



Winter  
2020

State Representative | 157th Legislative District

# MELISSA L. SHUSTERMAN

**District Offices:**

42 E. Lancaster Ave., Unit A | Paoli, PA 19301 | (484) 200-8260  
1501 Egypt Rd. | Oaks, PA 19456 | (484) 200-8260

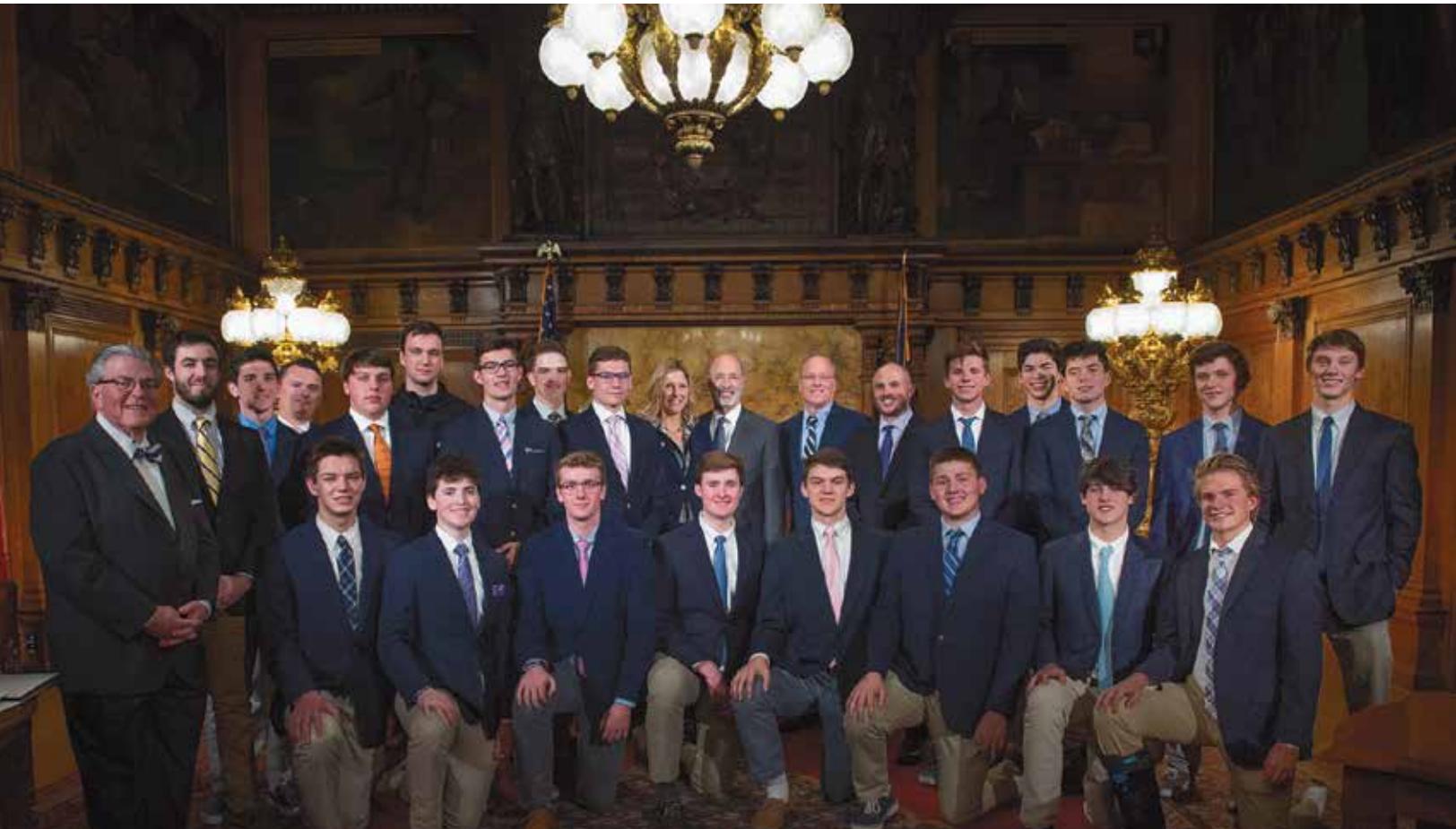
**Capitol Office:**

111B East Wing | P.O. Box 202157 | Harrisburg, PA 17120-2157 | (717) 787-7524

 [pahouse.com/Shusterman](http://pahouse.com/Shusterman) |    @RepShusterman



# CONGRATULATIONS The Tide from Devon Prep!



Gov. Tom Wolf and I were honored to welcome Devon Prep's baseball team, The Tide, to the Capitol to formally recognize them for earning their second state title. The Tide won the PIAA Class 2A Baseball Championship by defeating Serra Catholic High School, 3-2, in June in State College. After allowing two runs in the first inning, Devon Prep held Serra Catholic scoreless for the remainder of the game. In the biggest game of the season, Devon Prep capped its state championship season with a come-from-behind victory, clinching the program's first state title since 2014 by scoring the game's final three runs. Congratulations on your second championship win, Devon Prep. Your community is very proud of you!

# UPDATE FROM HARRISBURG

Several bills have been passed this legislative session that would directly benefit many Pennsylvanians. If you have any questions or would like further information on these laws, please contact my office.

## *Raising the age to purchase tobacco products*

Starting July 2020, the smoking age in Pennsylvania will be raised from 18 to 21 years old. Pennsylvanians will need to be 21 to purchase tobacco in any form, including vape products. However, this law will exclude military personnel. I voted in favor of raising the age to buy these products to curtail children and teenagers from obtaining them from their peers and forming addictions early in life.

## *Election reform*

I voted yes to implement Pennsylvania's most significant improvements to our elections in the last 80 years. Act 77 of 2019 creates a new option to vote by mail up to 50 days before an election, extends the deadline to register to vote by 15 days and helps pay for safer, more secure voting systems with a paper trail. This legislation will take effect for the April 2020 primary election.

## *Statute of limitations*

Pennsylvania enacted a historic statute of limitations reform bill last November. This new law eliminates the criminal statute of limitations for childhood sexual abuse, allows survivors of child sex abuse until the age of 55

to sue, as well as other sweeping reforms. I voted in favor of this legislation, as did many of my colleagues from across the aisle, and it overwhelmingly passed the House. This law will empower survivors throughout the commonwealth to come forward and seek justice from their childhood abusers as adults.

## *PA GI Bill*

In July, Governor Wolf signed the PA GI Bill into law, extending financial assistance for higher education to the spouses and children of National Guard service members who re-enlist. The program is now open for enrollment. More information is available at [www.pa.ng.mil](http://www.pa.ng.mil). I was proud to vote for this bill to support those who serve.

## *Sunday hunting*

Pennsylvanians will soon be able to hunt on three Sundays per year: once during archery deer season; once during firearms deer season; and an additional Sunday as selected by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. This law will go into effect February 2020. Please also be aware that this new law enhances trespassing restrictions and penalties. I voted yes to permit these three Sunday hunting days throughout the commonwealth.

## PAYING FOR RX

Are you a senior who has trouble affording your prescriptions?

No one should have to choose between the medicine they need or keeping the lights on. That's why PACE and PACENET exist, to serve tens of thousands of lower income seniors 65 and older by providing low-cost prescription drugs.

To learn more, and to see if you or someone you know qualifies, visit [www.aging.pa.gov/aging-services](http://www.aging.pa.gov/aging-services) and click on "Prescriptions," or call 1-800-225-7223.

My staff and I can help, so feel free to call my office for assistance.

## BRINGING GENERATIONS OF VETERANS TOGETHER

I am always proud to recognize our community's veterans. From my veterans breakfast to in-person visits on Veterans Day, my thanks and gratitude for your service cannot be expressed enough. I'm proud to connect local servicemen and women with the resources designed to help them succeed as they re-enter civilian life, including meeting fellow veterans. If you served in any branch of the military and were unable to attend my events in 2019, look out for an invitation for this year's veterans breakfast or summer BBQ! Also, feel free to call my office at (484) 200-8260, so that my staff and I can help connect you with any state service you need. Thank you for your service!



## Progress on my Legislation

When I'm in Harrisburg, I always have the interests of people from Tredeffrin, Schuylkill, Phoenixville and Upper Providence at heart. When I introduce bills, it's because of your priorities, views and needs. My goals are to accurately reflect our community in the General Assembly and to be completely transparent about my legislative efforts with the people I represent. Below you will find an update on bills that I introduced this legislative session. Please contact me if you have any questions, concerns or would like further information on any of these bills.

### Prohibiting firearms in court buildings

My bill aims to curtail the potential for gun violence taking place between victims and defendants inside courtroom buildings. Although lockers are currently provided to store firearms, incidents throughout Pennsylvania have revealed this is unsafe and ineffective.

