



State Senator SHIRLEY M. KITCHEN

Update to the Neighbors of the Third District

Summer 2012

LAW REQUIRES PHOTO ID to VOTE . . .



Pennsylvania's new voter ID law will have a direct impact on citizens who exercise their right to vote. Starting this November, every voter will need proper photo ID in order to cast a vote.

I voted against this legislation. Voter fraud is nearly non-existent in Pennsylvania and will cost taxpayers at least **\$4 million** to implement at a time when many important state programs and services are seeing harsh budget cuts. Most importantly, the measure seeks to disenfranchise voters, particularly the elderly and poor.

The law is being challenged in court, but in the meantime it's important that voters have the proper ID if they want to vote in the presidential election this year.

Citizens who need a voter ID may obtain one for free through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) at their local Driver's License Center.

Obtaining a photo ID can be a stressful process, especially if you do not have the necessary forms of identification, such as a Social Security card or a birth certificate. My staff and I are available to assist you through this process.

I am also teaming up with the Voter Registration Office to offer classes on the new photo ID law. These classes are for people who want to volunteer to teach the public how to obtain the right ID in order to vote.

For more information on the voter ID law, please call my office at 215-227-6161

or visit my website, www.senatorkitchen.com

Acceptable Forms of ID

Individuals who have a Pennsylvania driver's license or non-driver's ID that was expired back to 1990 may either present that expired ID or give their name at their local Driver's License Center and a completed PennDOT Oath/Affirmation Voter ID form in order to receive a free valid voter ID. If their Pennsylvania driver's license or non-driver's ID is expired prior to 1990, they may call PennDOT's Customer Care Center at 1-800-932-4600 to verify if their information is still in the PennDOT database. Starting in late August, PennDOT will issue voter ID cards to individuals who are not able to provide all the necessary documentation, like a birth certificate or Social Security card.

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MY OFFICES TO SERVE YOU

DISTRICT OFFICE

1701 W. Lehigh Avenue • Suite 104
Philadelphia, PA 19132-1495
(215) 227-6161 • Fax: (215) 560-1316

SATELLITE OFFICE

6418 Rising Sun Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19111-5229
(215) 342-8170 • Fax: (215) 342-8175

HARRISBURG OFFICE

Senate Box 203003
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3003
(717) 787-6735 • Fax: (717) 772-0581
Senate of Pennsylvania:
1-800-364-1581 (TTY)

E-MAIL

kitchen@pasenate.com

WEBSITE

www.senatorkitchen.com

SENATE DEMOCRATIC WEBSITE

www.pasenate.com

SERVICES MY OFFICE PROVIDES

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

STATE CAPITOL GROUP TOURS

SOLVING STATE PROBLEMS

State income taxes • State lottery
Consumer protection • PennDOT
Unemployment compensation
Any state agencies
that serve the public

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Law Requires Photo ID to Vote: *Are You Ready?*

The following forms of identification will be accepted in order to vote:

- ID issued by the U.S. government that includes your name, a photograph, and an expiration date that is not expired
- U.S. military ID – active duty and retired military (a military or veteran's ID must designate an expiration date or designate that the expiration date is indefinite). Military dependents' ID must contain an expiration date
- ID issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that includes your name, a photograph, and an expiration date that is not expired
- An ID issued by PennDOT that is not more than 12 months past the expiration date
- A valid-without-photo driver's license or a valid-without-photo ID card issued by PennDOT for individuals who have a religious objection to being photographed
- Employee ID issued by a municipality of Pennsylvania that includes your name, a photograph, and an expiration date that is not expired
- ID issued by an accredited Pennsylvania public or private institution of higher learning that includes your name, a photograph, and an expiration date that is not expired
- ID issued by a Pennsylvania care facility that includes your name, a photograph, and an expiration date that is not expired



How To Apply for a Free Valid ID

If you do not have a Pennsylvania Photo ID or a driver's license, visit a PennDOT Driver License Center with the following paperwork:

- A completed PennDOT Oath/Affirmation Voter ID form
- A completed Application for an Initial Photo Identification Card; form DL-54A (The \$13.50 fee will be waived with the completed Oath/Affirmation Voter ID form)
- Social Security card
- One of the following: Birth certificate with a raised seal, valid U.S. passport, Certificate of U.S. Citizenship, or Certificate of Naturalization
- Two proofs of residency, such as a lease agreement, current utility bills, mortgage documents, W-2 form, tax records, bank statements, and/or credit card bills. College students may also use room assignment paperwork and one bill with their dorm room address on it.

