

THE ROZZI

Report

From State Representative
MARK ROZZI
126th Legislative District

Winter 2022
www.RepRozzi.com



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Working hard in Harrisburg

■ Repealing PA's fireworks law

Since the passage of Act 43 of 2017, I've heard countless reports of people using more powerful fireworks irresponsibly. Fireworks have been set off near homes and buildings and at all hours of the night, which is disconcerting to many individuals, especially those who are sensitive to loud noises. In response to the concerns I've heard regarding PA's fireworks law, I co-sponsored House Bill 988. This legislation would repeal the most recent changes made to the fireworks law.

*Nothing in this bill would prohibit Pennsylvania residents from using novelty fireworks or enjoying display fireworks that are set off at community events.

Last action: Referred to the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on March 19, 2021.

■ Allowing minors to access their birth certificates

House Bill 1475 would lower the age limit from 18 to 12 years old when requesting a copy of your own birth certificate. This would especially benefit homeless youth and youth in the child welfare or juvenile justice system. You need your birth certificate to apply for a job, a passport, bank account, housing opportunities, a driver's license, or receive services from the government or community-



based organizations. Without it, vulnerable youth may stay in cycles of poverty and be at risk of incarceration and potentially violence.

Last action: Referred to the House Health Committee on May 21, 2021.

■ Allowing Temporary Return of Retired Teachers due to COVID-19

Schools have been struggling with teacher shortages for years, but the COVID-19 pandemic amplified this problem in the last year. Therefore, I am introducing legislation to allow teachers that have retired to return to teaching temporarily. Returning retired teachers can help fill in this gap, ensuring that Pennsylvania children receive a proper education.

Last action: Seeking co-sponsors.

Order your
**FREE at-home
COVID tests!**

[COVIDTests.gov](https://www.COVIDTests.gov)



Each home in the U.S. is eligible to receive 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. Orders typically ship in 7-12 days

COVID-19: Winter 2022 update

The coronavirus pandemic has been unlike anything that any of us have seen in our lifetimes. After nearly two years of hardship, the widespread availability of the vaccine finally seemed like a light at the end of the tunnel. Since there has been a nationwide uptick in cases of the hyper-transmissible Omicron variant, it's very important to get vaccinated and boosted. While fully vaccinated individuals can still catch COVID-19, the vaccine helps your body fight the infection better and curtail long-term health complications.

If you haven't already, please consider getting fully vaccinated. Pediatric vaccines are available to those 5-11 years old, and booster shots are available to people 12 and older. Visit [vaccines.gov/search](https://www.vaccines.gov/search) to find a COVID-19 vaccine near you.

Serving parts of Reading as well as Lower Alsace Township, Muhlenberg Township, Laureldale, Mount Penn, St. Lawrence and West Reading.

Grants awarded to the district



■ \$60K awarded to Mt. Penn Fire Co.

This grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development went toward the purchase of a new Ford F350 utility truck. The new truck replaced the volunteer company's 20-year-old truck.



I was thrilled to celebrate the unveiling of Mt. Penn's new utility truck with them on Oct. 19. I hope that this new truck serves our community members and first responders well for years to come!

■ \$29K for Muhlenberg Township Athletic Association

This funding secured with my assistance will go toward the installation of new fencing and batting cages.

■ \$420K for crime prevention and youth programs

RIZE, a youth nonprofit organization, received \$225,000 and The Village in Reading received \$195,000 in grants from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. This funding will help empower local youth through art programs and heighten safety and crime prevention measures in Reading.

■ \$150K benefiting Reading School District's Edmentum Exact Path program

This funding will go toward a computer-adaptive assessment program that helps educators better understand individual student's strengths and areas where they need support.

■ \$499K to Albright College

A \$499,711 PAsmart Advancing grant will help Albright College expand their computer science and STEM education programs.

■ \$7.5M for improvements to FirstEnergy Stadium, home of the Reading Phils

This \$7.5 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant will go toward the construction of home and away team clubhouses and new player practice and training facilities at FirstEnergy Stadium. These upgrades are in accordance with Minor League Baseball license agreements and will ensure the Fightin Phils stay here in Reading.

■ \$2.25M to renovate Reading's Medical Arts building

This grant will help fund the construction of a two-story addition in an adjacent vacant lot, masonry and window repair, a roof replacement, modernization of ground-floor retail space, lobby restoration, utility improvements, and the addition of 35 residential apartments.

■ \$143K for Laurel Run Park

A \$143,500 grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program will go toward the renovation of a parking area and access drive, the construction of pickleball courts, a multi-purpose field, a pavilion and pedestrian walkways, strengthening ADA access, landscaping and other related site improvements.

■ \$25K to help address food insecurity at Muhlenberg Elementary

This grant awarded to Helping Harvest food bank will provide non-perishable foods for meals and snacks to students in need.

Financial assistance to maintain access to drinking water and wastewater service for those in need

Are you or someone you know at risk of losing water service at home? Help is available for Pennsylvanians who need assistance with water bills or who may lose water service.

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services opened the Low Income Household Water Assistance

Program. Relief is available to families who have past-due water bills, had their service terminated, or received a notice indicating that their service will be terminated in the next 60 days.

For more information, including income guidelines for program eligibility, visit dhs.pa.gov/WaterHelp.



Does the PA Treasury have something for you?

The Pennsylvania Treasury has billions of dollars in unclaimed property, and some of that could be yours. Some examples of unclaimed property include abandoned bank accounts, uncashed payroll checks, contents of safe deposit boxes and traveler's checks. Anyone can visit www.patreasury.gov to see if the state is holding any property in their name. It is free to search the database, so never pay anyone a fee to search for you. If you need assistance, my staff is here to help you search for and collect property in your name.



**IT'S NO SECRET GEORGE,
PA TREASURY HAS \$3.8
BILLION IN UNCLAIMED
PROPERTY THEY WANT
TO RETURN.**

PaTreasury.gov/unclaimed-property

Around the community



Rodale Institute

I met with Rodale Institute's leadership team to learn about their upcoming projects, then got out in the field with students from all over the country competing in a soil judging competition.



Halloween parade

My staff and I had a great time handing out over 20,000 pieces of candy plus bones for every dog at the Temple Halloween parade.

Supporting 100 local families this Christmas



Thank you to everyone who participated in my annual Christmas Gift Giving event. The generosity of our community never ceases to amaze me, and last Christmas we supported 100 families in need. This is one of my favorite events of the year and I sincerely appreciate all the sponsors who helped make a child's holiday magical.

REAL ID deadline extended until 2023

Due to complications brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, the REAL ID deadline has been extended from October 2021 to May 2023. See the graphic at right for further information.

If you have questions about REAL ID or its application process, reach out to my district office and my staff will be able to assist you.



Shred event

We filled up three trucks at my last shred event! Thank you to everyone who came out and to those who volunteered. I'm planning another shred event soon; watch my social media pages for more information.

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



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Home heating assistance is available

Pennsylvania's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, also known as LIHEAP, began accepting applications in October. This yearly program helps low-income families pay their heating bills in the form of one-time cash grants. Funds are sent directly to your utility company or fuel provider and credited to your bill. Grants are based on income, household size, and fuel type. Find instructions and apply on **COMPASS: www.compass.state.pa.us**.

2021-2022 Income Guidelines



Household Size	Maximum Income
1	\$19,320
2	\$26,130
3	\$32,940
4	\$39,750
5	\$46,560
6	\$53,370
7	\$60,180
8	\$66,990
Each additional person +\$6,810	



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Ways my district office can serve you:

- ➔ Voter registration and mail-in/absentee ballot applications
- ➔ Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- ➔ SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards
- ➔ REAL ID questions
- ➔ Birth/Death Certificate applications
- ➔ Problems or questions about PennDOT
- ➔ Car registration, special tags, titles/License plate applications
- ➔ Disability plates and placards/PACE cards for senior citizens
- ➔ Problems with the Department of Human Services (SNAP, welfare, etc.)
- ➔ Tours of the State Capitol for individuals or groups
- ➔ Information on financial assistance for higher education
- ➔ Unemployment compensation problems
- ➔ Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
- ➔ Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones