



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Daniel McNeill

133RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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MY FIRST TERM IN REVIEW

My first two years in the state House of Representatives have gone by very quickly. It's amazing how many things have been accomplished in Harrisburg and here at home. In the state Capitol, I have continually fought for proper education funding for our schools and a fair school funding formula. Last February, I co-chaired a House Democratic Policy Committee hearing on education funding in Bethlehem to give area residents a voice on the issue. The newly created Basic Education Funding Commission will make its new formula recommendations by June of next year. Hopefully we can develop a formula that provides every school district with adequate funding because our schools deserve their fair share of state funding to adequately educate students.

We also must do all we can to protect our children. I am incredibly proud that I voted for a package of bills to shield children from abuse. The bills addressed concerns raised by the Pennsylvania Task Force on Child Protection, which was created to thoroughly review state laws and procedures governing child protection and the reporting of child abuse. The package includes five bills that have been signed by the governor, adding significant protections for children in our state.

I fought against Gov. Tom Corbett's plan to privatize the lottery, which ultimately the governor abandoned. Year after year, the lottery continues to increase sales, while providing significant funding for programs that benefit Pennsylvania seniors. I am thrilled that we were able to prevent him from executing a private management agreement with a British company.

While the governor and House Republican leaders continue to push to privatize the state liquor store system, I continue my efforts to prevent that from happening. Instead of selling a profitable asset, we should be improving the current system by making it more consumer-friendly. We should start by expanding state store hours and opening more stores on Sundays, and implementing flexible pricing.

There have been a number of legislative successes in Harrisburg and many accomplishments here at home as well. Several of these are highlighted throughout this newsletter. I hope you take some time to discover what I have been doing on your behalf the last two years. Also, if you have any state-related questions or concerns, please contact my office.

Daniel T. McNeill

STOP THE FLU AND STAY HEALTHY

As the flu season quickly approaches, it's time to start thinking about protecting ourselves. Each year, more than 200,000 people are hospitalized and 36,000 people die from flu-related complications. Most of these deaths occur in the elderly, young children, and people with certain health conditions. Getting vaccinated against the flu is the only proven way to prevent influenza. My office will be teaming up with local pharmacies to host these two Flu Shot events:

- **Rite Aid Westgate Mall**
Saturday, October 4 – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Westgate Mall, 2269 Schoenersville Road, Bethlehem
For additional information call Rite Aid at (610) 865-1362.
- **Hartzell's Pharmacy**
Saturday, October 25 – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
300 American Street, Catasauqua
For additional information call Hartzell's at (610) 264-5471.

Additional details about the clinics:

- Fluzone High DoseR, FluvirinR (traditional flu shot), FluMistR
- Available to all 18 and older without a prescription.
- Available to all under 18 with a prescription.
- Please bring insurance cards (the pharmacies will handle insurance billing).
- Free blood sugar, blood pressure and osteoporosis screenings, plus health information, including the American Diabetes Association.
- Prizes and giveaways will be awarded throughout the events.
- Light refreshments will be offered.

CRIZ PROGRAM HELPING BETHLEHEM

Last year, I helped to establish the new City Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) program that is benefitting Bethlehem. I am extremely proud to be a part of a bipartisan effort that will move the city forward. The CRIZ program authorizes the investment of tax revenues in designated zones to enable new investment in local economies, by redeveloping eligible vacant, blighted and/or abandoned properties for commercial, hospitality, conference, retail, community or other mixed-use purposes. This program is based on the wildly successful program currently in use in Allentown, which has resulted in over \$500 million in new investment. It will improve investor confidence in Bethlehem, it will lead to job creation and enhancement of the tax base, and it will improve the quality of life in the city.



Rep. McNeill joined area leaders at a press conference announcing the details of the CRIZ program in Bethlehem.

RESOLUTION HONORS 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF OLD HOME WEEK

In June, the state House of Representatives unanimously adopted my resolution recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Old Home Week Celebration of the Borough of Catasauqua. The first Old Home Week was held from June 28, 1914 until July 4, 1914, and also observed the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Crane Iron Works. The Old Home Week also celebrated Catasauqua's good fortune attributed to the operation of the Crane Iron Works, and included daily themes featuring churches, schools, fraternal, civic organizations, fire companies, and other local organizations. The residents of Catasauqua celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Old Home Week celebration from June 27, 2014 to July 6, 2014. The celebration featured many events focused on Catasauqua's history and the potential for the borough's future.

MCNEILL OPPOSES ADDITIONAL DRILLING ON STATE LAND

I am opposed to Gov. Tom Corbett's recent decision to rescind a moratorium on leasing additional land in state parks and forests for gas drilling.

