

Margo L. Davidson

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

164TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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WINTER 2016

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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Monday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Davidson sponsors Education Reinvestment Act that taxes Marcellus Shale

Fair equitable public education funding is one of my top priorities as a legislator, which is why I introduced the Pennsylvania Education Reinvestment Act. This bill would tax Marcellus Shale gas extraction to raise revenue for our state's public education system.

The Corbett administration cut education funding by \$1 billion – which as you know, I opposed. We must reverse these cuts and properly fund education, without burdening homeowners with more property taxes.

My Marcellus Shale tax bill is modeled after the severance tax in West Virginia, which has also seen a boom in natural gas drilling over the last decade.

All of Pennsylvania's neighboring gas-producing states have imposed a similar extraction tax, so this fair and reasonable severance tax would not hurt Pennsylvania's natural gas industry.

The severance tax I propose would be at a rate of 5 percent on the market value of gas extracted in Pennsylvania, along with an additional 4.7 cents per cubic foot extracted.

Davidson secures tax credits to bring needed senior housing to Upper Darby, restores treasured landmark

Upper Darby will have affordable senior housing at the Alician Senior Apartments, which are now under construction. I helped bring nearly \$978,000 in state tax credits to Upper Darby to help create affordable senior housing at the former St. Alice School building in the Bywood section of Upper Darby.

The state tax credits will help fund construction of 53 one-bedroom apartments. These apartments will provide much-needed affordable housing for a particularly vulnerable population. The apartment complex will include comprehensive on-site supportive services, and will help maintain the stability of the surrounding community.

The project will repurpose a large, vacant building in an established residential neighborhood convenient to shopping, entertainment and transportation on the 69th Street corridor. It will be a great place for seniors to live, shop and entertain.

The tax credits come through the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency's PennHOMES program, which provides grants and tax credits to developers for construction of affordable rental housing across Pennsylvania.

I could not have accomplished this without the help of U.S. Congressman Bob Brady, who was invaluable.

I attended the project's groundbreaking in November along with

Congressman Brady and the property developers, James Nolen, president, and Rick Sudall, managing director of Nolen Development Group, and other attendees. I was pleased to name the homes in honor of the late Gabriele Guglielmo, a lifelong Upper Darby resident and World War II veteran.



Rep. Davidson is joined in Harrisburg by students from Upper Darby High School.



Davidson supports transportation improvements and hosts community meeting with SEPTA

Act 89, which I supported, is helping to bring needed transportation projects to the 164th Legislative District, including saving the Media Elwyn Line and renovations for 69th Street. At a meeting in Lansdowne, SEPTA representatives discussed construction projects, upcoming street closings and bus schedule changes in our area.

SEPTA is undergoing a major transformation, modernizing and upgrading many of its facilities and vehicles, and my community forum gave local residents the opportunity to ask questions about ongoing or future transportation projects in our area, and to find out how they would be affected by any changes.

Act 89 provides \$2.4 billion annually for transportation projects, including over \$400 million in Delaware County for upgrades and infrastructure improvements to our mass transit system, which is relied upon by over 50,000 people in our area.



Rep. Davidson speaks at the ribbon cutting for SEPTA's 69th Street terminal.

Davidson stands up for REAL treatment for mental health, introduces Assertive Community Treatment bills

I am a strong advocate for improving the mental health system in Pennsylvania. I am joined in this quest by my colleagues and leadership on both sides of the aisle.

In October, I introduced two bills aimed at ensuring that people who suffer from a serious mental illness receive the treatment they need.

My bills would codify Assertive Community Treatment, which is a comprehensive mental health treatment program that provides services to people with serious mental illness where and when they need them.

The first bill, H.B. 1630, would provide assisted outpatient treatment, which includes: case management services, medication, periodic blood tests, individual or group therapy, day or partial programming activities, educational and vocational training and activities, alcohol or substance abuse treatment and counseling, supervision of living arrangements, and any other services within an individualized treatment plan.

The second bill, H.B. 1629, would require insurance companies to provide health insurance coverage for Assertive Community Treatment for serious mental illness.

These bills will help people living with serious mental illnesses in our communities thrive and lead productive lives. It will also help families financially by requiring the coverage of Assertive Community Treatment.

Hearings on these bills are expected in March.

Davidson fighting for additional education funding

Last March, Gov. Tom Wolf presented his budget proposal, which included an additional \$400 million for education. The Republican budget was just a repeat of former Gov. Tom Corbett's four years in office, leaving his education funding cuts intact. Thankfully, Gov. Wolf quickly vetoed that bill.

In November, a budget framework was announced by the governor and legislative leaders that included \$350 million in new funds for schools. A bill that included the spending framework agreed to by Wolf, House Democrats, Senate Democrats and Senate Republicans overwhelmingly passed the Senate in December. However, the plan never received a vote in the House on third and final consideration to reach the Governor's desk.

Instead, Republican leaders again passed their own unbalanced, inadequate version of a budget bill, but this time the governor accepted parts of it, including allowing schools to finally receive much-needed funds. Unfortunately, the budget is not complete and our schools are still at risk. I will continue to fight for an increase in education funding in the final budget because our children deserve the best possible education.



Davidson, joined by all House Democrats, calls on Speaker Turzai and House Republicans to get back to work on the budget.

DAVIDSON'S SERVICE EVENTS

Each month I host an event to benefit and support residents in our area. These events are very highly attended. They are designed for you, and I hope you can join us throughout the year. See the calendar below and if you have questions about any of these events or to register, please call my office at [610-259-7016](tel:610-259-7016).

MARCH

**Financial Fitness Month Part 2
Financial Fitness Forum
Thursday, March 17
4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Bethel Community Baptist Church
7766 Wayne Ave., Upper Darby**

Visit my Financial Fitness Expo to learn about personal financial management from various financial experts. State and federal agencies will be available, along with banks, insurance companies and other financial service companies. For more information contact [610-259-7016](tel:610-259-7016) or abrazington@pahouse.net.

APRIL

**Eat4Peace Restaurant Days
Monday, April 11 through Friday, April 22**

Restaurants throughout the district will celebrate this restaurant week event in the 164th Legislative District by offering international cuisine at discount prices. Our district is the most diverse in the commonwealth, where 70 languages are spoken. Eat4Peace is a locally created movement to "celebrate diversity through food." For more information contact [610-259-7016](tel:610-259-7016) or arice@pahouse.net.

MAY

**Community Health Fair
Thursday, May 19 • 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.**

Yeadon Presbyterian Church, 541 Holly Road, Yeadon

Stop by to receive free health screenings, giveaways, and resources about health and wellness for the entire family. For more information contact [610-259-7016](tel:610-259-7016) or mmcgrory@pahouse.net.

JUNE

**Veterans Fair
Thursday, June 9 • 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
East Lansdowne Borough Hall
155 Lexington Ave., East Lansdowne**

Stop by to learn about resources and opportunities available to veterans. Housing, health, quality of life and employment services information designed for veterans. For more information contact [610-259-7016](tel:610-259-7016) or abrazington@pahouse.net.

JULY and AUGUST

Senior Events

Several sites throughout the district. Staff will be on hand helping with property tax/rent rebates and other state services for seniors. For more information about any of the senior events, contact [610-259-7016](tel:610-259-7016) or mmcgrory@pahouse.net.

SEPTEMBER

**6th Annual Back-to-School Rally
& Community Picnic
Saturday, September 10 • 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Second Ward Playground
747 Crosley Ave., Upper Darby**

We will be holding our annual community event to provide backpacks and school supplies to local children. Entertainment and food will also be available. This year's event will be preceded by a parade through Yeadon, Lansdowne, East Lansdowne and Upper Darby. Parents must register their children before the event to receive a free backpack. For more information contact [610-259-7016](tel:610-259-7016) or arice@pahouse.net.

OCTOBER

**Job and Entrepreneurship Fair
Thursday, October 6 • 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Yeadon Borough Hall, 600 Church Lane, Yeadon**

Looking for a new job? Or looking to start or grow your own business? Attend our job and entrepreneurship fair to learn about exciting career opportunities, meet with various local employers and find resources for your small business. For more information or to register, contact [610-259-7016](tel:610-259-7016) at mmcgrory@pahouse.net.

NOVEMBER

**Public Safety Forum
Thursday, November 17 • 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Lansdowne Presbyterian Church
140 N. Lansdowne Ave., Lansdowne**

Attend our forum to learn about the importance of community engagement in preventing crime. Law enforcement agencies and others will be on hand. For more information contact [610-259-7016](tel:610-259-7016) or arice@pahouse.net.

DECEMBER

**7th Annual Egnog Sip
Tuesday, December 27 • 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Rep. Davidson's District Office**

Come meet the representative, meet others living in the district and enjoy refreshments, while having access to our full range of district office constituent services, including LIHEAP applications, property tax/rent rebates, unclaimed property and much more during this annual community holiday gathering. For more information contact [610-259-7016](tel:610-259-7016) or arichard@pahouse.net.



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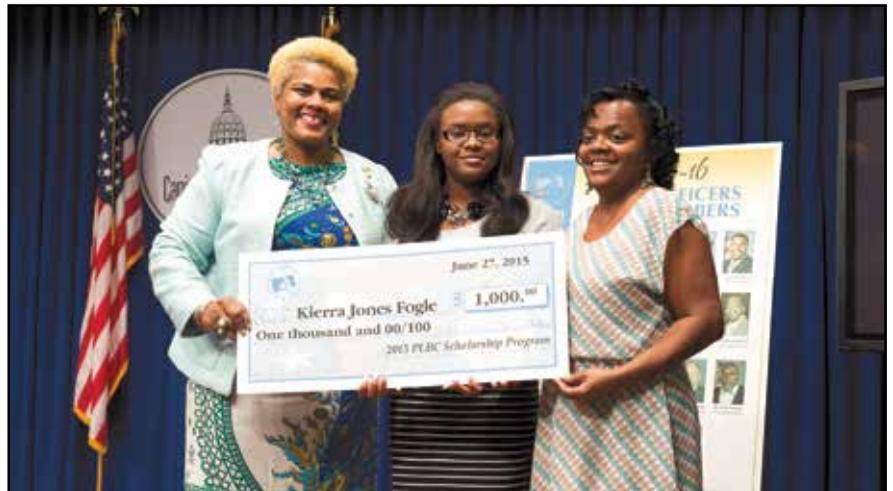
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Combating Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is destroying the lives of many women and girls. The U.S. Department of State estimates that almost 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year. Studies have found that approximately 80% of human trafficking victims are women and girls, and that the average age of an American female to be forced into sex trafficking is 12 years old.

In November, I hosted a public safety forum on this issue with the Delaware County DA's Office in Yeadon to discuss how we could combat this problem. I also co-sponsored a bill that enabled prosecutors to arrest and convict a trafficker in Upper Darby. I was proud to speak on the House floor in support of H.R. 634, which declared January 2016 as "National Human Trafficking Awareness Month."

I will continue to fight to stop human trafficking to protect women and children.



I was delighted to support the awards ceremony for winners of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus scholarship. Awardee for the 164th Legislative District is Kierra Jones-Fogle, who lives in Upper Darby and who will attend California University of Pennsylvania, one of our fine state schools.



CALLING FOR JUSTICE, INTERGRITY AND FAIRNESS in our criminal justice system. I joined my colleagues to call for judicial conduct reform and an independent review of insensitive and offensive emails sent and received by Supreme Court Justice Michael Eakin.