



STATE REP. **PERRY WARREN** 31ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



Happy New Year!

As we open the 2020 calendars and recycle the 2019 ones, it is time to recount some of the events of last year. On the legislative front, the General Assembly passed a compromise, on-time, balanced budget, and three bills that I introduced were passed in the House of Representatives: one that would protect children and end child marriage in Pennsylvania, one that would create a flood insurance premium task force, and one that would clarify the process for a municipal liquor referendum. Here at home and in Harrisburg, we acknowledged and celebrated the achievements of our residents, and we worked every day to provide public services to our neighbors.

If you are new to the community, then welcome! I am sure you will find our community is a great place to live, work and attend school. As your state representative in Harrisburg, I, together with our legislative staff, provide periodic mailed newsletters. In addition, we send a biweekly email update to residents on our email list. If you would like to be added to our email list, then please email us at repwarren@pahouse.net. My legislative Facebook account can be found @RepPerryWarren. Our staff is on hand Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at our district office in Yardley. We can be reached by phone at 215-493-5420.

Please contact us whenever we may be of service with any state-related matter, or if you would like to share a position or concern on any state legislative issue. We are here to listen and to help.

Our district office staff members and I wish everyone a wonderful and prosperous 2020!

WINTER 2019

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I was proud to support and vote for Libre's Law, which provided much-needed changes to Pennsylvania's animal rights laws.



Downton Abbey star Lesley Nicol came to Pennsylvania to visit a puppy mill and to advocate at the Capitol for humane animal legislation.



Health and Safety Fair

Thank you to all the organizations and volunteers at our Health and Safety Fair in November at Morrisville High School. The Pennsylvania State Police, Al-Anon, Attorney General Josh Shapiro's Office, Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Bucks County Health Department, Morrisville Fire Company, Newtown Ambulance Squad,

Pendel Mental Health and Solid Rock Youth Center helped us present valuable information to all our residents.

If you missed this event and would like direct notice of upcoming events, please sign up for my emails at pahouse.com/Warren. We plan to host more events, each of them aimed at helping the residents of our community.

Providing for our veterans

The Real Estate Tax Exemption is available for veterans who meet all of the criteria and have a financial need. To qualify a Pennsylvania resident must have served in the military honorably, must have a 100% permanent service-connected disability, and must have served during war service dates. Financial need must be proven. Veterans are approved if annual income is \$92,594 or less.

Tax exemption status can be passed onto an unmarried surviving spouse if financial need can be shown. For more details on the exemption or other military benefits, contact our office at (215) 493-5420.

Unclaimed property

More than \$3 billion of unclaimed property is sitting in our state treasury. You can find out if you have unclaimed property with an online search at PATreasury.gov/unclaimed-property. For assistance from home, you can also call the Unclaimed Property Call Center at 1-800-222-2046.

Potential claimants may also reach out to our office, where staff will be on-hand to assist.

SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards

If you are age 65 or older, take advantage of a program that lets seniors ride FREE at all times on all transit routes. In order to take advantage of the program, seniors will need a SEPTA Key Senior ID Card. Come to our office, where our staff will help you obtain your card.



Rep. Tina Davis and I attended the Kayden's Korner golf outing and dinner in Aug. where I spoke in support of our legislation.

Kayden's Law: I joined Rep. Tina Davis to sponsor legislation that would grant greater legal protections to children in the family court system. The legislation is named after Kayden Mancuso, a 7-year-old girl from Lower Makefield Township who was murdered by her biological father during a court-ordered, unsupervised visit following a years-long custody dispute.

Kayden's family has shown remarkable courage, persistence and love in the face of this tragedy, working hard to change our state custody laws to ensure the health and safety of children is the first priority in custody proceedings.

Baseball writer, Newtown's Jayson Stark honored



Newtown Township resident and baseball writer Jayson Stark accepted the prestigious J.G. Taylor Spink Award and spoke during Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremonies July 20 in Cooperstown, New York.

I joined Gov. Tom Wolf and Sen. Steve Santarsiero in hosting the baseball writer at the Capitol in Harrisburg.

