

STURLA

Report

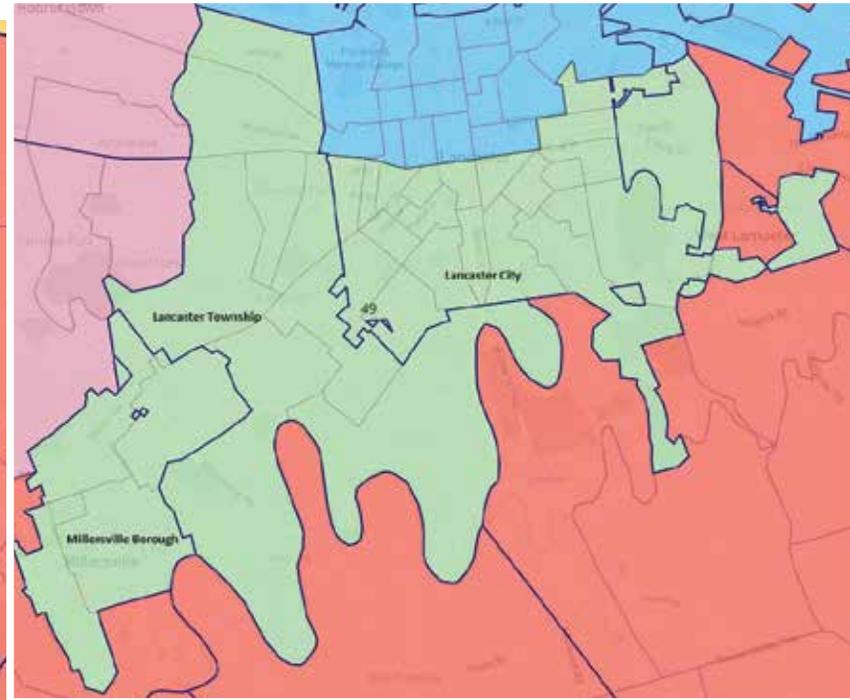
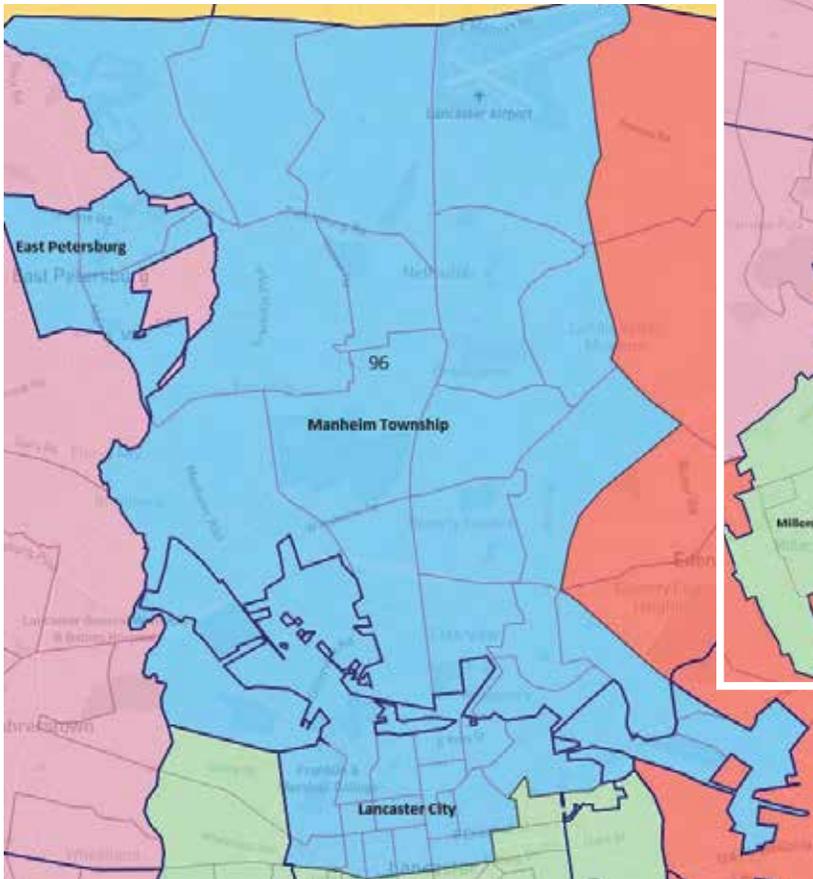
From State Representative
MIKE STURLA
96th Legislative District

March 2022
www.RepMikeSturla.com



REDISTRICTING UPDATE

On Feb. 4, the Legislative Reapportionment Commission approved state House and Senate maps. At the time of this mailing, these maps are not yet final. The PA Supreme Court could still make additional changes before they are certified as final. You can review the full details of the new 96th Legislative District and the rest of the maps (click on Dave's Redistricting, then click on overlays, then check background map and district lines to see streets) at www.redistricting.state.pa.us/maps. The maps shown below represent the new 96th Legislative District and 49th Legislative District if the maps approved by the LRC are certified by the state Supreme Court.



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GOV. WOLF'S FINAL BUDGET PROPOSAL

On Feb. 8, Gov. Tom Wolf proposed his final state budget. Some highlights include:

- \$1.55 billion (24% increase) in basic education funding.
- \$1.25 billion to be distributed through the fair funding formula.
- \$300 million in Level Up funding to the 100 most underfunded districts.
- \$200 million (16% increase) in special education funding.
- \$373 million in savings for school districts through charter school reform.
- \$75 million (15.7% increase) for the operations of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.
- \$1 million to support the Hunger-Free Campus Initiative, which combats food insecurity at postsecondary institutions.
- \$45 million for school safety and security grants.
- \$60 million (25% increase) added to Pre-K Counts.
- \$10 million (15% increase) for existing Head Start slots.
- \$1.2 million to expand access to early intervention by adding postpartum depression as an eligible tracking category.
- \$44.3 million to maintain co-payment reductions for Child Care Works families.
- \$35 million (17% increase) for grants and technical assistance to support community-led gun violence prevention.
- \$50 million (44% increase) to state supplemental programs for aged, blind, and individuals with disabilities, to increase the personal care home state supplement.
- \$36.6 million to invest in critical county behavioral health services.



FAIR EDUCATION FUNDING

Pictured above on Dec. 15, the Special Education Funding Commission approved recommendations to address funding inequity issues in special education. You can read the commission's full report at specialeducationfundingcommission.pasenategop.com.

On Dec. 14, Rep. Sturla attended a rally on the Capitol steps in support of the fair funding lawsuit currently in Commonwealth Court, which could quickly fix the basic education funding disparities. Due to insufficient funding, one school has 75 kindergarteners sharing one toilet.

Rep. Sturla has served on both the Special Education Funding Commission and Basic Education Funding Commission since their creations in 2013 and 2014 respectively. With his input, the commissions have made significant recommendations that improved the funding formulas and moved the state in the right direction towards full fair funding. As a result, Pa. moved from being only one of only two states in the nation without an education funding formula to becoming a state that is recognized as having one of the best formulas in the nation. He will continue to work on increasing state funding to better educate students and reduce the reliance on property taxes.

SAVE THE DATE: REP. STURLA'S 11TH ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT ON AUG. 7

If you, your business or organization are interested in volunteering or contributing to the event, please contact Francis Miliano in Rep. Sturla's Lancaster office at (717) 295-3157 or fmiliano@pahouse.net.

PENNDOT PROJECT

PennDOT is currently planning to bid out the US Routes 30/222 Interchange Project in late 2022, but it could slip to early 2023 at the latest. This project will make improvements to the interchange and convert US 222 from existing 4-lane highway to 6-lane highway. Construction is expected to be completed in Fall of 2025.



GET VACCINATED

If you are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19, please go to www.vaccines.gov to read all the latest information and schedule your appointment. Please remember to get your booster shot to complete the vaccination.

HELP PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT

SHREDDING EVENT ON APRIL 23

Rep. Sturla's office will be hosting a Shredding Event on Saturday, April 23 from noon to 2 p.m. in the parking lot at Clipper Magazine Stadium (650 N. Prince St.) **Only two banker's boxes are allowed per person.** Any paper can be shredded, and staples or paper clips do not need to be removed. Hard drives, tapes, solid-state drives, and other electronic media also can be shredded, but they must be removed from devices. Registration is required by emailing your name and address to Rep.MikeSturla@pahouse.net.

WATCH STURLA'S REMARKS AT HOMES WITHIN REACH CONFERENCE



As Democratic Chair of the House Urban Affairs Committee, Rep. Sturla spoke on a legislative panel about blight remediation at the PA Housing Alliance's 17th Annual Homes Within Reach Conference. You can watch his remarks by going to www.RepMikeSturla.com and click on the videos section in top right-hand corner.

STURLA SECURES \$4.45 MILLION FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

After listening to Rep. Sturla's advocacy for local projects to receive funding from the state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, Gov. Tom Wolf awarded:

- 1) \$2.5 million for the Lancaster Public Library's new home being built in Ewell Plaza;
- 2) \$950,000 to renovate the Lancaster City Police Station; and
- 3) \$1 million for OZFund to redevelop the Rebman's site into a mixed-use building with affordable housing.

COVID-19 HELP

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, Rep. Sturla's office has helped over 1,200 constituents with unemployment claims, over 1,100 with Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications, over 100 with Lancaster County's rental assistance program, and over 2,000 students with backpacks, uniforms, books, masks and school supplies. Rep. Sturla also helped local restaurants with regulatory changes for outdoor dining and ordering of wine and spirits.

