

27TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

STATE REP. DAN DEASY



DISTRICT OFFICE: 436 S. Main St., Suite 100 • Pittsburgh, PA 15220 • (412) 928-9514

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The New 27th Legislative District

The Pennsylvania Constitution requires that legislative districts be redrawn every 10 years to reflect population shifts according to the U.S. Census and to ensure accurate distribution of state and federal funding. The changes do not affect the organization of local municipalities or school district affiliations.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome residents to the new 27th Legislative District, effective December 1. I am honored to serve the district and work with officials at all levels of government to make our community a better place to live, work and enjoy.

My primary constituent service office is located in the West End at 436 S. Main St., Suite 100, Pittsburgh, PA 15220. My staff can be reached at 412-928-9514. Plans are under way to add satellite office hours in

Beechview. We will be at the Beechview branch of the Carnegie Library once the renovations are complete, but will secure an interim location. I will keep you informed once those plans are finalized.

Please visit my website—www.pahouse.com/Deasy—and sign up to receive email alerts. I send periodic emails about events I'm hosting throughout the district and information about state programs and services that may be helpful to you, your family and friends.

To view more detailed maps of the new legislative districts, or for a listing of locations for all wards, precincts and divisions, visit www.redistricting.state.pa.us.



Rep. Deasy discusses issues regarding the Parkway West with Green Tree Borough officials.

Deasy offers assistance in completing state and federal income tax returns

My office partners with AARP's TCE TaxAide program to provide free income tax preparation services for low-income individuals and senior citizens. AARP's free tax preparation service is to help the elderly and those with a household income of \$51,000 or less in preparing their own individual tax returns. There are some restrictions set by AARP for participation in this free program. For example, if you are an individual who has a business or

rental property, you are not eligible for this free service.

To find out if you may be eligible for this free service, please call my district office at 412-928-9514. My office will begin taking appointments for income tax preparation beginning Monday, January 5. **Please note that this service is made possible by the great work of our wonderful volunteers and appointments are limited.**

State programs and service

Does the state have your unclaimed property?

Each year, the Pennsylvania Department of Treasury acquires millions of dollars in unclaimed property. This property includes any financial asset that may have inadvertently been left with a bank, insurance company, business or organization without activity for five years.

Those entities are required to transfer such property to the state Treasurer's Office, where it will stay until the owner claims it.

It's estimated that one out of every 10 Pennsylvanians has unclaimed property. To find out if the state is holding on to your unclaimed property, feel free to contact my office at 412-928-9514. You can also call 1-800-222-2046 or visit www.patreasury.gov/unclaimedproperty.html to search the database. There is no charge to reclaim your property. Please ignore any solicitation that attempts to charge you a fee to retrieve your property from Treasury.

Deasy Employment Center



I regularly try to find ways to help residents who are seeking employment. Whether it's at one of my job fairs or through my Employment Center, it's always a great feeling to help people connect with new opportunities.

The holidays are just around the corner and it's an especially busy time that brings about many seasonal employment opportunities. I encourage you to visit my **Employment Center** online at www.pahouse.com/deasy or call to schedule an appointment to use the Employment Kiosk in my office. Through this site, you can prepare your resume and access job preparation resources.

You can also visit the **PA CareerLink** site to explore job prospects.

PACE

Do you have difficulty paying for your prescriptions?

Pennsylvania's PACE program can help

PACE, PACENET and PACE Plus Medicare are Pennsylvania's prescription assistance programs for senior citizens. The programs offer low-cost prescription medication to eligible Pennsylvania residents who meet income qualifications.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible for PACE and PACENET, you must be:

- 65 or older
- A Pennsylvania resident for at least 90 days before application
- NOT enrolled in the Department of Human Services Medicaid prescription benefit

What are the income qualifications?

PACE and PACENET eligibility is determined by your previous calendar year's income

PACE

- For a single person, total income must be \$14,500 or less
- For a married couple, combined total income must be \$17,700 or less

PACENET

- For a single person, total income can be between \$14,500 and \$23,500
- For a married couple, combined total income can be between \$17,700 and \$31,500

Information needed to apply

- Medicare Card
- Proof of ALL income from previous calendar year
- PA Driver's License or state-issued Photo ID
- Insurance cards if you have other health/prescription coverage

My office can assist you in completing a PACE/PACENET application. Call to schedule an appointment.

What is PACE Plus Medicare?

Under PACE Plus Medicare, PACE/PACENET coverage is supplemented by federal Medicare Part D prescription coverage and offers older Pennsylvanians the best benefits of both programs. Older adults continue to receive the same prescription benefits while, in many cases, saving more money.

Services available to help residents

Do your children have health insurance?

Pennsylvania has the Children's Health Insurance Program which provides free and low-cost health insurance to children. CHIP is not welfare – it covers children of working parents whose employers don't offer coverage and who can't afford private insurance. If you can't afford health insurance for your children, chances are they are eligible for CHIP.

What does CHIP cover?

- Immunizations
- Routine Check-ups
- Diagnostic Testing
- Prescriptions
- Dental, Vision, Hearing Services
- Emergency Care
- Maternity Care
- Mental Health Benefits
- Up to 90 Days Hospitalization in any year
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Substance Abuse Rehabilitation
- Partial Hospitalization for Mental Health
- Rehabilitation Therapy
- Home Health Care

Does my family qualify?

The following factors are considered for a child's eligibility for CHIP:

- Must not be eligible for Medicaid or have any other health insurance.
- Must be younger than 19.
- Must be a U.S. citizen or lawful alien.
- Must be a Pennsylvania resident for at least 30 days, except for a newborn.
- The family's income is below the following levels:

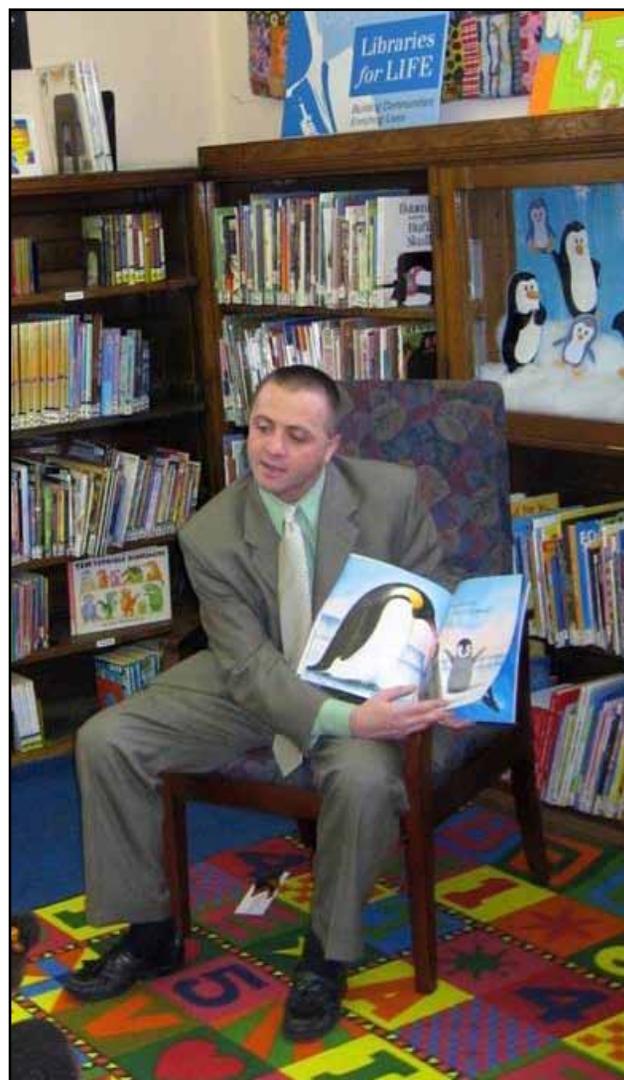
Income guidelines:		
Family Size	Free CHIP	Subsidized CHIP*
2	\$31,020	\$31,021 - \$46,530
3	\$39,060	\$39,061 - \$58,590
4	\$47,100	\$47,101 - \$70,650
5	\$55,140	\$55,141 - \$82,710
6	\$63,180	\$63,181 - \$94,770
7	\$71,220	\$71,221 - \$106,830
8	\$79,260	\$79,261 - \$118,890

* Subsidized premiums are determined by family size and income. Premiums currently range from approximately \$48 to \$77, per month, per child.

It's easy to sign up for CHIP.

If you think your children are eligible for CHIP, you can sign them up by calling 1-800-986-KIDS.

For more information about CHIP or to see if you qualify, call my office at 412-928-9514.



Rep. Deasy reads to children at the Carnegie Library – West End Branch.

More Programs to Help Residents...

Saving for future higher education needs

The current job market demands more than a high school education. The cost of a college education is already too expensive for many. By the time a baby born today reaches 18, the cost may be three or four times as much as it is today.

Pennsylvania's Tuition Account Program — PA 529 — offers two programs to help families save for future higher education needs.

Through the PA 529 Guaranteed Savings Plan, families can pre-purchase college tuition at today's lower prices for future use. The PA 529 Investment Plan allows families to invest for the future based on market performance.

The Pennsylvania legislature created PA 529 exclusively for Pennsylvania students.

For more information call 1-800-440-4000.



Rep. Deasy welcomed Mark Nordenberg to the state Capitol in honor of his 19 years of service as chancellor at the University of Pittsburgh.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program open

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is one of the commonwealth's most popular programs. It allows eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 or older; widows and widowers age 50 or older; and people with disabilities age 18 or older to apply for a rebate on their rent or property taxes. The income guidelines for applying are \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 a year for renters, with half of Social Security – and now Social Security COLAs – excluded.

Thanks to Act 156 of 2014, which I supported, income eligibility guidelines for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program have changed so Social Security cost-of-living adjustments no longer disqualify those applying for a rebate.

The state Revenue Department is automatically reviewing previously denied claim year 2013 applications where the rebate was denied for income in excess of \$35,000 for homeowners and \$15,000 for renters. In cases where the overage stemmed from a Social Security COLA, the department will reopen, process and pay these claims where warranted.

