

BOB MERSKI

DEAR NEIGHBORS,

I'm excited to share some updates about how my staff and I are working to improve life in our newly reshaped 2nd District!

I'm happy to report that since January, I have helped bring **more than \$12 million** back home to Erie! You can read more about that - and new legislation I'm introducing - in the pages that follow.

There's also some important news here at home - our district office is moving this fall to Harborcreek Township! Our phone number - (814) 455-6319 - will remain the same. Please check my Facebook page and our weekly email newsletter for more details about the move once they become available.

For now, please continue to visit us at our 3901 Liberty St. address or any of our satellite offices - **we now have three!** Check below for details on that and some of the many ways my talented staff can help!

Bob Merski



HERE'S A LOOK AT SOME OF LAST YEAR'S PROGRESS, BOTH HERE AT HOME AND IN HARRISBURG!



CAPITOL OFFICE:
221 Irvis Office Building
P.O. Box 202002
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2002
(717) 787-4358

SATELLITE OFFICES:
Summit Township Municipal Bldg.
1230 Townhall Road W.
Erie, PA 16509
Wednesday ONLY 12 p.m. -
4 p.m. or by appointment.

DISTRICT OFFICE:
3901 Liberty St.
Erie, PA 16509
(814) 455-6319
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F

Greene Township Office
9333 Tate Rd., Room 102
Erie, PA 16509-6055
Monday ONLY 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. or
by appointment

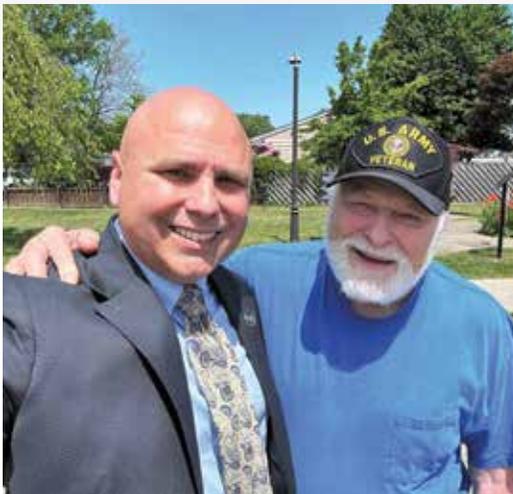
www.RepMerski.com

  @RepMerski

Harborcreek Township Office
5601 Buffalo Rd.
Harborcreek, PA 16421-1625
Tuesdays and Thursdays ONLY
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. or by appointment



In April, Lt. Gov. Austin Davis joined us for a tour of Erie projects on the horizon. As I lead the Northwest Delegation this year, I'm looking forward to working with our new Lt. Gov. and Gov. Josh Shapiro as we continue growing our regional economy!



Moving Memorial Day ceremonies like this year's event in Wesleyville gave me the chance to visit with - and thank - our veterans.



It was a great honor to offer the House prayer this session, and a special privilege to be able to recite a prayer composed by Erie's own Sister Joan Chittister, from the Benedictine Sisters of Erie!



During Catholic Sisters Week, I presented legislative citations to the Sisters of Mercy (above) and the Benedictine Sisters. It was an honor recognizing these wonderful women who serve God and our community with kindness and humility and inspire love and service in others.



It was a great day for Erie's Public Schools as we broke ground for the Fred Biletnikoff Field - a first-class regulation track and turfed field for our student athletes in the city!



I was proud to help secure funding for a new robot for the Erie Bomb Squad to replace the older robot, which was 20 years old and obsolete. Last fall, I got to visit this impressive team, which serves 14 counties in NW PA.



It was a pleasure to join state Rep. Pat Harkins in presenting a House citation to Ron Oliver, recipient of the AFL-CIO Erie Crawford CLC Community Service Award, for his decades of work on behalf of our community!



In September, we welcomed the Mercyhurst University's Women's Rowing Team to the state Capitol. What an honor to recognize these NCAA Division II National Champions!



In spring, I had a terrific tour of Port Erie Plastics and learned more about this family-owned business providing sustainable jobs in the Erie area.



I was proud to support Boy Scout Troop 133 - St. Boniface at their spaghetti dinner in March!



During a wonderful meeting with residents of Harborcreek Senior Apartments, we discussed a bill I support to stabilize rent increases for seniors.



The March groundbreaking for LECOM Health's new emergency room and ICU at Millcreek Community Hospital was a testament to the progress being made here in the Erie area.



A wonderful, engaged crowd turned out in May for the unveiling of the City of Erie's neighborhood plan for the Fairmont-McClelland area of the East Side!



I enjoyed a great visit to Smoke N' Fire Barbecue's Grand Opening at Creek's Bar and Grille in Harborcreek in March! This terrific addition to the Erie food truck scene is also a great partnership between two local small businesses!

HONORING YEARS OF SERVICE



Erie is fortunate to have some of the best first responders anywhere. I recently presented House citations to Pennsylvania State Police Sergeant Kevin Calkins (top left) who retired after 25 years of service in Erie County's Troop E; Erie PD Officer Michael Nolan (top right), who retired after 30 years of service; and Lieutenant Paul MacKenzie (above), who retired from the Erie Fire Department after many years of courageous service.

In other first responder news, I recently introduced a bill that would mandate cancer screenings for full-time paid firefighters. They put their lives on the line for us 24/7, and they deserve the best possible protection.

BUILDING SMOOTHER BROADBAND

Issues that arise when broadband cable needs to traverse railroad crossings can delay installation and slow delivery of services. To address the problem, I have introduced legislation that would create a clear application process for broadband companies to use when they need to install cable across tracks.

