



# Boscola Bulletin

INDEPENDENT. EFFECTIVE. YOUR VOICE IN HARRISBURG.

 **LISA BOSCOLA** 18TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

## Lehigh Valley Schools and Homeowners Continue to be Shortchanged by Harrisburg

**By Senator Lisa Boscola – 18th Senatorial District**

The Commonwealth's Independent Fiscal Office ("IFO") just released a report showing that Northampton (5th) and Lehigh (7th) County homeowners face some of the highest property tax burdens in the state. Even with some of the heaviest tax burdens already, thirteen of the seventeen school districts in Northampton and Lehigh County raised their property taxes again this year. In the 18th Senatorial District, the district I represent, 5 out of 7 school districts raised property taxes.

In February 2023, the Commonwealth Court ruled that our public education funding system was unconstitutional. The Court found large inequities in funding between school districts. This was caused in large measure by our over reliance on local property taxes to fund our schools. In response to that ruling, as part of this year's budget we boosted the state's basic education funding by \$1.1 billion. Additionally, the legislature created a tax equity program with \$32 million dedicated to providing additional relief for homeowners in school districts with high property tax burdens.

This tax equity program clearly used a convoluted formula to dispense the money. Less than half the money (\$13 million) went to school districts in counties in the top 5 of heaviest tax burdened. Two counties in the top 5 (Northampton being one, Pike being the other) received no tax equity money. One school district in the Lehigh Valley received \$24,000, less than 1% of all the money allocated in the program despite Lehigh and Northampton counties' ranking in the IFO report.

Sadly, it's become too clear that many elected officials in Harrisburg are not serious about property tax reform – how do we know?

First, in the 2022 budget an overwhelming number of members of the General Assembly voted to double cross homeowners by removing table game revenue money from the property tax relief fund, which provides tax relief to homeowners, and placing it in the general fund. This vote has cost homeowners nearly \$400 million dollars in relief and will continue to shortchange the relief fund over \$140 million annually.

Second, the newly created tax equity fund to help school districts with the heaviest tax burdens was allocated in a way that shortchanged homeowners with the heaviest burden according to the IFO.

Third, twice this session I put forward a constitutional amendment calling for the elimination of property taxes for homeowners by the year 2026 and requiring the legislature to devise a replacement plan. Both times my Senate colleagues, many of whom claim to support the elimination of school property taxes for homeowners, used a procedural mechanism to avoid voting on the issue.

In addition to legislation to fully eliminate local school property taxes, I have proposed providing property tax relief to senior citizens. Senate Bill 469 would prohibit any political subdivision from imposing any increase in property taxes on residents that are 65 or older with some income limitations.

I am also introducing legislation to expand the Longtime Owner Occupant Program (LOOP) to provide property tax relief to more Pennsylvanians. This bill would be a constitutional amendment that would provide all counties the ability to opt-in to allow for property tax relief to homeowners who have lived in their homes for at least 10 years by exempting or deferring property tax increases, even if their home assessment values rise in the future.

Finally, as I referenced earlier, we need to scrap the convoluted tax equity formula enacted earlier this year. I am introducing legislation to incorporate IFO data, to ensure school districts in the counties with the highest tax burden receive priority funding from the tax equity program should it be used again next year.

As the IFO report demonstrates so convincingly, the issue of property taxes in the Lehigh Valley is real. It will take bold leadership in Harrisburg to fight for needed reform. Property tax relief will only happen by making it a priority... It is my top priority, and I will continue to relentlessly fight for needed changes. Homeowners in the Lehigh Valley deserve a break and teachers and administrators deserve a modern, reliable funding stream to ensure a quality education for every student in Pennsylvania.

Report: [http://www.ifo.state.pa.us/download.cfm?file=Resources/Documents/County\\_Property\\_Tax\\_Burden\\_Aug\\_2021.pdf](http://www.ifo.state.pa.us/download.cfm?file=Resources/Documents/County_Property_Tax_Burden_Aug_2021.pdf)

Hosted by Representative **ANN FLOOD**

# DAMAGED LICENSE PLATE REPLACEMENT EVENT

THURSDAY  
**SEPT. 12**  
4 - 7 P.M.

MOORE TOWNSHIP  
ADMIN. BUILDING


2491 COMMUNITY DRIVE, BATH, PA

**RSVP IS REQUIRED**

Residents of the 138th District can RSVP by calling my office at 610-746-2100 to make an appointment and to provide vehicle information.

Do you have a hard-to-read license plate? Damaged plates have loss of reflectivity, peeling, blistering or discoloration and are unreadable from 50 feet away. A local police officer will determine if your plate needs to be replaced and will help with the appropriate paperwork. **THERE IS NO FEE FOR THIS SERVICE.**



 [RepAnnFlood.com](http://RepAnnFlood.com)

# QUARRY BITES & BREWS

SEPTEMBER 12TH

2024

45 BROADWAY  
BANGOR, PA 18013

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

**COASTAL CRAVINGS  
HIPPIE PIG BBQ &  
TOMATO PIES  
& THE LOCAL SCOOP**



**ALLEGHENY CREEK  
BREWING CO  
& TOLINO VINEYARDS**

**AGIRL & AGUY TRIO**

6:00 PM ~ 9:00 PM



 **MORE INFO:**

**BAILEY@JANELCONNOLLY.COM**



ESTATE SETTLEMENT  
REAL ESTATE AUCTION  
AFFORDABLE LOG STYLE COTTAGE  
ON THE PREMISES

11 A.M. SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2024 RAIN OR SHINE  
213 HELLER LANE, LONG POND, PA 18334  
PERFECT FOR INVESTOR, SPECULATOR OR HANDY PERSON

**REAL ESTATE** consists of a Rural Log Style Home needing extensive work, but on 1.3 Acre Heavily Wooded Parcel with tall towering trees and frontage on Township Road. Home has a Large Living Room- Dining Room with Stone Fireplace, Kitchen, Bathroom, 2 Bedrooms and Enclosed Sun Room. Also large Detached Garage. Home needs extensive repairs, but lots of potential for Handy Person. Tax Code: 20.5.1.10-1

**INSPECTION:** MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup> 12 - 2 P.M.  
**Caution:** You are coming on the property at your own risk.

**DIRECTIONS:** I-80 to Route 380 exit onto Route 940 to Long Pond Road. Continue several miles on Long Pond Road to left onto Hella's Lane (TR630)

**TERMS:** \$7,500 BANK CASHIER'S CHECK ( made Payable to Jack Muehlhan Auctioneer Escrow) AT SALE. BALANCE AT SETTLEMENT WITHIN 30 DAYS. Insurable Deed, No Back Taxes.

**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:** Rare opportunity to BUY a Country Log Style Home with over 1 Acre on a Township Road for a price you won't believe. Must be SOLD to Settle Estate.

**SALE ORDERED BY:**  
Estate of Kathleen Tuland

JACK MUEHLHAN  
REAL ESTATE AUCTIONEER AU000643L  
"The Name You Can Trust"  
STROUDSBURG, PA 18360  
570-421-8333

Remember: You are only going to pay one more bid than someone else was willing to pay.

# a WILD week IN REVIEW



## Rep. Wild Attends Ribbon-Cutting for New NCC Interdisciplinary Health Education Center

On Monday, I attended the ribbon-cutting for Northampton Community College's new Interdisciplinary Healthcare Education and Workforce Development Center. I was proud to secure federal funding to help build this center, which will allow health care students to practice their skills through realistic simulations as instructors observe. Not only will this help students provide better care to their future patients, but by allowing them to practice real-world situations on diverse models, it will also help reduce inequities in our health care system.

With the majority of NCC students choosing to live and work in the Greater Lehigh Valley after graduation, investing in their education helps ensure our community is home to phenomenal medical professionals for generations to come. It was wonderful to tour the facility and chat with students and faculty about their experiences. I'll keep working to invest in local education and provide our teachers and students with the resources they need to thrive.

## COMPUTER NETWORKING & REPAIR

"OVER 30 YEARS OF  
EXPERIENCE"

James Albanese



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## COLUMBIA SELF STORAGE Content Sale

Columbia Self Storage will sell the contents of the occupant's leased space at public auction to satisfy the owner's lien on StorageTreasures.com all personal property stored in this facility by: Unit #245 Shana Ceaser, consisting of boxes, toys and misc. items. Items will be offered for sale by auction to the highest bidder for enforcement of storage liens.

**Auction will be held at 10AM, Tuesday,  
September 24, 2024 on StorageTreasures.com.**

All auction sales are FINAL. Cash only and paid at Columbia Self Storage, 1059 Pennsylvania Ave., Pen Argyl, PA 18072. Columbia Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid.