



# The Daley News

from Representative Mary Jo Daley



Winter 2014

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## Dear Friends,

It seems that only yesterday I was catching my breath from being elected to represent you in Harrisburg. After a year in office, I continue to be humbled at the task of acting as your voice in the state House of Representatives. For folks living in Ambler Borough, parts of Plymouth Township and Penn Valley, this may be the first time you have heard from me. This is due to the upcoming change to the 148th District which, as a result of the finalized redistricting process, will include your areas. A more detailed explanation of this process is outlined in this newsletter.

There are many issues that come before the Pennsylvania House, both challenging and rewarding. Whether fighting against attempts to erode women's rights or privatize the lottery; fighting for adequate education funding, public transportation, or our badly aging roads and bridges, I am using my voice for you in Harrisburg. However, I think it is good practice to check in with you periodically to hear what is important to you, which is why I have enclosed a brief survey, where you can tell me what issues you would like to see addressed. I hope you will take the time to complete it and return it to my office.

As always, feel free to continue to email me, call my office or stop in and visit. My staff and I are always ready to assist with any state-related issue. I wish you and your families a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Warm Regards,

*Mary Jo Daley*

## Daley Votes for \$2.4 Billion Transportation Funding Plan

Transportation funding has been a topic of heated debate in Pennsylvania since Governor Corbett's commissioned study in 2010 highlighted a \$3.5 billion and growing cost to fix our roads, bridges and transit systems. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, over half of our roads are rated in poor to mediocre condition and over 5,000 of our bridges are structurally deficient. These poor conditions cost Pennsylvania motorists an average of \$351 annually in vehicle maintenance. Additionally, SEPTA detailed a scenario where without projected funding, rail lines such as the Cynwyd Line would be cut back or eliminated. SEPTA is an economic driver for our region, as over 25 percent of our region's employees use it to get to work, yet SEPTA's state funding is less than half of its closest peer organization, Boston's MTA. Due to the Oil and Gas Franchise Tax reaching its cap in 2006, many drivers' fees not being raised since the 1990s and the prevalence of more fuel-efficient vehicles, funding for roads, bridges and mass transit has declined.

A funding package was created to raise \$2.4 billion for transportation by lifting the cap on the Oil and Gas Franchise Tax paid by fuel distributors, while also raising drivers' fees, fines and penalties. After much negotiation and fighting against a threat to de-fund mass transit, a bill finally passed on Nov. 21, by a margin of 113-85. While I did not agree with some portions of the bill, I was proud to cast my vote in a bipartisan effort to secure this needed funding for years to come. A strong and efficient transportation system translates into a strong economy, and I am pleased to have supported legislation to improve our infrastructure.

## DALEY HOSTS VETERANS' TRIP TO THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY IN ANNAPOLIS



I was honored to host more than 100 veterans and their family members on a trip to Annapolis, Maryland to see the U.S. Naval Academy. Not only was the tour of the beautiful and historic Academy grounds breathtaking, but the stories and camaraderie shared on the trip was heartwarming, thought-provoking and often funny.

This trip was my small way of saying "Thank You" to those who served and sacrificed so much, allowing all of us the freedom to live our lives in the pursuit of our own happiness. I look forward to hosting more veterans' events and to those veterans of the 148th District who were unable to attend this trip, I say "Thank You" for all that you have done.

P.S. If you know a veteran who is a neighbor or someone living within the 148th District who has not received our emails or calls about this trip, please give them my district office contact information so they can be included going forward.

## Redistricting Update

As you may know, after a ruling by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, a final state legislative reapportionment plan was approved and adopted. For background, the redistricting process takes place every 10 years following the U.S. Census. The process is overseen by a Legislative Reapportionment Commission, which creates new district boundaries for the House and Senate reflecting population changes across the Commonwealth.

As a result of this plan, there are some changes to the 148th District. As I mentioned earlier, after the 2014 general election, the 148th District will include the Borough of Ambler, about half of Plymouth Township, and a new portion of Penn Valley in Lower Merion Township. In Whitpain Township, the Broad Axe and West Ambler neighborhoods will remain, as will Whitmarsh Township and the Boroughs of Conshohocken and Narberth. The balance of Whitpain Township, sections of Upper Dublin Township, and the

Wynnewood, Bryn Mawr and Villanova neighborhoods in Lower Merion will be parts of neighboring districts.

While these changes have been approved under the current process, I believe that we need redistricting reform. Too often our current procedure has been used as a tool that allows legislators to pick their voters. This “fox-guarding-the-henhouse” approach can lead to extreme views being held on both sides of the political aisle and, as in Washington, D.C., where we have observed partisan gridlock and resistance to compromise. To address this, I have proposed legislation reforming the redistricting process by creating a more transparent and nonpartisan process to craft our legislative boundaries. Redistricting ought to serve the people, not sitting legislators, and it is my hope that we can pass significant reforms before the 2020 Census. You can view more details on the redistricting process including new district maps at [www.redistricting.state.pa.us](http://www.redistricting.state.pa.us).

## Daley Sponsoring Women’s Health Day

As a strong supporter of women’s issues, I want to make sure that women are empowered with the knowledge and services they need to stay healthy. As such, I will host a “Women’s Health Day” on January 30 with the help of Fox Chase Cancer Center, the PA Breast Cancer Coalition, and the Women’s Center of Montgomery County.

The event will be held at my District Office from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fox Chase Cancer Center will provide breast cancer screenings through their Mobile Mammography Van, the PA Breast Cancer Coalition will offer information on their services for patients, families, and survivors, and The Women’s Center will offer information on domestic violence and healthy relationships. Mammograms will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and are by appointment only, so I invite you to call my office to schedule a time to be screened. I hope to see you there!

### Requirements for Screening:

- Must be age 40 or older
- Must provide the name and address of at least one doctor
- Must have a prescription from your doctor
- Must not be breast-feeding or have breast fed within the last nine months
- Must not have had a breast cancer diagnosis within the past two years
- Must not be under treatment for breast cancer
- Must not have had a mammogram within the last year



## Daley Highlights LIHEAP Heating Assistance Program



Colder weather has arrived and if you are a senior or family struggling to keep your house warm, you may qualify for Pennsylvania’s Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP.

LIHEAP is a state program that helps low-income individuals or families with the cost of home heating. LIHEAP provides cash grants, which are sent directly to your utility company, as well as crisis grants to help with heating bills. Please read the table to the right to see if you are eligible, based on family size and annual household income.

You can get a LIHEAP application and assistance in filling out the form at my office, and, if requested, we will send the form to the County Assistance Office on your behalf. No one should be forced to go without heat during the cold, winter months and I urge all that are eligible to apply through my office.

Household Size	Income Limits Cash/Crisis Program
1	\$17,235
2	\$23,265
3	\$29,295
4	\$35,325
5	\$41,355
6	\$47,385
7	\$53,415
8	\$59,445
9	\$65,475
10	\$71,505
Above 10	Add \$6,030 for each additional person

# I Want To Know What Is Important To YOU.

Please fill out the below survey and mail it back to me,  
or fill it out at [www.pahouse.com/mdaley](http://www.pahouse.com/mdaley).

## EDUCATION

Pennsylvania's public schools have seen historic funding cuts in recent years, totaling over \$1 billion. While a small amount of money was restored this fiscal year, without greater state aid, school districts still feel immense budgetary pressures from unfunded mandates and required costs, which often get passed on to taxpayers in higher property taxes.

### What are your thoughts on education funding in Pennsylvania?

- We need more state funding for schools to take pressure off local property taxes
  - We should eliminate property taxes and fund schools with a mixture of an expanded and increased Sales and Use Tax, as well as increased Earned Income and Personal Income Taxes
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- 

## ENVIRONMENT

Before I took office, the legislature passed a law regulating natural gas drilling of the Marcellus Shale formation in Pennsylvania. Some feel that the regulations and impact fees provided by current law are adequate; however, others believe the environmental protections are too weak and the impact fee is meager compared to the severance taxes imposed by other states, both neighboring and across the country.

### What are your thoughts on Pennsylvania's current laws regulating the natural gas industry?

- I believe the current regulations on drilling are adequate and the impact fee is fair
- I support tougher environmental regulations and a severance tax comparable to other states
- I support a moratorium on drilling in state forests and parks

## GUNS

As a member of the Select Committee on School Safety, I have closely examined the impact of violence in our communities and steps we can take to make both our schools and communities safer. While violence prevention is an overall topic, guns are part of that discussion.

### What are your feelings on gun rights in Pennsylvania?

- Existing laws are sufficient and we should better enforce those currently on the books
  - We should require universal background checks for all guns in Pennsylvania
  - It should be required to report lost and stolen firearms to the police
  - There should be a ban on assault weapons in Pennsylvania
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- 

## 2014 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### What issues would you most like to see addressed in 2014?

- Government reform
  - Tougher shale drilling laws
  - Education funding
  - Pension reform
  - Liquor privatization
  - Wine and Spirits Store modernization
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
-



State Representative  
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## MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Car registrations, special tags, disability placards and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Public Welfare (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Notary services
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups