



STATE REP.
JENNIFER
O'MARA
165TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



SUMMER 2022

Constituent Services Office: 905 West Sproul Road • Suite 203 • Springfield, PA 19064 • P: (610) 544-9878
Capitol Office: 209 Irvis Office Building • P.O. Box 202165 • Harrisburg, PA 17120 • P: (717) 783-4090

Dear Neighbor,

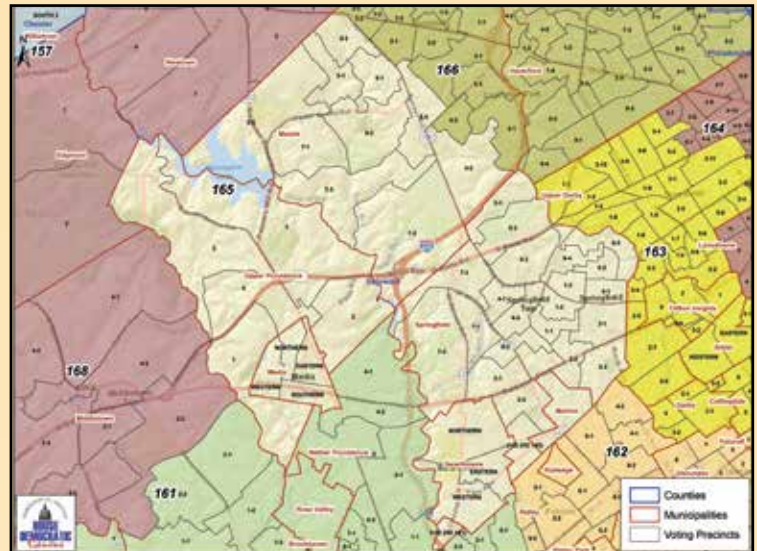
I hope this newsletter finds you and your family enjoying the summer! Since my last writing, much has happened in the PA Capitol. New maps for state House and Senate seats were approved, the budget was passed, and many bills were introduced and finalized. I have been hard at work for the people in my community and am proud to report that a bill I co-authored with Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta, the Hunger Free Campus Initiative, was included in the budget this year, making it my third major legislative accomplishment in four years.

In addition to working hard in Harrisburg on legislative solutions ranging from addressing common sense firearm reforms and protecting women’s rights to reproductive health care, lowering property taxes and funding our public schools, I have also been busy here in the district. My staff and I are planning events for the fall and look forward to seeing many of you as we attend community events this summer.

Please continue reading for updates on these topics and many more. In the meantime, if you need assistance with a state-related program or simply need guidance for who to call on another issue, please do not hesitate to reach out. My staff and I are always happy to be of service.

Warm regards,

Jennifer O'Mara



The Soon-To-Be 165th Legislative District

Redistricting is a process that happens once every decade based on census results as required by the PA Constitution. This past March, the PA Supreme Court finalized the Legislative Reapportionment Commission’s new state legislative maps. If you currently live in Media, Upper Providence, or Swarthmore, your district is changing this fall.

As a result of the new maps being approved, the 165th Legislative District (which I currently represent) will consist of Springfield, Upper Providence, Media, Morton, and Swarthmore, as well as part of Marple (Ward 4 division 2, Wards 5, 6, and 7). The new district will take effect once the current legislative session ends on Nov. 30, 2022. Your representative for the upcoming legislative session will be determined in the November General Election, but I want to make sure you are up to speed on these important changes and provide you with a glimpse of events and resources available to residents in the current 165th District.



2022-2023 Budget Passes in Harrisburg

This year's final \$45.2 billion budget plan makes historic investments in education, the environment, and mental health treatment while also saving money for the rainy-day fund and reserving revenue for next year.