**Last action:** Circulating

### Ban traveling animal acts in Pennsylvania

Increasingly, caring Pennsylvanians have become aware of the inhumane treatment, confinement and transport of animals in traveling circuses. I introduced House Bill 996, which seeks to protect animals from long-lasting abuse for the sake of our entertainment. My bill would prohibit the inhumane transport of exotic animals for the purpose of public performance.

**Last action:** Referred to House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on April 2

### Liability protections for the donation of safe food exceeding its shelf-life date

House Bill 1999 seeks to explicitly add legal immunity to the donations of past-date foods through the Donated Food Limited Liability Act. This would

encourage businesses and organizations to donate food they would otherwise discard because of it being past its labeled date. Since these dates are typically not indicators of safety, but of freshness, donors would be free from liability.

**Last action:** Referred to House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on Oct. 25

### No Budget? No pay

Whenever the state legislature fails to pass a timely budget, it fails the people it works for and hurts their trust in our government. It is safe to say that if this is the case, elected officials should not be getting paid. My legislation, House Bill 385, would make sure that the General Assembly, the Governor, the Lt. Governor and the Cabinet Secretaries would not get a single dollar in salary until they pass a budget.

**Last action:** Referred to House State Government Committee on Feb. 5

### Modernizing the second stage loan program

Life sciences, advanced technology and manufacturing are promising industries known to provide jobs, boost our economy and significantly advance our society. However, too many times, businesses in their critical years of development fail because they do not have the capital needed to sustain growth and expansion. House Bill 719 aims to grant loan guarantees to businesses in these fields on the condition that the practice remains in Pennsylvania, so our residents can benefit from a stronger economy and sustainable job growth.

**Last action:** Laid on the table in the House on June 26



## COMMUNITY UPDATES

*There's a lot going on in our neighborhood! Read below about some of the projects throughout the 157th Legislative District surely to benefit community members.*

- **Sidewalk installation along Valley Forge Road**  
Thanks to a \$1 million grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, a sidewalk will be installed along Valley Forge Road. This will help countless pedestrians, as several SEPTA bus stops are located along this roadway, and the upgrade will include 2,200 linear feet of ADA sidewalks and ramps.
- **ADA accessible Paoli station**  
Paoli's train station has completed modifications to increase ADA accessibility throughout the facility. Upgrades include a new center high-level platform, elevators and ramps; a pedestrian overpass; parking

lot improvements; ADA improvements to the existing station building; and improvements to the existing rail infrastructure. These modifications bring the Paoli station into full ADA compliance.

- **New lighting system in Tredeffrin Twp. Library**  
Tredeffrin Township Library received a \$50,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education to replace the facility's lighting. The first floor will be upgraded to all new LED lights to enhance library patrons' experience by creating a more ideal space for learning, gathering, working or simply enjoying a good book.



## DID YOU KNOW THAT MY DISTRICT OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH...

- SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards
- Explaining the REAL ID application process
- Free notary services
- State tax forms
- Voter registration/absentee ballot applications
- State Department of Revenue business
- Scheduling tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Finding and claiming unclaimed money through the Pennsylvania Treasury
- Car registrations, special tags, titles and license applications
- Complaints about state road conditions
- Home heating assistance
- Providing you with recognition from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
- Printing out federal tax forms whenever possible
- Unemployment Compensation questions or problems
- Answering questions about proposed legislation
- Any problem with your state government!

## SUIT & PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE DRIVE

With your help, our Suit & Professional Attire Donation Drive has collected 300-plus pieces of clothing to help people who have served time be able to properly dress for job interviews and succeed in the workforce. Due to the success of this first drop off, my office will continue collecting donations at our office all winter long.

Do you have a suit that no longer suits you? Please drop off your gently worn professional attire to my Chester County District Office at 42 E. Lancaster Ave., Unit A, Paoli, PA 19301, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. starting Jan. 2 through March 1. My Montgomery County office will be available to receive drop-offs every Tuesday between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. Questions? Feel free to call (484) 200-8260.

\*Donations may include both suits as well as professional separates for men and women.



## GET YOUR SEPTA KEY SENIOR ID CARD AT MY OFFICE

Seniors who present a SEPTA Key Senior ID Card ride for free on all SEPTA service lines within Pennsylvania.

My office can help complete the application and take your photo. Just bring a form of identification with a date of birth on it, such as a Pennsylvania driver's license or non-driver ID card, U.S. Passport or birth certificate.

Contact my office at (484) 200-8260 for help or visit [septa.org](http://septa.org).



## NOVEMBER 2019 RECOGNIZED AS NATIONAL DOG SHOW MONTH

The National Dog Show is a staple in the culture and fabric of Montgomery County. It has been held annually since 1933 and brings thousands of people to the greater Philadelphia area. As we celebrate the beauty and grace of man's best friend every year on Thanksgiving Day, I wanted to take it one step further by introducing House Resolution 546, "Designating November 2019 as 'National Dog Show Month' in Pennsylvania." My resolution passed the House unanimously thanks to the support of my colleagues from across the aisle and from all the fellow dog lovers in the House.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Watch out for events that I'm planning! Don't see anything you're interested in? Reach out and tell me how you want to connect, and we can work on adding it to my events calendar.

### *My Next Event:*

#### **Winter Kids' Fest**

Feb 1 • 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
1580 Charlestown Road  
Phoenixville, PA 19460

### *Upcoming Events:*

- District Office Open Houses
- Legislative Town Hall
- Free Shredding Event
- Savvy Senior Expo
- Veterans Summer BBQ
- Veterans Breakfast

Stay up to date on my events by following me on social media!

-  @RepShusterman
-  /RepShusterman
-  @RepShusterman
-  [RepShusterman@pahouse.net](mailto:RepShusterman@pahouse.net)
-  (484) 200-8260

## STAY UP TO DATE WITH REP. SHUSTERMAN

Every other Tuesday, I send out an email blast containing important news from the community, updates from Harrisburg and upcoming events! If you'd like to receive my biweekly email, you can sign up on my website:

[www.pahouse.com/Shusterman](http://www.pahouse.com/Shusterman)

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT...



Winter Kids' Fest – Feb. 16, 2019



Common Sense Gun Reform & Violence Protection Policy Forum – March 7



Senior Expo – May 9



Shred Event – May 14



Teaming up with PennDOT to address much-needed repairs on Diamond Rock Road – July 9



Visit to Royer-Greaves School for Blind – July 11



Early access morning at Elmwood Park Zoo – Sept. 7



Veterans Breakfast – Oct. 17



Women's Walk & Talk – Oct. 19



Policy hearing on residential stormwater management – Dec. 13

## ... AND IN HARRISBURG



Designating March 21st as Rosie the Riveter Day in Pennsylvania



Speaking on the need to address non-recyclable plastic waste in Pennsylvania – April 10



Standing with Humane Pennsylvania and supporting legislation to eradicate puppy mills from the commonwealth – April 27



Advocating for equal rights and protection for Pennsylvanians living with a disability – May 6



Explaining how assistive technology can help those living with a disability and sharing how it benefits my 12-year-old cousin, Lily – June 3



Fighting to restore General Assistance and provide emergency relief to our most vulnerable citizens – Sept. 24



Raising awareness on period poverty - Oct. 22



State Representative  
**MELISSA L. SHUSTERMAN**

42 E. Lancaster Ave., Unit A  
Paoli, PA 19301

## Keeping Up with Shusterman!

@RepShusterman

/RepShusterman

pahouse.com/Shusterman

## STAY INFORMED! JOIN MY EMAIL UPDATE LIST

RepShusterman@  
pahouse.net

lpo.km.0120



*Dear Neighbor,*

It's hard to believe that my first year as your state representative is already in the books. I'm proud to share with you that in 2019, I helped bring over \$3 million in state grants back to our neighborhoods, helped nearly 1,000 community members at my district office, sponsored 12 bills and accomplished so much more. This is just the beginning! In 2020 I'll continue to fight for what matters most to you and serve as a strong voice in Harrisburg on behalf of our community. Your needs are my priorities, and I'm honored to work for you.

This newsletter is both a legislative update for the year and a recap of some of our community's greatest achievements. As we enter a new decade, I cannot wait to continue to grow and strengthen our community together. Thank you for all your support.

Sincerely,

State Rep. Melissa Shusterman – 157th Legislative District  
*Deputy Whip*  
*Secretary: House Judiciary Committee*  
*Co-Chair: Intellectual Disabilities & Autism Caucus*  
*Democratic Chairwoman: Subcommittee on Arts & Entertainment,*  
*House Travel & Tourism Committee*