

BOB MERSKI

Sign Up to Stay in the Loop!

Don't miss out! Each week, I send out an e-newsletter to keep folks up to date on new state programs, services and the latest happenings here at home and in Harrisburg. You can sign up for my e-newsletter by visiting www.RepMerski.com and scrolling down to the sign-up form.



CAPITOL OFFICE:

221 Irvis Office Building
P.O. Box 202002
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-4358

DISTRICT OFFICE:

3921 Buffalo Rd.
Erie, PA 16510
(814) 455-6319
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F

SATELLITE OFFICES:

Summit Township Municipal Bldg.

1230 Townhall Road W.
Erie, PA 16509
Wednesday ONLY
12 p.m. - 4 p.m. or by appointment

Greene Township Office
9333 Tate Rd., Room 102
Erie, PA 16509-6055
Monday ONLY
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. or by appointment

Erie Office
2808 State St., Suite 106
Erie, PA 16508
Tuesday & Thursday
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



RepMerski@pahouse.net

  @RepMerski

DEAR NEIGHBORS,



As summer wraps up and we prepare for fall, I want to share an update on practical steps improving daily life across Erie County—stronger schools, safer neighborhoods, support for retirees and veterans, and targeted tax relief. Local schools will receive \$15.01 million in the 2026–27 budget, sustaining investment in safe classrooms, early learning, and student mental health. Statewide, the budget adds \$670 million to public education, including \$565 million for under-resourced districts and more than \$100 million combined for basic and special education.

The budget also honors service through a supplemental annuity for retired school employees, a new post-retirement benefit for retired municipal police and firefighters, stronger pension oversight, creation of a Veterans' Trust Fund Board to improve grant management, and increased funding for the Paralyzed Veterans' Pension.

Families are already benefiting from the recently created Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit, which is equal to 10% of the federal EITC and worth up to \$805 in its first year. Nearly \$217 million has already reached more than 876,000 residents during the 2025 filing season, with about

\$220 million expected to reach up to 940,000 as returns continue. For help with school resources, pension updates, veterans' services, the WPTC, or property registry compliance, our office is ready to assist.

Among the measures I'm advancing, House Bill 858 curbs property blight by creating a county-maintained contact registry for property owners. As co-prime sponsor, I helped write and guide the bill, now signed into law by Gov. Josh Shapiro. By requiring counties to maintain up-to-date contact information for every parcel and share it with municipal code enforcement, the law finally gives local governments the tool they need for timely maintenance and responsiveness.

The goal is simple: a responsible contact behind every parcel so neighborhoods are safer and property values stronger. I'll continue working with bipartisan partners and local governments to ensure smooth implementation and deliver measurable benefits for residents across our district.

Our team is here whenever you need us. If you have a question or need assistance, call 814-455-6319, stop by our main office at 3921 Buffalo Road, or visit any of our satellite locations. From navigating state services to connecting you with local resources, we're ready to listen, guide, and get things done on your behalf.

Serving as your representative in the Pennsylvania General Assembly is a privilege, and I'm committed to working every day to support our community.

Respectfully,

Bob Merski

PA State Secretary Al Schmidt visited Erie to present the Benedictine Sisters of Erie with the National Association of Secretaries of State's Margaret Chase Smith American Democracy Award, recognizing their efforts to address voter fraud claims with facts and to encourage the public to verify information before sharing it.

In addition, Sister Marcia Sigler and Sister Roseanne Loneck were inducted into the Voter Hall of Fame for voting in 50 consecutive November elections, and Sister Ann Hoffman was honored for her many years of service as a poll worker.

Congratulations to the Benedictine Sisters for their dedication to informed participation in our democracy.



IN HARRISBURG & THE DISTRICT

National Night Out



National Night Out was a blast! We connected with so many great neighbors across the district—from the City of Erie to Wesleyville, Greene, Summit, and Harborcreek Townships. Nights like this remind us that community is what makes this place feel like home.



Congratulations to this year's CLASS Act Award winners. Your hard work and achievements make our community proud. Thank you to the teachers, families, and program organizers whose support helps our young people thrive.



PAHTAWG, a human trafficking advocacy group, visited the Capitol to advocate for stronger human trafficking laws. Since my first day in the House, I've worked to ensure the Trafficking Hotline is posted at every interstate rest stop—a step Gov. Wolf implemented statewide. Our office also continues its involvement with the Erie Human Trafficking Coalition to support local prevention and advocacy efforts.

Food Bank



I was thrilled to join the announcement that Intag Hydroponics is partnering with the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania to purchase surplus fresh produce for distribution across Erie and Northwest PA. Second Harvest will use PASS dollars to make these purchases, helping more local families access fresh, healthy food.



I was proud to stand with DCED Secretary Siger and local leaders as they announced the Triangle of Hope partnership: Mercy Center for Women West, Saint Paul's Community Center, and UPMC Hamot BUILD. Together, these agencies will provide supportive housing and wraparound services for residents in need.



We were pleased to welcome Oakwood Pizzeria to the district. Bringing together two Erie favorites—The Oakwood Café and Colony Pub and Pizza—this new spot on East 38th Street is a great addition to the East Side.



Progress continues in Lawrence Park Township and Wesleyville Borough as PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll announced funding for the Bell Street pedestrian bridge over Four Mile Creek. The bridge has been out of service for nearly five years and is a key need for both communities. The project includes a new pathway from Buffalo Road to the bridge, with future phases planned to connect it to East Lake Road.



I was honored to have my family with me as Speaker Joanna McClinton introduced us in the House Chamber. Their support made the moment especially meaningful and reminds me why I serve—to stand up for our neighbors in Erie. I'm grateful for the chance to work for our community and remain committed to delivering results for working families.



The Erie Zoo visited the Capitol, and it was a great opportunity to highlight its importance to our region. The House Game and Fisheries Committee oversees exotic animals in Pennsylvania, including those in our zoos. As vice chair, I'm committed to supporting the Erie Zoo so it can continue serving families for generations to come.



Family Services of Northwest Pennsylvania is a leading provider of community support, counseling, and permanency services that strengthen families. I appreciated touring their facility and speaking with staff about the critical need for mental health supportive services across Pennsylvania.

STATE PROGRAMS & SERVICES

LIHEAP \$100 Supplemental Payment for Eligible PA Households: The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services has announced a \$100 supplemental payment for eligible households through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Eligible households are those that received LIHEAP during the 2025–26 season and include at least one family member who has a disability, is age 60 or older, or is a child under six. Approximately 193,000 households will automatically receive the \$100 supplemental payment. The payment will be issued to the same utility vendor that received the household's LIHEAP cash grant during the normal season. No action is required from eligible households. DHS will send a notice confirming eligibility and the supplemental payment.

Veterans Temporary Assistance Program: The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is offering financial assistance to veterans experiencing unexpected hardship through its Veterans Temporary Assistance program. This vital program provides eligible veterans and their surviving dependents with short-term help for basic needs like food, shelter, fuel, and clothing. Since its creation, the program has provided more than \$8.6 million in support to over 9,650 service members, veterans, and families. Eligible individuals can receive up to \$1,600 in a 12-month period. Veterans must have served on active duty and received a discharge other than dishonorable, or have a service-connected disability; surviving dependents may also qualify. Those seeking assistance can contact their County Veterans Affairs Director for help applying. More details on eligibility and documentation are available on the DMVA's Veterans Temporary Assistance webpage.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program: Applications are open for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate (PTRR) Program for taxes or rent paid in 2025. The Shapiro Administration has extended the filing deadline to December 31, 2026, giving eligible Pennsylvanians—older adults, widows and widowers, and individuals with disabilities—more time to apply. The Department of Revenue reports strong participation, with more than 400,000 applications received so far this year. Many eligible Pennsylvanians still have time to apply for a rebate that could return up to \$1,000. **If you think you qualify or need help completing your application, please contact my office at 814-455-6319—our team is ready to guide you through every step.**

2026-2027 PA Budget Wins

School Funding Increases

Erie City School District \$12.7 Million (7.8% ↑)	Iroquois School District \$755K (5.3% ↑)
Fort LeBoeuf School District \$710K (6.1% ↑)	Wattsburg Area School District \$346K (3.4% ↑)
Harbor Creek School District \$496K (3.7% ↑)	

BOB MERSKI
Representative

NEW DEADLINE

Property Tax / Rent Rebate Applications

Giving money back to PA renters and homeowners

Homeowner & Renter Income	Max Rebate
Up to \$8,550	\$1,000
Up to \$16,040	\$770
Up to \$19,240	\$460
Up to \$48,110	\$380

Applications due by **December 31, 2026**



3921 Buffalo Road
Erie, PA 16510

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HARRISBURG, PA
PERMIT NO. 529

SENIOR FAIR

Friday, Nov. 6

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Eastside YMCA

2101 Nagle Rd., Erie

SAVE THE DATES!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS:

REPMERSKI.COM

FLU & COVID-19 SHOT CLINIC

Thursday, Sept. 17

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Our Office

3921 Buffalo Rd.

lpo.km.0826



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

☐ I would like your help. Please contact me at: _____

☐ I would like you to speak to my group or organization _____

☐ I would like to know your views on: _____

The issues important to me are:

- ☐ Education
- ☐ Property Taxes
- ☐ Unemployment
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ Healthcare
- ☐ Economy
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Voting/Elections
- ☐ Other: _____

Snip off this form, insert it in an envelope, affix postage and address it to:

State Rep. Bob Merski, 3921 Buffalo Rd., Erie, PA 16510.

**ONLINE
EXTRAS!**

If you'd like to see our community outreach events and photos that didn't make the publication, or a detailed explanation of our grant funding, just follow the link below or use the QR Code.

REPMERSKI.COM

