



STATE REP.
JENNIFER
O'MARA
165TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



SPRING 2022

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Dear Neighbor,

Spring is in the air! As we head into warmer months here at home, we are also heading into the budget season in Harrisburg. On February 8th, Governor Wolf delivered his final budget address to the General Assembly. His final budget proposal is for a total of \$43.7 billion. While this looks like a large number, it does include many critical priorities, including investments in public education which will result in property tax relief, in mental and behavioral health support, in environmental protections, and in programs to provide more support for individuals with disabilities. The budget also includes an initiative I have championed for two sessions — a \$1 million investment into Hunger Free Campus initiatives to help make sure students over the age of 18 receive the same support for food insecurity that they received before they left home. While the budget is being negotiated from now until June, please know I will continue to work to hear from you about your priorities to make sure that this budget reflects the needs of our community.

My office is also hosting several paper and electronic shred events this year—back by popular demand! Please be sure to check out this newsletter and follow my social media pages for more information about our events including location and which items will be accepted. And, as always, please know my office is here to help you with any state-related needs.

Warm regards,

Jennifer O'Mara

Jennifer O'Mara



Bringing over \$5 million home

- ✓ **\$4.56 million to update Delco's 911 system**
 This project will improve our county's aging 911 system to ensure no loss of communication during emergency situations. This funding will go toward 24 tower upgrades to provide acceptable county-wide communication coverage, shelter structures, ice bridge, grounding, electric, HVAC, core work additions, and 911 center equipment to communicate effectively in crisis situations with citizens and first responders, as well as with surrounding counties in southeastern Pennsylvania. This has been an initiative years in the making and I was proud to work with all of Delaware County's state lawmakers to strengthen the safety of our communities.
- ✓ **It's On Us grants awarded to two local higher education institutions**
 Delaware County Community College and Eastern University both received grants to combat sexual assault/violence on campus. DCCC received \$17,355 and Eastern University received \$30,000. These awards may be used to help fund trainings for staff and students on consent and intervention, reporting means, counseling, resources for students and survivors and more.
- ✓ **\$480K to improve water quality and mitigate effects of flooding in Radnor Township**
 The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection awarded Radnor a \$438,000 Growing Greener grant. This funding will help enhance Radnor's water quality and flood reduction measures. The project benefiting from this grant will reduce pollutant loads of 255.2 pounds of nitrogen, 17.9 pounds of phosphorus and 17.8 tons of sediment per year – helping with water quality and public safety.

AROUND THE DISTRICT



Thank you to everyone who dropped off toy donations to our office in December for our Toys for Tots collection. I'd especially like to thank Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters for their huge food donation benefiting St. Mark's food pantry.



In December, I joined my colleagues Senator Tim Kearney, along with Representatives Zabel and Curry at the Upper Darby WIC Clinic to drop off diaper donations to help parenting families.



I was proud to present Brendan & Colin Downey with citations in honor of their achievements of earning the rank of Eagle Scout in Springfield's Troop 512.

I joined Congregation Beth El – Ner Tamid in Broomall at their Social Action Packing Party to support menstrual equity along with Sen. Tim Kearney and Rep. Gina H. Curry. Thanks to all who donated to the feminine hygiene product drives at my district office.



I was honored to join Chabad of Delaware County for their 7th annual menorah lighting at the start of Hanukkah. Special thanks to the Media Fire Company for assisting with the gelt drop!

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy of service to others, I dropped off donations of feminine hygiene products at Murphy's Giving Market in Upper Darby and helped pack bags for young women struggling with period equity on MLK Day.

My office held a blood drive in partnership with the American Red Cross and the Springfield YMCA. We received 41 donations, supporting 123 patients. Thank you to all who donated and helped our community overcome the severe national blood shortage.



Scan this QR code to find a blood drive near you.



I loved stopping by all the holiday celebrations in Marple, Morton, Springfield and Radnor!



