

STATE REPRESENTATIVE **MELISSA CERRATO** 151ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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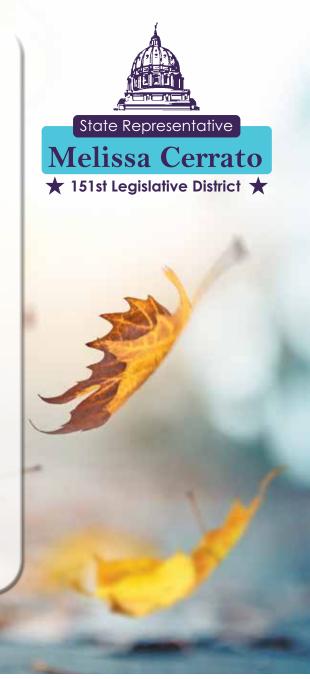
Dear Triends.

As we approach the final quarter of my first term as your State Representative, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible support you have shown my team and me. Your encouragement has been invaluable as we found our footing and learned how best to serve you, our wonderful constituents.

In this term, my team and I have successfully completed almost 17,000 caseworks, providing essential guidance and assistance with state services. Our office has been recognized as 'ultra-high performing' by the caucus, and we are committed to continuing our outreach efforts to ensure even more of our neighbors receive the help they need.

We have engaged in hundreds of meetings with township and borough officials, local police and fire chiefs, superintendents, constituents, advocacy groups, and non-profit organizations. Additionally, we have hosted multiple policy hearings and several dozen events for constituents. I am proud to share that three of my bills have passed the House, with one being signed into law by Governor Josh Shapiro.

To stay informed about our upcoming events and the latest happenings in Harrisburg, please join my e-mail list.



STAY UP TO DATE BY JOINING MY EMAIL LIST!

I write weekly emails that typically go out on Friday afternoons, and signing up is the best way to know about upcoming events, legislation that has passed the House during Session, and the happenings throughout the district. Stay informed and sign up at: https://www.pahouse.com/Cerrato/emailsignup.



BUDGET UPDATE!

In early July, the legislature passed the state's annual budget, and Governor Shapiro signed the main spending bill into law. I proudly voted in favor of this budget because it is a fair and balanced plan that prioritizes Pennsylvanians at every stage of life. This budget includes a historic investment of \$1.3 billion in education, featuring a 7.2% increase in special education funding, enhanced support for students' mental health and physical safety, and provisions for menstrual products to help students focus on learning.

Additionally, this comprehensive spending plan supports:

Taxpayers: By not raising or implementing any new taxes.

Pennsylvania seniors: By providing rate increases under Medicaid for nursing homes and home- and community-based services.

Servicemembers: By allocating an additional \$14 million to the state Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to enhance services for veterans and their families.

Individuals with intellectual disabilities: By increasing the Community Waiver program by \$261 million.

Public transit: By delivering a one-time \$53 million boost to SEPTA.

Working parents: By allotting an extra \$26.2 million for subsidized child care services and creating an employer child care tax credit to incentivize Pennsylvania businesses to help cover their employees' child care costs.

Student teachers: By providing \$20 million for stipends.

Community revitalization efforts: By launching the \$20 million Main Street Matters program under the Department of Community and Economic Development, which will provide grants to enhance local economies.

NO NEW TAXESI

Over \$1B for pre-k to 12 education funding.

\$30M increase for Career and Technical Education.

\$100M for Public school facility improvement grants.

New \$3M investment for menstrual hygiene product in schools to address period poverty.

Over \$15M increase for Community College. Over \$140M for grants, scholarships, and other programs to make higher education more affordable.



2024-2025 BUDGET WINS

\$20M for student teacher stipends.
\$70M for attainable housing initiatives through the PHARE housing program.
\$16.5M increase for anti-violence investments and after-school programs.
\$20M increase for country based mental health services.
New \$2.5M for legal services in eviction proceedings.
\$7M Increase for Workforce Development.
\$161M for Public Transportation and Multimodal projects.
\$261M increase for Intellectual Disabilities Community waiver program.

2024-2025 BUDGET WINS

Over \$26M increase for subsidized childcare services. New \$6M for Urban Search and Rescue in Western PA. \$36M increase for neighborhood Assistance Program. \$5M increase for Homelessness Assistance. Over \$2M increase for Domestic Violence Prevention. \$5M increase for Non-profit Security Grants.

\$7.5M for indigent defense.



UPCOMING EVENTS



New events are regularly added to the calendar so for the most up to date schedule I highly recommend signing up for my weekly email!



