

State Representative • 163rd Legislative District

HEATHER BOYD



WINTER 2023-2024

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Dear Neighbor,

Serving you and communities here in Delaware County is an honor. When I took office this past year, I vowed to fight for a quality education for our students, better resources for working families and to make votes in Harrisburg that will best serve the needs of residents and our communities. In 2024 I am continuing that commitment and fight.

As always, your issues and concerns are important to me. Please feel free to call or email my office to speak to

my staff or to set up a meeting with me, or just stop in if you need help with a state government-related program or service. We are here for you.

Warmest wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy New Year. I hope to see you when I'm out and about.

Rx program for seniors enhanced

Pennsylvania's prescription drug programs for seniors (PACE and PACENET) offer critical support and access to vital medications. When Social Security cost-of-living increases occur, some older residents discover they exceed income eligibility thresholds and are no longer eligible for these programs.

In December I voted for legislation, now law, that will allow these seniors to retain their benefits despite their Social Security COLA. You can learn more about PACE/PACENET online at www.aging.pa.gov.

If you have questions about either of these programs or need help applying, please contact my office.

AN IMPORTANT WIN FOR DELCO SENIORS!

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program provides income-eligible senior citizens 65 and older, widows and widowers 50 and older and people with permanent disabilities a rebate on the property taxes or rent they paid in the previous year.

I'm pleased to report that the program is now expanded in 2024 to include more people in our community, thanks to legislation I co-sponsored and voted for in June. The new law raises the income eligibility limit for both homeowners and renters to \$45,000 and raises the maximum rebate to \$1,000, allowing more seniors to stay in their homes and afford their basic necessities.

If you would like me and my staff to visit your senior group or community to explain the new guidelines, please call the office to schedule a visit.



Property Tax / Rent Rebate 2024 Program Expansion

MORE people eligible, **MORE** money back!

Homeowner Income	Rebate	Renter Income	Rebate
Up to \$8K	\$1,000	Up to \$8K	\$1,000
Up to \$15K	\$770	Up to \$15K	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$460	Up to \$18K	\$460
Up to \$35K	\$380	Up to \$45K	\$380
Up to \$45K	\$380		

Questions? Contact my office for help receiving your refund!

FIGHTING FOR HIGH QUALITY SCHOOLS

Pennsylvania's historically flawed and inequitable school funding formula has resulted in a decades long underfunding of many schools across the state – with some of the most underfunded right here in Delaware County.

The Commonwealth Court in its February 2023 ruling confirmed my position and ordered the legislature to fix it. Since taking office I have fought in the legislature and worked alongside our local schools to have the state fix this inadequate and unfair system and provide equitable resources for our children.

In June I voted for the largest basic education funding increase (\$717 million new dollars) in Pennsylvania history as a down payment on righting the wrong.

Over the summer I joined my House Majority Policy Committee colleagues on a tour of schools throughout the state to see the very real need for funding to repair and clean up school buildings – city, rural and suburban schools alike. I also toured schools throughout the state with my colleagues and this past fall, I participated in a school tour and public hearing at Penn Wood High School in Yeadon with the House Appropriations and Education committees to further address the issue.

I continued this fight month after month and am happy to report that the House and Senate in December voted to provide \$175 million in funding for school facility improvements, a major priority of mine that represents a significant investment and critical step toward ensuring that every Pennsylvania school is a safe learning environment for our children and educators.

Also in December, we sent to Gov. Shapiro a Student Teacher Stipend Program to help address our teacher shortage by providing up to \$15,000 for aspiring teachers during their student teaching semesters, as well as a \$2,500 stipend for cooperating teachers who agree to mentor student teachers. The full-time nature of student teaching limits college students' ability to earn income during their teaching semester due to the time requirements of this obligatory, unpaid internship. I fought for this program to be signed into law, and I am very pleased to see it finally cross the finish line.



\$717 Million New Dollars

The 2023/24 budget includes \$717 million additional dollars over last year's budget for basic and special education and Level Up funding in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



Meeting with students and educators during the Penn Wood High School tour and public hearing.



On the first stop of a statewide tour, I joined fellow lawmakers on a visit to South Philadelphia High and witnessed the very real crumbling school infrastructure in the city – where six school buildings closed for asbestos contamination during the 2022-23 school year.

