifying condition must be certified for use by a registered practitioner, and the typical form of administration is by pill, oil, or liquids. Medical marijuana may not be smoked.

With the new law, doctors will be able to discuss relief options with their patients for a number of debilitating diseases and medical conditions.

Medical marijuana will help thousands of children and adults who suffer from unbearable conditions for which there is no other option for relief.

Another silver lining in the new law: states that have approved medical cannabis also have reported reductions in opioid overdose deaths and addiction treatment admissions.

If you want to know more about this great change in medical treatment, my office has a fact sheet to help patients, dispensaries and growers. You also can find it on my website: www.pahouse.com/Markosek.

Liquor purchasing for modern times!

If you’ve wished you could buy wine when it’s more convenient for you, your wish has been granted.

Wine will soon be sold in some restaurants and grocery stores, and you’ll be able to buy your favorite pinot noir or chardonnay online now that the governor has signed a new law I supported to modernize wine and liquor sales.

Modernization makes consumer convenience a priority by giving the Liquor Control Board more flexibility in setting competitive prices, discounts and liquor store hours so it’s more convenient for you. Out-of-state wineries will also be able to ship your favorite bottle directly to your home, whether or not you found it during a winery tour or online.

I expect that you will be able to buy wine in grocery stores and restaurants that also sell beer – by Thanksgiving.

North American Martyrs Parish Festival

Had great fun visiting the annual NAM Summer Festival on Haymaker Road in Monroeville! Lots of people! Lots of conversation! Great American pastime!

Special Session planned on opioid problem

A recent study by the Pennsylvania State Coroner’s Association revealed a harsh reality: 7 Pennsylvanians died every day due to heroin or prescription opioid overdose in 2014.

Pennsylvania is dealing with a major epidemic that crosses social, geographic and political lines.

Democratic and Republican lawmakers stood with Gov. Tom Wolf to detail the legislative progress that has been made in fighting the opioid abuse epidemic and to announce a special session this fall to focus our attention and response to this crisis.

So far, we have made it possible for state troopers and high schools across the commonwealth to use naloxone, or Narcan®, to help people who have overdosed on opioids (naloxone blocks or reverses opioid drug overdose effects, including unconsciousness, slowed or no breathing, extreme drowsiness or slow heartbeats). Late last year, Pennsylvania’s Physician General also issued a standing order for all residents to access naloxone, which is yet another step in preventing additional lives being lost. We’ve also developed a prescription drug monitoring program to help detect and prevent prescription fraud and abuse. The priority must not only be treatment, but also prevention.

I will continue working with my colleagues on ways to address this incredibly sad and deadly epidemic.

Around the 25th

Golden Mile Highway/Route 286

A day many have waited a long time to see: the completion of section one of the Golden Mile Highway improvement project in Monroeville. PennDOT and I held a press conference June 10 to announce this important milestone.

St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Festival

Everyone enjoyed the beautiful weather, homemade baked goods, fresh-squeezed lemonade, haluski, and so much more during the St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Festival in Eastwick!

July 4th Parade

We saluted America’s 240th birthday. July 4, in Monroeville. Crowds were good and smiles were aplenty as we walked and marched through the streets. Always good to be home!

St. Jude the Apostle Festival

Really liked seeing everyone in Wilmerding for the annual St. Jude the Apostle Festival. Food was delicious and the bingo attracted lots of players, as you can tell by the picture I shot.
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Checks should be made payable to “Rep. Joe Markosek.” Reservations are on a first-come basis.

Please return this to Rep. Markosek’s office at Suite 303, Commerce Bldg., 4232 Northern Pike, Monroeville, PA 15146

A staff member will contact you with further information.