



State Representative
Pamela A. DeLissio
194th Legislative District

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Dear Neighbor,

My role as your state representative is to ensure that constituents of the 194th are represented in the law-making process in Harrisburg. The laws that are passed (or not passed) affect our everyday lives. On behalf of my constituents, I actively participate in committee and floor debate. Constituents would be surprised how few representatives participate in regular debate. The law making process may appear straightforward but in reality the process can take many twists and turns and I am as vigilant as possible to ensure that the interests of the 194th are well represented.

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

My District office is located at 6511 Ridge Ave. The office is at the epicenter of the district, no more than about 3 miles from any district border, with plenty of free parking. The office is served by the 9 and 35 SEPTA bus routes. Office hours are 9 to 5 Monday through Friday and by appointment in the evening and on weekends.

Leza Perkins, Merle Zucker and Jen Wallace handle both the mundane as well as the more stressful challenges when constituents need assistance to navigate state government.

If your matter is related to local or federal government, we will make a referral to the appropriate city, township or federal office.

Some examples of how my district office can assist you are included in this newsletter. We strive to provide a welcoming, informative, and pleasant experience to help constituents and I encourage you contact my district office for state related constituent services.

Pamela A. DeLissio

Budget update

The state's 2018-2019 spending plan, H.B. 2121 passed and I voted in favor of the plan.

Increases in funding for education, workforce development and support for the opioid crisis were among the priorities included in this budget.

I am pleased we were able to compromise in a timely fashion on the budget without any new taxes or fee increases. I was also pleased that for the first time in over a decade a contribution was made to the state's Rainy Day Fund. This fund is a reserve fund to be used to help the state weather (pun intended) an economic downturn. Basically, before this contribution, the balance of the fund was negative when compared to its stated purpose.

The 2018-19 General Fund budget represents \$32.7 billion in state spending that includes a \$100 million increase in basic education funding and \$40 million for specialized career and workforce development programs such as the PA Smart program. The spending plan also reflects funding to the Department of Health and Human Services to address the state's heroin and opioid epidemic.

Gov. Tom Wolf signed the bill on June 22.

The ease with which the budget was negotiated is a direct reflection of the fact that this is an election year for all members of the House, half the Senate and the office of governor. The goal going forward would be to ensure that an on-time budget occurs in subsequent years when the General Assembly is confronted with the more difficult task of cutting expenses or raising revenue.



Update on Redistricting

One of the crushing disappointments was the fact that no redistricting reform bill was brought to the floor of the House. In previous emails and posts on social media I have detailed the various twists and turns that this topic has taken as a variety of bills tried to navigate the legislative process.

Ironically, the same system that thwarted the ability to bring a bill to the floor is the same process that hopefully would be impacted by establishing an independent citizens redistricting commission. Redistricting reform would take the drawing of district lines for state senate, representative and congressional seats out of the hands of the elected officials who have a vested interest in the process, and place that responsibility with citizens who would draw the lines regardless of political implications.

The fight is not over even if the opportunity to establish this independent commission is no longer a reality

before the 2020 U.S. Census and the 2021 redistricting of seats. The fight is not over because there is still the need to put this in place for the future and to work through the legislative process to place constraints on the current Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission.

My gratitude goes to the citizen volunteers who worked **TIRELESSLY** on this issue and spent their personal time and treasure to move this discussion forward. Thank you to the following local and statewide groups - Fair Districts PA, Fair Districts PA - Philadelphia, and Fair Districts PA - Montgomery County.



Voting Happens Twice a Year

The 2018 General Election is November 6th and historically we have better turnout in a Presidential election year. However, “better” is a relative term.

The primary in May 2018 saw turnout of 17% in Philadelphia and 20.5% in Montgomery County.

The primary in 2016 (a Presidential election year) saw turnout of 40% in Philadelphia and 44% in Montgomery County.

I am always puzzled by the fact that so many citizens do not appear to take the responsibility of voting as a life or death matter. The officials, including judges that are being elected are certainly making life or death decisions on our behalf.

