

STATE REPRESENTATIVE TOM JONES

PROUDLY SERVING THE 98TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Civil Asset Forfeiture Bill Clears Committee

Protecting due process while preserving the important tool of civil asset forfeiture for law enforcement is the goal of **House Bill 2273**. My legislation passed the House Judiciary Committee unanimously and now advances to the full House for consideration.

The bill ensures when property is seized, individuals receive clear information about their rights and the legal process available for them to have their property returned if they are not convicted of a crime. Transparency and accountability help strengthen public confidence in the process while allowing law enforcement to continue combating serious criminal activity.

Currently, law enforcement agencies may seize an individual's

money or personal property without first filing criminal charges or securing a conviction. While the Commonwealth must demonstrate a connection between seized property and criminal activity, in many cases the owners of such assets are forced to navigate a complex legal process to have their property returned. This often includes long waiting periods when challenging a seizure in court. In fact, some property owners are forced to wait months, sometimes years, before stepping foot inside a courtroom.

Advancing this bill is a statement in ensuring people involved in situations where assets were seized by law enforcement know their rights.

Addressing Data Center Concerns

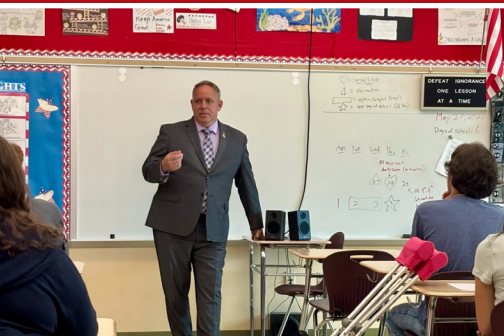
I voted to create a 180-day pause to allow adequate time for municipalities to consider data center plans. While **House Bill 2496** will still need to be approved by the Senate and signed by the governor, it's a major step in solidifying local control in the regulation of data center developments.

Having served in local government, I know zoning ordinances can't be changed overnight. Thoughtful planning by a governing body in drafting, advertising, having public hearings, and approving zoning and subdivision ordinances takes time. This pause will

afford municipalities the time they need to go through the process of creating ordinances that best reflect the interests of the communities they serve.

In addition, I voted to eliminate the tax exemption originally enacted to prioritize data center development. **House Bill 2198** repeals this tax exemption. Economic growth and community protection are not mutually exclusive. We can welcome investment while safeguarding farmland, respecting local decision making and ensuring that your taxpayer dollars are used responsibly.

AROUND THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND



Answering students' questions about government at our local area high schools is a great opportunity to encourage civic involvement in our community.



It was an honor to attend the dedication ceremony for the Malmedy Massacre Memorial in Mount Joy War Memorial Park.



Events like Mayfest are a great reminder of our strong communities and local pride that make Lancaster County such a wonderful place to call home.

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH!

There are numerous ways for us to stay connected regarding all the news coming out of Harrisburg. I send weekly email updates about important legislation, events in the district and other information you will find helpful.

It's easy to receive these updates by signing up at **RepTomJones.com/Email-Signup**.

You can also follow me on social media at: **Facebook.com/RepTomJones** and **Instagram.com/RepTomJones**.

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TOM JONES

98TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Summer is winding down, and that means my popular Coffee and Conversations events are returning! **Join me from 9-10 a.m. at my district office, located at 222 S. Market St. in Elizabethtown, for coffee, conversation and an opportunity to discuss the issues that matter most to you.**

Upcoming dates include Thursday, Sept. 10; Thursday, Oct. 15; and Thursday, Nov. 12. Each event will feature an interesting topic or special guest, with plenty of time for questions and discussion.



UPCOMING EVENTS

50 and Up Expo



Sept. 15

Mark your calendars for my 50 and Up Expo on Tuesday, Sept. 15, from 9-11:30 a.m. The event will be held at Hope Community Church, 1806 Harrisburg Ave., Mount Joy. Attendees will receive a wealth of information about state-related services, senior and health-related programs, and resources from area providers.

Visit my Booth at the Etown Fair



Aug. 24-29

My staff and I will be participating again this year in the week-long Elizabethtown Fair from Aug. 24-29. I will have plenty of free state-related resources available for you and your family. You can also come by the Cornerstone Youth Center Dunk Tank and take a shot at dunking me! I look forward to seeing you at the fair.