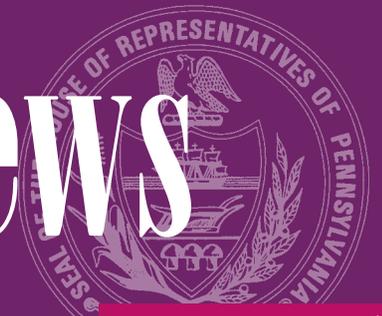




The Daley News

from Representative Mary Jo Daley



Summer 2014

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Dear Friends,

As summer slowly winds down, I wanted to give you an update on my work as the representative in the 148th Legislative District. In this newsletter, I have provided the results of the poll from my winter newsletter, information on the PA Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, an invitation to veterans for my Veterans Tribute Event, and more. However, I also wanted to include a quick state budget recap.

As you know, the legislature is required to pass a budget for our commonwealth by June 30. This year the budget deadline passed without a signed budget until July 10. Unfortunately, the budget relied on gimmicks and stop-gap measures to be balanced. There may be more news on the budget following August's session so stay tuned.

Even before work began on the budget, the setting was bleak. Corporate tax breaks that promised us prosperity and new jobs instead earned Pennsylvania a dismal ranking of 46th in job creation among states. At one time we ranked as high as seventh. While other states that faced similar challenges as Pennsylvania during the "Great Recession" are enjoying budget surpluses, we instead are one of 11 states still lagging behind with deficits. As June began and revenue collections were reported, Pennsylvania faced a \$1.5 billion gap to meet its obligations.

While many options such as taxing natural gas drillers and smokeless tobacco, or opting in to Medicaid expansion, were available to add revenue to help cover the shortfall, the majority party and its governor refused these common-sense opportunities. Instead, they opted for more cuts and one-time fund transfers — while also expanding natural gas drilling in our state forest lands.

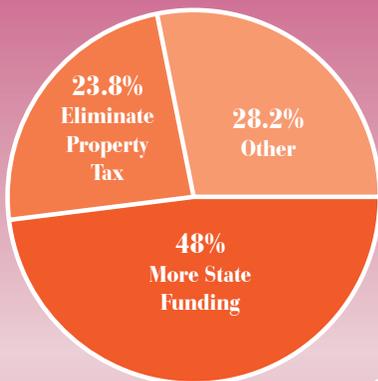
I voted against this budget because of its over-reliance on \$700 million in unsustainable revenue shifts that raid funds such as those dedicated to the elderly or the environment. Due to this irresponsible strategy, this budget sets the stage for a potential \$3 billion budget deficit next year; this is something I could not, in good conscience, support. While this was not an ideal budget, I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides to reverse this troublesome trend, by focusing on preserving our commonwealth's assets and advancing common-sense priorities that benefit working families.

I hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative. As always, if you have any questions on these or any other state-related issues, feel free to reach out at any time. I welcome your questions and input.

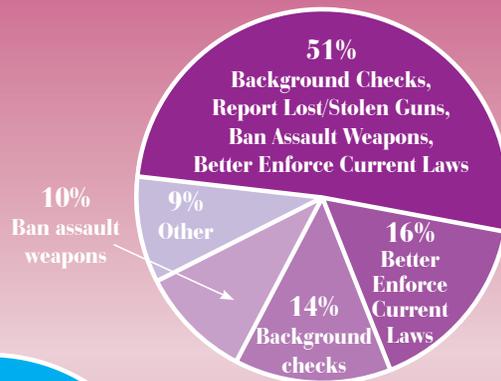
Warmest Regards,

Here's what you told Rep. Daley in response to the survey in her last newsletter:

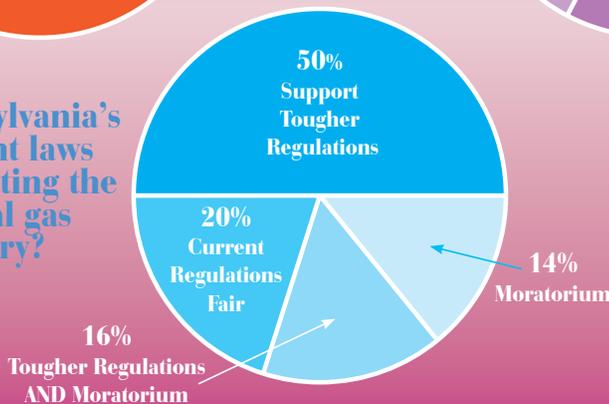
Funding public education?



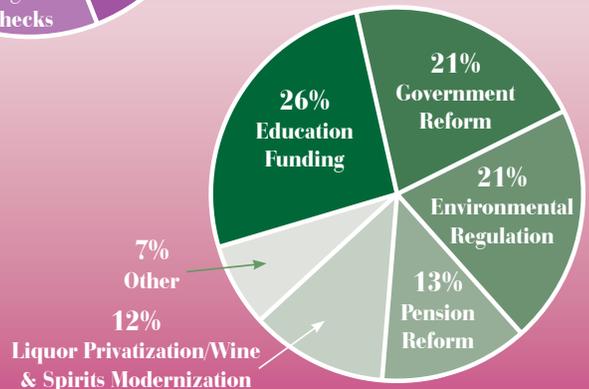
Gun rights in Pennsylvania?



Pennsylvania's current laws regulating the natural gas industry?



Issues you'd most like to see addressed in 2014?



Marriage equality a reality, but much work yet to be done

As you may know, Pennsylvania's ban on same-sex marriages was recently ruled unconstitutional by U.S. District Judge John Jones. I joined the fight on this issue last year by co-sponsoring the marriage equality bill, House Bill 1686, introduced by my colleagues, state Reps. Brian Sims and Steve McCarter. I would have been pleased to cast a vote in support of this needed legislation, if it had been brought up for a vote. I was heartened by the end result provided by the courts. While marriage equality is a reality, there is still much work to be done in the legislature to ensure equality for LGBT residents of Pennsylvania:

■ House Bill 300: This bill would end discrimination for LGBT Pennsylvanians in housing, employment, and accommodations. All 26 of Pennsylvania's Fortune 500 companies already include LGBT employees in their non-discrimination provisions because they know that quality workers are good for business, regardless of their sexual orientation, race, or creed. It is time to pass this bill so that all Pennsylvanians have equal protection under the law.

■ House Bill 1811: This legislation would put an end to harmful "gay conversion" therapy. While the American Psychological Association removed homosexuality's classification as a disorder in 1973, sadly, "gay conversion" therapy is still practiced by some in Pennsylvania. Experts note that this therapy is extremely harmful; causing depression, withdrawal, and suicidal thoughts and actions.



Around the 148th District



Rep. Daley, center, participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony at the newly established TruMark Financial Credit Union branch located in Plymouth Township. Rep. Daley is joined by Plymouth Township Council members Sheldon Simpson and Lenore Bruno, Plymouth Township Zoning Officer David Conroy, and TruMark staff.



Rep. Daley speaks with a local student about her art piece submitted for the inaugural Art Show at her constituent service office. Daley invited student artists from the Colonial School District and their families to her office, which served as an art gallery for their paintings, photos, and sculptures.



Rep. Daley listens to Anita Block, director of the Terri Lynne Lokoff Early Learning Center in Ambler, as she explains the importance of having family photos in the classroom as toddlers adjust to their new learning environment.



Rep. Daley, center, joins Narberth's New Horizons Senior Glee Club for a photo. Rep. Daley hosted the Glee Club for a rousing medley of songs in the Main Capitol Rotunda of our State Capitol building in Harrisburg. Rep. Daley also honored Selma Savitz on her 25th Anniversary as Glee Club director.