If you are a registered voter who does not have all of the proper documentation (like a birth certificate), starting in late August you may receive a free voter ID on the spot at your local PennDOT Driver's License Center by providing all of the following information:

- Social Security number
- Date of birth
- Two proofs of residency





◀ Sen. Kitchen joins people with disabilities, advocates, families, service organizations and supporters at a May 8 rally in Harrisburg that called for the restoration of state funds to programs that support individuals with intellectual disabilities.

State Budget News

Once again under this administration, the state budget has been balanced on the backs of our most vulnerable citizens.

Folks are already on waiting lists and seeing reductions in services. Each additional cut in this budget only further tears Pennsylvania's already weakened social safety net and impedes our children's education.

The many short-sighted cuts in the state budget take Pennsylvania a step backward to save a few pennies now. I guarantee we will feel the impact in future budgets.

We need to give our fellow citizens a hand up and a chance at a decent quality of life through cost-saving prevention programs and home- and community-based services. Instead, these cuts will decrease the quality of life for millions of Pennsylvanians.

Budget Lowlights:

- **General Assistance Cash Grant program:** *Eliminated. Provided cash assistance to 68,000 disabled adults, domestic violence survivors and children in the care of nonrelatives*
- **Mental Health Services:** *\$55 million cut.*
- **Intellectual Disabilities Services:** *\$15 million cut.*
- **Child Care Services:** *\$12.8 million cut. Helps lower-wage families afford daycare.*
- **Behavioral Health Services:** *\$4.8 million cut.*
- **Homeless Assistance:** *\$2 million cut.*
- **Human Services Development Fund:** *\$1.5 million cut. Helps local communities afford much-needed services to the vulnerable.*
- **Basic Education:** *Level funded. However, school districts are still reeling from the deep cuts placed on them in the previous budget.*
- **Higher Education:** *Level funded. However, state and state-related universities are still suffering from last year's budget cuts.*

Federal Health Care Law Helps Millions of Pennsylvanians

The federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is already having a positive impact on millions of Pennsylvanians, and the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision to uphold the health care law will go even further to ensure that citizens have access to affordable health coverage.

The health care debate highlighted the overall need for access to adequate health care, so the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the president's health care law will have a dramatic impact, especially for those who can't afford or have been denied health coverage.



The state legislature must take the steps to make sure we are in compliance with the law. Millions of Pennsylvanians are depending on it.

Nationally, more than 54 million individuals with private health insurance, including more than 20 million women, have received preventative health care at no cost, and 5 million seniors on Medicare have saved an average of **\$635** each on prescription drugs, thanks to the Affordable Care Act.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Application Deadline Extended to Dec. 31

The deadline to apply for Pennsylvania's Property Tax/Rent Rebate program for older adults and residents with disabilities has been extended to Dec. 31. The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975.

For more information and to obtain Property Tax/Rent Rebate claim forms (PA-1000) and more, call 1-888-222-9190. Claimants who already applied can also check the status of their claims on the website or by calling 1-888-PATAXES.



