



State Representative **KYLE MULLINS**

Proudly Representing the 112th Legislative District

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**A YEAR IN REVIEW
AND A VISION FOR
2020**





\$8.5 million in state funding approved for projects within the 112th District

Advocating for critical investments in our communities will always be a top priority of mine. During my first year in office, over \$8.5 million in state funding was approved for various community and economic development, recreation and public safety projects that will benefit the residents of the 112th District. I will continue to work with Governor Wolf and state House and Senate colleagues to secure these critical dollars – and to adequately fund the state programs that support them – to help move our communities forward. Here’s a look at some of the projects that received funding:

- Safe Schools grants for Dunmore, Holy Cross, La Salle, Mid Valley, Valley View and St. Mary of Mount Carmel.
- A new Opioid Use Disorder Center of Excellence in Scranton to be operated by the Wright Center.
- Veterans Resource Coalition multi-unit housing facility in Scranton for veterans.
- Throop Volunteer Hose Company roof replacement.
- Business incubator in Scranton’s Elm Street Section to provide intensive business support and training for low-to moderate-income women.
- Nay Aug Park Pool refurbishment.
- Use of Force Simulation Training for the Dunmore Police Department.
- Office of State Fire Commissioner grants for departments in all seven municipalities in the 112th District.
- Development of the North Pocono Trail from Drinker Street in Dunmore to the Elmhurst Reservoir.
- Greater Scranton/Dunmore YMCA boiler replacement to ensure the integrity of programming for children and seniors.
- Restoration of Passenger Rail Service to New York City – grant for preliminary engineering and consultant costs.
- Sidewalk improvements in Blakely, including new sidewalks, curbing and 30 ADA-accessible ramps.
- Downtown Olyphant intersection and streetscape improvements.
- Extension of East Avenue in Archbald to enable commercial development on two mine-scarred sites at the former Sturges Colliery.
- Jessup Hose Company No. 2 wildfire suppression equipment.

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you had a great start to the New Year! January 1st marked one full year since being sworn in as your State Representative, and I can tell you that serving you and our community has been the professional joy and honor of a lifetime. Our holidays brought wonderful news that my wife, Lauren, son, Conor, and I will welcome a baby girl in June; and our chocolate lab “Jagger” joins us in our excitement. It is my family and all of the incredible people of the 112th House District who inspire and drive me every day to make our schools safer, our economy stronger, and our collective future brighter.

Although it’s hard to believe a year has passed, I’m proud of what we’ve accomplished and fought for, both here at home and in Harrisburg. So, this newsletter will take a look back on a very active and productive 2019, but also lay out my vision for 2020, and let you know how our office can be of service to you and your family.

As my House colleagues and I resume our work at the State Capitol, I wish you a very happy and healthy 2020!

In service,

Kyle J. Mullins
State Representative

Chewy expansion to bring 1,000 jobs to the area

In December, Chewy announced it would continue expanding into Pennsylvania by building a 1-million-square-foot facility in Archbald. It is expected to create upwards of 1,000 full-time jobs.

I am pleased to see one of the nation’s top online retailers make such a massive and important commitment to our area. This project not only means hundreds of new jobs will be available, but it will also be a positive boost for our local economy. I would like to thank Governor Wolf, the Department of Community and Economic Development and the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce for working together on this proposal.

Chewy, an online retailer of pet food and supplies, has pledged to invest around \$35 million into the expansion at the Valley View Business Park. Additional funding sources include support from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through several grant and loan programs. This will be Chewy’s third Pennsylvania location.

MY WORK IN HARRISBURG



Anti-Bullying Legislation

In November, I announced a bipartisan bill to combat bullying and its damaging effects, along with co-sponsors state Rep. Torren Ecker, R-Adams/Cumberland, state Rep. Brandon Markosek, D-Allegheny, and state Sen. John Blake, who authored companion legislation in the Senate.

