

27TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

STATE REP. DAN DEASY



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

Mon. – Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; extended hours on Thurs. until 6 p.m.

CAPITOL OFFICE: 323 Irvis Office Building • P.O. Box 202027 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2027 • (717) 772-8187

Deasy calling for credit card law reforms

In light of recent corporate security breaches that have compromised the personal information of millions of Americans, I have introduced a concurrent resolution urging congressional reform of federal credit card laws.

Recently, a resident's card number was hacked. The card was not lost or stolen but somehow a criminal obtained access to the number. The thief then created a fraudulent card and used it to make over \$1,200 in unauthorized purchases. Video surveillance of the perpetrator showed that when a debit transaction failed, the purchase went through as a credit transaction. The purchases were approved without the criminal ever having to show identification, even after the purchase was initially rejected. This is a flawed system that needs drastic reform to better protect consumers.

My resolution would call on Congress to enact reforms that would require modifications to link photo identification with all debit and credit card purchases. Transactions where photo identification does not match the payment card would be denied and reported to the issuing card agency. Banking or credit card companies would be required to notify the consumer of any attempts of fraudulent charges.

This change is needed to protect consumers. Millions of people across the nation have been harmed by identity theft. At a time when many live on a tight budget and are struggling financially, people simply cannot afford to go through such a drastic inconvenience.

There are resources available to help you if you become a victim of fraud. You should first contact the three main credit reporting companies and give notice of fraudulent activity.

You should then close the accounts that you know or believe have been fraudulently accessed and file a police report with your local authorities or in the region the theft took place.

I strongly urge you to attend one of my Identity Theft Outreach Seminars for more information on how to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft.



Identity Theft Outreach Seminars scheduled in district

The state Attorney General's Office reported that 10 million Americans had their personal information – including name, Social Security number, bank account, or credit card number stolen. This is an alarming statistic. In order to help people protect themselves from identity theft, I am partnering with state Attorney General Kathleen Kane's office to host three Identity Theft Outreach Seminars. These seminars are to help consumers avoid being a victim of identity theft and to be aware of what you must do if you are a victim. All residents are encouraged to attend one of these events.

Monday, March 24

10:30 a.m.

West End Senior Center
720 Wabash Avenue, West End Village
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Tuesday, March 25

10:30 a.m.

Sheraden Senior Center
720 Sherwood Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15204

Tuesday, March 25

6 p.m.

West End Senior Center
80 Wabash Avenue, West End Village
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

TransUnion

1-800-680-7289

www.transunion.com

Equifax

1-800-525-6285

www.equifax.com

Experian

1-888-397-3742

www.experian.com



New law will protect nearly 50,000 seniors' prescription drug coverage

Change in income exemption will aid an additional 10,000 seniors

House Bill 777 passed the General Assembly unanimously and was signed into law on Feb. 7, 2014. This bill maintains eligibility for Pennsylvania seniors in PACE/PACENET whose Social Security COLA adjustment pushes them over the prescription drug benefit income limit.

Under the new law, residents cannot be disqualified from PACE/PACENET based on income increases from Social Security COLAs, regardless of whether the resultant higher incomes are above the eligibility thresholds. The exemption, which expired in December, has been extended through Dec. 31, 2015.

PACE and PACENET subsidize low-cost medications for low-income state residents older than 65. Funding for the programs comes from the state lottery fund.

The new law doesn't just temporarily extend the COLA moratorium. The law makes certain income exempt from counting toward eligibility requirements for the programs permanently.

Before the new law, Social Security income used to pay premiums for Medicare Part B coverage was counted as income for purposes of determining program eligibility. These payments will now be excluded when determining income with regards to PACE and PACENET qualification.

Like many private insurance premiums that are deducted directly from a paycheck, Medicare Part B premiums are automatically deducted from Social Security checks.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, nearly 10,000 seniors would qualify for PACE and PACENET if their Medicare Part B premium would be excluded from the current definition of income in the PACE law. The average Medicare Part B benefit is approximately \$106 per-month, or \$1,200 per year.

If you have questions about the PACE/PACENET programs, please call my office at 412-928-9514.



Rep. Deasy visits with constituents during community outreach events.

Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



April 22 is Earth Day
Help Protect our Environment by Recycling



Deasy to sponsor a paper shredding and a paper shredding/electronic recycling event

Are you concerned about privacy when disposing of confidential papers?

Consumer fraud and identity theft are becoming an epidemic in our communities. As part of my continued effort to raise awareness and to promote prevention, I am hosting two free shredding events to give individuals the opportunity to securely dispose of documents they no longer need.

What to bring:

Documents that contain personal information such as Social Security numbers, credit card numbers and account numbers.

Credit cards, CDs, videotapes and floppy disks can also be discarded!

You'll also be able to recycle electronic items at the Crafton Paper Shredding/Electronic Recycling Event, including:

- | | | |
|--|---------------------|------------|
| Desktop and laptop computers and servers | VCRs | Cameras |
| Computer mice and keyboards | PDAs | Telephones |
| Printers and copiers | Monitors | |
| Televisions | Microwaves | |
| DVD players | Stereo equipment | |
| | Speakers | |
| | Video game consoles | |

For additional information please contact:
Rep. Dan Deasy
412-928-9514

PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

Saturday, April 5

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sponsored by Rep. Dan Deasy, Rep. Dan Miller and Green Tree Borough

Green Tree Park Lower Lot
895 Greentree Road
Green Tree, PA 15220

PAPER SHREDDING/ ELECTRONIC RECYCLING EVENT

Saturday, April 12

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sponsored by Rep. Dan Deasy and Crafton Borough

Crafton Park
167 West Steuben Street
Crafton, PA 15205

\$55 per person



DEASY TO HOST ANNUAL BUS TRIP

Wednesday, May 7 • Departing at 7:30 a.m.

On Wednesday, May 7, I am hosting a trip to our state Capitol and the Hollywood Casino. The trip costs \$55 per person and includes round trip transportation, bagged breakfast, dinner buffet and casino voucher.

The bus will leave Pittsburgh at 7:30 a.m. and travel to the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville. The next stop on the trip will be for lunch at our state Capitol. We'll have some time for pictures and a stop at the Capitol Visitor's Center. Attendees will then head to Hollywood Casino in Grantville for a buffet dinner.

For more information or to make a reservation, please call my office at 412-928-9514.

Deasy, Pittsburgh Musical Theater to Host Spectator Zone Party in West End for Pittsburgh Marathon

Join us for *“Dancin in the Streets!”*

Sunday, May 4

7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

(Runners will start coming thru the village about 7:30 a.m.)

South Main Street



Rep. Deasy discusses state funding issues and challenges faced by local non-profit organizations with Ken Gargaro, Founding Director at Pittsburgh Musical Theater.

Spectator Zones. The West End Village is at mile 7 of the 26.2 mile marathon. Thousands of runners will descend upon the West End Village and will be greeted by great entertainment from the Elite Show Band as well as PMT's Xtreme Teen Broadway.

Please mark your calendar and come down to Main Street in the West End Village on Sunday, May 4 to support all of the runners and to be a part of the great celebration.

Support thousands of runners and enjoy great music and entertainment

I was recently approached by executives of the Pittsburgh Marathon to spearhead a Spectator Zone Party in the West End Village. Four years ago, the Marathon route was changed and the West End Village became part of the route.

Due to the vast community support in the past three years, marathon organizers have designated the West End Village as one of 13 official

Does the state have your unclaimed property?

Every year, the state Treasurer's Office obtains millions of dollars in unclaimed property. This property includes any financial asset that has been left with a bank, insurance company or business or organization without any activity for five years.

Those entities are required by law to transfer abandoned property to the state Treasurer's Office, which maintains custody of the property until it is claimed by the owner. The office maintains a list of Pennsylvanians who belong to that property, and you may be on that list!

Unclaimed property may include:

- Closed bank accounts;
- Uncashed checks, including paychecks;
- Lost stocks and bonds;
- Contents of safe deposit boxes;
- Proceeds from the demutualization of insurance companies; and
- Expired gift cards/gift certificates.

It is estimated that nearly 10 percent of Pennsylvanians have unclaimed property.



To find out if you have unclaimed property, search your name and the names of your friends and family in the Unclaimed Property database at www.patreasury.gov/Unclaimed or call 1-800-222-2046. There is **NO CHARGE** to claim your unclaimed property.

