

# STURLA

from State Representative  
**MIKE STURLA**  
96th Legislative District

## Report

AUGUST 2022  
[www.RepMikeSturla.com](http://www.RepMikeSturla.com)



## STURLA VOTES AGAINST ABORTION BAN



On July 8, Rep. Sturla voted against a proposed state constitutional amendment that could pave the way to banning abortions in PA. While the General Assembly passed this bill, it must pass again in the 2023-24 legislative session before it can be added as a ballot question, which could be as early as the 2023 Primary Election. Pictured here, Rep. Sturla spoke at a rally on June 26 with Democratic state representatives and senators standing united to protect women's health care and reproductive rights in PA. Rep. Sturla is also co-sponsoring legislation that will prevent the criminalization of abortion.

## LEGISLATION TO COMBAT INFLATION

Rep. Sturla is co-sponsoring two bills that will address inflation problems:

**House Bill 2641** would enhance the ability of the PA Attorney General to prosecute individuals and businesses that collude to artificially raise prices on any goods bought or sold in PA.

**House Bill 2697** would prevent price increases within 24 hours of a previous increase, outlaw unconscionable increases in times of emergency, and empower the PA Attorney General to investigate and prosecute gasoline price gouging.



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# Help Protect Yourself From Identity Theft

## SHREDDING EVENT OCTOBER 8

Rep. Sturla will be hosting a Shredding Event on Saturday, October 8 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot at Simeral Construction and Door Worx at 123 West Airport Road, Lititz. You will enter off of Jetstar Drive. **Only two banker's boxes are allowed per person.** Any paper can be shredded, and staples or paper clips do not need to be removed. Registration is required by emailing your name and address to RepMikeSturla@pahouse.net or calling (717) 295-3157.



## BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT HELPS LANCASTER STUDENTS



On August 7, nearly 1,500 students received free backpacks, uniforms, shoes, books, and school supplies at Rep. Sturla's 11th Annual Back to School Event at Clipper Magazine Stadium. You can see pictures and a video of the event at RepMikeSturla.com in the News Center section under the News tab.

After two straight years of a drive-thru-pickup version, this year marked the return of the event in its regular, full-scale form with special activities including free food, haircuts, face painting, hearing and eye exams, entertainment by local artists, and a Barnstormers' baseball game. More than 100 community volunteers helped out.

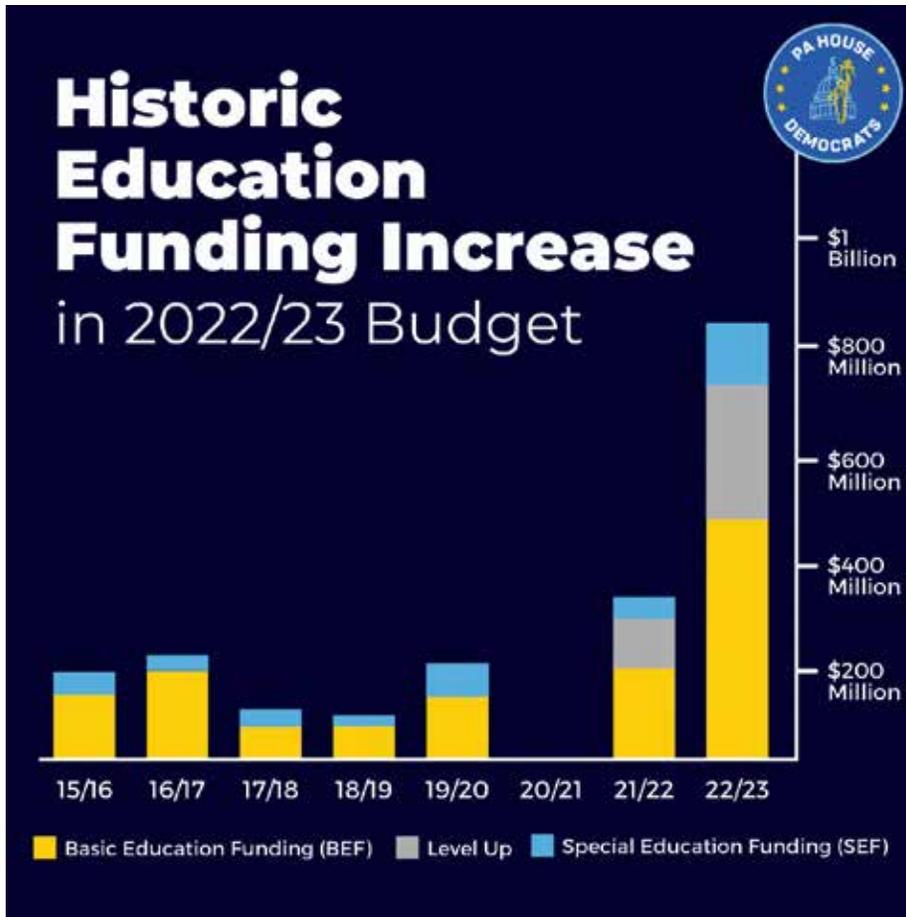
Rep. Sturla thanks the event partners and sponsors, including the School District of Lancaster, Lancaster Recreation Commission, United Way of Lancaster County, Rodgers & Associates, Elks Lodge 134, The Shoppes at Belmont, Lancaster Barnstormers,

