

# State Representative Kurt Masser

~ District 107 ~

## Proudly Serving the 107th District at Home and in Harrisburg

Thank you for allowing me to serve you, your family, our community and the state in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in Harrisburg. I take this role very seriously, and I appreciate the opportunity to serve the 107th District. I was sworn in for my fourth term on Jan. 3, at a ceremony in the chamber of the House.

My colleagues selected me to serve as House Republican Caucus Administrator for the 2017-18 legislative session. As caucus administrator, I am responsible for managing many business affairs that specifically relate to the caucus. My family and I have owned and operated several businesses, and I have been familiar with the inner-workings of the businesses for most of my life. It continues to be an honor to provide leadership to the caucus in this capacity.

I am including information in this newsletter about recent issues of importance that the Legislature has been working on, as well as sharing some happenings from around our area. If you have questions, or if I can be of any assistance with a state-related matter, please visit or call one of my district offices. The addresses and phone numbers are listed inside this newsletter. Thank you, again, for the opportunity to serve.



### Highlighting Knoebels Amusement Resort and Amusement Parks

In early June, the House voted in favor of House Resolution 424 which promotes and recognizes the positive economic impacts of Pennsylvania's amusement and water parks. I was especially happy to welcome Brian and Rick Knoebel from Knoebels Amusement Resort located in our district. We are pictured here with other amusement park managers from across the state, as well as area Reps. Dave Millard (R-Columbia) and Lynda Schlegel Culver (R-Northumberland/Snyder).

### Life of Hon. Robert E. Belfanti Recognized on House Floor

On June 6, I spoke on the House floor to recognize the life and work of the late Robert E. Belfanti Jr., former state representative of the 107th District, decorated veteran and avowed community steward. Belfanti passed away, at age 68, on Oct. 29, 2016. He served the 107th District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1981 to 2010. From 1993 to 2010, Belfanti served as the House Labor Relations Committee chair.

In recognition of Belfanti's many accomplishments and contributions to the local community, I sponsored a House citation and a bill in his honor. In dedication of Belfanti's military service and veteran-related work, House Bill 1431 would designate a portion of State Route 901 in Northumberland and Schuylkill counties as the "Honorable Robert E. Belfanti Jr. Memorial Highway."

I was pleased to welcome the Belfanti family to the state House. Pictured with me, Speaker of the House Mike Turzai and Rep. Neal Goodman (D-Schuylkill) are Belfanti's wife of 48 years, Cecilia; sons, Robert Belfanti III and Eric Belfanti; daughter-in-law, Natalie Belfanti; and seven grandchildren, Jacob, Victoria, Gianna, Natalia, Eric Jr., Patrick and Ella. Please visit [www.RepMasser.com/latestnews](http://www.RepMasser.com/latestnews) and scroll down to the June 6 press release to read more about Belfanti's work and accomplishments.



### Concealed Carry Seminar

Thursday, Aug. 24, from 6-8 p.m.

Brady Fire Co. Banquet Hall

700 Maple St., Ranshaw

Pre-registration is required. Call my offices to RSVP in advance.

## Visit to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank Facilities

In an effort to eradicate hunger in Pennsylvania, the House Majority Policy Committee hosted an informational hearing at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank (CPF) facilities in Williamsport in early June. The CPF distributes more than 48 million pounds of food and grocery products each year to more than 900 soup kitchens, shelters and food pantries in 27 Pennsylvania counties.

My colleagues and I heard testimony from CPF management, farmers, the Penn State Extension, Penn State Hershey Medical Center and New Hope Ministries. Following the hearing, we took a tour of the facility to see firsthand how the distribution and storage systems work.

The CPF Williamsport Food Bank location serves Bradford, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Sullivan, Tioga and Union counties. For more information, visit [www.centralpafoodbank.org](http://www.centralpafoodbank.org).



