



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Leanne Krueger

161ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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SUMMER 2019



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2019-20 Budget: Missed opportunities to support all Pennsylvanians

In late June, the General Assembly adopted a 2019-20 budget that was soon signed by Governor Wolf.

This was my fifth budget cycle, and I've learned a lot about how the budget process works and how to advocate for our community.

In good news, the budget does not raise taxes and it makes investments in education: \$160 million more in basic education, to be distributed through the fair funding formula; \$30 million more for early childhood education; and \$60 million for school safety grants.

But I voted against this budget because I believe we could have done a better job protecting Pennsylvanians. We missed out on important opportunities to raise the minimum wage, protect restricted environmental funds, serve those with special needs and provide support for the most vulnerable among us.



The state budget is a statement about our values, and I recognize that while some families are doing well, many people here in Delaware County are working hard to support their families. I believe our budget should hold drillers, out-of-state corporations and billionaires accountable for the profits they make from our non-renewable energy sources, tax loopholes and Pennsylvania workers.

When we invest in working people and families first, we invest in prosperity for all people. I'd like to see more ambitious budgets that contain creative solutions to put all of us, our schools, our economy and our local businesses on top.

Monitoring pipeline developments affecting our community

I continue to monitor developments on the Mariner East 2 pipeline and its impact to our community, and I wanted to share the following updates.

In May, the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee held a hearing on pipeline safety at Delaware County Community College.

Pipeline safety requires expert oversight, comprehensive local, regional and statewide emergency plans, public awareness and funding, and we must put

safety concerns first as pipeline projects progress.

I've co-sponsored legislation to create a Pipeline Safety and Communication Board and to add protection for Pennsylvania residents by providing oversight of the eminent domain process used by public utility corporations for pipeline construction.

In June, the Public Utility Commission also launched a review

of safety regulations on hazardous liquids pipelines.

Sunoco Logistics also has filed a plan to drill a second tunnel to run a Mariner East pipeline from Judy Way in Aston to the Delaware County Field and Stream Gun Club in Middletown. There have already been numerous accidents in this area, and I submitted public comment to the PUC registering my concerns.

I will keep you updated on this and other pipeline news.

Local students spark Skip the Straw Day in PA

In the spring, I had the privilege of visiting Mrs. Knight's fourth-grade class at Wallingford Elementary. These passionate students shared their research into the damage of single-use plastics on our environment

and their school-wide initiatives, including the school's first "Skip the Straw Day."

After my visit, I introduced a resolution to establish June 1, 2019 as Skip the Straw Day in Pennsylvania.

Ultimately, the resolution was deemed controversial and referred to the House Commerce Committee. Undeterred, these students came to Harrisburg and made their case to Governor Wolf, who signed

a proclamation for Skip the Straw Day.

Hundreds of people also have signed the students' pledge to Skip the Straw. I'm so proud of these future leaders for their hard work and determination!



#MeToo Bills: Pushing for accountability

In June, the Joint State Government Commission issued a report on the scope of sexual harassment complaints in state government.

This report showed – not surprisingly – that there's a problem, and it's costing taxpayers real money. Over the past five years, over \$1.9 million in taxpayer funds were used to settle complaints.

I've spent the past two years fighting to reform the way we address sexual harassment in the state Capitol. It's time to move the #MeToo bills, House Bill 1000 and Senate Bill 480, introduced by Sen. Maria Collett, and create real accountability in Harrisburg.

These bills would ban non-disclosure agreements that mask the name of members who harass staffers, prohibit General Assembly members from using taxpayer funds to pay secret settlement agreements and provide for other reforms. Taxpayers should not be on the hook for this.



My legislation would protect members, staff and employees and hold those who harm others accountable. We have to take sexual harassment seriously in the Capitol and create an environment where victims feel safe enough to come forward without fear of retribution.

State grants to support our community

It's always great when state money supports our communities, and I'm pleased to have good grant news to share this summer.

