



State Representative
Pamela A. DeLissio
194th Legislative District



Capitol Office: 109B East Wing • P.O. Box 202194 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2194 717-783-4945
District Office: 6511 Ridge Ave. • Philadelphia, PA 19128 215-482-8726

RepDeLissio@pahouse.net • pahouse.com/DeLissio

f /RepDeLissio @RepDeLissio

Dear Neighbor,

Wow! The amount of attention being paid to how government works is heartwarming!

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your input and the time it takes to participate.

For some, maybe our civics lessons were years or decades ago; maybe we did not pay attention as closely as possible when we were in that 'how government works' class.

As a refresher - legislation is introduced as a result of an idea that is put forth by a state representative or state senator, but the origination of that idea can come from any citizen, organization, business, or lobbyist.

How? A co-sponsorship memo written by the state representative or senator prime-sponsoring the legislation is circulated. This memo is a brief description of the legislation that is proposed.

As it pertains to the House, the Speaker decides what committee will review the legislation. There are 24 committees where legislation can be assigned.

The legislation may be assigned to a committee with the express intent that the legislation will never be called up for review, let alone a vote.

The legislation may be assigned to a committee with the intention of calling it up and sometimes quickly, with no hearing.

Some legislation is actually addressed thoughtfully and deliberately – but not as often as I would like.

Whether a piece of legislation goes to the floor is determined by the Majority Leader. However, if the Speaker decides to not call up a bill, the bill does not get considered.

Once legislation is brought up for a floor vote and successfully passes the House, it goes to the Senate - where the entire process starts over per the above.

Ultimately, in order for a piece of legislation to become law and therefore signed by the Governor, it must be passed by both chambers of the General Assembly within the two-year session window.

Your voice counts with this elected official. Knowledge is power. I share my knowledge about this process so you will be empowered.

Constituents frequently ask me how they might best influence the process.

Heaven knows many lobbyists and others who have a vested interest involve themselves frequently.

First, please let me know your thoughts on legislation that is important to you. If I am a member of the committee where the bill has been assigned, I may be able to advocate for a hearing if the bill is controversial or complex, and advocate for that bill to be brought up for a vote.

Additionally, I think it is appropriate to contact other members of the committee where a bill has been assigned. Since you will not be a constituent of the legislators you are contacting, you should let them know you have advised me of your position and that you are contacting them in their role as a committee member.

Emailing and calling legislators' offices are good ways to make your thoughts known.

Making arrangements to visit the legislators' District or Harrisburg offices are also ways to discuss legislation important to you.

My policy is to be a good listener and to be informed on legislation that is up for a vote. Hearing from you is as integral as hearing from special interest groups and lobbyists.

My commitment to you is to represent the constituents of the 194th and ensure that your voices are heard in Harrisburg, and to help you understand how the process works so we can influence the process together.

Sincerely,



Philip Randolph Career and Tech High School students were very prepared for Humane Lobby Day on April 24 to advocate on behalf of animals. I was pleased to meet with them.

Details of 2017-18 budget still incomplete

On June 30, a 2017-2018 budget spending plan was sent to the Governor's desk. On July 10, the Governor permitted that legislation to 'lapse' and become law without his signature. Since then, the House, Senate and Governor's office have been negotiating a revenue bill to pay for the spending plan. On July 27, the Senate passed five code bills that constitute a revenue plan.

As of August 21, the House has yet to be called back into session to debate and vote on these bills. The House has been on a six-hour call, and it is the responsibility of the Speaker to call us back into session. I recognize the importance of getting revenue bills to the Governor's desk, and I want to ensure that the bills that reach the Governor's desk are the best that we can produce under the current circumstances and not risk another catastrophic budget impasse as happened in the 2015-2016 budget year. That impasse wreaked havoc on school districts and hundreds of human service agencies.

The code bills are where the details of the Senate's funding proposal, which includes roughly \$2.3 billion in new revenue, are contained, along with numerous other important changes. These bills are complex and multi-faceted.

For an analysis of these bills visit:

Governor: www.budget.pa.gov

Republican: www.pabudget.com

Democrat: www.pahouse.com/HACD

If you have attended any of my 66 Town Halls, you have heard that the devil is in the details. These bills have a myriad of details, and I will continue to evaluate how these bills will impact residents of the 194th District.



Members of the Philadelphia Delegation hold a public hearing in Philadelphia on April 6 to address "Stop N Gos" and nuisance bars.



At the Earth Day celebration on April 22 with constituents at the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education's Naturepalooza festival.

House passes H.B. 1238, strengthening animal cruelty laws

In May I was proud to support H.B. 1238, a bill strengthening Pennsylvania's animal cruelty laws.

House Bill 1238, among other reforms, includes Libre's Law, which makes animal abuse a felony. I have had the honor and pleasure of meeting Libre, a Boston terrier rescued from a Lancaster County farm after weeks of severe neglect. In May, he joined animal rights activists and other animals to rally and encourage state legislators to pass the bill.

Thank you to everyone who advocated for this bill in Harrisburg and in their communities. With your efforts, the Senate also passed the bill and Pennsylvania finally joins 47 other states in making animal abuse a felony. It is well known that abusers of animals are five times as likely to harm humans and by making animal abuse a felony we are hopefully preventing harm to people by these same abusers.

The Pennsylvania Health Care Plan

In the near future, I will be reintroducing House Bill 1688, The Pennsylvania Health Care Plan. Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is the goal of H.B. 1688, and single payer is the mechanism to accomplish UHC in Pennsylvania.

House Bill 1688 is NOT government-run health care. Health care providers and health care facilities would remain in the private sector. Our state government would be responsible for establishing a system in which a single public or quasi-public agency organizes the health care financing to support health care access. Cost controls (including administrative costs, pharmaceutical costs, etc.), and citizens having sufficient “skin in the game” are critical components of this plan.

Currently, 32 countries provide UHC, with Norway adopting this type of coverage in 1912 and Israel offering UHC as recently as 1995.

UHC means that all people and communities can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship as defined by the World Health Organization.

In the U. S. Congress, similar legislation has been introduced in every session since 2003. In Pennsylvania, similar legislation has been introduced each session since 2005. Throughout the United States, single-payer type of legislation has been introduced in 20 states.

It is vitally important that we strive to be a healthy society, and a single-payer system can accomplish that goal efficiently and cost effectively.

Over the remainder of this legislative session, I look forward to working with my constituents, advocates and my colleagues to ensure that this legislation benefits all Pennsylvanians and is financially viable. Additional information, including the Pennsylvania Health Care Plan flow chart, can be found at www.PAHouse.com/DeLissio.



Many constituents attended the redistricting reform rally at the Capitol in May. It was my honor to speak at that rally.

Community input for PennDOT Henry Avenue Highway Safety Improvement Plan is appreciated.

As the new school year begins I want to comment on the need for practicing safe driving and obeying all traffic laws, particularly along Henry Avenue. I am also providing an update on the Henry Avenue Highway Safety Improvement Plans for the corridor that runs from Port Royal Avenue to Abbotsford Avenue.

PennDOT's Highway Safety Improvement Project for Henry Avenue was initiated in 2012 and is a safety study paid for with federal funds.

The study has included community involvement, and the outcome of the study is a number of recommendations for traffic calming measures to influence and encourage a decrease in speed. The study is in two segments; one segment, known as SIP, runs from Port Royal Avenue to the Wissahickon Creek Bridge and the second segment, known as SI2, is from that bridge to Abbotsford Avenue.

PennDOT met with civic associations in 2012 and 2013 and held a public meeting in September 2014. I have hosted three additional public meetings in the past 18 months, one as recently as May 17, 2017. Input from citizens has been incorporated into the safety improvement design.

Calming measures and changes such as selective tree trimming, guiderail replacement, roadway resurfacing, traffic signals (additions and/or timing), curb and sidewalk bump outs, signage and pavement marking enhancements, as well as additional, high-friction surfacing, roadway deflections, and more, are all part of the Henry Avenue Highway Safety Improvement Project plan.

PennDOT officials said that they anticipate a reduction of crashes due to these implemented changes.

The preliminary engineering for implementation of these measures is forecasted to be completed by 2017 for segment one, SIP, with construction completed by the end of fall 2020. Preliminary engineering for the second segment, SI2, is forecasted to be completed by 2018 with construction finished by fall 2021.

PennDOT has been very responsive to the concerns and requests of the community, acknowledging that it is the travelers who know these surfaces, bends, and blind spots best. Balancing pedestrian, vehicular and bicycle safety is of interest to all parties. I am grateful to the constituents who have taken the time to participate in what have totaled thus far 11 meetings.

Meanwhile, I ask drivers to slow down, respect traffic lights and speed limits and to drive responsibly. The neighbors who live along Henry Avenue are beyond frustrated with the crashes and irresponsible driving behavior. As explained at these aforementioned meetings, local and state law enforcement are limited in the role they can play in enforcing speed.

We all need to do our part.

Belmont Hills Library receives \$500,000 state grant

In March I was proud to announce that the Belmont Hills Library was awarded a \$500,000 state grant from the Department of Education.

The Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund award was granted to help renovate and expand the library, including adding ADA restrooms and parking, fixing the main entrance automatic doors, making the heating, ventilation and air conditioning more efficient, installing LED lighting, and purchasing furniture, shelving and fixtures.

Libraries today are more than just buildings with books in them. While books are still a very important part of modern libraries, libraries also make a wealth of media available to the public, including movies, periodicals and newspapers. They provide access to technology and the internet, and they serve as a community gathering place. Our libraries educate, open minds and inspire people of all ages. This grant helps Belmont Hills continue to do that in our community.

The grant was one of 27 awarded throughout the state, totaling \$5.9 million. The funding is allocated to pay up to 50 percent of eligible costs in planning, acquisition, construction and rehabilitation of public libraries, and is funded by a portion of the realty transfer tax.



“Pam’s Policy Pow Wows” are in-depth discussions on controversial state policy proposals in an informal setting. Two meetings, held April 12 and May 15, drew engaged crowds. This year we discussed sanctuary cities, the abortion-ban bill, laws pertaining to sexual abuse of children, and gun legislation.

Slaying the Gerrymander

Too many of PA’s voting districts are gerrymandered. Let’s put this practice out of its misery.

Fair and square elections are what citizens are demanding, and I am working hard to deliver by supporting legislation for redistricting reform.

Every 10 years, after the U.S. Census is taken, new boundaries are drawn for Pennsylvania state senators and representatives to accommodate shifts in population. This redistricting process is necessary but the manner in which the new boundaries are drawn has been abused by a process known as gerrymandering. Gerrymandering is the manipulation of the boundaries to favor one party over another.

Pennsylvania is one of the most gerrymandered states in the country.

Gerrymandering undermines our democratic form of government in various ways. One impact: Many of these districts are no longer competitive, therefore more legislators run unopposed in general elections.

A further consequence is the legislators elected as a result of gerrymandered districts are often ideologically rigid, which results in less compromise between the parties and more gridlock in Harrisburg.

Currently the leaders of the four caucuses, (Democrats and Republicans from the state House and Senate) and a fifth person who is ostensibly non-partisan, decide the boundaries.

These decisions are not made in any public or transparent manner. Although these decisions have been challenged at the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the district boundaries remain gerrymandered.

What Can Be Done?

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania and Common Cause Pennsylvania have taken the lead to establish a grass roots coalition, Fair Districts PA, to end gerrymandering.

Fair Districts PA believes that elections should represent the will of all the people, not just the politicians, and should provide citizens with meaningful choices in electing representatives. The goal of the coalition is to pass legislation that would result in an independent citizen’s commission drawing the Senate and House district boundaries.

House Bill 722, one of the most important keystone pieces of legislation I’ve ever been involved with, was introduced in the beginning of May and as of this writing has 95 co-sponsors – I am proud to be listed second.

The companion bill in the Senate is S.B. 22.

This legislation would amend the state constitution and therefore will need to pass in two successive sessions of the General Assembly.

As with all constitutional amendments, the legislation will then appear on the ballot for the voters to have the final say.

Expanded constituent services available

SEPTA photos

If you are 65 or older, you are invited to have your picture taken for the new free SEPTA Key ID cards on Wednesdays and Thursdays in my office. Please call and make an appointment first. We have helped more than 1,500 constituents get their picture taken and we look forward to helping you, too!

Vehicle registration renewals

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 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 state 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!

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.

■ Find out how we voted: 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

■ 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

 /RepDeLissio
 @RepDeLissio



Reading “If I Were President” to first-graders at Shawmont Elementary School on May 17. Got some good ideas!



At the 6th Annual Trail Trot for the Cynwyd Heritage Trail on May 21 – Get Ready, Get Set, Go!

State Representative

Pamela A. DeLissio

109B East Wing
PO Box 202194
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2194

lpo.jc.0817

Save the dates!

SENIOR EXPO

Thursday, Sept. 28
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Roxborough Memorial Hospital
5800 Ridge Ave., Philadelphia

**Under the big white tent on the
parking lot off of Rector Street.**

SHRED EVENTS

Saturday, Sept. 23 • 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

514 Dupont St., Roxborough Municipal Lot

Saturday, October 21 • 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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

Shredding occurs on site.

67TH TOWN HALL MEETING

Thursday, September 14 at 10:30 a.m. • Bala Cynwyd Library

ELECTION DAY SCHEDULE

October 10, 2017 – Last day to REGISTER before General Election

October 31, 2017 – Last day to APPLY for Absentee Ballot

November 3, 2017 – Last day for county boards of election to RECEIVE absentee ballots

November 7, 2017 – General Election Day

***Online Voter Registration – www.register.votesPA.com**