



From Your State Representative

Kenneth E. Brandt

House Majority Policy Chairman
P. O. Box 89
Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
17120



Dear Friend:

It has been my pleasure to represent you in Harrisburg. I thought it would be appropriate to inform you of the latest developments in Harrisburg and the 98th District. This session has been quite rewarding for me because my colleagues in the Republican Caucus elected me to a leadership position as Majority Policy Chairman. I also serve on the Rules Committee which controls the flow of legislation from committee to the House floor.

I believe it is very important to be accessible and available to you as much as possible. For this reason, I have opened district offices in Columbia and Elizabethtown for your convenience. These district offices and this newsletter are new features which are helping me to better represent you in the House of Representatives.

It's my hope that you will take a few minutes to read this newsletter, fill out the enclosed questionnaire and return it. I also invite you to visit my district offices. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Brandt

SERVING YOU

In previous sessions, I used the mobile district office idea. Using a van, I would travel from town to town. This session, I am required to spend additional time in Harrisburg, so I decided to establish district offices. Since the Elizabethtown area of the 98th District is represented by Senator Clarence Manbeck and the Columbia area of the 98th District by Senator Ralph Hess, the three of us agreed to share district offices in the respective areas.

Anyone having questions or problems with state government should not hesitate to contact the most convenient office.

Some of the many services the district offices can provide include:

- Assist with motor vehicle title registrations, drivers licenses and learners permits.
- Obtain copies of birth and death certificates.



ELIZABETHTOWN -- William Schoneberger (left), a 25-year veteran of federal government work, who mans The Elizabethtown office, talks with constituent George Sargen. The office, located at 25 East High Street, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. For your convenience, the office is also open on the second Saturday of every month from 9 to noon. The telephone number is 367-5525.

- Secure applications for civil service jobs and state scholarships.

- Help in making available senior citizen information and assist senior citizens in obtaining and filling out applications for the property tax and rent rebate program.

- Assist in arranging community improvement programs through state assistance.

- Provide information brochures and publications, such as the Pennsylvania State Manual, maps and state laws of various types.

- Enlist the services of state health and welfare service.

- Follow through on status reports regarding bills under consideration by the General Assembly.

- Arrange tours of the Capitol and meetings with state officials.



COLUMBIA -- Dave Hickernell of Marietta, a student at Elizabethtown College, manages the Columbia office. Dave is talking with Ruth Thomas, a resident of Columbia. The office is located at 461 Locust Street, telephone 684-5525. Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from Noon to 5:00 p.m., Friday from 1 to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

After each election, both parties meet to elect leadership positions for the upcoming session. My colleagues in the Republican Caucus elected me to the position of Majority Policy Chairman for the current session. This is the first time since Ed Eshelman was elected to the position of assistant Republican floor leader (or Whip) for the 1965-66 sessions that a Lancaster County state representative served in a leadership position for a full term.

The major purpose of the Majority Policy Committee is to provide a better understanding of proposed legislative proposals and to work with the Senate and the administration of Governor Dick Thornburgh in enacting a legislative program in the General Assembly.

The Majority Policy Committee is comprised of 21 members of the House Republican Caucus and also includes the following ex-officio members of the Republican leadership -- Speaker, Floor Leader, Whip, Caucus Chairman, Caucus Secretary, Caucus Administrator and Appropriations Chairman.

We meet each Monday at noon when the House is in session. The committee produces a weekly news column called "Inside the House of Representatives," which explains upcoming positions before the House. We also have three subcommittees which deal with issues, constituent services and programs to develop Republican policies in these areas.

The second committee that I serve on is the House Rules Committee. This committee is designed to serve as a "traffic cop" to determine when legislation reported from committee should be placed on the House calendar for consideration by the entire House. The Rules Committee also proposes amendments to the House rules.



STRATEGY -- Rep. Walter DeVerter, (left) Rep. John Hope Anderson (far right) and Rep. Donald Dorr, members of the Policy Committee join me in a discussion on plans for the legislature.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Your opinions on the many issues facing state government are very important to me. Many of you have written or called me about your views on specific issues of concern to you. This questionnaire is an easy way for you to share your views and it is designed so that two people in your household may answer.

After you complete the survey just fold it so that my address is on the outside, staple or tape, stamp and drop it in a mailbox. Or, if it is more convenient, you can drop off the questionnaire at my Columbia or Elizabethtown offices. If you would like a copy of the results of the questionnaire, please include your return address on the space provided.

1. Do you think that PennDOT is doing a better job of repairing our roads than they did a few years ago?

YES NO

2. Do you favor continuing the policy of cross-filing, whereby candidates for the offices of judge, district justice and school board member, can file on both the Republican and Democratic primary ballots?

