

State Representative **Rob Mercuri** 28<sup>th</sup> Legislative District of Pennsylvania

District 28 Snanshot

# District 28 Snapshot September 30, 2023



#### Visit us in Wexford or Gibsonia

I am proud to be able to offer my services across the entire District. My dedicated team and I are committed to a top-notch constituent experience. Whether you are seeking answers, needing assistance, or want to engage with the state government, my knowledgeable staff is here to help and guide you every step of the way. Residents are able to stop in for assistance with a variety of state issues or to schedule an appointment to meet with me.

I am happy to offer this opportunity for the public to receive the services they

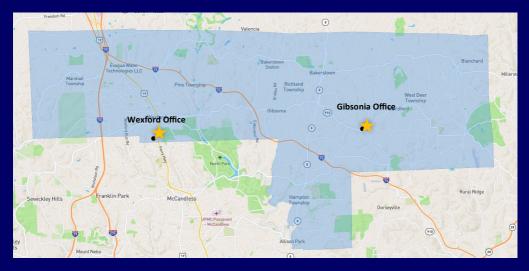
deserve. Come see us at either of our are locations!

4411 Gibsonia Rd., Suite 2, Gibsonia, PA 15044 724-939-6265 Hours: 9:00AM-4:30PM

5500 Brooktree Rd., Suite 100, Wexford, PA 15090 412-369-2230 Hours: 9:00AM-4:30PM



Thank you to our intern, Abrianna Privitera, for outstanding service in the district.



### **Community Events**

#### **Pine Township Community Days**



It's always a pleasure to lead the watermelon eating contest at Pine Township Community Days!

#### **Richland Township Community Days**



Enjoying the Sounds of the Pine Richland Marching Band!

One of the most enjoyable parts of my job as an elected official is attending community events where I have the opportunity to interact with constituents, hear what is on their mind, and have some fun!

#### **Community Events**

#### Hard-to-Read License Plate Event



On August 10th my office held a Hard-to-Read License Plate Event. We were able to assist over 50 constituents in replacing their license plate if it became illegible or damage.

If you were unable to attend the event and need to replace your license plate, please reach out to one of my offices for assistance.

Thank you to the West Deer Volunteer Fire Company #3 for graciously hosting the event. And a special appreciation to the Northern Regional and West Deer Police Departments for assisting in completing the forms. Their invaluable assistance made replacing a license plate a breeze!



## **Community Events**

## **2023 Community Health Fair**

On Saturday, September 30, my office and AHN Wexford teamed up to host our annual Community Health Fair at AHN Wexford Hospital. Seniors had the opportunity to learn about the numerous services provided by public and private vendors. In addition free flu shots were offered to our guest.

We had a fantastic turnout with over 200 people and 97 flu shot recipients. Of course, cookies and refreshments were provided!

In addition to the array of exhibitors providing helpful information, we also hosted a door prize giveaway. Constituents had a chance to win some great door prizes that were donated for the event, Thank you to all our donors and vendors who helped make this Health Fair a success!



## **2023 Community Breakfast**

I am grateful to all who came out for my fourth Community Breakfast. Thank you to special guests Gregg Behr from the Grable Foundation and Udi Akolkar, a student from Pine Richland! We had a robust conversation about inspiring the next generation through innovation in education.

Throughout the pandemic, student proficiency levels steadily declined in reading, science and math across the Commonwealth. Additionally, a Commonwealth Court judge recently ruled our system of public education as unconstitutional in providing a rigorous and thorough education for all students. Given this backdrop, we need to make innovative and systemic changes in order to prepare them for the future.

I am working hard in Harrisburg with my colleagues to create the change needed to let our kids thrive. I am happy so many of you came out for the community discussion. Together, we will be apart of building the future of education in PA!



#### **District Initiatives in Action**

#### Update on *North Hills Mental Health* and *Substance Use Task Force*

Recent meeting topics include the Opioid Settlement Trust Fund and domestic violence.

We discussed how community groups and organizations can influence the Opioid Settlement to address local needs in their communities. The settlement money can be used in a variety of ways, from law enforcement to overdose prevention and education.

We heard from Hilary O'Toole with Crisis Center North. A small non-profit counseling and resource center that provides services to victims of domestic violence and their loved ones. Domestic violence pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship and impacts 2,700 people in our region.

We will continue to work together to address these issues.





#### 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.

Recent meetings have discussed the Airport construction project, the changing workforce, minimum wage increases, regulations, and property taxes.

We got an update from the Airport Authority about the construction project at the Pittsburgh International airport and the \$4 billion economic impact to the region.

We heard from Curio 412, a consulting firm that specializes in community and social impact and helps businesses come up with strategies that reflect their purpose and help guide them to meaningful outcomes.

I look forward to continuing to work with the group on ways to create economic opportunities.

#### Weighing Higher Education Costs and Return on Investment

I had the opportunity recently to question some higher education officials about a study showing anywhere from 30% to 40% of people who received college degrees were still seeing a negative return on investment two decades after graduation.

