



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Leanne Krueger

161ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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SPRING 2021



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Working for you in a new legislative session

I'm honored to have begun a new term as representative for the 161st Legislative District. The past year was incredibly difficult for so many people, and my staff and I continue to help our neighbors in the district navigate the challenges the pandemic has thrown our way.

Last year, while following COVID-19 safety protocols, we helped with more than 1,080 unemployment cases and assisted thousands of residents with state services and questions through phone and email.

I am committed to fighting in Harrisburg to get help for those who need it, including local small businesses, frontline workers and emergency responders. I was pleased that in early February, the General Assembly passed, and Gov. Tom Wolf signed, legislation to allocate nearly \$1 billion in COVID-19 relief to those who need it. The bill included more than a half-million dollars in emergency rent relief plus \$145 million for the Hospitality Industry Recovery Program to support restaurants and bars, and more.

It's a start, but we have a lot more work to do to address the devastating impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our community.

In this newsletter, you'll find updates from Harrisburg, information on state and local resources, and more.

Fighting for a budget that works for you

In February, Gov. Wolf presented his proposed 2021-22 state budget.

His proposal includes efforts to make Pennsylvania more equitable, fairly fund schools, invest in public health and support workers and businesses. Notably, he also proposes increased funding to support 10 existing county and municipal health departments around Pennsylvania – and create an 11th in Delaware County. That would be welcome news for our community.

The governor's budget is a starting point, and over the next few months, we will be working to negotiate a final budget by the end of June. There are things in his proposal that I support and some things that I have concerns about.

The House Appropriations Committee recently concluded a three-week series of hearings on the budget, and as a member of that committee, I used those opportunities to raise my concerns and ask questions about the issues that matter to you, the residents of my district. I'm grateful for everyone who took the time to call or email with your budget questions!

I send weekly emails with updates on legislative issues such as the budget, as well as other important resources. Sign up at www.RepLeanne.com.

1,080 Unemployment Cases Completed	\$6.2 million in grants awarded for our community	2020 <i>By the numbers</i>
6,023 Emails 4,894 Phone Calls 13,100 Constituent Services Provided	38 Handicap Parking Placards 14 Bills and Resolutions Introduced 123 Bills Co-sponsored	
	57 Birth Certificates Processed	



COVID-19: Vaccine brings hope, frustration

The COVID-19 vaccine brought us hope, but it has also brought frustration as supply has been limited and the distribution process confusing.

I have been fighting to ensure Delaware County gets its fair share of vaccine, to find ways to make this process simpler for residents, and to ensure that those most at risk of serious illness are able to get the vaccine when they are eligible.

Information on the vaccine has been changing rapidly, and for the most up-to-date information, I'll continue to offer updates in my weekly e-mails and on social media.

If you have questions about the vaccine or COVID-19 in general, please use the following resources.

Delaware County:

www.delcopa.gov/covid

COVID Call Center: 484-276-2100

COVID19Resources@co.delaware.pa.us

Pennsylvania:

www.health.pa.gov

Find out if you are eligible for the vaccine and search for providers at www.pa.gov/guides/get-vaccinated

Hotline: 1-877-724-3258

If you are a Delaware County resident who is homebound or know of a county resident who will need to receive their vaccine in their home, please contact the Delaware County COVID-19 Call Center at 484-276-2100 or by email at Covid19resources@co.delaware.pa.us to be added to the list of residents who will be served by this program. Information needed includes the name of the person to be served, a phone number, zip code, and an email address if applicable.

Be alert for unemployment compensation fraud

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry has urged residents to be vigilant against fraud.

Anyone who has not applied for unemployment benefits is likely a victim of fraud if they:

- Receive unrequested unemployment paperwork from L&I's Office of Unemployment Compensation.
- Receive unemployment benefit payment(s) from the Pennsylvania Treasury that they did not apply for.
- Receive 1099G tax forms for 2020 indicating they were paid unemployment benefits.

If this has happened to you, you can report the fraud online at www.uc.pa.gov or call the PA Fraud Hotline at 1-800-692-7469.

Remember: L&I never contacts anyone and asks for their username, password, PIN or full Social Security number. Additionally, L&I does not communicate with claimants over social media, and the only valid email addresses to contact Pennsylvania's Unemployment Compensation Service Center are uchelp@pa.gov and ucpua@pa.gov.

For unemployment compensation resources, visit www.uc.pa.gov.

MY FOLSOM OFFICE HAS MOVED!

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way my office works, but it has not changed our commitment to helping residents of the 161st District.

My Folsom office has MOVED! You can now find us at 1300 E. MacDade Blvd., Suite 1 – right at the corner of MacDade and Folsom Avenue.

