



SPRING
2021

State Representative | 53rd Legislative District

STEVE MALAGARI



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Dear Neighbor,

As the COVID-19 vaccine rollout has gone from unequitable and inaccessible to readily available to any resident who wishes to receive it, there is a light at the end of this tunnel. I know most of us, including myself, are ready to go back to our pre-pandemic lifestyles and are looking forward to a bright summer.

As the county continues vaccinating residents, I'm pleased to share that some locally loved events will come back this spring and summer (I have more information on that enclosed in this newsletter). For the first time since March 2020, we can finally see a glimmer of hope and sense of normalcy returning to communities across the commonwealth. The past year has been frustrating, scary, tiring and dark for so many, but there is hope on the horizon. Nearly half of all Pennsylvania residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine and our state's travel restrictions have been lifted – these are good things.

There was no roadmap to guide us through this crisis; we've never experienced a global pandemic in our lifetimes. We learned, though, and as we continue to adapt, we are moving forward.

Remember that my office is here to help. As we continue making progress and loosening mitigation measures, I'll update you. I encourage you to follow me on social media @RepMalagari, where I do regular live video news updates with special guests, and more. You can also subscribe to my email list by visiting RepMalagari.com.

All the best,

ARE YOU READY FOR THE MAY 18 PRIMARY?

This election there will be three constitutional amendments and a ballot question to vote on. Regarding ballot questions one and two, I opposed their underlying legislation. If enacted, these amendments would remove the existing check and balance of presenting a resolution to the (current or future) governor for approval or disapproval. Per question 2, a disaster emergency declaration would expire automatically after 21 days regardless of the severity of the emergency. This could cause us to miss out on billions of dollars in federal relief.

Regardless of your party registration, you can vote on these questions. For more, visit VotesPA.com.

PA Ballot Questions Explained

BALLOT QUESTION #1

YES means the party in power can end an emergency declaration at any time, regardless of how severe or dangerous the emergency is.

NO means the governor can act quickly to deliver federal dollars and state aid and a two-thirds majority of the legislature is needed to end a declaration.

BALLOT QUESTION #2

YES means a disaster emergency automatically ends after 21 days, even if the legislature is unable to meet and extend it.

NO means a disaster response will continue for as long as needed to.

BALLOT QUESTION #3

YES means that our state constitution would be updated to include equal rights protections based on race or ethnicity.

NO means that our state constitution would continue to lack protections for discrimination based on race or ethnicity.

BALLOT QUESTION #4

YES would allow municipal fire and emergency services with paid personnel to apply for state grants and loans to purchase safety equipment currently only available to volunteer emergency services

NO would reserve the state's fire and emergency services grants and loans for volunteer companies only

SPRING AND SUMMERTIME IN MONTCO

As we welcome warmer weather, spend more time outdoors and gradually transition back to our pre-pandemic lives, I wanted to share information on some upcoming events plus safety tips.

Community Events:

- **Lansdale Farmers Market** will return to Penndale Middle School on Saturday, May 15, at 9 a.m.
- **Free shred event, Saturday, May 15 at 10 a.m.**, I'm hosting a shred event where you can bring personal documents cluttering up your home to be securely shredded on site. I'll be at Indian Crest Middle School from 10 a.m. to noon (or until the truck is full) accepting boxes or bags of paperwork.
- **Souderton Third Fridays:** This celebration will return virtually for May and June, at soudertonconnects.com/3rd-fridays, and in-person on July 16.
- **Open House:** Join my staff at 103B N. Main St. in Souderton for Third Friday on July 16 to check out our Souderton office and learn how we can assist you.
- **National Night Out:** Meet the members of the Souderton Borough Police Department on August 10 from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Souderton Park.
- **Senior Fair:** I'm in the process of planning my senior fair for this fall, so keep an eye out for updates on this event!



(All info is correct at time of mailing. Everything is subject to change. Please confirm details of events you're interested in prior to making arrangements.)

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

- As temperatures warm up and we're more interested in spending time outdoors, at local pools and traveling, please do what you can to keep yourself and others safe.
- Always apply sunscreen, especially to your face, even if you won't be outside very long.
- Never leave a child or a pet locked inside a hot car. Even with the windows cracked, the temperature can rise rapidly.
- Stay hydrated. Drink water throughout the day, even if you don't think you're thirsty, to prevent dehydration.
- Always check yourself thoroughly for ticks after spending time outside. If you pull one off your body, keep an eye on where it was to see if it develops a bullseye marking, which could indicate Lyme disease.

BE SUN SAFE!

- SPF 30 sunscreen
- wide-brimmed hat
- sunglasses
- protective clothing
- shade during midday

REMOVE A TICK!

USE FINE-TIPPED TWEEZERS
to grasp tick as close to skin's surface as possible

PULL UPWARD with steady, even pressure

THOROUGHLY CLEAN bite area and hands

DISPOSE OF LIVE TICK — never crush a tick with your fingers

COVID-19/VACCINE UPDATE

COVID-19 vaccine eligibility opened up to all Pennsylvanians 16+ on April 13, 2021. We've made significant progress over the last few months, and now almost 50% of the commonwealth's population has had at least one dose of vaccine. For more from the Department of Health, including where to get the vaccine, visit health.pa.gov. The county is still offering COVID-19 testing and vaccine appointments. Visit montcopa.org/covid-19vaccine or call (833) 875-3967.

TRAVEL GUIDANCE

As the coronavirus vaccine becomes more accessible throughout the nation, travel restrictions are easing up. If you plan on traveling domestically, make sure to double check the state's guidance on welcoming non-residents. For example, Pennsylvanians are free to travel to New York without proof of vaccination or completing any paperwork because New York has not implemented restrictions for residents of neighboring states. Meanwhile, some states in New England, such as Maine and Vermont, require out-of-state visitors to provide a negative COVID-19 test result or proof of vaccination. For international travel, many restrictions still remain in place. Currently, Americans cannot visit Canada, most European countries or Australia – just to name a few. The list of places that Americans can travel continues to grow slowly, though. Countries in Africa – including South Africa and Egypt – the United Arab Emirates, the UK and several countries in South America welcome American visitors.

If you plan on traveling anywhere out of state, please check government-run websites for the latest travel advisories so you can go prepared.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE COVID ALERT PA APP WORKS OUTSIDE OF PENNSYLVANIA?

If you're a traveler and utilize this app, you can still receive notifications if you've potentially been exposed to COVID-19. This app works in Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Washington D.C. and even as far as California!

Anyone interested in downloading this free app can find it in both the Apple App and Google Play stores.



Thank you to my wife Rachel, constituent Rachael Bollens and Rachael's son Rowan for accompanying me to my swearing-in ceremony to commence my second term!

UC UPDATE COMING IN JUNE

Currently, Pennsylvania's unemployment compensation programs run on a 40-year-old system. I know this outdated software has created endless difficulties for many people. Therefore, I'm pleased to share that the Office of Unemployment Compensation will launch a much-needed upgrade to simplify and speed up the claims process in June.

Claimants will have access to more information and new self-serve options that will reduce the need to contact the UC customer service center. The new system will make sure that people get the benefits they need while also reducing the opportunity for fraud.

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry will provide a variety of training materials and other helpful information. Anyone who wants to learn how to use the new system is encouraged to watch the Department of Labor and Industry's social media channels and website for announcements. My office is also staying updated and is on hand to answer your questions.

UPDATES ON MY LEGISLATION

I've been busy this session introducing and voting on bills that would improve life for all Pennsylvanians. Here are some of the bills I've been working on:

- **Tax credit for apprenticeships:** My bill would reward employers training an apprentice by creating a tax credit for qualifying businesses to defray the cost of apprentice education expenses. By providing this incentive, the youth of Pennsylvania will retain the option to seek apprenticeships and businesses can be assured there will be a capable workforce in the future.

Last action: Referred to House Finance Committee on April 1, 2021.

- **Insurance coverage for infertility:** Reps. Jennifer O'Mara, Sara Innamorato and I drafted legislation that would require insurance to cover infertility treatments. Infertility affects men and women equally, and treatments can cost as much as \$80,000. Our bill would ensure every single Pennsylvanian has the chance to start a family. Read more at RepMalagari.com.

Last action: Circulating.

