

State Representative Pamela A. DeLissio 194th Legislative District



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Dear Neighbor,

It was truly an honor to be sworn in for my sixth term on January 5, 2021 as representative of the 194th Legislative District and to be named minority chair of the House Children and Youth Committee.

Committee chairmanships are assigned based on seniority. As we begin a new session, I am focusing on my new committee responsibilities as minority chair, on redistricting reform as state Senate, House and congressional districts will be redrawn later this year, and on a review of the House rules to ensure fairness in how legislation is considered.

The House Children and Youth Committee reviews bills pertaining to the youngest citizens of Pennsylvania, as well as bills that affect the programs under the Office of Children, Youth and Families under the Department of Human Services, and the Office of Child Development and Early Learning, which is overseen by both the Human Services and Education departments.

I look forward to serving in the minority chair role for this committee and working in the best interests of Pennsylvania's children. My plan to ensure the development of meaningful policy includes consistently obtaining stakeholder input for the legislation that is referred to the committee and working closely with the majority chair.

Another of my ongoing endeavors is to change our PA House rules to ensure a fair process when considering proposed legislation. A change in our PA House rules could ensure that legislation is treated more equitably regardless of who has proposed the legislation and removes that power from a majority chair and others in leadership who may have their own agenda. Currently Pennsylvania scores zero in fairness as rated by FairVote.

Bipartisanship remains an important aspect of my everyday work; my reputation for working across the aisle has led to productive conversations that build meaningful relationships, which help to advance the best policy possible.

Please know, I remain committed to ongoing dialogue with my constituents, to hear your ideas, thoughts and concerns so that I can best represent your interests in Harrisburg.

Pamela A. DeLissio



Henry Avenue Safety Improvement Plan (SIP) Update

This study is a federally funded initiative of PennDOT. This study, initiated in 2012, evaluated traffic on Henry Avenue between Port Royal Avenue and Abbottsford Avenue. The study had significant community input over a 5-year period.

Due to the level of community involvement, the plan was divided in two segments: SIP runs from Port Royal Avenue to the Wissahickon Creek Bridge, and SI2 is from the bridge to Abbottsford Avenue.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation awarded a nearly \$12.9 million contract in November for SIP, the 3.2-mile section between Port Royal and the Wissahickon Creek Bridge (Barnes Street).

This segment will implement traffic calming measures designed to encourage decreased speed, redesign the highway infrastructure, improve mobility for pedestrians and bicyclists, and upgrade traffic signals.

Citizen input has been a crucial part of the process.

Construction is expected to begin in spring 2021 and finish in late 2023. PennDOT plans to maintain traffic on Henry Avenue during construction through long-term lane shifts and short-term single-lane closures.

SI2 is expected to be bid late spring 2021.

We are all eager for work to begin, and I continue to encourage drivers to slow down and drive responsibly now and throughout construction.

A link to the full study can be found at www.pennDOT.gov. Search "Henry Avenue Safety Improvement Plan."



Constitutional Amendment on May 18 ballot

A question on May's ballot could have big consequences for future public health emergencies.

State constitutional amendments are a serious matter. I swore an oath to uphold the constitution – it is the ultimate governing document of our Commonwealth. Ultimately, matters of state constitutionality are decided by our state Supreme Court.

This current session of the General Assembly has seen quite a few constitutional amendments introduced, some passing out of committee and making it to the House floor for a final vote, only three weeks into the session.

If a proposed constitutional amendment passes both chambers in two consecutive sessions of the General Assembly, the amendment is placed on the ballot for voters to decide.

One such amendment will appear on the ballot on May 18.

S.B. 2 is a constitutional amendment to curtail the Governor's Executive Powers regarding the declaration of an emergency.

This amendment would limit the declaration to 21 days and, if it needs to be extended, it would require action by the General Assembly. Currently the Governor can extend emergency declarations without legislative action.

Having served in the House for the past 10 years, there is nothing more concerning than what is being proposed by this amendment, which is why I voted against it when it came to the floor. As I reflect on the severe consequences of the COVID pandemic, and on colleagues who question the science

behind the pandemic (and the need for mitigation efforts to preserve public safety and health), I am alarmed at the prospect of placing such a decision in the hands of 253 officials who would have varying degrees of access to, and respect for, the science and expertise needed to make the best decisions for our Commonwealth. Important to note is the fact that the Governor would not be able to veto this decision of the General Assembly.

Keep in mind that said decision(s) would be time sensitive and could also be politically motivated. I witness political theater on a regular basis in the Capitol (from both sides of the aisle) and, in my opinion, citizens lose as a result of each and every performance.

Constitutional amendments need to be advertised in advance and should be written in plain English, but I have seen the language of previous ballot amendments and they have often been confusing.

This ballot question moved quickly in order to ensure it would be on the primary ballot.

Historically, primaries garner a lower turnout than general elections and the May 18 primary may follow that pattern. Ballot questions can be voted on by those registered as non-affiliated, independent or another 3rd party, even though we do not have open primaries in Pennsylvania.

This is also a good reminder as to why all eligible citizens should be registered to vote and to vote in every election.

PA Needs Leaders who will Advocate for Fairness

According to a study conducted by FairVote, a national nonpartisan organization advocating for electoral reform, PA scores zero on an index of the fairness of the rules that govern how the House and Senate operate.

Why does PA score zero? We score zero because our legislative leaders have significant control and power over what bills run in committee and what bills run on the floor of each chamber.

Of the 99 legislative chambers in the United States, (Nebraska has a unicameral legislature) 23 chambers require committees to hear all bills; 18 chambers require committees to report all bills; and 33 chambers automatically place bills reported from committee on the agenda for a floor vote.

If you are looking for a fair state that has received a 100% score on this fairness index, look to Colorado as an example. The legislature in Colorado reformed their process to include: requiring each bill introduced to receive a full hearing and a committee vote, discontinuing the Rules Committee that party leaders often utilized to stop legislation from reaching a full floor vote, and memorializing the

reformed rules in their state's constitution so they cannot easily be changed with each new session.

During my time in office, I have worked to change the infrastructure of our process. I was a charter member of the bicameral, bipartisan Government Reform Caucus and continue this effort with a bipartisan group of House members working to change both the culture in Harrisburg and the rules that govern our chamber.

I work on these projects because session after session there are government reform bills that languish. Leadership is often focused on bills that are either politically expedient or those bills which are influenced by special interest groups, particularly those groups with significant financial influence. Elections and financial influence by political action committees (PACs) often drive the focus of the PA House.

Examples of government reform bills include redistricting, gift ban and campaign finance reform. Criminal justice, merit selection of judges, and closing loopholes in gun laws are other examples of legislation that does not

move session after session. Ensuring our environment (air, water and land) stays clean, and funding basic education equitably remain aspirational goals instead of the law of the land.

Changing the rules of the game and improving our state's fairness score will give many of these languishing initiatives a fair shot at being considered by House committees and then brought forward for a floor vote. We should be working for the greater good of citizens and not preserving the status quo.

We need elected officials who are committed to a change in the rules that permit no one small group of individuals to run the show and decide the fate of Pennsylvania citizens. The citizens, in fact, have the power to elect leaders who will advocate for fairness. Citizens can help to facilitate this change.

I remain committed to advocating for fairness. As I have demonstrated throughout my tenure as your representative, I have and will continue to advocate vociferously for rules that will take Pennsylvania from a rating of zero to 100%.

2021 is a Redistricting Year

Redistricting is the act of drawing the boundaries for state Senate, state House and congressional districts. Redrawing the boundaries occurs after the decennial census. The census informs us where people live and the districts need to reflect similar population counts. Currently our state elected officials redraw these boundaries and do so in a partisan manner, effectively selecting the voters that they want in their districts. This boundary manipulation is referred to as gerrymandering.

The outcome of gerrymandered districts is less competitive races for state Senate, House and congressional races. Another outcome is extreme candidates, on both sides of the aisle, are often the winners of their primary races. Candidates who are ideologically to the far left and far right often create gridlock in the legislative body.

Efforts to place the boundary line drawing process in the hands of an Independent Redistricting Commission have yet to succeed. Leadership from both parties have never committed to redistricting reform. Redistricting should be in the hands of citizens and not elected officials who have

a vested interest in the outcome.

Therefore, in this age of polarization, it was noteworthy when a Republican from conservative Blair County, and two Democrats from liberal Philadelphia came together in a bipartisan way to tackle the matter of congressional gerrymandering.

I was proud to work with Rep. Jared Solomon and Rep. Jim Gregory to reform congressional gerrymandering.

We worked steadily at this effort for over nine months last session and regretfully our hard work went nowhere.

Our efforts were not the only efforts to work toward reform. I also worked closely with Fair Districts PA on advocating for legislation to create an Independent Redistricting Commission.

Our task now is to work to ensure as much transparency as House leadership will permit. We are counting on the involvement of the thousands of citizens who have become aware of this travesty and who will join us in holding the legislature accountable.

How it Works and Why Paying Attention Matters

The PA House is comprised of 203 members, 113 from the majority party and 90 from the minority party. I am a member of the minority party.

I have always worked in a bipartisan manner and believe that the development of good policy is predicated on bipartisan input. Be assured that legislation that is vetoed by the Governor is rarely the result of a bipartisan effort.

During the past few years, and especially during this pandemic, I have witnessed a significant uptick in the number of citizens who are engaging in state policy discussion and advocacy.

Citizen engagement is encouraging and for me, heartening. The constituents of the 194th have good ideas and provide

meaningful feedback and I do take your input into consideration when voting on bills. The 194th is blessed with citizens who are willing to share their expertise in helping to advance meaningful legislation.

2021 is the year that redistricting of the state Senate, House and congressional district boundaries occur. Despite significant work by me and a few dedicated colleagues over the past four years to establish an Independent Redistricting Commission to handle this critical task, the legislature will continue to redraw these boundaries (think fox guarding the hen house).

Please know that I and thousands of our fellow citizens will be watching this process very closely and doing

our best to ensure that the district boundaries are drawn to truly reflect compact, contiguous districts, keeping communities whole where possible. The big difference between this upcoming redistricting year and 2011 is that thousands of citizens are paying closer attention and are now better informed about the polarizing and negative impact of gerrymandering.

It has been my pleasure to work closely with the volunteers at Fair Districts PA. This organization excels at informing citizens of the pitfalls of gerrymandered districts and has assisted in mobilizing citizens to better advocate for redistricting reform. The 194th has many constituents who are active in this effort and help to lead their friends and neighbors in this endeavor.

COVID-19 Vaccines

Over the past several months, my staff and I have spent many hours in meetings with officials from the state, city of Philadelphia and Montgomery County to learn and understand the most current information and resources pertaining to the vaccine rollout.

My district represents two counties, and those counties follow two different guidelines.

Montgomery County follows the state guidelines for vaccination phases.

Philadelphia is a separate vaccine jurisdiction, as designated by the federal government, and does not follow the state guidelines for vaccination phases.

Here are telephone numbers for where you can have questions answered and websites to look information up online.

Online Resources

Philadelphia Interest Form

- covid-vaccine-interest.phila.gov

MontCo Information & Pre-registration Form

- montcopa.org/covid-19vaccine

State COVID-19 Information & 'Your Turn' Tool

- Health.pa.gov

The PA Department of Health

1-877-724-3258

Montgomery County - vaccination pre-registration

833-875-3967

(COVID-19 Hotline)

Philadelphia - vaccination information

215-685-5488

(COVID Call Center)

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA)

215-765-9040

Montgomery County Office of

Senior Services (MCOSS)

610-278-3601

It is vital that we continue to follow the best practices for stopping the spread of COVID-19



wear
a mask



stay
home



avoid
gatherings



physical
distance



wash
hands



COVID
Alert PA



Share Food Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant

In December 2020 the Share Food Program was awarded a \$1 million state grant to support improvements at the food organization's warehouse.

