

News From State Representative

CHRISTINA SAPPEY

158th Legislative District | Chester County

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Dear Neighbor,

September usually means the return to school, treasured fall activities, and work routines; however, this fall looks to be different from any we've ever experienced. The uncertainty associated with the ongoing pandemic is unsettling. Throughout this year, I have worked to uphold my sworn obligation to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people I represent, endeavoring to find balance. Every sector of our lives has been impacted, and as a community we have experienced this disruption collectively.

Please know that I will continue to fight for the economic resources and the protections we all need to stay healthy, safe, and prosperous. I encourage you to reach out to me and my district office team anytime at 484-200-8264 or by emailing repsappay@pahouse.net. You remain in our thoughts, and we are here for you.

All the best,



PA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BUILDS CONTACT TRACING RESOURCES

The PA Department of Health is increasing its contact tracing efforts. This is the process of identifying, notifying, and monitoring anyone who came in close contact with others who tested positive for COVID-19 while they were infectious.

The department is hiring 1,000 additional field managers, community health nurses and more personnel to keep up with these new health care demands. These measures will help us identify any instances of community spread and help us prevent larger outbreaks.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! FILL OUT THE 2020 CENSUS BEFORE REDISTRICTING

If you have not done so already, please complete the 2020 Census. The Census provides data used for fair representation and funding in our local communities. It is currently estimated that 27% of Chester County households still have not responded.

The legislature will begin the redistricting process after the Census is complete. It's important that the process for drawing new congressional and state legislative district boundaries be done fairly, and we can help ensure our information is accurate by completing the Census. Redistricting has a direct effect on the power of your vote and the U.S. Constitution mandates that data, such as the Census, be used to determine these districts.

I have co-sponsored several bills that would help redistricting efforts for fairer elections that are free of partisan and financial influence:

- House Bill 2638 would reform the system as it currently exists, building in clear and measurable mapping criteria.
- House Bills 22 and 23, are companion bills that would create an 11-member Independent Redistricting Commission to replace the existing legislative commission.
- House Bill 940 would correct the mistake in mapping data of incarcerated residents being used to inflate numbers in districts outside of their permanent address.

You can complete the Census online at www.2020census.gov, by paper or over the phone, (844) 330-2020. The deadline to respond is September 30th.

LLENAR EL CENSO 2020 ANTES DE LA REDISTRITACIÓN

Si aún no lo ha hecho, por favor complete el 2020 Censo. El Censo proporciona datos utilizados para una representación justa y financiación en nuestras comunidades locales. Actualmente estimado que el 27% de los hogares del Condado de Chester todavía no tienen Respondió.

La legislatura comenzará el proceso de redistritación los distritos legislativo cuando el censo está completo. Es importante que el proceso de dibujo nuevos límites del distrito legislativo del Congreso y del estado se hace de manera justa, y podemos ayudar a garantizar que nuestra información es precisión completando el Censo. La redistritación tiene un efecto en el poder de su voto y la Constitución de los Estados Unidos ordena que los datos, como el Censo, se utilicen para determinar estos distritos.

Apoyo varios proyectos de ley que ayudarían a los esfuerzos de redistritación para elecciones más justas que estén libres de influencia partidista y financiera:

- H.B. 2638 reformaría el sistema actualmente existe, construyéndose en criterios de mapeo.
- H.B. 22 y 23, billetes complementarios que crear una Redistritación Independiente de 11 miembros Comisión para sustituir a los Comisión.
- H.B. 940 corrige los datos de errores de mapeo de residentes encarcelados utilizados para inflar números en distritos fuera de su permanente dirección.

Puede completar el Censo en línea en www.2020census.gov, por papel o por teléfono. La fecha límite para responder es 30 de septiembre.

SPECIAL REPORT: 158TH INFRASTRUCTURE

I am committed to making infrastructure improvements in the 158th and throughout Pennsylvania. Each of us rely on our infrastructure daily through transportation, communications and utilities. It is crucial that these systems operate efficiently for all residents and businesses.

Upcoming Bridge Projects

In early fall 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) will begin construction to replace three area bridges currently in poor condition: One on Route 926 (Street Road) in Westtown and Thornbury townships, and two on Green Valley Road in Newlin Township. The operations to replace the three structures will involve detours.

Work is expected to begin on Route 926 in mid-September and take 60 days to complete. The new bridge, located adjacent from the Crebilly Farm property, will feature the same appearance of its predecessor. During construction, Route 926 travelers will be detoured over Birmingham Road, Brintons Bridge Road and U.S. 202/U.S. 322 (Wilmington Pike).

On Green Valley Road in Newlin Township, PennDOT's contractor will replace two bridges, with construction anticipated to begin in early October. The contractor will work on one bridge at a time and each structure is expected to be completed within 45 days. During the bridge closures, through traffic will be detoured over Brandywine Creek Road and Powell Road.

