

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
Abington Shopping Center  
1147 Northern Boulevard  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-2221  
(570) 342-4348

**CAPITOL OFFICE:**  
25B East Wing • P.O. Box 202113  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2113  
(717) 787-8981

[www.RepWelby.com](http://www.RepWelby.com)  
@RepWelby



State Representative | 113th Legislative District

# THOM WELBY



Taking the oath of office with my wife and family by my side.



Casting my first official vote.

## Honored to represent YOU!

On Nov. 17, 2021, I was honored to take the oath of office and officially begin representing the people of Lackawanna County in Harrisburg. I look forward to working with both parties on addressing important issues like school funding, property tax reform, and job creation that so desperately need our attention.

As of this writing, I have been appointed to three committees – Game & Fisheries, Liquor Control, and Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness.

Additionally, I am serving in several caucus groups that are important to both me and to you:

- Animal Protection Caucus
- Arts and Culture Caucus
- Bipartisan Reform Caucus
- Career and Technical Education Caucus
- Early Childhood Education Caucus
- Firefighters and Emergency Service Caucus
- Law Enforcement Caucus
- LGBTQ Equality Caucus
- Parks and Recreation Caucus
- Property Tax Reform Caucus

For those who don't know me, I have a long history of volunteer work and community service in many nonprofit organizations throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. I am a passionate advocate for fair education funding, property tax equality, protections and greater benefits for our seniors and veterans, helping our small businesses to grow, and protection of our animal friends.

Please allow me and my office staff to help you with any state-related issue you may have. The office is located at 1147 Northern Blvd. in Clarks Summit. The phone number is 570-342-4348.



Welcomed to the House Democratic Caucus by Leader Joanna McClinton, LEFT, and Whip Jordan Harris, RIGHT.



Getting a warm hello from Speaker of the House Bryan Cutler.



It was nice having so many family and friends join my ceremony.



# \$7.28 million reinvested throughout the district

For many years, I have worked to ensure that our area receives state resources for investments in projects that benefit our communities. These are your tax dollars and I'm glad to do my part to make sure they find their way back to Lackawanna County. I encourage community leaders and others to contact my office for more information about state grants, funding and programs that are available. The following is a breakdown of the funding distributed throughout our communities since I took office in November.

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance was awarded \$4 million in Community Development Block Grant-CARES Act funding to provide grants of up to \$50,000 for small businesses and up to \$15,000 for microenterprises that have been severely impacted due to COVID-19.

Our volunteer and career fire and rescue companies across our commonwealth have been struggling over the last several years. Those struggles have been compounded with personal and business complications these last two years because of COVID-19 issues. The Fire Company and Emergency Medical Service Grant Program provides vital financial lifelines for our communities.

Funding was approved for the following local agencies:

- \$15,000 to the Scranton Fire Department.
- \$15,000 to the Chinchilla Hose Company of South Abington Township.
- \$8,325 to the Chinchilla Hose Company of South Abington Township (EMS).

The CFA Multimodal Transportation Fund provided the following grants:

- \$779,483 – for streetscape improvements along Main Avenue from Oram Street north to the North Scranton Expressway and other related safety and disability-access sidewalk upgrades in Scranton.
- \$71,825 – flood mitigation funding to repair a collapsed gabion basket in Scranton.
- \$40,222 – for the construction of ADA-compliant walking trails within the Garden of Cedar pocket park located in Scranton.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources awarded Community Conservation Partnership Program grants for the following Scranton projects:

- \$2 million – for the construction of pool, spray park, bathhouse and



pavilion; installation of filtration and recirculation systems, utilities and fencing; ADA access, landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements at Nay Aug Park.

- \$198,000 – for the renovation of pool building and parking areas; construction of pedestrian walkway, internal loop trail and stormwater management measures; installation of play equipment with required safety surfacing; ADA access, landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements at Weston Park.

- \$149,400 – for the renovation of concession building; construction of dog park, pedestrian walkway, internal loop trail and stormwater management measures; installation of play equipment with required safety surfacing; ADA access, landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements at Connell Park.

## 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	

## Need help heating your home?

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program helps families pay their heating bills in the form of a cash grant. Households in immediate danger of being without heat may also qualify for crisis grants.

The cash grant is a one-time payment sent directly to the utility company/fuel provider to be credited on your bill. These grants, which do not have to be repaid, range from \$500 to \$1,500 based on household size, income, and fuel type.

Paper applications are available at the Lackawanna County Assistance Office, 200 Scranton State Office Building, 100 Lackawanna Ave. in Scranton. My office also can provide an application and help filling it out.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/LIHEAP.aspx>.



## Sen. Marty Flynn's Student Ambassador Program

This year I spoke with students from Sen. Flynn's district about the legislative structure and challenges in Harrisburg – and also spoke with them about the importance of community service. These outstanding young men and women were chosen for this program because of their attitude and desire to be active members of our community. They came from 22 different school districts across three counties of Northeastern PA.

## Keeping hard liquor sales in state stores means more control and safety for you

I recently participated in a public hearing with our Liquor Control Committee in Harrisburg to discuss the desire by some private interest groups to abandon the current system of the sale of hard liquor in Pennsylvania.

I am a staunch supporter of the current system of hard liquor sales – not only because it generates hundreds of millions of dollars in profit for the commonwealth and provides over 5,000 local, family-sustaining wage and benefits careers – but equally important is the neighborhood safety factor. Study after study has shown that the greater sales outlets that there are for hard liquor stores in neighborhoods – the greater the crime activity – and that includes robberies, stabbings, shootings, and sexual assaults. Our current system of hard liquor sales in our state stores is safe and secure and prevents illegal sales to minors.



State Rep. Kyle Mullins joined me to visit some of the employees at one of our regional Fine Wine and Good Spirits stores.



# Committee and caucus assignments

- Game and Fisheries Committee
- Liquor Control Committee
- Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee
- Northeast Delegation
- Animal Protection Caucus
- Arts and Culture Caucus
- Bipartisan Reform Caucus
- Career and Technical Education Caucus
- Early Childhood Education Caucus
- Firefighters and Emergency Service Caucus
- Law Enforcement Caucus
- LGBTQ Equality Caucus
- Parks and Recreation Caucus
- Property Tax Reform Caucus
- Veterans Caucus



As a member of the House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, I am looking forward to working with Majority Chair Rep./Dr. Karen Boback and Minority Chair Rep. Chris Sainato on improving services to all Pennsylvania veterans.



The Lackawanna County Delegation -- Rep. Kyle Mullins, Rep. Karen Boback, Sen. Marty Flynn, Rep. Thom Welby, Rep. Bridget Kosierowski and Rep. Mike Carroll.

# Apply now for Property Tax/Rent Rebate

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is dedicated to helping eligible Pennsylvanians receive rebates for their property, whether they rent or own.

It's open to Pennsylvanians 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with disabilities 18 or older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded.

The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975.

Claimants must reapply for rebates every year because they are based on annual income and property taxes or rent paid each year. Spouses, personal representatives or estates may file rebate claims on behalf of deceased claimants who lived at least one day in 2021 and meet all other eligibility criteria.

The state Department of Revenue is encouraging people to apply online by visiting [my.path.pa.gov](https://my.path.pa.gov) or by calling 1-888-222-9190. My office also can help you, so don't hesitate to contact us.

## PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

for residents who are permanently disabled, 50+ and widowed, or 65+



**What we need from you:**

**EVERYONE**

- ✓ All earned income tax forms (1099 SSI, W2s, etc.)

**HOMEOWNERS**

- ✓ Copies of all paid tax bills

**RENTERS**

- ✓ Signed form from the landlord



**\$35,000**  
maximum household income\*

\* for those on Social Security: half of SSI/SSD income is excluded for eligibility

## Do you have unclaimed property?

The Pennsylvania Treasury holds \$3.8 billion in unclaimed property that needs to be returned to the rightful owners!

One in 10 Pennsylvanians has unclaimed property waiting for them. To find out if you are one of them visit [www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property](https://www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property) or call my office (570-342-4348) and we can help you search the database.

# Need help with water bills?

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program is available to help Pennsylvanians maintain access to drinking and wastewater service.

Assistance is available for 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.

Households can receive LIHWAP grants for both drinking water service and wastewater service. Grants are issued directly to water service providers, and families must meet income requirements. As you prepare to apply have the following information ready to submit with your application:

- 1) Names, Social Security numbers, and dates of birth for all people in the household.
- 2) Proof of income for the applicant and all household members.
- 3) A recent water bill.

More information is available online at <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Waterhelp>.



## Program helps homeowners

The Pennsylvania Homeowner Assistance Fund, or PAHAF, is a housing-related program funded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury to assist Pennsylvania homeowners facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic that began after January 21, 2020, (including a hardship that began before January 21, 2020, and continued after that date).

The program provides financial assistance to homeowners for qualified mortgage and housing-related expenses to avoid delinquency, default, foreclosure or displacement.

Learn more about the program, including who's eligible and what's covered, at [pahaf.org](http://pahaf.org).

**Are you at risk of having your water shut off?**

Help is available. Learn if you qualify at:  
[dhs.pa.gov/WaterHelp](https://dhs.pa.gov/WaterHelp)



## Affordable prescriptions for seniors



Older Pennsylvanians living on fixed incomes should never have to choose between affording medicine and affording food or rent or heat. Pennsylvania's prescription assistance programs for older adults, PACE and PACENET, offer low-cost prescription medication to qualified residents, age 65 or older.

Recently, the program was expanded to help 100,000 more of our wisest friends and neighbors qualify for PACENET by raising the income limits to \$33,500 for a single person and to \$41,500 for a married couple.

My office is ready to assist with applications and answer any questions you may have about the program.

To find out more visit [www.aging.pa.gov](http://www.aging.pa.gov) or call my office at 570-342-4348.





**STATE REP. THOM WELBY**

P.O. Box 202113

Harrisburg, PA 17120-2113

lpo.ts.0222

## **My office can provide applications and assistance with the following popular state related services ... and much more!**

- LIHEAP – Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- LIHWAP – Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program
- PACE/PACENET – pharmaceutical assistance for qualified senior citizens
- Property Tax/Rent Rebates – homeowner/renter help for eligible Pennsylvanians
- Unclaimed property – owner claims with the PA Department of Treasury
- Unemployment – assistance with PA Department of Labor and Industry
- Vital statistics – obtaining birth and death certificates
- COMPASS – Departments of Health and Human Services benefits
- PennDOT
  - \$10 retired status vehicle registrations for eligible seniors
  - Disability license plates and placards
  - Surrender of driver's license for state-issued ID Card – FREE

We can also help arrange tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups, as well as memorialize outstanding local accomplishments and important family milestones with a personalized citation ... contact us today!

## **We're working for you!**

Before becoming the elected state Representative for our area, I was a staffer for Rep./now state Sen. Marty Flynn for nearly nine years, so I know firsthand the value of having knowledgeable people working in the district and Capitol Offices. I am proud to have as my new Chief of Staff/District office Director Angela Rempe Jones, RIGHT. She joined Rep. Flynn's staff in January 2013 and agreed to stay with me in service to our community. Also staying with our local office team is Joe Triano, a longtime stand-out in the Scranton School District and Diocese of Scranton Schools. My Harrisburg office is being directed by my Capitol Legislative Assistant Brittany Ross.