## Congratulations, Area Eagle Scouts

I was happy to attend Isaac Wynn's Eagle Scout ceremony in May at the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Elysburg and recognize him for his accomplishment. To fulfill the community service requirement of his Eagle Scout Award, Isaac digitized the historical documents at the Ralpho Township Public Library to help preserve its history for the future. He is a member of Troop 247 in Elysburg, and the son of David and Maureen Wynn. Congratulations to Isaac, and to all the Eagle Scouts in the 107th District. We are proud of your dedication and work within our communities.



## Masons in the House

I recently stood with my fellow House colleagues who are Masons. Masons are men who have joined the Freemasonry fraternity. Honor and integrity are at the core of the Masonic belief, and it is a true honor to serve the Commonwealth with several others who share in these values.



## Drug and Alcohol Community and Parent Awareness Programs

In an effort to help educate parents and members of the community about the latest drug concerns and prevention methods, I co-hosted Drug and Alcohol Community and Parent Awareness Programs with Rep. Lynda Schlegel Culver at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School and Line Mountain High School this past spring.

Drug and alcohol abuse is a major problem that is unfortunately affecting individuals of many ages and backgrounds in our area. Educating the community about the latest trends, risks and methods is a great first step in accomplishing widespread awareness of the negative impacts drug and alcohol abuse can have on an individual. We hope to hold more programs like this in the future and work on more legislation at the state level to continue to address this massive issue.



## Sign Up for My Weekly Updates

Every week, I publish a short email that includes information and updates from the state Capitol and at home in the 107th District. Details about legislation and local events and photos are typical topics you can read about. If you would like to sign up to automatically receive my regular emails, visit [www.RepMasser.com](http://www.RepMasser.com).

Follow me at [www.Facebook.com/RepMasser](https://www.facebook.com/RepMasser) or [www.RepMasser.com](http://www.RepMasser.com).

**District Office:** 467 Industrial Park Road, Elysburg, PA 17824 | (570) 648-8017

**Danville Satellite Office:** Danville Borough Building, 239 Mill St., Suite 1, Danville, PA 17821 | (570) 275-3700

**Capitol Office:** 128 Main Capitol, PO Box 202107, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2107 | (717) 260-6134

## Budget Update: Continuing the Fight Against Higher Taxes

The \$32 billion budget passed by the General Assembly in late June became law in July, again without the signature of Gov. Tom Wolf. This is the third consecutive fiscal year budget to become law without the governor's signature.

With the governor largely absent from negotiations, House and Senate Republicans have been working in good faith with his staff to reach an agreement on revenues to support the spending plan. Presented with a variety of options, including proposed reforms to our state's liquor sales system and gaming expansion, the administration has rejected each proposal, **instead calling for new and increased taxes** on hard-working Pennsylvania families or small employers. Talks will continue until an agreement is reached.

## Real ID: Do You Need It?

The issue of REAL ID is complicated. This type of identification was originally recommended by the 9/11 Commission as a way to better ensure a person's identity. At the time the federal bill was enacted, states were told it was voluntary. PA officials were concerned about both privacy and cost issues, so we passed legislation to prohibit the state from complying.

The feds moved ahead, mandating that REAL IDs would be necessary to travel by commercial airline or to enter certain federal facilities. It's important to be clear that other forms of ID, such as military ID and passports, will serve the same purpose as a REAL ID.

We know not every resident would be using commercial jets or find themselves on a military base or a Department of Energy office. So in the spirit of compromise, we passed Act 3 of 2017, which gives flexibility to residents about whether or not they want to purchase a REAL ID-compliant license or identification card. Basically, if you have no need to fly commercially or enter a certain federal facility, you aren't required to get a REAL ID. But if you do, then you will have more time to get one, while PennDOT develops the new licenses, or you can use an alternate like a passport or military ID. For a complete list of other acceptable alternate identifications, please visit [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov).

## PA Gets Meaningful Pension Reform

The House, in a bipartisan manner, approved legislation in June to stop pension costs from draining critical taxpayer resources away from schools, law enforcement and other important programs. The governor signed the pension reform plan – Senate Bill 1 – into law.

