



# Frank Burns

## State Representative

72nd Legislative District



119 S. Center St. • Ebensburg, PA 15931 • (814) 472-8021 • Fax: (814) 472-1965  
 112-A Munster Road • Portage, PA 15946 • (814) 736-7339 or (814) 736-6452 • Fax: (814) 736-3233  
 405 Park Ave. • Patton, PA 16668 • (814) 674-5675 • Fax: (814) 674-5677

Website: [www.pahouse.com/Burns](http://www.pahouse.com/Burns) • [facebook.com/RepFrankBurns](https://facebook.com/RepFrankBurns)

June 2016

## No pay for legislators unless state budget passes

Although Rep. Burns refused to cash his state paycheck during the lengthy 2015-16 state budget impasse, he was in the minority of the 253-member General Assembly in taking that stand.

To make sure **no member of the legislature or the governor gets paid** unless they complete one of the most critical aspects of their job, Burns has thrown his full support behind House Bill 1972.

The bill says that if the General Assembly fails

to pass a general appropriations bill for a full fiscal year, the salaries of legislators and the governor will be suspended. They'd only get paid after such a bill is passed and becomes law.

Rep. Burns knows that you don't get paid unless you perform your job. He thinks elected officials should be held to the same standard.

And if this year's budget isn't done on time, Rep. Burns will again refuse his state paycheck.



*Rep. Burns recently presented a House citation to Kristopher Mulevhill, who used the Heimlich maneuver he learned at Camp Cadet of Cambria County to save his father's life. Kristopher also was selected the camp's top male cadet in 2014. It was a pleasure to stand with the Pennsylvania State Police to recognize this young man's heroism.*

## Burns votes against saddling taxpayers with **\$1.29 BILLION** in additional state debt

As the son of small business owners, Rep. Burns learned at an early age that the only thing worse than spending money you don't have is going into debt to do it.

That's why he was one of only two House Democrats to vote against allowing Pennsylvania government to borrow an additional \$1.29 billion for capital projects.

As a fiscally conservative Democrat well aware that his friends and neighbors in the 72nd Legislative District detest tax increases, Burns also knows full well that when you borrow more than a billion dollars you're going to have to pay it back – with substantial interest.

Burns believes the state government should move in the opposite direction, which is why he supported a 2014 bill that would slash general obligation debt by \$4 billion over 20 years.

He thinks the state should be whittling down its debt, not increasing it.

## Burns favors letting schools display 'In God We Trust' and the Bill of Rights

In May, Rep. Burns voted in favor of House Bill 1640, which would allow schools to prominently display the motto "In God We Trust" and the Bill of Rights in any of their classrooms and buildings.



Burns believes his constituents share the belief that the motto and the first 10 amendments to the Constitution reflect guiding principles on which our nation was founded.

As such, Burns says both have historical significance that should be part of students' educational experience. If "In God We Trust" is acceptable for printing on U.S. currency, there's no reason it shouldn't be plainly visible in our public schools.

## Vital projects secure state funding in Burns' 72nd Legislative District

In recent months, Rep. Burns has announced a number of key state investments in the area:

**\$3.5 million loan to Nanty Glo Water Authority**, so its Ebensburg water treatment plant can be upgraded and brought into Safe Water Drinking Act compliance. The low-interest loan came from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority.

**\$322,000 in grants to 28 fire companies and EMS providers**, to aid in their operations. The money can be used for facilities, equipment, training or certification, or to pay off certain types of debt. It comes from the Fire Company and Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Program, funded by gaming revenue.

**\$200,000 loan to Portage Volunteer Fire Co.**, to help purchase a new pumper truck. The low-interest loan is from the Office of State Fire Commissioner.

**\$26,920 traffic signal grant to Ebensburg**, to help the borough install pedestrian crossing signals and extend new sidewalks at the intersection of Rowena and Manor drives. The grant came from PennDOT's "Green Light-Go" program.

**\$4,000 grant to Cambria County Historical Society**, to assist with its continued operation. The money came from the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission.

## Burns resolution urges Congress to rescind rule allowing OxyContin for 11- to 16-year olds

With Pennsylvania and the nation in the midst of a well-documented opioid/heroin crisis, Rep. Burns has introduced House Resolution 892, which calls for reversal of a federal rule that allows 11- to 16-year-olds to be prescribed OxyContin.

Burns wants Congress to pressure the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to change course on this matter, noting that experts have time and again pointed to the proliferation of legally obtained painkillers as a contributor to the opioid epidemic.

In 2014, while 10,574 deaths were attributed to heroin overdose, an even higher number of 18,893 were caused by overdoses of prescription painkillers such as oxycodone, hydrocodone and codeine.

Four out of five new heroin users started out misusing prescription pain medication, which has resulted in heroin overdose deaths nearly quadrupling from 2000 to 2013.

OxyContin is an extended-release version of oxycodone, the addictive tendencies of which Burns feels are unsuitable for children not yet old enough to legally drive a car.