The Share Food Program distributes food to 1,000,000 neighbors in need each month, over 50% of whom are children, and 12% who are seniors or people with disabilities. It was my pleasure to support the Share application and I am proud that they are located in my district.

Playscape Funding

Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE) was awarded a grant of \$76,300 in September 2020 for rehabilitation of its Tall Trees Nature Playscape.

SCEE has been educating the greater Philadelphia community about the environment for more than 50 years. This grant will help renovate and expand the center's playscape, add new interactive features and establish the center as a natural play destination for the region.

The playscape is intended to be a resource for the entire community, where families can explore and play using all-natural materials.

It is always a pleasure to see our community strengthened by the work of locally based organizations. I was delighted to see my office's advocacy efforts result in this grant award.

SEPTA Update

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, SEPTA is providing a one-year extension for all Senior Key ID Cards that will expire in 2021. SEPTA is also providing a second one-year extension for cards that expired in calendar year 2020.

All new applicants for a Senior SEPTA Key ID card must call 215-580-7145 to make an appointment to have your photo taken at SEPTA headquarters located at 1234 Market Street, Phila.

Primary Election Dates



May 3, 2021: Last day to register to vote.

May 11, 2021: Last day to request a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot.

May 18, 2021: Primary Election Day, polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For voting information go to: [VotesPA.com](https://www.votespa.com)

Mail-In Ballot Update

Each year, voters have the option to apply for a mail-in ballot. Even if you voted by mail-in ballot last year, you must reapply this year.

You can apply online at [VotesPA.com](https://www.votespa.com)

Our office can also mail you a paper ballot application.

For the 2020 General Election, voter turnout in Pennsylvania was an unprecedented 70.93%.

Thank you for understanding the importance of voting in every election.

Upcoming Town Hall Dates via Zoom and Facebook:

104th Town Hall: Friday, March 19 @ 10:30 a.m.

105th Town Hall: Thursday, April 22 @ 7 p.m.

106th Town Hall: Wednesday, May 26 @ 7 p.m.

107th Town Hall: Thursday, June 17 @ 10:30 a.m.



Serving You

My role as your state representative is to ensure that constituents are represented in the law-making process. The laws that are passed (or not passed) affect our everyday lives. You can view my participation in the legislative process on my website and social media, as I endeavor to make your voices heard by using mine.

While my focus is on being the best legislator I can be, my staff strive to be the best at delivering constituent services.

My district office is currently open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. On Wednesdays we work remotely. Our in office hours are subject to change depending on mitigation efforts.

Staff will meet with constituents BY APPOINTMENT or you may stop by if you need to deliver or pick-up paperwork.

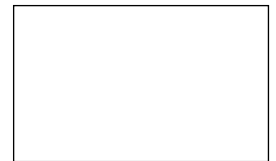
All constituents must wear a mask to receive constituent service.

Please contact my office to determine how we can best assist you.

State Representative

Pamela A. DeLissio

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SHRED EVENTS

Sunday, April 17, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

**Magisterial District Courthouse parking lot
925 Montgomery Ave., Narberth, 19072**

Saturday, May 15, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

**Main Street Theatre parking lot
3720 Main St., Manayunk**

Sunday, May 23, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Welsh Valley Middle School parking lot
325 Tower Lane, Narberth, PA 19072**



*Shred events are
a popular way to
discard sensitive
materials.*

Stay Informed

Sign up and 'opt in' to continuously receive my emails, which I send regularly for news and upcoming events in the district, legislative topics important to you, and other state government-related information. Visit RepDeLissio.com and scroll to the bottom of the page to sign up.

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