

# ***Pennsylvania Works! Newsletter***

11/6/09 - Here is an update on the ***Pennsylvania Works!*** campaign:

The budget has passed, but lingering budget issues still dominate the landscape. In order to balance the budget, both the House and Senate are working out the final issues for table gaming. In addition, funding for the four state-related universities still has to be negotiated. It's hoped these two issues will be finalized in the next several weeks.

## ***Housing Trust Fund***

Our work is paying off! Several weeks ago, members of the Housing Alliance of PA organized a "Housing Day in the District with more than 50 constituents. They met with 13 key Senators and 5 key Representatives covering 30 counties, asking them to move SB 599 or HB 60, which would establish the Trust Fund. While there is no money attached to the bills at this time, we need the framework in place for the National Housing Trust Fund dollars expected this year.

Especially gratifying about these meetings was we got nearly a full hour with the members themselves and were able to explain the tremendous impact a trust fund would have on their districts. Some of the highlights of these meetings:

- Senator Corman (R- Centre), Appropriations Chair, said he has no problem supporting SB 599 and moving it out of the Appropriations Committee;
- The Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Tomlinson (R - Bucks), said, "Nobody is talking about this bill." He then committed to helping move the bill along;
- Senators Smucker, Mellow and Brubaker also back the bill and said they would bring it to leadership and ask for it to move; and
- Representative Eachus, House Majority Leader, promised to personally reach out to other members and the administration and work through any issues around the bills.

**As a result of these meetings, Senator Yaw, sponsor of SB 599, reported that he has had a number of calls from members asking him about the bill. It's working! The visits are resulting in action.** We are now making follow up calls to all these Representatives and Senators to check in on their progress.

How can you help? There are two ways you can help.

First, call your State Representative and ask them to be a co-sponsor of HB 60. Tell them to talk to the House leadership to get this bill moving.

Second, call your State Senator and ask them to be a co-sponsor of SB 599. Tell them to talk to the Senate leadership to get this bill moving. Working families need housing they can afford. Either of these two bills will accomplish our goal.

## ***Other Good Info***

Below are links to other items in the news that relate to the campaign. Enjoy!

*PA Table Games Stalemate Bumps into Tuition Bills- AP*  
<http://www.timesleader.com/news/ap?articleID=3137232>

*Red Tape Getting in the Way of Razing Blighted Properties – Sunbury News Item*  
<http://www.newsitem.com/news/1.392963>

*Film documents revitalization of York neighborhood – York Daily Record*  
[http://ydr.inyork.com/ydr/newsfull/ci\\_13704007](http://ydr.inyork.com/ydr/newsfull/ci_13704007)

*Chambersburg Area School District's energy work to be Recognized – Chambersburg Public Opinion*  
[http://www.publicopiniononline.com/localnews/ci\\_13717265](http://www.publicopiniononline.com/localnews/ci_13717265)

*Senate Extends Housing Credit – Pittsburgh Post Gazette*  
<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09309/1010981-28.stm>

***Keep Informed and Keep in Touch***

Please check our website frequently, as we update it with news, press releases, and other updates on the issues that make up our campaign. Our website is [www.pennsylvaniaworks.org](http://www.pennsylvaniaworks.org). As always, if you have any questions or comments on the issues we are working on, please feel free to drop us a line.

Ed Boito  
Special Campaign Director  
[boito@pennsylvaniaworks.org](mailto:boito@pennsylvaniaworks.org)