



Frank Burns

State Representative



72nd Legislative District

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Spring 2016

Burns breaks party ranks, casts “No!” vote on Wolf’s plan to raise income taxes

In October, Rep. Burns was one of nine House Democrats who voted against Gov. Tom Wolf’s revised tax plan, because it called for increasing the state’s personal income tax, something residents of the 72nd Legislative District could ill afford.

While sympathetic to public schools and social service agencies harmed by the inability of Wolf and the Republican-majority House and Senate to negotiate an on-time budget agreement, Burns could not in good conscience saddle his constituents with higher taxes.



In December, as the budget impasse dragged on, Burns repeated his call for the legislature and governor to remain in Harrisburg until a budget compromise was reached. To hammer home the point, he joined a group of 20 fellow Democrats at a Capitol news conference, where the Republican House speaker was heavily criticized for sending everyone home.

“That’s unconscionable, and I call upon the speaker of the House to get us back into session – and keep us there – until a budget consensus is reached,” Burns said. “I’m ready to sit in my chair in the House chamber for as long as it takes.”



Rep. Burns ready to do business in December, after the House speaker abruptly cancelled a scheduled work day and sent everyone home despite the state budget being six months overdue.

Burns pays out of own pocket to keep Patton office open

Measure will benefit the Patton Senior Center

After months of searching for affordable office space in Patton that met with Harrisburg’s approval – and with the real possibility of not having an office in Patton – Rep. Burns agreed to reach into his pocket to help cover the cost of the new lease.

As a result, Patton area residents have the convenience of a district office inside the Patton Senior Center, 405 Park Ave. Burns said the senior center location was a win-win as it will help prevent the center from closing.

The Patton office is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and can be reached at (814) 674-5675. Those needing immediate assistance on other days should call the Ebensburg office at (814) 472-8021.

Burns assures all constituents of receiving the same high-quality level of service at any of his four legislative offices.

The legislative office presence also helps ensure the continued operation of the senior center.

“There has been a legislative office in Patton for over 34 years, and I’m committed to providing constituents with the office and the convenient service they have come to expect, even if I must help pay for it myself.”

– Rep. Frank Burns

Burns asks governor to reverse position on accepting Syrian refugees

Alarmed at the potential for terrorists to slip through the cracks, Rep. Burns in November sent a letter to Gov. Tom Wolf, calling upon the governor to reject placement of Syrian refugees in Pennsylvania until the federal government establishes increased screening procedures.

In the wake of the Paris terrorist attacks that shook the world, Burns told Wolf he needed to “reconsider this potentially dangerous decision until stricter screening procedures are put in place,” because citizens’ perceived level of safety was being jeopardized.



FRANK BURNS, MEMBER
72ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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House of Representatives
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HARRISBURG

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November 19, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Room 225, Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

I'm writing to express the growing concerns of my constituents over the Syrian refugees relocating to Pennsylvania. I ask that you reconsider this potentially dangerous decision until we can ensure with 100 percent certainty that Americans are safe.

There is no data base out there that would allow proper screenings of refugees who attempt to come into our state and our country that would allow us to make determinations on their intentions or their backgrounds that lead them here. FBI Director James Comey recently testified before Congress that there are gaps in the data necessary to track and screen Syrian refugees.

Regardless of your genuine humanitarian intentions, your actions create fear across the state by jeopardizing everyone's perceived level of safety.

Thank you for your time and understanding during these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Frank Burns
State Representative
72nd Legislative District

Burns' caution justified by crime reports:

Harrisburg – In December, FBI arrests man for advocating violence and aiding terrorists after traveling to the Islamic State.

Philadelphia – In January, man shoots police officer and pledges his loyalty to Islamic State.

“There is risk associated with bringing anybody in from the outside, but especially from a conflict zone like (Syria). My concern there is that there are certain gaps I don't want to talk about publicly in the data available to us.”

– FBI Director James Comey, testifying before the Senate Homeland Security Committee in October.

