

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

D-Bucks

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JOB'S MUST BE JOB 1!

While the Great Recession is in our rear-view mirrors, the effects are still being felt here in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania's job growth is far below the national average and we all suffer because of it.

In fact, some studies rank Pennsylvania next to last in job performance. That is unacceptable.

Unemployment and under-employment cost the state millions of dollars in services; many of which could be avoided by enacting job-friendly policies instead of corporate-friendly policies.

For example, the Delaware Loophole, which allows a business to claim an office in our neighboring state, which has a lower tax rate, and move profits out of our taxing jurisdiction, hurts every taxpayer in the state.

Delaware has a statewide population of about 920,000 people, yet 1 million companies list an address in Wilmington.

We also need to make sure that those who have jobs actually earn enough to live on.

A study by the University of California Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education found that more than \$7 billion is spent nationally every year providing public assistance for employees in fast-food restaurants.

In Pennsylvania alone, about 42 percent of all non-managerial fast-food workers qualify for food stamps, Medicaid and other assistance, at a cost of more than \$200 million every year.

Almost 100 million Americans live in or near poverty. Raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 would lift 4.5 million people above the poverty line.

Of course, the most visible wage inequality still deals with women's pay. Recent studies show Pennsylvania women make about 82 cents for every dollar a man earns.

We must fight to change these wage issues.

As part of my quest to help create family-supporting jobs, I joined with Rep. Eli Evankovich, from western Pennsylvania, to form the Manufacturing Caucus.

The purpose of the caucus is to encourage manufacturing in the commonwealth in a bipartisan effort through a variety of methods:

- 1) Provide interaction with the manufacturing community on policies that relate to manufacturing in Pennsylvania;
- 2) Support caucus members with pro-manufacturing bills;
- 3) Provide caucus members briefings on manufacturing-related issues in Pennsylvania;
- 4) Raise the profile of the Pennsylvania manufacturing industry throughout the commonwealth; and
- 5) Provide an opportunity for visits and tours of manufacturing facilities across the commonwealth.

We have toured a number of factories throughout the state and will be visiting more through the spring and summer.

Supporting manufacturing is the key to creating and maintaining family-supporting jobs in Pennsylvania. Manufacturing provides over half-a-million jobs and supports three times as many throughout the commonwealth, and brings in hundreds of millions in tax revenue each year. It is in our best interest to help the industries grow.

Rep. Galloway and other members of the Manufacturing Caucus toured Allied Lighting in Ellwood City in August.

Levittown SEPTA station to be rebuilt!

Artists' illustrations provided by SEPTA

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

The station, which serves about 500 riders per day, was originally built in 1953 by the Pennsylvania Railroad during the growth of the Levittown community. The current station replaced one in Tullytown.

Since then, the station has been owned by the Penn Central Railroad, then Conrail, and now, SEPTA.

However, through its changes in ownership, the station was somewhat forgotten and was allowed to deteriorate.

I have been fighting to get the station upgraded since I was first elected to represent the district, with no success.

Even worse, there were so many teasers promising that improvements were on the way, even as far back as 2007,



when a federal grant of almost \$13 million was announced for the project.

Unfortunately, nothing has happened since then.

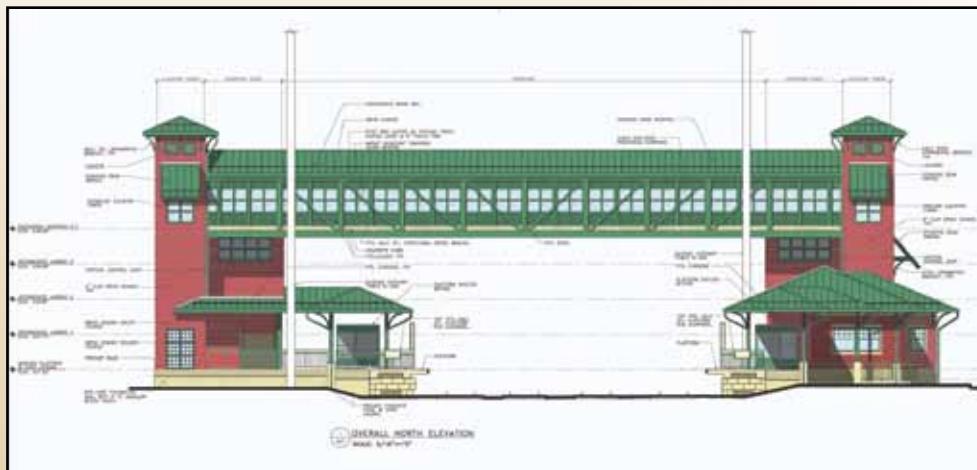
Until now.

