



Report to the People

Summer 2015

State Representative
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19th Legislative District

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Welcome to the NEW 19th Legislative District

Dear Friends:

Due to the reapportionment based on the 2010 U.S. census, you are a resident of the new 19th Legislative District.

Many of you have resided in the 19th District for years, but some of you are newcomers to the 19th. Welcome!

My staff and I pride ourselves on being attentive to your needs, concerns and requests.

Our constituent service office is called The People's Office. This is your office in which you have given me the opportunity to represent your interests and concerns. Therefore, I encourage you to utilize my staff and our resources for any assistance that you may need dealing with any state-related issues.

Thanks again for the opportunity you have given me to serve you and for those who are new to the district, I look forward to meeting and serving you!

Jake Wheatley, Jr.



Advocating for afterschool programs for all children

As a co-chairman of the bipartisan, bicameral Afterschool Caucus, I was given the honor of welcoming a group of After School Advocates who visited the State Capitol for



Afterschool Advocacy Day. The civic leaders and youth advocates are members of Allegheny Partners for Out of School Time (APOST). Research consistently shows the positive correlation between quality out of school time programs and improved student academic achievement, strengthened positive student conduct in and out of school; encourage peer relations; and lower incidences of drug use, violence and pregnancy.

Pennsylvania children spend only about 20 percent of their waking hours in school. We must make sure they are staying safe and maximizing the other 80 percent of the time. Afterschool programs give them something to do after they leave school and give parents peace of mind knowing their child is in a safe place.

These programs are a priority for our office. Recently, we worked with the Afterschool Alliance to help organize a tour of high-quality, afterschool programs for state and federal legislators in order to showcase their tremendous benefits and value. Afterschool programs are a great investment for the community, and we should strive to provide these programs to every child in Pennsylvania. I look forward to being a voice in Harrisburg and beyond, ensuring that our children and communities have the quality out of school time supports needed to remain on the pathway to success.

State budget update

Gov. Tom Wolf offered a budget proposal that promised real action on a number of longstanding issues, including additional funding for education, reducing property taxes and an end to gimmick-based budgeting that results in perennial deficits and harmful credit downgrades for Pennsylvania.

Republicans in the state House and state Senate worked alone to create a budget that the governor vetoed because it failed to restore education cuts and included billions of dollars in gimmicks and one-time revenues.

Since his veto on June 30th, the governor has held meetings with legislative leaders but as of this writing there have been no major breakthroughs.

Gov. Wolf has been forthright and communicative with both Democratic and Republican members of the House and Senate, but the legislative majority refuses to accept the fact that new, sustainable revenues are necessary – and has refused to even negotiate on a natural gas severance tax, even as Pennsylvania remains the only gas-producing state in the country without one.

In addition, the Republican budget included an estimated \$220 million in revenue from the potential sale of the state wine and spirit stores, a plan that shortchanges Pennsylvania taxpayers while adding to the structural deficit. Instead of selling a moneymaker, Gov. Wolf proposed to modernize the state stores for increased customer convenience, while dedicating the increased profits to paying down state pension debt.

During this budget impasse, Pennsylvania likely will not face any sort of "shut down" of government services that we have woefully seen from our federal government. For the immediate future, state government offices remain open, services provided and employees paid.

We must get serious because the time has long passed for us to pass a people-centered budget that is satisfactory and beneficial to Pennsylvanians.

Successful fair benefits local seniors

April 2nd marked the sixth year of our Golden Luncheon. With the support of Point State Park and other community partners, we are able to provide hundreds of our seniors from all over the 19th Legislative District with free health screenings, great entertainment, governmental services and a great lunch.

This is a great event and I look forward to next year's being bigger and better. If you are a senior in the district and would like to be a part of next year's affair please contact me at the office either by phone or email and we will keep you informed as the event develops. There is limited seating available for the event, and we try to make sure as many of our seniors who want to attend can attend, so if you are interested and think you may want to attend, please contact my office and get on our 2016 Golden Luncheon List! See you in April 2016!



Helping constituents throughout the 19th District

Every day I meet someone in the community who wonders aloud, "What exactly is it that you do or are doing for our community?" A fair question, especially since being in Harrisburg isn't the most glamorous job and doesn't garner a news report except for when it's negative. Therefore, I want to share a few of the everyday things that my office has done with you and your neighbors to improve the quality of life that matters to us all.

By no means is this meant to be an exhaustive list or a list based on what is or isn't our priority. It is simply meant to give a glimpse into how you can use my office to assist with the issues that you and your family face every day. While I will continue to be a strong voice and advocate for you in Harrisburg on quality education, criminal justice-related issues, transportation, business development, community development and the policy-related things, I will certainly continue to open the office to assist you with issues like those you will read about.

This office is meant to be a responsive office for your state-related needs, but it isn't just that, we are an office that cares deeply about improving your quality of life. Our values are based around impacting the five pillars of a healthy community and healthy person: Mental, Physical, Financial, Environmental and our Spiritual or Esoteric needs. Please let us know how we can be more helpful or supportive by contacting us and putting us to work!

- This spring my office received a call from a constituent in the Hill District with complaints about an overgrown yard next to her property. The property had become a danger for children in the community who often were forced to walk in the street due to the weeds having grown over the adjacent sidewalk. In addition, we received complaints about rodents living in the lot and trash scattered everywhere. My office worked to find the owner of the property, and then coordinated with the Pittsburgh Housing Authority and Councilman Daniel Lavelle's office to have the lot cleared and maintained.
- One of the most difficult times a family can face is when they lose a loved one. A local family reached out to my office because, without life insurance, they were unable to pay for funeral arrangements. We worked with the state Department of Human Services to connect the family to funeral services with the generous assistance of a local funeral home and director. I was thrilled to be able to assist my constituents in such a time of great need.
- To give you a voice in Harrisburg, I held a series of budget meetings throughout our district. At one of our meetings on the North Side, a community

resident approached me with complaints about dilapidated housing, unkempt and abandoned properties that had become a safety concern in the area. My staff helped identify the properties, compiled a spreadsheet, and connected the resident to community resources to begin addressing her concerns.

- An elderly Hazelwood resident was having difficulty with a water bill, and had received a shut-off notice threatening to cancel service. The resident's water bill increased over several months, with costs coming in at almost \$100 more per month. After contacting my office, my staff reached out to the water company asking for immediate attention regarding the resident's complaints. We asked the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority to check the meter to ensure it was operating correctly, and a problem was discovered. The constituent not only no longer had to worry about the water being shut off, but a credit was applied to their account for overcharges accrued.
- During last year's Health and Wellness Weekend at my annual Community Day, I met a Hill District constituent who told me that sewage pipes had burst on the street where her parents live and, as a result, her parents were having water issues in the basement, which included backed-up sewage. Besides facing a severe health hazard, her parents were having difficulty getting the situation addressed properly. We worked with Operation Better Block and Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh, who were able to work with the family to repair the broken sewer line and clean the waste from the basement.



Last year, my office partnered with Reading is FUNdamental to begin an initiative to infuse athletics and academics at home football games in the neighborhood leagues throughout the city. We started with the Beltzhoover and Hazelwood football programs giving over 200 books away to the youth in attendance. This year, we are expanding the initiative, starting with our visit to the North Side Steelers home game on Aug. 15th. We were in Beltzhoover on Aug. 22nd, Hazelwood on Aug. 30th, will visit the Hill District on Oct. 3rd, and are looking to add a few more dates. Here's wishing a fun, exciting, and safe year to all the midget league programs across the city!

Minority/Women/Disadvantaged Businesses Lobby Day

As your state representative, one of my most important tasks is to work to increase business opportunities for Minority/Women/Disadvantaged Businesses. I take this very seriously, and again this session I introduced legislation, H.B. 85, which is designed to improve the participation of minorities, women and the disadvantaged in state contracts and purchasing.

Small businesses need our support to help them survive and eventually thrive in the marketplace. My bill would level the playing field for small businesses to compete with larger businesses for state contracts.

In February, I hosted my annual Lobby Day at the State Capitol in Harrisburg. Owners of minority-owned, women-owned and disadvantaged businesses from across the state attended. We held a press conference to explain the importance of the bill, attendees lobbied state legislators to



support the bill and I honored the assembled business owners in the House chamber.

Similar legislation previously passed the House unanimously but didn't receive a vote in the state Senate. I am hopeful that this is the year we can finally get this bill to the governor.

Local job training program created

One of our neighborhoods has seen a need to develop opportunities for training that will assist residents in securing meaningful employment. Perched atop Johnston Avenue just out of sight of 2nd Avenue, the Glen Hazel community developed a resident-led and community-driven workforce initiative that is a prime example of the impact our communities can have when working together.

The Glen Hazel Citizens Resident

Management Corporation is set to unveil an extensive job-training program that will enable residents to gain skills in Salesforce.com. Led by Executive Director and resident Michael Wilson, the GHCRMC worked to secure a grant from the Hillman Foundation to implement this Cloud-based computer training program. The GHCRMC intends to deploy a 12-month pilot program to recruit, train and place low-income community residents in entry-level

administrative jobs both in businesses and nonprofit organizations. Program graduates will secure a free license and one of 10 seats at a qualified 501(c)3 organization through the Salesforce.com Foundation.

Great work by the Glen Hazel Citizens Resident Management Corporation, Michael Wilson, and all the folks involved in this endeavor! You are an inspiration for those in the 19th District!



