



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Leanne Krueger

161ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

WEBSITE: www.RepLeanne.com • EMAIL: RepKrueger@pahouse.net

FALL 2022



CAPITOL OFFICE: 38B East Wing • P.O. Box 202161 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2161 • (717) 705-2567 • Fax: (717) 705-7000

DISTRICT OFFICE: 1300 E. MacDade Blvd., Suite 1 • Folsom, PA 19033 • (610) 534-6880 • Fax: (610) 534-6881

SATELLITE OFFICE: Brookhaven Municipal Ctr. • 2 Cambridge Road • Brookhaven, PA 19015 • (610) 447-3297 • Fax: (610) 447-3378

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program Bonus Payment

I've been fighting hard for property tax relief for our community. The 2022/23 state budget includes a \$140 million boost to the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. Here's what you need to know about the bonus payment:

- Seniors and disabled residents who received rebates under the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program for the 2021 claim year will receive an additional one-time rebate.
- The bonus rebate is equal to 70% of your regular rebate. (For example, a resident who received a regular rebate of \$500 can expect to receive a supplemental rebate of \$350)
- If you are a claimant who has already received your original rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2021, you will automatically receive your additional bonus rebate in a one-time payment. There's no need to act! The state Department of Revenue has already started sending bonus rebates through the mail or via direct deposit.
- If you are an eligible claimant whose 2021 rebate application is still being processed, or an eligible claimant who has not yet submitted your 2021 rebate application form, you will receive a combined rebate (original + bonus) in a one-time payment.
- The extra payment will be sent in the mail or via direct deposit, depending on how you designated to receive your regular rebate on the original application.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM
for residents who are permanently disabled, 50+ and widowed, or 65+

Application Deadline: **December 31, 2022**

What we need from you:

- EVERYONE**
 - ✓ All earned income tax forms (1099 SSI, W2s, etc.)
- HOMEOWNERS**
 - ✓ Copies of all paid tax bills
- RENTERS**
 - ✓ Signed form from the landlord

\$35,000 household income for homeowners & **\$15,000** household income for renters

For those on Social Security: half of SSI/SSD income is excluded for eligibility

PA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SENATOR

If you need help with the paperwork for the 2021 application or have any questions about this one-time payment, contact my office at (610) 534-6880.

REAL ID Deadline

Beginning May 3, 2023, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, photo ID card, or another form of federally acceptable identification (such as a valid passport or military ID) to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a federal building or military installation that requires ID.

We are holding a REAL ID event from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on October 11th in Brookhaven. Join us to learn about REAL ID and get your questions answered by a PennDOT representative at this information-only session.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Constitutional Amendment Proposal

In July, the state House and Senate passed a dangerous bill that could limit our rights instead of protecting them, and they want to do it in a way that circumvents the normal way we should be doing business in Harrisburg.

Senate Bill 106 proposes several constitutional amendments that would:

- Pave the way for an abortion ban by declaring there is no right to an abortion in PA.
- Impose a barrier to voting by instituting Voter ID measures that would disenfranchise low-income, urban and elderly voters.
- Require the Auditor General to audit election results, which would unnecessarily duplicate our existing election audit system.
- Allow Pennsylvania's governor candidates to choose their lieutenant governor running mate.
- Give the General Assembly the ability to overrule regulations without the governor's approval. This would significantly impact future environmental regulations.

A proposed constitutional amendment cannot be vetoed by the governor. It must be passed by two consecutive legislative sessions and if it succeeds, it is then put on the ballot for voters to decide. Because Senate Bill 106 has now passed once, it could be considered and passed again in early 2023 and wind up on the ballot by the May 2023 primary election.

Women's Reproductive Rights



Since the U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, state-level protections are more important than ever.

In July, I was invited to a meeting with state lawmakers, members of Congress and Vice President Kamala Harris to discuss our fight for reproductive rights here in Pennsylvania.

Regardless of what members of the majority party say, their proposed constitutional amendment would be the first step in paving a way to banning abortions in Pennsylvania. States that have passed similar measures, like Tennessee, have also gone on to pass more abortion restrictions. Women in Pennsylvania have access to safe and legal abortions today. If we do not act, that access could be denied to women by this time next year.

I will continue to work in Harrisburg to fight any legislation that restricts rights. We need to do everything we can to stop this before it happens!

Updating the Crimes Code

In July, Governor Wolf signed into law House Bill 2125 which removes "homosexuality" from Pennsylvania's crime code.

While we still have work to do to bring true equality to everyone in the commonwealth, I was glad to see this legislation pass both chambers unanimously and move to the governor's desk. This update is a step in the right direction to destigmatize and protect the LGBTQ+ community.

Protecting Access to Health Care

In June, I joined House and Senate lawmakers from Delaware County to discuss proposed legislation that would prevent the financial looting of Pennsylvania hospital systems by private-equity and for-profit companies.

In 2016, Prospect Medical Holdings acquired Crozer Health in Delaware County. Now, less than 10 years later, the for-profit company has brought our local health care system to a crisis point by riddling it with debt and cutting EMS, behavioral health and drug and alcohol services. They claim these services are not profitable enough. These cuts will cost lives. This is why I introduced a bill that would prohibit health systems from distributing dividends during the 24 months following a leverage buyout by a for-profit company.

This would prevent private equity firms, like Prospect Medical Holdings, from acquiring hospitals, only to extract profits and leave communities abandoned. At the same time, I continue to work with Delaware County Council and other elected officials to save our hospital system.



Earlier this year, I joined nurses, paramedics, social workers, and Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses & Allied Professionals in front of Crozer Chester Medical Center to fight for essential health care services for Delco.

IN THE DISTRICT



I've been working closely with Save CWA in the fight to stop Aqua from taking over our public water authority. In August, I joined state Senator John Kane for a tour of the reservoir and treatment plant in Chester County. We were joined by CWA Board Member, Noel Brandon. I really appreciated getting to see exactly where our water comes from.



I love celebrating the Fourth of July in Rose Valley. It's the quaintest parade in Delco and almost every resident shows up to march. Plus, it's always fun to hear the sirens from South Media Fire Company!



In July, I visited the Family Promise of Delaware County site in Brookhaven with local Board members. Family Promise is one of the only shelters for homeless families in Delco.



I was excited to help "unwrap" the new playground in Hepford Park in July. I was grateful to partner with the Nether Providence Township Commissioners on this project. Stop by to check it out!



Right: In August, I spent an afternoon on a ride-along with the Brookhaven Police in Brookhaven Borough. I'm so grateful to Detective Tim Habich and Officer Palmer for taking the time to share their work with me and to Chief Vice for his leadership in leading the Department through accreditation to improve community safety.



National Night Out is a national community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships. This year, our team staffed community resource tables in Aston, Upland and Ridley. I'm grateful for the relationships that we've built with local first responders over the years, and I had a great time making stops across the district.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Gun Legislation and the PA Safe Caucus

Like many of you, I want to see Harrisburg act on commonsense gun safety legislation.

We have made several attempts to move bills to the House floor for a debate. Unfortunately, all our attempts were blocked. If you would like to see the PA House have a real debate on gun safety legislation, feel free to contact Representative Rob Kauffman, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, (717) 264-3943, or House Majority Leader, Representative Kerry Benninghoff, (814) 355-1300, and demand they bring these life-saving bills to a vote.

As a member of the PA Safe Caucus, I am dedicated to enacting sensible gun reforms to save lives and make communities safer. I strongly support a ban on assault weapons, universal background checks, and introducing cooling off periods. I was pleased to fight for funding in the 2022/23 state budget that includes \$75 million for the violence intervention and prevention grant program.

DCED Secretary Visit



In June, I hosted Secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development Neil Weaver for his first trip to Delco. We teamed up with Laura Cairns Goodwin, the Executive Director of the Delaware County Commerce Center, to highlight economic development success stories and the needs of our local entrepreneurs.

In Aston, we toured the Aston Mills Arts Center with Veronica Batter and Jared Loss. Veronica, President of Heron Crest and Heron Studios, recently re-branded to "Aston Mills Arts Center" for greater alignment with the community. Jared Loss is in the process of establishing a Music Venue to compliment Rockdale Studios, his amazing music instruction school.

We ended the visit with a round table discussion in Chester Township about economic development needs in this new part of our district.

PACE & PACENET Programs

PACE and PACENET offer low-cost prescription medication to qualified residents, age 65 and older. The program works with Medicare Part D plans and other prescription drug plans such as retiree/union coverage, employer plans, Medicare Advantage (HMO, PPO) and Veterans' Benefits (VA) to lower out-of-pocket costs for medications.

Beginning this year, enrollees maintained their PACE benefits despite increases in their overall income due to Social Security cost-of-living adjustments. There was also a raise to the income limits for PACENET to \$33,500 for a single person and to \$41,500 for a married couple.

My office is ready to assist with applications and answer any questions you may have about the programs. To find out more visit www.aging.pa.gov or call my office.

Attention Seniors!

Pennsylvania offers a FREE health insurance counseling program (PA MEDI) designed to help older Pennsylvanians with Medicare. Counselors are specially trained staff and volunteers who can answer your questions about Medicare, Medicare Supplemental Insurance, Medicaid, and Long-Term Care Insurance. Additionally, my office offers Medicare Counseling sessions. Call (610) 534-6880 to schedule an appointment with a PA MEDI counselor.

Emergency Housing Assistance

PAHAF

The PA Homeowner Assistance Fund is a new housing-related program to assist homeowners facing financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program provides financial assistance to homeowners for qualified mortgage and housing-related expenses to avoid delinquency, default, foreclosure, or displacement.

