



*State Representative*  
**Pamela A. DeLissio**  
*194th Legislative District*

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**Dear Neighbor,**

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the kind expressions of warmth, love, prayer, light and positive energy that have been sent my way over the past nine months during my treatment for breast cancer.

Surgery is now behind me and I am thrilled to say the pathology report stated that I am cancer free.

Currently I am finishing six weeks of daily radiation and am looking at six more months of intravenous therapy, and am relieved to be on the road to recovery. Again, thank you for the support and kindness you have shared. I am indeed very fortunate!

Also, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to continue to represent the 194th Legislative District. It was an honor and privilege to be sworn in for my fourth term on Jan. 3.

In January, I was elected secretary of the House Democratic Southeast Delegation, a group of 22 lawmakers who hail from our region. I look forward to continuing to build on the solid relationships that I have worked to establish over the past six years.

State laws impact our daily life, and I do my best to be present for all session days and voting committee meetings in our state Capitol. I also participate in debate both in the House chamber and in the standing committees of which I am a member.

There are also several additional ‘extracurricular’ caucuses in which I participate. Often these are special focus/interest groups committed to dialogue and strategy to move particular categories of legislation forward.

Over the past three terms, I have found that ongoing dialogue with my constituents is the best way to reflect the district’s thoughts during the course of doing my job as your state representative.

That dialogue emanates from meetings in my district office, meetings in Harrisburg, the local civic association meetings that I attend throughout the year, my town hall meetings, encounters with citizens in the local market and eateries, and generally just going about my daily routine in the district. I am glad that folks are comfortable stopping to say hello and sharing what is on their mind.



**Thanks for your support, prayers, and well wishes!**

I am particularly proud that we’ve held our 60th Town Hall meeting in January. My town hall meetings have been the forum to discuss weighty public policy measures – e.g. Second Amendment rights, abortion-ban laws, and raising taxes, to name just a few topics – and an opportunity to discuss how the legislative process works in Harrisburg.

Over the past six years, hundreds of constituents have participated, and our discussions have always been thoughtful and civil. I have learned from you as much as I have shared with you.

My resolution for 2017 is to continue the dialogue so that we can work together to ensure that the laws passed in Harrisburg are truly for the greater good of the district and the commonwealth.

It would be wonderful if you could resolve to participate in this ongoing dialogue by attending one of my monthly town halls or stopping me in your travels to share your thoughts and concerns. Cheers to sharing!

Sincerely,

# We can do better than the Affordable Care Act

This session I am again introducing legislation to establish the Pennsylvania Health Care Plan, also known as single payer, establishing comprehensive health care for all Pennsylvanians. The best way to understand single payer is to think 'Medicare for all.'

This legislation would result in a healthier citizenry at a lower cost with no co-pays, deductibles or premiums or concern about networks and with the freedom and flexibility to choose their health care providers.

My Pennsylvania Health Care Plan would be supported by the savings realized from replacing today's multiple payer system with a streamlined Pennsylvania Health Care Trust Fund which in turn would be funded by a 10 percent employer tax paid on payroll and a 3 percent Personal Income Tax.

Briefly, the Pennsylvania Health Care Plan is a system that ensures the cost-effective delivery of covered services that range from catastrophic care to wellness and preventative care; Health Care Providers would have autonomy over patient care.

One benefit for plan participants is knowing definitively their health care cost exposure for the year.

This is a complex topic, and I look forward to sharing more of the details at a future Town Hall in order to answer questions and get your input.



**Women of the House (and men) gathered around the Capitol fountain in October to call attention to breast cancer.**

## Signed into law

Two crucial pieces of legislation that I worked on this past legislative session and became law were honored in a ceremonial bill signing.

Last session I joined Gov. Tom Wolf to commemorate the signing of H.B. 753, which replaces the former Intra-Governmental Council on Long Term Care with the Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Council. This council is comprised of long-term care providers, advocates, consumers and elected officials and will be a valuable resource and sounding board for the departments of Aging, Health and Human Services on long-term care public policy issues.