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HOTLINES

COMMONWEALTH TOLL FREE HOTLINES & WEBSITES

- Aging, PA Dept. of**.....www.aging.state.pa.us
 - APPRISE Health Insurance Counseling1-800-783-7067
 - PACE Cardholder Services1-800-225-7223
 - PACE Fraud and Abuse1-800-992-2433
- Attorney General, PA Office of**.....www.attorneygeneral.gov
 - Child Predator Unit1-800-385-1044
 - Consumer Protection Hotline1-800-441-2555
 - Do Not Call List1-888-777-3406
 - Health Care Section Hotline1-887-888-4877
- Auditor General, PA Office of**.....www.auditorgen.state.pa.us
 - Taxpayer Advocate Hotline.....1-800-922-8477
- Banking, PA Dept. of**.....www.banking.state.pa.us
 - Banking Consumer Complaints1-800-722-2657
- Conservation & Natural Resources,**
 - PA Dept. of**.....www.dcnr.state.pa.us
 - State Park Info & Reservations.....1-888-727-2757
- Education, PA Dept. of**.....www.pde.state.pa.us
 - CONNECT: Early Intervention Info & Referral.....1-800-692-7288
 - Special Education ConsultLine.....1-800-879-2301
- Environmental Protection, PA Dept. of**.....www.dep.state.pa.us
 - Radon Information1-800-237-2366
 - Recycling.....1-800-346-4242
 - Vehicle Emissions Inspection1-800-265-0921
- Health, PA Dept. of**.....www.health.state.pa.us
 - AIDS/HIV Factline, PA.....1-800-662-6080
 - Healthy Babies.....1-800-986-2229
 - Healthy Kids.....1-800-986-5437
 - Lead1-800-440-5323
 - Nurse Aide Register1-800-852-0518
 - Nursing Home Complaint/Grievance1-800-254-5164
 - Personal Care Home Complaints1-877-401-8835
 - Special Kids Network & Parent to Parent.....1-800-986-4550
 - Women, Infants & Children’s Program (WIC)1-800-942-9467
- Housing Finance Agency, PA**.....www.phfa.org
 - Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program1-800-342-2397
 - Homeownership Programs.....1-800-822-1174
- Inspector General, PA Office of**.....www.oig.state.pa.us
 - Fraud Tip Line (Abuse of PA programs, etc.)1-877-888-7927
- Welfare Fraud Tip Line (Against Ind or Business).....1-800-932-0582
- Insurance, PA Dept. of**.....www.ins.state.pa.us
 - Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).....1-800-986-5437
 - Insurance Consumer Helpline.....1-877-881-6388
- Labor & Industry, PA Dept. of**.....www.dli.state.pa.us
 - Workman’s Comp Claims Helpline.....1-800-482-2383
 - Unemployment Compensation Service1-888-313-7284
- Military & Veterans Affairs, PA Dept. of**.....www.dmva.state.pa.us
 - Veterans Benefits, PA.....1-800-547-2838
- PA Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)**..www.pheaa.org
 - General Line (Students and Parents; Mon.-Fri.)...1-800-233-0557
 - Student Grants and Loans1-800-692-7392
- PA State Police**.....www.psp.state.pa.us
 - Crime Stoppers.....1-800-472-8477
 - Megan’s Law.....1-866-771-3170
 - Terrorism Tip Line.....1-888-292-1919
- PA Tourism Office**.....www.visitpa.com
 - Visit PA Travel Guide1-800-847-4872
- Public Utility Commission, PA**.....www.puc.state.pa.us
 - Residential Termination/Informal Complaints1-800-692-7380
- Revenue, PA Dept. of**.....www.revenue.state.pa.us
 - Fact & Information Line.....1-888-728-2937
 - Property Tax/Rent Rebate Senior Claims.....1-888-222-9190
- Transportation, PA Dept. of**.....www.dot.state.pa.us
 - Motorcycle Safety Program.....1-800-845-9533
 - PennDOT’s Customer Call Center1-800-932-4600
- Treasury, PA Dept. of**.....www.patreasury.org
 - Keystone Home Energy Loan Program (HELP)....1-888-232-3477
 - Tuition Account Program (TAP).....1-800-440-4000
 - Unclaimed Property1-800-222-2046
- Turnpike Commission, PA**.....www.paturnpike.com
 - Customer Service Assistance (Mon.-Fri.).....1-800-331-3414
 - E-Z PASS1-877-736-6727
 - Roadway & Weather Conditions.....1-866-976-8747
 - State Police & Emergency Road Service1-800-932-0586
- Welfare, PA Dept. of**.....www.dpw.state.pa.us
 - Abuse, Child.....1-800-932-0313
 - Helpline (Food Stamps, LIHEAP, etc.)1-800-692-7462