



State Representative  
**JACK RADER**  
**176<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

**Dear Friends and Neighbors,**

*It remains my honor to represent you in Harrisburg and to serve you here at home.*

*My staff and I are always available to help. I maintain district offices in Effort and Blakeslee. Simply stop by or give us a call for assistance with any state-related issue or concern.*

*We send these mailings every few months to keep you up to date on news from the state Capitol and around the 176<sup>th</sup> Legislative District. I hope you find them to be interesting and informative.*

*Another great way for us to stay connected is to register to receive my Friday email updates at [www.RepRader.com](http://www.RepRader.com), under the "Resources" tab.*

*Thank you,*

**2023-24 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Finance • Insurance • Local Government  
Tourism and Economic and Recreational Development

**GET FREE HELP WITH MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT**

The Monroe County Area Agency on Aging is offering free counseling to older residents during the Medicare open enrollment period which runs through Dec. 7.

Counselors with Pennsylvania Medicare Education and Decision Insight (PA MEDI) are available by appointment to assist seniors through the open enrollment process.

Appointments are conducted by phone and can be scheduled by calling 570-420-3735. Appointments fill up fast, so call now.

PA MEDI counselors are specially trained staff and volunteers who can provide objective, easy-to-understand information at no cost to seniors. They can help them understand Medicare eligibility, enrollment, financial assistance programs, and coverage options, among other Medicare-related topics.



**DID YOU KNOW TAX RELIEF IS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE HOMESTEAD EXCLUSION?**

Is your home in Monroe County your primary residence? Are you receiving the homestead/farmstead discount on your school property tax bill?

You can make sure you have it by either checking your school property tax bill or by calling one of my district offices and we can check for you.

The Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion under Act 1 of 2006 provides school districts with revenue sources to fund this program.

You only need to apply one time for your primary residence to receive the discount. The deadline to submit the application is March 1, 2024. You must send in two proofs of your primary residence along with the application.

Additional information is available at [www.monroecountypa.gov](http://www.monroecountypa.gov).

**IS THE STATE HOLDING YOUR UNCLAIMED PROPERTY?**

More than \$273 million in unclaimed property was returned to Pennsylvania taxpayers in the 2022-23 fiscal year, the highest return ever.

However, more than \$4.5 billion remains, so if you haven't checked for your name on the state Treasury's Unclaimed Property database, visit [www.patreasury.gov](http://www.patreasury.gov). Remember, if you find property that is yours, you do not need to pay anyone to claim it. You may go directly through the Office of the Treasury or contact one of my offices for assistance.

One in 10 Pennsylvania residents is owed unclaimed property, and the average claim is worth about \$1,600. Unclaimed property can include dormant bank accounts, abandoned stocks, uncashed checks and more. Property is always available for the rightful owner to claim. Tangible property – often the contents of forgotten safe deposit boxes – may be auctioned after three years, but proceeds remain available to claim in perpetuity.

Military decorations and memorabilia are never auctioned and remain in the vault for safekeeping until a veteran or their family is found.

**ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS CAN RECEIVE HEATING ASSISTANCE THIS WINTER**

Residents who struggle with their home heating bills can apply for assistance from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) starting Nov. 1.

LIHEAP is a federally funded program that helps individuals and families pay their heating bills through home heating energy assistance grants. It also provides crisis grants to help in the event of an emergency or if a resident is in danger of losing his or her heat due to broken equipment, lack of fuel or termination of utility service.

The income eligibility guidelines for LIHEAP are set at 150% of the federal poverty income level.

Residents may apply for LIHEAP online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us), by phone at 1-866-550-4355, or by contacting the Monroe County Assistance Office at 570-424-3030. Applications are also available at my district offices. Learn more at [www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov).





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**VISIT ME ONLINE!**



# IN THE DISTRICT



Our annual fall cleanup/shredding event at Pocono Raceway on Sept. 30 was another huge success with a steady line of vehicles waiting to safely dispose of sensitive paperwork, old tires, prescription drugs and more. We shredded more than 5 tons of paper, which was up from last year's event. It's good to see more folks are taking this step to prevent identity theft. Also at the event for the first time, we helped residents replace their hard-to-read license plates.



Every August, my staff and I look forward to our week-long stay at the West End Fair. Thanks to everyone who stopped by our tent for a visit. See you again next summer!

## DISTRICT OFFICES:

**EFFORT:** Carriage House Square, 2785 Route 115, Suite 103, Effort, PA 18330 | **570-620-4341**

**BLAKESLEE:** Blakeslee Medical Professional Complex, 395 Route 940, Suite 104, Blakeslee, PA | **570-643-7683**

**CAPITOL OFFICE:** 423 Irvis Offie Building, PO Box 202176, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2176 | **717-787-7732**