

WINTER 2024

State Representative

RYAN MACKENZIE

187TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Lower Macungie Twp. Office:

Lower Macungie Admin. Bldg.
3402 Brookside Road
Macungie, PA 18062
610-965-9933

Northwestern Lehigh Office:

6806 Route 309, Suite 200A
New Tripoli, PA 18066
610-760-7082

Capitol Office:

Room 209, Ryan Office Building
P.O. Box 202187
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2187
717-787-1000



OFFICE INFORMATION

DEAR FRIENDS,

It remains an honor to be your voice in Harrisburg.

My staff and I look forward to continuing to serve you in the new year at our district offices in Lower Macungie Township and Northwestern Lehigh. We can help with vehicle registrations; driver's license renewals and special tags; Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications; Low Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP) applications; birth certificate and death record forms; and much more. Simply stop by or give us a call.

You are also invited to register for my frequent email updates at **RepMackenzie.com**, under the "Resources" tab. They include news from the Capitol and our district and are another great way for us to stay connected.

Sincerely,

State Rep. Ryan Mackenzie

 **RepMackenzie.com**

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 **/RepMackenzie**

Around — THE DISTRICT



I had the honor of joining business owner Natalie Alboucq and her family for the grand opening of her business, Opulent Wellness, in New Tripoli. It is always great to welcome new small businesses to the 187th District.



I met with the Upper Macungie Township Police Department to discuss their Wellness Plan and how it will help their officers. We thank all our local police for the brave work they do every day.



It was nice to speak with constituents at Genesis Lehigh Commons, and also enjoy a fun game of Bingo!



PROTECTING TAXPAYERS

Tax Relief for Families Included in Recent Budget Bill

The Fiscal Code bill signed into law as part of the 2023–24 state budget package includes an expansion of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, an issue for which I have been advocating since the introduction of my similar legislation last year.

An estimated 250,000 working families will see their state tax credit for child and dependent care expanded to match the federal credit under the new law. Beginning in tax year 2023, families were eligible for a credit equal to 30% of the actual amount of dependent care expenses claimed on their federal tax credit, up to \$3,000 for one qualifying dependent or \$6,000 for multiple qualifying dependents. The enhanced tax credit was included in my Pennsylvania Families Tax Relief bill package, which provides a variety of options to help working families deal with the high costs of everyday life. I am pleased it has now become law.

Some other important proposals in my Pennsylvania Families Tax Relief bill package include reductions to the Personal Income Tax and Inheritance Tax; sales tax holidays for home improvements and back-to-school supplies; permanent sales tax exemptions for children’s books, toys, cribs and strollers, youth sports equipment, personal emergency responder equipment, and pet food; increased funding for homestead/farmstead exclusion to reduce property taxes; and eliminating the gross receipts tax to bring down energy bills. In these inflationary times, I know many individuals are struggling with rising costs. I will continue to push for these meaningful changes.

PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES
TAX RELIEF

OVER \$2 BILLION IN POSSIBLE TAX RELIEF

Permanent sales tax exemption for children’s books, toys, cribs and strollers, and youth sports equipment.

Permanent sales and gross receipts tax exemption on cell phone bills.

Permanent gross receipts tax exemption on electric bills.

Permanent sales tax exemption for pet food.

Permanent sales tax exemption for personal emergency responder equipment.

Sales tax holidays for home improvements and back-to-school supplies.

Reduce the Personal Income Tax.

Reduce the Inheritance Tax.

Increase funding for homestead/farmstead exclusion.

Increase Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit.

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REFORMING GOVERNMENT

Continued Support for Congressional Term Limits

Earlier this session, I reintroduced a resolution that calls for a constitutional convention regarding congressional term limits. Recently, Florida passed similar legislation in their state House. To date, a total of 19 states have passed this important resolution.

If two-thirds (34) of the states seek a convention for the sole purpose of proposing term limits, such a convention is called. Any proposed amendment resulting from the convention would then require ratification by three-fourths (38) of the states before it can be included in the U.S. Constitution. A number of states have already initiated a movement to impose congressional term limits.

I believe a concurrent resolution making an application to Congress, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania, to call a convention for proposing a congressional term limits amendment is the ideal mechanism for limiting the number of terms an individual may serve as a member of either the U.S. House of Representatives or the U.S. Senate.

House Resolution 37 is currently under committee review.

Assisting Domestic Violence Victims with Unemployment Benefits

I have introduced legislation that would make it easier for domestic violence victims to receive benefits if they are forced to quit working in situations where continued employment would jeopardize their safety.

Under current law, an individual who quits working has the burden to prove their eligibility for unemployment benefits. The reasons for quitting must be “necessitous and compelling,” and the claimant must have made reasonable efforts to maintain the employment relationship.

