



State Senator **JIM BREWSTER**

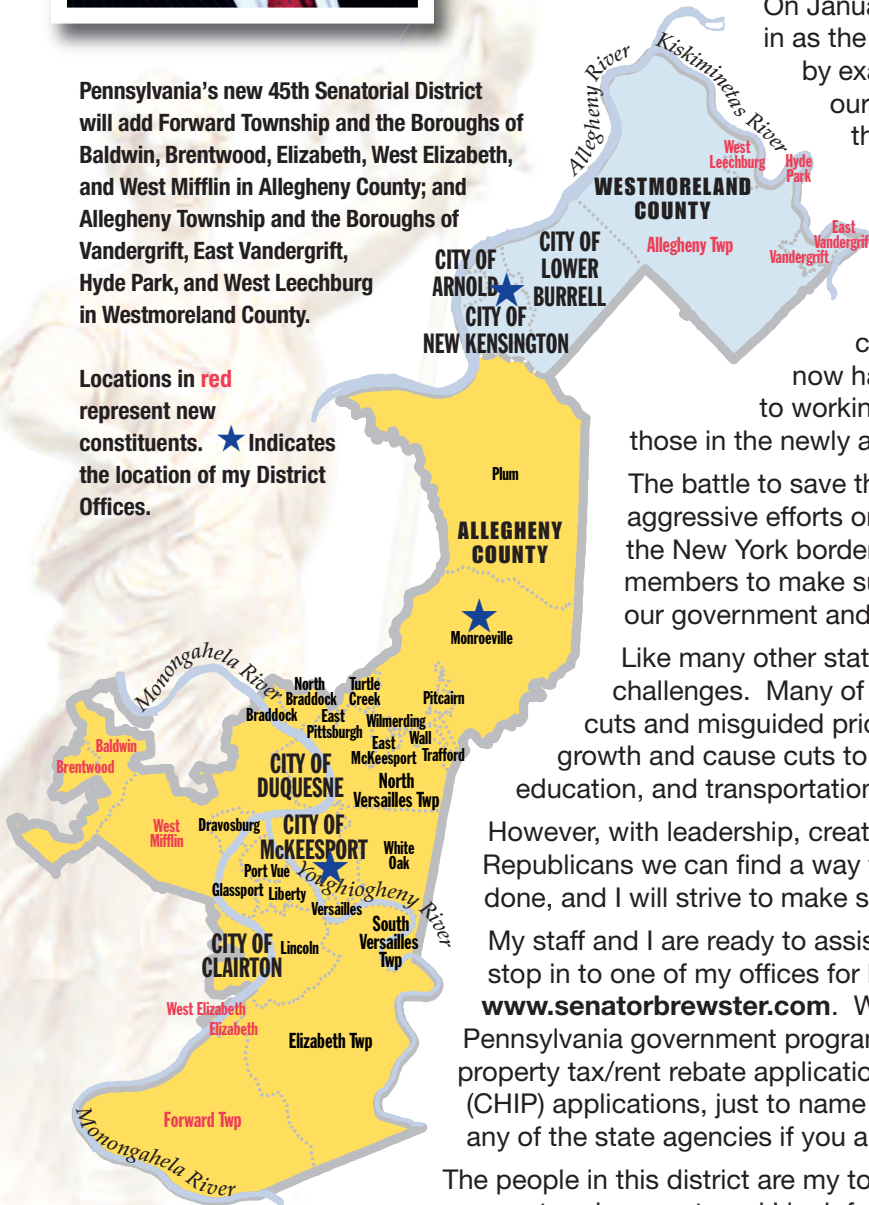
Serving the 45th Senatorial District

JUNE 2013

Dear Friend:

Pennsylvania's new 45th Senatorial District will add Forward Township and the Boroughs of Baldwin, Brentwood, Elizabeth, West Elizabeth, and West Mifflin in Allegheny County; and Allegheny Township and the Boroughs of Vandergrift, East Vandergrift, Hyde Park, and West Leechburg in Westmoreland County.

Locations in red represent new constituents. ★ Indicates the location of my District Offices.



