



Dianne Herrin

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
156TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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DEAR NEIGHBOR,

As I walked into the Capitol building in January to be sworn in as your state representative, I was profoundly struck by the honor of serving on your behalf. Whether at home in my district office or voting on legislation in Harrisburg, I am working for you to help build a stronger and healthier community.

Since I started serving you, I have been working on legislation that tackles several priorities, such as greenhouse gases and climate change, early childhood education, elder abuse protections, and other issues that have a direct impact on the Greater West Chester Area. I have also made it my top priority to bring high-quality constituent services to you through our district office in West Chester.

My office is always open, and my staff is ready to assist you, answer any questions you may have, and hear your opinion on the issues that matter most to you.

Thank you for allowing me to serve on your behalf, and I look forward to continuing to work for you.

Kind regards,

Rep. Dianne Herrin



Serving You!

During the first six months of my term, my constituent services “dream team” handled 2,300 constituent cases. This ranged from handling unemployment questions and PennDOT matters, to birth certificates and other vital records requests. My office is open and ready serve you. How can we help you? Give my office a call at (610) 696-4990 and let us know what we can do for you!

SEPTA Key Card

My office is proud to offer applications for the SEPTA Key Senior Card. Through this great program, seniors 65 and older can ride SEPTA free of charge using the Key Senior Card. Are you interested in receiving your free card? Call our office at (610) 696-4990 or send an email to repherrin@pahouse.net to set up an appointment.

Unclaimed Property

The Pennsylvania Treasury has over \$1.8 million in unclaimed property for Greater West Chester Area residents! Our office can help find any unclaimed property in your name and get your request sent to Harrisburg on your behalf. Call my office or go to patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property to find out if you have any unclaimed property! Most people who do aren't aware, so check it out today!

Rental Assistance

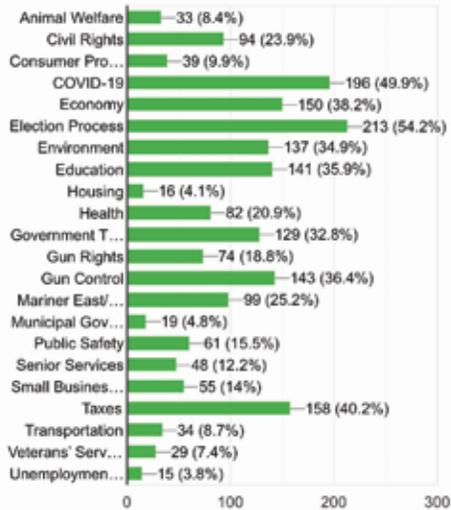
Assistance is available for Chester County renters through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program! To apply, dial 2-1-1 and select 2, the prompt for Housing Assistance.

What Matters to You

As your representative in Harrisburg, I wanted to gain a better understanding of the issues that matter most to you and how you view government. I shared a constituent survey through my office, our various municipal governments, and during my district walking tour.

During this legislative session, approximately 1,000 bills have already been introduced in Harrisburg. Please check off your top 5 issues.

393 responses

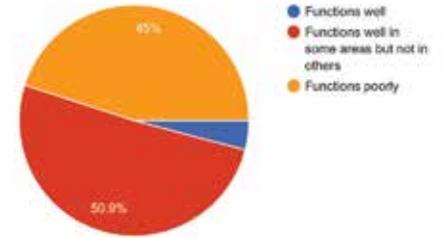


The results of the survey were pretty eye-opening when it came to how our community views state government. About 45% of respondents feel state government functions poorly and half of respondents believe it functions well in some areas and poorly in others. Very few constituents believe that state government functions well. Clearly, there is a general mistrust in government and in our institutions, and my colleagues and I need to work together to rebuild that trust and bring real solutions to the issues that matter most.

Our survey also asked what your most important issues are and why. A majority were concerned about our

What is your view of our state government in general? Please check one:

393 responses



election process, and the great majority (nearly 75%) of these respondents did not express a lack of faith in the election system. Rather, the concerns center on protecting our freedom to vote, ensuring access to the ballot box, and holding the line against restrictive bills that make it harder to vote. People in our community are also concerned about property taxes and very much want to ensure that we keep the COVID-19 pandemic under control.

If you have not yet made your voice heard, I still want to hear from you! Complete my survey today at bit.ly/repherrinsurvey2021.