Obtaining a REAL ID - The Real Process

The United States Department of Homeland Security has announced that after Oct. 1, 2020, a regular Pennsylvania driver's license will not be accepted for boarding domestic flights or entering military bases and certain federal buildings. This a federal government policy, not a state policy. REAL ID driver's licenses or other options that include a U.S. passport or travel card will be required.

PennDOT is assisting Pennsylvania residents by making available a REAL ID-compliant driver's license. If you are considering upgrading to a REAL ID, please be aware wait times could increase as the October 2020 deadline approaches.

The cost of a regular license renewal is \$30.50, and the cost of a REAL ID license is \$60.50. The REAL ID will be valid for four years, and, according to PennDOT, the additional \$30 charge for a REAL ID is a one-time charge.

I received my REAL ID after visiting the PennDOT Driver License Center at Bensalem earlier this year with my wife, Liz. Here's a timeline of the process we experienced on a weekday:

2:54: Liz and I arrived at the PennDOT Driver License Center at Bensalem. We were immediately greeted by a gentleman who directed us to press REAL ID on a screen. I received number I 077. The center was crowded, and all seats were taken (not a problem, because neither of us are sitters).

3:55: My number was called. I provided my valid U.S. Passport, the original Social Security card I got when I was in eighth grade, my current driver's license and a current bank statement as proof of current address. I filled out two forms. I paid \$60.50 by credit card. Checks, money orders and debit cards are also accepted. No cash.

Liz and I have U.S. Passports. If you do not have a valid U.S. Passport, then you can provide a birth certificate. Liz also provided a Certificate of Marriage to prove her name change.

4:02: Finished at the first counter. I was provided a camera card and instructed to wait for my number to be called at the photo counter.

4:29: My number was called, and I was asked for the camera card and my current license. The attendant took two photos which were pretty much the same, and I chose the second one. I was asked to review the information on a computer screen image. I answered some questions on a computer screen about citizenship, voter registration and organ donation. The attendant asked me to sign the camera card and returned my current license to use until the new REAL ID arrived in an estimated 14 days. (It actually arrived in three days.)

4:34: My process complete, a woman who had only cash asked Liz if she could give her cash and Liz pay her fee by credit card, which she did. We left at 4:39.

Three days later: Our REAL ID driver's licenses arrived in the mail.

Another option for residents: Several weeks later, I toured both the PennDOT Driver License Center at Bensalem and the PennDOT REAL ID Center at King of Prussia with members and staff of the House Transportation Committee. The REAL ID Center at King of Prussia is a new, modern facility, well-staffed, with padded chairs, free Wi-Fi and other features to make your visit more efficient and more comfortable. A member of our group applied for a REAL ID driver's license upon our arrival, and she had her REAL ID in her hand in 15 minutes.

The staff at the Bensalem Center did an excellent job; the constraint is in the size and age of the center. If you are in a hurry, or if you plan to travel to or through King of Prussia, you may want to take advantage of the modern REAL ID Center to apply for and obtain your REAL ID there.

The REAL ID is a federal government mandate with no federal funds going to the states to pay for REAL ID services. In addition to processing costs, the additional \$30 fee for a REAL ID goes toward funding new or improved centers, like the REAL ID Center at King of Prussia. I will be advocating for a larger, more modern PennDOT Center here in Bucks County.



We celebrated National Police Week earlier in 2019, honoring all the men and women who serve each of the municipalities in our community.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The state legislature considers thousands of bills and votes on hundreds of bills each year. Some of the bills that affect our community include:

Election reform:

The General Assembly passed legislation that Gov. Wolf signed into law as Act 77, which:

- Creates a new option to vote by mail with no “excuse” necessary.
- Establishes a 50-day mail-in voting period, allowing voters to request/submit their mail-in ballot up to 50 days before the election.
- Sets a later registration deadline, allowing residents to register to vote up to 15 days before the election.
- Schedules a later deadline for receipt of mail-in and absentee votes of 8 p.m. on Election Day.
- Promises a \$90 million bond to help counties fund the purchase of new voting systems that will strengthen election security.
- Allocates \$4 million for Pennsylvania to ensure we count our residents, which affects us all since the 2020 Census will determine federal funding for years to come.

