



State Representative

Adam Ravenstahl

20th Legislative District

Capitol Office: 322 Irvis Office Building • P.O. Box 202020 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020 • (717) 787-5470**Constituent Service Office:** 3689 California Ave. • Pittsburgh, PA 15212 • (412) 321-5523**North Boroughs Office:** Avalon Borough Building • 640 California Ave. • Avalon, PA 15202*Open 8:30 a.m. to noon Thursdays or by appointment.***Polish Hill Office:** Polish Hill Civic Association • 3060 Brereton St. • Pittsburgh, PA 15219*Open 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fridays.*Email: RepRavenstahl@pahouse.netwww.facebook.com/RepARavenstahl

@RepARavenstahl

Policy Committee discussion puts major focus on small-business development

In January, I hosted a House Democratic Policy Committee roundtable discussion in Bellevue to give me and other lawmakers insight into the needs of our small-business owners.

The discussion focused mainly on small-business development and jobs, a key component of the House Democrats' Plan4PA.

I can't stress enough the importance of small businesses; they're the epicenter of our community. Helping our small businesses grow not only improves the job market, it also creates family sustaining wages and retains a talented, diverse workforce.

This goes hand-in-hand with the Plan4PA, which includes an initiative to offer low-interest loans to help start and expand small businesses and grow our economy.

To learn more about efforts for small-business growth in the Plan4PA, visit <http://plan4pa.pahouse.com>.



I asked some of the presenters at a recent House Democratic Policy Committee discussion in Bellevue how the state can help boost the economy and support small-business owners. I hosted the roundtable discussion on small business development.

Combatting addiction



In November, I sponsored a community presentation at Northgate Middle/Senior High School on the opioid crisis that featured speakers from the FBI, DEA and local law enforcement. The community embraced the opportunity to learn more about the addiction epidemic and what needs to be done to combat it.

I support increasing the minimum wage

When you put in 50 or 60 hours per week and play by the rules, you should be paid fairly so you can support your family and be financially secure. But for too long, that's not been the case.

That's why I am a co-sponsor of a bill to increase the state's minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2024.

Currently, someone earning minimum wage who works 40 hours per week only earns \$15,080, some \$4,700 below the poverty line, requiring many people to rely on government assistance programs to get by.

Pennsylvania is long overdue for an increase in the minimum wage. It's been eight years since the floor was raised to \$7.25 in Pennsylvania. In 2016, the inflation-adjusted minimum wage was about one-third below its 1968 level – even though productivity has doubled since 1968.

There should be more than a minimum wage – it should be a livable wage. Pennsylvanians who work 40 hours a week should not be living in poverty. A livable wage would put more money in the hands of Pennsylvanians who are working to afford their rent, groceries and other necessities.

State Representative Adam Ravenstahl

Arsenal and Denny parks awarded \$125,000 state grants

Sarah Heinz House also secures \$100,000 in state financing

I'm always excited to help secure state grants for projects that improve the 20th Legislative District.

I was elated to announce state grants recently for Arsenal Park in Lawrenceville, Denny Park in Ross Township and for the Sarah Heinz House in the North Side.



The grant for Arsenal Park represents a great opportunity to enhance Arsenal Park to its fullest potential. The long history of the park and the arsenal that preceded it are integral to Lawrenceville's legacy and are important facets of its future.

The grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority will enable the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy to create a professional landscaping and engineering blueprint aimed at improving connections between the 30-acre park and the community and the Arsenal Elementary and Middle schools.



The \$125,000 state grant for Denny Park in Ross Township will be used to renovate the ballfield, install play equipment with required safety surfacing, install ADA access, landscaping and other improvements.

Also in November, the Commonwealth Financing Authority awarded a \$100,000 grant for improvements to facilities housing after-school and summer programs at the Sarah Heinz House at 1 Heinz St. in Pittsburgh.

Bellevue receives \$315,000 grant

Bellevue was recently awarded a \$315,000 state Transportation Department grant for continued improvements to West Riverview Avenue. The project includes addressing the portion of the retaining wall that collapsed, which resulted in a partial road closure.

This major road provides access to the community from Ohio River Boulevard. As a major thoroughfare, it's used by many motorists and pedestrians, so this grant is welcome news.



Sign up for email updates

You can sign up to receive my email alerts on important issues that matter to you by visiting my website at www.pahouse.com/Ravenstahl, clicking "Stay Connected" and filling out the form.

You can also stay updated on social media. Just "like" my legislative Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/RepARavenstahl. I'm also on Twitter: [@RepARavenstahl](https://twitter.com/RepARavenstahl).

Panel advances my bill boosting chiropractic programs, interns

My legislation that would enable chiropractic educational programs to expand in Pennsylvania won unanimous approval from the House Professional Licensure Committee in late September.

I'm heartened by the committee's full support of my H.B. 1737 and look forward to its consideration in the full House of Representatives. Chiropractic care is an important facet of health care, and the bill would open the door for new opportunities and professional jobs in the field.

The bill would amend the state Chiropractic Practice Act to allow chiropractic interns and students to perform chiropractic activities under the supervision of a licensee, instructor or supervisor.

Currently, a chiropractic intern cannot obtain experience in Pennsylvania, a barrier to advancing the profession in the state and a major factor why the state has no chiropractic educational programs. By removing this restriction, I hope to spark educational programs and increase chances that a chiropractic practitioner practices and remains in Pennsylvania.

The measure is supported by the Pennsylvania Chiropractic Association.



State website links seniors, people with disabilities with services near home



Pennsylvania has launched its Link to Community Care website to help connect older Pennsylvanians and individuals with a disability or behavioral

health need to services and support systems available in their community.

The website provides users with a variety of resources, including a home care directory and an information referral tool.

More than 350 in-home service providers – offering personal care, assistance with activities of daily living, companionship services, respite care and/or habilitation services – are listed in the home care directory.

The site also features 12 service and support categories, including Advocacy, Behavioral Health, Employment, Finance,

Health Care, Housing, In-Home Services, Legal, Meals, Protection from Abuse, Support Groups and Transportation. Users can find information about organizations, services and programs within these categories.

The state departments of Aging and Human Services will continue to enhance the website using data and feedback from users.

If you are a provider licensed by the state Health Department and would like to appear on the home care directory, you may submit your information by navigating to the footer of the site and clicking on "Apply."

Please visit www.carelink.pa.gov to learn more about the Pennsylvania Link to Community Care, or to find information on resources available locally. Please call the PA Link Call Center at 1-800-753-8827 for assistance.

Young scholars



I enjoyed reading to third- and sixth-grade students at Avalon Elementary in October as part of the Reading Across America initiative. It is always enjoyable to interact with our young scholars.

Bellevue's birthday



It was an honor to help salute Bellevue Borough's 150th birthday during a celebration in September at Bayne Park. The borough's Sesquicentennial Picnic was a rousing success.

Redistricting in Pa. needs to be fixed!

Gerrymandering of election districts in Pennsylvania continues to be a hot issue.

Many believe that the method of redrawing districts after each Census has been abused, with politicians choosing their constituents rather than the other way around.

This has led to many people demanding a change in our redistricting process. Indeed several states have recently created independent redistricting committees to remove or minimize political impact.

Unfortunately, while being often cited as one of the worst examples of gerrymandering, and even though our last redistricting plan was found unconstitutional, Pennsylvania has been slow to modernize.

It seems that every new session brings a handful of well-intentioned redistricting reform bills that are never given a hearing, let alone a vote. However, I have always supported such bills and continue to push for their advancement.

Many of you have contacted my office to voice your displeasure with our current redistricting, and I have co-sponsored two bills that would create an independent redistricting system, H.B. 722 and H.B. 569. Similar bills have been introduced in the Senate.

None of these bills is perfect, but a hearing on any of them would allow us a chance to discuss and perhaps amend them to create a system that ends our overly politicized process.

I support independent redistricting no matter which party is in charge. I believe that bills like H.B. 722 or H.B. 569 or S.B. 22 can get the conversation moving and I hope that the leaders of the majority will allow them to come up for a hearing and vote.

\$1.5 million state grant awarded to repurpose historic Heinz buildings

I was proud to support a \$1.5 million state grant awarded in December to convert the historic Heinz buildings into upscale rental housing while embellishing the riverfront hiking trail near downtown Pittsburgh.

The Allegheny Shores project will further refine the stunning transformation of the riverfront area and will build on local resources and amenities for a top-notch result.

The Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant will boost private financing to build 125 rental units with sweeping views of downtown and the Allegheny River, a dedicated garage, event spaces in the restored historic lobbies and artist studio space.

The project also includes infrastructure and transportation upgrades for residents and pedestrians using the riverfront trail. The riverfront lobby will be transformed into a public space that will provide restrooms, bicycle storage/racks and shelter for walkers and bikers. Streetscape and lighting improvements also are planned.

Remembering a hero



I presented a House of Representatives Condolence Resolution to a neighbor of Chester M. Toski to honor his life of service at a Summer Hill Citizens meeting. Mr. Toski was a veteran of World War II who served in the U.S. Navy.

Job & Career Fair



My Job and Career Fair at the West View VFW in October linked area job-seekers with potential employers in the region.




State Representative
Adam Ravenstahl
 322 Irvis Office Building
 P.O. Box 202020
 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Inside:

- Area parks awarded grants
- Linking seniors with services
- Chiropractic care advanced

LPO.KL.0218




Protect yourself from identity theft!

FREE SHREDDING EVENT!

Join me for my *FREE* document shredding event

Saturday, April 21 • 10 a.m. – noon

4743 Plummer St., Pittsburgh, PA 15201 (Busy Beaver Parking Lot - Lawrenceville)



Don't become a victim. Protecting your information – and your identity – is a must in the 21st century, and my safe and secure shredding event serves as great protection.

You can securely dispose of confidential documents you no longer need at my free shredding event set for 10 a.m. – noon, Saturday, April 21 at 4743 Plummer St. in Pittsburgh.

Bring personal financial documents that are no longer needed, and any other papers with confidential information, such as account numbers and signatures:

- Documents containing Social Security, credit card and bank account numbers
- Credit card applications
- Canceled or unused checks
- Insurance and income tax records
- Bank and credit card statements
- Pension information

There will be a limit of five bags or boxes per person. Please plan on taking your empty bags and boxes home with you for recycling.

The event is for personal documents only – **no businesses, please.** Documents will be shredded on site for recycling by a bonded and reputable company.

Please call my office at 412-321-5523 if you need more information.

Free help with Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

My offices have applications available for this program and can help you apply for free. If you qualify, you can receive a rebate of up to \$650 on the property taxes or rent you paid in 2017.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is open to homeowners and renters who are 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; or anyone 18 or older with a disability. Your household income must be \$35,000 or less if you are a homeowner, or \$15,000 or less if you are a renter, and you only have to count half of your Social Security benefits toward your total income when applying.

The application deadline is June 30.



I introduced Antoine Hunter in the state House in December. Antoine is a constituent and member of the champion boys' soccer team from the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. The team captured the championship title for the Eastern Schools for the Deaf Athletic Association, which oversees athletes among member schools in 11 states.