This responsible plan will strengthen the state's two public employee pension systems – the State Employees' Retirement System (SERS) and the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) – by requiring any new state or school district employee hired in 2019 or later to participate in a 401(k)-style plan. This includes state workers, teachers, judges and members of the General Assembly. Current retirees and current workers or teachers will not be affected by this legislation, unless they actively choose to participate.

Eighteen states have enacted some 401(k)-style plan for state workers. The public pension reform plan is projected to save taxpayers more than \$5 billion and another \$3 billion or more from reduced fees and costs through investment management changes.

## Montour County Readdressing Project

As the Montour and Columbia County EMS join to regionalize to better serve our area and save taxpayer dollars, Montour County, Riverside Borough and Rush Township residents will need to have their addresses changed to comply with national Geographic Information System (GIS) standards.

My offices are available to assist Montour County residents with this process. Residents needing address changes for state-related reasons, such as tax forms, or motor vehicle registrations and licenses can visit our office in Danville for free assistance.

Road renaming and property renumbering is underway. According to the U.S. Postal Service, everyone's current address will remain valid for one year, beginning in August 2017. The commissioners are circulating a sample checklist of agencies, organizations and documents you will likely need to update. Call the Montour County Commissioners at 570-271-3000 or Columbia County Emergency Services at 570-387-4930 for more information.

## Monthly Services Available

**Monthly Veterans Assistance Hours in Elysburg:** First and third Wednesdays of every month from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Elysburg District Office, located at 467 Industrial Park Road. A representative from Northumberland County Veterans Affairs will be available during this time to assist any veteran living in the 107th Legislative District.

**Danville Satellite Office (NEW HOURS):** Located at the Danville Borough Building, 239 Mill St., Suite 1. Open Mondays and Thursdays from **8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Please stop in, as we can provide all the same services at this office as we can at the full-time district office in Elysburg. Call 570-275-3700 for more information.

**Federal Casework Day:** Second Thursday of each month, from 10 a.m. to noon. Elysburg District Office, located at 467 Industrial Park Road. A staff member from Congressman Lou Barletta's office will be available during this time to assist residents with federal issues. Please bring all relevant paperwork with you.

# Kurt Masser

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

SERVING THE 107<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

SUMMER 2017

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## Seventh Annual Senior Expo

Thursday, Sept. 14 - Speakers start at 9 a.m. Vendor Doors open at 10 a.m.

All Home Days Park: Memorial Park Avenue and Veterans Way, Elysburg

Senior residents who are 60 years of age and older who attend the expo will have the opportunity to visit with more than 50 local, state and federal agencies and businesses offering information about programs and services available to senior citizens, as well as listen to guest speakers.

### SPEAKER LIST AND SCHEDULE

**9-10 a.m.** – “Scams and Fraud,” Office of Attorney General, Janene Holter

**10-10:30 a.m.** – “Medicare,” Northumberland County Area Agency on Aging, Jessica Cohick

**10:30-11 a.m.** – “Financial Seminar,” local banking institution

**1-2 p.m.** “Protecting Assets from Nursing Home and Health Care Costs,” Rudnitksy, Hackman and Potter, Ken Potter

*\*Times may be subject to change, based on the availability of the speakers.*

We are asking those who attend to please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to a local food bank.

There is no fee to attend, but we ask that you RSVP by calling 570-648-8017, or returning the form below.



LUNCH AND DOOR PRIZES AVAILABLE

## 2017 Senior Expo RSVP Form

Please detach and return completed forms to the Elysburg district office, located at **467 Industrial Park Road, Elysburg, PA 17824**, to confirm your attendance for this year’s expo. You can also RSVP by calling my office in Elysburg at **570-648-8017** or Danville at **570-275-3700**.

Name	Address	Phone	Email

**REMINDER:** We are asking those who attend to please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to a food bank.