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State Representative | 175th Legislative District

# MARY ISAACSON

*I was honored to take the oath of office and begin my second term as your state representative this year. My job serving you and your interests is an incredible responsibility, which I will never take for granted.*



## Dear Neighbor,

Although the fight against COVID-19 continues and caution is still needed, I hope that you had an enjoyable summer filled with opportunities to make memories with the ones you love.

This newsletter is intended to provide a recap of some of the work I have done in the district and in Harrisburg on your behalf, as well as provide information that I hope is helpful since students returned to school and we all head into fall.

My office is open to help you with state government-related services and questions. You can also call my office at 215-503-3245 or reach me by email at [Replsaacson@pahouse.net](mailto:Replsaacson@pahouse.net) if you have questions about anything you read in this newsletter, or if you need help with any state government-related service or program.

Please, keep doing your part to slow the spread of COVID-19, including getting vaccinated if you haven't already, wearing a mask whenever you're in public, practicing social distancing and maintaining good hygiene practices.

Sincerely,

*Mary*

# Proud to be named among least conservative lawmakers

Rated the **least conservative** Pennsylvania State Lawmaker



**Rep. Mary Isaacson**  
Pennsylvania House - 175th District

7% Conservative

according to  
**The American Conservative Union Foundation**



**Named**  
Vice Chair of the Policy Committee

2021-22 Committee Assignments  
Education • Environment • Liquor

Democratic Chair of the Community College Caucus

At the start of the 2021-2022 legislative session earlier this year, I was thrilled to be named Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus' Policy Committee, and to again serve on the Education, Environmental Resources and Liquor committees, and to be named the new Democratic Chair of the Community College Caucus.

I always aim to stay ahead of issues that are most important to you and the other residents in the 175th Legislative District, including environmental justice and climate change; working toward equity for women in all spheres of society; education, including fighting for the fair funding formula and cyber charter school reform so that children can thrive; and sensible gun safety legislation to improve the quality of life for everyone.

I believe that my strong democratic values make me a perfect fit for these roles and committee assignments, and they also, apparently, give me a reputation as not conservative, since I was named among the least conservative lawmakers in the state by the American Conservative Union Foundation. I will wear that label proudly, since my interpretation of it is that I strive to lead in a progressive, inclusive and forward-thinking way!

## Calling for the opioid emergency declaration that Republicans failed to extend to be renewed

On Aug. 2, state Rep. Joe Hohenstein and I wrote to House Republican leaders, urging them to bring members back to Harrisburg before Aug. 26, to extend the opioid emergency declaration.

We explained how the emergency declaration has saved lives and how more people will die without it.

Republicans failed to hear our pleas.

As of this writing, the opioid declaration has lapsed, and Republicans are firm that they will not take any action to renew it and potentially save lives.

But **you** have the power to urge lawmakers to act. If you, like me, believe that we need an opioid emergency declaration to save lives from drug overdoses in Pennsylvania, you can contact House Speaker Bryan Cutler's Harrisburg office at 717-783-6424 or his Quarryville, Pa., office at 717-284-1965. Tell him to have lawmakers do their jobs and protect Pennsylvanians by renewing the opioid emergency declaration.

THE MORNING CALL | AUG 16, 2021 AT 8:30 AM

# Bringing funding back to our district

Grant dollars, especially those for community revitalization, often provide a lasting resource to a community.

Given the huge impact that COVID-19 has had on communities around the commonwealth, including in the 175th District, I was thrilled to see more than \$17 million in grants returned to our community over the past 18 months. I will never stop fighting to bring money home to invest in our neighborhoods and maintain my record of returning to the community the most money statewide.

Included in those grant awards are:

**More than \$14 million in funding** from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program for everything from historical sites to schools to businesses that employ residents here. Here's a breakdown of the total \$14 million in grants awarded:

- \$3 million for Biomeme.
- \$2 million for Independence Historical Trust.
- \$500,000 for Fishtown Library and Recreation Center.
- \$1 million for Equal Justice Center.
- \$2 million for Reading Terminal Market.
- \$500,000 for Restoring Pennsylvania's Birthplace: Carpenters' Hall.
- \$500,000 for Walnut Street Theater.
- \$1 million for Wills Eye Hospital.
- \$500,000 for Roman Catholic High School.
- \$2 million for Imvax Cell Immunotherapy Production Center.
- \$1 million for the National Liberty Museum.

**More than \$3.3 million in PHARE funding** to 16 organizations in the 175th Legislative District. Here's a breakdown of the funding:

- \$92,000 for ActionAIDS, Inc.
- \$400,000 for Korean Community Development Services Center.
- \$191,100 for City of Philadelphia, Office of Homeless Services Funding Reserved.
- \$400,000 for Community Design Collaborative.
- \$150,00 for Compass Working Capital, Inc.
- \$350,000 for Impact Services Corporation.
- \$350,000 for PHLRentAssist.
- \$96,000 for Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation.
- \$400,000 for Philadelphia Energy Authority.
- \$250,000 for SeniorLAW Center.
- \$55,125 for Valley Youth House Committee.
- \$75,000 for Ceiba.
- \$200,000 for Urban Affairs Coalition.
- \$200,000 for the Urban League of Philadelphia.
- \$50,000 for Affordable Housing Centers of Pennsylvania.
- \$100,000 for the Sunday Breakfast Association of Philadelphia.

**\$100,000 historical grant** awarded to Third, Scots and Mariners Presbyterian Church.

**\$14,000 grant** from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to fight blight awarded to Fishtown District.

**\$50,000 in emergency relief grants** through the Pennsylvania Humanities Council CARES fund awarded to six organizations in the 175th Legislative District. Here's a breakdown of the awards:

- The Carpenters' Company of the City and County of Philadelphia, awarded \$6,000.
- Christ Church Preservation Trust, awarded \$7,500.
- Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, awarded \$7,500.
- African American Museum, awarded \$10,000.

REP. MARY ISAACSON ANNOUNCES

## \$14 MILLION

in community revitalization grants for the 175th district

Preserving our history and growing economic opportunity

Rep. Mary Isaacson announces

## \$3.3 Million

in PHARE funding

awarded to organizations within the 175th District

- Historic Philadelphia, Inc., awarded \$10,000.
- National Museum of American Jewish History, awarded \$10,000.

**\$73,000 in PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency funding** to Friends of B'Nai Abraham.

# Shining a light on Republican hypocrisy by looking at voting rights and gun safety legislation

Across our city and state, gun violence plagues our communities. Year after year, Republican majorities in the Pa. House and Senate, influenced by the NRA and others, refuse to take up legislation that would address this public health crisis, yet they rush to support bills that would restrict voting rights and disenfranchise voters, particularly in areas where a large number of Democrats live.

The Philadelphia Inquirer published a letter to the editor in the summer suggesting that the legislature create firearm restrictions that mirror the controls that Republicans have suggested for voting rights, so I did just that.

I am hopeful that my Republican colleagues will support these bills since these similar restrictions are

so important to them when it comes to disenfranchising voters of this commonwealth.

You can read more about this by visiting, <https://www.pahouse.com/Isaacson>, and clicking on "News" then "News Center," and clicking on the headline, "Legislation responds to hypocrisy of Republican voting restrictions".

THE TIMES-TRIBUNE | AUG 20, 2021

**I had so much fun helping children in our district prepare to go back to school and get vaccinated.**

Thank you to all those who stopped by my 2nd annual Backpack Giveaway event in August, and allowed me and my team to help them prepare to go back to school with backpacks, school supplies and information on state resources. I was also happy to partner with Sen. Nikil Saval's and Councilmember Isaiah Thomas' offices in organizing a vaccine clinic on the same days.

I hope all the students in our district, as well as all the educators and school staff, have a fantastic and safe school year!



# Bringing my fellow House Democratic Policy Committee members to Philly to discuss how Philly schools are tackling a third pandemic school year



I was excited to host my fellow House Democratic Policy Committee members in Philadelphia in August to discuss Philly schools reopening.

Philadelphia School District Chief Information Officer Melanie Harris led the tour of Kensington Health Sciences followed by a roundtable with legislators to discuss the challenges faced this year and beyond.

I emphasized how, over the 18 months leading up to the start of the school year, we have invested in solutions for students to safely learn virtually from home, and now, with COVID-19 still very much with us and variants on the rise, we were again asking school districts — not just in Philadelphia but across the commonwealth — to create the answers for how our students can safely return to schools and keep them open. I was happy that the hearing provided a chance to listen to concerns and discuss answers as to how our students would return to classrooms and be provided a quality education in a structured, safe and welcoming classroom when so much is uncertain and ever-changing. We also discussed more ways that we can help our schools navigate these issues and help our students get all that they need to thrive.

One thing that I think is very important is ensuring equity for all students in Pennsylvania, and I believe that charter school reform will be a key to that, which is why I have introduced legislation to study charter schools in our commonwealth in order to identify areas of opportunity and reform needed for all schools across the state with a focus on equitable and fair funding.

I am hopeful House colleagues will cooperate and enact this legislation and give all our children the best education they can get — and are constitutionally promised.



## Addressing the gender wage gap and working to level the playing field

I am a woman who supports women, and I know that women in the workplace have been faced with inequity in pay for far too long.

I have introduced legislation that I believe will enhance equity for all people who work in Pennsylvania, by requiring all employers with 15 or more employees to disclose the pay range for each position they post. Where there is no pay range, the employer would need to post the minimum rate of pay.

This transparency would be helpful for all people who have an interest in a job, and it would be beneficial to employers, too, so they wouldn't be wasting their own time or applicants' time because applicants would know what to expect from the beginning. The pandemic has caused a lot of people to rethink what their careers and work environments should look like, and one thing on which all workers can agree is that they would like to see more transparency. This bill would do just that.





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lpo.is.0921

A promotional graphic for young entrepreneurs. It features a young girl with long dark hair in pigtails, wearing a denim vest over a light green shirt, smiling and holding a wooden basket of lemons. The background is a dark blue field with yellow stars and a yellow outline of a globe. The text is in bold yellow and white.

**CALLING  
ALL YOUNG  
ENTREPRENEURS!**

ARE YOU -OR- DO YOU KNOW AN ENTREPRENEUR  
**UNDER 18** IN THE 175TH DISTRICT?

WE WOULD LIKE TO **RECOGNIZE THEM** IN NOVEMBER  
IN CELEBRATION OF **ENTREPRENEUR MONTH!**

## Calling all young entrepreneurs!

Do you know a young entrepreneur (under the age of 18) who lives in the 175th Legislative District? We want to recognize them this November during Entrepreneur Month. Please contact me at [Replsaacson@pahouse.net](mailto:Replsaacson@pahouse.net) by Oct. 22 with the entrepreneur's name, age, the name of their business or endeavor, and why you think they deserve recognition.