Taking Your Concerns to State Government

Meeting with PennDOT to Discuss Our Community's Needs

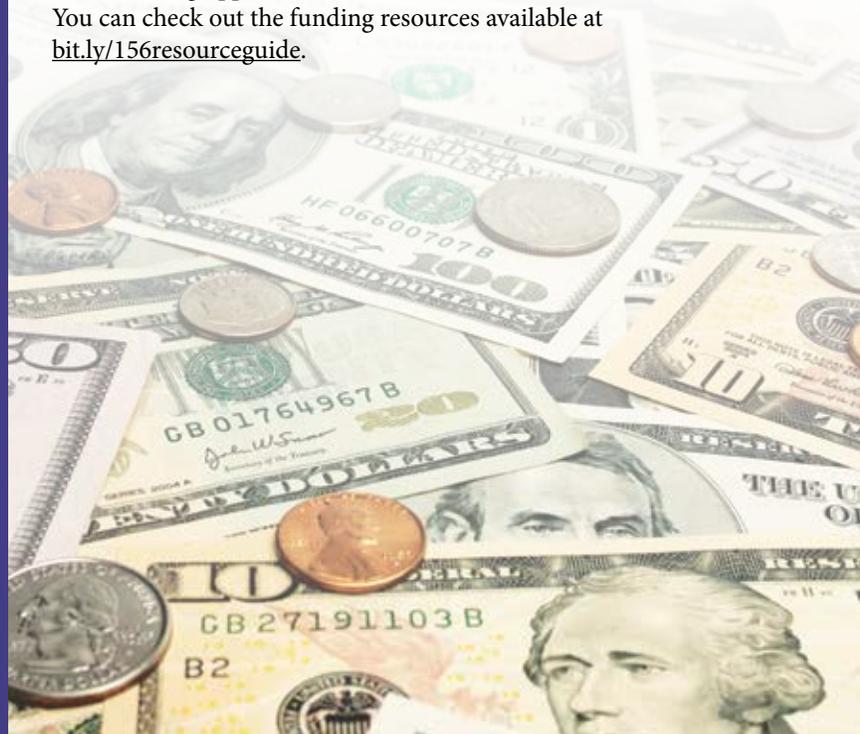


In late May, I held a virtual meeting with local PennDOT officials to review the infrastructure priorities of the Greater West Chester Area and the vital areas of concern throughout our community. We brought forward the concerns many of you have expressed to my office as well as the needs of our local municipalities. Following this meeting, PennDOT developed an action plan for our district and is working to reprioritize our paving and infrastructure needs. Several projects have already been addressed, and we will continue to stay on top of this for you!

Grant Corner

Since taking office and up until the end of June, our office has helped bring a total of \$5,288,243.69 into our district through grants, new funding, and other awards.

There are many state and local grant opportunities available for individuals, small businesses, municipalities, and nonprofits. Our office has developed an online database of some of the grants and other funding opportunities available to constituents in our district. You can check out the funding resources available at bit.ly/156resourceguide.



COVID Update

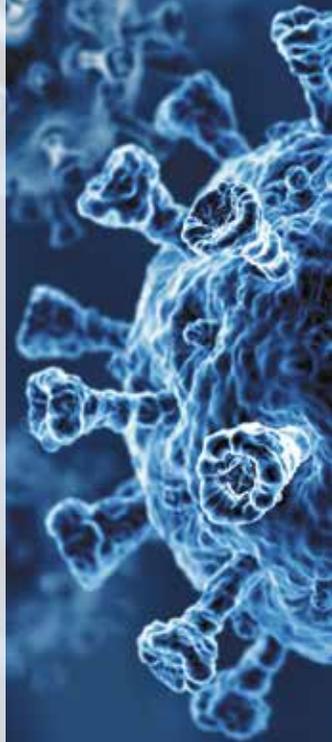
At the beginning of 2021, as doses of the first coronavirus vaccines were coming to Pennsylvania, my office worked tirelessly with state and local officials to ensure that our community and Chester County received our fair share of doses. In meetings with the state Department of Health, I pushed for clear communication on the vaccine distribution formula and advocated to ensure that our community was not left behind. As a result of our advocacy, our region began to see increased numbers in vaccine doses, and we helped ensure vulnerable populations received their doses in a timely fashion.

When the county initially set up its vaccine interest form to receive a dose, the only method to sign up was online. This left many older residents with limited ability to get onto the list. I sent a phone message to all seniors in our district informing them that my office could help assist with the online form. Our office worked around the clock helping our community get on the vaccine interest form list, assisting over **400** constituents, and we were able to ensure vaccinations for these residents. I take great pride in assisting our seniors.

The Chester County Health Department is now offering third doses for immunocompromised individuals in consultation with their physicians, and booster shots for the general population will be available soon. I will keep you informed!



Rep. Herrin calling constituents to sign up for a vaccine appointment through Chester County Health Department.



Office Events



Virtual Town Hall

My virtual town hall in May introduced my “dream team” to you and helped answer your questions about policy, state government, and how our office is here to serve you!

Stay Tuned for Future Events!

Our office will be hosting both fun and informative events into the fall so please check out my website to stay up to date with all our office's events: <https://www.pahouse.com/herrin/events>



Virtual Senior Expo!

In June, I was pleased to host my virtual senior expo, which introduced you to many resources and agencies that help our older neighbors stay healthy, active, and thriving. We were pleased to welcome representatives from the Senior Law Center, the Chester County Department of Aging Services, and SEPTA. Did you miss it? You can listen here: <https://bit.ly/3sIEXEZ>



Rep. Herrin Holds Policy Hearing on Early Childhood Education: A System in Crisis

I hosted a policy hearing on early childhood education at the West Goshen Township building to help bring policy solutions to a childcare system in crisis. Early childhood education is deeply underfunded – resulting in severe worker shortages, poor-quality care, and too few providers. The result is that parents can't get back to work during this labor shortage, and children are not receiving the care and attention they need and deserve.

Consider these facts:

- **Kids need care.** Children's brains go through their most rapid development in the first three years of life. Kids who participate in early childhood education show higher cognitive abilities, academic achievement, higher college attendance and less involvement in crime.
- **Parents cannot go back to work without childcare that is affordable.** Yet, the average annual cost of care consumes 14% of the median income for one child, 17% of median income for one infant, and 31% for two children. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has set the affordability limit for childcare at 7% of income.
- **Parents cannot go back to work without childcare that is accessible.** Yet, 71% of children in our district have no program options. More than 800 centers in PA closed during the pandemic and 250 remain shuttered. More than two-thirds took on debt to stay open and are at risk of closing.
- **We cannot fix the staffing shortage in the childcare sector until we pay providers a living wage.** In southeastern PA, 94% of childcare centers are short on staffing. Those who work in this field are in the 2nd percentile in the nation as far as wages, earning an average \$11.57/hour in PA. Half receive subsidies to put food on their tables, cannot provide adequate shelter or utilities for their families, cannot pay for healthcare, and/or work second jobs. They're leaving the field because they can earn 23% more on average working in retail and can earn much more as K-12 teachers.

Early childhood education is not babysitting. It is not a women's issue. *It is a critical component of our educational system that provides tremendous value, to the tune of a \$17 return on every \$1 invested.* It forms the backbone of our local economy and civil society. We cannot fix the labor shortage or our economic challenges unless we fix this.



West Chester Area Day Care Center Executive Director Betsy Billie speaks to PA legislators about her local challenges. Other testifiers included: local parent Jonathan Ragonese; FirstUp Executive Director Carol Austin; Director of Public Policy and Advocacy with the PA Association for the Education of Young Children Kimberly Early; Dr. Laura Crispin, associate professor, Department of Economics, St. Joseph's University; Katy Personette, deputy campaign manager, PA Budget and Policy Center; and Dr. Taryn Morrissey, associate professor, School of Public Affairs, American University.



Rep. Herrin at her early childhood education policy hearing this August.

To my great disappointment, majority party legislators in Harrisburg left more than **\$9 billion** in federal rescue money and surplus funds on the table during our budget negotiations this past June, and they turned a blind

eye to this problem. We still have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fund early childhood education with this money, and I will not stop working for you!

Seventeen PA legislators from around the state attended Rep. Herrin's policy hearing in West Goshen Township, and they will continue to work together to bring policy solutions to Harrisburg.



The childcare crisis is doing real and growing harm to the future of our youngest Americans, and inevitably to the future security of our country. Left unabated, millions of American parents ... will be forced out of the workforce while tens of millions of children won't get the care and attention they need to succeed later in life.

As patriots who care deeply about the future of our country, we hope lawmakers can ... craft legislation that will make childcare more easily available and affordable.

MISSION READINESS – Council for a Strong America

Retired admirals and generals working to strengthen national security by ensuring kids stay in school, stay fit, and stay out of trouble.

Around the Greater West Chester Area



*West Chester Area Senior Center
Food Delivery*



National Night Out Against Crime



West Chester Borough Clean-Up Day



*Left: Brandywine
Valley SPCA
Legislative
Roundtable*

*Right: Walking Tour
in the Bow Tree
neighborhood*



Save the Chester Water Authority Event



Having fun at the East Goshen Country Fair



Earth Day!



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My Office Can Help You:

- Birth and death certificates
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Consumer complaints
- Free Notary Services
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Requesting state forms
- Senior services
- Unemployment and Department of Labor and Industry issues
- PennDOT services: vehicle registrations, reduced vehicle registration renewal, registrations, handicap placards, titles and driver's license and Pennsylvania Identification Card applications
- Pennsylvania income tax questions
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Property tax/rent rebates for seniors
- Voter registration applications

If you need help with any state or government-related services, please contact my office at (610) 696-4990 for assistance.