Burns' resolution is currently being considered by the House Health Committee.



## Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program deadline extended to Dec. 31

The deadline to file a 2015 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program application has been extended from June 30 to Dec. 31, 2016 – and Rep. Burns' offices are here to help file your application!

This program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers age 50 or older, and people with disabilities age 18 or older. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates can boost rebates up to \$975.

Don't wait until the last minute. And please don't assume you are not eligible. Half of Social Security income is discounted, and claimants are not disqualified from rebates solely because of Social Security cost-of-living adjustments.

## 'Push Out the Pusher' hikes rewards; campaign partner Burns pleased with arrest numbers



Long a partner with Cambria County Crimestoppers in its "Push Out the Pusher" campaign, Rep. Burns stood with more than a dozen law enforcement officials earlier this year to announce the maximum tip line reward has increased from \$5,000 to \$8,000.

Burns noted that since its 2014 inception, the program – which combats heroin and other illegal drug use in the area – has paid out more than \$14,000 in tip line rewards and resulted in 386 arrests.

The removal of those who peddle illegal drugs in our communities is a top priority of Burns, who like you has witnessed the pain, suffering and death they inflict on families.

Burns feels strongly that this widespread agony must end, which is why he's proud to be part of this Crimestoppers' effort.



## Welfare reform at top of Burns' agenda

Rep. Burns is all for helping those who truly need it – but he draws a hard line at giving your tax dollars to those who make a mockery of the welfare system. That's why he supports these legislative initiatives designed to crack down on fraud and abuse:

**Drug testing for welfare recipients:** Burns supports requiring the state Department of Human Services to test (and retest) public assistance applicants and recipients who are under suspicion of substance abuse. Before they get any of your money, they shouldn't be spending their own cash on drugs.

**Proof of citizenship and proper identification:** Burns supports requirements that any applicant for public assistance be a resident of Pennsylvania and the United States, and that their photograph be displayed on any welfare benefits card.

**Stop cash withdrawals using electronic benefits cards:** Burns wants to prohibit welfare recipients from using their cards to buy tobacco or tobacco products, or to withdraw money at casinos, gambling establishments or adult-oriented entertainment venues.

**No booze purchases or sending money to inmates:** Burns believes in blocking users of welfare electronic benefits cards from using them to buy alcohol or to deposit money into the accounts of prison inmates.

**End double-dipping at the public trough:** Once someone applies for and receives public assistance in Pennsylvania, Burns wants the Department of Human Services to notify all other states where that person previously received such assistance, so that person is cut off in other states.



*Rep. Burns attended the 2016 Special Olympics Fishing Derby, sponsored by the Bakerton Rod and Gun Club, on May 21.*

# Burns organizes meeting to address Patton constituents' drinking water concerns

When residents of Patton Borough complained about an odor in their drinking water, Rep. Burns invited them to a May 26 meeting at the Patton Senior Center, where he also pays out of his own pocket to maintain a state office.

Burns advised the group to have a cohesive, unified voice by appointing official spokespeople, so their concerns are relayed to the state Department of Environmental Protection in a clear, concise manner.

Burns also wrote a letter to then-DEP Secretary John Quigley, asking for confirmation in writing that the Patton drinking water is safe.

The meeting was widely covered by area media, and Burns pledges to stand with residents until they get the assurances they seek.

**FRANK BURNS, MEMBER**  
72ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
535 FAIRFIELD AVENUE  
JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 15906  
(814) 536-8400  
FAX: (814) 533-2368

119 S. CENTER STREET  
EBENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 15931  
(814) 472-8021  
FAX: (814) 472-1965

112-A MUNSTER ROAD  
PORTAGE, PENNSYLVANIA 15946  
(814) 736-7339 OR (814) 736-6452  
FAX: (814) 736-3233



House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

HARRISBURG OFFICE:  
323 MAIN CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 202072  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2072  
(717) 772-8056  
FAX: (717) 772-9965

#### COMMITTEES

CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR, TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
GAME & FISHERIES  
LIQUOR CONTROL, SECRETARY  
TOURISM & RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER, ARTS &  
ENTERTAINMENT, TRAVEL, PROMOTION,  
HISTORY & HERITAGE

May 16, 2016

John Quigley, Secretary  
Department of Environmental Protection  
16th Floor, Rachel Carson Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Quigley:

As you may know, the Borough of Patton located in my legislative district has been having ongoing issues with their water since DEP instructed them to put in wells due to the contamination of the waterways in the area. Since the installation of these wells, my constituents have noticed an odor that has alarmed them and believe that the water they are drinking is not safe.

I am writing to ask you to please write a formal letter to the Patton Borough and myself with the explanation and verification that the water is safe to consume.

I respectfully request your cooperation with this request. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely

Frank Burns  
State Representative  
72nd Legislative District

## Representative Frank Burns' offices can help you with:

- Car registrations, special tags, disability placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE 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 problem with state government!**