

# Senator

# Kim Ward

## 39<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

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## BUDGET NEWSLETTER

*Senate Passes Senate Bill 850 and Begins the Budget Process with the PA House*

The Senate today passed their version of the 2009/10 FY Budget. Senate Bill 850 holds the line on taxes and refrains from tapping into the Commonwealth's Rainy Day Fund (Fund Balance). This was accomplished by using the Governor's initial proposal (HB 1416) as a base, and subsequently addressing the increased budgetary gap in his proposal due to larger shortfalls in projected revenue. His budget was outdated and out of balance. Senator Kim Ward (R-39<sup>th</sup>) voted in favor of Senate Bill 850 as a starting point for negotiations with the House of Representatives. This begins the process for development of a final budget, and while changes are expected in the final budget, Senator Ward is committed to not raising taxes on families and businesses in the Commonwealth.

"In a time when families are struggling to make ends meet, and maintain a foundation for their families, we have a responsibility as legislators to be fiscally responsible and rein in spending," stated Ward. "I know that there are a lot of programs in this bill that will see a reduction for 2009/10 FY, but I believe that Senate Bill 850 reflects the reality of the current economic conditions in the Commonwealth," she continued.

Details of the proposals can be obtained at [www.senatorward.com](http://www.senatorward.com). As part of the process of establishing a final 2009/10 FY budget, Senate Bill 850 will be sent over to the PA House of Representatives for consideration. The House of Representatives currently is considering their version of a 09/10 FY budget (House Bill 1416), so the next step in the process will be joint negotiations between the two legislative bodies for a compromise final passage of a budget.

"My goal in voting in favor of Senate Bill 850 is to hold the line on taxes and initiate the negotiation process with the House of Representatives for a final budget," said Senator Ward. "I am not pleased with the level of certain cuts in Senate Bill 850. I plan on working hard to find creative ways to restore funding for these programs, but without a tax increase and without passing on future debt to our children and grandchildren," she continued.

Key information regarding education funding levels, letters to school districts, and detailed line item funding included in Senate Bill 850 can be found at [www.senatorward.com](http://www.senatorward.com). Please contact Senator Ward with comments, questions, or concerns using the website, or by calling the Greensburg District Office at 724-600-7002.

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