

THE NORTHEAST NEWS

From State Representative

Ed Neilson



SUMMER 2020

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Serving Northeast Philadelphia

Ashton Center • (at Holme Circle) • 16 Old Ashton Road • Philadelphia, PA 19152 • (215) 330-3714
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Dear Friends,

I don't know about you, but I've had it with COVID-19!

It has challenged us in unimaginable ways and forever changed the lives of some people. This has hit our families in numerous ways, some harder than others. I ask that you keep those families who lost a loved one in your heart and prayers.

We have watched our

children graduate virtually, and we have visited our parents and grandchildren from afar. If any good has come from this terrible virus, it is that it has shown us how truly resilient we can be. We have made it this far through sacrificing what is normal to us, and we will remain determined to see it through by taking the appropriate precautions based on the facts and figures that the science community has put forth. The CDC has rated PA in the top tier regarding preparedness and response.

Throughout this pandemic, my team has been available to answer every call and question that has come up. My office was the first to open for appointments to be certain that community needs were met. Please do not hesitate to contact my office for state-related services.

Our community is full of individuals who put themselves ahead of many during this pandemic. Police, Fire, Nurses, Retail Clerks, Postal Workers, Teachers, Truckers – the list can go on. They deserve a special "Thanks!" for making certain that we had access to all the services they provided, from health care to groceries. These individuals stand out and should be recognized.



Lately the debate has been about masks. While it might be inconvenient to wear a mask, our health care experts are telling us that research shows wearing a mask or face-covering in public does limit the spread of the virus. No matter which side of the debate you may be on, this mild inconvenience for you and me could amount to a lifesaving measure for a loved one or a person with an autoimmune disease who is in line behind you at the grocery store.

It is my privilege to serve our community. For that I just wanted to say "Thank You."

Stay safe, wear a mask and look out for each other.

You can call my office at 215-330-3714 for help over the phone or to schedule an appointment, or you can email me at RepNeilson@pahouse.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed".

Always working for you! My offices are open to serve

You can reach my office at 215-330-3714 for help over the phone, to schedule an appointment, or you can email me at RepNeilson@pahouse.net.

THE CENSUS COUNTS.

SO DO YOU.



CENSUS COUNTS 2020

Make sure you fill out the Census!

Every 10 years, the United States conducts a census. This count of U.S. residents helps determine how \$675 billion is spent by the federal government. That's a lot of money!

The census also determines how Pennsylvania is represented in Congress for the next 10 years.

Federal funding for programs like CHIP, Medicaid, SNAP and

WIC are decided based on responses to the 2020 Census. Your response to the census will ensure our community gets its fair share of federal funds for these important programs.

Make sure you complete the census before the Sept. 30 deadline! It only takes a few minutes. Please, visit 2020Census.gov and get counted today!

Does the state have something that belongs to you?

Have you checked the Pennsylvania Treasury's Unclaimed Property database to see if money that belongs to you or a family member is waiting to be claimed?

Unclaimed property can include a closed bank account, uncashed checks, certificates of deposit or lost stocks and bonds sent to the state because the owner could not be found.

My offices work closely with State Treasurer Joe Torsella in returning your property back to you. We can help you search the database to see if there's property in your name and help you claim it. Contact my office at 215-330-3714 for assistance.

Make sure you're registered to vote, and request a mail-in ballot now!

It is so important that you use your influence to help shape our community, our commonwealth and our country. Your voice and your vote matter!

If you have not registered to vote, you have until Oct. 19 to register for the Nov. 3 general election. If you are sure you are registered before then, you can also take advantage of applying for a mail-in ballot, which allows you to vote without having to go to the polls on Election Day.

Learn more about registering to vote and applying for your mail-in ballot at www.votespa.com, or reach out to my district office if you have any questions.

2020 GENERAL ELECTION IMPORTANT DATES

OCT 19 Last day to register to vote for the general election.
register.votesPA.com

OCT 27 Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot.
votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot

NOV 3 Voted mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by the county by 8pm.
votesPA.com/County

NOV 3 General election day. Polls are open from 7am to 8pm.
votesPA.com/Polls

[VotesPA.com](https://www.votesPA.com)

2020-21 STATE BUDGET UPDATE



In late May, we passed an interim state budget that funds most obligations until November, in order to help Pennsylvanians who are hurting the most because of COVID-19.

The budget included 100% funding for the 2020-21 school year, along with billions in federal funding provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act. This funding continues to be allocated for coronavirus relief efforts, and grants for our first responders, as well as programs to help combat food insecurity and to provide grants to small businesses to help keep their doors open. Our plan is to revisit the budget this fall, to focus on the remaining obligations in an attempt to make ends meet.

Do you need help paying your rent, home heating bill, etc.?

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many state programs have been expanded or extended to help people in need. For example, the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program application

deadline has been extended, and LIHEAP is still available.

If you need help navigating which services might be helpful for you, please reach out to my district office at 215-330-3714.

\$2.8M in Alternative and Clean Energy grants for Rhawnhurst and Anne Frank elementary school projects

Public education is a key to our community's success. It is important that we invest in the facilities to provide a clean and safe environment for our children. I am thrilled to report that in July more than \$2.8 million in grant funding was awarded to Rhawnhurst and Anne Frank elementary schools for building projects expected to reduce energy and water usage.

Anne Frank Elementary School was awarded an \$800,154 Alternative and Clean Energy Program grant for a two-story, nearly 25,000 square foot LEED Gold-certified addition to its existing 103,000-square-foot building. The project is expected to, among other things, reduce the school's energy use by nearly half and its water usage by 35%.

Rhawnhurst Elementary School has been awarded a \$2 million Alternative and Clean Energy Program grant to renovate its existing 58,000-square-foot building, achieving USGBC LEED Gold certification. Planned energy-saving measures are expected to reduce the school's energy and water usage and allow the school to eliminate its use of oil for energy production and be solely reliant on natural gas and electricity.

The grant funding is being provided by the Commonwealth Financing Authority, which administers Pennsylvania's economic stimulus packages.



Senior produce voucher applications are now available

The Philadelphia Corporation for Aging is now distributing Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers to approved applicants.

Vouchers are limited to one set per person who is age 60 or older by Dec. 31, 2020, and meets household income guidelines. Qualified recipients will receive four \$6 vouchers for a total value of \$24 worth of produce. Vouchers will be sent by mail to those qualified applicants.

Any person who believes they meet the program guidelines may download an application from the PCA website,



www.pcaCares.org, through PCA's Helpline at 215-765-9040, or by emailing sfmnp@pcaCares.org.

Applications are processed as they are received for as long as the voucher supply is available.

If you need assistance or do not have access to a computer or printer, please call my office for assistance.

Expect 30 days from the receipt of your application for processing and voucher delivery.

Vouchers are redeemable until Monday, Nov. 30.

Deadline Extended

The Property Tax Rent/Rebate Program has extended the application deadline for the 2019 Property Tax/Rent Rebate from June 30th to Dec. 31, 2020. Don't delay! Please apply as soon as possible.

Give us a call if you need help with your application. My office is here to help!

The working committees of the Pennsylvania House

Each member is assigned to the numerous working committees and caucuses in the Pa. House of Representatives which meet regularly through the entire year. Currently, I am assigned to the House Labor, Consumer Affairs, Gaming Oversight, Transportation, and Fish and Game committees. This is an opportunity to dig into policy issues that affect our daily life and create new laws to "Build a Better PA" for future generations.



Transportation Committee

Arguing against turnpike toll increases and layoffs.



Labor Committee

Advocating for Hazard pay/prevaling wages.

I am Proud to Support Our Community



Whether in the House chamber or in our Philadelphia community, I will always stand up in support of good, honest and honorable police officers who put their lives on the line in service of our community.

During the past several months, the police have been under attack from multiple directions. Meanwhile, we have all been sleeping in our beds at night knowing that they are present in our communities, ensuring our safety. Just like in any other stage of life, career or workplace, there are the good, the bad and the ugly. We all can agree that no individual should be judged by the actions of another, nor should they be judged by race, gender, or political affiliation. The tension and divide amongst our neighbors is becoming more apparent, and, with the COVID-19 pandemic, it has affected people differently – both mentally and physically.

Everyone knows the difference between demonstrating and vandalism. Yet some people in and around our neighborhood were involved in both. Vandalism is NOT acceptable in any form, and we should stay vigilant to keep our community strong and safe. This is easily done by being aware of our surroundings, keeping an open line of communication with your neighbors, attend monthly PDAC and local Town Watch meetings

to stay informed of happenings in your neighborhood, and report any suspicious behavior to 911. The police need us, and we need the police. Communication in a respectful manner can be more productive and go a long way toward building a strong community.

Special thanks are in order for our police and fire departments for all your work during the civil unrest. I would also like to recognize our local Town Watch groups, neighbors and friends for volunteering your time and efforts that assisted our first responders in a respectful way. You have set a positive example of a community working together.

In times like these, we, as a community, need to be respectful of others' opinions and beliefs. We should listen to one another with open minds and not condemn one group of people for the actions of a few, including those in uniform. People have legitimate concerns, and while those concerns may not seem as important to you, they are important to them. Without taking a walk in their shoes, we will never know

the how or why unless we listen with an open mind and an open heart.

In late March, I was joined by a few colleagues on the House chamber to honor the life of Philadelphia Police Cpl. James O'Connor IV, who was killed in the line of duty on March 13. The loss of Jimmy hit our community hard. We need to be certain to remember heroes like Cpl. O'Connor, along with other first responders who have made the ultimate sacrifice to keep our neighborhoods safe.

NEVER FORGET

**In Memory of Corporal
James R. O'Connor, IV**



Cpl. James R. O'Connor IV made the ultimate sacrifice for our city.

He was killed tragically in the line of duty, on

Friday, March 13, 2020. Please continue to keep his wife Terri, and their children Jimmy and Kelsey, in your thoughts and prayers, along with their family, friends and brothers and sisters in blue.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ED NEILSON

107 East Wing
P.O. Box 202174
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2174

lpo.ts.0820

Please join State Representative

ED NEILSON

for

FREE COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENTS

To raise awareness about consumer fraud and identity theft, I am hosting free shredding events to give local residents the opportunity to securely dispose of documents they no longer need.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

**10 A.M. – 1 P.M.
OUR LADY OF CALVARY
CHURCH PARKING LOT**

**11024 KNIGHTS ROAD
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19154**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

**10 A.M. – 1 P.M.
MATERNITY B.V.M. CHURCH
PARKING LOT**

**9220 OLD BUSTLETON AVE.
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19115**

WHAT TO BRING:

- Documents containing Social Security, credit card and bank account numbers
- Old credit card statements
- Bank statements
- Credit card applications
- Retirement/pension information
- Income tax information

All paper collected will be recycled. To ensure all attendees have the opportunity to shred their documents, you are asked to limit what you bring for shredding to three boxes. Please do not bring newspapers, x-rays, binders or hardback books.