



Dear Neighbor,

This session, we're still trying to navigate our way back to our lives before the pandemic: by continuing to work on addressing vaccine access issues, ensuring businesses are provided pathways and tools to come back stronger, and offering programs and services to aid our hardworking friends, family and neighbors who've lost their jobs.

As your representative, I strive to be your voice on the issues that matter, here at home and in the state Capitol. And this session, that means continuing to fight for legislation that will position us to be a Pennsylvania that prospers beyond the focused intensity of this moment. We can't lose sight of issues that were important before the pandemic began in March 2020, when our worlds seemingly stopped. Instead, the key is to find the balance between legislating for our immediate needs and the needs of future generations.

Understanding the challenges we continue to face in the Lehigh Valley and across the commonwealth, I'll continue working with my colleagues on responsible and viable solutions for our families that foster opportunity in all our communities. And, your input and suggestions are always welcome.

My district office is at 1080 Schadt Ave., in Whitehall, and I encourage you to please feel free to reach out to me directly via [email](mailto:RepMcNeill@PaHouse.net) at RepMcNeill@PaHouse.net, or by phone at 610-266-1273.

In addition to the occasional mailings like this, information regarding state-related programs, services and legislation can also be found on my social media pages, via Facebook at facebook.com/RepMcNeill and Twitter at twitter.com/RepMcNeill.

Vice Chairwoman Northeast Democratic Delegation

Last summer, I was appointed to serve the remainder of state Rep. Maureen Madden's unexpired term as vice chairwoman of the Northeast Democratic Delegation of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the rest of the 2021-22 legislative term. Madden was appointed chairwoman when delegation Chairman Marty Flynn, D-Lackawanna, was sworn in as a state senator.

According to internal research, this may be the first time the House Democratic Northeast Delegation has women at the helm in positions as both chair and vice chair. And it's an honor that my colleagues have selected and entrusted me with the responsibilities of vice chairwoman for the Northeastern Delegation. As we move into 2022, I'm eager to work with Chairwoman Madden to ensure that, as a delegation, our individual goals become collective, representing the entire region and better enabling us to meet the ever-changing needs of the communities we serve.

The Northeast Delegation includes members who represent Berks, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe and Northampton counties.

Honored by Labor Council

I was presented with the William Werkheiser Award for my work and service to the local community by the Lehigh Valley Central Labor Council during its annual banquet in October 2021.

Imagine the shock I felt attending the annual Labor Council dinner with friends and family, only to become the first elected official to receive the William Werkheiser Award in the award's history.

The award is presented every year to a person, persons, or agency demonstrating strong community service leadership, and is named after its first recipient, William "Bill" Werkheiser. Throughout his years of service to the local community and the labor movement, he always had time to serve others, participating with various nonprofits and serving on many boards. It was Werkheiser's dedication to community and others that led to the award being named after him.

I'm completely honored to join the list of those recognized for their service to others, those individuals who have worked to improve the health, welfare and overall recreation and betterment of our community. To be recognized for the things I do every day – not just in my role as a state representative — but also as a mom, grandmother, sister, neighbor, and a friend, is overwhelming. I feel very humbled by it. It's absolutely amazing.

It's my hope that more people will realize that even though we may not see it, we do have the ability to improve and leave a lasting impact on others. Perhaps Charles Dickens said it best, "No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another."



COMMITTEE and CAUCUS ASSIGNMENTS

- Game & Fisheries Committee
- Gaming Oversight Committee
- Insurance Committee
- Labor & Industry Committee
- Policy Committee
- Rules Committee
- Northeast Delegation, Vice Chairwoman
- Autism & Intellectual Disabilities Caucus
- LGBTQ Equality Caucus
- PA SAFE Caucus
- Women's Caucus

Legislation Update

I'm honored to be your voice in Harrisburg, taking your concerns and issues to the Capitol and working with my colleagues to find solutions so that every Pennsylvanian can prosper.

Last summer, one of the biggest concerns you raised in conversations, emails, and phone calls pertained to the uptick in fireworks activity. I welcomed colleagues from the House Democratic Policy Committee to the Lehigh Valley so that they could hear your concerns directly.

While the testimony was extremely informative, and my colleagues agree that something must be done, sadly there's been little movement on any proposed legislation that would provide a solution.