Walmart, AmeriHealth Caritas, Lancaster Behavioral Health Hospital, UPMC, Lancaster School of Cosmetology, Lancaster United Labor, TW Ponessa & Associates, Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health, WellSpan, United Health Care, AT&T, Park City Center, Simeral Construction, and Paul Davis Restoration.



# 2022-23 PA BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Rep. Sturla voted for the 2022-23 state budget. Here are some highlights:



## NEARLY \$1.2 BILLION INCREASE IN EDUCATION FUNDING

While the Republicans cut half of the new education funding that Gov. Wolf and Democratic legislators proposed, the new state budget still makes a historic education investment:

- The School District of Lancaster will receive an 8.9% increase (\$5,968,705) in basic ed funding and 9.1% increase (\$962,766) in special ed funding;
- Manheim Township School District will receive a 19.9% basic ed increase (\$1,342,268) and 5.2% special ed increase (\$133,244); and
- Hempfield School District will receive an 8.9% basic ed increase (\$1,254,682) and 7.5% special ed increase (\$299,347).

## OVER \$390 MILLION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The state budget provides more than \$390 million for early childhood education, including a \$60 million increase for Pre-K Counts and a \$19 million increase for Head Start.

## \$640 MILLION IN NEW ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING

As a long-time member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, Rep. Sturla is glad to see new funding to help the bay and the state's environment:

- \$220 million for a Clean Streams Fund to help with stormwater management, nutrient/sediment reduction, and riparian buffers;
- \$320 million for water and sewer projects; and
- \$100 million for the State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Program to improve parks, greenways, trails, open spaces, and river access.

## REPUBLICANS BLOCK CHARTER SCHOOL REFORM

The Republican majority continue to block charter school funding reforms. Rep. Sturla is co-sponsoring House Bill 272, which would save school districts an estimated \$373 million each year by using a data-driven and need-based charter school tuition calculation rather than continuing to use the outdated assumption model from 1997. The Republicans also abolished charter school regulations that would have reinforced strong financial accounting and ethical governing practices, including requiring charter school board members to recuse themselves from votes presenting a conflict of interest and to file statements of financial interest. The regulations also would have provided clarification and transparency regarding charter schools' payment processes, application information, relationships with education management service providers, and enrollment policies.

# 2022-23 PA BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

## \$375 MILLION FOR HOUSING PROGRAMS

As the House Urban Affairs Committee's Democratic Chair, Rep. Sturla helped secure budget funding for three new programs that he co-sponsored to help working families with affordable housing:

- \$125 million for the Whole-Home Repairs Program to address habitability concerns, energy or water efficiency improvements, and accessibility for individuals with disabilities.
- \$150 million for the Development Cost Relief Program to help with increased costs for Low-Income Housing Tax Credit construction projects.
- \$100 million for the Housing Options Grant Program for the development of affordable housing units.

## SUPPORTING SAFER COMMUNITIES

This budget invests to address gun violence and support safer communities:

- \$75 million for violence intervention and prevention programs.
- \$100 million for adult mental health support.
- \$185 million for police departments and funding for law enforcement and district attorney's offices to combat gun violence.
- \$100 million for school safety and security.

