

THE NORTHEAST NEWS

From State Representative

Ed Neilson



SPRING 2022

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Serving Northeast Philadelphia

Ashton Center • (at Holme Circle) • 16 Old Ashton Road • Philadelphia, PA 19152 • (215) 330-3714

174th Legislative District

Dear Friends,

These past two years dealing with a global pandemic has been a draining experience for all of us. As of March 1st, 81% of eligible Philadelphians are vaccinated, which is great news! Thanks to this, and the weather getting warmer, I hope to see all of you at some of the events I have planned for this spring. You can receive updates on what is happening not only in the community – but across the state of Pennsylvania as well – by going on my website and signing up to receive email notifications.

I have been busy working as the Democratic Chairman of the House Game and Fisheries Committee. Leading this bipartisan committee that puts focus on the people and the natural resources of Pennsylvania first, is a role in which I am proud of and take seriously – just as I do as your state Representative.

Pennsylvanians have access to a wide variety of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. This includes fishing, hunting, boating, state parks and tourism - which we are working diligently to expand. Together, these industries generate more than \$45 billion in

revenue annually.

To bring it a bit closer to home, the focus has been to secure funding for upgraded access points along the Delaware River for family recreation and boating opportunities for your enjoyment. Community streams, like Pennypack Creek in our own backyard, have been fully stocked with trout for opening day which is on April 2nd. For our children, our streams will be ready for Mentored Youth Trout Day which takes place on March 26th, a free day of fishing and family fun.

In other neighborhood news, this past December a \$2.5 million grant was secured to be utilized by the Friends of Ryan, for students and community alike, by utilizing the green space to incorporate a community-based environment. A great effort was put into obtaining this award and to receive it is humbling. The funding for this project will provide a safe place for our children to enjoy and bring families together in our neighborhood.

If you need help with any state-government issues, please call my office at (215) 330-3714 or email me at RepNeilson@pahouse.net.



Legislative Update

2021 was a busy session in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Despite some partisan squabbling, we were able to come together to enact laws on several important issues. More importantly, we managed to continue to convince state leaders to invest in Northeast Philadelphia.

State Investing in Our Community:

► Transportation

~ \$38 million for road improvements and repair

► Crime Prevention

~ \$45 million for programs focused on curbing violent crime

► Education

~ 5.68% gain for basic education funding for Philadelphia schools

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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW IN THE 174TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



Spring Shred Events
20,070 lbs. of paper shredded.



Crossing Guard Breakfast
Honoring retirees of 7th & 8th Districts.



Read Across America: Celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday
at St. Jerome School.



Toys for Tots
District Office Collection.



Office of Emergency Management with Gov. Wolf
Meeting in Morrell Park.



Wiffle Ball Game with the 8th Police District and community.



Right: National Night Out at the 8th Police District.
Team Neilson sharing information at the 8th Police District.



Family Fun Day with the 7th Police District and Police Officer Joe Staszak.



Celebrity Bartending for charity.



Meeting with Federation Early Learning Services (FELS).



Staff Bagging for Hunger with the PPD and PFD at ShopRite.



Policy Meeting on Infrastructure held at Holy Family University.

Movie Nights



Above: Christ the King Below: Our lady of Calvary.



Above: Trout Restocking in Pennypack. Below: NE Airport Ribbon Cutting.



WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

In 2021, our office received more than 10,000 requests for assistance with state services. Below are some of the services we can help you with. Please call or email for any assistance you may need:

- ▶ Disability plates and placards
- ▶ Free notary services
- ▶ Birth and Death Certificate applications
- ▶ Car registrations and renewals
- ▶ Unemployment compensation issues
- ▶ Requests for literature for state services, PA maps, and senior citizen information
- ▶ Voters registration forms
- ▶ All state services

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM
for residents who are permanently disabled, 50+ and widowed, or 65+

What we need from you:

- EVERYONE**
All earned income tax forms (1099 SS1, W2s, etc.)
- HOMEOWNERS**
Copies of all paid tax bills
- RENTERS**
Signed form from the landlord

\$35,000
maximum household income*

*for homeowners \$18,000 maximum for renters
ON SOCIAL SECURITY? Half of SSI/SSD income is excluded for eligibility.

LIHWAP Income Guidelines

Household Size	Maximum Income
1	\$19,320
2	\$26,130
3	\$32,940
4	\$39,750
5	\$46,560
6	\$53,370
7	\$60,180
8	\$66,990

Each additional person +\$6,810

More info: dhs.pa.gov/WaterHelp

2021-2022
Income Guidelines

LIHEAP

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You can put money back in your pocket with the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program! It benefits seniors over the age of 65, widows and widowers aged 50 or older and anyone with a permanent disability over the age of 18. A standard rebate is worth \$650 but you can qualify for a maximum of \$975 with supplemental rebates.

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program is there to help eligible participants with maintaining their water bill. This also comes in the form of a grant which you do not have to pay back.

As we leave the winter months and enter the warmer ones, remember that the Low Income Energy Assistance Program is there to help you with your heating and cooling costs. It's a grant paid directly to your utility company – which means you don't have to pay it back.

Senior Low-Income Tax Freeze

The Philadelphia Department of Revenue will prevent your real estate tax bill from increasing if you meet certain age and income requirements. Under the real estate tax freeze, the amount of property tax you pay each year will not increase, even if your property assessment or the tax rate changes. If your tax liability decreases due to a lower property assessment or a tax rate decrease, the amount of real estate tax you owe will also be lowered to the new amount.

For purposes of this program, an eligible senior is someone who meets any of the following descriptions:

- ▶ A person 65 years or older.
- ▶ A person who lives in the same household with a spouse who is 65 years or older.
- ▶ A person 50 years or older who is a widow of someone who reached the age of 65 before passing away.

Income requirements

Eligible applicant(s) will have a total income of:

- ▶ \$27,500 or less for a single person; or
- ▶ \$35,500 or less for a married couple.



You're Invited to a Treasury Hunt!



**MAY YOUR POCKETS BE HEAVY AND YOUR HEART BE LIGHT,
MAY GOOD LUCK PURSUE YOU EACH MORNING AND NIGHT.**

The Pennsylvania Treasurer's Office is currently holding over **\$3.8 billion** in unclaimed property and they want to return that property to its rightful owner. Does the commonwealth have something that belongs to you? Let Rep. Ed Neilson guide you to your "pot of gold."

Stop by the district office and Rep. Neilson and his staff will share their knowledge to help you claim what's rightfully yours.

District Office of State Rep. Ed Neilson
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SEPTA Senior Keycard Expiration

My office will soon be ready to assist you with your Senior Keycard renewals. **However, NO SEPTA Senior ID will expire in 2022.**

Senior Key Cards with printed expiration dates of 2020, 2021 and 2022 will now remain effective through the end of the month printed on the card in 2023.

For example:

A card with a **May 2020 (5/20)** expiration date will continue to be valid for travel through **May 2023**.

A card with a **May 2021 (5/21)** expiration date will continue to be valid for travel through **May 2023**.

A card with a **May 2022 (5/22)** expiration date will continue to be valid for travel through **May 2023**.

This extension will give seniors peace of mind that they can continue to ride free using their existing SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards while providing additional time to renew their cards safely and conveniently. My office is here to help if you need assistance receiving a card.

Replacement of Lost Cards

To replace a lost or stolen SEPTA Key Senior Card you must immediately call the Key Customer Call Center at 855-567-3782.



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- ▶ Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP)
 - ~ \$110 million grants awarded in Philadelphia
 - ~ \$2.5 million for Archbishop Ryan High School ground improvements
 - ~ \$8.5 million in all of 19154 area
 - ~ \$6 million to Agusta/wetland for expansion
- ▶ \$17 million for Philadelphia small businesses from the PA COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program (CHIRP)
- ▶ Jobs through revitalization
 - ~ \$246 million for the modernization and expansion development of the Philadelphia Port

I also co-sponsored a package of bills to prevent and criminalize certain forms of elder abuse, which was signed into law in June. I am also actively involved with the legislative push at both the state and federal levels to create a National Infrastructure Bank to ensure the long-term viability of Pennsylvania's vital civil infrastructure.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to author and pass legislation that will benefit Pennsylvania at large as well as our neighbors here in the 174th District.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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STATE REP. ED NEILSON'S FREE COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT

April 30th ▪ 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Our Lady of Calvary Church Parking Lot
11024 Knights Road ▪ Philadelphia, PA 19154

To raise awareness about consumer fraud and identity theft, we are hosting a free shredding event to give residents the opportunity to securely dispose of documents they no longer need.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Old credit card and bank statements
- Income Tax information
- Credit card and bank account numbers
- Retirement/pension information

E-cycling truck
available for small
electronics.

Please **DO NOT** bring newspapers, X-rays, binders, or hardback books.
For your safety, **DO NOT EXIT YOUR VEHICLE!**