A \$500,000 Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant was awarded to **Aston Township** to support the construction of a much-needed public works facility. Another \$500,000 RACP grant was awarded to **Nether Providence Township** for its Summit Site redevelopment project, which includes demolition and remediation before construction of an amphitheater and more.

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency awarded more than \$1.4 million in grants for **Delaware County** organizations supporting families, women, victims and other community needs.

Those receiving grants include:

- Delaware County Executive Director, \$256,094
- Delaware County Women Against Rape, \$669,891
- Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County, \$360,611
- Family Support Line of Delaware County, two grants: \$119,124 and \$13,976

The difference this funding makes is truly life-changing for survivors, women, children, their families and our community.

VFW Post 928 was awarded a grant through Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's 2019 Fresh Paint Days Pennsylvania program. Through the program, the VFW will be able to renew its building with up to 20 gallons of paint and a gift card for painting supplies.

The Rose Valley Centennial Foundation was awarded a \$99,788 grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Keystone Construction grant program. The foundation continues to work with the local community and organizations to sustain the magic of Rose Valley, with the restoration of Thunderbird Lodge as their signature project.



REAL ID is now available

REAL ID is now available for Pennsylvanians who want one.

Beginning October 1, 2020, a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card (or a U.S. passport or military ID) will be necessary to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a secure federal facility.

To obtain a REAL-ID compliant driver's license or ID card, you will need to bring all of the following documentation to a full-service Driver's License Center:

- Proof of identity (original birth certificate with a raised seal or a valid U.S. passport)
- A Social Security card
- Proof of all legal name changes (marriage license or court order from applicable county's family court)
- Two proofs of current, physical PA address (unexpired PA license or ID and a no-more-than 90-day-old bank statement or utility bill with the same name and address)

PennDOT is advising customers who want a REAL ID to apply as soon as possible. Find more information online at www.penndot.gov/REALID.

How to get a REAL ID in Pennsylvania

First driver's license AFTER 9/1/2003? Start here:

ONLINE

1 GET VERIFIED

Apply online to see if PennDOT has your REAL ID documents on file.

2 ORDER ONLINE

If PennDOT has your REAL ID documents on file, you can order your REAL ID online.

OR

2 VERIFY IN PERSON

If PennDOT does not have your REAL ID documents on file, you must get verified in person.

First driver's license BEFORE 9/1/2003? Start here:

IN PERSON

1 REAL ID CENTER

Bring your REAL ID documents to a REAL ID center for verification and get a REAL ID at the time of service.

OR

1 LOCAL DMV

Bring your REAL ID documents to any driver license center for verification and get a REAL ID within 15 business days.



PennDOT.gov/REALID

Legislation to better protect animals

Numerous pieces of animal-related legislation have been introduced in the General Assembly this session, including a bill known as Victoria's Law.

Victoria was a German Shepherd rescued from a Pennsylvania puppy mill after 10 years of breeding. She was paralyzed as a result of a genetic, neurological disorder, which it is believed she passed down to the estimated 150 to 200 puppies she had while at the puppy mill. Sadly, Victoria died in February.

Victoria's Law, Senate Bill 44, would prohibit the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in

pet stores throughout Pennsylvania unless the animals are sourced from shelters and rescues.

I met Victoria when she was visiting Harrisburg and I hope we can work in the legislature to preserve her legacy and do more to protect animal welfare in Pennsylvania.

Other bills introduced this session include H.B. 337, to start an animal abuse registry; H.B. 353, to add animal fighting to the state's racketeering provisions; and H.B. 737, to further specify the safe transportation of dogs.

Pet Expo September 7th

I'm hosting a Pet Expo with state Sen. Tim Kearney from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Folsom Fire Company. See more details on the back of this newsletter. Call my office at (610) 534-6880 for more information.



Senior breakfast and lunch series

This spring, I held a series of breakfast and lunch events to meet with seniors around the district. We held events in Rutledge, Brookhaven, Aston and Nether Providence.

The events were a good chance to hear what's on the minds of older adults in our community, as well as share information on resources and state programs available to them. We talked about REAL ID, helped residents sign up for SEPTA Key Senior Cards, and more. Call (610) 534-6880 to be added to the list for fall.

Clean Slate: Automatic record sealing begins

In June, one year after the Clean Slate Act was signed, the automatic sealing of some criminal records began.

Pennsylvania's Clean Slate Act provides for automatic sealing of records for:

- Non-violent misdemeanor convictions after a person has remained crime-free for 10 years.

- Non-conviction records. Pennsylvania expects to automatically seal up to 30 million low-level criminal records by 2020. Since the Clean Slate Act was signed into law last June, those who qualified for criminal record sealing had to file a petition with the court system to have their record sealed.

This law aims to help individuals who have paid their debt to society get a second chance and put their lives back on track.

Please note that the law does not expunge convictions and sealed convictions will still be visible to courts, prosecutors and police.

My office is planning an Expungement Clinic for this fall! Attorneys will be available to discuss an individual's Pennsylvania criminal case history and options that might be available for clearing a record. Call my office at (610) 534-6880 for more details.

Leanne in the community



The Milmont Fire Company was awarded \$100,000 in state funds for building improvements. I'm pleased to support the first responders who serve our communities!



It was a pleasure to honor local veterans at Brookhaven's Memorial Day event. Angelo Marsella of Brookhaven served in the U.S. Naval Amphibious Forces and was at Utah Beach on D-Day 75 years ago.



I took a tour of Delaware County Emergency Services' 911 center and learned more about what happens behind the scenes when someone calls 911. I'm grateful to the first responders who keep us safe.



My staff and I were happy to help constituents at our spring shredding event!



Swarthmore Library celebrated its 90th birthday in the spring!



Congratulations to Milmont Fire Company on 100 years of service, and to Charlie Teuchert as the longest serving member!



My staff and I visited local police departments to drop off treats to say thank you during National Police Week in May.



State Representative

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Upcoming events in the 161st Legislative District:

Saturday, September 7

Pet Expo

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Folsom Fire Company
411 Sutton Ave., Folsom**



I'm working with state Sen. Tim Kearney to host a Pet Expo. We'll have many pet-related resources, including information on Victoria's Law and other animal-related legislation, vendors, and light refreshments. Don't miss the pet costume parade at noon!

The event includes a low-cost vaccine clinic that is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Dogs must be leashed, and the clinic is not recommended for cats because it is outdoors.

Pets are welcome, but make sure they are leashed. If you have any questions, please call my office at (610) 534-6880.

Thursday, September 26

Senior Expo

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Brookhaven Municipal Center
2 Cambridge Road, Brookhaven**
Flu shot clinic, plus information and programs for older adults.

Monday, September 30

Narcan Overdose Training Seminar

6:30 p.m.

Open to anyone interested in learning how to save someone from opioid overdose. Call (610) 534-6880 to sign up or for details.

Tuesday, October 8

REAL ID Town Hall

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Ridley Township Library
& Resource Center**

100 E. MacDade Blvd., Folsom

Learn about REAL ID and get your questions answered by a PennDOT representative at this information-only session.

Saturday, October 19

Shred Event

9 a.m. to noon

**Northley Middle School
2801 Concord Road, Aston**
Bring any documents containing personal information to be shredded on site! Open to residents, but no businesses please.

Friday, October 25

Veterans Lunch

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**American Legion Post 926
3220 Concord Road, Aston**

Lunch is free but please call (610) 534-6880 to sign up.

Thursday, November 21

Expungement Clinic

6:30 p.m.

Call (610) 534-6880 to register or with questions.

Stay Tuned: My office also is planning a Small-Business Breakfast, Holiday Open House and more! Watch my social media pages for details or email RepKrueger@pahouse.net to be added to the invite list.