

News From State Representative

CHRISTINA SAPPEY

158th Legislative District | Chester County



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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DEAR NEIGHBOR,

I hope 2022 is off to a good start for you and your family.

As we begin the state budget season, there is reason for optimism. PA still has \$2.2 billion of federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds available from 2021 to invest in our people, small businesses, industries, and non-profits heavily impacted by the pandemic. State revenue is ahead of projection this year, and a surplus of nearly \$2.79 billion is predicted by June. The legislature prudently invested \$2.6 billion of state revenue surplus in the state's "rainy day fund" last June; however, I believe it is imperative that we now invest the federal stimulus in the commonwealth and its people in order to jump-start future economic growth and revenue as we emerge from the pandemic. This revenue would then eliminate the need to use stimulus funding to plug any possible future budget gaps. It's time to act on making PA a future-ready economy and we have the resources to do it.

As always, your issues and concerns are important to me. Please feel free to call, email or make an appointment to speak to me or my staff. Serving the 158th is an honor for our whole team and we will be happy to hear from you!

All the best,

\$13.1 MILLION SECURED FOR THE 158TH

Since the beginning of 2021, \$13,143,540 in funding was returned to taxpayers in the 158th District. I was pleased to support these applications for state grant funding to better serve our residents.

AGRICULTURE:

- » \$954,838 to Virginia Kelsall Farm for Farmland Preservation in Newlin Township.
- » \$108,351 to Penn State University for Phorid Fly Control Agriculture Research.
- » \$40,000 to American Mushroom Institute for mushroom production promotion.
- » \$15,000 to the Downingtown School District and \$4,200 to the Unionville Chadds Ford School District for agriculture education in schools.

EDUCATION:

- » \$499,860 to expand access to computer science and STEM education at West Chester University.
- » \$94,799 to Kennett Consolidated School District and \$34,775 to West Chester Area School District to ensure students have access to the digital devices and resources they need to connect remotely during the school year.
- » \$54,299 to prevent sexual violence at West Chester University from the Pennsylvania Department of Education "It's On Us PA" campaign.

ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACE:

- » \$1,200,000 to protect and preserve 156 acres at the historic Starr Farm property in East Bradford Township to expand township park space.
- » \$582,000 to purchase land on McCue Road and Church Road for a new township park in New Garden Township.
- » \$495,944 for the Stroud Water Research Center to implement agricultural best management practices and forested riparian buffers along the Red Clay Creek.
- » \$333,991 for a Stroud Water Research Center water quality pilot project focusing on the lower Susquehanna and Delaware watersheds.
- » \$269,298 for the Brandywine Conservancy to assess and improve water quality in the Brandywine-Christiana watershed through implementation of agricultural best management practices.
- » \$80,000 for the Chester County Water Resource Authority to prepare an update to the 2002 River Conservation Plan for multiple watersheds in the county.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

- » \$1,900,000 for the new Kennett Library.
- » \$1,871,685 to assist with the Kennett Greenway project, an over 14-mile-long trail connecting the greater Kennett area, including New Garden Township.
- » \$1,000,000 for traffic improvements on Marshallton-Thorndale Road and Poorhouse Road in West Bradford Township.
- » \$550,000 to Longwood Gardens to help complete a comprehensive wastewater treatment plant expansion project.
- » \$500,500 for rail replacement and improvements along the East Penn Railroad which runs through Newlin Township.
- » \$350,000 to fund improvements to St. Anthony's in the Hills in New Garden Township.
- » \$25,000 for a bridge to connect the parking lot to the Stroud Preserve and trail system in East Bradford Township.
- » \$19,000 for sewage facility planning in East Marlborough Township.
- » \$60,000 to Chester County Planning Commission to prepare a countywide trail plan.

Additionally, I joined colleagues to secure \$2.1 million for Chester County Hospital to increase emergency room and inpatient mental health capacities. While this doesn't come close to resolving the current hospital capacity issue, it will significantly help Chester County Hospital and its emergency department deal with increased volume due to recent hospital closures. I am working with county officials and legislative colleagues to find a sustainable long-term solution and will keep you apprised.

LAW ENFORCEMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA

I am frequently asked how law enforcement works in Pennsylvania. Who has a police department? Who utilizes coverage from the PA State Police? Do municipalities join together to form regional police coverage? How is this decided? There is no law in Pennsylvania that requires a municipality to establish and maintain a police department. We are a diverse commonwealth of more than 2,000 urban, suburban and rural municipalities, so police protection needs vary from county to county and from township to township. The form of protection and how it is provided is decided at the local government level.

More densely populated areas frequently have their own police department, requiring adequate staffing based on the coverage area and a financial commitment from the local government. Of Pennsylvania municipalities with a police department, roughly 83 percent have fewer than 10 officers and do not provide a full array of police services.

Rural municipalities often choose to share resources and regionalize law enforcement. Currently across the commonwealth, there are more than 35 regional police departments that represent more than 125 municipalities. According to the Southern Chester County Regional Police, partnering improves the delivery of public safety services, leading to safer communities, a predictable budget, enhanced quality of service and consistent police coverage. Regionalizing also enables departments to recruit, retain and train officers.

Two-thirds of Pennsylvania municipalities, mostly small rural areas, choose the PA State Police for part- or full-time patrol service. Currently, there is no additional fee for municipalities opting to use state police, which helps small townships keep taxes down; however, because state police cover a larger area, response time can be slower.

Municipality

Law Enforcement

West Goshen Township	West Goshen Township Police
East Bradford Township	West Chester Borough Police
West Bradford Township	PA State Police
Newlin Township	PA State Police
East Marlborough Township	East Marlborough Police/PA State Police
West Marlborough Township	PA State Police
New Garden Township	Southern Chester County Regional Police
Avondale Borough	Southern Chester County Regional Police
London Britain Township	PA State Police



Celebrating National Night Out with Chief Gerald Simpson of the Southern Chester County Regional Police Department.

RADAR USE BY LOCAL POLICE

As a cosponsor of House Bill 606, I support the use of radar by municipal police, including regional departments, for speed enforcement. Pennsylvania is the only state that limits radar use exclusively to state police officers. Providing this authority to local police departments allows for greater protection from speeding on local roads, while also limiting inaccurate speed readings from antiquated methods such as stopwatches.

UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS

**MARCH 17
6 P.M.**

**THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION IN CHESTER COUNTY
A VIRTUAL PANEL DISCUSSION**

**APRIL 23
9 A.M. – 11 A.M.**

WALK, LEARN AND PLAY: STREAMS IN THE 158TH

Join Rep. Sappey and experts from Stroud Water Research Center for this family-friendly nature walk along the White Clay Creek. We will learn about stream habitats and how to protect them while enjoying hands-on activities. All ages welcome!

Stroud Water Research Center | 970 Spencer Rd | Avondale, PA 19311

**JUNE 11
9 A.M. – NOON**

FREE SHREDDING EVENT

Bring up to four boxes or bags of documents to be shredded at this drive thru event. Please remain in your vehicle and staff will provide further instructions upon your arrival.

NEW LOCATION

Unionville High School | 750 Unionville Road | Kennett Square, PA 19348

**To register or for more information on any of these events,
please email RepSappey@pahouse.net or call 484-200-8264.**



Volunteers from my 2021 Charitable Item Donation Drive. Thank you to everyone who stopped by and contributed items for Kennett Area Community Services, Greenmore Animal Rescue Farm, David's Drive, Toys for Tots and GreenDrop.

NEW HEALTH CARE LAWS ENACTED

I voted in favor of the following measures that support quality health care, workers and patients.

FUNDING TO HELP HEALTH CARE WORKERS

In January 2022, Act 2 was signed into law after passing the state House and Senate unanimously. It delivers \$225 million in federal American Rescue Plan funding to our hard-working nurses and health care workers across Pennsylvania. Provisions of Act 2 include:

- » \$100 million in retention and recruitment funds for direct care staff, including nurses, will be provided to Pennsylvania hospitals.
- » \$110 million will be given to hospitals that provide behavioral health services, serve a high number of Medical Assistance clients, or are in some of the most rural parts of the commonwealth where staffing is at critically low levels.
- » \$15 million to increase the funds available for the Student Loan Relief for Nurses program. These funds will increase the amount of student loan forgiveness for nurses in various settings. The deadline to apply for this relief program is March 1, 2022. More information can be found here: www.pheaa.org/funding-opportunities/loan-relief-for-nurses.



PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS

In December 2021, Act 92 and Act 94 went into effect, expanding Pennsylvania's prescription assistance programs for older adults. PACE and PACENET offer low-cost prescription medication to qualified residents, age 65 and older.

Act 92 ensures enrollees maintain their PACE benefits despite increases in their overall income due to Social Security cost-of-living adjustments (COLA). This includes any Social Security COLAs from Dec. 31, 2021 until Dec. 31, 2023.

Act 94 expands access to the PACENET prescription program by raising the income limits from \$27,500 to \$33,500 for a single person and from \$35,500 to \$41,500 for a married couple.

If you receive Medicare and have questions regarding your health insurance, including prescription coverage, the Pennsylvania Medicare Education and Decision Insight (PA MEDI) program is available to assist. To schedule an appointment, please call 610-344-5004.

VIRTUAL EDUCATION FOR NURSING AIDES

Act 98 went into effect in December 2021 to address the nursing facilities labor shortage in Pennsylvania. The law allows individuals to complete the classroom education portion of a state-approved nursing aide training program online.

Nursing aide candidates are still required to have in-person clinical training; however, providing a virtual education component enables individuals to complete the program more quickly. Hopefully, this will encourage more individuals to consider becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant.

NO SURPRISES ACT

The federal No Surprises Act, which took effect on January 1, 2022, protects patients from receiving surprise medical bills in situations where they have little or no control over who provides their care.

For emergencies, the act covers most services without needing approval from the insurance company first. It does not matter whether the provider or facility is in or out of the health plans' provider network.

For non-emergency services, when a patient chooses an in-network facility or provider, but an associated physician or referred specialist, like the lab or

pathologist, is out-of-network, the No Surprises Act requires these services to be covered at the same rate they would be by an in-network provider.

If you knowingly choose an out-of-network provider for your care, it is not considered a surprise medical bill.

Consumers can file complaints when they receive a bill for more than what they would have paid if the provider was in-network with the Pennsylvania Insurance Department by visiting www.insurance.pa.gov/Coverage/health-insurance/no-surprises-act or calling 1-877-881-6388.



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WHAT'S GOING ON?

Keep up with what's going on in Harrisburg and here in the 158th by signing up for email updates. I regularly send multi-subject emails containing information useful to residents. To sign up, go to my website, pahouse.com/Sappey, scroll to the bottom of the homepage, and fill out the section that says "STAY INFORMED. SIGN UP FOR MY EMAILS". After you fill out your information, click submit.

NEW LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

Every ten years, after the U.S. Census, the Legislative Reapportionment Commission is created to redraw the boundaries of Pennsylvania's state House and Senate districts to maintain equitable representation based on population. The state Constitution provides that districts should be composed of compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as practicable.

This important process is currently underway. The Legislative Reapportionment Commission adopted a final map plan on February 4, 2022. These maps now move to the PA Supreme Court for final approval before they are implemented. Currently, we are in a 30 day period, when interested parties are allowed to challenge the maps. Following this period, and consideration of any exemptions, the Court will make a decision.

To view the maps, learn more about the reapportionment process, and find updates on the process, visit the commission's website at www.redistricting.state.pa.us.