

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Austin Davis

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

OF THE 35TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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Dear Neighbor,

I can't believe it's already time for our summer newsletter! I hope you're all enjoying your summer. I wanted to update you about what has been going on in Harrisburg and throughout our district. As you may be aware, the months leading up to July were very busy for us in Harrisburg as we worked to pass the 2018-2019 state budget. This year's budget passed on time, and I'm happy to announce that I voted in favor of a \$37.2 billion state funding plan that will provide increases in state educational funding without increasing your taxes.

Back in the district, my staff and I were busy moving our main office to our new location at 627 Lysle Boulevard, McKeesport, PA 15132. We are now located in the same building as U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle's office, so you will be able to come down to our new building for any of your state or federal needs. Additionally, our move will help to save taxpayer dollars because we were able to cut our operational costs significantly.

It is always my job to make sure my constituents are informed about the work that my offices are doing and what we can do for you. Please continue to read through this newsletter for more updates on the services our offices provide, budget highlights, events and more. It is an honor and privilege to represent you and your families!

Yours in Service,

Rep. Davis delivers more than \$3.7 million in grants for the 35th Legislative District

I've been working hard to make sure your tax dollars come back to the district, and I'm happy to report that I was able to secure more than \$3.7 million in grants through mid-July. You can read more about the grants on my webpage – www.pahouse.com/ADavis, but here's a brief rundown:

- \$250,000 community development block grant for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank that will allow it to provide 187,000 meals.
- \$866,000 combined from the state Department of Transportation for the Versailles and White Oak boroughs in our district to modernize outdated traffic signal equipment at eight different intersections.
- \$2 million from the state Department of Education for Allegheny County's largest provider of adult basic education to boost adult literacy.
- \$300,000 from the state Housing Finance Agency for Allegheny County's Action Housing to construct two single-family homes for modest-income families in McKeesport and provide upgrades for 10 existing homes in the city's cultural district.
- More than \$160,000 from the state Fire Commissioner's Office to 13 fire and ambulance companies for equipment, training, building repairs and renovations and other expenses.
- \$140,050 from the state Department of Environmental Protection to McKeesport manufacturer CP Industries to support the design and testing of pressure vessels that will be used to store and transport alternative fuel gasses.
- \$54,300 from the state Department of Aging for Lifespan Mon Valley at Olympia Resource Center – a community center offering seniors transportation, meals, and various programs and activities – to expand and revitalize its services.

State Rep. Austin Davis and Congressman Doyle

invite you to their

Open House

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 22, 2018

5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

627 Lysle Blvd.

McKeesport, PA 15132



Out and about at home and in Harrisburg



I joined members of the McKeesport Joint Task Force earlier this year for a highly productive meeting.

I had the pleasure of hosting Clairton resident Tamia Law in Harrisburg as she took part in the annual Girlgov program. Each year around 100 young women travel to the state Capitol to meet their state representatives and learn more about the legislative process.



I attended state Rep. Dan Miller's terrific rally for workers' rights at the Capitol.



I spoke at state Rep. Jake Wheatley's news conference in Harrisburg to help kick off Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Small Business Day.



My colleagues and I attended a policy hearing on K-9 officer funding with the Zone 5 Pittsburgh Police Department.



I had great fun reading to students at Clairton Elementary School as part of my "Read Across America" Tour of the 35th Legislative District.

It was an honor speaking at the West Mifflin Borough Memorial Day Ceremony with state Rep. Bill Kortz.



Improving the lives of citizens with disabilities was the central topic at the recent Disability Summit, the biggest event of its kind in Southwestern Pennsylvania.



I had a great meeting with members of the Steel Valley Rotary.



I had a productive roundtable discussion with members of the Clairton School Board.

A BUDGET WITH THE RIGHT PRIORITIES

Coming up with an effective budget is always a matter of balancing competing interests. A strong state budget addresses the commonwealth's most important priorities without increasing the tax burden on hardworking residents. I voted for this year's budget because it makes the health, education and welfare of our residents top priorities, and it does so without raising taxes.

Strong on education, the new budget provides funding increases of \$100 million for basic education, \$25 million for early education and \$15 million for special education.

On a local level, students in the 35th Legislative District will benefit from across-the-board increases in both basic and special education funding. Here's a breakdown of percentage increases by school district:

- **Clairton** – 2.6 percent for basic education funding and 1.7 percent for special education funding.
- **Duquesne** – 0.9 percent for basic education funding and 1.3 percent for special education funding.
- **McKeesport Area** – 1.6 percent for basic education funding and 1.8 percent for special education funding.
- **South Allegheny** – 0.6 percent for basic education funding and 2.0 percent for special education funding.

- **Steel Valley** – 2.2 percent for basic education funding and 1.7 percent for special education funding.
- **West Mifflin Area** – 1.6 percent for basic education funding and 1.8 percent for special education funding.

The budget also addresses school safety in a comprehensive way, funding a \$60 million targeted grant program recently signed into law. School districts applying for grants will have a wide array of options, from adding metal detectors and security cameras, to hiring school resource officers and additional school psychologists, to instituting violence-prevention programs. There will also be an anonymous tip line program – the Safe2Say Program.

Finally, the budget provides additional funding for fighting the opioid addiction epidemic, revitalizing struggling communities and enhancing career and technical education training and workforce development. Best of all, the budget does all of this without raising taxes, and it has even allowed us to replenish the state's Rainy Day Fund, with \$22 million already deposited.



A LOOK AT SOME BILLS I'VE INTRODUCED

Since being elected into office I have introduced the following pieces of legislation:

- **H.B. 2166.** This bill would provide \$15 million to modernize career and technical education by establishing or enhancing programs that prepare students for high-skill careers. This funding would allow employers, higher education institutions and labor organizations to establish partnerships that train students and provide them with the technical skills they need for today's workforce. It would also provide \$8 million for college and career counseling to help middle- and high-school students develop pathways to high-skill careers.
- **H.B. 2099.** I introduced this bill to assist the many hardworking families struggling to pay basic household expenses such as water and wastewater utility bills. It would establish the Low-Income Water and Wastewater Assistance Program, providing assistance to households whose annual income is at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty line. Payments would range from not less than \$100 to not more than \$500, and would be limited to one payment per program year.

- **H.B. 2436.** The current cost of a Pennsylvania Identification Card represents a financial burden for many citizens throughout the commonwealth. This legislation would reduce by one-half the cost of ID cards for seniors; veterans; and low-income, homeless, or disabled individuals.
- **H.B. 2545.** This legislation is part of a two-bill package I introduced in response to a recent situation in which several hundred residents of a Clairton housing complex lost access to tap water for about six hours due to unpaid charges. The bill would amend existing law to make a homeowners association subject to the state Public Utility Commission's jurisdiction if the association collects money from unit owners or rental managers and then pays a water or sewage bill on their behalf.
- **H.B. 2546.** This is the second bill in the package of legislation I introduced after the above-mentioned Clairton incident. The legislation would amend existing law to require that in order to sell an existing multi-family property that is currently master-metered, each occupied dwelling must have a separate water meter.

In addition to this legislation, I have co-sponsored many important bills introduced by my colleagues. To see those, please visit: <https://bit.ly/2NoPdwi>.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about any of these bills, please contact my office at 412-664-0035.

Qualified Opportunity Zones will attract investors

Our district will benefit from a new federal program that attracts private investors to low-income communities through tax incentives. Nine low-income census tracts have been approved as Qualified Opportunity Zones. Infusions of capital into these distressed areas could make a huge difference to residents in terms of jobs and housing opportunities. Hardworking Pennsylvania families deserve the hope and promise revitalization can bring.



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lpo.kaf.0818

SENATOR JIM BREWSTER

along with

REPRESENTATIVE AUSTIN DAVIS

invite you to their

Senior

WELLNESS & SAFETY



Expo

Thursday • September 27

10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

McKeesport Palisades

100 Fifth Avenue • McKeesport, PA 15132

*For more information,
please contact Rep. Davis' McKeesport office at (412) 664-0035*

Rep. Davis helps save Mon Valley bus routes

Last year, the Port Authority of Allegheny County announced that it would be decreasing the frequency of the 61 A, B, and C buses and stopping their routes in Oakland. After meeting with many constituents who expressed concerns about the potential increased travel time and costs associated with these changes, I urged the Port Authority and county leaders to listen to those concerns and hold public hearings. As a result, the Port Authority reevaluated its plans and decided to keep the 61 A, B, and C routes. Under the new plan, the 61 A, B, and C, the 71B and the P3 buses will become regular BRT routes.

I'm very pleased with the Port Authority's decision and believe these new bus-service options will be a step forward for the Mon Valley.



PennDOT tour to bring action

On July 18, Cheryl Moon-Sirianni, a district executive for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, joined us for a PennDOT tour through the 35th Legislative District. The purpose was to shed light on state roads that need work. Local municipalities were asked to select their two most problematic roads, and also had the opportunity to provide us with a list of any additional road issues they hope PennDOT can address.

The representatives from PennDOT heard many different concerns from local elected officials and concluded by letting us know that they would be following up on how we will move forward on making improvements.

