



State Representative | 156th Legislative District

CHRIS PIELLI

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Hi folks,

My staff and I hope this Winter 2024 Newsletter finds you all doing well and enjoying the start of a new year. Plato stated long ago, "The beginning is the most important part of the work." With that said, we look to a new year with new goals on how best we can improve the lives of our fellow residents.

Looking back to 2023, I am proud to say that the PA House passed over 200 bills, including an increased Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, more investments in public education and student mental health, universal free breakfast for all K-12 students, and an expansion to the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. In addition, we added nearly \$900 million to our Rainy Day Fund, showing that we can deliver on key priorities while remaining fiscally responsible and producing a balanced budget. Furthermore, four bills I introduced in my freshman year passed the PA House with overwhelming bipartisan support, including H.B. 1278, renewing and amending the Wiretap Act, which was recently signed into law by Gov. Josh Shapiro.

Unfortunately, of the more than 200 bills we passed in the House, 165 bills have been blocked by state Senate leadership. These include a long-overdue minimum wage increase, civil recourse for child sexual abuse survivors, safe staffing ratios to protect nurses and patients, the Fairness Act for LGBTQ+ equality, a constitutional right to join a union, a cost-of-living increase for public worker retirees (It's been over 21 years since their last COLA increase!), commonsense gun safety legislation, and more. There is still much work to be done and I'm hoping that this new year will bring a Senate leadership willing to work with us in a more bipartisan manner for the benefit of all Pennsylvanians. Folks, as always, my staff and I thank you for the opportunity to serve you and look forward to any questions or concerns you may have. Until our next issue, stay well, stay safe, and stay strong.

I am pleased to announce that I have been appointed to the PA Interstate State Council as a Legislative Representative. This council is our Commonwealth's division of the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision. Our job is to guide the transfer of criminals across state lines while keeping safety, accountability, and legality in place.



Primary Election Dates and Deadlines



April 8 –
Last day to register for the Primary Election.



April 16 –
Last day to request a mail-in ballot.



April 23 – Primary Election Day! Vote in person at the polls from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. Mail-in and absentee ballots must be returned to Chester County Voter Services or in a secure drop box by 8 p.m.

*For more info and to register online, visit vote.pa.gov or contact my district office to obtain a voter registration paper application, available in English and Spanish.



Remember, your vote is your voice. Make sure you are ready to vote in the 2024 Primary and General Elections.

REPRESENTATIVE
Chris Pielli
156th Legislative District

2024 Committee Assignments

Commerce

Game & Fisheries

Judiciary

Environmental Resources & Energy

Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness



Hometown Heroes

Our Hometown Heroes include the late Alexandra Louise Steele and retiring West Chester Police Chief James L. Morehead.



ALEXANDRA LOUISE STEELE

Alexandra passed away over the holidays due to injuries she sustained in a house fire. She was a lifelong fan of horses and could always be found supporting her children and her community at the Chester County Skating Club. When she wasn't at the rink, you could find her supporting

Upland Country Day School and working tirelessly providing meals to our seniors at the West Chester Area Senior Center. Her care and dedication to our seniors will be sorely missed. We offer our condolences to her family and many friends.



JAMES L. MOREHEAD

Chief James L. Morehead is retiring after a 34-plus years career serving our community. As a newly appointed chief of police, Morehead led the

department through the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, Chief Morehead led the department through the state accreditation process, gaining Law Enforcement Accreditation status for the West Chester Police Department in 2022, an accreditation that is held by just 10% of police departments in the state.

My 2023 Legislation Highlights



AI Bill for Campaigns and Elections

Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) has the potential to make content creation more efficient, it also has the power to spread disinformation through deceptively realistic content. As it becomes more widely available, bad actors have used GenAI to produce content targeting political candidates, public officials, and government programs.

That is why I am introducing a bill that would prohibit the fraudulent misrepresentation of a candidate. Under the bill, the dissemination of a campaign advertisement containing an artificially generated impersonation of a candidate would be prohibited if done without consent and with the intent to unduly influence the outcome of the election.

Voters need accurate information on political candidates to make the best and most informed decisions for their families and communities.

HB1963 Veteran's Death Certificate Bill for Spouses

Funeral directors can request death certificates with fees waived for a veteran of the United States Armed Forces. In the past, spouses of veterans were entitled to receive veteran's preference death certificates in situations where a veteran predeceases his/her spouse. This was a long-standing practice with many funeral homes for many years.

Last September, the Department of Health issued a notice clarifying that this was a misreading of the law. The clarification was issued to make it clear that death certificates for spouses of a veteran, where the veteran predeceases the spouse, are not eligible to receive the veteran's preference death certificate. This was an abrupt change in policy for many family members of Pennsylvania veterans.

This legislation would simply amend the Vital Statistics Law of 1953 to make it explicit that spouses of veterans are entitled to receive veteran's preference death certificates, because when citizens serve their country, their families serve with them.



Pielli Helps Bring more than \$8 million in Grants to District for Our Community

- \$2,197,653** – U.S. 322 West Chester Bypass Improvements in West Goshen Township – PennDOT
 - \$1,500,000** – Park and Nature Trail Renovations – PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources
 - \$1,700,000** – West Goshen Sewer Authority – ARPA / PA Small Water and Sewer Program
 - \$677,000** – West Chester Borough – PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development
 - \$618,088** – West Chester Borough – ARPA / PA Small Water and Sewer Program
 - \$424,998** – West Goshen Twp. – ARPA / PA Small Water and Sewer Program
 - \$263,600** – East Bradford Twp. – ARPA / PA Small Water and Sewer Program
 - \$100,000** – East Bradford Twp., Strode's Barn Restoration - PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development
 - \$100,000** – West Chester University, Special Education Teacher Training – PA Dept. of Education
 - \$98,000** – Chester County Art Association, Chester County Historical Society, + Uptown Knauer Performing Arts Center – PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development
 - \$96,473** – West Chester University, Hunger Free Campus – PA Dept. of Education
 - \$54,000** – West Chester University, "It's on Us" Program – PA Dept. of Education
 - \$40,000** – East Bradford Twp., Shaw's Bridge Park Boat Launch – PA Fish & Boat Commission
 - \$30,000** – West Chester Fire Department – ARPA / PA State Appropriations
 - \$25,000** – Goshen Fire Company – Office of the State Fire Commissioner
 - \$25,000** – JusticeRain, Inc. – ARPA / PA Dept. of Human Services
 - \$25,000** – West Chester Area Senior Center – ARPA / PA Dept. of Health
 - \$20,000** – Goshen Fire Company – ARPA / PA State Appropriations
 - \$15,000** – Fame Fire Company – Office of the State Fire Commissioner
 - \$15,000** – Good Will Fire Company No. 2 – Office of the State Fire Commissioner
 - \$14,699** – First West Chester Fire Company – Office of the State Fire Commissioner
 - \$10,000** – Good Fellowship Club of Chester County – Office of the State Fire Commissioner
 - \$5,800** – West Chester Borough Police Department – PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency
- \$8,055,311 TOTAL**



Artificial Intelligence Hearing

State Reps. Ryan Bizzarro, Jennifer O'Mara, Bob Merski, and I will host a Policy Committee hearing on the topic of artificial intelligence at the Capitol in Harrisburg. As AI continues to grow, it has the potential to be both a positive and negative life changing piece of technology here in Pennsylvania and throughout the world. As a result, I am excited to join my colleagues for this policy hearing and to listen to the perspectives of prominent leaders in fields impacted by AI. The public is welcome to attend on Tuesday, Feb. 13 from 10 a.m. to noon in Room G-50 of the Irvis Office Building.

HOUSE MAJORITY
POLICY COMMITTEE
RYAN BIZZARRO, CHAIRMAN

POLICY HEARING

Artificial Intelligence

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13
10 AM - 12 PM

ROOM G-50
IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING

Policy Chair
Rep. Ryan Bizzarro

Host
Rep. Chris Pilell

Host
Rep. Jennifer O'Mara

Host
Rep. Bob Merski

H.B. 1278 was signed into Law

I am proud to announce that my legislation, H.B. 1278, has been signed into law by Gov. Shapiro! The law extends the expiration date of the Pennsylvania Wiretap Act from the end of 2023 to Dec. 31, 2029. The law also amends the current definition of "oral communication" to remove restrictions on conversations made in the presence of a state parole officer and Department of Corrections police officers, allowing them to wear body cams while on duty. This law also now includes previously prohibited recordings of predatory telemarketers.



Expanded Child Care tax credit

Nearly a quarter million working families will see their state tax credits more than triple, up to \$2,100 per household! With the rising costs of child care, families shouldn't have to choose between going to work or having quality care for a loved one. With this tax credit expansion, we are working to ensure that Pennsylvanians can afford child care and dependent care!



Penny for Your Thoughts

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

Q: What's new with the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program this year?

A: No bones about it, the 2023 Property Tax/Rent Rebate (PTRR) Program will benefit more seniors and people living with permanent disabilities! The program is also increasing the maximum rebate to \$1,000 for those who qualify!

To learn more about the PTRR expansion and who can qualify, visit the PA Dept. of Revenue's website or stop by our office!

**Interested in applying?
Visit myPATH online to get started!**

If you need help applying, please call my district office at (610) 696-4990 and my staff can assist you. We can facilitate Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program paper applications for you!





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lpo.ks.0124

WORKING FOR YOU
For 2023...

We helped **3,249** unique constituents and organizations.

We delivered **3,696** total services to constituents and organizations.

My team is proud to serve you! Please contact my office staff at 610-696-4990 or RepPielli@pahouse.net for assistance with:

- Consumer Rights Issues and Complaints
- PA Birth and Death Certificates
- PennDOT Vehicle and Licensing Services
- Property Tax / Rent Rebate program [Deadline: June 30, 2024]
- SEPTA Senior Key Card applications [Residents 65+ ride free!]
- State Benefits like heating assistance (LIHEAP) [Open Nov. 2023 - Mar. 2024], SNAP, and Medicaid
- And many more **state government-related** services!

DISTRICT OFFICE:

121 W. Miner St., Suite 1E · West Chester, PA 19382

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STAFF MEMBERS:

Julie K. Mesaros, District Office Director
Matthew DeWese, Constituent Services Advisor
Ryan DeStefano, Constituent Services Advisor

Scan here to receive the monthly E-Newsletter "District Deliberations" from our office!