2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Second Annual Senior Fair • Sept. 6 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

We hope you will join us for our Second Annual Fall Senior Health Fair, a day dedicated to enhancing senior living and well-being. This event will provide valuable services and information tailored to senior citizens.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with resources that can improve your quality of life. For any questions, please contact our office at 267-282-6695. My staff and I look forward to seeing you there!

E-Waste Recycling Event • Sept. 7 from 10 a.m. – Noon

Do you have broken or obsolete electronics? Join us for our fall recycling event!

Did you miss our spring electronics recycling event? Don't worry! Representative Liz Hanbidge and I, are excited to invite you to our fall event on Sept. 7 at Temple University's Ambler Campus parking lot.

Bring your old computers, printers, DVD players, and other electronic devices. We'll help you safely and securely discard them, making your home clutter-free and contributing to a greener environment.

We can NOT accept monitors, TVs, or any item containing freon!

Fall Shredding Event • Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. – Noon

We are excited to partner with Senator Maria Collett to bring you this year's fall document shredding event. If you're looking to safely dispose of old documents and protect your identity, this is the perfect opportunity for you!

To ensure we can serve as many constituents as possible, please remain in your vehicle. Our team will handle the removal and shredding of your items, making the process quick and convenient for you.

We look forward to seeing you there: Please see the flyer for the exact location!

Let's work together to responsibly recycle and keep our community clean.

Free Senior SEPTA Pass Sign Up Event • Nov. 13 • 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. My office is proud to continue our partnership with SEPTA to provide constituents with convenient access to SEPTA Key Cards.

The SEPTA Key Senior Card is available to residents aged 65 or older, offering free rides on all SEPTA transit routes, including buses, trolleys, subways, and regional rail. Additionally, seniors can enjoy a 50% discount on fares to Delaware or New Jersey when they tap their Key Senior Card.

We can assist you with applying for an initial SEPTA Key Senior Photo Card as well as renewals. Please bring a government-issued ID that lists your birthdate, such as a driver's license or photo ID. Currently, SEPTA takes about six weeks to process applications and send out Key Cards. If you prefer not to wait, you can apply or renew your pass at SEPTA Headquarters, located at 1234 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19107. To schedule an appointment, call SEPTA at 215-580-7145.

Please note that we cannot create duplicate Key Cards. To replace a lost or stolen card, send a \$5 check or money order payable to SEPTA to: SEPTA, P.O. Box 824833, Philadelphia, PA 19182.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER INTERNS!

I am thrilled to highlight the outstanding contributions of our two exceptional interns, Eddie and Carolyn, who joined our team this summer. Their dedication and hard work have truly made a significant impact on our community.

During their time with us, they personally reached out to thousands of constituents, extending warm birthday wishes and inviting them to our office for assistance with processing SEPTA Key Cards and other state-related services. Their efforts ensured that many residents received the help they needed in a timely and efficient manner.

Moreover, through our legislative door-knocking program, these interns connected with thousands more in the community. They diligently dropped off notifications about unclaimed funds and provided valuable information on the wide range of services our office offers. Their commitment to engaging with the community and spreading awareness about available resources has been nothing short of remarkable.

We are incredibly grateful for their enthusiasm, professionalism, and the positive difference they have made. Their contributions have not only enhanced our outreach efforts but also strengthened our connection with the community.



AROUND THE DISTRICT...



Welcoming Maple Glen Elementary Choir to the State Capitol



Horsham Day 2024



Meeting with Montgomery County PSEA Retirees to Discuss the PA Budget



Supporting the Hatters for Music Car Wash



Rescue Dog Day at the State Capitol



Securing Security Grant Funding for North Penn School District



Celebrating Finalizing the PA Budget



Joining my Colleagues as Governor Shapiro Signed H.B. 1097 Into Iaw



Enjoying Our Summer Open House



Joining North Penn School District Administrative Engagement Day



Supporting Neurodegenerative Disease Funding



Service Animal Day at the State Capitol



State Representative **MELISSA CERRATO**

605 Horsham Rd. Horsham, PA 19044

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WAYS MY TEAM CAN ASSIST:

- Finding and Recovering Unclaimed Funds (PA Department of Treasury)
- Notary Services (Non-political)
- Unemployment Compensation Assistance (PA Department of Labor and Industry)
- · SEPTA Senior Key Card Processing
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program Applications (PA Department of Revenue)
- · Acquisition of State Tax Forms (PA Department of Revenue)
- Questions Regarding Medicaid, Food Stamps, LIHEAP, etc. (PA Department of Human Services)
- Birth and Death Certificate Applications (PA Department of Vital Records)
- Disability Plate and Placard Applications (PA Department of Transportation)
- · And Any Other State-Related Issue You May Have.