



# NEWS RELEASE

STATE SENATOR

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BOSCOLA REMINDS SENIORS TO SUBMIT**

**PROPERTY TAX AND RENT REBATE APPLICATIONS**

*Deadline extended to December 31<sup>st</sup>*

**BETHLEHEM (JUN 29)** – State Senator Lisa M. Boscola today reminds senior citizens, widows and widowers over the age of 50, and permanently disabled individuals over the age of 18 that the deadline to apply for their Pennsylvania Property Tax and Rent Rebate has been extended to December 31, 2009. The deadline for the program was originally June 30, 2009

“Every year there are thousands of Pennsylvanians who qualify for state assistance based upon their previous year’s property taxes or their rent payments but fail to apply,” Boscola said. “I want to urge every person who may qualify to apply before the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.”

The Property Tax and Rent Rebate program provides a rebate of up to \$650 on the combined amount of a senior’s real estate property taxes for the school district, county and local municipality paid in 2008. If the senior rents an apartment, they may also be eligible for a rebate of up to \$500. The amount of the rebate is determined by a sliding scale based on annual household income.

**( M O R E )**

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**SEN. BOSCOLA**  
**2-2-2-2**

To qualify, a homeowner's combined household income in 2008 cannot exceed \$35,000. However, only half of an applicant's Social Security income is included in that limit, Boscola said.

The expanded household income limits and maximum rebate amounts for property owners are:

- \$0 and \$8,000 \$650 rebate
- \$8,001 to \$15,000 \$500 rebate
- \$15,001 to \$18,000 \$300 rebate
- \$18,001 to \$35,000 \$250 rebate

Renters with incomes between \$0 and \$8,000 will now receive a \$650 rebate and those with incomes between \$8,001 and \$15,000 will receive a \$500 rebate.

Furthermore, an applicant must be at least 65 years old, or must be permanently disabled over the age of 18, or must be a widow or widower over the age of 50.

"Until we can finally eliminate the burden of local school property taxes for Older Pennsylvanians, a rebate check from the state can be a big help to someone living on a fixed income," Boscola said.

"This is one more way that the State Lottery helps Older Pennsylvanians. I would urge anyone over the age of 65 to apply—even if they're not sure that they qualify."

Individuals who wish to apply for the Pennsylvania Property Tax and Rent Rebate program should contact Senator Boscola's office in Bethlehem at 610-868-8667, in Stroudsburg at 570-420-2938, in Whitehall at (610) 266-2117 or toll-free by calling 1-877-535-1818.

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