KEY Legislation



Each session, the House considers hundreds, if not thousands, of pieces of legislation that are drafted to improve the quality of life in Pennsylvania. I am honored to co-sponsor the following legislation that will best benefit the residents of our commonwealth and ensure the safety, well-being and prosperity of our future:

House Bill 1800

I am a proud co-sponsor of legislation that would establish a new “Made in PA” logo to include a broader range of products made in Pennsylvania that are not covered by the blue and gold PA Preferred label. The program, which would be administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, would permit the use of a “Made in PA” trademark on products manufactured or produced in the commonwealth. In these tough economic times, I think it is vital that we urge Pennsylvania consumers to support Pennsylvania businesses by buying Pennsylvania manufactured and produced items. This effort will help maintain jobs and potentially facilitate job growth in our great commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

House Bill 2031

I am supporting legislation that would help Pennsylvania families by fortifying the tax-exempt status of property transfers made through living trusts. This legislation would clarify the requirements for a living trust to serve as a substitute will so families can continue to transfer property without having to pay the 1 percent realty transfer tax. Properties in Pennsylvania are taxed enough. Families should not suffer additional tax penalties when transferring property from a living trust.

House Bill 1504

I am co-sponsoring a bill that would help protect law enforcement as they protect us. This bill would require training for police officers and the minor judiciary to include instruction on how to recognize people with mental health conditions and intellectual disabilities, identify diversionary options for those suffering from mental health disorders, and perform search and seizure, arrest

and bail practices and procedures.

This bill has the potential to better equip police officers and minor judiciary with the resources needed to identify people suffering from mental health conditions at the earliest point in time and get these individuals the medical treatment they need.

House Bill 2204

I am co-sponsoring a bill that would be known as “Rocco’s Law.” Under this bill, the offenses for cruelty to police animals would become “aggravated” when a person willfully or maliciously tortures, mutilates, injures, disables, poisons or kills a police animal while the animal is in the performance of its duty and would be graded as a first-degree felony.

As you may be aware, Rocco – an 8-year-old German Shepherd canine officer with the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police – was fatally stabbed while apprehending a suspect. Under current law, such an offense would be graded as a third-degree felony. This legislation would ensure a more severe

penalty for criminal suspects who display such disregard toward law enforcement officers.

House Bill 41

In an effort to protect animals that cannot speak up for themselves, I am co-sponsoring legislation that would place restrictions on the tethering of dogs.

More specifically, the legislation would make it a summary offense to tether a dog outside and unattended to any stationary object by the use of a restraint between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. A person convicted of this offense may be subject to forfeiture of the dog.

This legislation is in response to repeated complaints that the continuous confinement of dogs by a tether is inhumane. A tether significantly restricts a dog’s movement. A tether can also become tangled or hook on the dog’s structure or other objects, further restricting the dog’s movement and potentially causing injury.



Rep. Deasy discusses animal cruelty legislation with Officer Gerald Akrie from the City of Pittsburgh’s Animal Control Division. Deasy is co-sponsoring a number of bills that would protect animals and call for harsher penalties against those charged with animal abuse.



STATE REP. DAN DEASY

P.O. Box 202027
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2027

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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 Public Welfare (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
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
- Consumer complaints
- Complaints about state road conditions
- Problems or questions about PennDOT
- Tours of the State Capitol for individuals or groups
- Disability plates and placards
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- Local government officials' problems with state agencies

Any problem with your state government!

SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

March

Identity Theft Outreach Seminars

Monday, March 24
10:30 a.m.

West End Senior Center

Tuesday, March 25
10:30 a.m.

Sheraden Senior Center

Tuesday, March 25
6 p.m.

West End Senior Center

April

Paper Shredding/Electronic Recycling Event

Saturday, April 12

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Crafton Park

Paper Shredding Event

Partnering with Rep. Dan Miller and Green Tree Borough

Saturday, April 5

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Green Tree Park

May

Sunday, May 4

Pittsburgh Marathon Spectator Zone Celebration

7 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
West End Village

Wednesday, May 7

Bus Trip – Shanksville/Harrisburg
Call 412-928-9514 to make a reservation.

SAVE THE DATES!