



Fall 2019

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State Representative

Adam Ravenstahl

20th Legislative District

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Legislative update

The changing leaves herald a change of season and mark an end to what has been a busy summer.

Locally, myself and other officials have been hard at work making sure the Pittsburgh region continues its rise, positioning itself culturally and economically as one of our nation's great cities, welcoming the next generation of workers, educators, entrepreneurs and scientists to our region.

We're building on our legacy as a region of industry and hard work, by investing in cultural and economic development. Whether that's securing grants for a major renovation of the produce terminal in the Strip District or helping a Brighton Heights senior center pay for much needed renovations, our region is on the move, and I'm proud to be one of its vocal advocates.

We were also busy in Harrisburg this summer, passing an on-time state budget that increased money for education while holding the lines on taxes and revenues. While it wasn't the budget I would have created, our state priorities are the result of compromise and collaboration, and this document reflects that.

We also passed – and Gov. Tom Wolf signed – a law to create a state-based health insurance exchange, which will save both people and the state money, while ensuring everyday folks can access affordable, quality health insurance. We also cut the bureaucratic red tape to make it easier for new Pennsylvanians, including military spouses, with an out-of-state occupational license to work in Pennsylvania. And we passed a first-of-its kind program in the nation which will allow the spouses and children of National Guard members to attend college at no or reduced cost.

But as the legislature returns to Harrisburg for its fall session,



I attended Avalon Elementary's Fun Run to support our local students.

there remain many important issues for the House and Senate to resolve.

I look forward to working with my fellow lawmakers to find a consensus on Pennsylvania's minimum wage, which hasn't increased in more than a decade; to update our state's voter registration systems to ensure that more people are able to access the ballot and to remove barriers discouraging participation in our election process; and to work to enact legislation to benefit working class Pennsylvanians – whether that's on-the-job protections, ensuring access to health care, or providing access to leave in the event of a family emergency.

And most importantly, I want to thank you again for the trust you have placed in me, and for the opportunity to be your representative in Harrisburg.

Together, we can build a better Pennsylvania.

Senior ConnectCards now available from the Port Authority



My district office staff is ready to help you or someone you know apply for the new senior bus passes through the Port Authority of Allegheny County! This new card replaces the old blue or yellow pass with a four-year photo ID ConnectCard and allows seniors 65 or older to travel on public transit for free.

There's no rush: You can still use your Medicare card or existing pass until January 1st, but if you need a new ConnectCard, feel free to contact my office to set up an appointment for us to help you (412-321-5523).

For your appointment you'll need to bring your identification and any existing transit passes to our office to snap a quick picture, fill out a form, and then we'll contact you normally within two weeks to come retrieve your new pass.

A UPMC/HIGHMARK RESOLUTION

UPMC and Highmark have agreed to a new 10-year deal that will ensure that most of the people of western Pennsylvania will continue to be able to access the doctors and health care providers they choose.

For more than a year, I and other local leaders fought to bring both parties to the bargaining table to strike this deal. As I have said before, it is critical that patients and family members be able to continue to access the doctors and health care providers they know and trust, and I am pleased to see that we have obtained that outcome.

While this agreement is a good beginning, we as a legislature must address the underlying problems that allowed this situation to develop. We must continue to work to ensure that all Pennsylvanians, regardless of their health insurer are able to access high quality, affordable health care.

Working to secure investments for our district

This year I was able to work with local and cultural entities to help secure several state grants to ensure our region continues to grow and thrive. By obtaining these investments in family-owned businesses, cultural institutions and redevelopment projects, we are encouraging private enterprises and organizations to continue to invest in our region, growing our economy and providing jobs to the hardworking people of Allegheny County.

\$200,000 – Riverview Park in the Northside

\$500,000 – Roberto Clemente Museum renovations/upgrades


\$2 million – Produce Terminal in the Strip District

\$1 million – Wigle Whiskey redevelopment/expansion

\$200,000 – Arsenal Motors in Lawrenceville renovation project

\$100,000 – Farley Park in West View

\$100,000 – New Hazlett Center for the Performing Arts stabilization



Around the district



I was proud to stand with Darrin Kelly, president of the Allegheny-Fayette Central Labor Council in support of workers’ safety legislation, HB 1082, at a union rally in Pittsburgh in September.



In August I joined other members of the Allegheny County House Delegation to take a tour of SCI-Somerset, where we got a firsthand look at the challenges facing the Pennsylvania criminal justice system.

In May I partnered with Rep. Sara Innamorato and state Sen. Wayne Fontana to host a free shredding event in Lawrenceville, and I look forward to working with both of them in the near future.



I want to thank everyone who joined us for our free shredding event in Ross Township in June, which I sponsored with state Sen. Lindsey Williams and Rep. Sara Innamorato. I’m committed to holding several of these events each year to help folks dispose of unwanted confidential documents.

RAVENSTAHL'S OFFICE IN 2019

Legislation: Working for You in Harrisburg


2,061
Constituent
Cases



31 Resolutions Sponsored



97 Bills Sponsored



Important election updates

As we work to update and modernize the voting and registration processes in Pennsylvania, there have been several new developments that all eligible voters should be aware of:

Online voter registration now available in Pennsylvania

You can now register to vote online at pavoterservices.pa.gov.

The new website is available in English or Spanish and it allows you to make updates to your voter record, such as change of name, address or party affiliation. You can also request assistance at a polling place.

This online system is more secure because the form will be transmitted directly to the proper county voter registration office for processing, compared to the traditional paper application containing personal information that might pass through several hands before you are officially registered.

You can now apply online for absentee ballots

This is an exciting new program which will help ensure that all eligible voters have access to the ballot, and one which I hope will encourage more voters to participate in our democracy.

The mobile-friendly, online application site, at votesPA.com/ApplyAbsentee, went live in September. The system is currently accessible to all domestic Pennsylvania voters, and will be available to military and overseas voters by 2020.

Absentee ballots may be cast by individuals with illnesses or disabilities, individuals who will be away from their municipality on business on Election Day, and Pennsylvania students attending out-of-state colleges or universities, among others.

The PA Election Code allows registered voters to apply for an absentee ballot up until one week before an election. This year, the deadline to apply by paper or online is 5 p.m. October 29.

Bills I'm Fighting For

My priority is to put our workers, our seniors, our children, our schools, our environment and our future first. Here's some of the legislation that I have sponsored this year:

Early College – Right now, approximately 300 Pennsylvania schools offer students a chance to earn college credits while still in high school – it's time we expand this winning formula, and even deliver a pathway where a student can earn a college degree at an Early College High School.

Increased Fines for Air Pollution – This bill would mandate a commonsense warning system to ensure people's safety in the event of a major air pollution event. It would also increase fines for such events, which have not been changed for decades.

The Family Care Act – This important legislation would help hard-working Pennsylvanians so they can care for themselves and their families when serious illness strikes or when a parent becomes seriously ill by providing employees the ability to invest small deductions from their weekly earnings into a state-managed fund.

You're Registered! – This bill would automatically register people to vote, unless they opt out, when they interact with PennDOT, access Pennsylvania's health and human services benefit programs, or any other state service, empowering more people to exercise their right to vote.

Beyond Safe Schools – This is legislation that would require a necessary complement of school counselors, psychologists, social workers, and nurses in schools to ensure that students' access to help is never a problem and that case load management is never an issue.

Landslide Insurance Program – Record-setting precipitation has given way to hundreds of landslides, resulting in millions of dollars' worth of property and infrastructure damage in our region. This program would provide reasonable insurance coverage to homeowners, as well as assistance to local governments.

Take the 'No Plastic Pledge'

As a lawmaker who has long supported environmental causes, this year I joined my fellow legislators to introduce a sweeping series of bills collectively called "Zero Waste Pa."

Among other things, the proposed legislation would prohibit the use of polystyrene to-go containers; increase littering fines and penalties; encourage organic waste composting; require producers of plastic packaging be part of a plastic recycling program; discourage the use of non-reusable plastic bags; and overhaul the state electronic waste recycling law.

These bills are designed to move Pennsylvania forward and directly engage the growing waste problems that threaten our environment. By encouraging the use of more naturally biodegradable materials, addressing issues with the way we recycle, and finding ways to support environmentally friendly practices, we can help preserve our planet for future generations.

I PLEDGE to eliminate single-use plastic wherever possible for the purpose of reducing the suffering of all. When at a retail store, I will request **"no plastic please"** on the following targeted items: **straws, bags, cups, take-out boxes, plastic bottles, all Styrofoam, stirrers and cutlery.**

Here are 10 actions you can take to eliminate single-use plastic:

- 1) Before ordering, say "no plastic please."
- 2) Bring your own shopping bag.
- 3) Carry a reusable water bottle.
- 4) Bring your own coffee cup.
- 5) Pack your own lunches/leftovers in reusable containers.
- 6) Say NO to disposable straws and cutlery.
- 7) Give up beverages in plastic bottles.
- 8) Pay attention to plastic packaging.
- 9) Skip the plastic produce bags.
- 10) Share these tips with your friends.



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UPCOMING EVENTS



Join State Representative Adam Ravenstahl for a

FREE DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT

OCTOBER 19

10 a.m. to Noon
 (or until shred truck is full)

LOCATION: AVALON COMMUNITY PARK
 708 New Brighton Road • Pittsburgh, PA 15202

Project D.U.M.P. will also be at the event to collect unwanted medications.

Unwanted items that should be shredded include credit card statements, credit card applications, bank statements, canceled checks, income tax information, insurance records and retirement or pension fund information. Documents will be shredded on-site.

Documents will be shredded on-site

Senior Wellness Fair

Hosted by Rep. Sara Innamorato and Rep. Adam Ravenstahl

October 18, 2019

Ross Township Community Center

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

1000 Ross Municipal Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Free event includes flu shots, blood pressure screenings, wellness activities and more! Plus, all the info and assistance you need to get a **REAL ID**.



MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- 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
- Problems with the Department of Health and Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- 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

Sign up for my email alerts

<https://pahouse.com/ravenstahl/emailsignup>



If you need help with any state- or government-related services, please feel free to contact my office at 412-321-5523 for assistance.