

State Representative Pamela A. DeLissio 194th Legislative District



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Dear Neighbor,

It has been a privilege to serve the constituents of the 194th, and I have met hundreds and hundreds of wonderful people over the past 12 years.

As you may know by now due to the result of my May primary, my term ends November 30. My priority continues to be to meet the needs of my constituents by vigorously representing you in Harrisburg and ensuring that my office continues to deliver great constituent services in the district.

It has been an interesting 12 years, to say the least. During my time, the General Assembly has been

controlled by the majority party (Republicans have been in the majority in the House for 23 of the past 27 years and have controlled the Senate since 1994) and I look forward to sharing my thoughts on what needs to change and the work I have done to #FixHarrisburg at my October 18 town hall meeting.

For the first time in over 40 years the district was represented by a standing committee chair. Chairs are appointed based on seniority. As a policy wonk I used this platform to ensure that minority party priorities were reflected in the legislation voted from the Children & Youth Committee.



Service has been the hallmark of my time in office and be assured that my office is open and seeing constituents each and every day.

If you have not had a chance to visit, my office moved on January 5. It is now located at 4001 Main St., Suite 101, Philadelphia, PA 19127.

Thank you for your support over the years. It has been an honor to represent you in Harrisburg.

Preventing Child Abuse

In March, I introduced legislation that would make it easy for Pennsylvania residents to support efforts to fight child abuse. The legislation was voted out of the Transportation Committee unanimously and voted from the House on final passage unanimously. The bill awaits a vote in the Senate Transportation Committee.

The bill would allow individuals renewing vehicle registrations or a driver's license to include an optional \$5 donation to the Children's Trust Fund, which awards grants to community-based programs to prevent child abuse and neglect.

It's been estimated that 1 in 1,000 children in Pennsylvania are abused or neglected. This legislation would provide a convenient option for Pennsylvania residents to support important work being done to prevent abuse and neglect.

Governing By Constitutional Amendment

Since the current two-year session began in January 2021, legislators have proposed 94 constitutional amendments. In 2019-2020, 69 constitutional amendments were introduced. At the end of the budget process, SB106 was amended and then expedited through the legislative process and now includes five different constitutional amendments, including an amendment stating that Pennsylvania's constitution does not grant the right to taxpayer-funded abortion or any other right relating to abortion. These amendments must be voted on by the General Assembly next session in order to appear on a ballot for voters to decide. Please see my town hall from February 2022 on constitutional amendments. The video can be found at www.RepDeLissio.com.

What Your Mom Never Told You

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 why I have fought tirelessly for change in the House Rules.

On average, 3,800 bills are introduced in a two-year session of the General Assembly. About only 8% of those bills are signed into law. In the past, you may have seen my hashtag #cluckfuster. I use it when I am particularly dismayed or frustrated about procedural moves taking place in the House or in committee.

Here are some of the more interesting 'process and procedure' practices that can and do occur:

A majority committee chair can call up or block legislation that is referred to their committee, regardless of the amount of support a bill has garnered; this same omnipotent power is also wielded by the majority leader to add bills to the House voting schedule or not. The legislative process is what makes or breaks the opportunity for legislation to reach a governor's desk. **#CLUCKFUSTER**

An amendment that is voted into a bill with the express purpose of killing the bill is referred to as a poison pill. In the 2017-2018 session, I pushed for the passage of HB722, which would have established an independent redistricting commission composed of citizens. It was then amended in committee to ensure that gerrymandering would be exacerbated instead of eliminated. **#CLUCKFUSTER**

An amendment can be ruled as "not germane" to the legislation to which it is being proposed. Germaneness is decided by a simple majority of the PA House. In practice, if the majority party is concerned that an amendment they do not want may pass, the amendment could be subjected to a vote on germaneness. Amendments subjected to these votes are almost always ruled as not germane. Many opportunities to improve legislation are defeated by this maneuver. **#CLUCKFUSTER**

When House members cast a vote, the Speaker decides when to close the voting board. (In no event shall such time exceed ten minutes). Votes by legislators are

electronically displayed on the House floor. This allows the Speaker to determine when to close the vote and allows the majority party to twist arms and push for the desired result. In my time in office, I have seen the board close in seconds and I've seen the board remain open for many minutes - all dependent on the outcome desired. **#CLUCKFUSTER**

A bill can be referred to any one of 24 House standing committees; it is not required to be sent 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 refers all bills, and the Speaker can assign bills to a committee to either ensure the bill is expedited or to ensure that the bill will not see the light of day. **#CLUCKFUSTER**

There is no requirement that bills receive hearings before a vote. The majority chair of a committee is the sole arbiter of whether a bill will have a hearing, let alone a committee vote. As minority chair of the Children & Youth Committee, I have worked closely with the majority chair to ensure input of minority party priorities. Many of the standing committees operate with no such collaboration. **#CLUCKFUSTER**

Although 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 30% or 60 (32 Democrats, 28 Republicans) members of the House are women after 340 years. **#CLUCKFUSTER**



\$550,000 grant for Share Food Program

In April, Share Food Program was awarded \$550,000 for repairs to their facility to assist in their ability to best serve the community. I was happy to support Share's application for this funding and, as always, endeavored to submit a letter that demonstrated my familiarity with their mission and services. Share has positioned itself as a leader in fighting regional food insecurity and the organization will use the funds for the greater benefit of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

The organization provides healthy food to approximately 1 million individuals each month through programs providing food to food pantries and food box programs for seniors.

The Pennsylvania Health Care Plan

Health care is a right and not a privilege.

The Pennsylvania Health Care Plan (PHCP), a single-payer plan to provide Universal Health Coverage (UHC) sets out a blueprint of bold steps that will result in healthier communities at a lower cost.

Benefits of single-payer coverage include: the ability for employees to seek other employment, regardless of health coverage, and the elimination of premiums, co-pays, and deductibles.

All ranges of the age spectrum have shared with me concerns about health care – from younger constituents who face challenges when changing employers or starting a new job, and from older constituents who are grateful when they are finally eligible for the stability of Medicare.

Currently, if you wake up one morning and learn you have a catastrophic illness, as I did in 2016 when I was diagnosed with breast cancer, your life changes and the unknown variables in life increase exponentially. Those unknown variables include the cost of treatment and whether you will have the ability to continue to work during treatment and therefore possibly lose your health care coverage.

The PHCP is the proverbial ‘cure’ for this situation. The PHCP uses a single-payer plan to provide UHC.

According to the World Health Organization, “UHC means that all people and communities can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship.”

What a concept – a system to ensure that citizens are not going financially bankrupt to stay healthy.

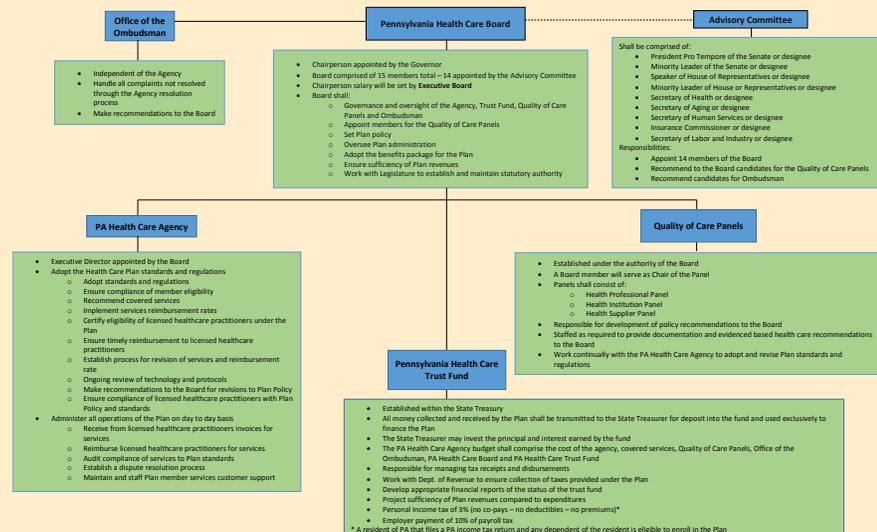
UHC is offered by 32 industrialized nations with the earliest adoption in 1912 by Norway and the latest in 1995 by Israel.

There are a variety of ways to offer UHC – single-payer, two tier and insurance mandate.

I propose that single-payer is the most effective way to deliver UHC for Pennsylvanians.

