



Comitta's Corner

State Representative Carolyn Comitta

Dear Neighbors,

It's an honor to serve as your state representative. In this newsletter, you'll find updates on legislative issues, as well as happenings in the 156th Legislative District.

I've been working on issues that matter to you, such as gun safety reform to keep our communities and schools safer, as well as measures to ensure that health and safety are put first in decisions concerning the pipeline projects affecting our community.

There's more work ahead, but I will continue to fight to put your needs first on these and other important matters that come before the legislature.

Please remember that my staff and I are ready to help with many state-related services, such as PennDOT issues, birth certificates, Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications and more.

I welcome your feedback, questions and concerns, so please feel free to reach out to my office by any of the contact methods listed in this newsletter. I will be hosting and attending a number of events as we move into fall, so I hope to see you there!

Warm Regards,



Working on Gun Violence Prevention

In the first half of 2018, we saw devastating school shootings in Parkland, Fla., and in Santa Fe, Texas – and those are just some of the senseless examples of gun violence in our country.

I have been a champion for gun safety laws for decades, and I've seen the need to enhance our laws. I've been working to accomplish this as a state representative, and prior to that, in my two terms as mayor of West Chester and as a member of borough council.

I testified before the House Judiciary Committee in April about the need to take action on gun safety reform bills that could save lives. I was pleased to see that committee forward several pieces of legislation to the full House for consideration.

You can find a list of bills advanced at www.pahouse.com/PASAFE.

There was one notable disappointment – the Judiciary Committee failed to advance H.B. 1400, which would make background checks universal, by one vote.

Still, I'm hopeful that we can vote on bills in the fall – particularly H.B. 2060, which would require that domestic abusers relinquish firearms in a timely manner.

I was proud to join local students who organized the March for Our Lives rally in West Chester in March. Thousands of residents attended in support of a common goal: gun safety reform.

I'm inspired by the young people who are speaking up and leading the way for change.

As I told the Judiciary Committee, if you listen to our children, they are saying that we as adults have failed to adequately protect them. It's time for some to stop dragging their feet and take action on commonsense reform to save lives.



Joining local students at the March for Our Lives rally in March.



I've co-sponsored the following gun safety reform bills:

- **H.B. 194** – assault weapons ban
- **H.B. 528** – prohibit people on the no-fly list from purchasing/possessing firearms
- **H.B. 1400** – universal background checks
- **H.B. 1872** – ban on rapid-fire or “multi-burst trigger activators” in Pennsylvania
- **H.B. 2060** – strengthen the Protection from Abuse (PFA) Act to require relinquishment of firearms in a timely manner, to appropriate authorities
- **H.B. 2112** – ban on large-capacity ammunition magazines
- **H.B. 2109** – allow concerned family members and law enforcement to file extreme risk protective orders
- **H.B. 273** – allow people with mental or physical health concerns to voluntarily surrender their firearms

Pipeline updates: *Pushing for health and safety first*

The past few months have brought a mixed bag of news about pipeline projects in our area.

In May, an administrative judge issued an emergency order halting operation on the Mariner East 1 pipeline and construction of the Mariner East 2 project in the name of public safety. Mariner East 1 was allowed to resume operations in June, while Mariner East 2 construction remained stopped, and Sunoco was ordered to provide information, including a comprehensive emergency response plan and its safety training curriculum.

To work around these delays, which have put them at least 18 months behind schedule, Sunoco has notified East Goshen and West Whiteland townships that they will reverse flow in an existing 12-inch pipeline that runs along Boot Road in order to transmit natural gas liquids.

Although Sunoco has given no completion date, they anticipate that this conversion will take a minimal amount of work – including connection of pipelines and five new mainline valves.

Public health and safety remain my top concerns as pipeline projects progress through and around the 156th Legislative District.

I've communicated those concerns with the Public Utility Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection and other appropriate agencies on several occasions, and I'll continue to do so.

I introduced House Bill 1700, which would create the Pipeline Safety and Communication Board, to keep residents around these projects updated and informed. The bill is in the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

I've said many times that the needs of residents need to be put first in any decisions about the pipelines.

Article 1, Section 27 of Pennsylvania's Constitution, known as the Environmental Rights Amendment, states that we have the right to clean air and pure water, and I will continue to fight for it. Our friends and neighbors deserve to know that the environment will be protected, that their water supplies will be safe and that their homes will be secure.

2018-19 budget passes on time

I'm pleased to share that we were able to adopt the 2018-19 state budget on time.

The budget included important investments, such as:

- \$100 million more for basic education funding
- \$25 million more for early learning programs
- \$60 million more for school and community safety initiatives
- Maintained funding to continue fighting the opioid epidemic, plus \$4.5 million to provide home visiting services to families affected by substance abuse
- \$40 million for PASmart, which includes money for career and technical education as well as grants to support workforce needs

We were able to make these investments without increasing any taxes – and Gov. Tom Wolf deposited \$22 million into the Rainy Day Fund, the first deposit in about a decade.



2018 PennDOT Projects Update

We all count on our roads to be in good condition so that we can make our daily travels easily and safely. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has made many road improvements in our area this spring. Here's a look at some of the work going on in the 156th Legislative District.

Pothole/pavement repair

In April, PennDOT announced it would be repairing pavement on more than 50 state highways in the Philadelphia area. Local roads included:

- U.S. 322 in West Goshen Township
- Phoenixville Pike in West Goshen Township

Resurfacing projects

The following roads had work completed as part of projects to repair and resurface highways:

- Birmingham Road between Old Wilmington Pike and Route 52 (Lenape Road) in Birmingham and East Bradford townships
- High Street between U.S. 202 and Route 52 (Price Street) in West Chester Borough and West Goshen Township
- Route 926 (Street Road) between U.S. 202 and Cheyney Road in Westtown and Thornbury townships
- Fernhill Road between Phoenixville Pike and Paoli Pike in West Goshen Township
- Westtown Road from South Concord Road/Westtown Road to just north of Meadowcroft Road in Thornbury Township
- Westtown Thornton Road from the Delaware County line to Route 926 (Street Road) in Thornbury Township

The following road is scheduled for resurfacing this summer:

- Route 352 (North Chester Road/Sproul Road) between Route 3 (West Chester Pike) and U.S. 30 (Lancaster Avenue) in Westtown, East Goshen and East Whiteland townships.



How to report potholes:

If you have a maintenance concern related to a state-maintained roadway, such as potholes or dead deer, call 1-800-FIX-ROAD (1-800-349-7623) or report online at www.customercare.penndot.gov.

Thanks for a great 2018 Senior Expo!

We had a wonderful time at my 2018 Senior Expo in May!

I am truly grateful to all of the vendors, volunteers and entertainers who helped us create an informative and worthwhile event. We had a great turnout from seniors, who were able to find helpful information on services and opportunities available to them. Thank you to everyone who attended!

My staff and I are always ready to help seniors with any issues they might be facing. We can help with PACE prescription discount cards, Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications and more. Please call my office at 610-696-4990 for more information.



Time to get a SEPTA Senior Key Card – We can help!

SEPTA will phase-out paper Pennsylvania Senior Citizen Transit ID cards at the end of the service day on Aug. 31.

Starting Sept. 1, seniors age 65 or older will need the SEPTA Key Senior photo ID card to receive free rides on Transit and discounted Regional Rail fares (\$1 for travel in Pennsylvania).

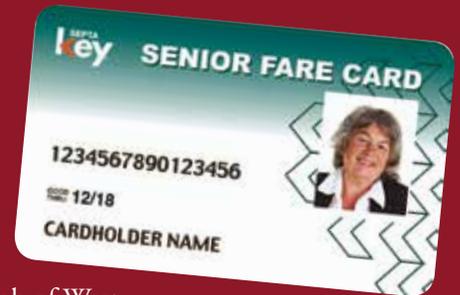
Valid Pennsylvania driver's licenses and non-driver IDs with a magnetic stripe on the back can still be swiped at the turnstiles and fare boxes – but new licenses issued after July 2017 do not have magnetic stripes and cannot be used.

