

News From State Representative

CHRISTINA SAPPEY

158th Legislative District | Chester County | Fall 2026



DEAR NEIGHBOR,

It's been a very busy few months in the House. As prices have continued to rise and more families are feeling the strain, we've passed legislation to ease that strain, and to protect your wallet through consumer protection legislation. The House also spent a great deal of time working on data center legislation. There is much warranted skepticism about data centers, but it is vitally important that we put protective measures in place immediately, as this debate continues.

I hope you find this newsletter informative, and as always, if you have questions or would like to discuss state-related issues, please feel free to reach out. I'd be happy to hear from you!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in white ink on a dark green background, which appears to read "Chris".

HELP YOUR LOCAL FARMER

Our farmers urgently need our help after an unusual spring freeze that decimated many crops across the state including apples, peaches, plums and blueberries. We can all help by purchasing our produce at local farm markets, and to make it fun Chester County's AgConnect has launched the Farmers Market Trail. Visit 10 county farmers markets in 2026, collect a stamp at each, and earn a free "Ag Swag" bag. You can learn more at go-agconnect.org. Buy your Fall pumpkins and decorative gourds at these farms as well!



SMALL BUSINESS TOURS

Over the last several months, I have been visiting small businesses in our district to hear about how business is going, what challenges they may face and how the state can help. We are so fortunate to have so many talented entrepreneurs serving local needs in such a wide variety of areas. I'm grateful not only for their contributions to our district, but for letting me stop by.



Sams Sub Shop Kennett Square



Bailey's Dairy Pocopson



Highland Orchards West Bradford Township

HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS

The House of Representatives was busy this year, passing legislation to combat pressing affordability and consumer protection issues. The following bills have passed in the House and now await action in the Senate.

- » **House Bill 818** would establish the First Time Homebuyer Savings Account program, helping Pennsylvanians save to buy their first home.
 - » **House Bill 2224** saves on monthly bills with a new framework for calculating a utility's allowed profit margin during proposed rate hikes. This legislation sets clear guidelines and puts consumers before profit.
 - » **House Bill 1216** eliminates hidden junk fees and requires transparent pricing from ticketing, lodging, and food delivery services in the first price displayed and advertised to consumers.
 - » **House Bill 1299** would require transparent automatic subscription renewals to allow subscribers to cancel their subscription services exclusively online if they initially subscribed online.
 - » **House Bill 1553** caps overdraft fees at \$15 and ensures banks only charge what it costs to process your transaction, with no penalty for declined transactions.
 - » **House Bill 1072** would allow Property Tax/Rent Rebate payments to be distributed as soon as applications are approved, rather than waiting until July 1 each year.
 - » **House Bill 1189** would update the Unclaimed Property Program by requiring the PA Treasury to automatically return any unclaimed property or funds up to \$10,000 in value to its owner. To find out if you have unclaimed property go to www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property/ or contact my office.
- The following legislation has been signed into law.*
- » **House Bill 411 and House Bill 1289** created a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for state retirees including teachers, law enforcement, firefighters, and government workers.
 - » **Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program** eligibility expanded to now put money back into the pockets of more seniors. To determine your eligibility and apply, go to <http://pa.gov/PTRR> or contact my office for assistance.

FLAG DISPOSAL

This year my office supported a young constituent working on his Eagle Scout project. Our Scout proposed, designed and constructed a great US flag deposit box for the proper retirement of US flags. If you have a worn or tattered US flag, you can now drop it off at my district office to ensure it is retired with respect.



CELL PHONES IN SCHOOLS

I have heard from and met with many parents, groups, and school staff who have shared the opinion that smartphone use in classrooms disrupts learning, increases cyberbullying, and harms student mental health. I voted for House Bill 1814, which requires schools to adopt policies banning personal mobile device use on school property during school hours, beginning with the 2027-28 school year.

This bill has passed the House and is waiting for a vote in the Senate.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: ERCILDOWN

First settled by Quaker farmers in the late 18th century, Ercildown (pronounced “UR-sill-down”) is a historic, crossroads hamlet in East Fallowfield known for its role in the anti-slavery movement and the Underground Railroad. The East Fallowfield Anti-Slavery Society began gathering at the Friends Meeting House in 1835 until the winter of 1844 when a mob of anti-abolitionists violently broke up a gathering. Following the disruption, the Quaker membership prohibited the group from using the building. In 1845, local abolitionists pooled their resources to construct the “Free Hall”—now known as People’s Hall—to provide a safe space where free thought could be nurtured. People’s Hall and the Fallowfield Friends Meeting both remain active today.

As the nearby City of Coatesville grew, Ercildown responded to the need for education by founding the Ercildown Academy in 1851. Originally a school for boys, it transitioned into a girls’ seminary in 1854, becoming a well-known institution of higher learning in Chester County.

Ercildown received its name in 1850 when Gideon Pierce opened the first post office inside his store. This store, built in 1818 across from the meetinghouse, is still in operation today as the Triple Fresh Market.



You can learn more about the village and the ongoing efforts to preserve People’s Hall at <https://www.peoples-hall.org/>

DATA CENTERS

The House was hard at work all Spring addressing the multiple areas of impact from potential data center development in our state. The following bills passed the House with bipartisan support and now await Senate action:

- **House Bill 1834:** Prohibits shifting operational electricity costs onto households and small businesses and requires data centers to cover grid upgrade expenses.
- **House Bill 2246:** Helps local governments and river basin commissions assess potential impacts on water supplies and wetlands before construction begins.
- **House Bill 2496:** Provides municipalities with an optional 180-day pause on data center applications to allow time for proper zoning planning.
- **House Bill 2359:** Prohibits state and local government agencies from entering into non-disclosure agreements with data center developers.
- **House Bill 2650:** Implements portions of the Governor’s Responsible Infrastructure Development (GRID) plan regarding energy affordability and environmental impact.
- **House Bill 2535,** which I have introduced, mandates that developers provide local fire and emergency responders with detailed site plans and safety information annually in order to receive occupancy permitting. This bill passed in committee and awaits consideration by the House.
- **House Bill 2150:** Requires annual reporting to the DEP on energy and water usage, with significant fines for noncompliance. This legislation has been signed into law as part of this year’s state budget.

There are currently no data center proposals in the 158th. While views on data centers vary around the state, it is critical that we put protections in place now ahead of any potential development to protect communities and the environment, and to ensure your tax dollars are not spent on costly legal battles.

Not clear on data centers and all of the concern? Check out my Data Centers 101 Special Edition E-News: <https://www.pahouse.com/Sappey/News/?id=144047>



ELECTION DATES

October 19: Last day to register to vote
October 27: Last day to request a
mail-in or absentee ballot
November 3: General Election Day

To register, check, or update your voter registration, visit: vote.pa.gov/register. For additional voting information such as precinct location, visit: chesco.org/156/Voter-Services



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★ STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★

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*Versión en español de este
boletín disponible aquí.*

lpo.km.0826

★ SAVE THE DATE ★

**FREE DRIVE-THRU SHRED, LITHIUM BATTERY,
AND DRUG TAKEBACK EVENT**

September 26 • 9 A.M. – 11 A.M.

West Bradford Embreeville Park
1800 W. Strasburg Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

VETERANS BREAKFAST & RECOGNITION CEREMONY

November 6 • 9 A.M. – 11 A.M.

RSVP Required | (484)-200-8264 or register online at pahouse.com/sappey/events

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