



STATE REP. JOSH BASHLINE

63RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

SUMMER 2026



DEAR NEIGHBOR,

I am humbled to serve as your voice in Harrisburg and back home.

This newsletter contains my thoughts about data centers, updates on critical legislation, a recap of my "Have You Heard About the 63rd" series and more.

You can reach us by phone at my district offices or Harrisburg office, send in a contact form through RepBashline.com, by mail or at one of our events.

For the latest local and state news, be sure to follow me on Facebook and subscribe to receive my emails by visiting RepBashline.com.

Sincerely,



Combating **Waste, Fraud and Abuse**

In my efforts to fight waste, fraud and abuse in the Commonwealth, the House adopted my commonsense amendment to legislation that would allow small businesses of 50 employees or less to claim a tax credit to pay for eligible insurance costs.

House Bill 2550, which passed the House by a 200-2 vote, would require businesses to take out a policy through the Pennsylvania Health Insurance Exchange Authority (Pennie) that meets the affordability requirements as determined by the exchange.

My amendment, which fetched support by a 132-70 vote, addresses concerns related to fraud with Pennie by establishing conditions to maintain compliance. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Providing proof of residency and citizenship for all employees benefitting.
- Requiring Pennie to establish an Office of Fraud Prevention.
- Producing a report to the General Assembly that contains the number of suspected fraud cases and dollar amounts involved; confirmed fraud cases and dollar amounts involved; and dollar amounts of tax credits provided to rescinded policies.

The country's eyes have been opened to the widespread fraud taking place in states like Minnesota. By stopping fraudsters and thieves from accessing funds that belong to other people, the government is upholding the highest standard for fiscal stewardship.

The legislation now heads to the Senate for consideration.

Local Control **Critical** in Data Center **Decisions**



As communities across Pennsylvania grapple over data center proposals, I voted to support legislation to put local control at the forefront by empowering municipal governments to make the best decisions for their communities.

House Bill 2496 would allow municipalities in Pennsylvania to temporarily pause data center applications by adopting a resolution at a public meeting. This pause would last up to 180 days, retroactive to when the meeting was publicly noticed. This would suspend legal deadlines for reviewing, hearing and deciding on applications submitted after the pause starts, giving municipalities breathing room to review accurate information and decide how to proceed.

I am grateful for all the feedback I've heard so far on this issue. A one-size-fits-all approach simply doesn't suit the Commonwealth. Establishing local control gives the people most impacted the ability to exercise their voice during this process.

The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE 63RD?

I am very appreciative of the businesses in the 63rd District who took time out of their busy schedules to tell their stories and inform me about how I can best represent them. It's one of the most rewarding parts about being a state representative.

In the latest installment of this series, I visited Life Northwestern PA, Gearhart's Grab N Go, Leeper Market and Kahle's Kitchens to get great behind-the-scenes tours about their operations and see the dedication, innovation and hard work that drives these organizations every day. During these stops, we had great conversations about the obstacles businesses face, from workforce needs to regulations and rising costs and beyond, and what I can do in Harrisburg to ensure they can thrive.

My stance remains firm: We must encourage economic growth, cut through red tape on our employers and allow our local businesses to continue being strong pillars in the community. When our businesses succeed, we all benefit.

I look forward to continuing this series and visiting more employers across the 63rd District. If there is a business you would like me to visit, please reach out to me by visiting RepBashline.com/contact.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**JOSH
BASHLINE**

63RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING SENIOR EXPO

Thursday, Aug. 27, 10 a.m. to Noon

Kittanning Township Volunteer Fire Dept., 13126 State Route 422, Kittanning, PA 16201

This event, which I am co-hosting with Rep. Abby Major and Sen. Joe Pittman, will give residents ages 55 and older the opportunity to learn about the resources available to them.

Vendors will share information about various topics, such as healthcare, insurance, nutrition/exercise, financial/estate planning, government savings, hunting/fishing, personal safety and more. Please be sure to stop by our table so you can sign up for a chance to win a door prize.

Anyone with questions is urged to call my Kittanning district office at 724-954-3613. I hope to see you there!

Celebrating Pennsylvania's Fishing Heritage

To honor Pennsylvania's longstanding tradition of fishing and conservation, my legislation to create a new "Fish PA" specialty license plate was adopted into a bill that would create several new license plates.

My initiative calls for PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) to jointly host a design contest for Pennsylvania students in kindergarten through fifth grade. The winning student design would serve as the basis for the final plate, which must include the phrase "Fish PA" and feature a Brook Trout — the state fish.

A portion of the revenue from plate sales would support PFBC's Trout in the Classroom program. This hands-on educational initiative teaches students about watersheds, ecosystems and conservation by allowing them to raise trout in their classrooms and release them into approved local waterways. Directing funds to this program would help expand youth participation in conservation activities across the state.

The Fish PA license plate aims to celebrate Pennsylvania's natural resources, promote environmental education and inspire the next generation of anglers and conservation stewards.

How Can We Help You?

My district offices serve as your local connection to state government. My team and I are happy to hear your questions or concerns about state and local issues. We are also available to assist you with an array of state programs and services, including:

- PennDOT paperwork, including driver's license and vehicle registration applications and renewals.
- Information and applications for senior citizen benefit programs, including Property Tax/Rent Rebate and PACE/PACENET prescription drug programs.
- Information and applications for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- Help with securing birth and death certificates (photo identification required).
- Information about legislation.
- Assistance with resolving matters relating to state agencies.

You may stop by or call my Clarion district office at 814-226-9000 or Kittanning district office at 724-954-3613. Help is also available through our website at **RepBashline.com**.