



State Senator **LARRY FARNESE**

WINTER 2012

Report

**Serving the
1st Senatorial District**



Where You Can Find Us

DISTRICT OFFICE

**1802 S. Broad St.
Philadelphia, PA 19145
215-952-3121
Fax: 215-952-3155
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

HARRISBURG OFFICE

**Senate Box 203001
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3001
717-787-5662
Fax: 717-787-4531
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

WEBSITE

www.SenatorFarnese.com

EMAIL

farnese@pasenate.com

2012 Brings Us New Opportunities to Help You!

Dear Neighbor,

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family have a happy and successful 2012. If you need anything, my team and I are ready to help; so call 215-952-3121, email me at farnese@pasenate.com or visit my District Office at 1802 South Broad St., Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. I also have two mobile offices to better serve you:

- The Center City Mobile Office at the Philadelphia Senior Center, 509 South Broad St. is open for walk-in service from 9 a.m. to noon the first Tuesday of every month; and
- The Fishtown Mobile Office at Neumann Senior Housing, 1601 Palmer St. is open from 9 a.m. to noon, the first Wednesday of every month.

I have staff at all my offices with information, materials and answers to your questions about Philadelphia and Pennsylvania state government and the programs that are available to help you. As always, thank you for your continued support and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any further information.

I hope to hear from you soon,

LARRY M. FARNESE JR.
Senator, Senatorial District 1

Programs

To Help You & Your Family

◆ Take Advantage of Property Tax and Rent Rebates

If you are:

- 65 or older, a widow or widower 50 or older, or 18 or older and permanently disabled;
- A homeowner and have a total income not exceeding \$35,000 a year; or
- A renter and have a total income not exceeding \$15,000 annually

then you may be eligible for a property tax or rent rebate.

To learn more or to apply, contact my office at 215-952-3121



◆ Weatherize Your Home

If your home is cold, think about weatherizing. Philadelphia's Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA) offers free weatherization workshops to area groups. During their sessions a

trained professional will show you how a few simple changes can save you money and make your home more comfortable all year long.

For more information is available at www.ecasavesenergy.org

◆ Hungry? We Can Help.

I've partnered with Philabundance to provide Emergency Food Boxes (Eboxes) to families in need. Eboxes are Philabundance's way of helping people who need immediate, emergency access to food. The boxes are available by calling 800-319-3663 for a referral. Once you have a referral you can pick one up at my District Office (1802 South Broad St.). Eboxes weigh 30 pounds and contain shelf-stable food for three meals for a family of four for about three days.

◆ Pennsylvania's New Texting Ban: Five Things You Should Know

1. Under the law drivers are prohibited from using their cell or smart phone for the purposes of reading, writing or sending a text message while driving a motor vehicle.
2. The new law takes effect in March 2012.
3. Because texting while driving would be considered a primary offense, a police officer can pull you over if he or she sees you texting.
4. If you're reading, selecting or entering a phone number or name for the purpose of making a phone call, you won't be violating the texting ban.
5. If convicted of texting while driving, a driver faces a fine of \$50 for each infraction.



Protecting Our Children

I'm committed to protecting the state's youngest and most vulnerable citizens from peril and injustice through two important initiatives:

◆ Sex Crime Legislation

By keeping state and municipal workers who are convicted of a sex crime against a minor from collecting their public pension, we can send a message that children – our most precious resource – should always be protected. Senate Bill 1290 was introduced in October of 2011 to prohibit current and former public employees convicted of sex crimes against children from collecting their pension.



◆ Caylee's Law

Caylee Anthony will never have the chance to grow up as a fun-loving little girl; she'll never again play in a park or on a swing. Her life was too short. The fact that little Caylee was missing for more than a month with few people knowing it is a tragedy.

I have legislation that would strengthen penalties against those who conceal the death of a child by toughening the penalty from a first-degree misdemeanor to a third-degree felony. This increase carries a maximum sentence of seven years in prison and a fine of \$15,000. It would also create the offense of "neglecting to report a missing child" as a first-degree misdemeanor, carrying a maximum prison sentence of five years and a fine of \$10,000.

Keeping Our Communities Safe

I recently joined Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey, the families of officers killed in the line of duty and members of the Philadelphia Police Foundation to welcome more horses to the restored Philadelphia Police Department's Mounted Patrol Unit. I secured a \$100,000 state grant to put the unit back into service.

For more information about the Mounted Police Unit, visit www.phillypolicefoundation.org



Pictured (L to R) are Councilman Kenyatta Johnson; Sen. Larry Farnese; Captain Anthony Washington of the 17th Police District; and J. Whyatt Mondesire, President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the NAACP.

Our hard working police and community activists are some of the best in the nation and I stand with them as they fight to keep our neighborhoods safe. I'm calling on the Pennsylvania legislature to enforce existing gun legislation, increase penalties for people who commit gun violence, and to end straw purchases in addition to closing the Florida Loophole. My legislation (Senate Bill 622) will stop Pennsylvania residents who have been denied a license to carry a gun in Pennsylvania the ability to get one from another state.



◆ Creating and Protecting Jobs in Philadelphia

Recently, I joined port and labor leaders as Gov. Corbett released \$15 million to continue the Delaware River dredging project. The new funds, in addition to my work in creating the Southport Marine Terminal, could bring thousands of new jobs to Philadelphia.

