

News From State Representative

# CHRISTINA SAPPPEY

158th Legislative District | Chester County | Winter 2026



## DEAR NEIGHBOR,

Pennsylvania is home to over 2,500 townships, boroughs and cities, which hold regular monthly meetings, open to the public, as do their planning commissions and zoning hearing boards. These meetings are publicly advertised in advance, and have public comment periods where you can ask questions and tell board members what you think.

Many issues that impact your daily life come before these boards for approval, such as residential and commercial development, open space, water and wastewater treatment, parks and recreation, and law enforcement and emergency response, so your input is critically important. Likewise, public utilities go before the PA Public Utility Commission with rate hike requests, and you have an opportunity to weigh in on this too.

In PA, your government is transparent and accountable, and that works best when you take part. If you have questions about local government and how to access information, please feel free to reach out to my office.

Hang in there. Spring is on the way!

A handwritten signature in white ink on a dark green background, appearing to read 'C. Sapppey'.

## PENNSYLVANIA WINTER WEATHER LAWS

Winter isn't over yet, so please be aware of these state laws that address snow removal and pet safety.

### ROADS

Pennsylvania law stipulates that snow and ice must be removed from all sides of vehicles, including roofs, to prevent flying snow or whiteout conditions for other drivers and additional snow accumulation on roadways.

If your windshield wipers are on, your headlights are required to be on to ensure you are visible to other vehicles and pedestrians in poor weather conditions. This law also pertains to rainy weather. Wipers on, lights on!

### SNOW REMOVAL

Residential and business property owners must clear snow from sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowfall.

### PET SAFETY

Dogs may not be tethered outside for more than 30 minutes when temperatures are lower than 32 degrees. If you witness an animal being neglected or abused, please report concerns to the Humane Society Police Officers at Brandywine Valley SPCA at (484) 302-0018 or your local law enforcement. A list of municipal police departments can be found at: [chesco.org/4108/Law-Enforcement-Agencies](https://chesco.org/4108/Law-Enforcement-Agencies).

State Police Barracks covering the 158th can be reached at: Embreeville (610-486-6280), Avondale (610-268-2022).



# WORKING PENNSYLVANIANS TAX CREDIT NOW AVAILABLE

I am pleased to report that my legislation, the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit (WPTC), was signed into law as part of the 2025-2026 state budget. The WPTC will help put up to \$805 back into the pockets of nearly 1 million Pennsylvanians. This new state law, which is modeled after the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit program, helps keep low-to-moderate wage workers in the workplace. In Chester County that's up to \$3.3 million back in our local economy with an investment in nearly 18,000 working families.

Pennsylvania now joins 31 other states with an earned income tax credit program. For assistance claiming your EITC, contact VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), a program that provides free tax preparation services to low- to moderate-income earners, those with disabilities, senior citizens, and individuals needing language support at (610) 380-9099 or visit [vitafreetaxhelp.org](http://vitafreetaxhelp.org).

Dependents	Income Limit (Single/Head of Household)	Income Limit (Joint)	Maximum Tax Cut Back in <b>YOUR</b> Pocket
<b>Zero</b>	\$19,104	\$26,214	<b>\$65</b>
<b>One</b>	\$50,434	\$57,554	<b>\$433</b>
<b>Two</b>	\$57,310	\$64,430	<b>\$715</b>
<b>Three or More</b>	\$61,555	\$68,675	<b>\$805</b>

\* Returns filed jointly are counted as two individuals. Does not reflect qualifying children or dependents.

## LEGISLATION UPDATES

### COVERAGE FOR COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENINGS

Lowers the age of colorectal cancer screening from age 50 to 45, as recommended by the American Cancer Society. This legislation would require health insurance providers to cover testing at this earlier age with no cost sharing, including deductibles or copayments. House Bill 1123 passed the House with bipartisan support and is now in the Senate. Of note, similar legislation is in the works to require coverage of ovarian cancer screenings for women over age 40.

### PROTECTING VACCINE ACCESS IN PENNSYLVANIA

With growing uncertainty surrounding federal immunization policy, the House has passed two bills protecting vaccine access for Pennsylvanians. House Bill 1828 would require health insurance companies to continue coverage of recommended vaccines by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at no additional cost to patients. House Bill 1881 would protect access to medically accepted vaccines from pharmacies statewide. These bills await consideration by the Senate.

### INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

House Bill 2107 reduces licensure barriers and other bureaucracy to enable qualified school psychologists moving from other states to work in PA, increasing access to mental health care for students and addressing a critical shortage in this workforce statewide. This legislation currently awaits further consideration from the House Professional Licensure Committee.

### KEYSTONE FRESH ACT

House Bill 1768 promotes the use of locally sourced food and ingredients in Pennsylvania school meals, providing healthier meals, and stimulating local economies by supporting Pennsylvania farmers. This legislation passed the House and now awaits consideration in the Senate Education Committee.

### NURSING SHORTAGE ASSISTANCE

House Bill 1676 would provide grants to help nursing students obtain post-graduation employment and repay student loans. This legislation passed the House Labor & Industry Committee and awaits a vote by the full House.

### EXPANDING PROPERTY TAX AND RENT RELIEF IN PENNSYLVANIA

I recently co-sponsored House Bill 2116 which would expand and update the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program to make more Pennsylvanians eligible for this rebate. Proposed changes to this program would allow homeowners to deduct the amount of property taxes paid from their base annual income when determining eligibility for the program. This legislation awaits further consideration by the House Finance Committee.

### YEAR-ROUND UTILITY SUPPORT

House Bill 1778 expands year-round energy affordability for low-income households, aiming to prevent utility disconnections and ease financial burden. This legislation currently awaits House committee action.

### STANDING UP FOR RATE PAYERS

I am a co-sponsor of House Bill 1964 which would pause future sales of public water and wastewater systems by repealing enabling law, Act 12 of 2016. House Bill 1964 would also launch a year-long study to curb increases to ratepayers due to acquisitions. This legislation awaits approval from the House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee.

### PROMOTING FAIRNESS IN PA'S RETAIL ELECTRICITY MARKET

House Bill 2131 would protect customers from automatic re-enrollment with a retail energy supplier, returning customers to their local utility company if they do not renew or choose another energy supplier. This legislation awaits approval from the House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee.

# ADDRESSING THE FIRE AND EMS CRISIS IN PENNSYLVANIA

As costs continue to rise, many fire and EMS companies struggle to acquire and maintain necessary equipment. For example, one full fire suit costs upwards of \$5,500. Federal and state grant programs provide some funding opportunities but fall short of what is needed. So, fire and EMS rely on donations and other fundraising efforts to fill in budgetary gaps. This piecemeal process of funding critical emergency services is no longer sustainable for our state.

Pennsylvania needs to consider options that will provide consistent funding streams to fire/EMS companies. Possible solutions include regionalization or merging local companies, particularly those that are struggling, to help streamline services through a single leadership system and funding conduit. A regionalized fire company would serve a wider geographic area and expand the availability of service equipment.

In the 158th, three fire companies servicing five municipalities participate in the regionalized model. The Kennett Fire and EMS Regional Commission (KFERC) is comprised of Longwood, Kennett and Po-Mar-Lin Fire Companies. Recently, Avondale and West Grove Fire Companies merged into one regional fire department. Through regionalization, these companies can more efficiently respond to increased call volumes and community growth while decreasing response times. This model helps companies stretch valuable resources and equipment and manage staffing shortages from decreased volunteerism.

**This session, as a member of the Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, I will continue to advocate for initiatives to help chip away at the EMS crisis by:**

- Again, pushing for an increase in the state grant program that benefits fire and EMS companies.
- Seeking direct payment from insurance companies for ambulance services at a rate that supports the cost of readiness and care while, at the same time, protecting patients from being billed for balances that are beyond a reasonable co-pay or deductible.
- Ensuring that insurance companies cannot deny claims in situations where a patient receives treatment by EMS but is not transported to the hospital.
- Simplifying the complex fire relief association rules to provide direct support to firefighters without unnecessary administrative headaches.
- Further supporting the mental health of first responders by equipping 911 telecommunicators with resources they need to continue fulfilling their critical role.

One thing is clear, we must accept that change is needed, and we must act to effectively, and efficiently, support those who are there for us in our darkest hours.





**CHRISTINA SAPPEY**  
★ STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★

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Kennett Square, PA 19348



*Versión en español de este  
boletín disponible aquí.*

lpo.kw.0226

# SAVE THE DATE!

## 2026 SENIOR CITIZEN FAIR

### April 18, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Unionville High School

750 Unionville Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348

\*RSVP Required. Contact my office at (484) 200-8264 or  
register online at [www.RepSappey.com/Events](http://www.RepSappey.com/Events)



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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