

State Representative **Rob Mercuri** 28th Legislative District of Pennsylvania

District 28 Progress Report Jan. 5, 2021–Nov. 30, 2024



Dear Friends,

No great community or neighborhood happens just by accident. The community we have built across the 28th Legislative District was built with purpose and goodwill in every neighborhood, every borough and every township and in your home and in mine. Each beating heart knows that they are part of something extremely special.

Not only are each of us a part of this community, but the community is also made better by our involvement, care and generosity. Thank you for your investment in this community and your support of me and my team as we have endeavored to serve you well during two terms as your representative.

I have a great deal of respect for the system of governance that has been established in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Our founder, William Penn, had a vision for this settlement to be a 'holy experiment' of freedom all the way back in 1685 when he first arrived with a land grant from the King of England. As a British citizen in the 17th century, he knew the limits of the ability of a central government to improve the lives of people and families.

As Penn knew, real change and real progress can only come when every person and every family is invested as stakeholders in the betterment of their home and community. That principle is the bedrock at the foundation of our Commonwealth and is exemplified in our commitment to freedom and local control.

It is up to each of us to keep this holy experiment alive and well in Pennsylvania. As one link in an unbroken chain of representation that traces back to our founding, we look forward to handing this stewardship to the next able Representative that will be chosen by you to represent the 28th District this November.

As I move on from this role to what's next, I pray my time in the seat of governance and representation will be fondly remembered as a time period that made an impact on the lives and futures of the people and families that live, work and thrive in our community.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude and community pride that I present this summary of what we have accomplished together during these last four years as State Representative for Pennsylvania House District 28. May God bless each of you and I'll see you around the neighborhood!

Best regards,

Elect W. Mecui

My Legislative Priorities

In Harrisburg, I have been dedicated to working every day on behalf of my constituents. I have focused on many opportunities and key issues facing the Commonwealth, including:

Fiscal Responsibility — We must lower taxes and spend responsibly — making targeted investments in our economy, schools, and other vital



programs and services. As Pennsylvanians face unprecedented inflation and financial pressures, we must drive growth and hold agencies accountable.

Responsible Energy Expansion — In order for Pennsylvania to remain a top energy producer and exporter, we must establish energy independence by investing in the abundant resources we have and licensing new pipeline opportunities. We must end our reliance on foreign adversaries for oil and gas, as well as end our involvement in the job-killing Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and instead innovate the future energy economy for our region.

Educational Choices — We must fund students first, so every child can have access to the highest quality education the Commonwealth has to offer, regardless of ZIP code. Establishing the Lifeline Scholarship Program, investing in our great teachers and fully funding education programs are essential.

Effective and Efficient Government — The best version of the government is one that works in the best interests of Pennsylvanians first and does not overstep its bounds. This includes advancing voter identification and election integrity reform, limiting the duration of executive orders, ending invasive medical mandates and holding ineffective bureaucracies accountable.

Each of these important policy objectives directly affects the lives of all communities that I have represented across District 28. With your cooperation and through the courage of my colleagues, I know that we can form an effective legislature in Harrisburg that will operate effectively again for the people. It has been a privilege to work hard every day towards this objective.

By the Numbers



Hosting Scholars & Champions at the Capitol

It was one of my greater pleasures over the last 4 years to be able to invite all the incredible individuals and teams to the Capitol to celebrate and recognize their excellence in House District 28! Here are just a few of the many scholars and champions we have hosted.



Hampton Boy's Cross Country Team



North Allegheny Girl's Volleyball Team



Hampton Girl's Volleyball Team



Pine Richland Varsity Football Team



Pine Richland's Vaughn Spencer State Wrestling Champion



Hampton Senior Justine Sullivan receives a perfect score on Advanced Placement Research Exam

Legislative Progress for You

Paycheck Protection Program — Act 1 of 2021

To help families that have struggled financially because of the pandemic and the closures that were subsequently forced upon us, my colleagues and I in the General Assembly passed legislation to exempt income received from the federal Paycheck Protection Program from taxation under the state's Personal Income Tax (PIT). Senate Bill 109, now Act 1 of 2021, also prevents stimulus payments from being taxed at the state level.