Rep. Sturla is currently supporting Gov. Wolf's new \$1.7 billion pandemic recovery plan that utilizes federal American Rescue Plan funding to provide:

- \$500 million for the PA Opportunity Fund to support workers and families with the continually increasing cost of living;

- \$225 million for Small Business Support to offer grants to small businesses economically impacted by the pandemic;
- \$204 million for Property Relief for Low Income Renters and Homeowners via a one-time bonus rebate to double existing rebates;
- \$325 million for the Healthcare System to support recruitment and retention, behavioral health, and student loan forgiveness; and
- \$450 million for Investments in Conservation, Recreation and Preservation to revitalize communities and address the growing threat of climate change.

FIRST LADY WOLF VISITS LANCASTER

On Dec. 8, Pa. First Lady Frances Wolf joined Rep. Sturla in touring Milagro House to learn more about Lancaster's community-based programs that are helping female reentrants. They also spoke with HDC MidAtlantic and Recovering Mothers with Newborns (ReNew).



COMBATING BIGOTRY AND EXTREMISM

On June 10, 2020, the LNP published Rep. Sturla's op-ed titled "Why we cannot wait to address inequalities and racism" (you can read it at www.RepMikeSturla.com in the news release section's opinions subsection) while Black Lives Matter protests occurred nationwide. Nearly 18 months later, he found himself gathering with hundreds at the first lighting of the menorah in Penn Square.

Even though the menorah's damage was accidental, it serves as a reminder

of the importance to reject bigotry of any kind. Rep. Sturla is proud that the community came together to demonstrate our welcoming and loving spirit.

Throughout his legislative career, Rep. Sturla has co-sponsored and voted for numerous resolutions condemning anti-Semitism and other forms of hate. The state legislature heightened its anti-Semitism rebuke in recent years due to the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh in 2018.

In the last seven legislative sessions dating back to 2009, Rep. Sturla has co-sponsored legislation to strengthen state laws to target hate crimes and create the PA Fairness Act (House Bill 300) to provide LGBTQ+ protections. Unfortunately, the Republican majority in the General Assembly has prevented these bills from becoming laws.

With LNP reporting about local extremists' meetings, Rep. Sturla will continue to work legislatively on combatting bigotry, racism, and discrimination.

VOLUNTEERING AT LANCASTER CEMETERY



On Nov. 6, Rep. Sturla helped the Lancaster Cemetery and Northeast Neighbors United plant trees and shrubs in the cemetery.

PACENET INCOME LIMITS INCREASED



Rep. Sturla voted for legislation that became law to expand access to the PACENET prescription program by raising the income limits from \$27,500 to \$33,500 for a single person and from \$35,500 to \$41,500 for a married couple. To be eligible, you must be 65 years of age or older and not enrolled in the state's Medicaid prescription benefit. Click on prescription assistance at www.aging.pa.gov to apply.

WATER HELP AVAILABLE

The state is now accepting applications for a new, temporary Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) to help families who have overdue water bills or are at risk of losing drinking or wastewater service for their home. The income limits are \$19,320 for a household of one plus \$6,810 for every additional person in the home. Apply at www.compass.state.pa.us.

RAISING STATE MINIMUM WAGE

While Rep. Sturla was the co-sponsor of the last bill that became law in 2007 to raise the state minimum wage, he has co-sponsored bills to increase the minimum wage every session since then. The current version (House Bill 345) would raise the minimum wage to \$12 per hour and then increase each year until it reaches \$15 per hour and then it would be tied to the consumer price index. In addition, the bill will set the tipped wage to the same level to ensure all workers are paid a living wage. Gov. Wolf has also proposed a minimum wage increase.



PA HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND

The PA Homeowner Assistance Fund (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. Go to www.pahaf.org for more details and to apply.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE STILL AVAILABLE

Lancaster County's COVID-19 Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance Program is still available. For more details and to apply, visit

www.lchra.com/rent. If you need further assistance, please contact Rep. Sturla's office at (717) 295-3157 or Rep.MikeSturla@pahouse.net.



LANCASTER COUNTY
**Housing
Authority**



LIHEAP OPEN

The state's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is now open until May 6, 2022. The American Rescue Plan has increased LIHEAP benefits. Apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us or call the LIHEAP hotline at 1-866-857-7095 for more information. Rep. Sturla's office is also available to help.



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lpo.ts.0322

HERE TO SERVE YOU

Rep. Sturla's district office staff is happy to help you navigate state government programs and services. Call the 150 E. King St. office at (717) 295-3157 for free assistance.

Ayuda disponible en español

Tengo la fortuna de tener personal bilingüe listo para ayudarle con cualquier problema relacionado con el estado. Puede llamar nuestra oficina, localizada en 150 E. King St., Lancaster, al (717) 295-3157.

MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Car registrations, special tags, disability parking placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Requests for literature – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups

Sign Up for Weekly Emails

If you would like to receive weekly email updates on state government issues, go to www.RepMikeSturla.com and scroll to the bottom of the page for the sign up form. For timely updates, you can follow [@RepMikeSturla](https://twitter.com/RepMikeSturla) on Twitter and Facebook.

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