



Winter 2019

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Austin Davis

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE 35TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



Dear Neighbor,

Happy New Year! I hope that you and your family enjoyed the holiday season and I wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2020.

It was a busy and exciting 2019 serving as your state representative. During 2019, I hosted many informative events in the district, engaged with various stakeholders in Harrisburg, assisted with bringing grant funding back to the Mon Valley, and had the opportunity to meet with many of you to discuss important issues that greatly impact our community on a daily basis.

Over the course of 2020, I intend to continue to work hard to help improve the lives of those in the 35th District. I will continue to be a strong advocate for family-sustaining jobs, protecting our environment, and ensuring every child receives a quality education. Be on the lookout for upcoming events that I'm hosting this year, and as always please continue to use my offices as a resource for any of your state-related needs.

It is truly an honor to represent you in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. I look forward to seeing what all we will accomplish in this new year.

Yours in Service,

Inside:

Legislative Update • Grants for the 35th Legislative District • Real ID
Election Reform Update • Harrisburg & Around the District

More than \$6.4 million awarded in 35th Legislative District in 2019!

In 2019, the district received a substantial amount of grant money – more than \$6 million to be exact!

I've announced this funding with great pride, knowing that the entities located within our community will continue to utilize these grants in ways that will best serve the Mon Valley for years to come.

Though the actual list is much longer, below you'll find some grants awarded in 2019 that will have a significant impact on our district.



\$133,000 awarded to McKeesport to enhance the city's Gun Violence Reduction Program.

\$45,000 grant awarded to Operation Troop Appreciation in West Mifflin so that the group can provide welcome home kits to at-risk veterans.

\$1.5 million in Redevelopment Assistance Capitol Program funding awarded to the Carnegie Library of Homestead (\$500,000) and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank in Duquesne (\$1 million).

\$41,250 in tax credits awarded to Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh's renovation and modification efforts in Clairton.

\$671,200 awarded to the Regional Industrial Corporation of Southwestern Pennsylvania to be used for remediation projects at the former Roadhouse and Guard Shack Building in McKeesport and the former Open Hearth Building in Duquesne.

\$105,000 grant for computer science classes and teacher training in the Duquesne City, Steel Valley and South Allegheny school districts.

\$165,160 in 21st Century Learning Center grants awarded to McKeesport Area School District.

\$60,000 grant awarded by DCED for a multi-municipal improvement project in Munhall, Homestead and West Munhall.

\$200,000 awarded to White Oak for safety improvements for pedestrians and drivers.

DOES THE STATE HAVE YOUR UNCLAIMED PROPERTY?

The Pennsylvania Treasurer's Office has more than \$3.4 billion in unclaimed property belonging to the people of Pennsylvania. These items and funds go missing, often for things as simple as a misspelled name or an out-of-date address.

Bank accounts, money orders, bonds, dividends, wages, life insurance policies and other physical and monetary assets that have been lost by their owners and have gone "unclaimed" for a period of time (usually three years) are considered "unclaimed property" by the state, which holds it for safekeeping and keeps a listing of it.

While the Treasurer's Office advertises unclaimed property in local newspapers once each year, it only does so for property valued in excess of \$250.

If you missed the listing or simply want to check, the Treasurer's Office encourages all residents to search its unclaimed property database at www.patreasury.gov or call the unclaimed property call center at 1-800-222-2046. If you require assistance, please contact my office and my staff and I will help you.

Modernizing the vote for 2020

Effective for the April 2020 Primary Election
More info | www.votespa.com | Register online



More ways to vote



No-excuse mail-in voting
New option to vote by mail
Without providing an excuse



Permanent mail-in ballot list
Receive applications for
mail-in or absentee ballots
for all elections

More accessible elections



More time to register
Deadline to register to vote is
now 15 days before
an election



Extended voting period
Request a mail-in or absentee
ballot up to 50 days before
an election

Extended deadline
Submit mail-in or absentee ballot
by 8 p.m. on Election Day



MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU EXPUNGE YOUR CRIMINAL RECORD

Do you need assistance with expunging your criminal record?

If so, my office is happy to help.

On Jan. 11, 2020 my office, in partnership with the Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender, will host a criminal record expungement clinic.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. located at Founders Hall Gymnasium, 3600 O'Neil Blvd., McKeesport, PA 15132.

Please contact my office at 412-664-0035 for more information.

WHAT THE NEW VOTING REFORM PACKAGE ENTAILS

During the 2019-20 legislative session, the General Assembly passed a historical voting reform package that is a first-of-its-kind in the commonwealth.

In the event you missed the initial announcement, or if you don't fully understand what this law will do, I've provided a breakdown of how this voting package will affect the state's voting system.

The voting reform initiative will be in effect for the April 2020 primary election! Feel free to contact my office at 412-664-0035 with any questions!

GOOD JOBS, CLEAN AIR – WE CAN HAVE BOTH

The 2019-20 legislative session has been filled with important topics that affect the daily lives of residents across the state, but none more so here in the Mon Valley than air quality, especially following U.S. Steel's December 2018 Clairton Coke Works fire.