Flood Insurance Premium Assistance Task Force:

To help all current and future homeowners, I introduced House Bill 328, which would establish a Flood Insurance Premium Assistance Task Force. This task force would promote premium discounts and recommend programs that incentivize local governments to support flood mitigation efforts. This bill unanimously passed the House of Representatives and is under consideration in the Senate.

Establishing state-run health care exchange:

Gov. Tom Wolf signed into law House Bill 3. The historic reform allows Pennsylvania to take the needed steps to operate its own online health insurance exchange like the one formerly managed by the federal government.

Supported by Democratic and Republican leaders, the law will help reduce premiums for approximately 400,000 people who purchase health insurance through the marketplace. Technological advances since the federal exchange opened in 2010 will allow Pennsylvania to operate the exchange more efficiently.

Pre-existing conditions:

I am a co-sponsor of a bill that would prevent health insurance companies from denying coverage or charging high premiums to Pennsylvanians with pre-existing medical conditions.

Pre-existing conditions, like diabetes, asthma and pregnancy, are covered by health insurance because of safeguards written into federal law. If federal law changes, then millions of Pennsylvanians may be left without insurance coverage for these conditions. This bill would guarantee safeguards that pre-existing conditions won't add a monetary burden or bankrupt a family that is just trying to get the best treatment for themselves or a loved one.



Members of our staff and I participated at the 50th anniversary Fall Festival at Council Rock High School North.



Recycling is great for our economy and our environment, but the biggest hindrance and one of the largest expenses in recycling is filtering out non-recyclable items. Placing non-recyclable waste in a recycle bin does more harm than good.

Our staff and I joined volunteers and park employees to participate in a Tyler State Park cleanup along Neshaminy Creek as part of the International Coastal Cleanup and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.



For "Hydrate Like a Legislator Week," I recorded a video in support of my House Bill 1068, showing how I avoid the use of plastic single-use bottles by drinking from reusable stadium cups.

Combatting plastic pollution: Plastic, single-use water bottles are cheap and accessible. However, their convenience does not outweigh their negative environmental impact. Only 25% of all disposed plastic bottles ends up being recycled. This means the other 75% pollutes our roads and waterways. In 2017, plastic bottles accounted for nearly half of all the litter collected from the Delaware River.

Reusable water bottles are a simple and eco-friendly alternative to disposable plastic bottles. I introduced a bill that is part of the "Zero Waste PA" package, which starts the process by requiring installation of water bottle filling stations in the construction or improvement of government buildings. The easy access to these water stations would make the eco-friendly option the most convenient, thereby reducing the use of plastic bottles and helping to reduce waste.

NEIGHBORS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Our staff and I had so much fun hosting the Pennsbury Athletic Association 12U and 8U Falcons, when these two championship teams visited the Capitol in October. The 12U team won the state championship and the 8U team won the Cal Ripken World Series. My wife, Liz, commented on how polite these young men were during their visit to Harrisburg and the House chamber.



The Pennsbury Athletic Association 12U and 8U Falcons and the teams' coaches in the House chamber. I recognized both teams for winning championships this season.



It was an honor to participate in the 2019 Bucks County Fallen Firefighter and EMS Memorial Service in September.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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Stay updated!

To make sure you see the latest state legislative news from Harrisburg or to keep up with programs, services, or projects and events in the district, please use these following ways to connect with me.

You can follow me on Facebook at Facebook.com/**RepPerryWarren**. You also can follow me on Twitter **@RepPerryWarren**.

You also can join my email update list. We send periodic email updates about public meetings, traffic alerts and community events. The periodic emails also include updates on legislative state and local programs and services.

Morrisville mobile office

Our district office staff will be on hand to answer questions, provide services and talk to residents in Morrisville from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Morrisville Senior Servicer on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month. The Senior Servicer is located at 31 E. Cleveland Ave.

My office can help!

- ◆ Car registrations, special tags, disability placards, titles and driver's license applications
- ◆ Information on financial assistance for higher education
- ◆ Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- ◆ Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- ◆ Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- ◆ Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- ◆ Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- ◆ Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- ◆ Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- ◆ Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms
- ◆ Problems or questions about the state lottery
- ◆ PACE cards for senior citizens
- ◆ Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- ◆ Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- ◆ Information about state and local government agencies
- ◆ Questions about the Veterans Property Tax Exemption

Any problem with state government!