



**STATE REP.**  
**JENNIFER**  
**O'MARA**  
**165<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**



**SUMMER 2020**

**Constituent Services Office:** 905 West Sproul Road • Suite 203 • Springfield, PA 19064

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Mon. – Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; with extended hours on Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and weekends by appointment only

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**OPEN BY APPOINTMENTS ONLY**

Dear Neighbor,

First and foremost, I want to recognize and thank you for your demonstrated resiliency and patience as we work toward overcoming COVID-19. I know that these last few months have not been easy, but we've made significant progress in reducing the virus' presence in Pennsylvania, which saved countless lives, so please remember that all your sacrifices have been worth it. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention even recognized our commonwealth for successfully flattening the curve. According to their recent analysis, Pennsylvania was one of only three states with a 42-day steady decline in cases, joining Hawaii and Montana.

This would not have been possible without your unwavering dedication during the most difficult and unsure time that many of us have experienced in our lives. We've come so far since mid-March, from being an epicenter for the novel coronavirus to finally reaching the Green Phase – and that's all thanks to your support and sacrifices. Although the Green Phase isn't quite a return to pre-COVID-19 times, it's the last step before we can safely phase out.

As we continue working toward our new normal, please remember that my office is here to help. We've helped hundreds of constituents with unemployment/ PUA compensation, accessing emergency food and answering questions about the reopening process. We are here to serve you, so please reach out with any state-related questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Jennifer O'Mara*



**COVID-19 resources**  
**Help is available!**

Although Delco is now in the Green Phase, we're still working toward combating COVID-19 and have the necessary safety measures in place to do so. Please know that our community has a wealth of resources available to those in need until we are safely able to phase out of the COVID-19 crisis.

If you or someone you know needs to be tested for COVID-19, there are multiple testing sites here in our area! Delaware County Council has created an interactive map to help residents locate their closest testing location. Please visit <https://bit.ly/DelcoTestSites> to find a site near you.

**TESTING:**

- Springfield CVS conducts drive-up testing for Pennsylvania residents 18 and over. To schedule an appointment, visit [www.cvs.com/minuteclinic](http://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic).  
**334 Baltimore Pike, Springfield, PA 19064**  
**(610) 543-1765**

**EMERGENCY FOOD ACCESS:**

- **Wayne Church Food Pantry**  
 210 S. Wayne Ave, Wayne, PA 19087 ..... 610-688-5650
- **St. Mark's United Methodist Church**  
 2220 S Sproul Rd, Broomall, PA 19008 ..... 610-325-0130
- **Shorter AME Church**  
 111 Pennington Ave, Morton, PA 19070 ..... 610-543-6773
- **Holy Cross Food Pantry**  
 651 E Springfield Rd, Springfield, PA 19064.. 610-626-3321

**Education Update:**

Pennsylvania schools are on track to resume in-person learning this fall, given that we do not experience a severe second wave of COVID-19. Prior to reopening classrooms for in-person instruction, all schools and higher education institutions are required to develop health and safety plans. This includes implementing social distancing practices, limiting the number of students in a classroom and enforcing heightened sanitation practices.

More information is available on the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website, [www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov).

# State legislature passes temporary budget

Gov. Wolf signed a temporary budget in May to last Pennsylvania only five months, with the exception of fully funding education at the prior year levels. This is because the COVID-19 health crisis restricted the revenue necessary to put a sound, realistic budget together for the full 2020-21 fiscal year, so we will revise this spending plan in November.

This budget includes federal CARES Act funding to help protect those most vulnerable to the virus, defend worker protections for essential employees and provide for our education system. Additionally, we were able to correct a \$300M deficit in property tax relief in order to make the full property tax relief payment to school districts and homeowners as in prior years.

From the \$2.6 billion CARES Act funding, the following money has been earmarked to directly offset the ravaging effect COVID-19 is taking on Pennsylvania.

- **\$632M for vulnerable populations including long-term care centers and nursing homes, which have been impacted the most by COVID-19**
- **\$150M toward worker protections**
- **\$870M for business and local services relief**
- **\$347M for schools**
- **\$30M to health care initiatives**
- **\$225M toward food and shelter resources**

Additionally, through separate legislation, we were also able to provide \$500 million to Pennsylvania's long-term care providers and \$50 million in direct financial relief to fire and EMS companies.

# Police reform legislation unanimously passes PA House

In wake of the unjust death of George Floyd, we've seen protests erupt across the nation calling for a change in our country's policing practices, including right here in all four municipalities in the 165<sup>th</sup> District. In June, the House passed two pieces of legislation, with a unanimous bipartisan vote and the support of the state Fraternal Order of Police, that would update our police training and prevent officers with a checkered past from transferring to different departments. I was proud to see Pennsylvania legislators and law enforcement officials come together in such a meaningful way.

House Bill 1910 is a police training bill that was amended to mandate in-service training on the use of force, de-escalation techniques, cultural awareness and bias; and amended to include training on trauma-informed care, specifically PTSD. Officers would also be required to undergo training on how to recognize the earliest signs of child abuse and make them fully aware of reporting requirements.

House Bill 1841 would expand background checks for police and other law enforcement officers, which was amended to create a confidential repository of employment records relating to misconduct.

# Grants awarded to the 165th

Bringing state funding home to help our community thrive is important to me, as both a resident and as your voice in Harrisburg. I am pleased to report that several grants have been awarded around our neighborhood, which I'm confident will help us overcome the serious economic impacts of COVID-19:

## SCHOOL SAFETY GRANTS

Funding to purchase security-related equipment, support safety-related training, hire school resource officers, hire school counselors, hire social workers and hire school psychologists.

- **Radnor Township School District: \$40,000**
- **Marple Newtown School District: \$40,000**
- **Springfield School District: \$141,580**

## SENIOR CENTER GRANT

Funding from the PA Dept. of Aging to go toward an area senior center's technology needs.

- **Wayne Senior Center: \$23,194**

## FAITH-BASED SAFETY GRANTS

Grants awarded to two community faith-based organizations to enhance their safety and security measures.

- **Temple Sholom in Broomall: \$50,000**
- **Congregation Beth El Ner Tamid: \$29,407**

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

A grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry to provide summer internship opportunities to Delco residents.

- **Delaware County Workforce Development Board: \$137,463**

# Make your own spotted lanternfly trap

As summer continues, Delco will once again see an abundance of adult spotted lanternflies. To help fight the invasive species, Penn State's College of Agricultural Science and the Penn State Extension is sharing instructions for a DIY trap designed to catch these invasive pests all season long.

The circle trap is made of mesh and completely wraps around the tree. As spotted lanternflies climb the tree, the mesh guides them up and into a collection bag where they are unable to escape. To learn more, visit <https://bit.ly/3dlt2nD>.



# Still working for you!

Despite social distancing and stay-at-home orders, I never stopped working for you! Since March, I've kept busy making sure that residents of the 165th Legislative District had what they needed to overcome this difficult time in America's history.



Thank you to all who participated in my contactless food drive in May. We filled 13 pick-up trucks with food, paper products, diapers, personal hygiene products, homemade masks, and other items which were all donated to four food pantries throughout the district!



Since the PA House of Representatives began meeting virtually, I've tuned in for every session and every committee meeting. Now that we've entered the Green Phase, I'm back in the Capitol and voting in person. Not even a global pandemic can affect my perfect attendance record!



I celebrated National Police Week, National EMS Week, International Firefighters Day and National Hospital Week by delivering meals to all the incredible first responders and health care workers throughout the 165th. I also supplied first responders with dozens of KN95 masks!



Congratulations to all of our 2020 graduates, from Springfield to Marple to Radnor! I was so proud to see my two interns from SHS, Jess and Grace, celebrate their graduations and receive their diplomas.



I volunteered with the soldiers of the 103rd Brigade Engineer Battalion, part of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, by staffing the food station as they built the federal medical station at Glen Mills Middle School in March.



The American Red Cross collected 45 pints of blood at my June 13 blood drive – this was 17 more than our goal of 28 pints!

