



**SENATOR JAKE CORMAN**

# UPDATE ON Senior Issues

*Programs Available to Help Older Pennsylvanians*

Summer 2006 • 34th Senatorial District

Dear Friend,

If you're a senior citizen or an adult approaching senior status, you may want to take advantage of the many programs, resources and services that Pennsylvania provides. Several of these programs are highlighted below.

You can access a wealth of information about state government programs by visiting the state website at [www.state.pa.us](http://www.state.pa.us) and my website at [www.jakecorman.com](http://www.jakecorman.com).

If you have any questions regarding state government issues, please feel free to contact one of my offices.

Sincerely,

  
Senator Jake Corman

## Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program

**S**eniors on a fixed income can receive property tax relief and rent rebates through a program funded by the State Lottery.

The Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program offers up to a \$500 rebate based upon a household's income and the amount of rent or property taxes paid.

To be considered as an eligible applicant you must be:

- A resident of Pennsylvania
- Age 65 or older
- A widow or widower age 50 or older
- Age 18 to 65 and permanently disabled

- Your annual income may not exceed \$15,000

For more information, instructions and application forms, contact your local Area Agency on Aging,

or call toll-free at (888) 222-9190. You can also visit the Department of Revenue website at [www.revenue.state.pa.us](http://www.revenue.state.pa.us) then click on "Individual Taxpayers" then

click on the "Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program."



*Senator Corman meets with seniors at the annual Senior Expo in August of 2005. **This year's Senior Expo will be held on August 10, 2006 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lewistown Community Center.***

## Counseling for Medicare

Today's different healthcare programs are designed to help seniors better afford their medical and prescription needs. However, with so many programs, selecting the right options can become a complex task.

Pennsylvania's APPRISE insurance counseling service offers free counseling to seniors, helping them choose programs that match their lifestyle and needs.

APPRISE's experienced counselors have assisted more than 135,000 consumers and fielded over 85,000 calls since October of 2005.

To contact APPRISE, call 1-800-783-7067. Consumers with questions regarding Medicare Part D and other Medicare benefits can also call 1-800-633-4227 or visit Medicare's website at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

## Property Tax Reform Must be Fair, Meaningful

Recently, the House and Senate considered a property tax plan that would have raised earned income taxes and funneled more money to seniors living in urban areas. The Senate passed this bill, Special Session House Bill 39, without my support and the House has declined to take up the bill. I applaud the House for not supporting this plan. It does not provide the property tax relief that our citizens have requested.

In addition to significantly raising local earned income, the bill created a two-tiered system that directed millions of dollars in additional property tax relief to seniors in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Scranton. Such a plan would have been unfair to seniors in my district, and many other areas of the state.

City residents would have been eligible for over \$1,000 in relief

without paying more in taxes, while seniors in Centre, Mifflin, Juniata, Perry and Union counties would not have received this relief.

To make matters worse, by the time the gaming funds were realized, Lottery funds were repaid, earned income taxes were increased and property taxes were increased, any savings under this plan would have been lost in five years. This is clearly not a permanent or equitable solution.

As we come back into session, property tax reform will continue to be a top priority. Our mandate is clear: a meaningful solution must be achieved to actually reduce and control property taxes in a fair and uniform manner. No longer can we rely solely on local shifting, when a statewide answer is required.

## Local Area Agencies on Aging

### PERRY COUNTY AAA

Rhinesmith Building  
Center Square  
P.O. Box 725  
New Bloomfield, PA 17068  
Tel: (717) 582-5128

### CENTRE COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING

Willowbank Office Building  
420 Holmes Street  
Belleville, PA 16823-1488  
Tel: (814) 355-6716  
Email: [aging@co.centre.pa.us](mailto:aging@co.centre.pa.us)

### MIFFLIN, JUNIATA COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING

1 Buena Vista Circle  
P.O. Box 750  
Lewistown, PA 17044  
Tel: (717) 242-0315  
Website: [www.mjaaa.com](http://www.mjaaa.com)  
Email: [mjaaa@mjaaa.com](mailto:mjaaa@mjaaa.com)

### UNION COUNTY AGENCY ON AGING, INC.

116 N. 2nd Street  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
Tel: (570) 524-2100  
Website: [www.usaaa17.org](http://www.usaaa17.org)  
Email: [info@usaaa17.org](mailto:info@usaaa17.org)

## Reduced Hunting and Fishing License Fees

Recreational activities like hunting and fishing play a large roll in the lives of Commonwealth seniors. To make these activities more affordable, Pennsylvanians 65 years or older may purchase hunting licenses at the reduced rate of \$13

per year or \$51 for a lifetime license and fishing licenses at the reduced rate of \$11 per year or \$51 for a lifetime license.

Pennsylvania veterans with 100 percent service-related disabilities are entitled to free

hunting and fishing licenses.

Senior licenses may be purchased from sporting goods stores, the county treasurer's office or by directly contacting the PA Game Commission or PA Fish Commission.

## State Senator Jake Corman 34th District

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