

THE ROZZI

Report

From State Representative
MARK ROZZI
126th Legislative District

SPRING 2020
WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/ROZZI



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Making history: Statute of limitations reform bill signed into law

For years, I've been fighting relentlessly for victims of childhood sexual abuse, and 2019 finally brought a historic step for justice: we reformed the statute of limitations.

The House and Senate passed my legislation to:

- Eliminate the criminal statute of limitations for childhood sexual abuse.
- Extend the civil statute of limitations for childhood sexual abuse until the victim reaches age 55.
- Waive the sovereign and governmental immunity related to childhood sexual abuse.

On November 26, I watched as Governor Tom Wolf signed my bill into law as Act 87, at Muhlenberg High School.

The House and Senate also passed H.B. 963, a constitutional amendment that would open a retroactive two-year window so that victims who have aged out of the current statute could sue for damages. If the bill passes the House and Senate again in the next legislative session, the amendment could be put before voters on the ballot as early as spring 2021.

A constitutional amendment is the best path to move legislation forward to help adult victims of childhood sexual abuse.

House and Senate leaders have pledged to get the bill on public referendum as one of the first orders of business in 2021, and I will fight to make sure that happens. Meanwhile, today's victims will be able to access remedies for the harm done to them.

I will never stop fighting for victims of childhood sex abuse.



Scan here to watch a video.



Census 2020: Make sure you are counted!

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.

Filling out the Census is required by law, and it's critical if you want:

- ✓ Better roads and bridges.
- ✓ Kids to have better access to quality schools.
- ✓ Better access to restaurants and shops.
- ✓ Better public safety.

This year, it will be even easier to make sure you and your family are counted. Respond online, by paper or over the phone. The Census will be printed in English and Spanish, accommodations are available for those with visual or hearing impairments, and telephone assistance will be available in 13 languages.

You should start to receive notices to complete the 2020 Census in mid-March.

Find more information at [2020Census.gov](https://www.2020census.gov).



Get Counted
2020 Census

The Census starts in April
More info | www.2020census.gov | Job opportunities

How to take the 2020 Census



Online



Phone



Mail

Why it matters

Federal funding
For local programs and organizations

Better planning
For roads, schools, healthcare and emergency services

Determines representation
In Congress and the state legislature

Helps businesses
Locate factories and stores, recruit employees and conduct market research

Shape your future
Your community, your voice

Working to help homeless youth

Homeless and foster youth in our communities face unique challenges.

More than 36,000 children and youth were identified as experiencing homelessness in 2017-18, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and nearly 2,279 of them were in Berks County. Many don't want to be identified, so these numbers are most likely under-reported.

I recently introduced a package of legislation to support these young people and help lead them to success in the future.

Bills in the package would:

- Designate a point person to ease the transition into a new school for homeless and foster youth who change schools, to help them stay on track to graduate.
- Waive fees, residency requirements and parental consent requirements for foster and homeless youth applying for a driver's license or identification card. Proper identification is necessary to obtain jobs and government services.
- Waive fees and parental consent requirements for homeless and foster youth applying for birth certificates. A birth certificate is necessary to function in society, but these young people often can't come up with the funds or parental permission to obtain it.
- Allow a minor to contract for a variety of services, including applying to high school or post-secondary schools, housing, employment, bank accounts and more.
- Require institutions of higher learning to provide homeless and foster youth priority for on-campus housing and to develop plans for access to housing resources between semesters and during breaks. Legislation also would designate a homeless youth and foster liaison to identify services available and help with financial aid.

These measures would remove many of the burdens that homeless and foster youth face as they move through school and grow to become adults. I'm working with many community organizations on this legislation, and I'll keep you updated.

Election reform: Mail-in voting, more time to register

Legislation signed into law by Governor Wolf in October made changes to our elections, which will go into effect for the upcoming April primary.

You now have more time to register and more ways to vote.

Visit www.votespa.com for more information.



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

Making investments in our community

I'm pleased to support investments in our community! Here's a look at some grants awarded around the 126th District through a variety of state and federal programs.

\$35,000 each to Muhlenberg and Wyomissing Area school districts for computer science education and teacher training

\$234,266 to revitalize a pocket park near Penn Street in Reading

\$250,000 to Reading to rehabilitate and develop a playground at Third and Spruce

\$33,900 for Berks County for a comprehensive update and plan for recreation, parks and greenway

\$460,375 for Simpler Way Nutritionals to develop a value-added process for developing infant formula and nutraceutical products from Pennsylvania-sourced milk

\$215,000 for the Recreation Commission of Antietam Valley for the renovations at Carsonia Park

\$50,000 to Reading Muhlenberg CTC to purchase new equipment

\$25,000 to Reading for a feasibility study on rehabilitating Schlegel Pool

\$90,000 for Reading Skatepark Association to develop a skate park

\$42,947 for Reading Area Community College for work to improve the quality of early childhood education

\$103,656 for Clare of Assisi House, \$101,954 for the Council on Chemical Abuse, \$101,926 for Berks County Commissioners, and \$47,000 for Opportunity House through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

\$110,955 to the Berks County Workforce Development Board to prepare students for in-demand careers

\$227,840 to Reading to study and upgrade the downtown traffic signal network

\$162,821 for Berks Nature to install a pedestrian bridge

Do you need a REAL ID?

Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, 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 flight or enter a secure federal building or military installation.

Information about REAL ID can be found on PennDOT's website, under the REAL ID section: www.pennDOT.gov/REALID. Please contact my office at 610-921-8921 for help obtaining your REAL ID or with any questions or concerns.

October 1, 2020

The federal REAL ID Act takes effect in Pennsylvania.

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

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



The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is available for families and individuals who need help staying warm this winter.

Contact my office at 610-921-8921 for help.

My office was once again flooded with gifts for our annual holiday gift drive!



In its fifth year, the project grew to reach 135 families, including more than 450 children. Area nonprofits, social workers, teachers and guidance counselors helped connect us with kids' wish lists, and we connected them with community donors. We're able to provide the gifts directly to parents, who can enjoy a special moment with their children. Thank you to our many generous donors!



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In January, I joined IM ABLE Foundation founder Chris Kaag, center, to present an adaptive bike to Steve Kreitz, left, of Wernersville, who lost his leg in a fishing accident. I've been proud to support the IM ABLE Foundation and its work to remove obstacles that prevent people with disabilities from being physically active.

Leilyn Mozo, a fifth-grader at Reiffton School, won third place in Division 2 of the School Bus Safety Week Poster Contest! The contest's theme, "Red Lights Mean STOP!" reminds all drivers to stop for a school bus with its lights flashing and stop-arm extended.



UPCOMING EVENTS

HeartSaver CPR Course

April 16, 6:30 p.m.

Berks Technical Institute

2205 Ridgewood Road, Wyomissing

I've teamed up with local medical emergency instructors to provide this CPR course for free! Attendees can obtain a certification card for \$22.

Shred Event

April 18, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

District Office parking lot
 4933 Kutztown Road, Temple

Bring unwanted documents containing personal information to have them shredded on site!

Call my office at 610-921-8921 for more information.

MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Car registrations, special tags, titles and license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Unemployment compensation problems
- Birth certificate applications
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, assistance)
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information, student aid information, etc.
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints about road conditions
- Problems or questions about PennDOT
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Disability plates and placards
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery

Any question about state government!

STAY CONNECTED

There are many ways I can keep you up to date on what's happening in Harrisburg and around the 126th District!

I send occasional email updates with information on state services and programs, legislative news, and events happening in our community. You can sign up at www.pahouse.com/rozzi/emailsSignup.

Please note: House rules prohibit me from sending email updates to you in the 60 days before an election in which I am a candidate, unless you opt in to keep receiving them. Leave the box on the online form checked to opt in and ensure you keep receiving my updates.

You can also follow me on social media:

www.facebook.com/RepRozzi

www.twitter.com/RepRozzi