On January 1, 2013, I took the oath of office and was sworn in as the Senator of the 45th District. I again pledged to lead by example, fight for you, work to create jobs and improve our public education system. Addressing the needs of the people who live in our region remains my top priority. I am working hard to seek positive results and to make sure we are responsible with tax dollars.

Following the recently concluded statewide legislative redistricting process, several new communities in Allegheny and Westmoreland counties will be added to the 45th District, which I now have the privilege of representing. I'm looking forward to working with all the constituents in the district, as well as those in the newly added communities.

The battle to save the 45th Senatorial District was challenging. Despite aggressive efforts on the part of some politicians to move the district to the New York border, we worked with local officials and Caucus members to make sure that these constituents retained their voices in our government and that no resident was disenfranchised.

Like many other states, Pennsylvania continues to face difficult challenges. Many of these challenges have been brought on by budget cuts and misguided priorities. These decisions could stifle economic growth and cause cuts to important programs for the elderly, public education, and transportation if they are not rectified.

However, with leadership, creativity, and cooperation between Democrats and Republicans we can find a way to address these challenges. I believe this can be done, and I will strive to make sure that we find solutions that work.

My staff and I are ready to assist and serve you. Please do not hesitate to call or stop in to one of my offices for help, or to visit my online office at www.senatorbrewster.com. We have brochures and information pamphlets on Pennsylvania government programs and services, including prescription assistance, property tax/rent rebate applications, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) applications, just to name a few. We can also assist in getting answers from any of the state agencies if you are encountering problems.

The people in this district are my top priority. I'd like to thank you for your encouragement and support, and I look forward to working to make our region a better place to work, do business and raise families.



Sen. Brewster joined U.S. Steel Officials and government leaders in the commissioning of Clairton Coke Work's C Battery.

BELOW: Sen. Brewster honored the Clairton Bears High School football team and their coach, Tom Nola, for winning four consecutive state football titles. The team was represented in Harrisburg by players Terrish Webb and Titus Howard.



Around The 45th District



ABOVE: Senator Brewster's Senior Wellness and Safety Expo.

BELOW: Senator Brewster hosts 2013 Student Government Day at Penn State Greater Allegheny.



Senator Brewster visits with students from the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf.



Sen. Brewster attends a check presentation at Serra Catholic High School. United States Steel Corp. gave \$60,000 in Educational Improvement Tax Credit scholarships to the Bridge Educational Foundation for Serra Catholic and 11 other Allegheny County schools.



▶ Legislation Introduced

Following are some of the initiatives and legislation on which Senator Brewster is working:

■ Protecting Older Adults

Senator Brewster's legislation would protect residents living in facilities; an entity providing domiciliary care. Facilities will search for applicant's name(s) on the Pennsylvania State Police registry of offenders and sexually violent predators, prior to admission. If the applicant resided outside of the state, the facility will search the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website. In no case may a facility admit an applicant if their name appears on either the PSP or Dru Sjodin list of offenders. Also, within 30 days of the effective date, the facility shall search current residents' names. No administrator or facility shall be held civilly liable for any action directly related to good faith compliance with this chapter.

■ Education Reform Package

Senator Brewster's comprehensive education reform package includes an innovative plan to change how school districts function amid academic and fiscal distress.

School districts that fail to reach academic and financial benchmarks would be eligible to receive concentrated economic and academic support.

School districts, regardless of academic and fiscal position, would be required to enter into strategic partnership agreements with neighboring districts. This pre-planning would help jumpstart the response to academic or fiscal crisis and allow for planning to occur.

If the infusion of resources is unsuccessful, the schools would move to a transition phase where districts would have tools available to create new public education options for teachers, students and parents.

Senator Brewster's plan would also require that all teachers in charter schools be certified. The plan seeks a moratorium on the state's approval of new charters to give school districts time to plan.

Other measures include requiring that teachers in the Duquesne School District are placed in nearby districts. The package creates a vehicle to accept new federal dollars for full-day kindergarten and builds on a federal legislation now under consideration. Legislation creating a bi-partisan commission to examine and evaluate the utility of statewide testing is part of the package. Brewster's testing assessment commission has been introduced as SB 823.

The reform package would be funded by a new fee paid by shale drillers. All funds from the new fee would be earmarked for education.



Senator Brewster addresses the public at the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee hearing.

■ Hunting Heritage License Plate

The plate would be available for passenger cars, motor homes, trailers, or trucks with a registered gross weight of not more than 10,000 pounds to reflect their respect for the sport and to possibly pass it along to their children and grandchildren.

■ Direct Payments to Emergency Service Organizations

This legislation would require insurers that approve claims for emergency services to directly reimburse organizations that provide such services. Insurers would be exempt from this if the claimant has indicated that he has already reimbursed the emergency service provider. Entities

included in the definition of "emergency service organizations" include ambulance services, emergency and medical services and river rescue services.

■ Municipal Police Recruitment and Retention Program

Senator Brewster's legislation amends Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) and Title 75 (Vehicles) respectively. The addition to Title 53 will add a section to read: Municipal Police Recruitment and Retention Program. The commission shall administer this Fund, relating to a law enforcement surcharge, and make grants from the fund for recruitment and retention of a municipality's part-time police force in accordance with this section. The addition to Title 75 will add a section to read: Law Enforcement Enhancement Surcharge. A surcharge of \$10 will be levied or imposed as provided by law, exclusive of parking offenses, upon conviction for any violation of the provisions of this title or other statute of the Commonwealth. The purpose of the grants shall be used for the purpose of hiring and retaining part-time police officers in a municipality and shall be used to pay a portion of the salary of a part-time police officer. Grants shall not exceed \$5,000 per police officer position and shall be used to supplement the part-time police salary paid by the municipality up to a maximum of \$15 per hour of pay not to exceed 85 percent of a full-time base salary for a police officer in the municipality. Rate shall be calculated based on average salaries for 2011, as adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index for the metropolitan area in which the municipality is located.



Sen. Brewster hosts a Senate Transportation Committee hearing at CCAC Boyce Campus - Monroeville. Joining him is Sen. Jay Costa (D-Pittsburgh).



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Serving the 45th Senatorial District

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Visit my website and sign up for any or all of these ways to stay in touch with me on current issues.

www.SenatorBrewster.com

Stay on top of all the happenings in Harrisburg and in the 45th District by subscribing to **District Digest**, an email update by Sen. Brewster. Sign up for **District Digest** at www.senatorbrewster.com.

**Be the First to Know:
Visit me on FACEBOOK & TWITTER**

Sign up to be a fan of mine and be one of the “first to know” about happenings in Harrisburg and throughout the 45th Senatorial District.



Senator Jim Brewster



Constituent Outreach – We Can Help!

Assistance with State Agency Information, Questions, Problems or Complaints:

- ◆ Attorney General’s Office—Consumer Complaint Forms
- ◆ Birth Certificate Applications
- ◆ Citations—Senate Recognition for Outstanding Accomplishments, Awards and Special Occasions
- ◆ Criminal Record Check Applications
- ◆ Child Abuse Clearance Applications
- ◆ Death Certificate Applications
- ◆ Insurance Department—Complaints or Problems with Insurance Companies
- ◆ Labor and Industry—Unemployment & Workers’ Comp Questions/Problems
- ◆ Literature/Publications—Bills, Regulations, PA Maps, and more
- ◆ Notary Public Applications
- ◆ PACE/PACENET—Pharmaceutical Assistance for Eligible Seniors, Applications and Problems
- ◆ PennDOT—Drivers License, Vehicle Registration, Disability Parking Placard/Plates, and State Highway and Bridge Issues
- ◆ PHEAA—Financial Assistance for Higher Education
- ◆ Public Utility Commission—Utility Complaints
- ◆ Department of Revenue—PA Income Tax and Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, Applications and Inquiries
- ◆ Tours—Capitol Building Tours for School Groups, Families or Organizations
- ◆ Voter Assistance—Registration and Absentee Ballot Applications
- ◆ Welfare—Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), Food Stamps (SNAP)