



Frank Burns

State Representative

72nd Legislative District

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Summer/Fall 2021

Getting things done



“The governor should yank this bad idea from the negotiating table as quickly as a dentist would pull out a horribly infected tooth.”

– Rep. Burns, standing strong against a proposed state income tax hike.

Burns guards tax dollars during budget season

Rep. Frank Burns never takes the bait when it comes to raising taxes – and his early stand against Gov. Wolf’s proposed 46% state income tax hike proved once again that Rep. Burns isn’t fooled by alarmist rhetoric.

Low and behold, there was no need to raise taxes by \$3 billion – because Pennsylvania ended the fiscal year with \$10 billion in excess cash!

That’s money Rep. Burns wanted to put back in your pocket, by bolstering the state’s Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. He thinks you deserved a break, for a change.

Unfortunately, Harrisburg’s decision-makers decided instead to put \$5 billion into the state’s Rainy Day Fund, where Rep. Burns knows legislative leaders will spend it how they see fit in years to come.

Burns only House Democrat to support voter ID

Showing his independent streak once more, Rep. Burns broke party ranks as the only House Democrat to vote in favor of a voter ID requirement.

Rep. Burns continued defying political party stereotypes for two reasons: He believes voter ID is the best way to ensure election integrity and allay fears of fraud, and he voted to support something more than 70 percent of Pennsylvanians – and the vast majority of his constituents – wanted.

Rep. Burns also defied party labels by voting in favor of a 2020 election audit, in a bipartisan action to restore trust and to improve the system in future elections.



“We need to make sure that people who vote are who they say they are.”

– Rep. Burns

BURNS IN VETERANS' CORNER

Burns: Disabled veterans deserve elk hunting license lottery

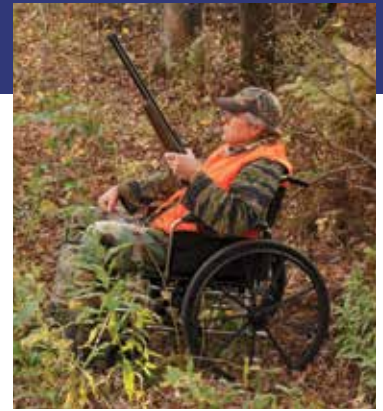
Constituent gets action, not words

Tim Seymore of Cresson – a disabled veteran, retired state Department of Corrections lieutenant and avid hunter – was disappointed that after 12 years of applying, he had yet to bag one of the commonwealth's coveted elk hunting licenses.

The chances of any hunter getting one are slim: only 187 will be issued this year, with the winners selected by Game Commission lottery.

When Seymore contacted Rep. Burns to relay his frustration, he never expected what would happen next.

Rep. Burns introduced legislation to set aside two elk licenses per year – one for a cow and one for a bull – in a new lottery open to 100%, service-connected disabled veterans.



“There has only been one PA representative I ever thought did anything for veterans and that was the late Mr. Murtha. Now there is someone I think is as good and that is Rep. Frank Burns.”

– Tim Seymore, Disabled Veteran from Cresson, PA

Burns rights a wrong that hurts military families

Rep. Burns never stops trying to help military service members and their families, so he's working to patch a crack in the law that harms college students through no fault of their own.

Rep. Burns' bill, which passed the House unanimously, would guarantee that those students continue receiving in-state tuition at public colleges or universities even if a parent is deployed or reassigned out of state.

As a member of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, Rep. Burns believes we have a solemn duty to ensure that service members' children are not jammed up by their parents' need to fulfill an obligation that benefits all of us.

Burns beats LCB in Supreme Court battle

In a monumental, secrecy-shattering victory, Rep. Burns paid out of his own pocket to secure a PA Supreme Court win over the state Liquor Control Board.

The LCB thought it was above the law and did not have to tell anyone – least of all, Rep. Burns – how many liquor licenses it was holding for auction in each of Pennsylvania's 67 counties.

Rep. Burns needed to know that information in order to do his job – plus he felt the LCB needed to learn a lesson after it rebuffed his request for what was clearly public information.

When the deep-pocketed LCB turned it into a court battle, ignoring rulings in Rep. Burns' favor by the Office of Open Records and by Commonwealth Court, Rep. Burns refused to go away quietly into the night. That's just not his style.