This accident occurred right in our backyards, directly affecting our families, friends and neighbors, and exposing the Mon Valley to high levels of sulfur dioxide.

It was an unfortunate accident – yes, an accident. But it can't happen again, and changes must be made to protect those living in and around the site.

That said, I recognize Clairton Coke Works is a major source of employment for members of the community, which is why I believe it's possible for us to have good jobs and clean air in the Mon Valley.

But we must work together. One thing I've done on my end is introduce H.B. 1752. This measure would enact larger fines for industrial sites that exceed pollution thresholds and require facilities to create a municipal warning system.

The current fine in Pennsylvania for Air Quality violations is \$20,000. My legislation would raise the fine to \$37,500, which mirrors the Environmental Protection Agency's current fine amount.

It also would require all major facilities to develop and maintain a municipal notification plan designed to give notice to immediate and surrounding communities in the event of an air pollution incident.

Specifically, H.B. 1752 would require notification as soon as possible and within 12 hours of the breakdown or accident, unless the risk is eliminated before notice is required. It also would establish the quickest way to notify municipalities of possible pollution risks; communicate measures for community members to undertake in order to mitigate the risk of the air pollution incident; and require yearly plan updates to ensure municipal contact procedures are up to date.

This is currently in the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee for review.

Legislative Update

Listed below is an overview of all the legislation I have sponsored during the 2019-20 session. In addition to these bills, I have also co-sponsored legislation that has been introduced by my colleagues. You can find a full list of all legislation I have sponsored and co-sponsored on my website at www.pahouse.com/ADavis.

H.B.s 291, 293: This is a legislative package that is designed to protect consumers who live in multi-unit housing complexes from unexpected water shutoffs. H.B. 291 would require homeowners' associations that collect money from individual units and then pay water bills on their behalf, to be regulated by the state Public Utility Commission. H.B. 293 would require that if an individual unit of a multi-unit dwelling were to be sold, each occupied unit must have a separate water meter.

H.B. 292: Would create the Low-Income Water and Wastewater Assistance Act, which would assist households with income levels 100 percent below the federal poverty line, with a grant once a year to assist working families with paying water and wastewater bills.

H.B. 294: A piece of legislation that would reduce the cost of identification cards for at-risk residents, like senior citizens, low-income individuals, the homeless, and disabled veterans.

H.B. 898: This legislation known as "Ban the Box" would give people with criminal records a fair chance at employment by prohibiting any employer from inquiring about a criminal record until a conditional offer of employment has been made to the applicant. This bill would still allow employers who are required by state or federal law to inquire about criminal histories, but will ensure that they are doing so at the appropriate time.

H.B. 899: This measure would make it easier for guardians to make decisions on behalf of an individual who is involuntarily committed to a mental health care facility by prohibiting the interest of a facility from superseding that of the guardians and their wards.

H.B. 1004: Would add nursing homes to the Patient Safety Authority, requiring nursing homes to report incidents or "events" where a patient could have been injured but was not

or "serious events" where an event results in patient injury or death. These events would have to be reported in a certain amount of time and the nursing home would be required to work with third parties on plans of correction.

H.B. 1006: Would create the Municipal Police Enhancement Consolidation Program to encourage reasonable consolidation, provide funding for training, and ensure police officers have access to services they need to do their job well.

H.B. 1431: Would allow for the automatic expungement of criminal and driving records following a pardon. A pardon from the Governor is meant to constitute total forgiveness of a past criminal action but it still remains on one's criminal and driving record. This legislation would help a pardoned individual to have their rights and records fully restored.

H.B. 1577: This would give distressed municipalities in Allegheny County the ability to voluntarily dissolve and become an unincorporated district, allowing the County to take control of services and taxing authority.

H.B. 1716: This legislation would lessen window tinting restrictions for rear windows of cars to make them uniform with trucks and buses.

H.B. 1718: This bill would amend the definition of "Landlord Ratepayer" found in Title 66, Subchapter B to include condominiums, cooperatives, and unplanned communities. This would provide consumer and regulatory protection to unit owners and provide a process moving forward with oversight from the Public Utility Commission.

H.B. 1737: This legislation would give landbanks the same protections that are currently given to redevelopment authorities when they are dealing with brownfields.

H.B. 1752: Would create a municipal notification requirement for air pollution violations at major facilities and would increase fines for facilities that exceed established pollution thresholds.

H.B. 1819: Would reform the Office of the State Fire Commissioner by creating a State Fire Commission while consolidating and expanding the duties under the office's authority.

REAL ID CARDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Real ID cards are now available from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Real ID is a new, optional form of driver's license or identification card that PennDOT will issue after verifying certain identification and residency documents provided by you.

Getting a Real ID is not mandatory, but it may be useful depending on your needs. After card-based enforcement of the Real ID Act starts **Oct. 1, 2020**, you will no longer be able to use your regular, state-issued driver's license or identification card to board commercial airline flights or enter

high-security federal facilities such as military bases. Instead, you will either have to use the new Real ID or rely on your passport, military ID, or other form of federally accepted identification.