PAHAF is now taking applications from eligible homeowners. Visit pahaf.org to apply online.

Delco ERA Program

DELCO Emergency Rental Assistance (DELCO ERA) helps renters who need assistance with rent and utilities as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic economic crisis. To schedule an appointment, call (484) 729-4200 or email info@delco-era.com. The application window will close on Saturday, September 10 at 4 p.m. DELCO ERA will no longer accept new or subsequent assistance registrations after that date. Grant applications received before September 10 will continue to be processed with remaining funds available. You can also register for assistance online at www.delco-era.com.

Unclaimed Property

The Pennsylvania Treasury holds more than \$1,475,000 in unclaimed property that belongs to people who live in the 161st District!

To find out if this property belongs to you, visit www.patreasury.gov/unclaimedproperty or call my office and we can help get your property back to you for FREE!

School Funding Lawsuit

In July, a Commonwealth Court heard closing arguments in a school funding lawsuit that could dramatically change how public schools are funded in Pennsylvania.

In 2015, a lawsuit was filed against the commonwealth, claiming the current system is not constitutional and that districts that are less wealthy cannot meet their students needs because the commonwealth is not allocating enough money for these districts. Wealthier districts can better raise the necessary funds through property taxes.

Since November, Judge Renee Cohn Jubelirer has heard from teachers, education officials and researchers. It could be months until Judge Jubelirer releases her decision, and then regardless of her ruling, it will likely be appealed to the state Supreme Court.

Home Energy and Water Assistance Programs

The **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** helps families pay their heating bills in the form of a cash grant. This one-time payment is sent directly to the utility company/fuel provider to be credited on your bill. These grants do not have to be repaid. You can apply online, or my office can provide a paper application and help you fill it out. The program opens Nov. 1 to applicants. For more information, please visit: www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/LIHEAP.aspx.

Eligible households that received LIHEAP benefits during the 2021/22 season will receive a supplemental payment. These one-time payments will be sent to households to pay any current bills to their vendor or utility provider. Any remaining funds will then be applied to any past due amounts or will be kept on the account for a future delivery or utility credit. All households eligible to receive the supplement will be sent a notice informing them that the supplement is being issued, the amount of the supplement and the name of the vendor that is getting the supplement on the household's behalf.

This supplement will not impact eligibility for LIHEAP in the upcoming 2022/2023 season.

The **Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)** is a temporary emergency program to help low-income families pay overdue water bills.

Crisis grants may be available for situations such as past-due water bills, termination of service or danger of having service terminated. Those eligible could receive one crisis grant for drinking water service and one crisis grant for wastewater service, up to \$2,500 each. Wastewater is also included in the water services covered by this program. Visit www.dhs.pa.gov/WaterHelp for information about eligibility and applications.

Mental Health Resource: 988

There is a new three-digit number to call or text if you are experiencing a mental health, substance use or suicide crisis. You can now dial 988 for 24/7 assistance.

This is an extension of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 800-273-8255 (which still works). Trained crisis counselors are on the other end of the line to provide free, confidential support.



988 is the new 911 for suicide prevention.



State Representative

Leanne T. Krueger

1300 E. MacDade Blvd., Suite 1
Folsom, PA 19033



**You're Invited to Our
Senior Expo**

Bring this section with you for a chance to win a door prize! If you plan to join us, please call to reserve your spot!

lpo.km.0922

UPCOMING EVENTS

CALL MY OFFICE AT 610-534-6880 OR EMAIL REPKRUEGER@PAHOUSE.NET TO REGISTER OR TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE EVENTS.

Blood Drive

Monday, Sept. 26 | 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Brookhaven Municipal Center

Grant Workshop for Non-Profits

Thursday, Oct. 6 | 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Call or email to register!

Real ID

Tuesday, Oct. 11 | 1 p.m. to 2:30 pm
Brookhaven Municipal Center

Shred and Drug Take-Back Event

Saturday, Oct. 15 | 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Northley Middle School in Aston

Medicare Programs

via Zoom (partnering with PA MEDI)

Medicare 101: Tuesday, Oct. 4 | 6 p.m.

2023 Medicare Updates: Monday, Oct. 17 | 1:30 p.m.

Senior Expo

Thursday, Sept. 22 | 11a.m. to 2 p.m.

Brookhaven Municipal Center

Call (610) 534-6880 or email RepKrueger@pahouse.net to register!

Veterans Luncheon

Thursday, Oct. 27 | 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

American Legion in Aston

Call (610) 534-6880 or email repkrueger@pahouse.net to register!

VISIT WWW.REPLEANNE.COM TO SIGN UP FOR MY WEEKLY E-NEWS OR FOLLOW ME ON FACEBOOK TO LEARN ABOUT ALL OUR UPCOMING EVENTS AND VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS.