

BRANDON MARKOSEK



Friends and neighbors,

I hope 2021 is off to a safe and hopeful start for you and your loved ones. Throughout 2020, we weathered challenges and hardships from the COVID-19 pandemic. There are signs that we are turning a corner, including a decline in cases, rollout of the vaccine to all Pennsylvanians 12 or older and federal assistance from the American Rescue Plan coming to Pennsylvania. There is still more work to be done to stamp out COVID-19, but I know that we will continue to stand together and help one another, like we have so many times over the course of the past year.

I know many people in the 25th Legislative District may still be struggling, which is why I've included resources in this newsletter that could help. Please contact my office at 412-856-8284 if you need any assistance with any state-related issues. You can also reach

out to me via email at RepBMarkosek@pahouse.net or follow me on Facebook at [Facebook.com/RepMarkosek](https://www.facebook.com/RepMarkosek) to stay up to date on state-related resources.

Thank you,

Brandon Markosek

MY OFFICE IS OPEN

If you have a state-related issue that needs to be resolved, please don't hesitate to visit my office. We've adhered to CDC and state guidelines to safely keep my office doors open throughout the pandemic so that my staff and I could continue to serve you.

If you plan to come to the office, please remember to wear a mask.

District Office:

Commerce Building
4232 Northern Pike,
Suite 303
Monroeville, PA 15146
(412) 856-8284

STAY UP TO DATE ON HOW
I'M WORKING FOR YOU.

FOLLOW ME:

/RepMarkosek

pahouse.com/Markosek

PA RESCUE PLAN

Pennsylvania is receiving billions in relief from the American Rescue Plan, and we want to make sure that money is invested in communities to make an immediate positive impact and result in long-term success.

The PA Rescue Plan would do that with investments that support working families, seniors, local businesses, educational opportunities, health care, broadband internet access.

You can read more about the proposed PA Rescue Plan at www.pahouse.com/parescueplan.

PENNSYLVANIA RESCUE PLAN

\$1 BILLION SUPPORTING WORKING FAMILIES AND SENIORS	\$1.12 BILLION HELPING SMALL, LOCAL BUSINESSES
\$168 MILLION PREPARING THE WORKFORCE FOR HIGH DEMAND JOBS	\$826 MILLION INVESTING IN HEALTH CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

RECOVER. RESTORE. REIMAGINE.

GET YOUR VACCINATIONS NOW

LET'S GET VACCINATED!

Allegheny County now has appointments for COVID-19 vaccines available for ALL residents 16+! Visit <https://vax4.alleghenycounty.us/patient/s/> to register.

Vaccines are safe, effective and, combined with masking and social distancing, our best path back to normal.



VaccinatePA

Find COVID-19 vaccines in Pennsylvania with our volunteer-run site

VaccinatePA.org

RENTAL AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

In March, Allegheny County reported having \$79.9 million for individuals and families who need assistance paying their rent and/or utilities. Of that funding, \$43 million was awarded to the county from Act 1 of 2021, which I supported and the governor signed into law in February.

The application went live on March 15, and the county is accepting applications now.

To apply, visit www.covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us

Or visit www.compass.state.pa.us

Drop-in help centers are open around Allegheny County for those without a computer or internet access who want to apply for assistance.

If you cannot get online or go to a drop-in center, or need help completing the application, contact ACTION-Housing at 412-248-0021.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

The deadline to apply for the 2020 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is June 30, 2021. The program is available for people age 65 or older, widows or widowers age 50 or older, and adults with disabilities. More information is available at www.revenue.pa.gov/ptrr.

You can apply online at www.mypath.pa.gov. My office can also help with applications for this program. Call 412-856-8284 for assistance.



APPLY NOW:

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

Older + disabled Pennsylvanians can now apply for a rebate on property tax or rent paid in 2020.



REAL ID: NEW ENFORCEMENT DATE IS MAY 3, 2023

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has extended the REAL ID full enforcement date by 19 months, from October 1, 2021 to May 3, 2023, due to circumstances resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Beginning May 3, 2023, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, photo ID card, or another form of federally acceptable identification (such as a valid passport or military ID) to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a federal building or military installation that requires ID.

Getting a REAL ID is not mandatory; PennDOT continues to offer standard-issue driver's licenses and photo IDs. For more information, visit www.PennDOT.gov.

The federal REAL ID Act has been extended in Pennsylvania until

May 3, 2023

The best thing you can do to prepare for REAL ID is to get your documents together:

- ✓ Proof of identity
- ✓ Social Security card
- ✓ Two current, physical proofs of PA residency
- ✓ Proof of all legal name changes



Visit PENNDOT.GOV/REALID

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

I am committed to fighting for the best interests of everyone in our community and focusing on issues of importance to the 25th Legislative District. Here's some of what I've been working on in Harrisburg:

Tax exemptions for recovery

payments: This measure was designed to help people better deal with the financial hardships from the COVID-19 pandemic by making economic recovery payments exempt from state and local taxes. As you know, Congress voted and passed the CARES Act, which was put in place to help residents and businesses stay afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding was exempt from federal taxation with hopes that it would maximize the impact of the distributed funding. I believe folks should be able to use every cent of their federal payments to further care for their families during the pandemic. My bill seeking tax exemption for recovery rebates was amended into a larger COVID-19 relief package, which passed the House and Senate and was signed into law by Gov. Tom Wolf.

Anti-bullying legislation: Bullying has become so severe that it has hit a crisis point where, unfortunately, young people have contemplated or caused harm to themselves. In Pennsylvania currently, there is no definition for bullying, which has led prosecutors to categorize the behavior under the following unsuitable offenses: disorderly conduct, harassment, simple assault or terroristic threats. I have joined state Reps. Kyle Mullins and Torren Ecker in proposing legislation that would define and penalize the offense of "bullying" in Pennsylvania.

Establishing a "Green Alert" system for at-risk missing veterans:

This legislation would create a "Green Alert" system that would be transmitted to the public on electronic traffic signs or text messages, similar to Amber Alerts, when a veteran with a combat-related health issue is reported missing. Just as we would not let missing soldiers lie on a battlefield without sending search-and-rescue teams to look for them, we should not let our veterans go missing without doing all we can to find them and provide them with the help and assistance they need. This legislation has been referred to the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee and as a member, I look forward to considering this alert system that could greatly improve the chances of securing at-risk veterans a safe return home.



2021-22 COMMITTEES

I'VE BEEN APPOINTED TO SERVE ON THE FOLLOWING HOUSE COMMITTEES:

Professional Licensure – Reviews bills that pertain to positions requiring licensing for qualified employees and businesses.

Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness – Reviews bills that affect veteran-related and other military issues, as well as disaster preparedness, local fire departments, first responders and emergency response in the Commonwealth.

Game & Fisheries – Reviews bills that affect the Game Commission and the Fish and Boat Commission.

I am also serving as the chair of the Security and Emergency Response Readiness Subcommittee and a co-chair for the Autism and Intellectual Disabilities Caucus. I am grateful for the opportunity to best serve the Commonwealth in these capacities.



GRANTS IN THE DISTRICT

When I first took office, I set my sights on ensuring money would be coming back to benefit this district. I am thrilled to announce that more than \$2.5 million in state funding has been secured since December 2020 for projects that benefit our businesses, schools and overall community. Below you'll see which projects were awarded grants and how much funding they each received.

- **\$300,000** to **Allegheny County** for the Turtle Creek Maintenance Project to improve protection from flooding in Pitcairn Borough.
- **\$50,000** to **East Pittsburgh Borough** for the Trax Playground Project, which would turn an asphalt hockey court into a playground and renovate the existing horseshoe court.
- **\$25,000** to **East McKeesport Borough** for Josephine Playground improvements.
- **\$125,000** to **Monroeville** for the second phase of the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Government's Code Enforcement Data Tool, which will build capacity to complete the system and get it ready to offer to other towns outside of TCVCOG. The data tool is used to record the progress of code enforcement violations and resolutions.
- **\$1 million** to the **Union Railroad Company** to repair the Port Perry Bridge in North Versailles. For 117 years, this bridge has kept industry and goods moving through our region and the U.S., and this grant covers repairs that will ensure the bridge continues to serve our business and industry for years to come.
- **\$1 million** to **4350 Propco LLC** to renovate the Pittsburgh Super Computer Building, formerly the Westinghouse headquarters, in Monroeville.
- **\$43,067** to the **Woodland Hills School District** to purchase new food service equipment at Turtle Creek Elementary STEAM Academy and Edgewood Elementary STEAM Academy.
- **\$21,314** to **Plum Borough School District** for the purchase of cafeteria equipment at Plum Senior High School.

TROUT STOCKING IN MONROEVILLE

As a member of the House Game and Fisheries Committee, I was honored to stock trout with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and community members at Turtle Creek this spring.



IN THE COMMUNITY WITH OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

I support our local first responders and I'm doing all I can to assist them as a member of the House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee.





State Representative

BRANDON MARKOSEK

P.O. Box 202025

Harrisburg, PA 17120-2025

lpo.ad.0521

DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT

Make sure documents with your personal information don't end up in the wrong hands! Join me for a free event, where a veteran-owned company will shred your documents on-site.

Saturday, July 17

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

**4232 Northern Pike,
Monroeville, PA 15146**

Please bring up to three boxes or bags of documents. Papers must be loose – no binders or paper clips.

For more information, call my office at (412) 856-8284.