However, please consider applying **if you failed to apply for a rebate this year because the Social Security COLA pushed you over the income limit. Please contact my office and apply before December 31.**

Please ignore any solicitation that seeks payment for help filing, and contact my office at 412-928-9514 for free assistance.

Home heating assistance programs now open

Do you need help paying your home heating bills? The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is accepting applications through April 3.

LIHEAP is available in the form of **cash grants** to help low-income households pay for regular home heating fuel and utility bills, and **crisis grants**, which assist with heating emergencies such as furnace failures and unexpected fuel shortages.

Eligibility is based on household size, income level, type of heating fuel and region. Applicants must provide proof of income, household size and a recent bill or statement from their utility company or fuel dealer verifying their customer status and the type of fuel used.

Forms are available in my office and my staff will help you file them for free. LIHEAP grant applications are also available online at www.compass.state.pa.us.

Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$17,505
2	\$23,595
3	\$29,685
4	\$35,775
5	\$41,865
6	\$47,955
7	\$54,045
8	\$60,135
9	\$66,225
10	\$72,315

The Dollar Energy Fund also provides home heating assistance. You must apply for LIHEAP before applying for a Dollar Energy Fund Grant.

The Allegheny County Department of Human Services will accept Dollar Energy Fund Grant applications Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Human Services Building, 1 Smithfield St. in Pittsburgh.

Visit <http://is.gd/dollarenergy> for a step-by-step guide to the application process.

As always, please feel free to contact my office directly if you have questions about state government programs and services.

Around the District...

Crafton Park receives state grant funding

I am excited to report that Crafton Park received \$350,000 in Commonwealth Financing Authority funding to improve the park's community pool. I was happy to support the borough's application for funding so that these improvements can be made to this community asset. Funding will be used to address safety issues and comply with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

Crafton Park was built in 1955 on 32 acres of land, just five miles from the center of Pittsburgh. The community pool has provided summer fun for residents of Crafton, Ingram, Thornburg, Pittsburgh, McKees Rocks and many other local communities that use the pool.

It is wonderful to know that a new generation of families and neighbors will get to enjoy the facility for years to come.

Internet Essentials Program helps low-income students

Home Internet access helps many of us conveniently search for all kinds of information helpful to our daily lives. It also gives our children a leg up with school assignments and projects. But for thousands of families in our area, access for their children is something they cannot afford.



Please help me spread the word about **Internet Essentials**, which provides the **families of children who receive free or reduced-price lunch** the ability to access home Internet service and even a computer at greatly discounted rates.

No tax dollars are spent on this program.

More information about the program, including eligibility guidelines, is available by calling 1-855-846-8376.

Rep. Deasy discusses the Internet Essentials program with Frank Polito of Comcast.

Stay informed!

I host many events geared toward helping all residents of the district. I'm working hard for you to have access to your government and the programs and services it provides. Some of the events to watch for in 2015 are meet and greet sessions, senior health expos, paper shredding and electronic recycling events, job fairs, bus trips to the state Capitol and much more. Sign up today to receive my email alerts by visiting my website at www.pahouse.com/Deasy so that I can keep you informed of upcoming events.

I'm working hard to serve you. If there is an event in your neighborhood I should be aware of, please call my office at 412-928-9514 and let me know.

Chartiers Avenue opens to two-way traffic in McKees Rocks

I recently attended a ceremony on Chartiers Avenue in McKees Rocks to celebrate the return to two-way traffic through the business district. I supported McKees Rocks Borough's application for funding through PennDOT's Automated Red Light Enforcement grant program. The funding allowed the borough to update their traffic-control signals, which was necessary in order to improve traffic patterns. This change should help revitalize the business district that was negatively impacted when one-way traffic limited business visibility.



Keith Schwab, president of McKees Rocks Borough Council, PennDOT District Engineer Dan Cessna, Rep. Deasy and Taris Vrcek with McKees Rocks CDC took part in the Chartiers Avenue ribbon cutting.

Resolution designates Music Therapy Month in Pa.

The state House unanimously adopted my House Resolution 1045 deeming October 2014 Music Therapy Month in Pennsylvania. I was proud to bring awareness to the use of music therapy for the health and well-being of individuals throughout the commonwealth.





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Look inside for information:

The new 27th Legislative District

Sign up at www.pahouse.com/Deasy to go paperless and receive my newsletters via email.

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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, welfare)
- 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
- Questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Attorney General consumer complaint forms
- Concerns about state road conditions
- Matters concerning PennDOT
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Disability plates and placards
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Complaints about insurance companies
- Help in finding unclaimed property through Department of Treasury
- Assistance in completing the Property Tax/Rent Rebate application
- Questions about the state lottery

Any problem with state government!

Senior Health Expo a great success

Each year, I host a free Senior Health Expo. The event is a one-stop shop for older Pennsylvanians to easily connect with programs and services helpful to them.

The 2014 Senior Health Expo featured the new mobile veterans van. The van is operated by the Pennsylvania Department of Veterans Affairs and specializes in helping veterans determine eligibility for programs and benefits for which they may qualify.

If you need help connecting with programs for seniors or veterans, please contact my office. My staff is available to help navigate programs and services.

