

State Representative | 163rd Legislative District

# MIKE ZABEL

**District Offices:**

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Fall  
2020



## Dear Neighbor,

It has been an absolute honor to represent my community in Harrisburg.

From that first moment, when I took the oath on the House floor, right through this week when I learned how to host yet another virtual event and adapt to life during the COVID-19 pandemic, I've tried to make the best decisions for my neighbors, friends and family.

I won't lie, this job can be difficult and overwhelming, at times, but it is also incredibly rewarding.

Serving my community has allowed me to hear the relief in the voices of my neighbors when we processed their unemployment claim, correcting an issue that has been holding up life-changing payments and causing so much stress.

My first term in office has presented so many opportunities to meet experts and leaders throughout our state and nation. It has also presented me with incredibly difficult decisions – how do we reopen safely? – and it has forced my staff and me to adjust to ever-changing conditions and needs in our community.

The most important aspect of my job, however, has been making personal connections with the people from my hometown and surrounding boroughs and townships.

Numbers on the page mean so much more when I see how a state grant can improve the response time for emergency personnel at busy intersections in a local municipality, or I see how a local school can provide a program that could change the lives of dozens of children.

Those are the moments I cherish. Those are the moments that are impossible to forget.

Thank you for trusting me, and thank you for allowing me to represent you in Harrisburg!

Sincerely,



## REP. ZABEL'S OFFICE BY THE NUMBERS

THROUGHOUT HIS FIRST TERM



**33**  
COMMUNITY EVENTS

NEARLY  
**14,000**  
CONSTITUENT  
SERVICES PERFORMED



**13**  
PRIME SPONSOR  
**337**  
CO-SPONSORED



**75**  
COMMUNITY UPDATES  
EMAILED



**\$348K**  
UNCLAIMED  
PROPERTY RECOVERED

**\$27MIL**  
BROUGHT INTO THE  
DISTRICT



**1.** Fourth of July festivities were a bit different this year, but community spirit was as strong as ever! Great job by the Highland Park/ Kirklyn Civic Association in organizing a fun car parade.



**1.**

**2.** Gracious volunteers, my staff and I have helped clean up various parks, waterways and open spaces. Sign up for my weekly community updates or follow me on Facebook or Twitter to learn about our next volunteer opportunity. So far we have cleaned up Merry Place, Darby Creek Trail, Kent Park and Muckinipattis Creek.



**2.**

**3.** My office remains committed to helping our local municipalities secure the money and assistance they need from the state to finalize projects, like Aldan Borough recently completed. A state grant allowed Aldan to install security cameras at its elementary school, purchase a backup generator for its borough building and place cameras at busy intersections to help reduce response times for emergencies and traffic accidents. My office also assisted the borough in acquiring four-way stop signs for an intersection.



**3.**

**4.** My first term in office has convinced me that we can accomplish even more important work in Harrisburg in the years to come.



**4.**

# VOTING BY MAIL

## 2020 GENERAL ELECTION IMPORTANT DATES

- OCT 19** Last day to register to vote for the general election.  
[register.votesPA.com](http://register.votesPA.com)
- OCT 27** Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot.  
[votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot](http://votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot)
- NOV 3** Voted mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by the county by 8pm.  
[votesPA.com/County](http://votesPA.com/County)
- NOV 3** General election day. Polls are open from 7am to 8pm.  
[votesPA.com/Polls](http://votesPA.com/Polls)

**VotesPA.com**

Pennsylvania joined a list of more than 30 states in allowing mail-in ballots for any reason – also known as no-excuse absentee ballots – for the first time in the June 2020 primary.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, mail-in ballots offer members of our community a chance to vote safely from home. It's a secure and convenient option to ensure that your voice is heard. Mail-in voting has the backing of a bipartisan coalition of state officials, including former Republican Gov. Tom Ridge.

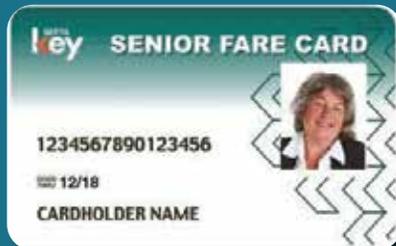
You can apply for a mail-in ballot online – no reason is required – or contact my office for a hard-copy paper application. Also, this November, voting by mail will not cost you. In PA, postage for mail-in ballots will be paid for with federal coronavirus funds.

Apply for your ballot now at [VotesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot](http://VotesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot) to help avoid any delays in returning your ballot. You will be notified when your application is received and when your ballot is received.

At the time of this publication, the deadline to request a mail-in ballot is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 27.

## SEPTA KEY SENIOR ID

My office is now capable of issuing SEPTA Key Senior ID cards for seniors, ages 65 and older. The card allows seniors to ride for free. Take advantage now, by contacting my office to make an appointment to receive your new ID.



## SIGN UP FOR COMMUNITY UPDATES

Each week I send out community updates by email, featuring news developments and events in our district. Recently, we featured the latest news on mobile COVID-19 testing sites in Delco as well as virtual events you can livestream from your home. Sign up now at [pahouse.com/Zabel/EmailSignUp](http://pahouse.com/Zabel/EmailSignUp).

## FILL OUT THE 2020 CENSUS

Every 10 years, the United States conducts a census. This count of U.S. residents helps determine how \$675 billion is spent by the federal government and how Pennsylvania is represented in Congress for the next 10 years.

Unfortunately, our community is in danger of being undercounted. This is bad for local schools, our roads and public programs – since federal funds are tied to the census. For every person not counted, our community will miss out on an estimated \$2,000 per year, every year for the next decade.

You can help ensure that our community gets our fair share of funding by responding to the census online at [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov), by paper or over the phone.

The last day of September is the final day to self-respond to the census.



# POSITIONING PA TO BE PREPARED

I hosted a House Democratic Policy Committee hearing on Aug. 11 on the challenges of COVID-19 testing. This virus is bad in every way, a threat because in some people its symptoms can be severe enough to kill, while in others, its symptoms can be mild enough to be spread undetected throughout our communities.

In the absence of a safe vaccine, we must improve our testing in Pennsylvania. We acknowledged some of the state's weaknesses.

- The state is testing 4% of our population.
- The wait time for test results must be decreased.
- We must improve the consistency of our data compilation.
- And we must eliminate disparities in testing and health care in our communities, since we've seen lower-income communities and communities with racial minorities at greater risk for outbreaks.

Fortunately, experts confirmed Pennsylvania is doing better than most states, but we want to see more



improvements. The state is taking action, the governor announced this month a partnership with a testing developer to hire 177 new full-time employees.

I am committed to helping the state improve its testing capabilities as we continue to battle this pandemic.



## MASKS MEAN BUSINESS

As we learn more about this deadly virus, including about its potential long-lasting effects, it's important we do whatever we can to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Wearing a mask has been proven to limit the transmission of COVID-19. It does NOT infringe upon your freedom, and in fact helps ensure we can avoid another shutdown in Pennsylvania.

When I go out in public and work in Harrisburg, I wear a mask. Do your part to ensure Pennsylvania remains open and limits the spread of this terrible virus: mask up to protect our community.

# LEGISLATION I HAVE AUTHORED

## DURING MY TWO-YEAR TERM IN OFFICE, I HAVE AUTHORED 12 BILLS AND ONE RESOLUTION

**House Bill 162:** Thousands of guns in Pennsylvania have been trafficked and eventually used in crimes. This bill would help limit the flow of guns to criminals by placing a limit on the number of guns purchased per month.

**H.B. 1527:** This bill would close existing loopholes that allow residents to purchase parts to assemble untraceable “ghost” guns that require no background check or oversight.

**H.B. 2091:** Would ban the use of Chlorpyrifos, a dangerous insecticide originally banned for residential use in 2000 but once again legal in the United States as the Trump administration allowed its reintroduction.

**H.B. 2102:** Southeast Pennsylvania has witnessed bankrupt businesses rewarding executives with millions of dollars in bonuses. This bill would eliminate those payouts to executives if a company has received a public benefit – Such as a state tax incentive or grant.

**H.B. 2228:** Each year in Pennsylvania, dozens of victims of domestic violence are murdered despite receiving a protection from abuse order. This bill would put more protections in place for victims in order to save lives.

**H.B. 2299:** Would update our outdated state law on recycling electronic waste. This bill would cut down on the amount of reusable material in electronic devices that ends up in our landfills.



**H.B. 2642:** Would strengthen worker protections to require companies to inform workers about mass layoffs in a more timely manner.

**H.B. 2643:** Reports indicate unrestricted gifts from opioid pharmaceutical companies to health care professionals may have contributed to our nation’s opioid crisis. This bill would limit pharmaceutical gifts to health care providers to \$50 per year.

**H.B. 2688:** Would strengthen worker protections by forcing companies to provide 180-day notice before mass layoffs.

**H.B. 2693:** Would require applicants for state contracts to disclose all campaign contributions, in effect ending “pay to play” when it comes to awarding state contracts.

**H.B. 2723:** In order to address the high number of residents struggling with opioid use disorder after being originally introduced to opioids through a legal opioid prescription, this bill would provide insurance coverage for evidence-based non-opioid treatments for pain management.

**H.B. 2702:** Establishes a 72-hour waiting period for firearm transfers to provide the time necessary for individuals to gain perspective and seek necessary help when they are making an impulsive decision and considering harming themselves or others.

**House Resolution 318:** Honored the 10th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
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163<sup>RD</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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lpo.is.0820

## MY VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERIES

- Public Health During the Time of COVID: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23
- Mental Health & Wellness During the Time of COVID: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30
- Talking to Kids About Health and Wellness: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7

Email [RepZabel@pahouse.net](mailto:RepZabel@pahouse.net) to sign up and receive a link to our upcoming series.

## MY OFFICE IS HERE TO HELP

### Application assistance:

- **Troubleshoot your unemployment claims**  
We have helped process almost 1,300 claims. Let us help you.
- **Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program**  
The deadline has been extended to the end of the year for this program that helps seniors, widows and widowers, and disabled people older than 18.
- **Assistance for small businesses**  
Find the right federal, state or local program that works for your business.

### ■ **Rent/Mortgage relief**

If your household income has been negatively affected by COVID-19, certain renters and homeowners qualify for assistance.

### ■ **Finding mental health services**

You are not alone during this pandemic. My office can help you find the help available for health issues, addiction or mental health concerns.

### ■ **More info on COVID-19 resources:**

[bit.ly/ZabelResourceGuide](https://bit.ly/ZabelResourceGuide)



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[www.RepZabel.com](http://www.RepZabel.com)