SECOND CHANCES WITH CLEAN SLATE

Clean Slate laws unlock housing, financial and employment opportunities by giving people a second chance through automated record-clearing. In December, the House and Senate passed and Gov. Shapiro signed into law Clean Slate 3.0 legislation (H.B. 689), which now gives businesses across the state access to a larger pool of the qualified workers they need to thrive and contribute to the economic stability of the communities in which they operate by expanding the list of non-violent offenses eligible for record-sealing. I am planning two seminars this year dealing with legal aid and record expungement. Please keep an eye on my social media or sign up for my email alerts – www.pahouse.com/Boyd/emailsignup -- to get information about upcoming events and my work in Harrisburg and the district.

HOME HEATING HELP THIS WINTER

Are you looking for help to manage your energy bills, especially during cold winter months? The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is open for application. LIHEAP provides grants for paying heating bills or helps people in danger of having their heat shut off.

You can apply online at compass.state.pa.us or fill out a paper application with help from my office. After your application is reviewed, you will receive written notice explaining your eligibility and the amount of assistance you will receive.

Need Energy Assistance?
2023-2024 LIHEAP Applications are Now Open!

2023-2024 Income Guidelines	
Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
1	\$21,870
2	\$29,580
3	\$37,290
4	\$45,000
5	\$52,710
6	\$60,420
7	\$68,130
8	\$75,840
9	\$83,550
10	\$91,260

Each additional person \$7,710

CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT EXPANDED

Working families are balancing jobs, bills and providing care for their kids or elderly loved ones. They deserve a break. So I am happy to tell you about Pennsylvania's newly expanded Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. As part of the state budget I voted for, we more than tripled this tax credit from the state to put money back in the pockets of working families. Check the graphic below to see if your family qualifies. If you do, you'll receive the credit on your 2023 tax return.

NEW IN 2024

CHILD & DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT

		Income Under \$43,000		Earning Above \$43,000	
		Prior to Change	Expanded Tax Credit	Prior to Change	Expanded Tax Credit
Max Credit for One Eligible Dependent		\$315	\$1,050	\$180	\$600
		\$630	\$2,100	\$360	\$1,200
Max Credit for Two+ Eligible Dependents					

CELEBRATING VETERANS, SUPPORTING MILITARY FAMILIES

It was a joy and honor to host a Veterans Luncheon with Senator Kearney at the Garrettford-Drexel Hill Fire Company on Nov. 9.

We were honored to be joined by Delaware County's new Military Veterans Affairs Director Colonel Arthur L. Jenkins as we celebrated our veterans and discussed the federal, state and local benefits and services available to them and their families.

On that note, I recently voted for a new law that will preserve an important financial benefit for students of military families who enroll in Pennsylvania public colleges and universities. Act 13 of 2023 ensures that students who enroll in these schools do not lose their in-state tuition rate if their military parent is deployed out of state between the time the student accepts admission and the start of their first semester.

To all those who have fought for our freedom and democracy, we thank you for your service. Please contact my office if you have a question about veterans' benefits and services.





State Representative

HEATHER BOYD

5248 Township Line Rd.
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

Please contact my office for more information on the events I'm holding this winter and spring 2024!

- Basic Education Funding Discussion - **February 20th**
- FAFSA/PHEAA Completion Workshop - **March 28th**
- Property Tax Rebate Events - **March 12th, April 3rd, and April 11th**
- Pet Expo - **April 27th**
- Expungement Clinic - **coming in May**



FREE SHRED EVENT

Saturday, March 23 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Upper Darby High School
601 N Lansdowne Ave.
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

LOOK INSIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS YEAR'S EXPANSION OF THE PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM, MY LEGISLATIVE WORK ON EDUCATION, HOME HEATING HELP AND MORE.

MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- SEPTA Senior Key Cards
 - Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications
 - Birth Certificate applications
 - PennDOT driver and vehicle documents
 - Disability plates and placards
 - Concerns about potholes and state road conditions
 - Unemployment Compensation issues
 - Unclaimed Property search and forms
 - Questions about Real ID
 - Department of Human Services benefits (SNAP, Medical Assistance, LIHEAP)
 - Consumer complaints
-any state-related issue or program!**

IF YOU NEED HELP WITH ANY STATE- OR GOVERNMENT-RELATED SERVICES, PLEASE CONTACT MY OFFICE AT (484) 200-8262 FOR ASSISTANCE.