Lives are being ripped apart because of the severe, chronic and inescapable nature of what bullying has become in the age of social media. It is my belief that bullying has hit a crisis point and is truly a mental health issue, and a threat to school and workplace safety. We introduced this measure not just as lawmakers, but also as the parents of young children who are part of a generation who should not have to endure the nonstop cruelty of modern-day bullying.

At present, the Pennsylvania Crimes Code does not define “bullying.” According to several district attorneys, including Lackawanna County District Attorney Mark Powell, prosecutors are often left with no option other than to categorize such behavior under often-unsuitable statutory offenses.

Under House Bill 2053 and Senate Bill 564, the crime of chronic bullying would be clearly defined as “the intent to place an individual or group in fear of personal injury or property damage; or the intent to harass, annoy, or alarm an individual or group.” It would also provide for upgraded offenses.

Safer and Healthier Learning Environments

REMOVING TOXINS FROM SCHOOLS

I remain deeply concerned over recent reports of lead and asbestos contamination in schools throughout the city of Scranton. Our school children and school-based professionals throughout our communities deserve to learn and work in a healthy and safe environment, free from the fear of exposure to deadly contaminants. Exposure to lead and asbestos is a serious threat to public health, and I am committed to addressing this critical issue: our kids can't wait. One of my top priorities for this year's state budget is to pass Governor Tom Wolf's plan to fund the removal of lead, asbestos and other existing toxins in schools, daycare centers and public water systems.

FAIRLY FUNDING OUR SCHOOLS

No child's education should be valued any more or less because of what school district they're from. This is why I was proud to team up with state Rep. Marty Flynn and introduce a bill to level the playing field and drive more education dollars through the state's “Fair Funding Formula.”



Power Plant Host Fees

It has come to my attention that Pennsylvania law lacks any minimum standards for host agreements between power plants and their surrounding communities, so I have teamed up with state Sen. John Blake to introduce legislation in the state House and Senate to do just that. Although opinions on energy exploration and production vary and are often deeply held, we should all be able to agree on the following:

- ✓ Our citizens deserve clean air and safe water.
- ✓ We must support the transition to increasingly cleaner sources of energy.
- ✓ We should continue to reduce our dependency on foreign fossil fuels.
- ✓ We enjoy the heat and light in our homes often produced by natural gas.
- ✓ Our communities deserve to be adequately compensated for the impact of energy production.

The host fees and environmental safeguards I am proposing would provide much needed predictability for both host communities and power plant developers, thus avoiding an often-contentious process at the local level while, at the same time, adequately compensating and protecting residents.

Supporting Our Emergency Responders

Last fall, I was pleased to see the House approve a package of bills, which I co-sponsored, that would help both volunteer and paid emergency companies attract and retain more members. These companies, which keep us, our homes and communities safe, have been facing a serious decline in membership. My colleagues and I are working hard to solve this crisis, while supporting these dedicated and hardworking people who put their lives on the line when they answer a call.



OUT AND ABOUT IN THE 112TH DISTRICT



MOBILE OFFICE PROGRAM

Elected leaders should make every effort to be accessible and accountable to the constituents they serve. With this as our guiding principle, my district office staff and I conduct Mobile Office Hours multiple times per week, during which we set up shop in each municipality within the district, which includes Archbald, Blakely, Dunmore, Jessup, Olyphant, Scranton and Throop. I'm so appreciative of places like the Greater Scranton/Dunmore YMCA and the United Neighborhood Centers South Side Farmers' Market for hosting us.

Whether at one of these outreach locations or in the district office in Olyphant, our constituent services team is ready to assist. I have the great fortune of working with a team of incredibly capable, compassionate and service-driven individuals: constituent services advisors Alexa Hirsch; Elizabeth Luchansky O'Brien; and Colleen Possanza; along with Chief of Staff Bill Davis.

Please contact my office to meet the team and gather more information, or check us out on social media for the most current Mobile Office Hours, including dates and locations.

SENIOR FAIR

Last fall, I welcomed over 300 guests at my first Senior Fair at the Throop Community Center. Over 35 representatives from agencies and organizations such as the Office of Attorney General, PennDOT and many more participated.

These various representatives provided valuable information about health care, prescription drugs, identity theft and scams, and REAL ID, as well as volunteer opportunities. In addition to the government and exhibitor information, the Senior Fair featured the Mid Valley Line Dancers, who invited guests to join in on various dance routines. Moreover, our Senior Fair provided our older adults access to free vision, hearing and blood pressure screenings, as well as flu shots.

As the representative for Pennsylvania's 112th state House District, it's my honor to stand behind the hardworking women and men who have served and supported our communities so generously throughout their lives. We will be sure to get the word out about our next Senior Fair in the fall of 2020.



Monthly Veterans Outreach Program

On the last Monday of every month, my office hosts a Veterans Outreach Program, during which an American Legion Service Officer sets up shop in my office and takes appointments with veterans and their family members to help them navigate available benefits and services. Constituents in need of such guidance should reach out to the office to set up an appointment. Additionally, we can assist with directing veterans and their families to various programs such as the Military Family Relief Assistance Program and "Honoring Our Veterans" license plates.

Military Spouse Leave and Employment Protection Act

It is critical that we support our military families – especially the spouses of servicemembers. Whether their servicemember is deployed overseas or domestically for training, these dedicated spouses become "acting single parents," often taking on the needs of their families alone. Affording them some modest leave from work during these times is the least we can do.

My legislation would create the Military Spouse Leave and Employment Protection Act. This bill would require employers to grant up to 14 days of paid leave to the spouse of a servicemember who is deployed to an active war zone; and up to 14 days of unpaid leave to the spouse of a servicemember who is deployed domestically for training. Employment protection would also be provided to ensure their position is secure upon their return to the workplace.

Supporting the families of those who sacrifice for our freedom and safety is paramount.

2020 Census Reminder

The 2020 Census is right around the corner, and it is important that you are counted. The Census will determine how much federal funding our area will receive to benefit our schools, hospitals and infrastructure programs. It will also impact how many seats Pennsylvania gets in Congress and how our state legislative districts are drawn. I urge you to fill out the 2020 Census to ensure Lackawanna County is counted accurately and receives its fair share of federal dollars.

The Census is also accepting applications for Census takers. The process takes about 30 minutes. You will need to provide your Social

United States®
**Census
2020**

Security number, home address, email address, phone number, and your date and place of birth. Veterans who are claiming preference will also need to submit documentation of eligibility.

Please visit www.2020census.gov/jobs for more information and to apply.

We Can Help You Apply for REAL ID

This year you will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card to board a domestic flight or enter secure federal facilities. REAL ID is necessary if you don't have a U.S. Passport or active military ID. You'll need a REAL ID for this purpose by Oct. 1st, 2020.



To obtain one, take all of the following to a Driver's License Center:

- Original birth certificate with a raised seal or a valid U.S. Passport.
- Social Security card.
- Proof of all legal name changes (marriage license or court order).
- Two proofs of current items that show physical address.

Call my office if you need assistance obtaining documents or with questions!

The 2-1-1 Program

PA 2-1-1 is a free resource and information hub that can connect you with customized health and human services information. By calling 2-1-1, you can be linked to available programs like support groups, volunteer opportunities, food assistance, emergency housing and a variety of other services. PA 2-1-1 provides a 24/7 confidential phone service. Just dial 2-1-1 and you're connected to accessible resources and information for your area!



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520 Burke Bypass, Unit 1
Olyphant, PA 18447

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My Office Can Help You With:

- PennDOT issues – vehicle registrations, special tags, handicap placards and driver's license applications
- Obtaining and completing state forms
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Requests for literature – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Unclaimed Property/Treasurer's Office claims
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- PACE/PACENET prescription-drug applications for senior citizens
- LIHEAP
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups

If you need help with any state or government-related services, please feel free to contact my office at 570-383-9795 for assistance.

CAPITOL OFFICE: 116-B East Wing • P.O. Box 202112 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2112 • (717) 783-5043
DISTRICT OFFICE: 520 Burke Bypass, Unit 1 • Olyphant, PA 18447 • Phone: (570) 383-9795