If you or a senior you know still needs to sign up for a

SEPTA Key Senior photo ID card, my office can help!

My office is located in the Washington Square Apartment Building, 21 W. Washington St., Suite A in the borough of West Chester. Free parking is available.

We can help you apply right in my office. Call 610-696-4990 to set up an appointment.



Does the state have your money?

The Pennsylvania Treasury is holding more than \$3.2 billion in unclaimed property – that includes closed bank accounts, uncashed checks, certificates of deposit, and lost stocks and bonds, among other examples.

But you can get it back! You may have received a postcard in the mail from my office that says you have unclaimed property. My office can help you search to determine if any of the property the state is holding belongs to you and help you claim it.

Call my office at 610-696-4990, and we'll help you! You also can learn more at www.patreasury.gov.

Learn more about how local government works

The West Chester Area Council of Governments is offering Neighborhood University, a free program to educate citizens about local government and increase awareness of available municipal services and resources.

Courses include subjects such as public safety, public works, transportation, and zoning and land development.

Communities participating include West Chester Borough, East Goshen Township, West Goshen Township, Westtown Township and Thornbury Township, among others.

Civic participation is important, so I hope you'll consider this program. Learn more at www.nugwc.org.

Voting deadlines coming up!

The deadline to register to vote in the general election is **October 9**. The general election is on **November 6**.



You can apply or download a voter registration application on www.pavoterservices.pa.gov, or obtain a physical copy by contacting your county voter registration office. Applications can be submitted to the Chester County Voter Services office or mailed to them (**postmarked by Oct. 9, 2018**).

Active duty military members, or veterans who are hospitalized or bedridden can register and find more information at www.fvap.gov.

The first day to request an absentee ballot is **September 17**. Absentee ballots must be received no later than 5 p.m. on **November 2**.

Contact Chester County Voter Services at 610-344-6410 or 601 Westtown Road, Suite 150, West Chester, PA 19380.



State Representative
Carolyn T. Comitta
 P. O. Box 202156
 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2156

lpo.kl.0818

Upcoming Events

Please join me and my staff at any of the following events:

- **Charles A. Melton Arts & Education Center – Community Day** – Sunday, Aug. 19, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., 501 E. Miner St., West Chester
- **Chester County Restaurant Festival** – Sunday, Sept. 16, 12 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., downtown West Chester
- **Westtown Day** – Sunday, Oct. 7, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., The Oakbourne Mansion, 1014 S. Concord Road, West Chester

I'm also hosting the following events:

- **Telephone Town Hall** – Wednesday, Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. When you receive a call from my office, just stay on the line to join the discussion! Watch for more details at www.pahouse.com/comitta.
- **Monthly outreach at West Chester Area Senior Center:** First Wednesday of the month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All other locations will be ending after August.
- **Policy Committee Hearing** – Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 2 p.m. Location to be determined. Sign up for email updates for more information or see my website.
- **Harrisburg Capitol tours** – You can contact my Harrisburg office to schedule a tour or visit www.pacapitol.com and click on “Book a tour.”



I was pleased to welcome the students from Saint Peter and Paul School during their visit to the Capitol in April.



State Representative

Carolyn T. Comitta

156th Legislative District

Capitol Office: 25-A East Wing • P.O. Box 202156 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2156
 (717) 705-2075

District Office: 21 W. Washington St., Suite A • West Chester, PA 19380
 (610) 696-4990

Stay connected

Keep up with updates from Harrisburg and around the 156th Legislative District by:

- Following me on social media – [f](https://www.facebook.com/RepComitta) /RepComitta or [t](https://twitter.com/RepComitta) @RepComitta
- Signing up for my email updates by visiting: www.pahouse.com/comitta/emailsingup