



State Senator **JIM BREWSTER**



Serving the 45th Senate District

Reports FALL 2016



▲ Housing officials, local officials and Senator Brewster cut the ribbon of the new Orchard Park development in the City of Duquesne.



▲ Senator Brewster speaks at the ribbon cutting of the Voyager facility at the Allegheny County Airport in West Mifflin.



▲ High school students from throughout the district attended Senator Brewster's Annual Student Government Day at Penn State Greater Allegheny.

Dear Friend,

I am honored to continue serving as your state senator. Providing quality service to you and addressing the needs of the citizens in the district remains my top priority.

I am proud of our work together; but we have so much more work to do.

Now, more than a year after the implementation of Act 89 – the transportation funding law – we are seeing many benefits of investing in our public transportation infrastructure. From creating new jobs to investing in roads, bridges, and mass transit, this new law has turned out to be a success. Gas prices are at an all time low and you may have even noticed new bus service or a bridge or road being upgraded in your neighborhood – with more to come.

My top legislative priorities remain quality education, job creation, and economic development. I believe in fiscal austerity and leading by example on legislative expenses. That's why I do not take per diem payments or lease a state vehicle. Legislators must be fiscally responsible and accountable.

My staff and I are working hard to learn about issues important to us all. We want to hear your thoughts and concerns while bringing the highest-quality service to the communities that I serve. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with questions or concerns. My offices are available to help you, and you can also visit my online office at www.senatorbrewster.com.

I would like to thank you for your encouragement and support, and look forward to working to make our region an even better place to work, do business and raise families.

Jim Brewster

SAVE THE DATE

FALL SENIOR EXPO

September 29

10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The McKeesport Palisades
Event Center
100 Fifth Avenue



▲ Seniors take advantage of the wide variety of information and screenings at Senator Brewster's Spring Senior Expo in West Leechburg.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION INSIDE

SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES AND VETERANS



POLICE EDUCATIONAL DISCUSSIONS

Officials discuss legislation and domestic violence programming

Senator Brewster hosted multiple educational discussions with district police chiefs, local officials and domestic violence organizations such as the Center For Victims and Alle-Kiski Hope Center. These meetings were held throughout the district to focus on the programs and opportunities that the organizations have to assist those they serve. Various pieces of legislation that Senator Brewster introduced – such as Body Camera Usage SB483 by police and SB318 Part-time Police Fund – were discussed.



MCKEESPORT AMBULANCE RESCUE SERVICE HONORS LATE LEADER

▲ Senator Brewster stands with family and friends of the late Ed Coulter at the dedication ceremony of the completely upgraded McKeesport Ambulance Rescue Service – Edwin D. Coulter Sr. Memorial EMS Station. Ed Coulter dedicated his life to the ambulance service and the safety and health of the residents of his community.

ROUNDTABLES WITH FIREFIGHTERS AND PA FIRE COMMISSIONER

Brainstorming meetings focusing on retention, recruitment, training and funding for local fire departments

Wide-ranging discussions with local fire chiefs and state officials concerning retention, recruitment, training and funding of volunteer fire services were hosted by Senator Brewster. “These roundtables were a great opportunity to gain feedback on what state officials can do to help the departments,” said Senator Brewster.



ARMY RESERVIST HONORED

▲ Senator Brewster speaks in White Oak where SSG Michelle Satterfield, a U.S. Army Reservist, was honored and received a home for her and her son from the Stephen Siller Tunnels To Towers Foundation.

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL FIRST RESPONDERS PICNIC

Sunday, September 18

Noon – 4 p.m.

Northmoreland Park Pavilion #7

For additional information contact Senator Brewster’s New Kensington District Office at (724) 334-1143

BREWSTER BACKS VETERANS

Our military men and women have made a tremendous commitment to our nation. Senator Brewster’s office is honored to provide active duty members and veterans with the information and resources they need. To learn about military programs visit Senator Brewster’s website at: www.senatorbrewster.com/military

SENATOR BREWSTER CONTINUES SUPPORTING BUS SERVICE RESTORATION

Senator Brewster announced that bus services were restored in Baldwin.

“We worked hard to restore bus service to Baldwin, and this is a significant victory for the community. It will provide residents greater access and transportation options throughout our region.”

– Senator Brewster

A member of the Port Authority Board of Directors, Brewster fought for the route extension. The senator credited local leaders, residents, the Port Authority and bus drivers for getting the “44 Knoxville” route extended into the borough.

The bus route operates every half hour from 5:30 a.m. till midnight. Brewster said the route will start at Churchview Garden apartments and go down Churchview Ave., to Spencer, Custer, and Agnew, across Becks Run Road to St. Clair, through Knoxville and Beltzhoover and into Pittsburgh via Warrington Ave. and the transit tunnel.

To obtain a senior bus pass, residents of the district can call or stop by his district offices or go to his website at www.senatorbrewster.com.

SPURGEON SWORN IN AS COMMON PLEAS JUDGE

Mon Valley resident, David Spurgeon, was recommended by Senator Brewster, nominated by Gov. Tom Wolf, and was confirmed by the Senate for a seat on Allegheny County Common Pleas Court.

“David will be an outstanding judge and a tremendous asset for Allegheny County,” said Brewster. “It is a great day for the Mon Valley – after 30 years, the Mon Valley now has representation on the court.”



SENATOR BREWSTER JOINS POWERFUL SENATE COMMITTEES

Senator Brewster has been appointed to serve on the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee. “I am very pleased that the Senate Democratic leader recommended me for appointment to this important committee at this crucial time,” Brewster said.

Senate Democratic Leader Jay Costa (D-Allegheny) explained his reasons for recommending Brewster to serve on the committee:

“The Senate Appropriations Committee has input on important matters that involve spending tax dollars. I believe Senator Brewster will do an outstanding job as a member of the committee. His decades of experience in the banking industry and years of negotiating both in the private sector and as a public official will be of great value to the committee as it works through issues.”

– Senator Costa



The Appropriations Committee examines legislation that involves the expenditure of state funds. Since most legislation has a fiscal impact, a large percentage of proposed bills are considered by the committee.

MCKEESPORT ALUMNA APPOINTED CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY TRUSTEE



Sarah Cassin, a McKeesport and California University of Pennsylvania alumna who serves as legislative director to Senator Brewster, has been approved as a member of the Council of Trustees of California University of Pennsylvania.

Brewster has been seeking appointments to state boards for qualified residents from his district.

Brewster said he was pleased that Cassin was selected by the governor for the position and knows “she will be an outstanding representative of the district and the university.”

ATTENTION OUTDOOR SPORTSMEN

Senator Brewster is the Senate Democratic chair of the Game & Fisheries Committee, a member of the Sportsmen Caucus and an avid hunter. Recently he added a link to his website that will be regularly updated with valuable information for the hunter or angler. While also giving easy access to forms and applications, such as that of the Hunting Heritage License Plate, it also has links to various websites such as the PA Game Commission, PA Fish and Boat Commission and others. Visit his website today at www.senatorbrewster.com/outdoors.

Supporting the 2nd Amendment

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

COUNTY DEMO AND PROPERTY REHAB FUND

“Refurbishing housing is key to the resurgence of an economically hard-hit municipality.”

– Senator Brewster

Senate Bill 482, sponsored by Senator Brewster, would give counties the option of establishing a Demolition and Rehabilitation Fund. The new fund would be capitalized through a fee assessed for each property sold for delinquent taxes. The fee can be no more than 10 percent of the purchase price of the delinquent property and the money in that fund may only be used for the properties in that county. The counties have the option of creating the fund and assessing the fee.

“Creating the mechanism to help counties address housing issues is one important step that we can take toward demolishing blighted properties and speeding the rehabilitation of housing stock,” Brewster said.

The proposal cleared the Senate with a strong bipartisan vote.

SENATOR BREWSTER INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO ASSIST WITH HIGH SEWAGE BILLS

Recently, Senator Brewster announced he is introducing legislation to establish the Pennsylvania Water and Wastewater Assistance Act.

Senate Bill 1080 will provide assistance to households that are at risk of having water supply discontinued due to unpaid water or wastewater bills.

To be eligible to receive assistance, a household must have an annual income at or below 100 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines.

Implementation of the program will be the duty of the State Treasury and the Department of Human Services, or DHS.

The fund will be created in the State Treasury and DHS will send an assistance payment or a supplemental assistance payment directly to the supplier of water or the owner or operator of a community sewage system that is owed payment.

WESTERN PA BENEFITS FROM TRANSPORTATION PLAN

As a strong supporter of the transportation financing plan, it is imperative that the money now being generated is used to expedite work on structurally deficient bridges.

“Significant road, bridge and mass transit work has not been done in our area for years and I am proud to be a supporter of the legislation that is making it possible.”

– Senator Brewster

PennDOT's Rapid Bridge Replacement Project will significantly cut the number of structurally deficient bridges by expediting work on 558 bridges at a cost of \$899 million over the next three years.

The bridges targeted for accelerated attention in Brewster's district include:

- Lovedale Road Bridge
- Thompson Run Road Bridge
- Glass Run Road Bridge
- Industry Road Bridge
- West Newton Road Bridge
- Monongahela Road Bridge
- 136 over MonRiver Tributary
- 2001 over Perry Mill Run
- McKeesport Blvd./Union
- Streets Run Road Bridge #3
- Center Street/Long Run
- 2010 over Bridge Wylie Run
- PA 56 over Little Pucketa
- SR 2018 Bridge
- Streets Run Road Bridge
- New Texas Road Bridge
- 51/Fallen Timber Run
- Rock Run @ Wildcat Run
- Stewartsville Hollow Road
- Logans Ferry/AVR RR

SENATOR BREWSTER SUPPORTS PROPERTY TAX ELIMINATION, DEEP TAX RELIEF

“While I remain committed to completely eliminating property taxes, Senate Democrats have developed a workable plan to provide tax relief for millions. Significant tax relief is needed now.”