Stormwater Management

With the increase in strong storms due to climate change, many of our infrastructure systems are struggling to maintain their integrity. During my first term, I have coordinated numerous site visits with local municipalities, PennDOT officials, residents, and business owners to address erosion and damage to our roads and landscapes. To highlight this issue in Harrisburg, I hosted a Policy Committee hearing on the subject, where we heard from experts in local government, environment and stormwater management on best practice models. These measures include riparian buffers along waterways and the implementation of green infrastructure, such as pervious pavement and rain gardens.

Signal Improvements

Over the past year, PennDOT has updated 16 signals along Routes 1, 202, and 926. This project allows for improved traffic flow with upgraded adaptive traffic signals. The modernized equipment is mounted on existing mast arms and controller cabinets, which allows for varying traffic signal times based on real-time data. Designated intersections will receive closed circuit television cameras (CCTV). The CCTV connects to the PennDOT Regional Traffic Management Center in King of Prussia to provide faster responses to accidents or delays. Two intersections on U.S. 1 will have Bluetooth readers installed with capabilities to transmit traffic data to new dynamic messaging signs (DMS).

2020 Completed Bridge Projects



Restoration of the Rt. 52 (Lenape Road) Bridge crossing the Brandywine Creek Floodplain.



Completed bridge replacement on Rt. 322 (Downingtown Pike) crossing the Brandywine Creek.

Completed Safety Improvements

During this term, I was able to coordinate with PennDOT officials, municipalities and property owners to address the following infrastructure issues:

- West Bradford Township: Marshallton-Thorndale Road traffic-calming measures, including line of sight improvement and additional stop signage.
- West Bradford Township: Funding obtained for enhanced lighting at Stargazers roundabout.
- New Garden Township: Intersection repair, marking and improvement at Route 41 and Penn Green Road where a narrow turn radius was bringing regular truck traffic over the Tick Tock Early Education Center parking lot, creating a dangerous situation for families dropping off and a large, deep pothole.
- New Garden Township: Redesign and rehabilitation of New Garden Airport access road along Newark Road.
- \$500,000 secured for the East Penn Railroad to rehabilitate approximately 27 miles of track with new ties and rail on the Octoraro Line, which crosses many roadways in the 158th.

High-Speed Internet Access

Many families in our area have struggled with the transition to working and learning remotely due to gaps in high-speed internet coverage. More than 800,000 Pennsylvanians also lack high-speed internet access, many in rural, agricultural areas. Farmers are now able to use technology on equipment to increase efficiency and productivity, and without reliable internet access, they cannot take advantage of these tools. For this reason, I support the use of CARES Act funds to expand 5G wireless-internet access in communities traditionally viewed as not economically feasible for service extensions by communication companies.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Below is a list of resources developed for use during this time.

- **Questions about COVID-19? PA Department of Health: 877-PA-HEALTH**
- **COVID-19 testing questions? Chester County Department of Health: 610-344-6225**
- **LIHEAP (utility assistance): 866-857-7095**
- **Chester County Food Bank: 610-873-6000**
- **Mortgage/rental assistance: 855-827-3466**
- **Chester County Warmline: 866-846-2722, for those feeling depressed or needing someone to talk to**
- **Valley Creek Crisis Center: 610-280-3270 or text "PA" to 741741**
- **Chester County Human Services: 610-344-6640**

If you are experiencing difficulties with Unemployment Compensation, please contact my office.

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

The spotted lanternfly (SLF) is now in the adult phase, causing damage to trees and agricultural crops. Resources and tips, such as how to build your own trap or protect trees with banding, are available through the Penn State Agricultural Extension at extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly.

These pests feed on the sap of fruit trees, grapevines, hops, hardwoods, and ornamentals, leaving behind a sugary residue called honeydew. This honeydew promotes the growth of a sooty mold, which ultimately kills the plant.

The state is continuing to fund research on SLF and is working closely with businesses to prevent the spread. Penn State University and Extension, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and PA Department of Agriculture (PDA) have joined forces to control and contain SLF. Penn State University is leading the research efforts currently underway to answer the many questions we have about the insect's biology, pesticide studies, and the ability of the insect to adapt to the environment in Pennsylvania. USDA and PDA are actively treating locations where SLF has been reported.



OUTDOOR FIRE SAFETY

Every Fall, our first responders experience an influx of calls due to emergencies caused by recreational fires. By familiarizing yourself with local ordinances, which can vary throughout the county, and taking the following safety precautions, these emergencies can be averted.

- **Check local ordinances and follow them**
- **Ensure a safe distance between structures, utilities and wooded or landscaped areas**
- **Remove dead leaves and debris from around homes or any structures on the property**
- **Have a plan in place for fire control, such as a fire extinguisher**
- **Create breaks in landscape to prevent spread**
- **Never leave a fire unattended or smoldering**

VOTE BY MAIL

Mail-in and absentee ballot applications are now available. For additional information on this and other voting services, contact Chester County Voter Services at 610-344-6410 or my office.

To apply online for a mail-in ballot, you can visit VotesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot and follow the step-by-step instructions. Make sure you have a valid PA driver's license or photo ID.

You can also apply by mail by downloading and printing the mail-in ballot application from votespa.com, contacting Chester County Voter Services directly to request

a paper application, or by calling the PA Department of State at 1-877-VOTESPA.