I posed the question during a hearing of the House Republican Policy Committee, which featured testimony from Dr. Daniel Greenstein, chancellor, Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE); Tom Foley, president, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP); and Dr. Quintin Bullock, president, Community College of Allegheny County, on behalf of Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges.

I also asked the panel about the recently unveiled Geneva Tuition Promise, which ensures all eligible Pennsylvania students from families with income less than \$70,000 annually will pay no undergraduate tuition at the college, starting with the incoming class in the fall of 2024.

#### **Examining School Funding and Education Options**

Last week, I took part in two hearings that took an in-depth look at school funding challenges, educational tax credit programs and charter schools. The hearings were held jointly by the House Appropriations and House Education committees. I was honored to serve as designee for the Republican House Education Committee chairman at both hearings.

Thank you to Allegheny Traditional Elementary Academy in Pittsburgh, which hosted us on Thursday, and the Community College of Beaver County in Monaca, which hosted us on Friday, for your hospitality. And also thank you to the testifiers who took the time to share their expertise and are clearly passionate in their commitment to education.



Our Education Council has been meeting throughout the quarter on both school funding and educational innovation to form actionable policy.

### **Proud to serve our Community!**

#### Northern Regional Police Grant- a Vest for Theo



I was excited to help present a grant for a new bulletproof vest to a K9 hero named "Theo," thanks to the generosity of our community!

The Northern Regional Police Department received \$1,500 from Rich-Mar Rotary to assist in the purchase of this life-saving accessory for Theo. I believe that with this donation, the department can continue to provide the best level of protection for the entire community.

# Top-Notch Artists in the 28th District

Congratulations to Ananya Gorur of Marshall Township for winning First Place in our first ever Coloring Contest. Ananya's entry of our state flower, the Mountain Laurel, will be on display in our Wexford Office. Thank you to all our participants and congratulations once again Ananya!



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#### A Great Weekend in West Deer Township

I enjoyed visiting the West Deer Township festival this September and seeing so many community members and neighbors spending time together despite the early fall weather. Proud to be from West Deer Township!

## **Legislative Initiatives**

#### **Keeping Our School Children Safe**

The reality of Pennsylvania's law as it currently stands is that registered sexually violent predators can live within what many parents consider an unsafe distance from schools.

Rep. Arvind Venkat and I introduced bipartisan legislation effectively stopping this practice in its tracks. Our proposal is to appropriately provide safety barriers to protect families and children and make it much more difficult for these individuals to strike again.





#### Helping to Protect Pennsylvanians with Autism

To better support Pennsylvanians with autism, I recently introduced legislation that would allow individuals the option to add a notation to their driver's license or state-issued identification card indicating they have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

#### Pennsylvania's Hope Agenda

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Opportunity to the citizens of this great Commonwealth. We must harness the ample resources offered right here in Pennsylvania, from a highly skilled workforces and abundant energy portfolio to our manufacturing might and agriculture prowess, we must foster the opportunities found here so we can continue to grow as a state.

Prosperity through family-sustaining jobs. We need to promote Pennsylvania as open for business removing burdensome taxation, easing the regulatory climate, and addressing overbearing bureaucracy.

Excellence in government. Government should work for the people in an efficient and effective manner. Too often we see government as a hurdle to success. Government must promptly react to the needs of its people and allow citizens and the market to guide sound policy.

#### Here to Serve You!



Need help with Veterans' services?

Call my office to make an appointment with a Veterans Affairs Officer.

**Veteran Outreach Hours:** first Tuesday of each month, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

A representative of the American Legion is available to answer veteran-related questions.



I was honored to be apart of the Richland Memorial Day Celebration with American Legion Post 548.



The Keystone Commitment is a people-driven, future-focused platform that delivers hope through the opportunity to experience earned success. The Keystone Commitment is the foundation upon which we will build on the four cornerstones of:

A thriving economy.

Affordable living.

Safe communities.

A child-first, family-focused education.

## How My Office Staff Can Help You:

- Driver's license and vehicle registration applications and renewals.
- Assistance with PennDOT paperwork (lost cards, changes, corrections, special registration plates and temporary placards for persons with disabilities).
- PACE and PACENET applications for seniors.
- Property Tax and Rent Rebate applications.
- Voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications.
- Assist with information on unemployment claims
- State tax forms.
- Student aid applications.
- Veterans assistance information.
- Copies of legislation.
- Tours of the State Capitol.
- Referrals to agencies to resolve state-related matters.



## State Representative Rob Mercuri 28<sup>th</sup> Legislative District of Pennsylvania

## **Office Locations**

*Capitol:* Room 162B East Wing House Box 202028 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2028 717-772-9943 FAX: 717-782-2932

*Wexford Office:* 5500 Brooktree Road Suite 100 Wexford, PA 15090 412-369-2230 FAX: 724-943-6443

*Gibsonia Office:* 4411 Gibsonia Road Suite 2 Gibsonia, PA 15044 724-939-6265 FAX: 724-939-6266



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