



# STATE REPRESENTATIVE **Dan Deasy**

WINTER 2020

DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN, LIQUOR CONTROL COMMITTEE

27TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT • [WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/DEASY](http://WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/DEASY) • @REPDEASY

## HERE TO SERVE YOU!

### BEECHVIEW

Beechview Healthy Active Living Center  
1555 Broadway Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15216  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Fridays  
or by appt. by calling 412-928-9514

### WEST END

436 S. Main St., Suite 100  
Pittsburgh, PA 15220  
412-928-9514  
Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### CAPITOL

304 Irvis Office Building  
P.O. Box 202027  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2027  
717-772-8187

## DEASY ANNOUNCES NEARLY \$6.5 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR DISTRICT



As your state representative, I am honored to serve you in the PA House. My office does a tremendous amount of work to bring state programs and services to our residents, and I am proud of our outcomes, which you will see in this newsletter.

The work in the district is just one very important part of my efforts; the other part is the work and good fight I wage for you in Harrisburg. When I go to Harrisburg and vote on legislation that impacts all Pennsylvanians, I keep the thoughts and views of my residents in mind. Additionally, I have worked hard over the years to support and advocate for state funding to come to the 27th District. I am proud of the efforts made by nonprofit organizations and the municipalities in my district to make our communities great. I am humbled to support their work by pushing for state funding for here at home!

### Brookline

Brookline Teen Outreach Center was awarded \$221,267 in state funding through the Gaming and Economic Development Fund. These funds will be used for waterproofing and water damage renovation at the Brookline Teen Outreach Center. The project will include water control, mold remediation and structural repairs that are needed due to heavy rains and stormwater runoffs.

### Crafton Borough

A new pool liner and other improvements were needed at Crafton Park, including resurfacing; fencing; pool relining and all associated erosion and sedimentation grading; site preparation; and clean up. Working with borough officials, I advocated, and was able to secure \$375,000 through two different grant programs – the state's Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program and the Gaming and Economic Development Fund – to address these issues.

### Greentree

A nearly \$700,000 state grant was awarded for sidewalk improvements along Greentree Road and Mansfield Avenue in Green Tree. The Greentree Road section of the sidewalk is complete, but the Mansfield Avenue section will not be completed until sometime this year. I was happy that this grant provided the lion's share of the almost \$1 million project.



Deasy with Sen. Fontana and borough officials.

### Mt. Washington/City of Pittsburgh

I was happy to push for and secure funding from the state's Multimodal Transportation Fund Program for a streetscape project along Grandview Avenue on Mt. Washington. The \$700,000 is addressing aging infrastructure and deteriorating sidewalk rails, as well as replacement of a retaining wall and upgrading sidewalk railings.

## FUNDING FOR DISTRICT ... Continued

### West End/City of Pittsburgh

**Pittsburgh Musical Theater** - With my support, Pittsburgh Musical Theater received \$1 million in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program funding. PMT will utilize the funds to renovate the theater's South Main Street property. The project will have four phases, which include constructing a new entrance and theater lobby; a backstage area and shop space on the first floor; interior renovations to all 10 studios/classrooms; new landscaping and lighting; and more.



**Former Stevens Elementary School** - The City of Pittsburgh was awarded \$500,000 in RACP funding to be used for the ongoing redevelopment of the former Stevens Elementary School. The facility will now be the Special Deployment Headquarters, which will establish valuable community policing elements in Pittsburgh's West End. Most of the RACP funding will be used for construction, elevator installation, lighting and technological infrastructure.

**Station Square Access Improvements** - Forest City Station Square Associates LP was awarded \$1.1 million through the Commonwealth Finance Authority to improve pedestrian access in Pittsburgh's iconic Station Square, a 52-acre mixed use riverfront property. Improvements include the installation of a new staircase accessing the Smithfield Street Bridge; a storm-water management system; a new electrical service housed in underground vaults; LED lighting; and new pavement and sidewalks along West Carson Street, Three Rivers Heritage Trail and West Station Square Drive.

**West End Trolley Trail** - State funds were awarded to The City of Pittsburgh through the Gaming and Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$100,000, which will go

into planning for the estimated \$600,000 West End Trolley trail project, and includes plans for a half-mile trail that will ultimately connect the West End business district with the Great Allegheny Passage, the Montour Trail and the Three Rivers Trail system.

**Langley K-8 and Pittsburgh Classical Academy (PCA)** - The Josh Gibson Foundation was awarded \$100,000 through the Department of Education's Education Access grants to expand its STEAM Education Initiative into Langley K-8 and Pittsburgh Classical Academy. These programs provide valuable life skills with the help of Langley Alumni volunteers. The program, Boys2Men, works with at-risk children to show them a larger world outside of their community that is full of options. PCA's STEAM program provides new opportunities for students to work and grow in a collaborative environment while developing new science-based skills with hands-on robotics.



*Deasy with Sean Gibson and students.*

### McKees Rocks

Funds were secured in the amount of \$1.275 million to extend Intermodal Way, which was constructed to provide shared access to both CSX Intermodal Terminal and the Rocks Intermodal Park. The extension will divert truck traffic from the terminal around the central business district and provide access to the southeastern portion of Rocks Intermodal Park to accommodate future development. The project will also construct a trail that runs along Intermodal Way from Angelina Avenue to West Carson Street.

Funds were also secured in the amount of \$1.9 million to make ADA-compliant sidewalks and crosswalks. Additionally, there will be improvements to traffic signals and new streetlights beginning at the intersection of Chartiers Avenue, Linden Avenue and Furnace Street Extension, and extending northwest along the first block of Chartiers Avenue. Funds also will allow for improvements to bus lanes and to secure bike racks.

### Grants for Craft Brewing

As Democratic chairman of the House Liquor Control Committee, I was happy to announce the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board approved funding to increase the production of Pennsylvania-made malt and brewed beverages under the PA Malt and Brewed Beverages Industry Promotion Board.

The western Pennsylvania craft beer industry was the

recipient of over \$335,000 in state funding to support awareness, outreach and expansion of malt brewing in the greater Allegheny area.

Pittsburgh Brewers Guild was allotted \$75,000 to be used for the expansion of its 30-plus members' foundation and increase industry awareness and beer tourism across the Pittsburgh region by updating the Pittsburgh Brewery Guide and website and relaunching Pittsburgh Craft Beer Week. Visit Pittsburgh was awarded \$75,000, which will fund its Allegheny County Craft Brewery Tourism Campaign. The public relations and marketing campaign will seek to increase awareness of Pittsburgh's craft brewery scene in out-of-market audiences and attract new visitors to the 30-plus breweries in Allegheny County.

A grant of \$130,350 was also awarded to Black Brew Culture in the greater Pittsburgh area. The grant will be used to support participation, increase awareness, knowledge and experience of the black community in craft beer through various workshops, trainings and engagement. Lastly, Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences was awarded \$56,258, which will fund its Craft Beer Value Chain Development: Hops Processing in Western Pennsylvania project.

I am pleased to announce these grants supporting the state craft beer industry. These initiatives will help keep Pennsylvania the number one producer of craft beer in the nation.

# Legislative Update

## **Protecting Seniors**

I have introduced legislation that would freeze property taxes for homeowners 65 or older and who have lived in their homes for at least five years. Under my bill, the amount owed in taxes would be frozen, regardless of whether the property is assessed at a higher value or if the millage rate is increased. I often hear from seniors about the struggles they face in paying property taxes on a fixed income, especially when they have rising out-of-pocket medical and prescription medication costs. This legislation would be the first step in providing much-needed relief. It is my hope that this legislation will be the beginning toward the elimination of property taxes for seniors.



***Deasy hosts events for seniors on state programs/services.***



## **Helping Students**

I co-sponsored Act 76 of 2019, which was signed into law in October. This law has a few key provisions. It expands an established database that allows students and potential students to plan where credit for courses, programs, certificates, and diplomas can transfer among public schools and institutions of higher education. I have heard from many students that

they spend thousands of dollars on courses, course-related materials, and programs only to realize that they do not transfer to other institutions.

The law now requires the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Labor and Industry, to develop standard informational materials on a summary of regional workforce needs; career cluster occupations; publicly identified priority occupations; training opportunities; and future earning potential. The materials must be reviewed and updated annually, and each school entity must ensure that students have access to these materials during the school year and at any scheduled educational or career fair.

Act 76 establishes the Schools-to-Work Program in the Department of Labor & Industry. The program will award grants, on a competitive basis, to support the establishment or

enhancement of workforce development partnerships between schools, employers, organizations or associations to create employment and training pathways. The purpose of these partnerships is to increase workplace learning opportunities for students. This will create a pipeline of students with the necessary job qualifications and certifications to fill current and/or anticipated needs for employers.

## **Helping Job Seekers**

I voted in support of HB 396, which would require each local Workforce Development Board to include at least one administrator of a Career & Technical Center in its service area on its board. This effort would ensure that local communication with WDBs is consistent across the commonwealth to improve delivery of their technical programs.

Technical programs are vital entities to help job seekers establish new and marketable skills. HB 396 passed the House of Representatives unanimously and is awaiting action in the Senate.



***Deasy and other members toured Parkway West Career and Technology Center.***

## **Helping Direct Care Workers**

Pennsylvania has 219,000 direct care workers, the vast majority of whom work in long-term support services funded via the state's Medicaid program – either directly or through their employment with a home care agency or nursing facility. Direct care work is one of the fastest-growing job sectors in our state. Still, the work is also among the lowest paid in our state with a median wage of \$12.38 per hour across all direct care professions, and as low as a starting average wage of \$9.73 for personal care aides. Forty six percent of home care workers and 30 percent of personal care aides in Pennsylvania are recipients of public assistance like Medicaid and food stamps because wages are so low.

According to the bipartisan Pennsylvania Long Term Care Council's 2019 Blueprint for Strengthening Pennsylvania's Direct Care Workforce, we will need an additional 36,000 direct care workers by 2026 to meet growing demand, not including existing vacancies, and those workers need a pathway to making these good, family-sustaining jobs.

To solve this problem, I have introduced legislation that would direct the state's secretary of Human Services to create a long-term care standards board as part of the state's Medicaid rate setting process. This board would meet every three years to ensure that the wages being paid to direct care workers are enough to maintain a strong workforce that can deliver the highest quality of care.

## **Providing Second Chance Employment Opportunities for Ex-Offenders**

Every day, ex-offenders across the U.S. struggle to find jobs due to their criminal record. This is evident by the 27 percent of those formerly incarcerated who are unemployed, which is five times greater than the unemployment rate of the U.S. population. Unemployment also increases the risk of reoffending, which can result in reincarceration, or forces ex-offenders into the state welfare system, leading to large-scale costs for state government.

To avoid these outcomes and give people a needed jumpstart, I co-sponsored legislation to create the Pennsylvania Second Chance Jobs Act. The act would create a publicly accessible, online job postings website where employers who are willing to hire ex-offenders can submit job postings. The Department of Labor and Industry has indicated that federal funding would be enough to cover the costs of Pennsylvania Second Chance Jobs. Best of all, this website would be free for employers and applicants.

We need to continue to fight against stigmas that treat people with criminal backgrounds as second-class citizens. The best way to do this is by creating more opportunities to help these Pennsylvanians successfully reintegrate into the workforce and become productive members of their communities.

## **Helping Families**

I voted in support of Act 13 of 2019, which eliminates the inheritance tax rate for transfers of property to or for the use of a child 21 or younger from a natural parent, adoptive parent or stepparent. The inheritance tax law taxes 4.5% on property to be transferred from the parent to a minor. This new law changed that tax rate to 0% to ensure that minor children who inherit property when a natural, adoptive or stepparent passes away will not be subject to the inheritance tax.



**Deasy hosts Job Fair with Scott Albert.**

and passed numerous bills to help solve the critical volunteer shortage while rewarding those who answer the call and help residents in their time of need.

## **Paid Family Leave Program to Help Employees**

I am a co-sponsor of HB1739, which would establish "The Family Care Act," a statewide Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. This important legislation would help hardworking Pennsylvanians so they can care for themselves and their families when serious illness strikes or when a parent becomes seriously ill, by providing employees the ability to invest small deductions from their weekly earnings into a state-managed fund. Then when they need to take time off, they can retain their job and remain economically stable by tapping into the fund. As the American workforce changes, so too must work policies evolve to serve a growing and diverse population. Employers should not have to choose between the health of their business and loyalty to their employees. And no employee should ever have to choose between taking care of a sick parent or child or a job. In Pennsylvania, families should come first.

## **Protecting Homeowners**

I have co-sponsored HB 468, which would establish the Landslide Insurance and Assistance Program within the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. My district has seen its share of landslides in recent years. Over the last several years, landslide and slope movements have caused a vast amount of damage to homes and roadways in southwestern Pennsylvania, an estimated \$4 million a year. Unfortunately, the damage often caused is not covered by existing insurance policies. This legislation would create programs for residents and businesses to buy into landslide coverage.

## **Protecting our Houses of Worship**

Act 83 of 2019, which I wholeheartedly supported, established a \$5 million Nonprofit Security Grant Fund for safety and security improvements to facilities used by faith-based nonprofits. Our region knows all too well how hatred and extremist violence can cause devastation to a community and to families when our places of worship are targeted.

## **Protecting your Insurance Plans**

Prior to the passage of the federal Affordable Care Act, 4.5 million Pennsylvanians had insurance plans that had an annual or lifetime limit. This meant that claims were being denied after a certain threshold was reached. The ACA prohibited an annual or lifetime limit on insurance plans. However, this provision has been challenged and if overturned by federal courts, millions of Pennsylvanians will again be exposed to limits that could result in enormous out-of-pocket expenses. To protect Pennsylvania families, I am co-sponsoring legislation that would prohibit insurance policies within the Commonwealth from imposing either annual or lifetime limits.

**Deasy at Crafton VFD Annual Dinner**

## **Helping First Responders –**

Through a bipartisan effort to help struggling volunteer fire and EMS companies, the legislature debated



# Some of what my office accomplished in 2019

## Working for you!



**7,196**

Constituent issues handled



Property Tax/  
Rent Rebates  
Nearly 700 applications completed

Over \$350,000 awarded  
to constituents

**1700+**

Port Authority  
Senior Connect Card  
applications processed



**1000+**

State and Federal  
income tax returns  
prepared in office

PennDOT work  
processed

**450+**



**106**

Rep. Deasy-hosted  
outreach events

**\$134,900.56**

Unclaimed Property  
Office-completed  
claims returned to  
recipients

## Election reform: Mail-in voting, more time to register

Legislation signed into law by Governor Wolf in October makes changes to our elections, which will go into effect for the upcoming April primary.

You now have more time to register and more ways to vote.

Visit [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) for more information.

✓ *Modernizing the vote for*  
**2020**

Effective for the April 2020 Primary Election  
More info | [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) | Register online



### More ways to vote



**No-excuse mail-in voting**  
New option to vote by mail  
Without providing an excuse



**Permanent mail-in ballot list**  
Receive applications for  
mail-in or absentee ballots  
for all elections

### More accessible elections



**More time to register**  
Deadline to register to vote is  
now 15 days before  
an election



**Extended voting period**  
Request a mail-in or absentee  
ballot up to 50 days before  
an election

**Extended deadline**  
Submit mail-in or absentee ballot  
by 8 p.m. on Election Day

## DEASY UPCOMING EVENTS

## SAVE THE DATES:

**Friday, March 6**

10 a.m. – noon

Deasy Satellite Hours

Beechview Healthy Active Living Center

Open to the general public if you need help with any state-related matter. Satellite hours the 1st Friday of every month!

**Wednesday, March 11**

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Job Readiness Workshop

Deasy's District Office

If you cannot attend March 11, remember  
Job Readiness is the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

**Friday, March 20**

10 a.m. – noon

Veterans Outreach Clinic with US Rep. Doyle's office  
Deasy's District Office

If you cannot attend March 20, remember Veterans  
Outreach is the 3rd Friday of each month.



**Saturday, May 9**

8 a.m. – 11 a.m. – or until trucks are full!

FREE Shred Event @ Crafton Park

**Thursday, May 14**

4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Job Fair

American Legion Post 496, Sheraden



**Saturday, May 16**

8 a.m. – 11 a.m. – or until trucks are full!

FREE Shred Event @ Green Tree Park

### Deasy's Senior Info Series

I had a monthly senior info series at the West End, Sheraden, Beechview and Mt. Washington Healthy Active Living Centers. Contact the centers or my office at 412-928-9514 to find out when I will be there next! This series provides seniors the opportunity to learn about state programs and services available and discuss state issues with me.



**STATE REP. DAN DEASY**  
 P.O. Box 202027  
 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2027

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**DEASY'S MOBILE DISTRICT OFFICE SERIES:**

Questions about  
 Real ID?



Need a Port  
 Authority Senior  
 Connect Card?

Need a state document notarized or assistance  
 with other state-related matters and can't make it  
 to my district office in the West End?

Stop by one of the local  
 libraries and my staff will  
 be able to assist you.

Call our office at  
 412-928-9514 for  
 more information.

**Wednesday, March 11**

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Carnegie Library - Sheraden

**Thursday, March 12**

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

F.O.R. Sto-Rox Library

**Wednesday, March 18**

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Green Tree Library

**Thursday, March 19**

5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Crafton Library

**Wednesday, March 25**

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Carnegie Library, Beechview Branch

\*\* Rep. Deasy's office in the West End is  
 open the 2nd Wed. of each month until  
 7:30 p.m.

\*\* Rep. Deasy's satellite office hours at  
 the Beechview Sr. Center the 1st Friday of  
 each month from 10 a.m. – noon.