Remote Mortgage Banking — Act 8 of 2022

House Bill 1588 will permit mortgage originators to work remotely and to originate mortgages in remote locations. With many Pennsylvanians' working virtually, among them were licensed mortgage brokers who are required to "work out of a licensed location." Under the Governor's emergency orders, this requirement was waived, so business could resume. This legislation allows these workers to continue working as they are currently, whether remotely or in a licensed location, helping to modernize our economy.

Driving PA Forward: Autonomous Vehicle Legislation — Act 130 of 2022

Act 130 of 2022, formerly House Bill 2398 modernized the PA Vehicle Code to enable driverless testing and deployment of highly autonomous vehicles (AV) across the Commonwealth, which will save lives and boost our economy in the fast-growing automated vehicles technology sector. Each year, nearly 40,000 Americans die in motor vehicle crashes. More than 90% of these accidents are caused by human error, which is unacceptable. When this legislation was enacted, we joined 17 other states that have enacted similar law to protect motorists.

Urging Congress to oppose changes to IRS reporting adopted HR 150 of 2021

A Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to oppose the Treasury Department's proposal to change Internal Revenue Service reporting requirements, which would unnecessarily and harmfully affect financial institutions and their customers in this Commonwealth.

CNIT Reduction - 2022 Budget Act 53 of 2022

A historic cut to our Corporate Net Income Tax (CNIT) rate, which features a 1% reduction next year (9.99% to 8.99%) and slashes the tax by 0.5% each year until it reaches 4.99%, while meeting growth benchmarks. This is the first reduction in the CNIT since 1995 and the first significant tax cut in Pennsylvania since the decision to phase out the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax in 2002. A historic win for our economy and our people.

Legislative Progress for You

Grow PA Merit Scholarship Program — Act 89 of 2024

The Grow PA program is a direct investment into our young people, encouraging them to stay in Pennsylvania to put down roots and grow our economy. Merit scholarships are a waiver of an amount equal to the differential between tuition for a resident and nonresident student. This program will provide valuable financial assistance to eligible nonresident students pursuing higher education in fields that are in high demand within the Commonwealth.

Record Education Funding Increases

During my two terms in Pennsylvania's House of Representatives, I have been pleased with the increases in educational spending we have seen in each of the four budgetary processes I have been a part of in Harrisburg. Our children are our future and the continual growth of investment into their education will help build a stronger Commonwealth for all.

Increased Funding for DSPs — Act 1A of 2024

I was pleased to be able to help advocate for and get across the goal line, additional funding to improve our ability to serve those in need across the Commonwealth by increased funding for direct support professionals (DSPs) who support those with special needs across the Commonwealth. The work of these DSPs is truly special and a direct reflection of the heart and soul of the people all across PA.

PSAT and AP Expansion (HB 2902 of 2021)

In order to expand opportunities for all Pennsylvania students and encourage more school districts to offer AP courses to students, this legislation will expand access to advanced placement (AP) courses in the core academic areas (mathematics, English language arts, science, social science and computer science). Specifically, this bill will create the Advanced Placement Teacher Training Program to train teachers in an eligible school entity to teach advanced placement courses in the core academic areas.

Consumer Data Privacy (HB 1947)

House Bill 1947 would require larger companies and personal information aggregators to share more information with constituents about what data of theirs is gathered, tracked and sold. When constituents' information, such as their names, addresses, geolocation, Social Security number, driver's license number, biometric information or email address, is harvested, bought and sold, Rep. Mercuri believes that you have a right to understand that information and to access it and opt out of data collection, if you so choose.

Investing in Our District

Total Grant Money Awarded to House District 28: *Over \$13 million in grant funding! Examples including:*

West Deer Ground Breaking Event!

It was an honor to join in the groundbreaking ceremony of the West Deer Municipal Building. This will be a brand-new state-of-art centerpiece to the West Deer community. My office was able to help them secure \$1.5 million in funding from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program and \$1 million in funding from the Local Share Account. It is with great anticipation I await the completion of this much deserved resource to my hometown community.



Grants Awarded to Local Fire, EMS Stations!



Fire, Ambulance Grants The Office of the State Fire Commissioner awarded more than \$300,000 in grant awards to eight fire and emergency medical services departments in the 28th Legislative District. The purpose of the grants is to help local public safety organizations with purchasing or repairing firefighting, ambulance, or rescue equipment; training personnel; recruitment and retention. Thank you to the brave men and women in District 28 for keeping our communities safe!

Investing in Our District

Improving Our Roadways

I was happy to announce that the Township of Pine received \$400,000 in funding from the Multimodal Transportation Fund Program to help complete the Babcock/Bakerstown Signal and Turning lane Project. Township officials answered the call and acted swiftly in addressing this issue and grateful for the state's commitment to helping our communities.



West Deer Fire Company



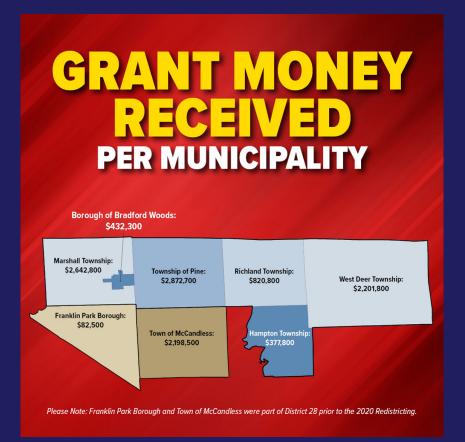
I advocated for funding through a \$250,000 Gaming Economic Development Tourism Fund grant to assist West Deer Fire Company in the development of a new location that will allow for additional training areas, improved workspace for fire company officers and members, and personnel decontamination areas. Congratulations Chief Josh Wiegand and West Deer Volunteer Fire Company No. 3!

Funding to Bradford Woods

I was pleased to announce the awarding of \$396,000 in funding for the Borough of Bradford Woods through the Local Municipal Relief Program. These necessary funds will be used to construct three new stormwater detention facilities within the Borough. I was proud to advocate for this grant and beyond pleased to see it awarded.



Investing in Our District



It was an honor to support so many grant applications by organizations, businesses, schools, and municipalities etc, over the past four years. This state money has been invested into District 28 and our community providing opportunities for these necessary projects to be executed, allowing this region to thrive, and opening new opportunities.

Serving Those Who Served

Veteran's Affairs

On the first Tuesday of each month our office took appointments for Veterans in need of assistance. We have assisted over 270 veterans get the help they needed and deserved by setting up an appointment with a Veterans Affairs Officer. Thank you to everyone involved to make this opportunity possible for the Veterans of House District 28!



Veterans Breakfast



We were humbled to join the American Legion in saluting the veterans who have so honorably served our communities and our country. Our office handed out PA House of Representative Veteran Pins to all the men and women who bravely served our country. We were able to serve breakfast to approximately 100 people who came out for the veteran's breakfast in West Deer!

Flag Raising Ceremony

On Veterans Day the past few years, I paid tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice through flag-raising ceremonies at AHN Wexford. I had the pleasure of serving as a guest speaker at these terrific events.



Proud to Serve Our Community!

Community Health Fairs

I had the pleasure to host four Community Health Fairs for the constituents of District 28. These have been great events that gave constituents the opportunity to learn about the numerous services provided by public and private vendors. In addition, free flu shots were always offered to our guests. Thank you to AHN Wexford, Baierl YMCA and all of our donors and vendors who helped make these Health Fairs a great success!



Paper Shredding Events



Our office teamed up with Shred America to host 6 paper shredding events throughout my two terms. We invited constituents all over the district to come and destroy any old documents, which helped protect themselves from any potential identity theft. Thank you to all the people and businesses that took part in making our shred events possible!

Community Breakfast

Over the years I had the chance to host multiple Community Breakfasts. Constituents from District 28 came and enjoyed breakfast and refreshments as we discussed issues regarding legislation and policies. I am happy so many of you came out for the community discussion, together we will be apart of building the future in PA. Thank you to all the special guests and participants that made these community events possible!



Proud to Serve Our Community!

AARP Tax Prep for Seniors

From February to mid-April each year, my office teamed up with AARP to offer free tax preparation. In partnership with AARP, volunteer tax preparers assisted over 1,000 constituents file their federal, state and local taxes. The office also assisted in filing the Property Tax/Rent Rebate program applications for low income constituents.



Thank you to AARP and all the volunteers that made this great service possible to the constituents of House District 28!

Hard-to-Read License Plate Events



It was my pleasure to have held three Hardto-Read License Plate Events. Throughout the events we were able to assist over 150 constituents in replacing their license plates that became illegible or damaged. It was very convenient for constituents to drive through and get help processing PennDOT paperwork to get new legible license plates. Thank you to Northern Regional, West Deer and McCandless Police Departments assisting to make it possible!

District Initiatives

North Hills Mental Health and Substance use Task Force

It was my pleasure to start the North Hills Mental Health and Substance Use Task Force in District 28. Our Vision was to improve the quality of life for North Hills residents affected by substance use and mental heath challenges by increasing awareness, promoting prevention strategies, increasing access to care and eliminating overdoses.

Over the last 4 years, we held meetings with local and regional health and human service experts to raise awareness and find solutions to issues plaguing the Commonwealth.

The Task Force has helped to present innovative solutions to combat the social and financial costs of drug addiction and mental illness that then assisted in shaping decisions on legislation and policy.

Thank you to all who participated and made this opportunity possible!





North Hills Business Roundtable

One of my highest priorities is to grow the economy of our region in a fiscally responsible manner. To that end, I created the North Hills Business Roundtable to identify opportunities to create a healthy and thriving economy.

Our mission was to gather local business owners helping to develop pro-small business policies, as well as provide a forum to come together to help identify opportunities for building a healthier, stronger and more innovative business climate within the district.

This group of experienced business people provided cross-functional expertise and guidance to increase jobs, reduce red tape, better steward state resources and increase economic mobility.

Thank you to the business leaders who committed time and energy to making this policy initiative a success!

District Initiatives

Town Halls & Tele-Town Halls

Over the course of the last 4 years my office was able to hold five local town halls, as well as eight telephone town halls. We invited constituents of House District 28 to come out and participate in discussions on important issues that most affected them. It is always important to maintain open lines of communication as I worked to represent our residents in District 28. Thank you to all the businesses and people that have corresponded with my office to bring to light issues they have faced!



Educating the Future Council



Mission: Innovate education policies across K-12 and higher education formats to establish and refine world class affordable and accessible educational opportunities for all aspiring students in the Commonwealth, rooted in Pennsylvania values.

This Council was made up of professionals with experience in different facets of education, including but not limited to, educators, administrators, and public/ private/ home school affiliates. This group has provided insight, thoughtful solutions, and proposed actions on how to improve our educational system, not only locally, but across the Commonwealth.



State Representative **Rob Mercuri** 28th Legislative District of Pennsylvania

Office Locations

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A special thanks to the hard-working men and women of my district and Harrisburg offices, who have done the hard work day in and day out to make all of this progress happen for the people of District 28. Thank you! *Kimberly Kaufmann, Lori Losch, Jim Scott, Michael Reinmund, Zach Butler, Sara Kennedy, Lisa Urich, Tina Harper, Avery Skiviat, Mike Chiarlone.*