



State Representative | Penn Hills, Oakmont, Plum, Verona

JOE McANDREW

Winter 2023/24

What I've Brought Back for Everyday PA

Helping Seniors: Expanding The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

Property Tax / Rent Rebate 2024 Program Expansion
MORE people eligible, MORE money back!

Homeowner Income	Rebate	Renter Income	Rebate
Up to \$8K	\$1,000	Up to \$8K	\$1,000
Up to \$15K	\$770	Up to \$15K	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$460	Up to \$18K	\$460
Up to \$35K	\$380	Up to \$45K	\$380
Up to \$45K	\$380		

After 17 years, the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is expanding, thanks to a new law I voted for. The changes will benefit nearly 175,000 more people, including 16,500 seniors in Allegheny County. This year, existing qualifiers might see their rebates double! Key changes:

- Homeowners' income cap increases from \$35,000 to \$45,000.
- Renters' income cap jumps from \$15,000 to \$45,000.
- Maximum rebate increases from \$650 to \$1,000.
- Income cap will automatically adjust for inflation starting in 2024.

I'm proud to have supported this much-needed expansion, helping to ensure our community members can stay in their homes. This program is for eligible seniors 65+; widows/widowers

50-64 years of age; and those who are permanently disabled. If your application is approved, rebate checks are mailed or directly deposited beginning July 1. For more information on this program or to apply online go to www.revenue.pa.gov. Need assistance with your application? Call my office, 412-793-2448, or email RepMcAndrew@pahouse.net.

Looking After Working Families by Expanding the Child Care Tax Credit

NEW IN 2024 CHILD & DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT

	Income Under \$43,000		Earning Above \$43,000	
	Prior to Change	Expanded Tax Credit	Prior to Change	Expanded Tax Credit
Max Credit for One Eligible Dependent	\$315	\$1,050	\$180	\$600
Max Credit for Two Eligible Dependents	\$630	\$2,100	\$360	\$1,200

I joined my colleagues in the Pennsylvania General Assembly and Governor Josh Shapiro to increase the state Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit to help working families access and afford quality care.

- The credit of \$180 for one child increases to as much as \$1,050.
- The credit of \$360 for two or more children increases to as much as \$2,100.

Working Families in Pennsylvania can now match 100% of the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, which means nearly 250,000 families in Pennsylvania will have more money in their pockets.

This extra funding will help parents with one of their biggest burdens: paying for childcare. It will also help families afford safe and dependable care for family members who are unable to take care of themselves. If you're eligible, you will receive the money after filing your 2023 tax return.

Prioritizing affordable child and dependent care is a win for families, the workforce, businesses, and the economy.

I advocated and returned

\$13,558,137

to our district this past year

In 2023, I secured over \$13.5 million in grants for our district. Look inside for a full list of of grants I helped to obtain.

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Joe Delivers With The Democrats

Every day, I am committed to ensuring **better jobs, better schools** and **better communities** for every person in Pennsylvania.

I believe in the work that I am doing alongside my colleagues in the Pennsylvania House Democratic Caucus. Together, we are sending over to the Senate dozens of public safety, health care and equity-focused bills that will make our state a better place to live. I want to provide a snapshot of the many ways we are working to move our state forward.

Making Our Communities Safer

Together with my colleagues, we came up with a package that would increase **Police, Volunteer Firefighter** and **EMS Recruitment** in our communities. This package would give additional money to recruitment, provide for tax breaks for public safety employees and volunteers, and create training that will de-escalate situations without the use of force

We also passed **Commonsense Gun Safety Bills** that would create Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) to prevent firearm suicides, mass shootings, and domestic violence homicides and also include Universal Background Checks to stop weapons of war from getting into the wrong hands by closing a gap in PA's system that allows long guns to be privately purchased or transferred without a background check.

Fighting for Workers

In addition to increasing the Childcare Tax Credit by approximately 300%, I am standing alongside House Democrats as we Fight for Working Families by investing in good jobs and protecting employees while they're on the job.

My colleagues and I have successfully passed legislation to provide OSHA protections for public employees and tackle the issue of Worker Misclassification. With bipartisan support, we also passed a bill in the House that would provide a cost-of-living increase to the PSERS retirement system.

For too long, working families – especially blue-collar workers – have been ignored in the legislature. But, when House Democrats took over, we began working to **level the playing field** among employers and employees.

Supporting Women's Health

Pennsylvania became the first state in the nation to pass a law requiring insurers to provide **Free Preventative Breast Cancer Screenings** for high-risk individuals. I supported this landmark legislation because breast cancer impacts countless families across our Commonwealth.

Protecting a **Woman's Right to Choose** was why I voted in favor of commonsense legislation like a "shield bill" guarding women who receive reproductive healthcare in our state, as well as the practitioners who provide the care, from enforcement of other states' anti-choice laws. All women should be able to make decisions about their bodies, regardless of where they live.

In all, the House Democratic majority advanced more than 200 bills in 2023 – an overwhelming amount with bipartisan support, but we are waiting for the PA Senate to join us in getting them to the Governor's desk. In 2024, I pledge to continue to put people over politics and work with my colleagues to advance legislation to improve public safety, help Pennsylvanians live healthier lives, and make communities fair and equitable for everyone.

Sincerely,

State Representative – 32nd Legislative District
Serving Penn Hills, Oakmont, Verona and Plum

My Legislation To Support Firefighters Gains Momentum

I'm excited about the progress that legislation I sponsored is making. House Bill 1885, which would eliminate state-mandated non-profit registration fees for Volunteer Fire Departments, is being reviewed by the House Appropriations Committee, which is the last step before it's voted on in the House.

I believe in our firefighters and their vital work, and I'm looking forward to building more momentum on this legislation. Let's make it easier for them to keep our communities safe.

As we move forward in the new year, I will be authoring more legislation aimed at shaping a brighter future for Pennsylvania. Together, we're building a stronger, more resilient state for everyone.



Free Public Transportation For Seniors

If you are 65 or older, you can unlock free rides on public transit in Allegheny County and across Pennsylvania! My office is here to assist you apply or renew your Pittsburgh Regional Transit Senior ConnectCard.

For personalized help, call 412-793-2448, email RepMcAndrew@pahouse.net or swing by my district office at 77 Universal Road, Penn Hills, PA 15235.

Funding Our Schools

Our schools are finally getting the attention they deserve. As your representative, I voted yes on the 2023-24 state spending plan because it invests wisely in public education. The \$45 billion plan includes a record \$567 million increase in basic education funding – the largest we've ever seen in the state's history.

What's more, the new budget also allocates \$46.5 million to provide free school breakfast to students across the state. This means that no student will have to start their day on an empty stomach. Here at home, all our school districts are set to receive across-the-board increases in basic and special education funding. Take a look at the figures:

Basic + special education funding totals under 2023-24 budget and increase from last year:

- **Penn Hills School District:** \$25.2 million in new funding – \$1.8 million increase.
- **Plum School District:** \$17.3 million in new funding – \$755,288 increase.
- **Riverview School District:** \$4.4 million in new funding – \$189,815 increase.

I'm proud to fight -- and win -- to fund our schools.

In addition to public education, the new budget also strengthens resources for public safety and violence prevention and continues funding for important programs benefitting working families and seniors, all without adding any new tax burden on residents.

Apply For Home Heating Help



Applications are now open for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. The program helps families living on low incomes pay their heating bills in the form of a cash grant that does not need to be repaid. Households in immediate danger of being without heat can also qualify for crisis grants.

Please contact my office at 412-793-2448 for assistance filling out the application.

2023-2024 Income Guidelines	
Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
1	\$21,870
2	\$29,580
3	\$37,290
4	\$45,000
5	\$52,710
6	\$60,420
7	\$68,130
8	\$75,840
9	\$83,550
10	\$91,260

Each additional person \$7,710



Teamed up with Penn Hills Police to help over 150 drivers replace their peeling/illegible license plates over the summer.



Hundreds of folks turned out for my paper shredding event and donated food to help the hungry.



Being on the House Transportation Committee means infrastructure! It is great to see Oakmont Borough taking the initiative to invest in public chargers to meet growing demand.



Joined Governor Josh Shapiro, Lt. Gov. Austin Davis and Chair of the Transportation Committee Ed Nielson outside of Penn Hills Elementary School.



Honoring our First Responders, my office handed out free Rita's Ice to kids who stopped by our table during National Night Out at Penn Hills Elementary School.



Attended a wonderful health symposium held by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Gamma Alpha Tau Zeta. I was happy to be able to donate to their very successful Diaper Drive.



I was blessed to join Allegheny County Councilman Nick Futules in the Oakmont-Verona Memorial Day Parade and the Penn Hills Memorial Day Parade.



It was an honor to help American Legion #351 members plant flags on the graves of our veterans at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.



One of my proudest nights in office: honoring over 50 firefighters in Penn Hills and Verona who have over 30 years of service to our community.



I joined the members of Penn Hills Fire Station 221, the Pittsburgh Gentlemen and the Penn Hills Community Development Corp. to spread the word about the Penn Hills census.



Planted trees with the Penn Hills Tree Shade Commission for Arbor Day.



I spoke with students about working in the public sector at Plum Chamber of Commerce and Plum Borough School District's Career Day.



Stopped by Iron Workers Local Union No. 3 to learn about their operations and opportunities for the future. Unions created the middle class, now we must keep it.



I met with U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm to learn about the federal investments being made in Western PA Clean Energy and EV infrastructure.



Committee Appointments

I am honored to have been serving on the following committees in the House this past year:

- Children & Youth
- Transportation
- Health
- Gaming Oversight
- Liquor Control

Investing In Our Community

Here are the grants I advocated for and secured for our district:

- **\$1,100,000** to the municipality of Penn Hills to update technology with the SCADA system in 8 locations throughout the sanitary sewer system, helping to better track our sewage.
- **\$70,000** to the municipality of Penn Hills for design of the VOPP (Verona, Oakmont, Penn Hills, Plum Bike Trail) Segment 2 Milltown Park Trail extension.
- **\$216,504** to Verona Borough to install sanitary sewer lines along Center Avenue, Spring Street, Parker Street, Second Street, and Third Street.
- **\$423,702** to Oakmont Borough for sanitary sewer improvements.
- **\$113,006** to the municipality of Penn Hills for upgrades to the Lincoln Road Water Pollution Control Plant (LRWPCP).
- **\$1,300,000** to Oakmont Water Authority to assist in the upgrade of the chlorine disinfection system.
- **\$4,100,000** to Allegheny Valley Railroad on infrastructure improvements.
- **\$2,100,000** to Union Railroad for improvements at the Bessemer Railyard.
- **\$1,500,000** to Oakmont Borough for improvements to the Oakmont Treatment Plant.
- **\$20,000** to Penn Hills Community Development Corp. to develop a Preservation Management Plan for the Allegheny River Boulevard Historic District.
- **\$100,000** to Oakmont Volunteer Fire Department for additional space for their fire department garage, construction to extend the length of the garage to house the new ladder fire engine.
- **\$158,625** to Verona Borough for a Department of Public Works vehicle and equipment purchase.
- **\$70,000** to Oakmont Borough for pedestrian-crossing improvements at Hulton Road and 9th Street to improve the safety of students on their way to and from 10th Street Elementary School.
- **\$250,000** to Plum Borough to assist in economic development by supporting property demolition & development.
- **\$85,000** to improve pedestrian crossing on Hulton Road, outside of the Oakmont Country Club.
- **\$100,000** for the improvement of signaling and pedestrian crossing on Hulton Road outside of Riverview High School.
- **\$30,000** for water runoff projects at Dark Hollow Park.
- **\$175,000** towards the paving program for the streets of Verona Borough.
- **\$700,000** for Chelsea Building Products Rail Replacement along Ann Street.
- **\$30,300** for ADA accessible park planning in Verona Borough.
- **\$916,000** to the Plum Municipal Authority to replace the Sardis Road waterline.

Honoring Our Heroes

Throughout the year, I have been privileged to join our veterans across the district at many events. Last spring, I was able to help more than 100 vets with state services at a Veterans Affairs Benefit Seminar hosted by American Legion Post #980 in Plum. It was a special moment for me, as I was introduced by my uncle, Mike Shields, the former Commander of the Legion and the current Service Officer.

I also stepped up to help. This year I created a program to help our veterans each and every month, with a specialist joining us to make sure our vets get what they're owed. My staff and I are here to serve those who have served our country with pride and dedication.

This valuable service aims to help veterans get answers to their questions about benefits and programs they've earned through their service. Please call my office at 412-793-2448 to make an appointment for the next available session. Spots fill up quickly, so call today!



Representative Joe McAndrew hosts

VETERANS ASSISTANCE

A Veteran Service Officer from the American Legion will be available by appointment

LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

📍 77 UNIVERSAL ROAD, SUITE 1, PENN HILLS, PA 15235
📞 CALL (412) 793-2448 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

Veterans and spouses may be assisted with:

- ★ Compensation + Pension Claims
- ★ Education Benefits
- ★ Enrollment in the VA Health Care System
- ★ Burial + Survivor Benefits
- ★ State Benefits
- ★ Obtaining Military Personnel and Medical Records



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Office Hours: 9 am - 4:30 pm, closed for lunch 12:30 pm - 1 pm

lpo.kw.0124



What My Office Can Do For You:

- Notary services
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications
- PennDOT services, such as car registrations, handicap placards or title transfers
- Free Senior Connect Cards for the PRT bus transit
- Unemployment Compensation issues
- Veterans assistance
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Birth and death certificates

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