Important Election Dates

- **October 19 - Last day to register to vote.**
- **October 27 - Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot.**
- **November 3 - Election Day. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots. Ballots must be received by 8 p.m.**

\$11.5 MILLION SECURED FOR THE 158TH

Over the past two years, I've worked hard to ensure nearly \$11.5 million in funding was directed back to our district.

Environment and Open Space

- \$60,000 to New Garden Township for site design and planning at the newly acquired St. Anthony in the Hills property.
- \$244,867 for watershed restoration and protection along Plum Run in East Bradford township by the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance.
- \$65,000 for East Bradford Township for trail design along Plum Run.
- \$176,682 to Avondale Borough for stream stabilization of the East Branch of the White Clay Creek.
- \$19,748 to Stroud Water Research Center: Capacity building for Girls-in-STEM Watershed Education.
- \$3,000 to Stroud Water Research Center: Brandywine Watershed Educational Youth Camps.

Agriculture

- \$122,398 to the New Bolton Center for research on flock and livestock protection through the Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence.
- \$50,000 for True North Farmstead LLC in East Bradford Township for increased on-site pasteurization and processing abilities.
- \$14,400 was invested in agricultural youth engagement and education through the Chester County Intermediate Unit and the Chester County FFA.
- \$40,000 has been provided to Penn State University for continued research on the Phorid Fly's impact on mushroom farms and neighbors in Chester County.

First Responders

- \$24,626- for body-worn cameras for West Goshen Township Police.
- \$29,059- Avondale Fire Company.
- \$16,348- Avondale Fire Company, EMS Division.
- \$29,059- Fame Fire Company of West Chester.
- \$14,811- First West Chester Fire Company.
- \$28,758- West Bradford Fire Company.
- \$5,000- West Bradford Fire Company (volunteer assistance).

Community Initiatives

- \$900,000 to West Goshen Sewer Authority for sewer line improvements.
- \$1 million for construction of the new Kennett Library building.
- \$35,000 for Census Outreach to the Volunteer English Program of Chester County.
- \$35,000 for operation costs at the West Chester Area Senior Center from the PA Lottery.
- \$10,000 to the East Bradford Township Historical Commission for historic preservation planning.

Education

Grants have been provided to the following school districts through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's (PCCD) School Health and Safety Grants and School Safety and Security Grants, as well as the CARES Act Elementary and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSR) and Continuing of Education Equity Grants (CEEG).

These grants are used for school safety enhancements and planning such as risk assessments, violence prevention and emergency preparedness. They also allow for the purchase of protective equipment, hand sanitizer/cleaning products; equipment or technology to take classrooms online; instructional materials; installation of barriers or other protective devices in buildings; or to purchase health apps to assist in contact tracing and monitoring of student health.

Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU)

- \$256,693 School Safety and Security Grants.
- \$30,000 in Keystone Telepresence grants for increased remote learning access.

Upland Country Day School

- \$24,960 PDE Safe Schools Grant for security equipment.

Avon Grove School District

- \$187,418 ESSR.
- \$510,920 PCCD.
- \$45,000 School Safety and Security.
- \$35,000 in PA Smart funds for STEM investments.
- \$1.3 million for the new high school design and construction to meet LEED Gold Certification.

Downingtown Area School District

- \$254,339 ESSR.
- \$1,026,366 PCCD.
- \$45,000 School Safety and Security.

Kennett Consolidated School District

- \$484,452 ESSR.
- \$408,910 PCCD.
- \$30,216 CEEG.
- \$45,000 School Safety and Security.
- \$550,000 in 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants, administered by the CCIU for learning support programs.

Unionville-Chadds Ford School District

- \$82,072 ESSR.
- \$387,365 PCCD.
- \$45,000 School Safety and Security.

West Chester Area School District

- \$491,818 ESSR.
- \$960,734 PCCD.
- \$45,000 School Safety and Security.

West Chester University

- \$140,000 for opioid prevention and naloxone training.
- \$353,678 to assist with public health and safety plans during COVID-19.



State Representative
CHRISTINA SAPPEY

698 Unionville Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348

lpo.ad.0820

UPCOMING EVENTS:

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9TH | 6 PM

VIRTUAL PANEL DISCUSSION SERIES:

**“INSTITUTIONALIZED DISADVANTAGE: LAW ENFORCEMENT, THE
COMMUNITY AND HEALING”**

RSVP for link by contacting my office at 484-200-8264 or email repsappey@pahouse.net.

SATURDAY, OCT. 3RD 9AM-12PM

ANNUAL DRIVE THRU CHARITABLE DONATION COLLECTION

698 UNIONVILLE ROAD,
KENNETT SQUARE, PA 19348

This will be a drive-thru event. Participants are asked to wear a mask and remain in their vehicle upon arrival. Donations of nonperishable food items, gently worn or new clothing, outerwear and shoes, new and used toys and games, kitchenware, household items, books, small furniture and pet items such as collars, leashes and cat litter will be accepted. Contact my office for a full list of accepted items.