YES NO

3. Generally, do you favor elimination of the state liquor store system and replacing it with privately owned stores, even though it may lead to an increase in liquor sales?

YES NO

4. In order to reduce the number of individuals driving without insurance, would you support a requirement that proof of insurance be presented before an inspection sticker is issued?

YES NO

5. Some Pennsylvania citizens believe the quality of our public schools has declined while costs have risen. Do you join in that belief?

YES NO

6. If you answered "YES" to question 5, which of the following alternatives do you favor to improve the quality of education?

more parent involvement and homework for students?

more support by school officials of teachers in dealing with disciplinary problems?

implementing a competency-based educational program requiring basic skills in reading, writing and computation by all high school graduates?

7. Pennsylvania has 45,000 miles of state roads to maintain as opposed to 14,000 in New York. Should we initiate a turnback of roads, with appropriate upgrading and financial support, from the state to the local governments?

YES NO

8. Do you favor stricter state gun control laws?

YES NO

9. The Thornburgh-Scranton administration is nearing the end of its third year. How would you rate the administration's performance thus far?

EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR POOR

10. What areas are of interest to you:

- Bridges/Highways Insurance
- Consumer Affairs Senior Citizens
- Education Small Business
- Energy & Utilities Volunteer Firemen
- Fish & Game Other _____

11. If you were elected to the Pennsylvania State House and could make only one change or improvement what one change or improvement would you like to accomplish?

- a. Roads
- b. Lower taxes
- c. Better government
- d. Energy improvements
- e. Support of education
- f. Other _____

12. Please send me information on the following subjects:

- Fishing and Boating maps
- Pennsylvania Mammals
- Pennsylvania Birds
- Pennsylvania State Parks
- Bicycle Routes
- Pennsylvania Turnpike Maps
- Pennsylvania Symbols
- Honoring our Flag
- Senior Citizens Property Tax and Rent Rebate Applications
- Senior Citizen Programs
- Voter Registration
- Absentee Ballot
- Woodburning Stoves
- Insulation Guide
- Weatherization
- Motor Vehicle Registration
- License Application
- Driving Costs
- Biography of a Bill
- Guide To Good Government
- Vehicle Code-Point System
- Please send me information on the following legislation _____

(Please include you name and address if you desire information.)

★ What suggestions do you have to improve state government and the services? _____



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Return Address

Rep. Kenneth E. Brandt
25 East High Street
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

HELPING OUR SENIOR CITIZENS

Legislation has been introduced to expand programs benefitting senior citizens by more than \$284 million.

The improvements, to be funded through increased state lottery fund revenues, will help our older citizens cope with inflation. The proposals would:

- Give more than 414,000 senior citizens who qualify for inflation dividends a \$100 grant.
- Raise income eligibility limits for inflation dividends from \$9,000 to \$12,000 and increase the maximum yearly grant from \$95 to \$125.
- Raise income eligibility limits for the property tax and rent rebate program from \$9,000 to \$12,000 and increase the maximum yearly grant from \$400 to \$500.
- Increase state subsidies for free mass transit to prevent cutbacks on some routes that could result from reduced federal mass transit subsidies.
- Grant \$4 million in 1982-83 to local Area Agencies on Aging to purchase new vehicles and expand rural mass transit services for senior citizens.

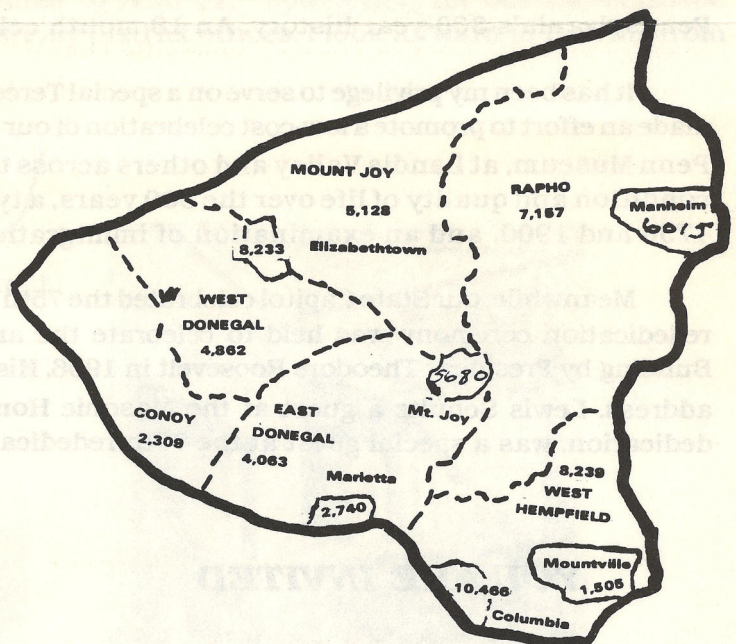
This package is the result of extensive deliberation by legislative leaders, Revenue Department officials, the administration and representatives from the Department of Aging.