In keeping with COVID-19 safety protocols, my offices are open by appointment only. Call 610-534-6880 for an appointment, and please wear a mask if you come to see us. We can also assist you remotely by phone or email, and we can bring some state documents right out to your car!



Supporting emergency services in Delco

Our first responders always protect our communities in times of emergency, and that's been even more apparent as we've battled COVID-19.

I was proud to support Act 26 of 2020, which made \$50 million in grants available for fire and EMS organizations affected by the pandemic. Locally, grants were awarded in October as follows:

Aston Township Fire Department	\$36,842
Brookhaven Fire Co.	\$23,944 (fire), \$15,048 (EMS)
Folsom Fire Co. No. 1	\$24,110
Garden City Fire Co. No. 1	\$25,205
Holmes Fire Co.	\$25,205 (fire), \$15,048 (EMS)
Milmont Fire Co. No. 1	\$22,603
South Media Fire Co. No. 1	\$25,342
Swarthmore Fire and Protective Association	\$25,342
Woodlyn Fire Co. No. 1	\$25,068 (fire), \$15,048 (EMS)

In late December, I was thrilled to announce that a **\$1.5 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant** was awarded to strengthen Delaware County's 911 system.

The challenges with our existing system are well-documented, and I have spoken to local police and firefighters who have lost radio contact during emergency calls because of issues with the old system.

This grant will help fund 24 tower upgrades to provide acceptable county-wide communication coverage, shelter structures, an ice bridge, grounding, electric, HVAC, core work additions and 911 center equipment to communicate effectively in emergency situations with citizens, first responders and with surrounding counties in southeastern Pennsylvania.

I organized legislators from both sides of the aisle to help secure this funding, which will better equip emergency responders to receive and answer calls throughout all of Delaware County, safely.

Grants awarded in the 161st District

I'm happy to help local government agencies and organizations seek grant funding to support their work for our communities. Here's a look at some additional grants coming to our area:

- **Brookhaven Police Department:** \$25,000 state grant to help fund equipment to enhance public safety.
- **Folsom Athletic Association:** \$20,000 Keystone Communities grant for a sports field lighting project.
- **Schoolhouse Senior Center:** nearly \$5,000 grant to support its work helping local seniors.
- **Delaware County Technical High School – Aston:** \$7,147 grant to upgrade cafeteria equipment.



My office teamed up with Delaware County District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer's office to host a shredding and prescription drug takeback event, following COVID-19 safety guidelines, in Aston in October.

More than 400 people brought materials for shredding, and we collected 150 pounds of medication for proper disposal. I'm grateful to serve our community and help individuals protect themselves from identity theft and other scams. I hope to see you at our next shredding event in April!

Assistance programs are available

Help is available for Pennsylvania residents facing challenging times. Below are some programs you might find helpful, and I've compiled community resources on my website, www.RepLeanne.com, under the Help and Services tab.

SNAP benefits temporarily increased: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps eligible Pennsylvanians buy food, and the benefits have been temporarily increased through June 30. www.dhs.pa.gov

United Way 211: Visit www.pa211.org or text your ZIP code to 898-211 to connect to a resource specialist for free information on community programs and assistance.

Pennie: Pennie, Pennsylvania's health insurance marketplace, has opened a special enrollment period through Aug. 15 to allow people to enroll in health care coverage. If you need to purchase individual health insurance, visit www.pennie.com to shop plans or enroll, or call the Pennie hotline at 1-844-844-8040.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP): In Delaware County, the ERAP program can be contacted by phone at 484-729-4200, by email at info@delco-era.org or by visiting the website <https://delco-era.com>.

COVID-19 RESOURCES & ASSISTANCE



United Way's 211
www.pa211.org



PA Compass - Variety of Services
www.compass.state.pa.us



Food Banks
agriculture.pa.gov/foodsecurity



Heating Assistance - LIHEAP
www.dhs.pa.gov



Health Insurance
Pennie.com

Legislative update

This session, I have introduced bills to help local nonprofit organizations survive the pandemic; protect health care workers from violence; and support K-9 teams with proper training. Here are more details, and you can find more information on these and other bills at legis.state.pa.us.

H.B. 347: Nonprofit organizations help connect families to resources they need during difficult times, offer us opportunities to experience arts and culture, and so much more. The pandemic has deeply impacted these organizations, so I've introduced legislation that would establish the COVID-19 Nonprofit Assistance Grant Program by allocating \$100 million in COVID-19 recovery funding to the Department of Community and Economic Development.