Pennsylvania's 2.2 million acres of state forests and 120 state parks provide important wildlife habitat, water resources, air quality protection, and outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the commonwealth. Additional drilling will jeopardize our land, air and water.

In early July, the Corbett administration announced that it has agreed to a partial settlement in the Commonwealth Court case challenging its plan to lease more state land. The administration agreed not to lease any more state land for drilling until the court makes a ruling in the case, and in return the Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation has agreed to drop its request for the court to prevent the state from using revenues from the Oil and Gas Lease Fund to pay for general operations at the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The court is expected to hear oral arguments in the case in October. In the meantime, DCNR will continue to work to prepare for leasing of state parks and forest land, but will not take any final action until the judge issues a ruling. We must protect our state resources so I am hopeful the court will rule against this flawed proposal.



Rep. McNeill congratulated Miss PA US International Sable Butler from Catasauqua in the House Chamber.

REAPPORTIONMENT WILL CHANGE DISTRICTS IN OUR AREA

CURRENT DISTRICT 133 Effective through 11/30/14

Lehigh County

City of Allentown – Ward 6, Ward 14 Division 2, Ward 15 Division 1

City of Bethlehem – Ward 10, Ward 11, Ward 12 Division 1, Ward 13 Division 2

Catasauqua Borough

Coplay Borough

Fountain Hill Borough

Hanover Township

Salisbury Township Ward 1

Whitehall Township Districts 2,3,4,5,6,8 and 9

Northampton County

City of Bethlehem Wards 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

NEW DISTRICT 133 Effective 12/1/14

Lehigh County

City of Bethlehem

Catasauqua Borough

Coplay Borough

Fountain Hill Borough

Hanover Township

Salisbury Township Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 3 Division 2

Whitehall Township Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 12

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued a ruling last year upholding the legislative reapportionment maps for Pennsylvania House and Senate legislative districts. The end result of this ruling changes the demographics of the 133rd Legislative District effective Dec. 1, 2014. To be clear, the court ruled that the current district boundaries will be in effect through the current legislative term, which expires November 30, 2014.

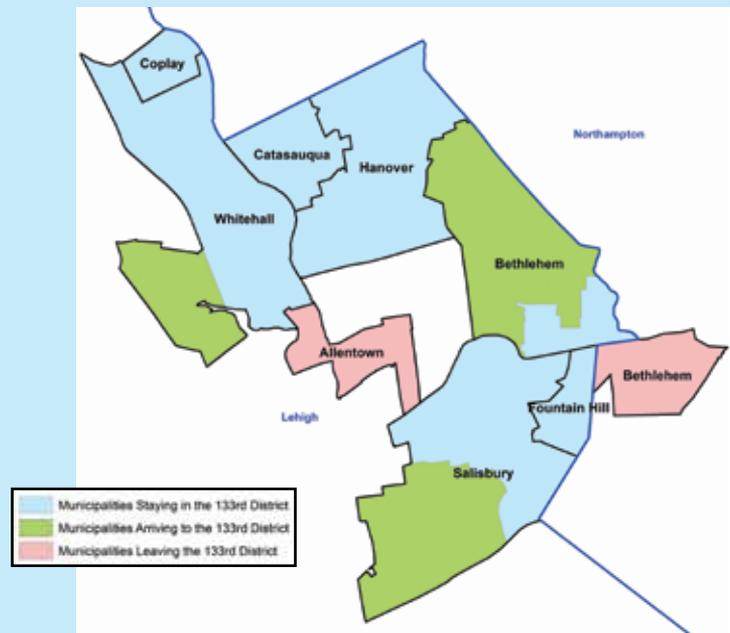
Areas of the 133rd District that will receive new representation effective Dec. 1, 2014, are as follows:

City of Allentown (Ward 6 Division 2, Ward 15 Division 1) will move into the 132nd Legislative District.

City of Allentown (Ward 6 Division 1, Ward 14 Division 2) will move into the newly created 22nd Legislative District.

City of Bethlehem (Northampton County Wards 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) will move into the 135th Legislative District.

Please contact my office with questions about this or any state-related issue.



BILL WOULD KEEP FELONS OUT OF LEGISLATURE

In order to improve the integrity of elections in Pennsylvania, I introduced legislation that would reform the beginning of the electoral process. Our state constitution states that “no person hereafter convicted of embezzlement of public moneys, bribery, perjury or other infamous crime, shall be eligible to the General Assembly, or capable of holding any office of trust or profit in this Commonwealth.” My legislation, House Bill 2222, would amend the election

code to require all candidates for office to swear or affirm that they have not been convicted of these crimes to ensure that such criminals do not appear on a ballot. Over the past few years, we have seen several legislators convicted of similar crimes and serve prison time. This has led to a distrust of our elected leaders, and I believe that my bill is one way for our government to begin to earn back that trust.

PROJECT SEARCH GRADUATES HONORED IN HOUSE

Last year, I was honored to have 12 amazing students as my guests in the House. The students were recent graduates of the Project SEARCH School-To-Work Program. Project SEARCH is a nationally acclaimed, nine-month school-to-work program for students with special needs. The program provides real-life work experience, combined with training in employability and independent living skills, to help individuals with special needs successfully transition from school to productive adult life. Project SEARCH is a valuable program because it increases marketability, longevity, earnings and career advancement for people with special needs. Each student receives proper education and training in preparation for gaining full-time employment upon graduation from high school. Thanks to this wonderful program, the students have the skills required to live fruitful lives after high school. There are two sites in the Lehigh Valley that run the program, the Lehigh County Government Center and Good Shepherd Rehabilitation, which began in 2008 and was the first program site in Pennsylvania.



Rep. McNeill honored 12 graduates of the Project SEARCH program in the House Chamber.

STATE BUDGET SHORTCHANGES EDUCATION

I voted against the 2014-15 state budget because it does not provide sufficient funding for the state's education system.

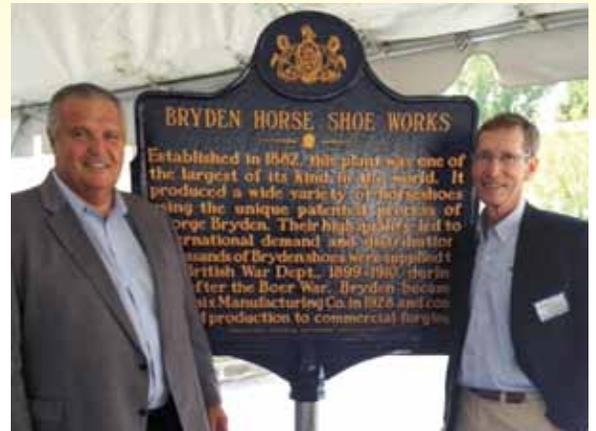
After \$1 billion in funding cuts under this administration, school districts have cut all they can and desperately need additional funding to fill budget gaps this year. I was hopeful that this final budget would contain additional funding to assist schools that consistently face strained budgets – but sadly school districts are again left to fend for themselves, which ultimately means increased property taxes.

School districts were given the same state appropriation as last year, which is essentially a cut because of inflation. The Corbett administration and Republicans in the legislature never showed leadership in determining a fair and equitable funding formula for education or special education.

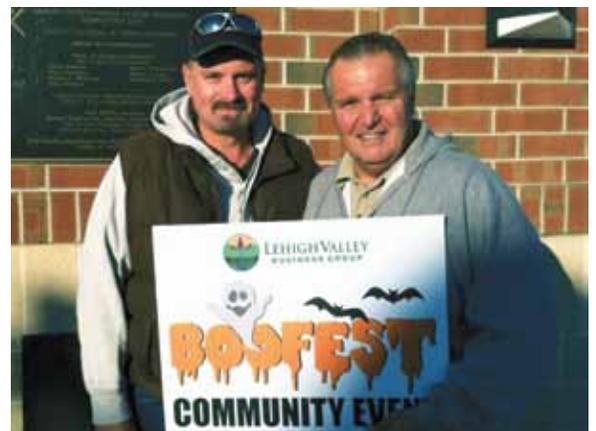
Pennsylvania's participation in federal Medicaid expansion would have been an excellent way to supplement the budget. The governor has thus far refused to accept federal funds under the Affordable Care Act and is instead relying on questionable budget savings based on his Healthy PA plan, which the federal government has yet to approve.

Expanding Medicaid would add \$500 million to the state's coffers while providing an additional 500,000 low-income Pennsylvanians with health insurance.

The governor again refused to impose a severance tax on natural gas drillers. A 5-percent tax on gas extracted from wells in Pennsylvania could generate an estimated \$500 million to \$600 million in the next fiscal year, which also could be used to help struggling school districts.



Rep. McNeill participated in the dedication of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's sign honoring Bryden Horse Shoe Works.



Rep. McNeill and his staff participated in Bethlehem's BooFest Halloween event.

GET THE FACTS YOU NEED ABOUT MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

Do you know everything you need to know about your Medicare Part D coverage? If you join a private Medicare or prescription drug plan, your details could change and it could cost you money. Medicare open enrollment begins on Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 7. If you are making a change or need help reviewing your options, my office is here to help. We are now an Apprise Medicare Part D Enrollment Site. My office staff will be available BY APPOINTMENT ONLY from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the following dates:

Oct. 21, 28

Nov. 4, 18, 25

Dec. 2

Give my office a call at (610) 266-1273 to schedule your appointment.