Because Rep. Burns stood his ground and set a legal precedent, the LCB will think twice before turning down public information requests from any citizen.

“The LCB has learned that it works for us – not the other way around.”

– Rep. Burns

**BURNS
FIGHTS FOR
YOU!**

Burns delivers \$39 MILLION in 10 months

You name the area or the purpose, and chances are very good that Rep. Burns has it covered when it comes to obtaining state or federal funding.

In the 10 months from September through July, Rep. Burns announced an unprecedented \$39 million in grant funding impacting the 72nd Legislative District, including:

- \$23.2 million in federal COVID relief for school districts that flowed through the PA Department of Education.
- \$493,000 in COVID-19 crisis funding to Cambria County fire and rescue organizations.
- \$482,524 to Allegheny Ridge Recreation Association.
- \$900,000 to Carrolltown and Patton municipal authorities.

These successes have helped Rep. Burns deliver more than \$250 million since taking office, and stay tuned, because the year's not over.

*Working for
you isn't
Rep. Burns'
slogan; it's
his way of
life.*



Cambria Heights School District received \$100,000 to renovate the high school's former natatorium into a multipurpose area for both students and the community. Rep. Burns is pictured with Superintendent Ken Kerchenske, Athletic Director James Kane, Special Programs Coordinator Eric Nagel, school board President Ken Vescovi and high school Principal Alan DuBreucq.



Rep. Burns was able to get this grant for the Wilmore Sportsman's group to help them fund an expansion to their fish hatchery.

Burns memorializes first responder

On March 2, 2015, at age 38, paramedic Janice Keen-Livingston was struck and killed by a truck while responding at the scene of a motor vehicle accident on Route 271 in Upper Yoder Township.

To honor her memory, Rep. Burns successfully navigated a bill through the House and Senate that names a bridge on

U.S. Route 219 over PA Route 53 in Croyle Township after her.

Keen-Livingston, a Johnstown native, served with West End Ambulance Service, Hilltop Ambulance Association, Menoher Heights Volunteer Fire Co., Conemaugh Township EMS and Lower Yoder Volunteer Fire Co.



Rep. Burns congratulated the retiring Debbie Birch for doing a fantastic job for 26 years in his Lower Yoder Township office. During her service, she literally helped thousands of people.



Portage Area High School baseball coach Larry McCabe scored his 500th victory earlier this year. However, that is nothing compared to the positive impact he's had on the lives of the young men he coached, including Rep. Burns.



Help for area fire companies: \$296,000 in grants awarded!

Rep. Burns with PA State Fire Commissioner Bruce Trego.

No one in Harrisburg is more aware than Rep. Burns of how vital it is to fund our volunteer fire companies and ambulance services, which struggle to stay afloat in these tough times.

That's why Rep. Burns works hard to obtain successes like the \$296,000 in state grants awarded earlier this year to help these first responders maintain facilities, purchase equipment, train and certify staff, or repay debts related to their operation.

Rep. Burns encourages all departments to apply for the next round of funding, because that's the critical first step to getting on this list.

Ashville Fire Co.	\$15,000
Cambria Township Volunteer Fire Co.	\$13,837.45
Carrolltown Fire Co.	\$11,876.73
Community Volunteer Fire Company of Lilly	\$13,659.21
Cresson Area Ambulance Service	\$8,993.20
Cresson Volunteer Fire Co.	\$15,000
Dauntless Fire Co.	\$15,000
East Taylor Volunteer Fire Co.	\$13,124.46
Ebensburg Area Ambulance Association	\$8,993.20
Gallitzin Fire Co. No. 1	\$14,550.44
Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Co.	\$15,000
Jackson Township Volunteer EMS	\$8,993.20
John Carroll Area Ambulance Service	\$8,993.20
Lower Yoder Volunteer Fire Co.	\$12,946.22
Middle Taylor Township Volunteer	\$13,480.96
Patton Area Ambulance Association	\$8,993.20
Patton Fire Company No. 1	\$15,000
Portage Area Ambulance Association	\$8,993.20
Portage Vol. Fire Co. No. 1	\$26,585.19
Reade Township Volunteer Fire Co.	\$12,054.98
Summerhill Township Volunteer Fire Co.	\$13,302.71
Upper Yoder Volunteer Fire Co.	\$12,767.97
Upper Yoder Volunteer EMS	\$8,993.20

Burns brings Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Cambria

Thanks to a \$50K state grant Rep. Burns secured for Saint Francis University, the children of Cambria County will be able to participate in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program starting Sept. 25.



The literacy program started by the country music legend sends free books to children from birth to age 5 each month in communities around the world. Burns became interested in bringing the program to Cambria County after hearing Dolly speak about it at a national legislative conference.

Rep. Burns worked more than a year to connect the dots needed to make this happen.

Burns adds Second Amendment, Steel caucus chairmanships

Retains role as Blue Lives Matter leader

Rep. Burns is now Democratic chairman of three prominent House caucuses, adding Second Amendment and Steel to his longtime role as founder and chairman of the police-supporting Blue Lives Matter Caucus.

These are coalitions where legislators rise above party politics to support issues of common interest – and Rep. Burns is eager to build alliances to protect gun rights, promote steel jobs and push back against efforts to defund police.

Rep. Burns supported gun rights earlier this year when he voted to make clear that a governor's emergency declaration DOES NOT limit a person's right to open-carry a firearm.

"We will need both sides of the aisle to support our efforts and I can't think of a better co-chair to tackle this issue with than Representative Burns."

– Rep. Natalie Mihalek, Republican leader of the Steel Caucus.

Burns fights to keep job-saving tariffs on foreign steel

Rep. Burns is no “Johnny-come-lately” when it comes to advocating for U.S. manufacturing and workers – he’s long supported bringing jobs back from overseas, cracking down on illegal worker hirings and restoring Pennsylvania’s manufacturing might. He’s even introduced his own “American Made Jobs Plan” that would require U.S.-made steel in all underground pipeline projects.

So, it should surprise no one that Rep. Burns quickly called on President Biden to continue job-saving tariffs on foreign steel imposed by former President Trump.

Rep. Burns’ letter and bipartisan approach say it all ...

March 3, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500



Dear Mr. President:

As a Democratic state representative from Cambria County in central Pennsylvania, I’m formally asking that your administration put American workers first by extending the tariffs on foreign steel and aluminum put in place by former President Trump in 2018.

Your administration has been hailed as the dawn of a new era of bipartisanship and cooperation, thus, I’d like you to join me, the United Steelworkers, and the American Manufacturing Association in continuing to protect our domestic steel industry from an onslaught of the unfair trade practices.

jobs disappeared or were shipped overseas as a result of unfair and, in many cases, government-subsidized competition. To help reverse this economically damaging trend, at the state level I have authored a three-bill “American Made Jobs Plan” that would require the use of U.S.-made steel in all underground pipeline projects and any project that receives taxpayer funds.

Still, it’s imperative that something be done at the federal level. I supported these tariff’s under President Trump – and I will continue supporting them with equal vigor under the Biden administration. We must set political affiliation aside and come together on issues that affect us as Americans.

Sincerely,

Frank Burns
State Representative
72nd Legislative District



Rep. Burns presented a citation to Sue and Mike Hudec of East Taylor Township, commemorating their 50th wedding anniversary.



Rep. Burns congratulated the Penn Cambria Middle School 5th Grade Girls’ Basketball Team on their state championship.



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Frank Burns

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What people are saying about Rep. Burns ...

“Representative Burns, you are always finding unique ways to help your constituents. You have every right to be proud of what you do for us. This elk license lottery for disabled vets is a fine example of your great works. Thank you.”

– Herbert Allen Wilson Jr. of Mineral Point, Vietnam vet with 100% disability due to Agent Orange

“Thank you very much for getting our bus service back.”
– Margaret Storm of Patton



“I have been following your fight for transparency within the PLCB, and I wanted to say thank you for maintaining the fight and for your recent victory for all citizens of Pennsylvania. These are the types of issues our representatives in Harrisburg should be focusing on and meeting head on.”

– Rich Lescavage of Coatesville

*To: Rep. Frank Burns
<RepBurns@pahouse.net>
Subject: The Job You do
Mr. Burns,
We've lived in several districts, and you are the best state rep we ever had. You really take your job seriously. I wish every elected official did. Thanks for the excellent job.*

– Ed Micucci, Patton, PA