– Senator Brewster

In late November, the state Senate voted on a plan to eliminate school property taxes. While Senator Brewster voted in favor of property tax elimination, it failed passage. In lieu of total elimination, Brewster is a sponsor of a Senate Democratic tax relief plan that provides tax rebates of up to \$1,990 per home. This plan would totally eliminate property taxes for 2 million homesteads and significantly reduce taxes for another 1.2 million Pennsylvanians. The plan includes a rent rebate of \$500.

LEGISLATION REFORM PACKAGE

- Eliminate annual, automatic COLAs
- End per diems
- Ban gifts

To improve accountability and transparency in the operations of the General Assembly, Senator Jim Brewster has sponsored a multi-faceted effort to reform legislative spending. The government ethics package includes a strict gift ban and expense reimbursement instead of per diems.

STRONG ADVOCATE FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE DISTRICT



▲ Senator Brewster attends New Kensington-Arnold Youth Commission training session.

COMMUNITY SERVICE A PRIORITY

The New Kensington-Arnold Youth Commission, which exists in every Westmoreland County school district, has traditionally acted as volunteer probation officers for first-time offenders who commit non-violent minor crimes. That role is being expanded to include mentoring of juveniles who have committed more serious offenses, completed sentences in some type of disciplinary placement and are on probation. Along with the probation department, the youth commission can help the children reintegrate into the community and reduce recidivism.

“Groups and organizations like the New Kensington-Arnold Youth Commission are crucial to building a better future for our youth. I’m honored to be a part of it.”

– Senator Brewster

SENATOR BREWSTER FIGHTS FOR EDUCATION

Energy Tax to Fund Education

Senator Brewster’s “Extraction for Education” plan (Senate Bill 395) specifically calls for new revenues from a shale extraction tax to be combined with additional state funding and distributed via the new basic education subsidy formula that was developed by the Basic Education Funding Commission.

Senate Bill 395 would cap the total severance tax levy and make the effective rate five percent. Under the plan, impact fee expenses (Act 13) would be credited against a shale driller’s extraction tax liability.

“Shale drillers have a responsibility to pay a reasonable tax for extracting Pennsylvania resources. Under my plan, drillers can be assured of a specific rate and their revenues would be used specifically to help school students and taxpayers.”

– Senator Brewster



ENHANCED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

As a former mayor, Senator Brewster knows the importance of moving a community forward through housing and economic development. “New housing brings new opportunities, new jobs and new partnerships. Working as a team brings a positive impact like this to a community,” said Senator Brewster.

SENATOR BREWSTER SUPPORTS LOCAL BUSINESS

Learn more about starting your own business or supporting current local businesses by visiting Senator Brewster’s website at: www.senatorbrewster.com/business-toolkit

Senator Brewster attends the ribbon cutting for Planet Fitness in North Versailles.



▼ Senator Brewster attends the official ribbon cutting of the McKeesport Hostel, located on the Great Allegheny Passage.



ADVOCATES FOR RECREATIONAL GROWTH

Senator Brewster is a strong advocate for recreational growth throughout his district. “Our trails are a vital piece of the next chapter of our area” said Brewster. “Not only are they an important part in growing the economy, teaching our children about the outdoors and bringing new ventures to our communities but they are also a fun recreational option to get out and enjoy the beauty of Pennsylvania.”

▼ Senator Brewster was honorary chairman at the First Annual Going for the Goal Sprint Triathlon.





**STATE SENATOR
JIM BREWSTER**

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- **ALLEGHENY TOWNSHIP SATELLITE OFFICE**
Allegheny Twp. Municipal Building
136 Community Building Road
Leechburg, PA 15656
*Every Monday and Tuesday
9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.*
- **VANDERGRIFT SATELLITE OFFICE**
Vandergrift Municipal Building
109 Grant Avenue
Vandergrift, PA 15690
*Every Wednesday and Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.*
- **FORWARD TOWNSHIP SATELLITE OFFICE**
Forward Twp. Municipal Building
1000 Golden Circle
Elizabeth, PA 15037
*2nd Tuesday of Every Month
9 a.m. – Noon*
- **TURTLE CREEK SATELLITE OFFICE**
Human Services Center Corp.
413 Penn Avenue Ext.
Turtle Creek, PA 15145
*1st Wednesday of every month
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.*

GO PAPERLESS

If you would like to opt-out of receiving hard copy newsletters, visit www.SenatorBrewster.com/OptOut to sign up to receive them via email.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Are you or someone you know celebrating a special event?

Engagements, weddings, anniversaries, births, personal milestones or those of a business or organization, Senator Brewster wants to know! Contact Cindy in his McKeesport District Office at (412) 664-5200.

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WWW.SENATORBREWSTER.COM