Daley seeks local veterans to serve on scholarship committee

The Valley Forge Military Academy & College (VFMAC) has a renowned tradition of training valorous and well-rounded men and women for service in our Armed Forces. To help further that tradition, Act 29 of 2012 formally established an appointment process for each legislator to send a student from their legislative district under scholarship to the college. To ensure compliance with the State Ethics Act, the law allows each legislator to set up a committee to receive and review student applications for appointment to the college.

As a way to bridge previous generations of veterans with the prospective cadets, I have invited local veterans to serve on this committee to help select the scholarship nominee from

the 148th Legislative District. Committee members, subject to guidelines from the State Ethics Commission, would accept applications, interview applicants, and ultimately recommend the best candidate and first alternate. I am looking for a few more veterans willing to serve in this capacity and ask that those interested should send a letter of interest to my Conshohocken office before Oct. 1. Preference for service on this committee will be given to veterans with experience in education or public service.

I look forward to forming this committee and helping students achieve their goals.

Around the 148th District, continued



Rep. Daley joined members of the Montgomery County legislative delegation to honor the memory of the 27 Montgomery County police officers who have died in the line of duty. The ceremony was held at the Montgomery County Police Officers Memorial, located in Norristown.



Rep. Daley speaks with constituent and AARP representative, Mr. Ed Petersohn, at her 2nd Annual Senior Fair held at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. With over 50 vendors and over 200 senior citizens attending, the event was a huge success.



Rep. Daley reads "And to Think That I Saw it on Mulberry Street," by Dr. Seuss, to a class of 2nd graders at Conshohocken Elementary School. The reading was in honor of the National Education Association's "Read Across America Week."

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

My staff can help you find unclaimed property held by the Pennsylvania Treasury Department that might be yours or a family member's. Uncashed paychecks or unclaimed insurance policies are just two examples of unclaimed property that might be yours, which our office can help you claim **free of charge**.

PENNDOT DRIVER & VEHICLE SERVICES

My office helps to expedite many driver and vehicle services for residents every day, and we have a notary public on staff to notarize any government form **free of charge**. My office can help you:

- Renew your Vehicle Registration or apply for a personalized license plate
- Apply for a new Handicap Placard or License Plate and replace a lost or stolen handicap placard
- Get a name change on your Driver's License or apply for a Non-Driver ID



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Daley invites residents to her 2nd Annual Veterans Tribute Event



I am pleased to announce my 2nd Annual Veterans Tribute Event for veterans of the 148th District and their families. Last year, I was fortunate to join many vets on a trip to Annapolis. This year I will host an Award Ceremony Breakfast as a way to say “thank you” to our local veterans for the sacrifices they have made for our nation. We are fortunate to have generous sponsors for these events and do not expend any taxpayer dollars in putting them on. Information for the event is as follows:

Friday, Sept. 26 from 8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
The Fellowship House of Conshohocken
515 Harry St., Conshohocken, PA 19428

Pre-registration for the breakfast is required and can be completed by calling my office at (610) 832-1679 by Sept. 12. When calling to register, let us know your last held rank, branch of service and if you would like a guest to attend. Last year’s Veterans Tribute Event was well attended and I hope to see many more local veterans attending this year!

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Application Deadline Approaching

Every year, the state offers assistance to thousands of Pennsylvanians age 65 and older, widows and widowers age 50 and older, and people with disabilities age 18 and older through its Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. I have included a chart to help you determine if you qualify. It is important to note that only half of your Social Security income counts as income for this program.

The deadline for this program was extended to Dec. 31, so I encourage you to apply if you think you may be eligible, or to share this information with your friends and neighbors. My staff is available to help you complete your application free of charge in only a couple of minutes, and you should receive your rebate check within 6-8 weeks of applying. I hope that you stop by my office and take advantage of this helpful program.

Income (Homeowner)	Maximum Rebate
\$0 to \$8,000	\$650
\$8,001 to \$15,000	\$500
\$15,001 to \$18,000	\$300
\$18,000 to \$35,000	\$250
Income (Renter)	Maximum Rebate
\$0 to \$8,000	\$650
\$8,001 to \$15,000	\$500

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ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

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