House Bill 988, legislation I've co-authored with Rep. Peter Schweyer (D-Lehigh), would repeal the most recent changes made to the fireworks law and reinstate the provisions as they existed before Act 43. It would not prohibit Pennsylvanians from using novelty fireworks or enjoying fireworks shows in their community to celebrate the Fourth of July or other holidays and special events. If passed, the bill would address growing complaints of inappropriate fireworks usage that have been rampant across Pennsylvania.

The bill was referred to the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee late last spring and hasn't been considered since. I'm again calling on my colleagues to run this bill so that it can be voted on before we're in the middle of another "explosive" holiday summer season.

In addition to the above-mentioned legislation, I'm also hoping that 2022 will be the year the legislature does more to protect our animals. Some of you may recall an Op-Ed I wrote supporting House Bill 526, legislation that would end the financial deficit currently limiting the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement's ability to operate effectively.



It is legislation that would "give a voice to the voiceless" and provide the tools and resources needed to ensure animals no longer suffer or go through unimaginable anguish and pain. Legislation that would bring the program to self-solvency with operating costs covered by licenses, unlike last year when taxpayers were responsible for an additional \$1.2 million to keep the department operating (estimated to rise to \$1.5 million).

And what became of that legislation? Rather than come before the chamber for a vote, sadly it sits in committee, where it has remained since February 2021. The resulting consequences are continued suffering for animals and an enforcement system that remains operating as best as it can. I feel we can, and should be, doing better.

We can and should be doing more, especially when there is legislation – bipartisan legislation, mind you — just sitting in committee, almost as though it's been sent there to be forgotten. Legislation like House Bill 1299, otherwise known as "Victoria's Law," that I co-authored with House colleague Rep. Tracy Pennycuik (R-Montgomery). It's legislation that would drive the Pennsylvania pet market toward more humane sources like shelters, rescues and responsible breeders and was something that required no hesitation. Our bipartisan bill also would stop the sale of puppy mill dogs, cats and rabbits in pet stores.

The following is a small sample of additional legislation I've sponsored that is pending before committees (additional bill information is updated at RepMcNeill.com):

House Bill 838

It's time we know what the big gas companies know, and that's why I'm proud to co-sponsor legislation with Rep. Dan Miller (D-Allegheny) that adopts the recommendation from state Attorney General Josh Shapiro that all chemicals in the natural gas fracking process in the commonwealth be disclosed 14 days before use at any stage of the process, including drilling.

It's not too much to ask that a Pennsylvania resident have clean drinking water, nor is it too much to provide our communities insight into what's being trucked through their neighborhoods.

House Bill 460

Working with Rep. Mike Zabel (D-Delaware), I reintroduced legislation aimed at capping out-of-pocket prescription insulin prices at \$100 per month.

Sadly, so many people are still struggling to pay for their insulin. There is no reason that people should have to make a choice to forgo food, consider traveling to Canada or turn to the black market to get financial relief from the costs of being insulin-dependent.

It is important that this issue be addressed, especially considering the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the additional financial burdens it is placing on Pennsylvanians.



During the summer, Madeline Sinkler worked in my district office as part of the House intern program.



Meet Bill McGovern. He is our new Department Service Officer from the American Legion Department of PA. Bill will be in our office the third Monday of the month to meet with veterans, from between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Please call 610-266-1273 to make an appointment.



Each year I'm honored to participate in the various services and programs that honor our beloved servicemen and women on Veterans Day.



My district office again partnered with members of the Lehigh Dialogue Center, Holy Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church in Catasauqua, and the Catasauqua School District to distribute turkeys and sides to families in need in Catasauqua during the 2021 Thanksgiving holiday.

More Than \$60 Million in Tax Dollars Reinvested Throughout the District

I'm proud to continue working with my colleagues in Harrisburg to ensure that the 133rd District continues to get state resources for investments in projects that benefit our communities. These are your tax dollars and I'm always proud to do my part in ensuring they find their way back to Lehigh County. I encourage community leaders and others to please contact my office for more information about state grants, funding and programs that are available. The following is a breakdown of the \$60.81 million in funding distributed throughout our communities since March 2021:

- **\$1.8 million** to the Lehigh Valley International Airport for work on its terminal connector and security checkpoint expansion.
- **\$153,000** to Whitehall Township for a Hokendauqua Park and Playground Association and Whitehall Parkway pavilion.
- **\$50.72 million** to schools within the 133rd District to support in-person learning.
- **\$6.25 million** to fund multiple projects within the 133rd District.
- **\$1 million** to the Lehigh Valley Health Network for improve patient access.
- **\$200,000** to Coplay Borough to complete several projects.
- **\$380,000** to Hanover Township for an intersection upgrade.
- **Nearly \$2,800** to the Coplay Library for internet services and digital equipment.
- **Nearly \$101,000** to local volunteer fire and emergency medical services companies for fire and emergency medical services.
- **\$85,000** to Coplay Borough and Whitehall Township for recreation projects.
- **More than \$115,000** to Salisbury and Whitehall townships for criminal justice initiatives.

LOOKING CLOSER AT SOME OF THE INVESTMENTS!!

Catasauqua Borough: \$250,000 toward redeveloping the former Crane Iron Works site for a mix of commercial, residential, and public uses. This phase includes public improvements at the site which are typically dedicated to the municipality such as water, stormwater, and sanitary sewer infrastructure, erosion and sedimentation control facilities, and trenching for dry utilities (electric, telecom, gas, etc.).

Whitehall Township: \$500,000 toward construction of a new police station adjacent to the existing township building and a series of needed renovations and improvements to several other buildings at the complex. These improvements include the addition of the elevator/lobby to the township building, a solar canopy for police car/vehicle protection, and fit-out of the public works building interior shop and storage mezzanine.

Are you at risk of having your water shut off?

Help is available. Learn if you qualify at:
dhs.pa.gov/WaterHelp

The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), is available to help Pennsylvanians maintain access to drinking and wastewater service.

Assistance is available for families who have past due water bills, had their service terminated, or received a notice indicating that their service will be terminated in the next 60 days.

Households can receive LIHWAP grants for both drinking water service and wastewater service. Grants are issued directly to water service providers, and families must meet income requirements. As you prepare to apply have the following information ready to submit with your application:

- 1) Names, Social Security numbers, and dates of birth for all people in your household.
- 2) Proof of income for the applicant and all household members.
- 3) A recent water bill.

More information is available for LIHWAP online at <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Waterhelp>. Please note, my staff is also available to assist you with applying for this program.

Property Tax/Rent Rebates

Older and disabled Pennsylvanians can now apply for rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2021. This assistance is available through the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, which has delivered more than \$7.1 billion to eligible Pennsylvanians since the program's inception in 1971.

Eligible applicants are encouraged to visit www.mypath.pa.gov to electronically submit their applications. The Department of Revenue launched this online option last year to make it easier for the nearly 500,000 Pennsylvanians who annually benefit from the program to submit their applications.

Rebates will be distributed beginning July 1. If you need further assistance, you can also reach out to my office at 610-266-1273.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATES ARE BACK!

Assistance available from State Representative Jeanne McNeill

DATE: _____
 TIME: _____

At Rep. McNeill's office:
**1080 Schadt Ave.
 Whitehall, PA 18052**

Once you have your documents ready, use this card to call and schedule your appointment.

Required for Appointment:

- Proof of all 2021 income
- Rent certificates completed by all 2021 landlords, if you rent
- Property tax receipts OR 1098 Mortgage Interest Statement, if you own
- Direct deposit information, if desired
- Photo ID (requested)

Please call: 610-266-1273 to schedule.



Representative Jeanne McNeill

1080 Schadt Avenue
Whitehall, PA 18052
(610) 266-1273

**More Than \$60 Million
Reinvested Throughout District**
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Last October, my office held its annual Paper Shredding/Electronic Recycling Event at Salisbury Elementary School in Allentown, with help from our local Boy Scout Troops. We filled two huge box trucks with old electronics!



Stay tuned for details on the location and time for this year's event! It will be announced on my website and social media accounts.

My Office Can Help With

- PACE (pharmaceutical assistance for qualified senior citizens)
- Voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms (for qualified seniors and others)
- Information regarding PHEAA (PA Higher Education Assistance Agency)
- Information on PA's 529 College Savings Plans
- Requests for state informational materials
- CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)
- Obtaining birth or death certificates
- PennDOT problems or questions — including disability license plates and placards
- Questions or problems with any state agency
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Citations from the PA House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and important family milestones

**The office is open.
If you need help with any state- or government-related service, please call 610-266-1273, or stop by.**