- **Supporting locally owned crematories, cool the °Fs down:** To help mitigate unnecessarily high expenses to family-owned crematories, my bill would decrease their minimum operating temperature by 200 degrees Fahrenheit. This would minimize burdens on equipment, reduce fuel consumption and lessen environmental gas emissions while ensuring these businesses can still function.

Last action: Circulating.

- **Distracted driving:** Using a cellphone or other electronic device while driving has emerged as one of the leading causes of distracted driving crashes. Legislation I wrote with Rep. Rosemary Brown would bring Pennsylvania up to speed with our neighboring states and prohibit using a cellphone when behind the wheel.

Last action: Awaiting a full House vote since March 24, 2021.

- **Grants for small businesses:** The coronavirus pandemic took an undeniable toll on small businesses. Therefore, I introduced three pieces of legislation to help them get back on their feet.

- **House Bill 1063** would establish a grant program designed to help local business owners pay off the interest on a loan that was taken out to save their business last year.
- **House Bill 675** sought to create a grant program specifically for small businesses in the hospitality and entertainment industries. This became reality thanks to the COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program (CHIRP).
- **House Bill 673** would offer grants to Pennsylvania's beer, liquor and wine manufacturers to help make up for last year's reduced, or in some instances canceled, production.

GRANTS AWARDED TO OUR COMMUNITY

During my first term, one of my top priorities was building relationships with community organizations and identifying opportunities for new projects and redevelopment. Throughout the last year, I've helped bring millions of dollars in state funding back home to Montgomery County. Here's a glimpse of funding recently distributed to our community:

- North Penn and Souderton school districts received \$9.3 million and \$3.8 million, respectively, from Pennsylvania's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund.
- Pennsylvania Northeastern railroad received a \$483,000 grant to replace approximately 6,000 ties on its Stony Creek and Bethlehem branches. Ensuring the functionality of local freight lines is essential for both our local economy and the prosperity of our community.
- Generations of Indian Valley received \$100,000 to update the community room, which has been described as "the beating heart of Souderton's vibrant senior activity center." The community room has not been updated in 32 years.
- Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grants are awarded for capital projects with large community impact, and they are very competitive:
 - Clemens Food Group received \$2.5 million to construct a state-of-the-art, 300,700-square-foot facility to expand food processing capacity.
 - Souderton Borough received \$1 million to develop a new public works complex with salt storage, truck and equipment storage, and office space, and the opportunity to lease commercial pad sites.
 - Peter Becker Community received \$600,000 for a new generator, upgraded electrical systems and measures to improve the safety, security and health of employees, residents and guests.



I participated in the groundbreaking for Clemens Food Group's and Hatfield Quality Meats' expansion project. This project will bring new jobs to the district and ensure reliable food distribution for our state.

AROUND THE DISTRICT



North Penn High School and Skippack Pharmacy worked together to host several mass vaccination clinics in our area, immunizing thousands of residents.



I was proud to present an award to North Penn Nutritional Services for their hard work, distributing more than 1 MILLION meals over the last year.



Thanks to all who came out to my shred event in September. If you couldn't make it, I'm hosting another one on May 15!



I presented Generations of Indian Valley with a \$100,000 check that will help cover the costs of the facility's first upgrade to the community room since 1989.



I was honored to recognize local servicemen and women last Veterans Day. Follow me on social media for information on upcoming Memorial Day ceremonies in Lansdale and Hatfield.



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FREE SHRED EVENT MAY 15

Saturday, May 15 from 10 a.m. - noon, shred your old paperwork for free at Indian Crest Middle School, 139 Harleysville Pike, Souderton PA 18964. For more information call my office at (267) 768-3671 or email RepMalagari@PAHouse.net.

REAL ID UPDATE

Once again, the deadline to get a REAL ID has been pushed back, this time to May 2023. You now have much longer to prepare for this federal change. Pennsylvanians may also use a passport to board a domestic flight. For more information visit penndot.gov/REALID or call my office.

**The federal REAL ID Act has been extended in Pennsylvania until
May 3, 2023**

The best thing you can do to prepare for REAL ID is to get your documents together:

- Proof of identity**
- Social Security card**
- Two current, physical proofs of PA residency**
- Proof of all legal name changes**



Visit **PENNDOT.GOV/REALID**