Under this spending plan, Delaware County will receive 15.4% more education funding than last year. Funding has also been earmarked for mental health and school safety initiatives. Each school district gets \$100,000, plus \$15 per student, in both a physical safety grant and a mental health grant, totaling \$200,000 in student health and safety funding per district. The budget also provides a one-time increase to property tax and rent rebates under the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. Recipients will receive an additional one-time check that is equal to 70% of what they receive in this year's rebate. Recipients do not need to file an additional application. The Department of Revenue will add the supplemental amount and distribute it with the regular payment.

I am also proud to report that \$1 million will go to creating the Hunger Free Campus Initiative. This is a program I co-authored with state Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta (D, Philadelphia) in H.B. 1363 more than a year ago. This funding will be distributed to higher education institutions in the form of grants to create or expand food pantries and further address college food insecurity.

Some other highlights from the budget include:

- Annual funding for the newly established Delaware County Health Department with a maximum amount of \$3.1 million.
- Critical environmental investments ranging from \$7 million for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, \$640 million in American Rescue Plan dollars invested in the Clean Streams Fund, State Parks & Outdoor Recreation Program including the creation of 3 new state parks, as well as Water and Sewer Projects.
- An increase of nearly \$425 million into the Motor Vehicle Fund for highway maintenance & safety improvements, driver & vehicle services, REAL ID, and local road maintenance & construction payments.
- A new tax credit called the Pennsylvania Dependent and Child Care Enhancement Program to support working families with children who need assistance with childcare and other costs.
- Reduction of the corporate net income tax from 9.99% to 4.99% gradually until 2031 to align PA with other states and attract more businesses to a competitive market.
- A deposit of \$2.1 billion into the rainy-day fund for a total balance of \$4.96 billion.

Are You Prepared to Vote This November?

The General Election is right around the corner, happening on Tuesday, Nov. 8. Unlike our closed primaries, this election is open to all of Pennsylvania's registered voters, so I wanted to ensure you have all the information you need to carry out your civic duty.

The last day to request a mail-in/absentee ballot is Tuesday, Nov.

1. Anyone interested may request one online at www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/OnlineAbsenteeApplication/#/OnlineAbsenteeBegin. If you'd prefer a paper application, my district office can provide you with one.

The county election office must receive all mail-in/absentee ballots by 8 p.m. on Nov. 8.

Postmarks are not enough. Instead of mailing ballots back, voters may instead utilize a secure drop box or hand deliver their completed ballot to the county election office, located on the ground floor of the Delaware County Government Center, 201 W. Front Street in Media.



Scan to find a secure drop box near you. Information will be updated closer to Election Day.

Voting in person? Visit pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx to find your polling place. Polls will be open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Election Day.

If you have questions on Election Day or encounter problems at your polling place, call the Department of State's toll-free Election Day hotline at 1-877-868-3772.



BRINGING ANOTHER \$2.5M HOME

Recently, I was happy to announce that Delaware County and organizations within were awarded \$2.5 million in grants to help create local apprenticeship programs, invest in electric vehicles and charging stations, and heighten safety measures at a local place of worship.

Funding has been awarded as follows:

- **Beth El-Ner Tamid:** \$20,000 from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to strengthen the synagogue's safety and security measures.
- **Delaware County:** Two grants, both worth \$300,000, from the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant program, to go toward electric vehicle usage. One grant helped purchase 69 electric cars for use by county departments, with 29 dedicated to the new health department for health care visits around the county. The second grant went toward the installation of 22 Level 2 dual-plug charging stations, for a total of 44 chargers.

The following grants were awarded through PAsmart and will provide regional employment and educational opportunities:

- **BAYADA Home Health Care:** \$650,000 to expand their home care nurse residency apprenticeship program across multiple counties and establish a nursing apprenticeship program.
- **The Wistar Institute:** \$649,551 to expand its biomedical research technician apprenticeship program.
- **Arcadia University:** \$632,258 to expand its early childhood education program to enroll and train 12 new registered apprentices with targeted recruiting of individuals from marginalized groups, such as people of color and socio-economically disadvantaged communities. This funding will also help provide academic supports such as laptops, financial support to mitigate housing/food insecurities, childcare costs, and scholarships.

- **Apprentice Training for the Electrical Industry** was awarded \$394,383 for a program introducing young women to the electrical trade. The program, "Rosie's Girls," is designed to familiarize young women with safety, tools, theoretical basics of electrical and telecommunications installation, and jobsite conditions, as well as an introduction to other career paths in the building and construction trades.



It's always a pleasure to work with Beth El-Ner Tamid. My office gladly participated in their feminine hygiene product drive to help address period poverty here in Delco.

Abortion Still Legal in Pennsylvania But Constitutional Amendment Could End That

When the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, it ended a precedent set for the last 50 years. It's devastating news for women across the country. This decision doesn't just end legal abortion as a constitutional right in America, it puts the lives of women in jeopardy. It threatens to impact fertility treatment and reproductive health care, including miscarriage treatment and ectopic pregnancies. In fact, we are already hearing stories about providers' uncertainty on how to treat women around the country whose lives are in danger because of the legal rules in their state.

While abortion remains legal in Pennsylvania, the majority party in Harrisburg is already working to undermine this fundamental right in the state. During the final legislative days of the summer, they rushed through a constitutional amendment (S.B. 106), taking votes in the Senate after 11 p.m. on Thursday and the final vote in the House near 10:30 p.m. the next day. This constitutional

amendment includes provisions changing the way the state elects the Lieutenant Governor, adding voter suppression tactics, requiring post-election audits carried out by the state auditor general, and stopping regulations established by the executive branch. It was also amended with language that states, "This constitution does not grant the right to taxpayer-funded abortion or any other right relating to abortion."

This language was carefully selected so proponents can say it is simply about taxpayer funds, but the language "or any other right relating to abortion" was purposefully added because the first step to an outright ban is legal confirmation that there is no right to abortion. By amending the constitution, the General Assembly would hold this authority and prevent the courts from stepping in.

This is the first time that a constitutional amendment is being passed to *remove* rights from Pennsylvanians, not add to

I STAND FOR

women's health care

reproductive rights

safe + legal abortion access

or guarantee them. If S.B. 106 passes in the next full legislative session (beginning January 2023) it could then go on the ballot for voters to decide as early as the May 2023 Primary Election. If this issue is important to you, please be sure to follow updates related to S.B. 106.

In the meantime, I want to assure you that abortion currently remains legal in Pennsylvania. I also want to assure you that as each state is left to decide the fate of medical freedom for almost half of our country, please know I will do everything in my power to protect women and ensure our access to essential health care.

AROUND THE DISTRICT



My staff and I celebrated the Fourth of July by participating in both the Springfield & Marple-Newtown parades.



It's always a pleasure to celebrate the official Delco Day with Delco Live & HEADstrong Foundation. Proud to be from the 6-1-0!



I was proud to participate and attend commemorations in honor of Memorial Day in Springfield, Swarthmore, and Media honoring the fallen members of our Armed Services.



I had the pleasure of visiting CADES in Swarthmore, where I toured the school and playground and learned about their family centered and outcome-based approach to care.



The third week of May was National Police Week and National EMS Week. I stopped by first responders' companies throughout the district to personally thank them for the work they do by dropping off certificates of appreciation and meals prepared by area small businesses.



I got such useful information as a first-time mom on things like nutrition, exercise, lactation, and self-care at Rose Tree Park's Climb Out of The Darkness event. Thank you to the women who worked so hard to put this together.



I joined frontline health care professionals and other elected officials outside of Delaware County Memorial Hospital to protest dangerous service shutdowns and unit closures by the Prospect Health System.



Thank you to everyone who made Senator Kearney and my office's shred event a major success! Be sure to mark your calendars for my next shred event on Sept. 24.

PA Property Tax/Rent Rebate Deadline Extended

The deadline to apply for the 2021 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program for rebates on property taxes or rent paid has been extended to December 31.

This rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 and older; widows and widowers 50 and older; and people with disabilities 18 and older. The state Department of Revenue is encouraging people to apply online by visiting mypath.pa.gov.

Good news for recipients! Included in this year's budget was an additional one-time bonus rebate for Pennsylvanians who receive a regular Property Tax/Rent Rebate.

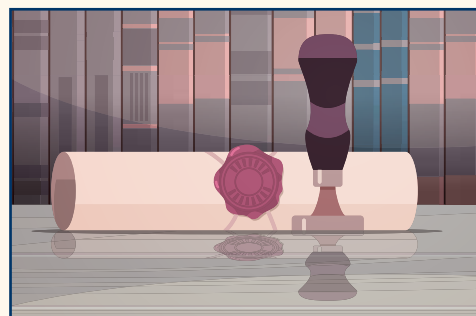
This was made possible thanks to federal dollars Pennsylvania received from the federal government's American Rescue Plan.

This payment will equal 70% of what you receive in this year's rebate. This will come in the same form recipients elected to receive their original rebate. If you chose to receive your rebate via direct deposit, that is also how you'll receive the bonus rebate. No action is required.

If you need help with the paperwork, contact my district office at (610) 544-9878.

Free Notary Services at My Springfield Office

Most official documents can be notarized for FREE at my office in Springfield. Please call ahead to make sure our notary is in and able to notarize your type of document prior to arriving. Please note there are some documents that my office cannot notarize – such as car titles, wills, deeds, powers of attorney and the Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9. Notary is available weekdays between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm. For questions or appointments, please call my district office at 610-544-9878.



Apply for your SEPTA Key Senior ID at my Office

If you are 65 and over, you can receive a free SEPTA ID card that allows you to ride all of SEPTA — including the regional rail — for FREE! We can also renew your expired passes. Seniors are welcome to call to make an appointment. It is easy and quick! Just make sure to bring your license/identification card.

Servicemembers, Schedule an Appointment with My Office's Veteran Service Officer

Our Veteran Service Officer is available monthly here in our Springfield Office. The VSO will be available for appointments the second Monday of every month from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Interested veterans may call my office at 610-544-9878 to schedule an appointment and learn about the state resources that are available to you.



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lpo.kd.0722

How My District Office Can Serve You:

- Voter registration and mail-in/absentee ballot applications.
- SEPTA Senior ID Cards & Renewals.
- Unemployment compensation, disability, and workers' compensation.
- Explain the REAL ID application process.
- Birth and death certificates.
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms.
- Requests for literature – bills, regulations, statutes, senior citizen information, driver's education handbooks.
- PACE prescription assistance for seniors.
- Notary Services (please call first to ensure notary is available).
- Process applications for Disability Parking Plates and Placards.
- Help you find and collect unclaimed money in your name through the Pennsylvania Treasury.
- Schedule tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups.
- Provide you with recognition from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and milestones, including:
 - Milestone birthdays
 - Retirement
 - Military recognition
 - Condolences
 - Athletic team recognition
 - Community involvement

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.

Open House - Back to School Supply Drive

Friday, August 12 • Noon – 3 p.m.
 905 West Sproul Road, Suite 203, in Springfield

Blood Drive with Senator Tim Kearney

Friday, September 9 • Noon – 5 p.m.
 Media Community Center • 301 N. Jackson St., Media, PA 19063

FREE Paper Shredding and E-Waste Event*

Friday, September 24 • 9 a.m. – Noon
 Springfield Mall, Back parking lot by Macy's

***Registration
 required for
 electronic
 waste**

Senior Expo

Friday, October 21 • 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Springfield Township Building • 50 Powell Road, Springfield, PA 19064

Veteran's Breakfast

Friday, November 11 • 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
 Anthony's Paxon Hollow

Keep informed

Follow me on social media @RepOMara and subscribe to my bi-weekly E-newsletter by visiting RepOMara.com to never miss an update on legislative happenings, upcoming events, local news and more!