The process - which would establish standard procedures and timelines for approval - would help save taxpayer dollars and streamline the process so that deployment proceeds more smoothly.

BRINGING YOUR TAX DOLLARS BACK TO THE DISTRICT

Your tax dollars belong here in Erie, where they can be reinvested to strengthen resources for families and students, improve programs for veterans and seniors, support our small businesses, build our infrastructure, and keep our communities safe.

In the first six months of 2023, I have worked to secure **more than \$12 million**, including:

- \$7.3 million awarded to boost Erie infrastructure and improve transportation.
- Nearly \$1 million for watershed protection and stream restoration projects.
- \$900,000 to the Innovation Beehive Network to help young businesses grow.
- \$900,000 for projects to establish a recovery hub and expand programs for residents battling substance use disorders.
- Nearly \$600,000 to strengthen pre-apprenticeship opportunities and expand dual-credit programs for Erie students.
- \$460,000 to Erie fire and EMS companies for equipment, training, building repairs, and other essential expenses.
- \$400,000 for traffic signal improvements to better protect pedestrians.
- More than \$300,000 to update the Erie PD fleet.
- Nearly \$160,000 to help at-risk youth and bolster community safety.
- Nearly \$130,000 to strengthen urban agriculture, address student hunger and fight food insecurity.
- \$41,600 for improvements to the Erie County Public Library.
- More than \$45,000 to enhance school security.

MY BLIGHT BILL PASSES WITH A BIPARTISAN MAJORITY

Gov. Josh Shapiro has proposed new investments for community revitalization, but blighted, abandoned properties – which invite crime, reduce property values and discourage investors – can stand in the way of those projects.

We are one step closer to attacking this problem after a strong bipartisan majority of the House passed my bill to help communities fight blight.

Among other things, my bill would establish a grant program to fund new code enforcement programs, including the hiring of enforcement officers, and to strengthen existing efforts. It would also create a way for municipalities to enter into cooperative agreements so they can join forces to fight blight.

State Representative Bob Merski

We're here to help!

My team and I can help with:

- Property Tax/ Rent Rebate Program
- Information on State Grant Programs
- Driver Licenses and Vehicle Registration
- Free Notarization Services
- Senior Bus Pass Program

Providing you with the highest level of service in state government.

RepMerski@PAHouse.net | 3901 Liberty St. Erie, PA 16509
(814) 455-6319 | @RepMerski
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**2023-2024
Committee
Assignments**

- Game + Fisheries
- Gaming Oversight
- Insurance
- Professional Licensure



SIGN UP TO STAY IN THE LOOP!

Don't miss out! Each week, I send out an e-newsletter to keep folks up to date on new state programs and services and the latest happenings here at home and in Harrisburg. You can sign up for my e-newsletter by visiting www.RepMerski.com and scrolling down to the sign up form.



FIGHTING FOR SAFE CLASSROOMS ...

During my nearly two decades as an educator, I taught in a wide variety of settings, from bright, modern classrooms to those with poor ventilation, leaking ceilings, and outdated heating and electrical systems. I saw firsthand how classroom conditions help or hinder learning.

Even more alarming, hazards still found in some of our schools can have lasting health impacts on the students, teachers, and other staff who spend so much time there.

That's why I have introduced legislation - together with my colleagues state Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler, D-Philadelphia, and state Rep. Bridget Kosierowski, D-Lackawanna - to help public school districts eliminate toxic or hazardous conditions such as lead, asbestos, radon, mold and other dangerous substances.



Specifically, our bill would make changes to the state's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program to make it easier for schools to access the funds needed to remediate those hazards.

... AND TO END STUDENT HUNGER

Keeping our students safe is part of the equation, but it's also critical to ensure they have access to proper nutrition. Without it, students are unable to concentrate or retain information. Unfortunately, too many students - including many in our own district - arrive at school hungry.

At the same time, so much food provided at lunch gets thrown out unopened and goes to waste.

To fight student hunger, I have introduced legislation to

implement a "Shared Table" initiative - a unique program that would allow schools to distribute unused food. Under the program, students with unwanted, unused food could deliver it to a safe designated spot where other students could obtain the food throughout the school day or take it home with them at the end of the day.

I'll be encouraging my colleagues in both chambers to support this legislation, which has the potential to make inroads against student hunger while eliminating waste.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

I would like your help. Please contact me at: _____

I would like you to speak to my group or organization _____

I would like to know your views on: _____

The issues important to me are:

- Education
- Property Taxes
- Unemployment
- Energy
- Healthcare
- Economy
- Environment
- Agriculture
- Voting/Elections
- Other: _____

Snip off this form, insert it in an envelope, affix postage and address it to:
State Rep. Bob Merski, 3901 Liberty St., Erie, PA 16509.



221 Irvis Office Building
P.O. Box 202002
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2002

lpo.km.0623

TITUS TAKES ON: PET INSURANCE

Hi folks! Titus here, with more news for the furry and four-legged among us.

It's a good time to be a Pennsylvania pup, as our great state has put stronger protections in place to keep us safe from abuse and neglect!

For loving pet owners, protection also means ensuring we have good health care. For those of you considering taking out pet insurance, I wanted to let you know that the state Insurance Department has some information to help you ensure you're getting the best value as a consumer. Visit www.insurance.pa.gov and enter "pet insurance" into the search bar!



As a committee appointee of the America250PA Commission, I'll be working with my colleagues on projects that highlight PA's role in our nation's birth.

SAVE THE DATE

REPRESENTATIVE BOB MERSKI'S
SENIOR FAIR

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2023
MORE DETAILS TO COME

