

SUMMER 2020



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Kristine Howard

167TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

WEBSITE: RepKHoward.com

Greentree Office Plaza • 40 Lloyd Ave., Suite 309 • Malvern, PA 19355 • (610) 251-1070

115-A East Wing • P.O. Box 202167 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2167 • (717) 783-4088

[f /RepKHoward](#) • [t @RepKHoward](#)

Dear Neighbor,

Since my last newsletter in February, a lot has changed, to say the very least. COVID-19 – and the necessary measures to minimize its spread and to keep us safe – has touched every part of our lives, and continues to do so.

My biggest concern has been and remains the health, safety, and well-being of Pennsylvanians. In this crisis, everyone has been called upon to do their duty in fighting this pandemic, whether by modifying behaviors, extending business closures, or modifying business plans.

Such has been the case in my own office, where we have been busier than ever these last three months, working under markedly different circumstances, from our homes. My staff and I have learned much to better accommodate the new needs of the 167th district.

As we move through the green phase of the Commonwealth's reopening plan, we enter a time of hope. Yet, we must continue social distancing and practicing vigilant hygiene. This reopening cannot be rushed.

We are learning for the future, and we have shown – as a state, a country, and a planet – that we can come together to protect one another.

Kristine C. Howard

The 167th District includes the townships of Charlestown, East Whiteland, Easttown, West Pikeland, West Whiteland, Willistown, and Malvern Borough.

IMPACTED WORKERS

If you are employed in Pennsylvania and have been unable to work because of COVID-19, you may be eligible for Unemployment or Workers' Compensation benefits.

Additionally, the federal CARES Act provides unemployment benefits to the self-employed and gig workers via the newly created Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program; it provides additional weeks of benefits for those exhausting unemployment compensation and increases the total weekly amount paid to claimants.

You can apply for unemployment benefits at uc.pa.gov. Self-employed and gig workers can apply at pua.benefits.uc.pa.gov.



EVEN IN THE GREEN PHASE, STAY SAFE AND STAY HOME WHENEVER POSSIBLE!

While Chester County navigates the green phase, I want to remind everyone that green is not a return to the pre-COVID world.

The green phase is just that – a phase of the reopening process. We have done a tremendous job of altering our lifestyles to protect one another. We can't stop now.

GREEN PHASE

- TELEWORK STRONGLY ENCOURAGED
- BUSINESSES WITH IN-PERSON OPERATIONS MUST FOLLOW UPDATED BUSINESS AND BUILDING SAFETY REQUIREMENTS
- ALL BUSINESSES OPERATING IN THE YELLOW PHASE UNDER THE 50% LIMITATION MAY INCREASE TO 75% OCCUPANCY
- PRISON AND HOSPITAL RESTRICTIONS DETERMINED BY INDIVIDUAL FACILITIES
- CONGREGATE CARE RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE
- CHILD CARE MAY OPEN COMPLYING WITH GUIDANCE
- CONSTRUCTION BACK TO FULL CAPACITY WITH SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE
- CHANGING BEHAVIOR FOR A NEW NORMAL
- LARGE GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN 250 PROHIBITED
- RESTAURANTS AND BARS OPEN AT 50% OCCUPANCY
- PERSONAL CARE SERVICES (INCLUDING HAIR SALONS AND BARBERSHOPS) OPEN AT 50% OCCUPANCY AND BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
- INDOOR RECREATION, HEALTH AND WELLNESS FACILITIES, AND PERSONAL CARE SERVICES OPEN AT 50% OCCUPANCY WITH APPOINTMENTS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED
- ALL ENTERTAINMENT OPEN AT 50% OCCUPANCY

ENDING RACIAL INJUSTICE IN PA

What happened in Minneapolis, in Louisville, and continues to happen in countless other communities across the country is reprehensible. I am tempted to say unspeakable, though we must continue to speak out against hatred. We must condemn racism, oppression, and injustice.

While there are longer-term systemic, economic, and cultural issues that must be addressed to end the racial disparities we live with today, the issues of implicit racial bias in law enforcement and recurring police mistreatment of people of color must end now.

To that end, I am supporting a number of bills to address these dire issues. From setting standards for the certification and decertification of police officers, to requiring law enforcement agencies to seek and obtain approval through public resolution from their governing body before applying for federal military



equipment, this legislation will help build an empathetic and community-focused criminal justice system that will not only save, but enhance lives.

