

State Representative ■ 179th Legislative District

JASON DAWKINS



DISTRICT OFFICE:

4915 Frankford Ave.

Philadelphia, PA 19124

(215) 744-7901

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.,

Fri. 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

CAPITOL OFFICE:

26A East Wing

P.O. Box 202179

Harrisburg, PA 17120-2179

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Dear Neighbor,

First and foremost, **THANK YOU!** I would not be your newly elected state representative in Pennsylvania's 179th Legislative District without your commitment to your community. This is my first newsletter, which is designed to provide information to you. These publications will keep you up to date with current events and legislation that will help move our community forward.

This past year has been an emotional rollercoaster. When I decided to run for office, I was unsure what to expect. It was all relatively new and scary for a young leader to step out on faith alone to achieve a dream that was just that – a dream. Thank you for the support. My staff and I are excited to take on this commitment to serve the residents of the 179th District.

Over this term, we will act to fulfill my promise to move our community forward, and find solutions to the issues facing our neighborhoods. My priorities are supporting positive programs, such as strong educational systems, for our youth; improving the well-being of our families; and providing high-quality services to my constituents, which is long overdue.

Representing the neighborhood which I grew up in is a

distinct honor. I was born and raised in the Frankford area by a single mother, the youngest of her three sons. At the age of 13, gun violence claimed the life of my oldest brother. Experiencing the grief and trauma that such a hideous crime inflicts on a family forced me to confront and accept the problems facing my community; it inspired me, and fueled my desire to help make positive changes in my neighborhood. Across our district, far too many of our blocks have remained trapped in a cycle of poverty and violence. Safer streets, better job opportunities and improved access to education are exactly what the 179th Legislative District needs to realize its true potential.

My office is always open to you, and you can call me directly at (215) 744-7901 or email me at RepDawkins@pahouse.net. Together, we will take on the challenges facing our district, and I look forward to working with you to move our communities forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Dawkins".

HOLIDAY EVENT LIGHTS UP FRANKFORD

One of the last community events I had the good fortune to attend in 2014 was the Frankford Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Holiday Thriftway. The Frankford Business and Professional Association invited families to bring their children to see the tree lighting, sing festive songs and participate in a toy raffle. This wonderful event demonstrated what's possible when residents and the business community come together.



SWEARING IN TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

"I do solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity."

I spent the past year traveling across the 179th Legislative District talking to voters to learn about their concerns and the issues that really mattered to them and their families. On Tuesday, Jan. 6, I officially began the work I set out to do when I decided to run for state representative. Surrounded by family, friends and coworkers who drove out to Harrisburg in a snow storm was a great reminder of the network of supporters who helped me get to where I am today. Standing in the chamber of the House of Representatives was inspiring, as well as a reminder of my commitment to the residents of my district. Furthermore, it brought to mind the great responsibility entrusted in me – and the equally great expectations that trust demands.

When I raised my hand and swore to uphold the constitutions of our nation and commonwealth, and to serve with fidelity, I was pledging to continue my commitment to work diligently on behalf of the 179th Legislative District. I look forward to beginning my work in Harrisburg on your behalf.



THANKSGIVING TURKEY DRIVE BENEFITS LOCAL FAMILIES

On Thanksgiving, we take time to reflect on our lives and appreciate all our blessings, and to consider the lives of those who are less fortunate. Here in Philadelphia, 26.2 percent of our neighbors live in poverty, while across Pennsylvania 12 percent of households have trouble putting food on the table. That's why I was happy to continue my tradition of working with organizations in our communities on turkey drives that provide Thanksgiving meals to families in need. I worked with local churches, non-profit organizations and food pantries to distribute baskets of food throughout the 179th Legislative District. All families deserve the opportunity to gather together, enjoy a home-cooked meal and give thanks.



EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE AT MASTERY CHARTER SCHOOL

At the end of January, I was invited by Speaker of the House Mike Turzai to participate in a bipartisan roundtable discussion with concerned parents at Mastery Charter School. Parents throughout Philadelphia are concerned about providing their child with a high-quality education and I spoke on the need for a fair funding formula that takes into account the unique needs of our students. My colleagues and I are committed to working together across party lines to provide better educational outcomes for our children.



HONORING A LOCAL PUBLIC SERVANT

In early December, I went to McIlvain Recreation Center to recognize the service of a woman who has had an impact on countless children and families over the years. Angel Brandan celebrated 35 years of service in the Tot Time Program at McIlvain and I continue to be inspired by her dedication to the children of our community.

NEW OLNEY OFFICE HOURS

Starting Jan. 30, my staff will host office hours at the Greater Olney Branch of the Free Library on **Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Please stop by and we will be happy to assist you with any state-related issues.



MLK Day

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’” – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The annual Martin Luther King Day of Service is one of the best tributes to a man who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of millions of Americans by fighting for racial and economic equality. On Martin Luther King Day, we honor the lives of those who have given us so much, while working to build a better future for those who will come after us, and my staff and I were happy to be a part of that tradition. This year, my staff and I attended a number of events across the district. We began our day at the Frankford Coalition of Neighbors’ Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast Celebration at Sankofa Freedom Academy. We also helped a team of volunteers at Houseman Recreation Center paint their facility. I also visited two high schools in my district: ASPIRA



Olney Charter High School and my alma mater, Frankford High School. At Frankford High, we got to honor the life and achievements of Coach Vince Miller at a ceremony dedicating the gym in his memory.

FREE TAX PREPARATION SERVICES

The Frankford CDC and Turning Points for Children are hosting a FREE Community Tax Site in Frankford! Families that earned less than \$53,000 and individuals who earned less than \$20,000 are eligible for FREE tax preparation. Other on-site services include:

- Food Assistance
- Housing and Utility Assistance Resources
- Constituent Services provided by my office, along with Congressman Brendan Boyle and Councilwoman Maria D. Quiñones Sánchez
- FAFSA Preparation Resources

Address: 4346 Frankford Ave., Unit 2
Philadelphia, PA 19124

Dates: Jan. 27 through April 15, 2015

Hours: Tues., 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Pick up/Drop off)*
Weds. and Thurs., 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. (Walk-ins)
Friday, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Pickup/Drop off)*

***Pick up/Drop off provides customers the convenience of simply dropping off their tax documents and picking up their completed return within 72 hours.**

Tax preparation services are provided by The Campaign for Working Families (www.cwphilly.org).

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE BENEFITS LOCAL CHILDREN

The holiday season inspires a spirit of good will and charity in all of us, and this year I had two opportunities to work with organizations in the district to help families provide toys for their children. For the past four years, I have been working on an annual Toy Drive with Frankford CDC, through the generous support of the Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law. I also had the pleasure of partnering with the Friends of Olney Library and the 42nd Ward to provide families in the Olney section of the district with toys for the holidays. It’s great to see communities come together to provide joy to children at this special time of year.





STATE REP. JASON DAWKINS
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lpo.jc.0115

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MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Issues with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Inquiries about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Issues with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Questions about the state lottery
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

Any state-government related matters!