



STATE REPRESENTATIVE Donna Bullock

195th Legislative District

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February 2019

Gaining Seats, Gaining Momentum



The November elections brought big changes to the Pennsylvania General Assembly. We gained five Democratic seats in the Senate and 11 in the House of Representatives. There are 11 first-time female Democratic representatives this session as well.

Pennsylvanians elected people of color, people of different life experiences and from unique career paths. We saw a major shift in the Democratic Caucus leadership with younger members

stepping up. There is also more representation from the Philadelphia and the Southeast Delegations.

As our legislature continues to grow more diverse and balanced, legislators may cross the aisle more often to talk to each other.

We see it happening as members from rural, suburban, and city districts come together to learn about each other's constituents. We also see it when we work together to create a budget that addresses the needs of all Pennsylvanians.

I am honored to have been appointed Assistant Whip for the Democratic Caucus, a new role in which I will help shape and move our agenda forward. I will also remain as Vice Chairwoman of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, as well as an appointed member of the School Safety and Security Committee, the Joint Legislative Conservation Committee and the Interstate Commission for Juveniles. In these roles, I am focused on improving the health, safety and security of the residents of the 195th District and the entire Commonwealth.

Appointed Assistant Whip

I was appointed Assistant Whip to the House Democratic Caucus for the 2019-2020 Session. In this role, I will work closely with our Whip, Rep. Jordan Harris, and Chief Deputy Whips, Reps. Ryan Bizzarro and Jared Solomon. The whip team is responsible for making sure that Democratic members attend session and generally understand the specifics of legislation and procedural votes in the House. The whip also helps shape the legislative agenda for the Democratic Caucus.



People First-Serving the District

My office can help you with:



Community First

— An Office Without Walls —

BY THE NUMBERS


5141
Constituents
Helped

55
Legislation
authored



80
Events attended/
provided
services

491
Legislation
co-sponsored



753
Property Tax/
Rent Rebate
Applications




35
Events
Hosted

Data is from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

Having trouble paying your heating bills?

Pennsylvania's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program – LIHEAP – will be accepting applications until April 12.

LIHEAP provides two types of grants – a cash grant sent directly to utility or fuel delivery companies to pay a portion of the resident's heating bill, and a crisis grant for households without heat or in immediate danger of being without heat due to a furnace failure, utility shut off, or being low on heating fuel. For more information about eligibility and assistance with completing the application, you may call my office at 214-684-3738, call LIHEAP directly at 1-866-857-7095, or apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us.

- Car registrations, special tags, titles and license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Unemployment compensation problems
- Birth certificate applications
- Finding unclaimed property held by the state Treasurer's Office
- Pennsylvania income tax problems
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, welfare)
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information, student aid information, etc.
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
- Consumer complaints
- Complaints about state road conditions
- Problems or questions about PennDOT
- Disability plates and placards
- Tours of the State Capitol for individuals or groups
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- Local government officials' problems with state agencies

Any problem with state government!

Need help with your real estate tax bill

Are you over 60? Are you struggling to pay property taxes on your home? Our office is partnering with Community Legal Services to provide you with free legal help to:

- Lower or freeze your tax bill
- Enter into affordable payment plans for delinquent or past due taxes
- Get your name on the deed to your home

Contact our office for more information, or visit Community Legal Services directly at their office at Broad and Erie (1410 W. Erie Avenue) in-person on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, or call the Save Your Home Philly Hotline at 215-334-4663.

Our office is also available to help you complete your **Property Tax and Rent Rebate** application, and assist with other housing matters. Stop in or look for us during our community office visits at local senior centers and housing developments.

Don't wait to register for kindergarten

If your child will be 5 by September 2, register him or her now for kindergarten! As our neighborhoods grow, some of our schools now have more kindergarten-aged students living within the school's boundaries than the number of seats available. Once all the seats are filled, students will be reassigned to the next closest school with available space. If you need assistance with the kindergarten registration process, please visit my office or your local school.

Get your REAL ID

Beginning October 1, 2020, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant license or ID card, or a U.S. Passport or Military ID to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a federal facility. A REAL ID compliant driver's license has enhanced security features required by federal legislation.

REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and photo ID cards will be available beginning in March 2019. PennDOT is encouraging customers to obtain and file in advance the documentation required to obtain a REAL ID. People who have filed the necessary documentation will be able to apply for a REAL ID online this spring.

REAL ID is optional for Pennsylvanians. You do NOT need a REAL ID to:

- Drive
- Vote
- Access hospitals
- Visit the post office
- Access federal courts
- Apply for or receive federal benefits, such as Social Security or veterans' benefits



For more information about REAL ID, the necessary documentation, or application process, please contact my office or visit www.dmv.pa.gov.



I attended the groundbreaking for Strawberry Mansion's new storm water projects.



My staff (Aaron Bailey and Madeline Clapier) and I joined other volunteers to prepare nearly 1,000 meals at MANNA, which provides nutritious meals to those with life threatening illnesses.



This future homeowner and I made a great team at Habitat for Humanity's Women Empower Build Day. Armed with hammers and nails, we framed 6 walls for affordable homeownership units planned for 24th and Oxford Streets.



I joined North Philly native Meek Mill and other officials at the unveiling of planned renovations for the basketball courts at 33rd and Oxford Streets.



I spent the holiday season giving back to the community and helping those in need. My office sponsored a holiday lunch for our neighboring seniors, and participated in turkey giveaways throughout the District.



Hundreds of people joined us for this year's Golden Life Senior Fair, where they connected with state and city service providers.



Legislation and Policy Corner

As we neared the end of the 2017-2018 legislative session, I introduced and supported legislation that shared the values and improved the lives of the residents of the 195th.

Below are a few examples:

Schools to test water for lead (H.B. 178)

The PennEnvironment Research and Policy Center gave Pennsylvania a failing grade for lead testing. My colleagues and I advocated for changes to the School Code to include a new requirement for all 501 school districts across the state to either test their water for lead or hold a public hearing to discuss why they decided not to test.

I joined Senator Art Haywood and Vincent Hughes to announce the changes to the School Code during National Lead Prevention Week in October 2018.



New law eliminates driver's license suspensions for minor offenses (H.B. 163)

A new law now eliminates mandatory driver's license suspensions for numerous non-driving infractions, including less serious drug charges or underage purchase, consumption, and possession of alcohol and tobacco.

A driver's license suspension can impact a person's ability to work or access services, and automatic suspensions have a disproportionate impact on poor and minority communities. This law removes an unnecessary barrier to employment, housing, education and other services.

Guardianship rights for grandparents and relatives (H.B. 1539)

Courts can now grant (or parents can designate) temporary guardianship to certain relatives when a child's parents are not able to care for them due to entering drug or alcohol treatment. Guardianship would be granted in 90-day increments for up to one year. Temporary guardians have the right to make vital, basic decisions for the child relating to, for example, medical care or education.

This law protects long-term parental rights, while considering the needs of the child to be with loving family members, rather than in foster care or group homes.

Protecting victims of domestic violence (H.B. 2060)

Domestic abusers must now surrender their guns within 24 hours, instead of the previous 60 days. Individuals convicted of a domestic violence crime, such as assault or reckless endangerment against a domestic partner, and individuals who are subject to a final Protection from Abuse order, must surrender their guns to law enforcement officers, an authorized gun dealer, or their attorney. They can no longer turn their guns over to a family member or friend.

Greening communities and equity

In late October, I invited Aaron Mair, past national president of the Sierra Club, for a policy conversation about inclusion, inequity and environmental gentrification. We discussed whether it's possible to create green communities without displacing residents.

Initiatives that address pollution, or bring sustainable solutions like gardens, parks, greenways, expanded bus routes, or bike lanes to a community, may also increase local property values and attract wealthier residents to a previously polluted or disenfranchised neighborhood.

We talked with environmental and housing advocates about how we can work together to build green, sustainable, and affordable communities for everyone. As our city continues to grow and investments are made in our community, we will continue to have these conversations with residents, advocates, developers, and other stakeholders to help influence future legislation and policy.





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Student Engagement and District 195 Internship Program



I enjoy speaking with student groups in their classrooms and in my office. It is a great opportunity to encourage young residents to become civically engaged. We welcome high school students, college students, and interns at our office year round. Many of our former interns and staff go on to amazing new opportunities. After volunteering for a year in our office, Aaron Bailey recently joined my District Office staff. Amani Reid leveraged her office internship, received an environmental fellowship and is now the Center Assistant at the Discovery Center in Philadelphia. Former staffer Tykee James once served as our office internship coordinator, and is now the Government Affairs Coordinator at the National Audubon Society. If you are interested in applying for an internship, email your resume and cover letter to abailey@pahouse.net.