The new council, of which I am an appointed member, broadens the scope of the previous council and addresses topics ranging from facility-based care to home- and community-based services.

My amendment, included in this legislation, increased the number of consumers to be seated on the council from one to two, and at least one of those required consumers must have personal experience as a family caregiver.

Also last session, I joined Gov. Wolf to commemorate H.B. 60, oral chemo parity legislation. This law prohibits insurance companies from placing oral anti-cancer medications on a specialty tier and from charging co-insurance payments that are more than what is charged for intravenous therapy or injectables.

The law allows more patients to afford a more convenient form of cancer treatment. It cannot be overstated just how important these drugs are in saving lives. Oral anti-cancer medications have become incredibly effective in fighting cancer, and no one should go without that powerful tool because they cannot afford it.



# Tinker, sailor: Who can run for office?

*Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Sailor, Rich Man, Poor Man, Beggar Man, Thief (with the exception of a felony), Doctor, Lawyer, Indian Chief. Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker.*

Many citizens would be surprised that any of the folks listed are eligible to run for office in the United States from the highest office in the land, the president, to local school board, township commissioner, city council member or district magistrate.

The true benefit of our type of government is that when it comes to elected office, theoretically, the playing field is level.

There are residency requirements for some offices and age minimums for other offices.

For example, the qualifications of a state representative and state senator are that you must reside in the district for a minimum of one year prior to the election and live in Pennsylvania for four years. You need to be at least 21 years of age for state representative and a minimum of 25 years of age for state senator.

To run for U. S. Senate, a candidate must be a citizen of the U. S. for at least the past nine years, live in the state they seek to represent at the time of their election and be at least 30 years old.

For U.S. House of Representatives, a candidate must be a citizen of the U.S. for at least seven years, a resident of the state that sends them to the U.S. House, and at least 25 years of age.

Please note that they do not need to live in the U.S. House district they represent. The states may set additional requirements for election to Congress; and the constitution gives each state house the power to determine the qualifications of its members. Pennsylvania sets no additional requirements.

To become president, a candidate must be a natural born citizen, must have been a resident in the U.S. for at least 14 years, and must be at least 35 years of age.

Please note that there are no educational requirements for any of these elected offices.

It is incumbent upon the voters to do their homework to determine the credentials, experience and qualifications of the candidates running for office and decide what information they deem valuable.

It is also incumbent upon the voters to know what the responsibilities are of any particular elected office.

We must educate our citizenry about how government works at all levels. In this way we can ensure that this wonderful experiment that has been going on for 240 years will continue for at least that many years more.

And one last “fun” fact... There are no official qualifications or requirements for becoming a U. S. Supreme Court Justice.

## Is the Election Process Fair and Square?

This past election cycle, there has been much discussion about winning elections fair and square. There has been talk of rigged elections. Many citizens are now aware of the role of the Electoral College. Additionally, many citizens are recognizing the impact of what is referred to as gerrymandering.

The decennial U.S. Census report provides the accounting for where citizens live, which typically causes U.S. representative, and state representative and state senatorial districts to be redrawn. The redrawing of geographic boundaries is called redistricting.

The manipulation of the geographic boundaries to favor one political party is called gerrymandering. Gerrymandering happens in our commonwealth every 10 years under the guise of redistricting.

One change that can and needs to happen in Pennsylvania is the discontinuance of the practice of gerrymandering.

Our state constitution requires that the districts be redrawn in a compact, contiguous manner, taking care to only divide communities for good and sufficient reason.

In Pennsylvania, we have a Reapportionment Commission that is responsible for redrawing the state representative and state senatorial districts. The five-member commission is comprised of the four caucus leaders and a fifth individual. This fifth individual serves as the chair, is ostensibly non-partisan, and is chosen by those party leaders. If this individual cannot be agreed upon, then the PA Supreme Court appoints the chair. The legislature does not vote on the redistricting plans, and the governor has no power to sign or veto them.

Needless to say, this results in elected officials deciding those boundaries and therefore ‘picking their constituents’ instead of creating districts in which competitive races can be run. ‘Safe seats’ and districts packed with one party or another is the result of our current process; and the result, therefore, is gerrymandered.

I am in support of creating an independent commission to help develop compact and contiguous districts.

Redistricting congressional districts is different and goes through the legislative process. A bill defining the district boundaries is passed by both the state House and state Senate and signed by the governor. Although the process is potentially bipartisan, if one party controls the House and Senate and the governorship, that party has exclusive control over how the district boundaries are drawn – thereby becoming highly manipulated; Pennsylvania congressional districts are indeed gerrymandered.

**Help build a movement to end gerrymandering in PA. Join Fair Districts PA.**

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## Is the Election Process Fair and Square?

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In 2012, I was a no vote for the legislation put forth to redraw our 18 congressional districts and was appalled at the yes votes from both sides of the aisle. Rumor had it that members of the congressional delegation were asking for affirmative votes... and those votes were ultimately received.

Gerrymandering is anathema to good government and transparency and the development of policy that meets the needs of the greater good. This topic is so important that I have covered redistricting in all 60 of my Town Hall meetings. A few of those meetings have been focused almost exclusively on this matter.

If the size of the legislature were to be reduced without gerrymandering being outlawed, our governance process would be even more prone to serving special interests and not our citizens.

As a member of the Government Reform Caucus, I will continue to work tirelessly on what is, in my honest opinion, the 'root of all evils.'



**It was my pleasure last month to support the 101st Pennsylvania Farm Show by participating in the cow milking contest for my fourth time – I served as a team captain this year! I'm also pleased to share that my team – including Gloriana the cow – came in fourth place! The video can be found at [www.pahouse.com/DeLissio](http://www.pahouse.com/DeLissio).**

I am an ardent supporter of the Farm Show and Pennsylvania's agricultural traditions because it is one of the largest industries in our commonwealth.

The 194th Legislative District, which includes parts of Philadelphia and Montgomery counties, is home to W.B. Saul Agricultural High School. It is the only agricultural high school in the state and only one of three in the nation.



DeLissio invites local civic association leaders to come together to discuss ways to obtain affordable legal representation.

## Grants awarded in the 194th Legislative District

As state representative, my work includes advocating for funding for special projects in the 194th. When the state uses public dollars in this manner, through its various low-interest loan and competitive grant programs, it is recognizing the value of investing in our communities.

**In December, a \$1.21 million Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) grant** was awarded to the Manayunk Development Corporation and Manayunk Special Services District to improve Manayunk's Main Street pedestrian walkway.

This grant will assist in purchasing and installing pedestrian-scale street lighting and LED lights to improve safety at eight pedestrian crossings between Shurs and Green lanes.

**The CFA also recently announced a \$550,000 grant** for river trail improvements in Lower Merion Township.

Penn Real Estate Group will use this grant to further the Pencoyd Landing Redevelopment Project by developing a public-use walking and biking trail along the Schuylkill River in Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County.

**The CFA approved a \$200,000 grant** for Roxborough Development Corporation (RDC) to continue redevelopment of a vacant lot into the Roxborough Pocket Park.

This development is part of the RDC Roxborough 2020 initiative. The grant was authorized under the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Funding Program.

This vacant lot is hoped to evolve into a community hub, connecting residents and serving as a catalyst for neighborhood change, and assisting in reinvigorating downtown Roxborough.

**The Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) awarded a \$1 million state grant** to Share Food Program Inc., which will use those funds to replace its leaky roof and assist in upgrading its electrical systems. Powered by committed volunteers, Share is a true mission-oriented, not-for-profit agency helping hundreds of thousands of low-income individuals each month who are experiencing food insecurity.

# Expanded constituent services available

## SEPTA photos

If you are 65 or older, you are invited to have your picture taken for the new SEPTA Key ID cards on Wednesdays and Thursdays in my office. Please call and make an appointment first. We have helped more than 1,000 constituents get their picture taken and we look forward to helping you, too!

## Vehicle registration renewals

I'm happy to announce that my office can help you with PennDOT vehicle registration renewals now that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is no longer issuing stickers.

Drivers are still required to maintain current vehicle registration, and must present a registration card to law enforcement when asked and for annual vehicle inspections.

Motorists can now renew a vehicle registration online and print a valid registration card to carry with them.

If you are without a computer or printer, my office can assist you in providing your new valid registration card by applying online on your behalf. Simply bring in your current registration card and proof of insurance, and staff will print out for you your new valid, updated card. You will need to provide a credit card in order to complete the transaction.

## Many more ways my district office may be of help

My great office staff is prepared to help you with Department of Human Services programs such as SNAP, Medical Assistance, and LIHEAP, as well as unemployment compensation concerns, birth and death certificates, voter registration, unclaimed property, PennDOT forms and applications such as handicap placards and driver and non-driver licenses, Property Tax/Rent Rebate filings, most consumer complaints, and many other state-related issues. Come visit!



Rain or shine, cloudy or cold, shredding is a popular constituent service!



Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications and free assistance filing is available in the district office.

## Keep Informed

■ Sign up and 'opt in' to continuously receive my emails, which I send twice a month for news and upcoming events in the district, legislative topics important to you, and other state government-related information. Go to: [www.pahouse.com/DeLissio/emailsignup](http://www.pahouse.com/DeLissio/emailsignup).

■ Find out how we voted: [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us)

■ Follow State House & Senate Sessions, Committee Hearings & State Judiciary proceedings on PCN:

**Comcast – 186**  
**Verizon – 9**

■ **PennWATCH:** For information about the state budget and revenues, how that money is being spent and the results your tax dollars are achieving. [www.pennwatch.pa.gov](http://www.pennwatch.pa.gov)

■ Shadow me and 'work the day of a legislator': Call my Harrisburg office to arrange a date. 717-783-4945

■ Be sure to check my website, like my facebook page, and follow me on twitter!

**Website:** [www.pahouse.com/DeLissio](http://www.pahouse.com/DeLissio)

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State Representative

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# Mark Your Calendars!

## TOWN HALL MEETINGS

### 61ST TOWN HALL BY TELEPHONE

**Monday, Feb. 27th at 7 p.m.**

*Just answer your phone!*

### 62ND TOWN HALL

### **Thursday, March 23rd at 7 p.m.**

Mifflin Elementary School – Auditorium  
3624 Conrad St., Philadelphia 19129

### 63RD TOWN HALL

### **Thursday, April 27th at 10 a.m.**

Bala Cynwyd Library – Community Room  
131 Old Lancaster Rd., Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

## SHRED EVENTS

*Shred with Pam and her staff at her two upcoming shred events!*

### **April 8th, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

514 Dupont St.  
Roxborough Municipal Lot

### **April 29th, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Magisterial District Court parking lot  
925 Montgomery Ave., Narberth, 19072

*Shredding occurs on site.*

## PAM'S POLICY 'POW WOWS' – *Back by popular demand*

**Monday, April 10th at 7 p.m.** Policy topics: Sanctuary cities, and Abortion ban

**Monday, May 15th at 7 p.m.** Policy topics: Elimination of statute of limitations for sexual abuse of children, and Gun control.

*RSVP requested. Locations to be decided.*

- **April 17, 2017** – Deadline to REGISTER before May Primary Election
- **May 9, 2017** – Last day to APPLY for Absentee Ballot
- **May 12, 2017** – Last day Absentee Ballot may be RECEIVED by County Election Office
- **May 16, 2017** – Primary Election Day

*\*Online Voter Registration – [www.register.votesPA.com](http://www.register.votesPA.com)*