Together, we can and must end oppression, not just in policing, but everywhere.

CORONAVIRUS IMPACT ON 2020 CENSUS OPERATIONS

The U.S. Census Bureau has adjusted its 2020 Census operations due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The self-response period for the 2020 Census has been extended until October 31.

A complete and accurate census determines funding vital to our commonwealth and our future.

Everyone residing in the U.S. gets counted in the census — children, seniors, minorities, immigrants (regardless of status), tribal communities, the homeless, homeowners, renters, students, workers — everyone.

Getting counted is easy! Choose to respond online, by paper, or over the phone.

Ongoing operational

adjustments are being made to protect the health and safety of residents and employees. In-person activities — including enumeration, office work, and processing activities — will always incorporate the most current guidance from federal, state, and local authorities regarding COVID-19.

Visit [2020census.gov](https://www.census.gov) for more information.

My Office Can Help With...



PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATES COMING EARLY!

For your planning purposes next year, seniors and others approved for a property tax or rent rebate will no longer have to wait for July to receive their checks. A new law allows rebates to be processed and distributed on a first-in-first-out basis. If you haven't already done so, apply now to get your rebate as quickly as possible!

If you have any questions regarding your rebate, please reach out to my staff.

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT REAL ID

Beginning October 1, 2021, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, photo ID card, or another form of federally-acceptable identification (such as a valid passport or military ID) to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a federal building or military installation that requires ID.

While my office does not issue REAL IDs, my staff is ready to answer any questions you have regarding the program.



Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID to:



Board a domestic flight



Enter a federal building



Enter a military base

SEPTA SENIOR KEY CARD UPDATE

Starting July 13, SEPTA will resume processing Senior Key Cards. Please call my office to schedule an appointment.

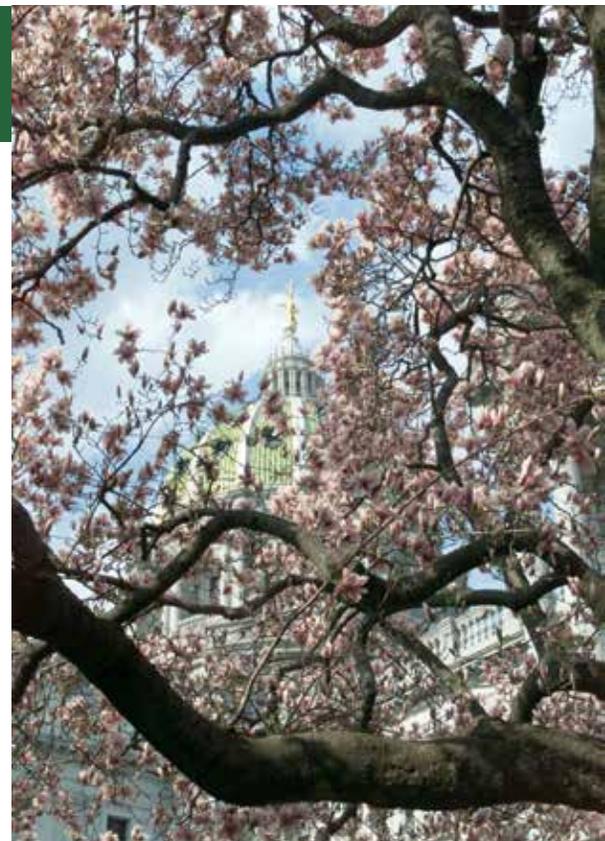


BIRTH CERTIFICATES AND DEATH CERTIFICATES

My office can help you obtain copies of birth and death certificates. Certificates cost \$20 each, and require payment via check or money order made payable to "VITAL RECORDS."

DISTRICT SERVICES

- Birth certificate applications
- Pennsylvania income tax problems
- Issues with the Department of Human Services
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information, student aid information, etc.
- Issues with or questions about utilities and the PUC
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
- Issues with state road conditions
- Issues or questions about PennDOT
- Disability plates and placards
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate issues or questions



Of course, this is not an exhaustive list. And if we cannot directly help, we can put you in contact with those who can.



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Stay in the Know with My Social Media Updates

The best way to stay connected to what is going on in Harrisburg and steps taken to mitigate COVID-19 is to follow me – [facebook.com/RepKHoward](https://www.facebook.com/RepKHoward).

Visit RepKHoward.com and sign up for my email newsletter to stay up to date!