Rep. McNeill joined Bethlehem Mayor Bob Donchez and U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent at the 25th anniversary of the Bethlehem Recycling Center.



HELPING OLDER PENNSYLVANIANS

I recently voted for legislation that allows thousands of Pennsylvania senior citizens to keep their prescription drug coverage. The new law will maintain eligibility for seniors in PACE and PACENET if their Social Security cost-of-living adjustment pushes them over the income eligibility limit through 2015. Without this legislative fix, more than 40,000 seniors would have lost their prescription drug coverage because their relatively small cost-of-living increase caused them to go over the income limit. This could have ended up costing them hundreds or even thousands of dollars a year in prescription benefits. The law also lets applicants exclude the cost of their Medicare Part B premiums from being counted as income.

In addition to assisting hundreds of area seniors in applying for PACE, my office has helped over 1,000 constituents sign up for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, and aided countless others with reduced vehicle registrations, utility assistance programs, free or reduced transportation, Department of Public Welfare benefits, and more.

In April, I hosted my second Senior Fair, which included free health screenings, refreshments and information on state programs for older Pennsylvanians. If you are 65 or older and you need help paying for your prescriptions, or you think you may be eligible for the property tax or rent rebate, please contact my office.

MUNICIPAL THEFT BILL PASSES HOUSE

A bill that I co-sponsored to toughen penalties for individuals convicted of municipal theft unanimously passed the House and awaits a vote in the Senate. In addition to increasing penalties for municipal employees who steal from local governments, the bill would also target individuals who embezzle funds or otherwise take property from charitable organizations they are entrusted to lead. Unfortunately, the embezzlement of funds isn't limited to municipal government. It is all too common for youth sports leagues, volunteer fire companies and civic organizations to find their accounts bled dry by dishonest individuals who believe they can get away with it. This bill would send a strong message to anyone who might consider skimming funds away from organizations dedicated to the public good that they will be punished.



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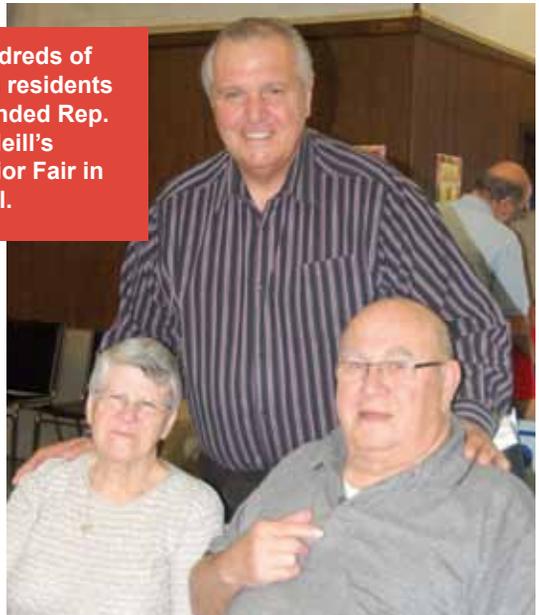
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My office can help you with:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- 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
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes
- Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

Any question about state government!

Hundreds of area residents attended Rep. McNeill's Senior Fair in April.



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS FOR YOUR REFERENCE

Lehigh County Government Center..... 610-782-3000
 Northampton County Government Center..... 610-559-3000
 PA Dept. of Revenue (Bethlehem Office) 610-861-2000
 Internal Revenue Service
 (Bethlehem Office).....610-865-8208
 AARP – Allentown 610-434-2701
 Crime Victims Council of Lehigh Valley 610-437-6611
 Turning Point Lehigh Valley Helpline 610-437-3369
 ACLV – Community Action Committee
 Lehigh Valley..... 610-691-5620
 Lehigh County Department of Aging..... 610-782-3034
 Northampton County Department of Aging..... 610-559-3245
 Lehigh County Veterans Affairs Office..... 610-782-3295

Northampton County
 Department of Veterans Affairs 610-559-3199
 CareerLink 610-437-5627
 American Red Cross 610-865-4400
 Social Security office
 (Allentown)..... 1-877-405-6746
 (Bethlehem) 1-866-783-7458
 LIHEAP
 (Lehigh County) 610-821-6509
 (Northampton County) 610-250-1700
 U.S. Rep. Charles Dent..... 610-770-3490
 State Sen. Lisa Boscola 610-868-8667
 State Sen. Patrick Browne..... 610-821-8468