\$21.65 million in state funding comes to 72nd Legislative District

Rep. Burns worked to secure funding from the state to assist with these important projects:

- **\$1 Million to JWF Industries**
To expand its production facility and create jobs
- **\$1.5 Million to Conemaugh Health Systems**
To help build a new facility in Ebensburg that will provide better care to residents in the northern part of the county. Additional jobs will also be created
- **\$214,000 for area fire and ambulance companies**
This money will be used to offset the cost of equipment, maintenance and training
- **\$36,000 to Saint Francis University**
PLCB Grant to create educational programs that curb underage and dangerous drinking
- **\$250,000 to Cambria County Solid Waste Authority**
To purchase a front-loading compactor truck and recycling collection containers
- **\$10.8 Million to Lower Yoder Township**
Pennvest loan to improve the sewer system and clean up the rivers
- **\$8.1 Million to Portage Sewer Authority**
Pennvest loan to construct new sewers and update the sewage collection system

Rep. Burns refuses paycheck during budget delay



Rep. Burns uses his own cell phone and pays the bill.

Recognizing the need to lead by example, Rep. Burns refused to accept a state paycheck during the six-month budget impasse that gripped Pennsylvania from July through December.

In addition, Burns has saved taxpayers more than \$60,000 since taking office – including more than \$9,600 this legislative session – via unexpended House funds for office rent, mileage, utilities, telephones, furniture leases and office equipment.

Rep. Burns drives his own car and does not accept a state vehicle.

"I believe it's imperative to maximize use of the taxpayer dollar, and I'm proud to report that I consistently spend less than is allocated, while still maintaining offices in Lower Yoder, Ebsenburg, Portage and Patton," Burns said.

With the flow of state money to public schools, social services and a host of other recipients held up by wrangling between the governor and Republican-dominated legislature, Burns felt it improper to cash his legislator's paychecks.



"It's important to me to reach out and thank veterans any way that I can, and this luncheon is just one small way to do that."

– Rep. Frank Burns

Rep. Burns held his annual Veterans Appreciation Luncheon on Nov. 11 at Cresson Volunteer Fire Co., serving a free meal to the men and women who served our nation in the military. Attendees also had the chance to learn about programs benefiting veterans and obtain a photo identification card.



Burns gets tough on welfare reform

He sponsored the following legislation:

- **Drug testing of welfare recipients**
The department would create a drug testing program for welfare recipients.
- **Photo ID requirement**
Would prevent the selling of benefits by requiring a photo be placed on the welfare card.
- **Prohibit people from using their Electronic Benefits Card to:**
 - Buy tobacco products
 - Buy Alcohol
 - Make purchases at a casino
 - Access cash at a casino
 - Access cash at an adult-oriented business
 - Make deposits into an inmate's account

Rep. Burns believes these are commonsense reforms that would cut down on abuse and make sure welfare funds are not being misspent.

Burns dedicates bridge in honor of WWII veteran killed in action

Honoring a World War II veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Rep. Burns in October spoke at a ceremony where the U.S. Route 219 bridge that travels over Route 422 in Ebsenburg was christened the Alexander Miller Abercrombie Memorial Bridge.

Burns' legislation named the span after Tech. Sgt. Alexander Miller Abercrombie of Revloc, who was 24 when he was killed in 1945 by German artillery after crossing the Rhine River into Himmelgeist, Germany. He was a member of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division.

Born in 1921 in Kilysth, Scotland, Abercrombie and his family moved to Cambria County, where he attended Ebsenburg-Cambria High School for one year before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1942. A Purple Heart awardee, he is buried



at Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, the Netherlands.

Burns said this occasion reminds him how lucky and blessed we are to have men and women dedicated to serving our country with such selflessness.

State Representative
Frank Burns

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INSIDE:

- Burns casts 'No' vote on income tax hike
- Patton office remains open with Burns' personal funds
- Burns urges governor to rethink Syrian refugee position

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Representative Frank Burns' offices can help you with:

- Car registrations, special tags, disability placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies



Any problem with state government!



Rep. Burns met with participants in the Patton Youth Fair and was proud to see their "drug free" message on display.



At the Jackson Township Heritage Festival in August, Rep. Burns met with Megan Faccani, Princess Alternate; Alexis McMullen, Ambassador; and Jessica New, Cambria County Dairy Princess.

During the Mt. Carmel Annual Polish Picnic in Lilly held in July, Rep. Burns presented a citation to Pastor Bob Lill, Jim Smith and Martha Link.