The money will be used to deepen an additional five miles of the Delaware River's main shipping channel so it can accommodate larger ships, many of which will be destined for the new Southport Marine Terminal. The Southport Marine Terminal will be a tremendous economic boost to the region in addition to creating thousands of jobs for Philadelphia's longshoremens, truck drivers, crane operators and support professionals.

My Senate Democratic colleagues and I have created a comprehensive job creation package called PA Works Now to put the more than 500,000 Pennsylvania workers who are unemployed back to work. The plan begins with significant investments in our state's infrastructure to immediately create jobs and strengthen the Commonwealth's economy for the long term.

The plan would also generate an estimated \$82 million in state and local tax revenue and provide an immediate economic stimulus. PA

Works Now makes use of state resources, leverages private resources and calls for critical long-term capital investments to create new opportunities for future growth and development.

To learn more about PA Works Now
visit www.pasenate.com



Pictured behind Sen. Farnese (L to R) are Governor Corbett; Charles Kopp, Chairman of the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority; former U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter; and Pat Eiding, Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO President.

PA Works Now would create more than 80,000 new jobs including:

- \$1 billion investment in highway and bridge improvements to support 30,000 jobs; and
- \$1 billion invested in water and wastewater systems to create 27,000 new jobs.

Senate Democratic Caucus

PA WORKS NOW

Creating jobs and investing to move Pennsylvania forward

Services Provided

STATE APPLICATIONS

Vehicle registration • Driver's license • Special tags • Titles
Car plates & placards for the physically challenged
Higher education financial assistance • Birth certificates

SENIOR CITIZEN'S APPLICATIONS

PACE • Property tax and rent rebates

SOLVING STATE PROBLEMS

State income taxes • State lottery • Consumer protection
Unemployment compensation • PennDOT

Find Us On The Web

www.SenatorFarnese.com

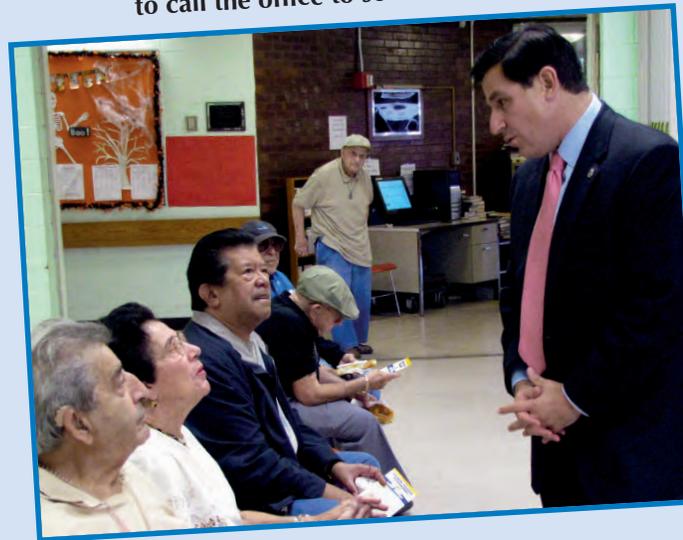


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Senator Larry Farnese



Economic development is one of my most important initiatives, and I was excited to join developers and the Mayor to announce the construction of a new hotel in Center City which will create hundreds of new jobs for Philadelphians.

I always enjoy getting out of the office to visit with as many of you as I can and the seniors at the South Philadelphia Older Adult Center are some of my favorites. If you or your group are interested in learning about what is going on in Harrisburg and the issues I'm working on, please feel free to call the office to schedule a visit.



Out in the Community

Almost 200 area seniors attended my annual Senior Expo at the Fels S. Philadelphia Community Center. We had an opportunity to talk about my work in Harrisburg and in Philadelphia, and attendees took advantage of programs from public and private service providers and state and local government agencies. Thanks to the Fels Center and all who attended.



The Pennsylvania Ballet is one of Philadelphia's crown jewels, and I was honored to join stakeholders and the arts community to announce their new education and dance facility. Thanks to funds secured from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, they are well on their way to making the project a reality.



STATE SENATOR
LARRY FARNESE

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◆ **You Deserve Qualified Property Assessors**

I want to require all Philadelphia property assessors to be certified by the Commonwealth. Currently, Philadelphia is the only county in Pennsylvania exempt from the Assessors Certification Act which specifies property assessors be certified by the State Board of Real Estate Appraisers.

Under current civil service regulations, many assessors already have extensive education and experience. My legislation, SB 1314, would ensure more uniform qualifications and put Philadelphia assessors on par with their colleagues throughout the Commonwealth. SB 1314 would give currently-employed assessors up to four years to become certified.



◆ **Direct Wine Shipment: Expanding Consumer Choice**

Senate Bill 886, which is legislation I created, would allow anyone in Pennsylvania to order wine by mail from any retailer or winery in the U.S. and have it shipped directly to your home. Current law says that you have to have wines from out-of-state wineries shipped to a Wine & Spirits Store for pickup, so this bill would greatly expand your choices and convenience. I'm also a co-sponsor to allow beer to be sold in PA supermarkets and voted for legislation that would allow longer Sunday hours at distributorships.

◆ **Reforming State and Local Government**

Even before I thought about running for office, I wanted to improve Pennsylvania's campaign finance laws. I am working to pass legislation that requires increased reporting for elected officials and those running for office in addition to implementing campaign limits on donations – currently there are none in Pennsylvania. My goal is to reduce the influence of campaign money in Commonwealth politics, level the playing field and give voters the tools they need to choose the best candidate.