Stay informed of important events and issues. Follow me on Twitter @ RepWheatley and like my Facebook page www.facebook.com/RepWheatley

The Hardware Store aims to improve Pittsburgh

Take a walk in Allentown and you will encounter some special things taking place at 744 E. Warrington Avenue. Opened in July 2013, entrepreneur Josh Lucas created the co-working office space for fellow entrepreneurs and freelance media producers to access basic day-to-day business needs. The Hardware Store currently houses over 40 businesses and features a podcasting studio, a full audio production suite and a 20-foot green room.

The Hardware Store has many programs and initiatives aimed at changing the landscape of the city and bridging the digital-divide. Working with Meta Mesh and their PittMesh network last November, they established free Wi-Fi on Warrington Avenue. With an ever-increasing demand for citizens, youth and adults alike, to be connected through technology and with Internet access not always available for many households, The Hardware Store is hoping initiatives like these can be the solution to bridging the technology gap in our communities.

They are also helping to shape the narratives in many of our communities and shift the lens through which they are viewed. This year, The Hardware Store and content producers working out of Work Hard Pittsburgh are rolling out an initiative dubbed, Pittsburgh Tall. Over the next year, they will work with local organizations to "create videos, podcasts, and blogs that capture the stories of the neighborhoods in transition in an effort to help rebrand and displace the misconceptions that persist in local media." They are currently accepting applications to allow your organization the opportunity to highlight the development taking shape in your area and to take hold of the stories emanating from your neighborhood!

Applications are due Oct. 31. To learn more about the Pittsburgh Tall program and other initiatives at The Hardware Store please visit <https://workhardpgh.com/stories-from-neighborhoods-on-the-rise-pittsburgh-tall/>. Thanks to Josh and the entire team for providing amazing opportunities to our constituents!

Serving as Finance Committee chairman

This session, I was selected by Democratic leadership as Democratic chairman of the House Finance Committee. I am excited to work on a number of issues important to the citizens of our commonwealth. As you may be aware, Pennsylvania faces many fiscal challenges in the months ahead. However, I'm working with members of the Finance Committee to achieve important goals, including reducing property taxes for Pennsylvania homeowners.

The Finance Committee reviews bills dealing with financial issues for the state. Tax collection rates and policies are regularly reviewed, as well as banking policies. We work on proposals that are relevant to many different statutes, including: the Tax Reform Code of 1971, the Fiscal Code, the Taxpayer Relief Act, the Local Tax Enabling Act (Act 511) and the State Lottery Law.

JAKE WHEATLEY, JR.

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Health and Wellness Weekend

You are invited to my 3rd Annual Health and Wellness Weekend on Friday, Sept. 11 through Sunday, Sept. 13. Come out and join us for a fun, informative and empowering weekend of events that will provide exposure to new concepts and resources that promote a healthier, sustainable lifestyle.

THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS INCLUDES:

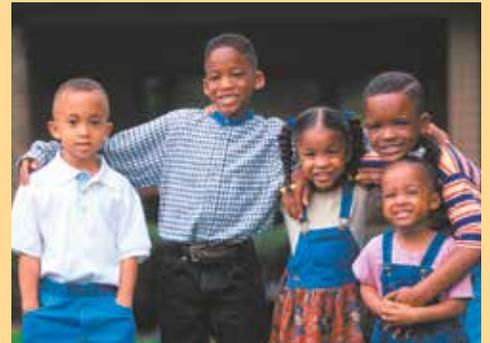
Friday, Sept. 11

FREE DAY FOR FAMILIES

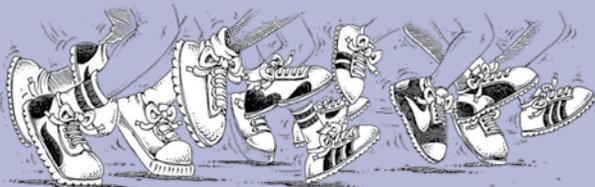
Thelma Lovette YMCA
10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION: “FINANCIAL FREEDOM”

More details available
Blue Line Grill
5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.



Saturday, Sept. 12



UPHILL 5K RUN/WALK “CELEBRATION OF LIFE”

Freedom Corner
Registration: 7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
Start Time: 9 a.m.

Register Online at www.active.com/uphill5k

and

COMMUNITY APPRECIATION DAY

Noon – 6 p.m. • Kennard Field

**3-on-3 Basketball Tournament • Petting Zoo
Free Prize Giveaways • Free Food
Employment Resource Center
Aerobics • Line Dancing • Games
Face Painting • Arts & Crafts
Live Entertainment • Local Vendors
MUCH MORE!!!**

Sunday, Sept. 13

H.E.A.L: HEALTH EXPO FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIVING

Thelma Lovette YMCA



**Free Health Screenings
Vendors
Cooking Demonstrations
Free Prizes
Youth Obstacle Course
Live DJ
Mural Painting for
Families & Children
AND MORE!!!**

