

POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

Our best friend in Harrisburg

Ever since he was first elected in 2018, state Rep. Joe Ciresi has seemingly shown up everywhere, from neighborhood get-togethers to well-organized rallies for fair school funding.

"Tireless" is an overused accolade, but it does fit Ciresi rather well.



Commentary by
Thomas Hylton

From my viewpoint as a Pottstown School Board member, no one has advocated more forcefully and effectively for fair funding than Joe Ciresi.

Pottstown received millions in catch-up state funding this year,

and Ciresi is among those who deserve the credit.

Ciresi has also championed legislation that would require charter schools to play by the same rules as school districts.

One such Ciresi bill would allow school districts to refuse to pay tuition for any charter school outside its attendance area.

He'd like to remove a lot of educational mandates that lack educational value but run up the cost of operating public schools.

Constituent service is a big part of a legislator's job, and Ciresi makes himself readily accessible to the public.

My wife spends a lot of time volunteering at the Pottstown Public Library, and she frequently hears staffers advising patrons to call Ciresi's office for information and help with their problems. "Need a birth certificate for your passport? Call Rep. Ciresi's office, they can probably get it

for you faster."

Before running for state office, Ciresi was director of sales and promotions for the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts for 16 years. It was a job that requires organizational and people skills, and Ciresi has both, in spades.

Ciresi was the only Democrat on the Spring-Ford School Board (an unpaid job) for his 12 years of service.

"I'm proud to work with Republicans to get things done. This job is about community. We don't need to hate each other just because we disagree."

He's been endorsed by the Montgomery County Fraternal Order of Police.

Ciresi has provided breakfasts to veterans, hosted senior health expos, public shredding events, informational town halls on subjects ranging from the spotted lanternfly to preventing senior scams, and electronics recycling events.

Ciresi says his top focus moving forward will be expanding economic opportunities and local revitalization.

He's championed brownfields grants for Pottstown and Royersford, such as the recent clean-up and reuse of the former Pottstown Plating Works.

He's a vocal advocate for restoring passenger rail service from Reading to Philadelphia with stops in Pottstown and Royersford.

We need to return Ciresi to Harrisburg.

Tom Hylton is a member of the Pottstown School Board. However, the views expressed are his alone.



STATE REP. JOE CIRESI reads to pre-schoolers at the Pottstown School District's North End Early Learning Center.