



STATE REP. JENNIFER O'MARA

SUMMER 2026

165TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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Dear Neighbor,

I hope you are enjoying your summer and doing your best to stay cool. I recognize, however, that these are difficult times for many people: rising costs of groceries & utilities, healthcare access in Delco, and barriers to benefits created by Washington D.C. are among the serious problems that many people in our community face today. In Delco and in Harrisburg, my staff and I have been working hard to help families any way possible with state programs and services, and by responding with legislation.

So far this year, I've held 6 different types of community outreach events, served over 3,500 constituents, and met with dozens of residents, organizations, and businesses throughout the district. I'm also thrilled to share that our community has been awarded over \$12 million in grants this legislative session for fire companies, parks, critical infrastructure, and our health systems.

In this newsletter, you'll find information about the budget, which was passed in early July, updates on some of my major legislative accomplishments, and upcoming events this fall. You'll also find important election reminders, a list of services available to you, how to reach me and my team, and how to sign up for my biweekly e-newsletter.

My staff and I hope you have a great end to the summer and start to the school year. Please remember that we are just a phone call away. We're happy to help!

Warm regards,

Jennifer

2026-2027 PA Budget Wins

- ✓ No new taxes or reductions in the Rainy Day Fund
- ✓ \$58 million increase in Basic Education Funding and \$55 million increase in Special Education Funding
- ✓ \$5 million increase for childcare staff retention and recruitment
- ✓ \$10 million increase for the student teacher stipend program
- ✓ \$41.2 million increase for mental health services
- ✓ Delivers COLAs to PSERS and SERS beneficiaries who retired before July 2, 2001
- ✓ Enacts reporting requirements for data centers regarding energy usage and water consumption
- ✓ \$6 million for Delaware County hospitals
- ✓ \$300 million increase for highway and safety improvements
- ✓ Universal recess for students in kindergarten through fifth grade

We're Here to Help!

My staff and I can help you with an array of state programs and services, so never hesitate to reach out to us for assistance on:

- SEPTA Senior Fare Cards
- Medicare counseling
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications
- LIHEAP
- Birth and death certificates
- Unemployment compensation
- Plus, many more state services!

Legislative Update

Signed Into Law: Counseling Compact

I'm proud to have led the fight in the House for a newly signed law that will help get mental health treatment to more people in need. Gov. Shapiro recently signed the legislation authorizing PA to join the Interstate Counseling Compact, allowing licensed counselors from other member states to practice here without needing a new license. By joining the compact, PA can strengthen its mental health workforce and ensure timely, effective support for people in need.

Signed Into Law: Parental Notification of Bullying in Schools

I also led the effort in the House for a new law that makes strides toward protecting children and addressing the youth mental health crisis. Signed this summer by Gov. Shapiro in a sweeping school governance bill, the measure requires schools to establish a procedure for investigating all alleged bullying and cyberbullying incidents and to immediately notify parents and legal guardians of any student involved after a bullying incident has been confirmed. The legislation also expands employee training to include suicide prevention and cyberbullying and requires schools to report AI-involved digital offenses and forgery to the state Department of Education.

Passed The House: The PARENT Act

On a bipartisan vote, the House this spring approved my H.B. 836, dubbed the PARENT Act, to protect prospective parents' rights to fertility treatments in PA. My bill would prohibit the commonwealth from creating policies that limit access to assistive reproductive technology such as IVF. The potential loss of access to these treatments is a challenge for many prospective parents after an Alabama Supreme Court ruling caused fear and disruption around



Passed The House: The Family Care Act

In bipartisan fashion, the House this year approved my H.B. 200, dubbed The Family Care Act, to bring economic stability to more working families by requiring paid family and medical leave in PA. My legislation would bring Pennsylvania in line with more than a dozen other states that offer paid leave that ensures workers don't have to choose between their job and their family's well-being after the birth of a child or during a serious illness. It is now stalled in the PA Senate.



IVF by declaring frozen embryos as children. Though we didn't ask for this to become a controversial issue, we've been forced to address it so people can fulfill the dream of starting a family.



NEW: Courtesy Parking Spots For Veterans

I worked with officials from the PA Turnpike Commission and American Legion to dedicate new courtesy parking spaces for veterans at turnpike service plazas. Each of the turnpike's 17 plazas now has two designated veterans parking spaces thanks to our efforts. Now, the men and women who served our country will receive a small gesture of appreciation every time they pull into a turnpike plaza. It's the least they deserve for their sacrifices.

Around DELCO



In May, Rep. Borowski and I hosted a joint town hall with Congresswoman Scanlon.



This spring, the Philly and Southeast Delegations hosted a policy hearing regarding the rising costs of utilities.



Thank you to everyone who attended my annual senior breakfast!



I joined my colleagues in securing grant support for the YMCA's new early learning center.



I joined my colleagues for a tour of EV manufacturers and heard their concerns about existing sales regulations.



Senator Kearney and I hosted our annual environmental expo with PennEnvironment in May.



**Sign Up For
My Biweekly
E-newsletter!**



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Important Election Reminders

- **Oct. 19:** Last day to register to vote
- **Oct. 27:** Last day to request mail-in or absentee ballot
- **Nov. 3:** General Election



Mail-in ballots must arrive at the county election office by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Use QR code to apply for a mail-in ballot.

Upcoming Events

Free Flu Clinic*

September 25 (Call to Confirm)
12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Media Community Center

Shred & E-Waste Event*

October 17
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Springfield Mall

Veterans Breakfast*

November 11
8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Springfield Country Club

Mental Health Fair

October 10
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Media Courthouse

Senior Fair

October 22
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Springfield YMCA



***Pre-registration required – please call my office at (610) 544-9878 to pre-register.**



Local Fire Companies Impacted by Private Equity

I hosted a hearing of the House Majority Policy Committee at Springfield Fire Co. on private equity's impact on firefighting. Both Springfield and Broomall Fire shared how firefighters are facing a crisis after private equity consolidation of fire truck manufacturing companies has caused prices to soar, saddling local fire companies with outrageous costs and lengthy delivery times for new fire trucks. Our work on this issue is critical— it's not just an economic issue, but a safety issue for the people who our firefighters protect.