House Bill 1446 would create an exception for domestic violence victims who would be allowed to confidentially submit reasonable evidence of recent abuse. A victim would not be required to submit a copy of a protective order or police report, although they could choose to do so. A victim would also not have to prove they attempted to maintain the employment relationship.

In most situations, an employee who voluntarily quits has to meet certain eligibility standards before being awarded taxpayer-funded unemployment compensation. While sometimes these circumstances are accepted, the law is not explicitly clear. I believe there should be a clear exception for victims of domestic violence who could be put in danger through continued employment at a certain location.

STRENGTHENING EDUCATION

District Office Internships Available

We offer an internship program for college students interested in learning about career opportunities available in state government. The program is reserved for students currently enrolled for credit through an educational institution and is based out of my district offices.

The intern's responsibilities may include conducting research for possible legislation; drafting correspondence and responding to constituent inquiries; planning an event that is beneficial to the intern and community; and attending events around the 187th Legislative District.

The internship hours are flexible but should be consistent. Occasionally, events are held outside of the regularly scheduled hours. Please submit resume, cover letter, and recent writing sample to RMackenzie@pahousegop.com.

Streamlining Teacher Training Mandates

- A few years ago, a local school superintendent brought to my attention an issue regarding teacher training mandates. He was concerned about the growing number of state and federal teacher training mandates that required additional in-service days, resulting in increased costs for the school district and taxpayers.
- As a result, I authored legislation to review teacher training mandates in Pennsylvania's public schools to determine their worthiness. My House resolution called for a comprehensive study to determine if such programs can be streamlined, and was adopted in February of 2022.
- The review was conducted by an advisory committee of the Joint State Government Commission. They recently released their report to the General Assembly, and made recommendations to create a more efficient process and save taxpayer dollars. The committee came up with a list of nine recommendations.
- One of the most notable proposals would substitute content requirements for training hour requirements in all mandates. Currently, teacher training mandates require a certain number of hours for each topic.
- A second recommendation would establish the Pennsylvania School Employees Professional Development Council, which would serve as a long-term solution for review and modification of teacher training mandates.
- The committee concluded that its recommendations would make mandatory teacher training less burdensome and more effective. This would allow teachers to achieve professional development goals in a better way and result in greater student outcomes.
- The House Education Committee has received these recommendations and is reviewing them for possible legislative changes to streamline these mandates.



Matthew Kershner | Troop 71, Macungie



Craig Snyder Jr. | Troop 89, New Tripoli



Rowan Taylor | Troop 72, Fogelsville



Aidan Arakkal, Benjamin Fletcher, Charles Peters III, Gregory Smith III, Ryan Bennett | Troop 431, East Texas

CONGRATULATIONS, EAGLE SCOUTS

We are proud to have many high-achieving young people in the 187th District, including these recent Eagle Scouts. I am always happy to recognize their accomplishment through the presentation of a House citation.

WHAT I CAN DO FOR YOU

- Vehicle registration, special tags, titles, and license applications.
- Point of contact for all state agency questions and issues.
- Filing Property Tax/Rent Rebate and PACE/PACENET applications.
- Birth certificate applications.
- Requests for state legislative information and regulations.
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for notable local accomplishments and family milestones.
- Complaints about state road conditions.
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups.
- Fishing and hunting information.

My district office staff and I are here to help you. Please contact me at my office or online to share your thoughts and concerns, or for assistance with any state-related matter.



State Representative
RYAN MACKENZIE
187th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Protecting Taxpayers
- Reforming Government
- Strengthening Education

PLEASE OPEN TO LEARN MORE!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

“Scam Jam”
Fraud Prevention Seminar
Thursday, March 28
10 a.m. to Noon

Good Will Fire Company No. 1
7723 Hamilton Blvd., Trexlertown, PA 18087

We are teaming up with the PA Department of Banking and Securities to present this free event, which features Fraud Bingo, an interactive way to learn about common scams and fraud. Light refreshments will be offered. Reservations are required. Please call 610-760-7082 or visit RepMackenzie.com/events.



Spring Shredder Event
Saturday, April 13
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Lower Macungie Township Complex
3450 Brookside Road, Macungie, PA 18062

The public is invited to shred up to four boxes (the approximate size of carry-on luggage) of sensitive documents per vehicle. This free event is for residents of the 187th District only. No businesses, please. For more information, please call 610-965-9933 or 833-933-3675 (toll free).



If you would like more information about any of the following topics, please fill out the form below and mail to:

State Rep. Ryan Mackenzie, 3402 Brookside Road, Macungie, PA 18062.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please send me the following items (if more than 1 of an item is needed, please indicate the number desired in the space provided next to that item):

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Absentee Ballot Application _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Map _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Identity Theft Prevention _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birth Certificate Application _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Registration Forms _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Tax/Rent Rebate Application _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Death Certificate Application _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefits for Senior Citizens _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Information _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PACE/PACENET Applications _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Do Not Call List Information _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Mail-In Ballot Information _____ |



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