

Spring 2024



STATE SENATOR LISA BOSCOLA

18TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

Independent • Effective • Working to Make a Difference



Inside >>>

BOSCOLA BALD EAGLE BILL BECOMES LAW!



@SenLisaBoscola



SenatorBoscola.com

In Case You Missed It...



City and State named me one of the 75 most influential difference makers in Harrisburg. The City and State Impact 75 identified elected officials, policy makers, and advocates around the Commonwealth that have made a difference. The article took note of my centrist policy positions and introduction of legislation with bipartisan support as it relates to women's veteran's health care, voting modernization, expanding nondiscrimination protections, and ensuring reproductive choice. I am proud to support commonsense, bipartisan policies that benefit all Pennsylvanians.

The Impact 75 is a list of Pennsylvanians who "through their efforts, assist communities across the Commonwealth in becoming more equitable, sustainable and prosperous." It was humbling to receive the acknowledgement.

■ Senator Boscola Visits Bear Den on Research Trip

As a member of the Senate Game & Fisheries Committee, I joined the Pennsylvania Game Commission in Lehighton to learn about the PGC black bear research and the work that is done across the Commonwealth tracking the black bear population.

While attending this Legislative Bear Trip, we visited a den site and witnessed the tagging of bear cubs. Black bears are a valuable resource in Pennsylvania that should be managed wisely.

■ Updated Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program in Effect – Help is Available to Get You Enrolled!

New legislation increased the maximum rebate amounts and income limits for the Commonwealth's Property Tax & Rent Rebate (PTRR) Program. More Pennsylvanians over the age of 65, who are permanently disabled ages 18-64, or widow/widower over 50 will be eligible this year.

Governor Shapiro joined me in Bethlehem earlier this year to kick-off the rollout of the updated program. PTRR has been a life saver for so many seniors to help them stay in their homes and apartments. With this new expansion, nearly

175,000 more Pennsylvanians will qualify and many of the 400,000 who already qualify will see their rebates double.

My staff is ready to help you fill out your application. Please call one of my district offices for an appointment.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM 2024 UPDATES

THE 2024 PTRR EXPANSION:

- **Increases** the maximum standard rebate from \$650 to **\$1,000**
- **Increases** the income cap from \$35,000 to **\$45,000** for homeowners
- **Increases** the income cap from \$15,000 to **\$45,000** for renters
- **Automatically increases the income cap to grow with inflation in years to come**

INCOME:

MAX STANDARD REBATE:

\$0 – \$8,000	\$1,000
\$8,001 – \$15,000	\$770
\$15,001 – \$18,000	\$460
\$18,001 – \$45,000	\$380

WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING WITH YOU?

Everyone: Identification | Proof of Income | Account Number & Routing Number (If you would like direct deposit)

Renters: Rent Certificate and/or Rent Receipts

Homeowners: Proof of Paid Property Taxes



DID YOU KNOW?

The black bear is one of the largest and most secretive animals living in Pennsylvania.



■ Senator Boscola Applauds Governor Shapiro's Economic Development Plan

For too long Pennsylvania's economic development policy has not been a priority. Our "strategy" has been reactive, not proactive. We do a tax credit program here or a tax credit program there, but there was no overall investment and certainly no clear vision. Governor Shapiro changed that and I couldn't be more pleased.

Governor Shapiro came to Bethlehem to announce a new 10 year economic plan to drive future development in Pennsylvania. We have the best schools, the best workforce and we need to make sure that our residents have the best opportunities. Government investment can help existing businesses grow, invest in new businesses of tomorrow or encourage businesses to relocate to Pennsylvania, which will help build the economy of tomorrow.

Whether it is reclaiming an old steel mill, investing in a company's new idea or rebuilding an urban core, government, specifically state government, can play a meaningful role. Recently, we have stood on the sidelines and allowed our neighboring states to pass us by and this put the Commonwealth at a disadvantage.

Pennsylvania needs to be a leader again in economic

development. We need to leverage our strengths like our plentiful energy and strong workforce to make sure companies looking to relocate know all about them. We also need to work to fix our weaknesses like our overly burdensome permitting process and aging infrastructure, so when a new company says yes, we are ready for them. And when those companies get here we need to ensure that our workforce is up to the challenge.

Governor Shapiro is laying out a blueprint to make Pennsylvania more competitive and I am eager to help make those plans a reality.



■ Boscola Bill Adding Protection to Bald and Golden Eagles Becomes Law



The bald eagle has been our nation's symbol since 1792. The eagle has been the focus of one of the greatest conservation efforts of our state and nation's history. Their population was near extinction due to poaching, hunting, pesticide use, habitat destruction and other dangers throughout the 20th century. While regulations and protective efforts were successful for the population's rebound in recent decades, and they have officially been removed from the threatened species list, they still need to be protected.

I introduced this legislation to increase the fine from \$200 to \$2,000 in each instance of someone killing an eagle. This fine per bird would be designated towards replacement costs here in the Commonwealth.

With the successful return of the bald eagle off the endangered list, more and more will be seen in the wild. I wanted to send a message to potential poachers – 'You cannot afford this. This is being taken seriously.'

■ Boscola Grant Delivers Electric School Buses to

In early April, I joined officials from the Bethlehem School District (BSD) and PPL to unveil two new electric buses that were funded by a \$1 million state grant that I supported.

The grant funds paid for the two electric vehicles and their charging stations. BSD will be the first school district in the state to use electric buses. Across the Commonwealth, thousands of buses are on the road.

While moving to electric school buses makes sense, I didn't believe local taxpayers should bear the cost. That is why I wanted to direct some state dollars to the district. Electric vehicles provide cost savings as they don't require fuel. BSD can reduce its diesel purchases.

BSD is the 6th largest school district in Pennsylvania. It is a large geographic area, and a substantial portion of the district's budget is spent on athletic events and field trips, so working to reduce costs on electric ones just made sense.

Our students win, our taxpayers win, and our

■ Senator Boscola Lauds Success of 'First In Math' Program



The First In Math program has had tremendous success for elementary school students in the district I represent. Students in 35 schools throughout the 18th District that participate in the program saw a 4.1% increase in state-level assessments, the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), for math compared to the statewide average of a 2.6% increase.

I firmly believe that improving math skills in elementary school students is critical to their long-term academic success and it is why I worked to secure state funding to bring First In Math to schools throughout my district. To see students who are in schools with First In Math performing at a level that is 57% above the statewide average is proof that this is a wise investment of state funds.

First In Math is a great supplemental resource that school districts may utilize to improve a student's fluency in mathematics, as well as improving attitudes and classroom confidence. First In Math features hundreds of engaging math games designed to strengthen fact fluency, automaticity, computational thinking and other critical skills.

NOTEWORTHY HIGHLIGHTS: 78% of schools saw an increase in scores; 20 schools outperformed the PA state average; 4 schools saw a double-digit increase in PSSAs; Wilson's Avona ES had a 29.2% increase in PSSA math scores.

These results prove that First In Math benefits the students who utilize it. It truly makes math fun, supports independent learning, helps to develop students into problem solvers, and will pay dividends for our future.

first two Lehigh Valley

Lehigh Area School District and
were purchased thanks to a \$1

vehicles, chargers and installation of
district in the Lehigh Valley to roll
there are a handful of electric buses

sense, they are not cheap. I
the entire burden of this new opportunity, which
to help the school district with the project.
generally require less maintenance and

sylvania. It covers an enormous
of its students ride buses to and from school,
responsibly convert these diesel buses to

environment wins.



■ Boscola Secures Over \$21 Million in State Investment for Water and Sewer Projects

This past winter I helped secure over \$21,500,000 in funding for our aging, public water and wastewater systems throughout Northampton County. This state investment in 22 projects will allow municipalities and municipal water and sewer authorities to initiate or complete projects that will make our water and sewer systems safer and more reliable.



PA Commonwealth Financing Authority

\$6.3 Million in State Grants

18 Projects for 12 municipalities

- Bangor Borough**
- Bethlehem Township**
- City of Bethlehem**
- City of Easton**
- East Bangor Borough**
- Hellertown Borough**
- Lower Saucon Township**
- Portland Borough**
- Roseto Borough**
- Upper Nazareth Township**
- West Easton Borough**
- Wilson Borough**

PENNVEST

\$15.2 Million in State Grants

4 Projects for 3 municipalities

- Bethlehem Township Municipal Authority's Walnut Street Project**
- Easton Avenue Stormwater Mitigation Project**
- Easton Suburban Water Authority's review of 300 public/private service lines for replacement**
- Bangor Borough Sewer Authority's Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project**

Around the Community

1 Senator Boscola welcomed Villanova students from the 18th District to the Capitol for the AICUP Day on the Hill.

2 Senator Boscola shakes hands with the son of Garett Vassel of Optima Durant Group - the force behind the beautiful Commodore project in downtown Easton.

3 Celebrating the Portuguese culture in Bethlehem, Senator Boscola attended the Portuguese Heritage Day festivities which began with a flag raising ceremony at Bethlehem City Hall.

4 Senator Boscola enjoyed some time with local Union leaders in Harrisburg - having an opportunity to personally thank them for their hard work and leadership.

5 Senator Boscola had the pleasure of presenting a citation to the longest serving Steelworkers local president, Jerry Green, upon his retirement.

6 Senator Boscola enjoyed a beautiful day in Easton at PA Bacon Fest - one of the nation's '5 Can't-Miss Bacon Festivals'!

7 Senator Boscola met with passionate, engaged young individuals from 'Students for Ballot PA' - a group of non-partisan, volunteer-driven students advocating to allow Independents to vote in PA primary elections.





STATE SENATOR
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18TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

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■ **NEW DISTRICT OFFICE AND
 MOBILE OFFICE NOW OPEN
 TO SERVE YOUR STATE NEEDS**

Access to constituent services is an important role of being a State Senator. Following the redistricting of the 18th District to once again represent the Slate Belt, I opened a district office in Bangor.

20 Market Street • Bangor
Tuesday and Thursday • 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
610.863.1200

I have also opened a new Mobile Office in South Bethlehem at the Hispanic Center of the Lehigh Valley.

520 E. 4th Street • Bethlehem
Wednesdays • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

To set up an appointment at the Mobile Office, please call **610.868.8667** or email **enid.vazquez@pasenate.com**.

We look forward to helping you with any state related issues. From PennDOT (driver's licenses, vehicle registrations, parking placards) to Property Tax Rent Rebates and Unemployment Compensation issues, we are here to help! Keep up to date on my activities in Harrisburg or locally by visiting my website at **SenatorBoscola.com** or on my social media platforms **@SenLisaBoscola**.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND US:

BETHLEHEM OFFICE

One East Broad Street
 Suite 120
 Bethlehem, PA 18018
 (610) 868-8667
 Toll free: 1-877-535-1818
 Fax: (610) 861-2184

SLATE BELT OFFICE

20 Market Street
 Bangor, PA 18013
 (610) 863-1200
 Fax: (610) 863-1214
 Tuesday and Thursday
 9 a.m. - 5 p.m

EASTON OFFICE

1701 Washington Boulevard
 Easton, PA 18042
 (610) 250-5627
 Fax: (610) 250-1889
 Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 9 a.m. - 5 p.m

HARRISBURG OFFICE

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