REAPPORTIONMENT

Every ten years, based on the new census figures, legislative districts are changed in an effort to make certain that each representative has approximately the same number of people in his district. The reapportionment of the state House and Senate is done by a Reapportionment Commission comprised of the majority and minority leaders of the House and Senate and a neutral chairman. Members of the General Assembly do not vote on the legislative reapportionment plan. We do, however, vote on the congressional reapportionment plan.

Since Lancaster County has one of the highest population growth rates in the state, the county will receive a sixth House district contained entirely within the county. The 98th District grew by approximately 7,500 people over the last ten years.

In order to bring the district close to the state average of 58,456, Manheim and Mountville boroughs were removed from the present 98th District. Since the combined population of these two boroughs equalled approximately 7,500 people, Manheim borough was placed in the 102nd District, represented by Nicholas Moehlmann and Mountville was placed in the 100th District represented by Gibson Armstrong. I will continue to represent these two boroughs until January of 1983.



The new 98th District under the reapportionment plan. Manheim and Mountville which are circled will no longer be part of the 98th District.

A LOOK BACK IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

During 1981, I have voted on over 1,200 roll calls on issues ranging from the state budget to highway funding to welfare reform to implementing President Reagan's economic recovery program at the state level.

The current state budget represents the third year in a row in which the state budget was funded with the same tax rates on business and personal income. The current budget increases state spending less than one-half of the rate of inflation. It is also interesting to note that the state work force has been reduced by 3,500 employees in the last three years and the House and Senate each returned \$2 million of its appropriation to the general fund at the end of the last fiscal year in an attempt to hold the line on state spending.

Perhaps, the most important issue faced by the General Assembly this session was the funding of the motor license fund to bring our highways back to standard. Because of the increasing costs of petroleum-based products used for road repairs and declining revenues from the cents per gallon tax because of more fuel efficient cars the state needed a predictable funding base for the motor license fund. The General Assembly passed a predictable funding base for the Motor License Fund which has allowed highway maintenance to continue in Pennsylvania.

Other issues passed by the House include welfare reform to remove able-bodied recipients from the rolls, Sunset legislation to phase out unneeded state agencies and recodification of the School Code.

A LOOK AHEAD IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

While 1981 was a busy year many proposals must still be considered. Congressional reapportionment, property tax reform, product liability and no-fault insurance are just some of the issues which the House will be working on during the next year.

PENNSYLVANIA CELEBRATES 300 YEARS

It was 300 years ago that William Penn was granted a charter by King Charles II of England for the parcel of land between the Ohio and Delaware Rivers. On March 14, 1981, the celebration began in honor of Pennsylvania's 300-year history. An 18-month celebration is planned.

It has been my privilege to serve on a special Tercentenary Committee of the House and Senate. We have made an effort to promote a low-cost celebration of our 300 years as a Commonwealth. Exhibits at the William Penn Museum, at Landis Valley and others across the state are scheduled to depict such things as the condition and quality of life over the 300 years, a typical farmer's year in rural Pennsylvania between 1750 and 1900, and an examination of immigration into the Commonwealth.

Meanwhile, our State Capitol celebrated the 75th anniversary of its dedication on October 19, 1981. The rededication ceremony was held to celebrate the anniversary of the original dedication of the Capitol Building by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906. His grandson, Kermit Roosevelt, presented the keystone address. Lewis Schultz a guest at the Masonic Home in Elizabethtown, who was present for the first dedication, was a special guest at the 75th rededication ceremony.

YOU ARE INVITED

In celebration of the Capitol rededication, my colleague, State Representative Joseph Pitts of Chester County and I climbed to the very top of the Capitol Dome to plant a time capsule with House memorabilia, not to be reopened until the 100th anniversary of the Capitol in 2006.

When you visit our beautiful State Capitol, you have an open invitation to visit my office in Room 100, telephone (717) 783-8655. My office will also be happy to schedule visits to Harrisburg by making reservations for group or family tours of the Pennsylvania State Museum, the Main Capitol and the Governor's Home when it is open to the public.



WHAT A VIEW -- Rep. Joseph R. Pitts (left) and Gary Crowell, deputy secretary for General Services enjoy the wonderful view with me from high atop the Capitol.