Thanks to new state funding, SEPTA has announced that the station's refurbishing is now a priority.

The state has authorized at least \$17 million for the project.

While the details have not been fully revealed yet, SEPTA CFO and Treasurer Richard Burnfield told me, "With passage of state transportation funding legislation and the additional capital funding provided to SEPTA, the Authority will embark on a major project to construct a new station building, ADA accessibility platforms and expanded parking at the Levittown Regional Rail Station. This station serves residents of Lower Bucks County and is located on SEPTA's Trenton Regional Rail Line."

I look forward to the new and improved Levittown Station and I will keep you updated on the progress.



Rep. Galloway attended the Change of Command ceremony for the 304th Civil Affairs Brigade, Bristol in June 2013. Col. J. Matthew Lissner, Congressional Legislative Liaison, 99th Regional Support Command, is on the left and Col. Richard K. Sele, incoming Commander of the 304th Civil Affairs Brigade, is on the right.

Pennsylvania's budget season opening

In early February, Gov. Corbett presented his budget proposal to the members of the House and Senate.

His proposal finally acknowledges that education has been underfunded for his entire term, yet this year's proposed increase still leaves our schools with half-a-billion dollars less per year than when he took office.

There is so much money left on the table that he will not touch, such as closing the Delaware Loophole on corporate taxes, which I mentioned previously, and his opposition to a fair tax on the Marcellus Shale gas which is being removed in northern and western Pennsylvania.

Every other state, including the business-friendly state of

Texas, taxes the gas produced by the well. Most are in the range of 5 percent of the value of the gas.

Pennsylvania charges drillers an impact fee which is much less than 5 percent over the life of the average well.

A fair tax would bring billions of dollars into our treasury and would not force the huge international corporations out of the commonwealth. They have no choice. If they want to drill for the gas, they must drill where it exists and is relatively easy to extract. That is here in Pennsylvania.

We MUST find additional revenue sources which do not raise taxes on our middle class.

Toys for the Y response overwhelms me again!

Once again, the 140th District has answered the call to help the less fortunate this past holiday season, and I am grateful and awed by your generosity.

My office was again a drop-off location for toys for the Lower Bucks Family YMCA's Holiday Giving Tree for this year. The piles in my office grew on a daily basis.

A special thank you must also go out to the 10 teams of Little League District 21. District 21 Administrator Heather Fechtenburg coordinated a drive among the teams which led to their collection of 16 bags full of toys – more than 500 between the teams.

The Little League District represents the Bensalem Ramblers, Bristol Boro, Fairless Hills, Levittown Continental, Levittown International, Levittown Pacific, Middletown, Morrisville, Neshaminy and Croydon.

I would like to take a moment here to acknowledge Sgt. Robert Deis, USMC. He was home on leave and for the second year in a row he encouraged people to bring gifts for the Y during his send-off celebration. He then donated all the items he collected to my toy drive. Sgt. Deis is the son of Robert and Shellie Deis of Morrisville.

Once again, thank you for your generosity. You helped to make a brighter holiday for so many in our community, and your gifts made my Christmas!



Rep. Galloway and Tom Swanciger, Executive Director of the Lower Bucks Family YMCA, during the holiday toy drive, with sisters Madi and Riley Bidlingmaier.

You can see more pictures at <http://bit.ly/N3ypMf>.

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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.

My staff and I also host annual forums each spring to help district seniors fill out and submit applications for Pennsylvania's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program for taxes or rent paid last year.

I have one forum still scheduled for this year:

Tuesday, March 25

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Falls Township Senior Center

Trenton & Oxford Valley roads, Fairless Hills

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

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 as well.

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 or 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.

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

If you can't make the forum on March 25, you can still contact my office for help.

We have the forms available.

My office also has state and federal income tax forms available.



Upcoming events:

■ **Constituent service visits to senior housing facilities throughout March**

■ **Veteran's salute dinner: June or July**

Veterans, please contact my office for registration details.

Senior fair: September

I will provide more details as they become available.