Pennsylvania election update: mail-in voting

Recently, the Commonwealth Court ruled that Act 77 – which implemented no-excuse mail-in voting for Pennsylvania – was unconstitutional. The court reached this verdict because the judges said that changes to our election laws must be adopted via amending the state constitution. However, our state constitution does allow lawmakers to decide voting laws. Therefore, this decision is being appealed by the Wolf Administration.

As this legal process unfolds, Pennsylvanians may still request mail-in ballots. Until the state Supreme Court delivers its final verdict, there is no immediate impact on voting by mail. Follow me on social media for updates on this important issue.

If there are any changes in the primary election scheduled for May 17, Delco's voter services will make an announcement and I will post about it on my legislative social media platforms.

For up-to-date localized information on voting, please visit delcopa.gov/vote/voterservicecenters.html.

Anyone interested in applying for a mail-in or absentee ballot should visit Vote.PA.gov/MailBallot. To find your polling place, visit www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx.

SEPTA

Do you have a SEPTA Senior Key Card?

Due to contact issues caused by the pandemic, SEPTA has extended the printed expiration date on Senior Fare Cards. Cards with expiration dates in 2020, 2021 and 2022 have been extended until the same expiration month in 2023.

SEPTA Senior Key Card update

No SEPTA Senior Key Cards will expire in 2022! Senior Key Cards with printed expiration dates of 2020, 2021 and 2022 will now remain effective through the end of the month printed on the card in 2023.

REAPPORTIONMENT: LRC approves new maps

On Feb. 4, the Legislative Reapportionment Commission voted to approve Pennsylvania's final state legislative district maps. However, even though these maps were approved, there is a 30-day window for legal challenges. New districts will not take effect until all legal proceedings have been ruled on and the state Supreme Court certifies the maps. If the maps are certified, the 165th Legislative District will include all of Springfield, Upper Providence, Media, Morton, and Swarthmore, as well as part of Marple (Precincts 4-2 and Wards 5-7.)

Reapportionment happens every 10 years, triggered by results of the census. The demographics of the commonwealth changed considerably over the past decade. Population shifts and entrenched underrepresentation demanded a fresh perspective on mapping.

While the LRC-approved statewide maps aren't perfect – they meet the state's constitutional requirements. Anyone interested in keeping up with this subject may visit <https://www.redistricting.state.pa.us/maps/> for updates.

Need help with water bills?

Are you or someone you know at risk of losing water service at their home? Help is available for Pennsylvanians who need help with water bills or who may lose water service.

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services opened the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program. Relief is available to 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.

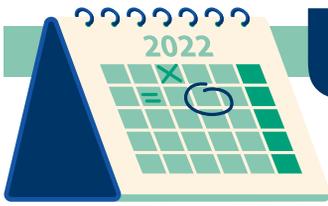
For more information, including income guidelines for program eligibility, visit dhs.pa.gov/WaterHelp.

Are you at risk of having your water shut off?

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

WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

pennsylvania



UPCOMING EVENTS

I hope to see you at one of my many upcoming events! Check out my events schedule below for one that works best for you.

Shred Events

By popular demand, I'll be hosting two shred events – one in March and one in May. Each event will be from 9 a.m. until noon, or until the trucks fill. Both events will also be accepting electronics for disposal (specifically smartphones, laptops and hard drives- we will not accept any TVs, monitors or any other electronics). See the graphics for more details.

Senior Fraud Forum with DA Jack Stollsteimer

April 20 • 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Springfield Township Building
50 Powell Road, Springfield, PA 19064

Area seniors are invited to join Delco DA Jack Stollsteimer and me to learn about how you can protect your identity and not fall prey to scammers.

Rep. Jennifer O'Mara & Sen. Tim Kearney's

FREE SHRED EVENT



Saturday, March 19
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
or until the trucks fill up.

Saint Kevin Parish
200 W Sproul Rd, Springfield, PA

With District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer's office for Drug-take back



Rep. Jennifer O'Mara & Sen. Amanda Cappelletti's

FREE SHRED EVENT



Saturday, May 21
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
or until the trucks fill up.

