

State Representative

MIKE JONESServing PA's 93rd Legislative District

GOP Economic Policies Moving PA in Right Direction

When I arrived in Harrisburg in 2019, I co-founded the Economic Growth Caucus which I continue to chair. Our goal has been to author and support legislation that will make Pennsylvania more economically competitive with other states. While this has been a slow process, we do have some good news to report. Pennsylvania has moved from 23rd to 17th place in CNBC's rankings for America's Top States for Business in 2022.

This is great news and reinforces the value of our pro-jobs approach to governing the Commonwealth. That includes improving our technology and infrastructure, cutting taxes, investing in our vocational education and workforce

development, keeping state spending in check, and planning for the future.

We continue working to get government out of the way of employers as we advance regulatory reform and relief efforts. We also gave voters a voice in successfully amending our state constitution to reassure Pennsylvanians and Pennsylvania businesses they cannot be closed unilaterally and indefinitely as they were in 2020.

While more work needs to be done, we are making a difference.

Lawmakers Demand Acting Education Secretary Reverse Gender Theory Student Indoctrination or Resign

In August, I joined a group of House Republican lawmakers in calling for acting Pennsylvania Education Secretary Eric Hagarty's resignation unless he takes immediate action to reverse gender theory student indoctrination from taking hold in K-12 public schools.

For example, it was recently discovered the PA Department of Education (PDE) has a "Gender Identity" web page that, among other things, defines "binary gender" as "the faulty concept that there are only two genders: male and female."

The PDE's gender identity web page also includes a lesson guide for teachers to host a "gender-neutral day" in their classrooms for grades 3-12. The guide specifies that as part of the activity, students should pick two to three ways they will reject gender stereotypes for the day, and the teacher should make specific commitments to challenge gender norms in the classroom.

Another section on the education department website, titled "Creating Gender-Inclusive Schools and Classrooms," includes a tutorial on "preferred gender-neutral personal pronouns" and instructs teachers to ask before making false assumptions about someone's gender identity.

Earlier this year, the governor vetoed **House Bill 1332**, that would have required ALL government-run public schools in the Commonwealth to post their curriculum online where parents could easily review it, ahead of the school year. If this transparency-driven legislation had been enacted, parents could easily see if their school was adding this or other indoctrination lessons to its curriculum. Instead, parents need to contact their school to find out what process they need to go through in order to have knowledge of what their child will be taught this year.

Mike Around Town



It was my pleasure to tour Rabbit Transit, which provides needed transportation for workers, seniors and others.



I participated in Flag Day ceremonies at the Veterans Memorial Gold Star Garden with members of the Accountability For Life program.



Christian Snouffer of Troop 69 in Jacobus achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. One of the most highly decorated Scouts in the country, it was my pleasure to present Christian with a citation from the House of Representatives.

Sign-up for my weekly e-news on my website. It's a great way to stay up-to-date on the latest from Harrisburg.



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PA STATE REP.

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ONE-TIME BOOST

to Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

Eligible senior citizens and people with disabilities will see enhanced rebates through this year's Property Tax/Rent Rebate program thanks to a one-time infusion of additional funds in the 2022-23 state budget.

The additional funding brings the **maximum standard rebate to \$1,105** for both homeowners and renters, up from the usual \$650. People who already received their checks this year will not need to take any further action; the Department of Revenue will automatically send a check for the additional funds starting in early September.

For those who qualify but have not yet applied, the deadline to do so has been extended to Dec. 31. Claimants are encouraged to file their rebate applications online by visiting mypath.pa.gov though paper applications are also available at revenue.pa.gov or by contacting our office. We will also provide free assistance with filing the forms.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate program benefits Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 annually for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded.

On a related note, I have co-sponsored my colleague Rep. Frank Ryan's **House Bill 13**, which would eliminate school property tax, and will also be supporting his constitutional amendment to eliminate school property tax.

UC ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE at Area CareerLink

If you have already filed for Unemployment Compensation but have not yet received your funds, feel free to call our office for assistance.

York County CareerLink can also help find new employment. It is located at 841 Vogelsong Road in York and may be reached by phone at **717-767-7600**.

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry is now offering in-person assistance with unemployment compensation (UC) claims at PA CareerLink centers throughout the Commonwealth. Appointments are required.

The services are aimed at assisting individuals who do not have proper technology, equipment, or technical skills; individuals without access to home internet or broadband; and individuals with limited English proficiency.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments Empower Pennsylvania Voters

In July, the General Assembly approved several proposed constitutional amendments that could ultimately give you, the voters, a direct say in some important issues facing the Commonwealth. I was proud to cast my vote in favor of these amendments.

The proposals seek to amend the state Constitution to:

- Expand the state's voter ID rules by requiring all voters to present valid identification each time they cast their ballot, regardless of whether they are voting by mail or in person.
- Allow a governor candidate to select a running mate for lieutenant governor, similar to the way a presidential candidate selects his or her running mate. Currently, the state's lieutenant governors are elected independently.
- Require comprehensive auditing of elections by the state auditor general to include the administration of elections, certification of election machines, the accuracy of the list

of registered voters, the administration of voter registration and election results.

- Restore the balance of power between the legislative and executive branches of state government by allowing the Legislature to reject proposed regulations without approval of the governor.
- Allow voters to directly decide if taxpayer dollars should be used to fund elective abortions. The proposal would not change current law.

Constitutional amendments must pass by a majority vote during two consecutive sessions of the General Assembly. Then they must be made public and advertised before going to the voters as part of a ballot referendum. At that point, the people of Pennsylvania get to decide. This is the first time these initiatives were passed by the House and Senate.