

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

D-Bucks

JOHN GALLOWAY

WEBSITE: www.pahouse.com/Galloway

CONSTITUENT SERVICE OFFICE:

8610 New Falls Road
Levittown, PA 19054
(215) 943-7206

Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

AUGUST 2014

2014-15 budget continues to leave students behind

At the end of June and the beginning of July, Republicans in the legislature drafted a budget plan that passed with NO Democratic votes.

It failed to gain any Democratic support because it continues to ignore the realities of life in Pennsylvania.

Our schools are raising property taxes the maximum amount allowed by law and still need to cut programs, staff and even teachers just to survive. More than 400 of the 500 public school systems in Pennsylvania have had to raise property taxes during the past three years.

Education funding that was reduced in Gov. Tom Corbett's first budget has not been restored, leading to a loss of nearly \$3 billion.

Since the state legislated its way out of paying its share to the school and public employee retirement systems for years, schools are being forced to now use money that should be spent on teaching our children to try to make up for the unpaid retirement funds.

Statewide, 20,000 teachers have been laid off, many right here in Bucks County. Fewer teachers mean larger class sizes and fewer opportunities for students. Valuable programs such as art, music and foreign languages have already been axed, and other schools are considering

eliminating or reducing kindergarten programs and even physical education.

Article III Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution states: **The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth.**

This budget, like the governor's previous budgets, fails this basic constitutional test.



Schools have not recovered from the 2010-11 cuts in education funding

School districts in the 140th Legislative District have experienced a huge cumulative loss in funding since the 2010-11 budget cuts. This chart shows how much each of the school districts has lost since then, by the state not restoring the cuts.

School District	Total funding if 2010-11 maintained	Actual funding including 2014-15 funding	Difference
Bristol Borough	\$26,774,923	\$24,306,705	(\$2,468,218)
Bristol Township	\$90,402,434	\$78,938,618	(\$11,463,815)
Morrisville Borough	\$13,519,285	\$12,211,727	(\$1,307,559)
Neshaminy	\$56,179,468	\$50,659,245	(\$5,520,223)
Pennsbury	\$66,827,955	\$60,681,977	(\$6,145,978)
Total	\$253,704,065	\$226,798,272	(\$26,904,893)

Funding includes: Basic and Special Education Funding, Ready to Learn Grant Block Grant (Accountability Block Grant), Charter School Reimbursement, and Educational Assistance Program

My Senior Fair is coming – Sept. 18

Be sure to mark your calendar for my annual Senior Fair.

Join me for my 8th annual event, Thursday, Sept. 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Westaby Hall, 425 Hood Blvd., Fairless Hills.

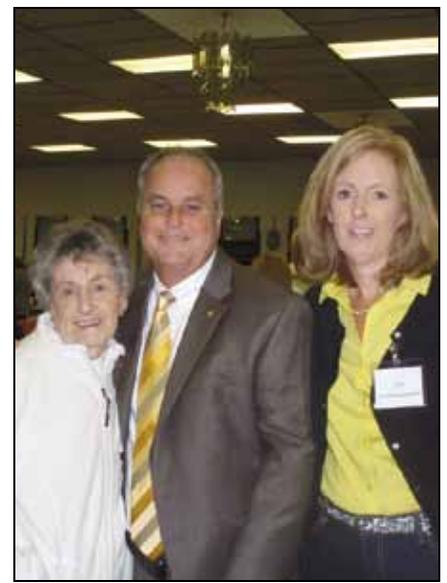
A number of government agencies and local businesses will be on hand offering information on programs and services benefiting local senior citizens.

SEPTA will be signing up seniors for their passes, which are good for free or reduced-fare travel on trains, subways, trolleys and buses.

Veteran ID discount cards will be available as well; please bring your DD-214.

A number of health and wellness booths will be set up, including free blood pressure screenings, and you can reserve a flu shot by calling my office to pre-register. The flu shot costs may be covered by Medicaid or other health insurance programs.

Door prizes, giveaways and light refreshments will also make the day memorable.



Levittown SEPTA station to be rebuilt!

The Levittown SEPTA station has been in need of updating for as long as I can remember.

In my previous newsletter, I announced that new state funding was going to help update this run-down relic from the '50s.

In May, I joined in a news conference with Congressman Michael Fitzpatrick, state Senators Chuck McIlhinney and Robert Tomlinson, Lt. Governor Jim Cawley, and SEPTA's Board Chairman Pasquale Deon Sr. and General Manager Joseph Casey to announce the details of the upgrades.

The reconstruction will be ADA compliant and will include a new building, higher platforms, better parking and a pedestrian overpass.

Commuter rail use has grown dramatically over the



Artist illustration provided by SEPTA

past 15 years and this reconstruction demonstrates the commitment of the state and SEPTA to maintaining and growing the ridership on SEPTA and other regional lines.



Do you qualify for a Property Tax or Rent Rebate?

Each year, the state authorizes rebates for a percentage of property taxes or rent paid by qualified seniors and others.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is funded through Pennsylvania Lottery profits, and is meant to help reimburse low- and fixed-income homeowners for the property taxes they paid in the previous year.

Also, some seniors may qualify for rent rebates.

Seniors 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and permanently disabled adults age 18-64 may be eligible for the refunds, depending on their income level.

Homeowners may earn up to \$35,000 and renters may earn up to \$15,000 in the 2013 calendar year, and only

half of the applicant's Social Security, Supplemental Security and federal Railroad Retirement Tier 1 earnings will count toward the limit.

The maximum rebate is \$650, depending on the person's income and other qualifications.

The deadline to apply for the rebates has been extended to Dec. 31.

My staff is trained to help determine if you qualify, and to complete the forms if you are eligible.

You will need to bring your 2013 income statements and 2013 paid property tax receipts when you visit us.

We have the forms available in my office.



Rep. Galloway in the community

I am happy to use my office to support community organizations that make a difference in our region.

I received a few thank you's that I wanted to share with you since they represent the support you have given to others through my office.

Operation Helping Hand:

THANK YOU for your participation and coordination in our Operation Helping Hand 2014 food collection. The support that we receive from you and the County continues to be of great assistance to those in need in our community.

We collected a total of 46,906 pounds of food in one day! The office of Representative John Galloway contributed 100 pounds to this year's effort. Overall, Bucks County public schools collected 37,899 pounds, independent schools collected 8,372 pounds, the senior centers collected 339 pounds, the Bucks County Courthouse/Neshaminy Manor Nursing Home/and Government Service Centers collected 196 pounds. We know that you are contacted by many organizations for support and we are extremely grateful that you continue your participation in this annual project.

Family Service:

Thank you for your heartfelt contribution.

Thousands from our community came together to raise the funds needed to make the new kitchen at the Bucks County Emergency Homeless Shelter a reality. Donations above and beyond the amount needed to complete the renovations will be used to address other critical infrastructure needs at the Shelter.

Falls Twp. Memorial Day Parade



Rep. Galloway rides in the annual Falls Township Memorial Day Parade.

Pen Ryn School



In May, Rep. Galloway participated in a classroom discussion at Pen Ryn School.



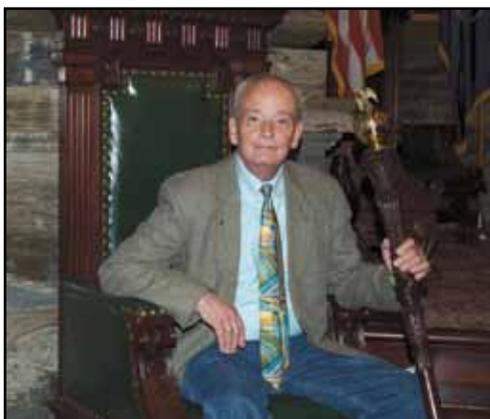
Bristol Township Schools



Rep. Galloway participated in the May 15 ground-breaking ceremony for Bristol Township's new James Buchanan and Ralph Waldo Emerson elementary schools.



Red Cedar Academy



Rep. Galloway welcomed students, parents and faculty from Red Cedar Academy to the Capitol in May. Rep. Galloway's brother, Jerry, and niece, Maria, hold the Speaker's Mace.

State Representative
John T. Galloway

P. O. Box 202140
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2140

lpo.jc.0814

Stay in the Know

I want to alert you about Pennsylvania House rules that prohibit when I can contact you leading up to a state House election. Though you might already be receiving my email alerts, there will be a 60-day period preceding the upcoming November 2014 general

election when I will be prohibited from sending legislative emails to you unless you have "opted in" to continue receiving my emails.

Please visit my website, www.pahouse.com/Galloway, to sign up for email alerts on important information, including legislation being considered

in Harrisburg. On my website, click on the Email Alerts tab in the left-hand column and fill in your information.

You can also keep up to date with me through my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RepGalloway and follow me on Twitter at [@RepJohnGalloway](https://twitter.com/RepJohnGalloway).

Veterans Appreciation Dinner was huge success

Thank you to all who attended my first Veterans Appreciation Dinner on July 10 at Westaby Hall. My staff and I were proud to be able to salute 300 local veterans,

from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, and all others who bravely fought to protect our freedoms.

I look forward to continuing this very successful dinner.



Rep. Galloway greeted Air Force veteran Ed Weiser and Army veteran Russ Davidson.



Rep. Galloway welcomed 95-year-old WWII Army Air Corps veteran Mary Becker. She can still wear her uniform shirt.



Rep. Galloway with Army veteran Richard Stein and his wife Dena Stein.



An empty, candle-lit table was reserved as a place for those still listed as MIA or a POW.