H.B. 348: Health care workers in hospitals and other facilities face significant risks of workplace violence. They care for us in times of need, so we must work to protect them as well.

This bill would create the Healthcare Facilities Violence Prevention Act, which would require health facilities to establish a workplace violence prevention committee, require the mandatory reporting of instances of workplace violence, and protect employees from retaliatory action for reporting workplace violence, among other things.

H.B. 349: Our state and local K-9 teams work to keep us safe and are a great example of the dedication of our law enforcement services. However, non-standardized training

can create drastic learning curves between the two.

I've heard from local K-9 officers about the challenges they face, so I've introduced this bill to require the Municipal Police Officer's Education and Training Commission to work together with the State Police to establish K-9 team and K-9 specialty team training and certification standards following national standards. This would help us support our K-9 teams and ensure they have the training they need.



RGGI: Pushing for real action on climate change

The Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board wrapped up a public comment period in January on proposed regulations that would reduce carbon dioxide pollution from power plants within Pennsylvania and establish Pennsylvania's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

I testified virtually before the Environmental Quality Board in support of RGGI and the urgent need to take action.

Climate change is already impacting Pennsylvania. We have experienced record-breaking extreme storms, serious flooding, and our agriculture and winter tourism industries have already been impacted.

But as we began another legislative session, I found myself immediately needing to push back against efforts to block Pennsylvania from joining RGGI.

At the first House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meeting, the majority of the committee voted to send a letter to the PA Independent Regulatory Review Commission disapproving of Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

I opposed that action, and I'll continue fighting for real action on climate change.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate for 2020

You can now file your 2020 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program application online through the Department of Revenue's myPATH system. Visit mypath.pa.gov to file your application or call my office if you need assistance.

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded.

The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975.



SEPTA Key Senior Cards extended

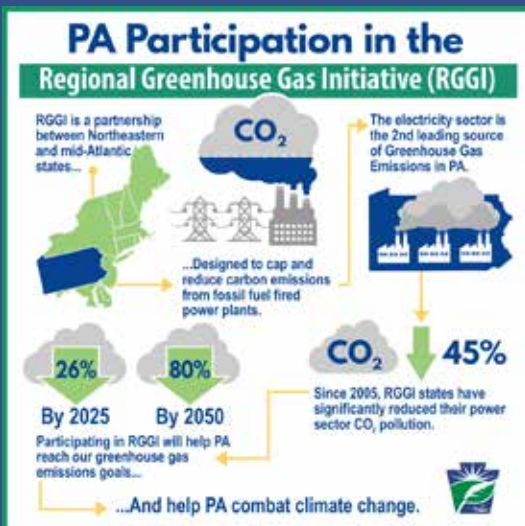
Because of COVID-19, all SEPTA Key Senior Cards that expired in 2020 and those set to expire in 2021 have been extended through the end of calendar 2022.

You can apply for a SEPTA Key Senior Card by appointment only. Call 215-580-7145 for an appointment.

Real ID: New enforcement date is Oct. 1, 2021

Beginning Oct. 1, 2021, Pennsylvanians will need a Real ID-compliant driver's license, photo ID card, or another form of federally acceptable identification (such as a valid passport or military ID) to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a federal building or military installation that requires ID.

You do not have to get a Real ID. To learn more and decide if you need a Real ID, visit penndot.gov/REALID.





State Representative

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CALL MY OFFICE AT 610-534-6880 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE EVENTS.

April 15 and 29

Unclaimed Property Search

1 in 10 PA residents has unclaimed property waiting for them – do you? Call my office to find out!

April 17

**Free Shred Event & Prescription Drug Collection
in partnership with Sen. John Kane**

9 a.m. to noon

*Strath Haven High School (rear parking lot)
205 S. Providence Road, Wallingford PA 19086*

May 13

Medicare 101

Learn about Medicare from a trained APPRISE counselor in this virtual event! Call my office to register.

1:30 p.m.

June 8 and 10

Where's my PA Property Tax/Rent Rebate?

Call the office at 610-534-6880 to check the status of your rebate. Have not filed yet? We can help you!

Blood Drives

June 17

Brookhaven Municipal Center

2 p.m. – 7 p.m.

July 27

American Legion Post 926, Aston

12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Save the date for fall events!

Mark your calendars and watch my social media pages for more details!

Oct. 16 – Fall shred event

Oct. 21 – Veterans Luncheon in partnership with Sen. John Kane

VISIT WWW.REPLEANNE.COM TO SIGN UP FOR MY E-NEWS OR FOLLOW ME ON FACEBOOK TO LEARN ABOUT ALL OF OUR UPCOMING EVENTS AND VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS.