

#### STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# Leame Krueger

#### **161ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

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## **New Legislative District**

**WINTER 2022** 

Our district lines are changing this year! Every 10 years, following the U.S. Census, the boundaries of Pennsylvania's state House and Senate districts are redrawn to maintain equal representation based on population – to ensure that everyone's vote counts equally. This important process is underway now.

Pennsylvania's state House of Representatives and Senate districts are drawn by a Legislative Reapportionment Commission, as required by the Pennsylvania state constitution. Pennsylvania is divided into 50 Senate and 203 House of Representatives seats.

The Commission consists of five members: the four caucus floor leaders and a chairman to be selected by those members or, if they cannot reach agreement, by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

The Pennsylvania constitution requires that districts be composed of compact and contiguous territory of nearly equal population. It also stipulates that no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward should be divided unless absolutely necessary.

The Legislative Reapportionment Commission voted on the final maps on February 4, 2022, and they now face litigation. The final maps will be used for the 2022 elections.

To learn more, visit the commission's website at www.redistricting.state.pa.us.

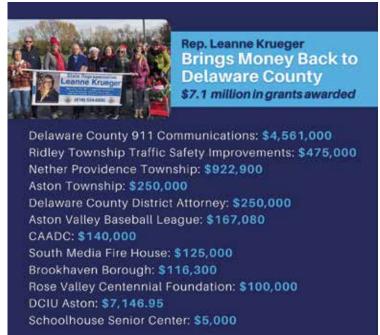


## 2022-23 Budget Proposal Kickoff

On February 8, Gov. Tom Wolf revealed his 2022-2023 budget proposal for the next fiscal year. This year I am hoping to see budget allocations for those most impacted by the pandemic: frontline workers, hospitals and small businesses in industries that are still struggling. I also hope to see budget investments in those who serve our most vulnerable neighbors, including the frontline workers who provide support for individuals with disabilities and seniors. The House Appropriations Committee will begin holding hearings on the budget proposal this month. As a member of the committee, I look forward to delving more into budget details during these hearings, when we have the chance to ask questions of state departments and agencies. If there is a question that you'd like me to try to get answers to during the budget process, please call or email me. I love representing the voices of local constituents during these hearings.

If you would like to receive updates on the budget process, sign up for my weekly email through my website, www.RepLeanne.com, or follow me on social media – Facebook.com/RepLeanne or on Twitter @RepLeanne.





### **PennDOT Litter Action Plan**



We have gotten a lot of complaints about litter this year, so I joined the PennDOT crew to clean up I-95 and learn about how our local program works. PennDOT says the agency spends \$14 million each year cleaning up litter. In 2021, PennDOT and the Department of **Environmental Protection released** the state's first-ever Litter Action Plan. The plan includes current initiatives and recommendations for state and local governments, the General Assembly, businesses, and the public to clean up the more than 500 million pieces of litter scattered throughout the commonwealth.

The plan's goal is to reduce the amount of litter in Pennsylvania by 30 percent within the next five years.



# SEPTA Key Senior Card Update

SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards that expired in 2020, 2021 and 2022 will remain valid through the end of the month printed on the card in 2023.



Continuing COVID-19 pandemic-related social distancing measures and staffing constraints have limited their ability to process as many renewals as needed.

SEPTA is about to begin training legislative offices to do renewals, but it may take time to complete the trainings. No senior will need to renew until all offices have been trained.

As soon as our office is trained and able to do renewals, we will let you know.

Senior Citizens, age 65 and older, with a valid SENIOR FARE CARD, always ride FREE on all Transit Routes (Bus, Trolley, Trackless Trolley, Broad Street/Broad Ridge Spur Line, Market Frankford Line/Norristown High Speed Line) and on Regional Rail for travel to/from stations located in Pennsylvania.

Half fare is required for travel to/from New Jersey and Delaware. This reduced fare is paid on board at the time of travel using cash or major credit card.

### **Trout Season Opening**

The opening day for the 2022 trout season is April 2. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission announced in the fall that moving forward, opening day will always be the first Saturday in April.



# Real ID Enforcement Postponed until 2023

REAL ID enforcement has been postponed until May 3, 2023.

Starting that date, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, photo ID card, or another form of federally acceptable identification (such as a valid passport or military ID) to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a federal building or military installation that requires ID.

REAL ID is optional for Pennsylvanians. Additional details are available at penndot.gov/REALID.

## **Delaware County Health Department**

The Delaware County Health Department launched in January 2022. This is a historic moment for people living not only in the 161st District but all of Delaware County. The challenges faced during COVID-19 demonstrate the need for a local public health department. This new department will be able to better serve our community by analyzing the needs of the county and identifying where resources should be allocated.

It will also work to address health inequities by working with community organizations and members to identify existing inequities and develop programs and strategies to address them. You can learn more about the new county health department at www.delcopa.gov/health.

#### **Attention Seniors!**

Pennsylvania offers a FREE health insurance counseling program (PA MEDI) designed to help older Pennsylvanians with Medicare. Counselors are specially trained staff and volunteers who can answer your questions about Medicare, Medicare Supplemental Insurance, Medicaid, and Long-Term Care Insurance. Rep. Krueger's office offers Medicare Counseling session on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Call (610) 534-6880 to schedule an appointment with a PA MEDI counselor.

#### **Need Help with Water Bills?**

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a temporary emergency program to help low-income families pay overdue water bills.

Crisis grants may be available for situations such as past-due water bills, termination of service or danger of having service terminated. Those eligible could receive one crisis grant for drinking water service and one crisis grant for wastewater service, up to \$2,500 each.

Wastewater is also included in the water services covered by this program.

Visit dhs.pa.gov/WaterHelp for information about eligibility and applications.





#### **Home Heating Assistance Available**

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program helps families pay their heating bills in the form of a cash grant. Households in immediate danger of being without heat may also qualify for crisis grants.

The cash grant is a one-time payment sent directly to the utility company/fuel provider to be credited on your bill. These grants, which do not have to be repaid, range from \$500 to \$1,500 based on household size, income, and fuel type. You can apply online using COMPASS, or my office can provide a paper application and help filling it out. For more information, please visit: www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/LIHEAP.aspx

#### **Property Tax/ Rent Rebate 2021**

You can now file your 2021 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program application. The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975. My staff is ready and willing to help you fill out your application! To learn more about filing an application, please contact my office at 610-534-6880. Applications can also be filed online at www.revenue.pa.gov

### **Local COVID-19 Relief Funding**

Here is a look at how much money our local municipalities received from the federal government for COVID relief:



For more information on Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds visit https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRPFAQ.pdf



# IN THE DISTRICT





State Representative **Leanne T. Krueger** 

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# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

CALL MY OFFICE AT 610-534-6880 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE EVENTS.

#### March 15 & 17

#### **Unclaimed Property Search**

Will you find your pot of gold? Call my office to find out!

#### April 23

# Free Shred Event & Prescription Drug Collection

in partnership with Sen. John Kane

Strath Haven High School (Rear Parking Lot)
Enter from Brookhaven Road

Paper will be shredded on site!

#### June 21 & 23

#### **Check your PTRR Application Status**

Check your PTRR Application Status— call the office to check the status of your rebate. Not yet filed?

We can help you!

#### **Medicare Programs**

Call the office to register for the virtual programs.

Medicare 101 How to Do a Medicare

March 18
9 a.m.

Drug or Medicare Cost Sharing

Advantage Plan

April 4 • 6:30 p.m.

#### Pet Expo • May 21

in partnership with Sen. Kearney

Clinic: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. • PAC Adoptable pets: 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Folsom Athletic Association Field: 600 Kedron Ave., Folsom.

Providence Animal Center will be onsite to provide a vaccine & microchip clinic & adoptable pets.

\*\*Clinic pre-registration is required.

\*\* Pre-registration opens on April 25th.

Call our office for details on

Cats must be in carriers; dogs must be leashed.