One contributing factor may be that Pennsylvania does not make it easy to vote. There is a 13 hour window on

one specific day, Election Day, and if something happens and you are not able to get to the polls that day your vote is not recorded.

In 37 states and the District of Columbia, any qualified voter may cast a ballot in person during a designated period prior to Election Day. This is referred to as early voting. The average starting time for early voting across all 37 states is 22 days before the election.

27 states and the District of Columbia permit any qualified voter to vote absentee without offering an excuse. Some states offer a permanent absentee ballot list: once a voter asks to be added to the list, the voter will automatically receive an absentee ballot for all future elections.

In Pennsylvania, we permit an absentee ballot only for certain

reasons. Pennsylvania does not use a “no excuse” absentee ballot system. Absentee ballots must be requested for each election.

Three states actually vote using the U.S. Mail, exclusively.

I remain committed to advocating for the changes needed which will – hopefully – make it easier for more citizens to engage in the electoral process. Multiple pieces of legislation have been introduced each and every session to address these issues and languish in committee- usually the State Government Committee. Until we can get these bills to the Governor’s desk, please circle November 6th on your calendar and make a plan to vote. The last day to register is October 9th.

You can also now register online at www.register.votesPA.com.

194th Legislative District 3rd Economic Development Round

This fall I am hosting the staff and board members of the East Falls Development Corporation, Manayunk Development Corporation, Roxborough Development Corporation and the City Avenue Special Services District for an afternoon of sharing vision, opportunities and challenges. Our business corridors are instrumental to the health of our neighborhoods and it is imperative that the appropriate state resources are available to help these

corridors succeed.

Presenting and listening will be representatives from the state Department of Community and Economic Development and the City Department of Commerce.

The two previous gatherings were also an opportunity to share best practices and to also recognize that a broader, perhaps even regional perspective, could help small businesses to thrive.

Preaching Process

Governing is a complex process and often, constituents are not aware of the 'zigs and zags' that legislation can take on its way to either the Governor's desk or the DOA (dead on arrival) pile.

This is a good time to review process because at midnight on November 30th our current legislative session ends and bills introduced that have not become law are dead.

It is also important to note that on average, 3800 bills are introduced during a 2-year session, and less than 9% of those bills are signed into law.

Constituents are often surprised at what is 'normal' process and procedure in Harrisburg.

A few things that you may not know:

A bill can be referred to any one of the 23 House standing committees; it does not have to be referred to an 'obvious' committee. E.g. an insurance related bill can go to the Transportation Committee or an education related bill can go to the Human Services Committee. The Speaker assigns all bills and they can be sent to a particular committee with the intention of being expedited or stalled.

Amendments that are voted into legislation with the express purpose of killing the bill are referred to as poison pills. A glaring example of this was the amendment voted in the State Government Committee onto HB722 (a bill that would create an independent citizens redistricting commission) that caused the bill to exacerbate gerrymandering.

An amendment can be ruled as "not germane" to the legislation to which it is being proposed. In this instance, whether or not it is germane is decided by a simple majority of the House. So, if the majority party is concerned an amendment may pass, it will be subjected to a vote on 'germaneness.' The outcome of that type of vote is rarely a surprise; the vote is really about politics.

When House members cast a vote, the Speaker, in his/her judgment, decides when to close the vote. (In no event shall such time exceed 10 minutes). Votes by legislators are electronically displayed on boards on the House floor. I have seen the boards close in seconds and I have seen the boards remain open for many minutes - depending on the ideal outcome the Speaker would like, e.g. the boards are held open if there are not sufficient votes as desired by the Speaker, and arm twisting occurs.

Gentlemen members of the House will not be recognized to speak unless attired in a jacket and tie. No comparable dictate exists for gentleladies. Personally, I do not think they ever anticipated women being elected; after all, barely 21% of the House are women after 336 years.

A few years ago, out of total frustration, I created the hashtag #cluckfuster and use it in social media when I am particularly dismayed or frustrated about the legislative process.

If this information has piqued your curiosity, please join me at one of my Town Hall meetings which I hold monthly. We discuss how the legislature works, in addition to the legislative priorities du jour.

Pam Packard, from Merion Station, has attended a number of Town Halls and said, "I can't think of a more empowering way to take on the political craziness we're currently enduring than by participating in a DeLissio Town Hall. Spending 90 minutes with Representative DeLissio gives you back the feeling that it's YOUR government."



Constituents from all parts of the 194th attend my monthly Town Halls.

Anya Rose from Manayunk, a first timer to a Town Hall meeting says, "That was so incredibly informative. I just went to my state rep's Town Hall meeting. I think everyone should go to these meetings. You will learn a lot. What issues are being discussed? What's worth fighting for? What can we be hopeful about? What can we not be hopeful about? What are other people in your area concerned about? I can't urge you enough. GO! Pam DeLissio thank you."

Is the State Holding Your Unclaimed Property

One in 10 Pennsylvania residents has unclaimed property currently being held by the Pennsylvania State Treasury, which is holding more than \$3.2 billion. Examples of unclaimed property include closed bank accounts, uncashed checks, certificates of deposit or lost stocks and bonds.

Perhaps you, or someone you know, currently has money being held. This money belongs to you and is yours to claim.

You can look up information at www.patreasury.gov or ask us to check whether any cash is being held in your name, and we can assist in putting in the claim.

My staff and I periodically enter constituent names into the Unclaimed Property website and surprise constituents with a phone call informing them of their "found funds" and offer assistance in submitting their claim form.

Policy Committee Roundtable Hosted by DeLissio on Single Payer Healthcare

On Wednesday August 29th, the House Democratic Policy Committee held a roundtable on my HB1688; this legislation would implement universal health care via a single payer system.

The meeting was held at The Conservatory at West Laurel Hill Cemetery in Bala Cynwyd.

Presenters included grass roots advocates of single payer and those who are delivering health care through the current model - aka - commercial and not for profit insurers. The discussion compared universal coverage with our current insurance driven model.

Consumers' perspective was also represented and hearing about consumers' challenges to navigate the system and obtain care timely and in a cost effective manner reinforced the fact that we need to do something different. My legislation addresses these concerns.



Healthcare is a right not a privilege.

DeLissio joins PA State Council for Engage Cuba

In June I announced my participation with the launch of the PA State Council to Engage Cuba.

Engage Cuba is a national coalition of private companies, organizations, and local leaders dedicated to lifting the U.S. embargo on Cuba in order to create U.S. jobs and empower the Cuban people.

Engage Cuba has launched 17 state councils across the country to educate and mobilize local communities in order to build grassroots support to advance federal legislation to lift the embargo. Comprised of nearly 500 state and local leaders, including 15 Fortune 500 companies, 15 Farm Bureaus, and 23 universities, the state councils are leading the grassroots charge to fully and permanently lift the U.S. embargo on Cuba. Pennsylvania is the 18th state council.

Each state has been given an opportunity by this coalition to band together and advocate for an end to decades of limited economic growth across our country and especially within our commonwealth, while under an embargo.

Pennsylvania's leading industry is agriculture followed by manufacturing, and a working relationship between our commonwealth and Cuba could prove financially beneficial to both industries. We are hopeful with the support of this council and coalition we can make a strong case toward relaxing some of the restrictions and prohibitions that deter trade, travel, and financial transactions. I am honored to be invited to participate in this endeavor.



Two Grants totaling \$1,986,715 awarded in the 194th Legislative District

Congratulations to our district for receiving substantial investments for two vital area projects. The funds provided are controlled by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The Wolf administration awarded \$66.8 million through the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside program. The TA Set-Aside funds transportation alternatives such as on- and off-road pedestrian and bike facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation, Safe Routes to School programs and other projects.

A \$1 million grant was awarded for a Manayunk Canal preservation project.

This project will rehabilitate a severely deteriorated portion of the Manayunk Canal to preserve the historic transportation structure and ensure pedestrian safety.

A goal of these funds is to preserve various aspects of neighborhoods and with the anticipated restoration of the sluice house further upstream, these funds will ensure that the historic locks will not be further diminished by the increased water flow.

A \$986,715 grant was awarded to the City Avenue Special Services District (CASSD).

These funds will provide new pedestrian lighting from 52nd Street to Lapsley Lane in Philadelphia and Lower Merion Township. This project is an important investment to improve pedestrian safety and further enhance the busy City Avenue corridor.

This funding success would not have been possible without CASSD's partnership with Saint Joseph's University and other state legislative partners that represent both the Philadelphia and Lower Merion areas around the university.



Celebrating our town watch volunteers and first responders during National Night Out.

Patrick Baeringer met the Governor while shadowing as an intern in my District Office.



W.B. Saul Agricultural H.S. New Livestock Center groundbreaking – 07/18/2018



Constituents of the 194th enjoying the July 4th celebrations in Bala Cynwyd.

Shred events are a great way to safely dispose of unwanted documents. Check Save the Dates for upcoming Fall Shredding opportunities.



Additional Constituent Services Available

SEPTA photos

If you are 65 or older, you are invited to have your photo taken for the free SEPTA Key ID cards here in my district office.

This is by appointment only for residents of the 194th. We have taken more than 2,700 photos of constituents and the SEPTA photo ID card is then mailed to you by SEPTA.

Vehicle registration renewals

My office can help you with PennDOT vehicle registration renewals. If you are without a computer or printer, my office can assist you in providing your new valid registration card by applying online on your behalf. Simply bring in your current registration card and proof of insurance, and staff will print out for you your new valid, updated card. You will need to bring a credit card in order to complete the transaction.

Many Ways My District Office May be of Help

My great office staff is prepared to help you with state Department of Human Services programs such as SNAP, Medical Assistance, and LIHEAP, as well as unemployment compensation concerns, birth and death certificates, voter registration, unclaimed property, PennDOT forms and applications such as handicap placards and driver and non-driver licenses, Property Tax/Rent Rebate filings, most consumer complaints, and many other state-related issues. Come visit!

Keep Informed

- Sign up and 'opt in' to continue to receive my emails, which I send twice a month, for news and upcoming events in the district, legislative topics important to you, and other state government-related information. Go to: www.pahouse.com/DeLissio/emailsignup
- Find out how we voted: www.legis.state.pa.us
- Follow State House & Senate Sessions, Committee Hearings & State Judiciary proceedings on PCN: **Comcast – 186 • Verizon – 9**
- **PennWATCH:** For information about how state tax dollars are spent. www.pennwatch.pa.gov
- Shadow me and 'work the day of a legislator': Call my Harrisburg office to arrange a date. 717-783-4945
- Be sure to check my website, like my Facebook page, and follow me on twitter and Instagram!

Website: www.pahouse.com/DeLissio

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TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Monday, September 17 • 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 18 • 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 15 • 7 p.m.

Saturday, January 12 • 10 a.m.

SENIOR EXPO

**Thursday, September 27
9 a.m. – 12 noon.**

Roxborough Memorial Hospital
5800 Ridge Ave., Philadelphia
Under the big white tent on the
parking lot off of Rector Street.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

**Wednesday, December 12
4 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

**Constituents of the 194th are welcome
to join us in the district office.**

6511 Ridge Avenue,
Philadelphia 19128

Save the dates:

FREE SHREDDING EVENTS

Saturday, October 13 • 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Magisterial District Court parking lot
925 Montgomery Avenue, Narberth 19072

Saturday, October 27 • 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

514 Dupont Street, Philadelphia 19128

Shredding occurs on site.

GENERAL ELECTION DATES

October 9 – Last Day to Register before a General Election

October 30 – Last day to apply for an Absentee Ballot

November 2 – Last day Absentee Ballot can be received
by County Election Office

November 6 – General Election: Polls Open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

**Online Voter Registration –
www.register.votesPA.com**