



STATE REP. JENNIFER O'MARA

WINTER 2026

165TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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Dear Neighbor,

I sincerely hope that 2026 has been treating you and your family well so far. I recognize, however, that these remain challenging times for many. Please know that my staff and I are fully committed to assisting you in any way we can. You will find my office and contact information above, and I encourage you to reach out to me or my staff whenever we can help with a state program.

In this newsletter, you will also find information about our state budget and recent significant accomplishments by the legislature. Additionally, I have included details about grants I have brought home to invest in our community, as well as other important information that may affect your life.

As we move forward in this new year, I want to thank you for the opportunity to represent you in the Pennsylvania

House of Representatives. While we face many challenges today, my commitment to representing you remains as strong as ever. I will continue to do everything I can to be your voice in Harrisburg and to work hard for you here in Delaware County and at the state Capitol.

Warm regards,


2025-2026 PA Budget Wins

A state budget that helps schools, services with no tax hike

- No new taxes or reductions in the Rainy Day Fund
- **Over \$100M increase** for Basic Education Funding and a **\$40M increase** to Special Education funding
- **\$125M** for public school facility improvement grants, with at least **\$25M** set aside for Solar for Schools
- **\$25M** for child care worker retention and recruitment
- Putting money back in the pockets of Pennsylvanians with the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit (WPTC)
- **\$150M increase** to help Pennsylvanians with intellectual disabilities
- **\$40M** to feed hungry Pennsylvanians and support family farms
- **Nearly \$300M increase** to fund DCNR and DEP, supporting environmental projects
- Funding to fix and improve roads and bridges
- **More than \$100M** in job creation, innovation, and entrepreneurial support

I was proud to support a balanced, bipartisan state budget with no tax increases. While the process took longer than any of us would have liked, the final compromise pays our bills, supports every child in every school, and preserves vital services.

The budget includes \$800 million in new investments for K-12 education, along with an additional \$40 million for special education. It also provides a \$40 million increase to address food insecurity and invests \$750 million in medical assistance managed care. The budget delivers \$5 million to Delaware County hospitals facing increased patient volume following Crozer's closure. While it did not include recurring funding for mass transit, it did establish a new Working People's Tax Credit equal to 10 percent of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit, which will take effect this year. I will continue fighting for responsible budgets that reflect our community's priorities and work toward a real, long-term solution for mass transit across the Commonwealth.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

My Legislation Now in Effect

In October 2025, Act 121 of 2024 took effect. This law provides workers' compensation coverage for emergency responders who suffer post-traumatic stress injuries in the line of duty. I led the effort in the House and authored the language that was ultimately included in the final, bipartisan legislation signed by Governor Shapiro.

This law hits close to home for me. My father was a Philadelphia firefighter who struggled with undiagnosed mental health challenges stemming from the extreme circumstances he faced on the job. He died by suicide when I was 13. It is my sincere hope that Act 121 will help ensure that other families do not experience the same loss and that it will save lives.



My Bills Moving in the Legislature

- **H.B. 200** proposes a statewide paid family and medical leave insurance program. It cleared the House Labor & Industry Committee last year and is pending before the full House.
- **H.B. 410** would expand photo ID access for Pennsylvanians with disabilities and military families. It passed the House in March and is pending in the Senate.
- **H.B. 526** would add pumping protections for new mothers to PA's existing Freedom to Breastfeed Act. It cleared the House Judiciary Committee last year and is pending before the full House.
- **H.B. 660** would set energy efficiency and water conservation standards for appliances sold in PA. It passed the House recently and is pending in the Senate.
- **H.B. 668** would authorize the state to join a national compact to provide mental health treatment to more people in need. It passed the House in June, was considered by a Senate Committee, and is waiting full Senate consideration.
- **H.B. 881**, on which I'm a lead co-sponsor, would protect Pennsylvanians' access to vaccines at pharmacies, regardless of federal policy changes. It passed the House in December and is pending in the Senate.

New Year, New Laws

- ⚖️ **Act 5 of 2025** allows a sentencing enhancement for courts to consider in sexual assault cases where the defendant holds a position of authority and is a mandated reporter.
- 🏠 **Act 16 of 2025** helps homebuyers and homeowners by permitting mortgage lenders to offer discount points to borrowers to lower their interest rate and monthly payments.
- 🦌 **Act 36 of 2025** repeals the state's longstanding ban on Sunday hunting.
- 💊 **Act 49 of 2025** ensures that seniors do not lose their eligibility for the state's prescription drug assistance programs due to Social Security cost-of-living adjustments.
- 💰 **Act 50 of 2025** removes barriers for family members to claim property after a loved one passes away from the state's unclaimed property vault.
- 🗣️ **Act 54 of 2025** prohibits discrimination based on a person's hair type, hair texture or hairstyle.



See all new laws here



**2025
RECAP**

\$3.9 million

Grants secured

5.9K

Constituents served

464 Senior Fare cards

PHOTOS FROM AROUND DELCO & THE REGION



Visit this lovely bell celebrating 250 years at Rose Tree Park in 2026!



Our community generously donated food to three food banks this Thanksgiving season including the Delco Food Bank of Media!



Welcoming the retiring and incoming Mayors of Media at my December open house!



Welcoming the newest addition of my family to Harrisburg!



Touring the Sheet Metal Workers Training Center with my colleagues!



**Sign up for
my biweekly
e-newsletter!**



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SPRING ELECTION DATES

- May 4: Last day to register to vote
- May 12: Last day to request mail-in or absentee ballot
- May 19: Primary Election

Mail-in ballots need to arrive at the county election office by 8 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. Scan the QR code for more details.



UPCOMING EVENTS **RSVP Requested*

Apprenticeship Fair

April 15th, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
 DCIU Morton Campus

Shred Event

April 18th, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.
 Springfield Pool Parking Lot

Seniors Breakfast*

May 8th, 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.
 Media VFW



Environmental Expo

May 30th, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Rose Tree Park

Town Hall

June 4th, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
 Media Parlor Room

License Plate Restoration Event*

June 24th, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
 Rose Tree Park

*I hope to see
 you in our
 community!*



SAVE THE DATE: Looking forward to seeing our veterans again on *Nov. 11th!*



SAVE THE DATE: Can't wait to serve our seniors on *Oct. 22nd!*



Get Your Real ID to Fly Avoid new \$45 fee

As of February 1, the federal Transportation Security Administration will impose a new \$45 fee on U.S. air travelers who do not have a REAL ID or another acceptable form of identification. Acceptable alternatives include a U.S. passport or a military ID.

For info on how to obtain your REAL ID, visit: www.pa.gov/agencies/dmv/driver-services/real-id