## Announcements from PennDOT

### PENNDOT EXTENDS EXPIRATION DATES ON DRIVER LICENSES, ID CARDS, AND LEARNER'S PERMITS

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced that driver licenses, identification cards, and learner's permits that are set to expire between March 16, 2020, through July 31, 2020, have been extended until July 31, 2020. This is in response to statewide COVID-19 mitigation efforts and are supplemental to the extensions announced on May 27, 2020.

### PENNDOT DRIVER LICENSE / PHOTO CENTERS REOPENING

PennDOT has resumed scheduling driving skills test, including motorcycle skills tests. Aspiring drivers can schedule online or by contacting the PennDOT Driver and Vehicle Services Call Center at (717) 412-5300. The skills test has been modified to mitigate potential COVID-19 exposure among PennDOT staff and customers, while maintaining the integrity of the testing process.

Many photo centers have also reopened and are operating at a limited capacity. For information about services offered and an open location near you, visit: [www.pennDOT.gov/pages/coronavirus.aspx](http://www.pennDOT.gov/pages/coronavirus.aspx).

### REAL ID UPDATE

The federal REAL ID Act has been extended in Pennsylvania until **October 1, 2021**

As a reminder, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID or other form of federally accepted ID, like a passport to:

- ✓ Board a domestic flight;
- ✓ Enter federal buildings;
- ✓ Get into military facilities.

Visit [PENNDOT.GOV/REALID](http://PENNDOT.GOV/REALID)



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lpo.jc.0720

## Upcoming events

I'm tentatively scheduling some events for residents of the 165th, but please keep in mind that the most recent Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines will need to be followed (such as wearing a mask and maintaining a 6-foot distance from others).

### SHRED EVENT

**Saturday, Sept. 12 | 9 a.m. – noon**

*Parking lot of my district office. 905 W. Sproul Road in Springfield.*

### DRIVE THRU SCHOOL SUPPLY & FOOD DRIVE

**Saturday, Aug. 8 | 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

*Parking lot of my district office. 905 W. Sproul Road in Springfield.*

### POLICY HEARING ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

**Thursday, Aug. 13 | 10 a.m.**

*Location TBD pending most current Dept. of Health and CDC guidance.*

### TELEPHONE TOWN HALL

**Tuesday, Aug. 18 | 7 p.m.**

*I'll call landlines inviting everyone to join.*

*To participate via cellphone, contact my office.*

## Webinar Series

My office will be hosting webinars on a wide range of topics, including Combating the Spotted Lanternfly, Connecting to Mental Health Resources, Identifying Senior Scams, and Connecting Small Business Owners to Relief Programs. Please be sure to sign up for my emails at [www.repomara.com](http://www.repomara.com) or follow me on social media [@RepOMara](https://twitter.com/RepOMara) for event announcements. Additionally, you are always welcome to call our office at 610-544-9878 for a list of upcoming webinars.

## District office is open for appointments

My district office is open for in-person constituent services on an appointment-only basis. We cannot take walk-ins at this time—for our safety and for yours. Right now, I can only accept appointments for my office in Springfield. My mobile offices in Wayne and Morton remain closed.

To make an appointment either call (610) 544-9878 or email [RepOMara@pahouse.net](mailto:RepOMara@pahouse.net).

Please wear a mask or face covering for the duration of your appointment. The office will be sanitized between visitors.

Please note that my office staff is still available by phone and email from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### Some matters we're able to help with include:

- Unemployment/PUA
- SEPTA Senior ID Cards
- Help you find and collect unclaimed money in your name through the Pennsylvania Treasury
- Provide you with and help you fill out Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms
- Field questions or complaints about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Send state forms for you to their appropriate departments in Harrisburg to expedite processing

## Honoring a local fallen hero

I'm proud to share that my motion to declare the bridge on Morton Avenue, a portion of State Route 2025, as "Capt. Michael Malinowski, Sr. Memorial Bridge" unanimously passed the House as a part of House Bill 1597 on Wednesday, June 24. Gov. Wolf signed this legislation into law on July 1.

Michael Malinowski was the captain of Morton Rutledge Volunteer Fire Co. and passed away tragically on Dec. 3, 2019. This was only one day after he reported feeling ill after responding to a call regarding downed trees and wires. Malinowski was a dedicated and hard-working father, firefighter, and friend who is sorely missed by his family, fire company, and community.