You don't need a Real ID to visit regular federal buildings, vote, apply for or receive federal benefits, or gain access to hospitals and health clinics.

For more information, you can read about Real ID on PennDOT's website: www.PennDOT.gov/REALID.



Around the District



It was a privilege to participate in the opening of the Mon Valley Launch Box. This collaboration between Penn State Greater Allegheny, Invent Penn State, and the City of McKeesport encourages community members, entrepreneurs, and students to engage in economic development in the Mon Valley.



CCAC President Quentin Bullock met with members of the Allegheny County House Delegation at the State Capitol. We are lucky to have CCAC South located in the 35th District.



I joined Governor Tom Wolf at Twin Rivers Elementary School to unveil his Charter School Reform Package.



My colleagues and I joined Governor Wolf as he signed Act 9 into law. This Act officially designates June 19th as "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" in Pennsylvania.



I had the opportunity to tour CP Industries. CP Industries is in McKeesport and is a world-leading manufacturer of large seamless steel pressure vessels for compressed gases.



During budget debates, I took the floor to express my thoughts on the budget before casting a vote.



I joined my colleagues at the Pittsburgh City-Council Building for a news conference on the importance of Clean Air. I provided an update on H.B. 1752, which would increase the fines for violations of air quality standards.



American Textile hosted me for a tour of their facility located in Duquesne's RIDC Industrial Park.



I joined Pittsburghers for Public Transit for a ride along on the Port Authority Bus to discuss our regions mass transit needs. This was an eye-opening experience and a great opportunity to hear from local riders.



In Harrisburg, I joined union members and workers from across Pennsylvania to support Strengthening Workers' Rights legislation. It's critical that we protect workers' rights in Pennsylvania.



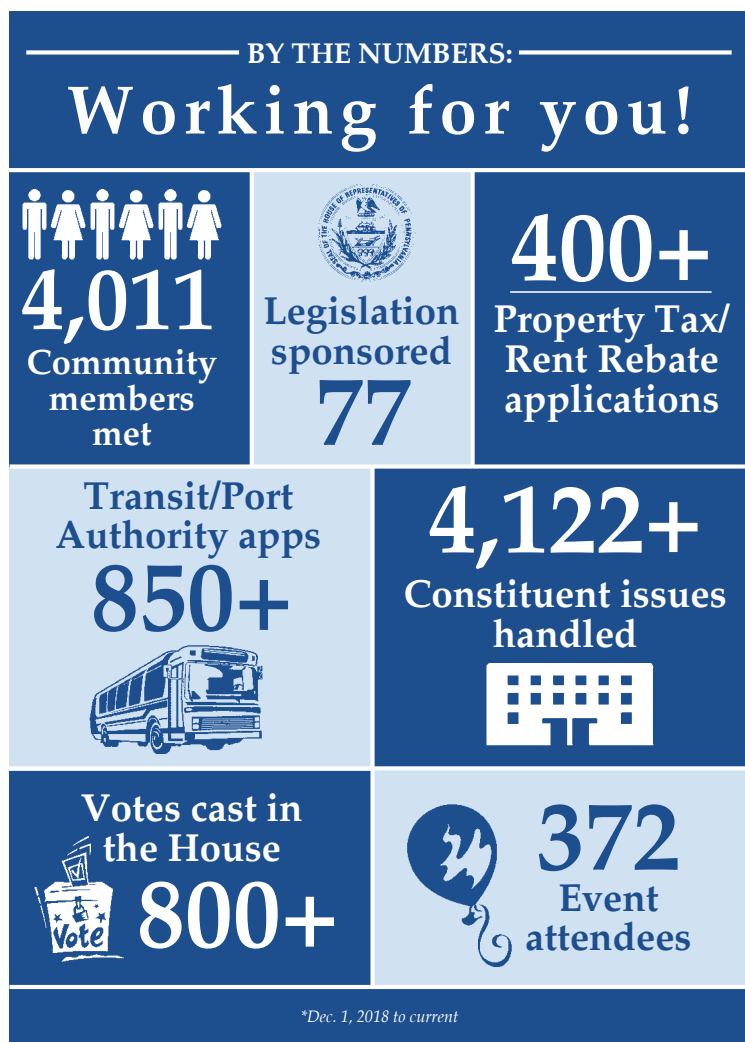
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Ways my district office can serve you:

- Port Authority ConnectCards
- Process applications for birth and death certificates
- Provide you with Pennsylvania state tax forms
- Print out federal tax forms whenever possible
- Provide you with and help you fill out Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms
- Notarize any state form for free
- Help you find and claim unclaimed money in your name through the Pennsylvania Treasurer's Office
- Notarize and process applications for disability parking plates and placards
- Field questions or handle problems concerning PennDOT, including complaints about road conditions
- Explain the Real ID application process
- Assist you with unemployment compensation questions or problems
- Field questions or complaints about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Provide you with recognition from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
- Provide you with any state form or brochure
- Send state forms for you to their appropriate departments in Harrisburg to expedite their processing
- Schedule tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Answer questions about proposed legislation



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