Several times over the past two months, state House Democrats tried to force action on widely-supported gun safety measures, but the Republican majority used gimmicks to shut down debate each time. For a list of gun reform bills that Rep. Sturla is co-sponsoring as a member of the PA Safe Caucus, go to [www.pahouse.com/pasafe/legislation](http://www.pahouse.com/pasafe/legislation).

**PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM**  
for residents who are permanently disabled, 50+ and widowed, or 65+  
Application Deadline: December 31, 2022

**What we need from you:**

- EVERYONE**
  - ✓ All earned income tax forms (1099 SSI, W2s, etc.)
- HOMEOWNERS**
  - ✓ Copies of all paid tax bills
- RENTERS**
  - ✓ Signed form from the landlord

**\$35,000** household income for homeowners & **\$15,000** household income for renters  
For those on Social Security: half of SSI/SSD income is excluded for eligibility

## NEW STATE CHILD CARE TAX CREDIT

In addition to the budget's \$115 million investment to increase child care access and affordability, Rep. Sturla voted to amend the state's tax code to create a new Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Program. Next year, filers can start claiming the credit, which will return up to 30% of child care-related expenses.

## SUPPLEMENTAL PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE

The budget includes an additional \$140 million for the PA Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program to provide a one-time supplemental rebate. If you already applied, you do not need to reapply to get it. If you haven't applied yet, you can apply by Dec. 31 at [mypath.pa.gov](http://mypath.pa.gov) or contact Rep. Sturla's office at (717) 295-3157 or [Rep.MikeSturla@pahouse.net](mailto:Rep.MikeSturla@pahouse.net) for assistance.

The 2022-23 PA Budget

Gives money back to working families to offset childcare costs

# FIREWORKS LAW IMPROVED

Gov. Wolf has signed into law House Bill 2157, which Rep. Sturla co-sponsored to improve fireworks safety. Municipalities are now empowered to enact restrictions on fireworks, including an outright ban of fireworks use in a municipality.

## STURLA SECURES OVER \$7.4 MILLION FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

In the last 20 years, Rep. Sturla has helped deliver over \$135 million from the state's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) to local projects, including the five listed below from this year so far. He also helped secure over \$305 million from other state programs for local organizations and initiatives.

- 1) \$2 million to renovate and expand the YWCA Lancaster's Sexual Assault Prevention and Counseling Center;
- 2) \$970,000 to modernize the Lancaster City Visitor Center;
- 3) \$2.5 million for the Lancaster Public Library's new home being built in Ewell Plaza;
- 4) \$950,000 to renovate the Lancaster City Police Station; and
- 5) \$1 million for OZFund to redevelop the Rebman's site into a mixed-use building with affordable housing.



On May 16, Rep. Sturla attended the ribbon cutting for the renovated Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic, which includes a \$1.2 million RACP grant he helped secure. Pictured to the right of Rep. Sturla are Dena and Sam Lombardo.



On July 27, Rep. Sturla joined (pictured l-r) Lancaster City Council President Ismail Smith-Wade-EI, DCED Deputy Secretary Rick Vilello, Lancaster Mayor Danene Sorace, and SACA CEO Carlos Graupera to announce \$1 million in state funds for the Conestoga North Townhomes project, which provides low-income first-time home buyers with the opportunity to buy a home.

## VOTING DEADLINES

The voter registration deadline is Oct. 24 to vote in the General Election on Nov. 8. The deadline to apply for mail-in and absentee ballots is Nov. 1. You can do both online at [vote.pa.gov](http://vote.pa.gov).



State Representative  
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lpo.km.0822

## HERE TO SERVE YOU

Rep. Sturla's district office staff is happy to help you navigate state government programs and services. Call the 150 E. King St. office at (717) 295-3157 for free assistance.

### **Ayuda disponible en español**

Tengo la fortuna de tener personal bilingüe listo para ayudarle con cualquier problema relacionado con el estado. Puede llamar nuestra oficina, localizada en 150 E. King St., Lancaster, al (717) 295-3157.

## MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Car registrations, special tags, disability parking placards, titles, and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Requests for literature – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups

## Sign Up for Weekly Emails

If you would like to receive weekly email updates on state government issues, go to [www.RepMikeSturla.com](http://www.RepMikeSturla.com) and scroll to the bottom of the page for the sign up form. For timely updates, you can follow [@RepMikeSturla](https://twitter.com/RepMikeSturla) on Twitter and Facebook.



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