Single-payer legislation has been introduced six times in the PA House since 2005, and I have personally introduced this legislation two times previously.

Before I leave office in November, I plan to reintroduce the bill. This reintroduction is symbolic and will highlight the fact that health care access must be equitable, affordable and available regardless of employment status.



194th Book Club

In January of 2019, I started a quarterly book club. My primary reason was to broaden the various ways I dialogue with constituents. We select books that provoke thoughtful conversation about state policy.

The book club’s next meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Friday, October 21 in my district office, 4001 Main St., Suite 101 Manayunk.

We will be reading: “How Democracies Die” by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt.

Read about how elected leaders can gradually subvert the democratic process to increase their power. The gathering is limited to 20 participants.

If interested, call the office at 215-482-8726 or email RepDeLissio@pahouse.net to sign up. You will receive a confirmation.

Previous books read by book club participants are: “Hillbilly Elegy” by J.D. Vance, “Educated” by Tara Westover, “Kids for Cash” by William Ecenbarger, and “No Visible Bruises: What We Don’t Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us” by Rachel Louise Snyder, “The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates” by Wes Moore, and “Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother’s Will to Survive” by Stephanie Land.

Redistricting

The outcome of the decennial redistricting has changed the district boundaries of the 194th, and I am excited to meet and greet new faces and see familiar ones. New areas of the district will include Ward 38 divisions 11 and 18 in East Falls and Ward 9 divisions 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17 of Chestnut Hill. The 194th will no longer include Ward 38 divisions 1, 7, and 8 in East Falls or Ward 3, 9, and 13 (3), in Lower Merion. Redistricting officially takes place on December 1, 2022; in the interim all are welcome to attend my events.

2022-2023 State Budget Highlights

The past few months have been busy. We were in session for five weeks to negotiate and ultimately pass the budget on July 8. The budget contains significant dollars to enhance basic public education and to support human services programs related to child care and long-term care, to name a few. My 119th Town Hall covered many highlights of the budget, and a recording can be found on my website at www.RepDeLissio.com.

The 2022-2023 budget totaled \$42.8 billion, an increase of 8.8% over last year.

The Rainy Day fund now totals an unprecedented \$4.96 billion, a 42% increase over last year. For those inquiring minds, \$4.96 billion is roughly equivalent to 42 days of operation for the commonwealth.

Here are a few highlights of the state budget:

The basic public education funding is \$750 million or an 11.4% increase over last year.

This increase adds \$525 million to the fair funding formula distribution, bringing the share of fair formula-driven funds to 20%. Please note that since 2016, the fair funding formula is intended to produce an equitable distribution of funds among the 500 school districts. Since only 20% of the appropriation goes through the formula, we are a long way from equitable funding. As I have mentioned on many occasions, the formula itself is a good formula; the problem remains the lack of political will to distribute more than a paltry amount of the appropriation through the formula.

Another positive is the distribution of \$225 million to the 100 lowest-spending school districts through the Level Up supplement. Last fiscal year this distribution was \$100 million.

The amount of Level Up funding for The School District of Philadelphia is \$83.9 million.

The enhanced funding of appropriations for the basic public education line items comes at a cost.

The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) & Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) was

increased by 45% or \$125 million. This brings the total of these tax credits to \$405 million. These tax credits are accessed by corporations and some individuals who qualify and are utilized primarily for scholarships for private and religious schools.



Qualified child care providers received support from the budget.

The enacted budget includes \$90 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for qualified child care providers for the recruitment and retention of qualified staff. Qualified providers are those licensed under state regulations as child care centers, group child care homes, or family child care homes, as well as relative providers exempt from licensing requirements. Qualified staff include those involved in direct supervision of children or environmental services; specifically excluded are executives, contracted staff, administrators, administrative support staff and owners.

Under the recent budget, taxpayers eligible for the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit are automatically eligible for a new state Dependent and Child Care Tax Credit. Like the federal credit, this is a refundable credit for child and dependent care expenses necessary to allow the caregiver to work.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program recipients will receive a supplemental payment equal to 70% of the regular payment, which will be paid out of ARPA funds.

Apply for or Renew your SEPTA Senior Key ID Card

Make an appointment to apply for or renew your SEPTA Senior Key ID card in the district office by calling 215-482-8726.

If renewing, bring your current (expired) card. New cards are then mailed to you by SEPTA within approximately two weeks.

If applying for the first time, you must be at least 65 and must bring proof of age such as driver's license, non-driver's ID card, or birth certificate. Cards will be mailed to you by SEPTA.

Appointments may also be scheduled for in person, same-day card renewal at SEPTA Headquarters. To make that appointment, call 215-580-7145 (press 6).

Please note: SEPTA continues to provide an extension for all current SEPTA Senior Key card holders. Riders may continue to ride with their current SEPTA Senior Key ID card regardless of an expiration date. No cards will expire during the 2022 year.

Approaching 120

One of my many favorite activities as state representative has been hosting my Town Hall Meetings, which began in July of 2011. My goals have remained the same: Inform constituents about how the legislative process works, dialogue about current legislative initiatives, and identify other state-related concerns.

Over the years, we have discussed and shared information on many topics:

Redistricting Reform, Basic Public Education and the Fair Funding Formula, Charter School Reform, Size of the Legislature, State Constitutional Amendments, Marcellus Shale Severance Tax, Legalization of Medical Cannabis and Adult Use (Recreational) Marijuana, the PA Health Care Plan, Privatization of Liquor Stores, 2nd Amendment Right to Bear Arms, Judicial Gerrymandering, Election Code Reform and Mail-In Ballots, the Initiative and Referendum Process, the State Budget, Nuclear Bailouts, and much more.

During COVID, I conducted my town halls virtually, and since April 2022 we have been conducting town halls in a hybrid manner, so that as many constituents as possible can participate according to their preference.

Admittedly, I am a policy wonk at heart. Under my direction, my team does significant research on the topics we present because I am committed to offering well-rounded presentations and providing constituents information without party 'spin.' I do provide a bit of 'color commentary' to keep it interesting.

My office believes that a record will have been set in the PA House for the highest number of town halls in a 12-year period. If you have not had the opportunity to attend virtually or in person, you can watch the video of some of the town halls on my website at www.RepDeLissio.com.

My 120th Town Hall will be Thursday, September 22 at 7 p.m. at Cathedral Auditorium, 600 East Cathedral Road, and my final Town Hall will be Tuesday, October 18.

Not your Grandma's Senior Expo

I look forward to greeting and meeting you at my annual Senior Expo from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Thursday, September 29 on the grounds of the Roxborough Memorial Hospital, 5800 Ridge Ave. under the tent in the lot off Rector Street.

Older adults are active and vital members of the community, and I'm excited to again bring together a diverse group of agencies and organizations for the benefit of our senior constituents. Our focus will continue to be on interesting ways to stay or become engaged with the community in which we live, work and play, in addition to services that citizens can access.

My goal is to ensure that older constituents are aware of services available to them and learn about resources that offer opportunities to be active and participate in the community.

The Roxborough Memorial Hospital School of Nursing will be providing a health fair and performing free health screenings during the expo, such as blood pressure, glucose and bone mineral density scans.

Additionally, those interested can call the hospital in advance at 215-487-4458 to schedule a free flu shot.

The Senior Expo includes free giveaways.

Each year, my Expo is an event that brings the community together and one to which I truly look forward. This is a rain or shine event.



Looking for opportunities to stay healthy, remain active and be further involved in the community? See you at the Expo!

State Representative
Pamela A. DeLissio

321 Irvis Office Building
PO Box 202194
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2194

Scan here
to visit my
website!



lpo.km.0822

General Election Dates

October 24: Last day to REGISTER to vote before the November election

November 1: Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot
(to apply, go to vote.pa.gov)

November 8: Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted
mail-in and civilian absentee ballots
(must be received by 8 p.m.)

November 8: GENERAL ELECTION - Polls are open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Save the date for upcoming Town Halls

120th - Thursday, September 22 @ 7 p.m

121st – Tuesday, October 18 @ 7 p.m.



Shred Events

Saturday, October 15

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

3720 Main St.,
Manayunk, PA 19127 in the Main
Street Movie Theatre parking lot.

Saturday, October 29

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

925 Montgomery Ave., Narberth
in the Magisterial District Court
parking lot.

A limit of 4 banker boxes or
grocery bags per household will be
strictly enforced.

These events are rain or shine and
will end sooner than 11 a.m. if the
truck is full.