Radnor Township Building
301 Iven Ave, Radnor, PA 19087

With District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer's office for Drug-take back



COVID-19 updates

Did you know that you can get at-home COVID tests and N95 masks for free? To order an at-home test, visit covidtests.gov.

Free N95 masks are available at participating pharmacies while supplies last. To find one near you, visit cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/retail-pharmacy-program/participating-pharmacies.html.

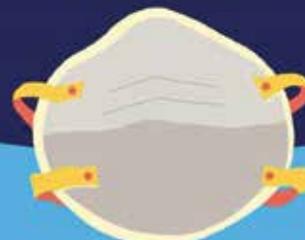
Order your FREE at-home COVID tests!

[COVIDTests.gov](https://covidtests.gov)



Each home in the U.S. is eligible to receive 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. Orders typically ship in 7-12 days

FREE N95 Masks Available at Participating Pharmacies



Limit of 3 per customer



Does the PA Treasury have something for you?



IT'S NO SECRET GEORGE, PA TREASURY HAS \$3.8 BILLION IN UNCLAIMED PROPERTY THEY WANT TO RETURN.

PaTreasury.gov/unclaimed-property

The Pennsylvania Treasury has billions of dollars in unclaimed property, and some of that could be yours. Some examples of unclaimed property include abandoned bank

accounts, uncashed payroll checks, contents of safe deposit boxes and traveler's checks. Anyone can visit www.patresury.gov to see if the state is holding any property in their name. It is free to search the database, so never pay anyone a fee to search for you. My office will host a St. Patty's Day Unclaimed Property Event to help residents find their pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Make an appointment with my staff or call 610-544-9878 and we'll search the online database for you. If there is something in your name, we can help you collect what's yours.

State tax forms available at my office

My district office in Springfield has the most common state tax forms available. Anyone who needs them must call ahead, 610-544-9878, or email RepOMara@pahouse.net so that my staff can have the documents ready upon your arrival. We're also happy to mail them directly to you. Quantities are limited at this time, so there is a limit to one PA Tax instruction book per person.

Please note that my office does not have federal or local tax forms available.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE APPLICATIONS OPEN

OLDER AND DISABLED PENNSYLVANIANS CAN NOW APPLY FOR REBATES ON PROPERTY TAXES OR RENT PAID IN 2021

revenue.pa.gov/ptrr



2021 Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications open

My office has PA Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications available. Anyone who needs them must call ahead at 610-544-9878 or email RepOMara@pahouse.net so that my staff can have the application ready. Forms can be mailed to you or picked up outside the district office. You can also apply for the rebate online at www.mypath.pa.gov.



Watch for spotted lanternfly egg masses

The spotted lanternfly has now been found in 34 Pennsylvania counties, and it's important to keep up efforts to squash this invasive pest.

Spotted lanternfly eggs are laid in the fall and hatch in the spring. During the winter months and early spring, you can be on the lookout for egg masses left on trees, plastic yard objects and other surfaces. If you see an egg mass, you should scrape and destroy it.

Find more details on how to identify spotted lanternfly egg masses and what to do with them on the Penn State Extension website at <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>.

FOLLOW ME



@RepOMara and subscribe to my bi-weekly emails by visiting RepOMara.com for information on future events I'm planning!



STATE REP.
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Ways my district office can serve you:



- Provide voter registration and mail-in/absentee ballot applications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards
- REAL ID questions
- Notary services – please call for an appointment
- Birth/Death Certificate applications
- Problems or questions about PennDOT
- Car registration, special tags, titles/ license plate applications
- Disability plates and placards / PACE cards for senior citizens
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (SNAP, welfare, etc.)
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones

Phasing out 3G service

To make room for 5G service, mobile carriers will deactivate 3G networks. AT&T finished shutting down its 3G network in February, while Verizon will finish shutting theirs down by the end of the year. Cellphones that use 3G will completely lose connectivity, including the ability to call 911.

If you utilize 3G, contact your mobile provider or consult your provider's website for more information about their 3G retirement plan and whether your phone, or other connected device, may be affected. Some devices may only require a software update to restore connectivity.