

Ben Sanchez

PA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

[f](#)
[t](#)
[@RepBenSanchez](#) |
 [RepBenSanchez.com](#)
 1175 Old York Road | Abington, PA 19001 | (215) 517-6800



Welcome to the 153rd Legislative District

What your district looks like as a result of redistricting

As the current State Representative of the 153rd Legislative District, I wanted to be among the first to welcome you to this wonderful district that I have been lucky to call home my entire life. I know that the process of redistricting can be confusing and I'm hoping that I can explain the basics to help alleviate some of that confusion.



Understanding redistricting and what it means for you:

Redistricting is an important part of our democratic process that occurs once every ten years after each U.S. Census is completed. Based on population changes, voting district lines are redrawn to better reflect a more accurate representation of Pennsylvania's demographics.

For example, each state representative in Pennsylvania has approximately 65-68,000 constituents in their legislative district. If populations have changed and drastically altered the number of constituents being served, district lines may change to ensure fair representation throughout the state.

This process occurred recently, and that is why your home will soon be in the 153rd Legislative District. Before redistricting, the 153rd Legislative District encompassed all of Abington Township and a portion of Upper Dublin. After redistricting, this district will retain most of Abington and pick up more of Upper Dublin, basically half, and all of Rockledge.

If you have questions regarding redistricting, or any other state-related question or issue, please feel free to reach out to my office any time at 215-517-6800. My office is open to walk-ins from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. All other regular business hours are reserved for appointments for those who require privacy or a more COVID-controlled environment. My office is located at 1175 Old York Road in Abington and I have hopes for securing a part-time satellite location in Upper Dublin next year.

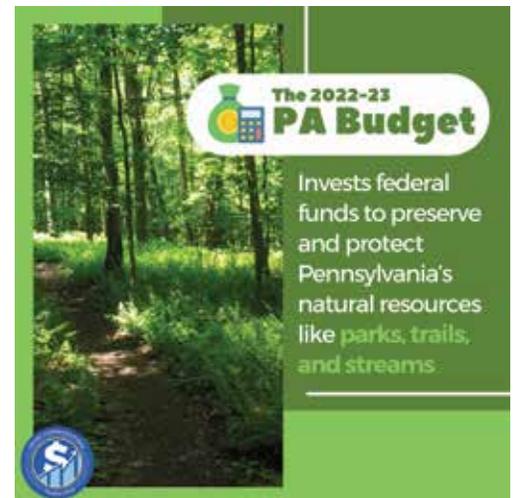
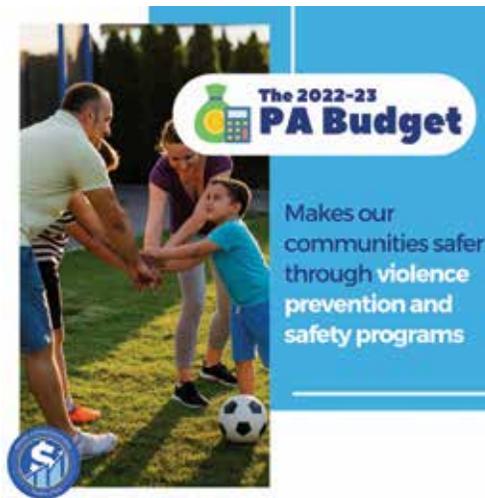
Enjoy the rest of your summer!

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

On Friday, July 8, the General Assembly passed the 2022-2023 state budget, and it was signed into law by the governor later that evening. Although we were a week late finalizing this \$42.5 billion spending plan, it's overall a good budget and passed with wide bipartisan support – including my own “yes” vote.

Here are some highlights from this year's budget:

- ☑ Education funding received a historic \$1.8 billion increase, benefiting students from pre-K through college.
- ☑ Gun violence intervention and prevention programs were allotted an additional \$105 million.
- ☑ The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection received a \$7 million increase. Plus, \$640 million in American Rescue Plan dollars will go to the Clean Streams Fund, State Parks & Outdoor Recreation Program, and water and sewer projects. State parks will also receive \$100 million, with three new ones soon being added to our commonwealth.
- ☑ PA's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program received a \$140 million increase. This will allow for eligible recipients to receive an additional one-time check that is equal to 70% of what they receive in this year's rebate. (No action is required to receive this additional rebate.)
- ☑ The Whole-Home Repair Program was established. This \$125 million investment will provide financial assistance to qualifying homeowners and small-scale landlords to help upgrade their properties with the aim of improving habitability, energy/water efficiency, winterization and accessibility for those with disabilities.
- ☑ The newly created Childcare Tax Credit Program, which received \$24.6 million, will help families offset rising childcare costs. Through this program, filers can receive up to 30% of childcare-related expenses back on their tax return.
- ☑ Recognition of like-kind real property exchanges and reduction of corporate net income tax from 9.99% to 4.99% gradually until 2031 will align PA with other states and attract more businesses to a competitive market.



NEED HELP? CALL 988.

Anyone experiencing a mental health, substance use or suicide crisis may now call or text 988 for assistance. This is an extension of the Lifeline Network's hotline, 800-273-8255 (which still works), to include assistance for people experiencing a range of crises. Trained crisis counselors are on the other end of the line to provide free, confidential support 24/7.

BRINGING YOUR VOICE TO HARRISBURG

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE IN PA



of legislation continue to languish in committee.

Earlier this summer, several of my colleagues and I signed a discharge resolution in an attempt to bring one bill into the chamber for a full vote. House Bill 770, of which I am the prime sponsor, would ban the future possession, purchase, transfer, use or manufacture of assault weapons in Pennsylvania. Sadly, but not surprisingly, HB 770 has been sitting idle in the House Judiciary Committee all session.

No one is safe from gun violence, and it's our job as legislators to talk about how we can solve this problem. I've had enough of saying "enough is enough," we need to act now.

Gun violence touches everyone's lives. It's a nationwide public health crisis.

Measures like my bills that would require lost or stolen firearms to be reported to law enforcement, require ID for ammunition purchases and ban multi-burst trigger activators would not penalize responsible gun owners, but make gun ownership safer for everyone. Unfortunately, these pieces



I proudly joined CeaseFirePA and Gov. Wolf to once again say, "Enough is enough," although I wish I didn't have to.



I'm grateful to my colleagues who signed the discharge resolution urging my House Bill 770 to be brought to a full vote.

Establishing a 72-Hour Waiting Period for All Firearm Transfers

Waiting periods are a simple and straightforward practice that have proven to reduce instances of gun violence in states that enacted them. This short pause gives people in crisis the necessary time to gain perspective or seek help, if needed, disrupting spontaneous acts of violence and self-harm. I introduced HB 1306 with Rep. Mike Zabel so we can save lives here in Pennsylvania without infringing upon the rights of responsible gun owners.

PROHIBITION OF THE LGBTQ+ PANIC DEFENSE *House Bill 1582*

Teaming with Rep. Mike Schlossberg of Lehigh County, we introduced legislation that would prohibit the use of any LGBTQ+ panic defense in Pennsylvania. This is a defense theory that currently allows perpetrators of criminal actions against LGBTQ+ people to receive a lesser sentence – or even avoid conviction or punishment – by placing blame for their actions on a victim's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Use of this criminal justice loophole is a human rights violation and needs to be closed immediately.



BALLOT QUESTION REFORM *House Bill 2261*

Amending our state's constitution is an important, sacred process that ultimately requires approval by the voters in the form of a ballot question. Therefore, we should aim to hear from as many Pennsylvanians as possible when attempting to alter our state's most fundamental document. My bill would ensure that lawmakers cannot discreetly submit a ballot question during elections notorious for low voter turnouts – like municipal primaries. This legislation would only permit ballot questions during a general election and only every two years when there is a presidential or gubernatorial election, helping ensure that more voters have a say in amending our state constitution.

ABORTION REMAINS LEGAL IN PA,

but a proposed constitutional amendment could end that

Despite the Supreme Court overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, abortion remains safe and legal in Pennsylvania – at least for now.

Currently, Pennsylvania is a safe haven for those seeking abortions, for residents and non-residents alike. Governor Wolf signed an executive order on July 12 immediately ensuring that out-of-state individuals may enter Pennsylvania to access abortion services. Further, this executive order affirms that those seeking these reproductive health care services in the commonwealth will not face criminal charges.

However, a proposed constitutional amendment could change that. The amendment, part of Senate Bill 106, reads, "This constitution does not grant the right to taxpayer-funded abortion or any other right relating to abortion."

This language was carefully selected to allow the majority to claim a focus on protecting taxpayer funds, but in reality the second clause was added because the first step to an outright ban is "confirmation" that there is no right to abortion. By attempting to amend the constitution, this could sidestep the governor and courts. I would like to make it clear that taxpayer funds have never been used in Pennsylvania to fund abortions.

Senate Bill 106 will also need to pass during the next full legislative session (beginning January 2023) in order to make it to your ballot.

Abortion is currently legal in our commonwealth. Please know that I will always vote to protect reproductive rights and do all that I can to ensure that everyone has access to vital health care.



I participated in a roundtable discussion with Vice President Harris and colleagues from both the General Assembly and Congress last July. We discussed how we can support each other as we fight to protect reproductive rights in Pennsylvania and the future of accessible health care.

IMPROVING THE NATURAL DISASTERS INSURANCE CLAIMS PROCESS

Hurricane Ida caused millions of dollars' worth of damages to homes throughout southeastern Pennsylvania last September including our own Upper Dublin. Rep. Nancy Guent and I are proposing a bill that would bar insurance companies from delaying claim coverage with excessive waiting periods during the aftermath of a catastrophe and would require them to notify policyholders of all federal disaster funds available to them during these times of crisis.



REP. BEN SANCHEZ ON THE ISSUES

A SAMPLE OF BILLS I'M WORKING TO PASS IN THE 2021-2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

**Indicates legislation I've introduced as a Prime-Sponsor*

LGBTQ+ & WOMEN'S RIGHTS

- HB 733:** Codifying the right to an abortion into PA law
- *HB 1582:** Prohibiting the "LGBTQ+ Panic Defense" in PA
- *HB 2422-24:** Amending the name change process in PA

GUN SAFETY

- *HB 980:** Mandated reporting of lost or stolen firearms
- *HB 981:** Outlawing "bump stocks," homemade fully automatic guns
- *HB 1306:** Establishing a 72-hour waiting period for all firearm transfers



EDUCATION

- HB 250:** Including mental health, physical disabilities in health curriculum
- HB 272:** Charter School Reform Act of 2021
- HB 1595:** Fully implement fair-funding formula for education dollars



ENVIRONMENT

- HB 100:** Transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050
- HB 1185:** Increasing energy efficiency & conservation efforts



ELECTIONS & VOTING

- HB 316:** Providing early voting across the Commonwealth
- HB 502:** Standardizing campaign finance reporting
- *HB 2261:** Ballot question reform to ensure greater voter participation



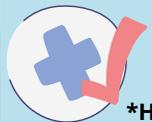
ECONOMIC EQUITY

- HB 345:** One Fair Wage - Increasing PA minimum wage
- HB 819:** Modernizing Pennsylvania's Equal Pay law



HEALTHCARE

- HB 98:** Coverage for mental health, substance abuse, and disability needs for PA kids
- *HB 162:** "Lloyd's Law" - prohibiting insurance discrimination for owning the life-saving medication naloxone
- HB 460:** Capping the price of Insulin at \$100/month



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- HB 378:** "Ban the box" - increasing job opportunities for the formerly incarcerated
- HB 2050:** Decriminalizing recreational cannabis in PA
- HB 2718:** Increasing voting access and providing absentee ballots for incarcerated individuals



ARE YOU PREPARED TO VOTE THIS NOVEMBER?

The General Election is right around the corner, happening on **Tuesday, Nov. 8**. This election is open to all of Pennsylvania's registered voters, so I wanted to ensure you have all of the information you need to carry out your civic duty:

- The last day to request a mail-in/absentee ballot is Tuesday, Nov. 1. Anyone interested may request one online at <https://bit.ly/3yoeDmS> (link is case sensitive). If you'd prefer a paper application, my district office can provide you with one.
- The county election office must receive all mail-in/absentee ballots by 8 p.m. on Nov. 8. Postmarks are not enough. Voting in person? Visit www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx to find your polling place. Polls will be open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Election Day.

If you have questions on Election Day or encounter problems at your polling place, call the Department of State's toll-free Election Day hotline at 1-877-868-3772.

2022 General Election Important Dates

 Register to vote or update your registration Deadline: October 24	 Request mail-in or absentee ballot Sign up by: November 1
 Deadline for mail-in or absentee ballots Due: November 8 <small>(must be received by 8 p.m.)</small>	 Election Day Polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Date: November 8

vote.pa.gov

UKRAINIANS STILL NEED OUR SUPPORT

As the conflict in Ukraine continues, millions of Ukrainian citizens still need humanitarian assistance. This issue needs to remain in the forefront, that is why in June I hosted a news conference at Manor College, highlighting Ukraine's ongoing need for aid. Thank you to everyone who joined me to talk about this important topic, including Attorney General Josh Shapiro, Father Joseph Campellone, Manor College President Jonathan Peri, Sister Joann Sosler, John Carne, and fellow lawmakers state Sens. Maria Collett and Art Haywood, and state Reps. Nancy Guenst and Joe Webster.



For ways to show support to the people of Ukraine, visit <https://manor.edu/about/supportukraine/> or <https://wck.org/> to learn more.

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**

Do you have a SEPTA Senior Key Card?

If you have a SEPTA Senior Fare Card that has expired, you are now able to renew your card at your local state rep's office. The extension for expired dates still remains until the same month in 2023, but if you would like to renew your card before then, please reach out to schedule an appointment. You can reach our office at **215-517-6800** or email us at **RepSanchez@pahouse.net**

Ben Sanchez



State Representative
BEN SANCHEZ

1175 Old York Road
Abington, PA 19001

lpo.km.0922

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar for my office's upcoming events!
We hope to see you there!

STATE REP. BEN SANCHEZ PRESENTS A

VETERANS' ID & Homeowner Event

AT HIS DISTRICT OFFICE



Veterans Discount ID Card & FraudSleuth Sign-Up

THURSDAY, OCT. 6

10 AM - 12:30 PM
1175 OLD YORK RD., ABINGTON, PA

Co-hosted with Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds Jeanne Sorg
Montgomery County residents only



Representative Ben Sanchez
Invites you to a




COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT

PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY AND HAVE PERSONAL DOCUMENTS SHREDED

SATURDAY, September 24, 2022

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

PARKING LOT AT CORNER OF OLD YORK ROAD AND BRENTWOOD AVENUE
(3 BLOCKS NORTH OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE)

We will also be collecting non-perishable donations for The Family Promise Food Pantry at the event. Feel free to bring some with you when you come!

This is a **FREE** event for the residents of the 153rd district!
Paper shredding only - Please no businesses

For more information, call Rep. Sanchez's office at 215-517-6800