



## COMMITTEE and CAUCUS ASSIGNMENTS

- Finance, Secretary
- Transportation, Secretary
- Committee on Committees
- Game & Fisheries
- Labor & Industry
- Policy Committee
- Rules
- Northeast Delegation, Vice Chairwoman
- Animal Protection Caucus
- Autism and Intellectual Disabilities Caucus
- Bipartisan Film Caucus
- Blue-Green Caucus
- Irish-American Caucus
- Legislative Hunger Caucus
- LGBTQ Equality Caucus
- PA SAFE Caucus
- Pennsylvania Charitable Nonprofit Caucus
- Polish & Slavic American Caucus
- Pre-K Caucus
- Women's Caucus
- Women's Health Caucus

## Dear Neighbor,

As the weather starts to change as we move closer towards fall, I wanted to update you on some changes made at the state level that may impact you, as well as other information you may find interesting.

Inside, you'll see what's been happening around the district, and learn more about how my office can help you. My district office is at 1080 Schadt Ave. in Whitehall, and I have a satellite office in Fountain Hill. Please feel free to reach out via email at RepMcNeill@PaHouse.net, or by phone at 610-266-1273. I'm also on social channels @RepMcNeill.

## Breast cancer screening law can make a difference for many

The first bill signed into law this year was both bipartisan and historic. It is a law that will save lives and help prevent breast cancer and other hereditary cancers in some of the most high-risk Pennsylvanians.

This law makes sure high-risk people are covered by insurance fully – no co-pays, deductibles, or insurance fees – when getting doctor-ordered genetic testing, MRIs, ultrasounds, and even counseling. All of it is covered for people most at risk of developing breast cancer or another hereditary cancer.

When breast cancer is diagnosed early, nine out of ten patients survive.

I am incredibly proud to have contributed to the passage of this measure to provide additional diagnostic tools for breast cancer at no cost for high-risk patients. An additional screening could make a difference in catching breast cancer in its earlier stages, which could mean saving the lives of our friends and family.

Removing the costs of these evidence-based preventive screenings will help ensure that they are more accessible to those who need them.

**Standing Together to Save Lives**

**Historic Breast Cancer legislation would:**

- End out-of-pocket patient costs for genetic testing for hereditary cancers
- Pay for screenings for high-risk individuals.

PA HOUSE DEMOCRATS

## State budget delivers historic investment in public schools

While the budget we passed in early July wasn't perfect, I believe there are some great things in it to help Pennsylvanians. Here are a few highlights:

- A historic \$8.4 billion in basic education, with an additional \$225 million to support students in the state's most underfunded schools.
- A sizeable deposit in the Rainy Day Fund (the state's savings account).
- Childcare services to help parents earn a living.
- Support for hospitals that continue to face post-pandemic challenges.
- Public safety and violence reduction programs to make our communities safer.
- Veterans' and seniors' programs.
- Reauthorization of the Whole-Home Repairs program, which will allow countywide agencies to do more to address habitability and safety concerns, improve energy efficiency and make homes accessible for those with disabilities.
- A universal free breakfast program for students.
- Funding for the state's first-ever public legal defense fund to support no-cost legal representation to those who have been accused of a crime but cannot afford an attorney.

# More Money in Seniors' Pocket

The number of people struggling to get by is only growing, especially among our seniors. I am proud to have fought for an expansion of the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, helping to ease the financial burden for many Pennsylvania residents.

This is the program's first expansion since 2006. For almost 20 years, many people lost access to the rebates because of small changes in their income. Starting in 2024, the new law will help more than half a million older people and people with disabilities –renters as well as homeowners – stay in the homes and communities they love.

The expansion starting in 2024:

- Raises the income-eligibility limit to qualify for rebates to \$45,000 for both homeowners and renters.
- Ensures this income cap will keep pace with inflation beginning in claim year 2024.
- Increases the maximum rebate from \$650 to \$1,000.



**Property Tax / Rent Rebate Program**  
**MORE** people eligible, **MORE** money back!

Homeowners Income	This Year	Next Year
Up to \$8K	\$650	\$1,000
Up to \$15K	\$500	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$300	\$460
Up to \$35K	\$250	\$380
Up to \$45K	\$0	\$380

  

Renter Income	This Year	Next Year
Up to \$8K	\$650	\$1,000
Up to \$15K	\$500	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$0	\$460
Up to \$45K	\$0	\$380

## DON'T FORGET!

While these changes will be effective next year, you have until Dec. 31 to apply for a rebate on the property taxes or rent paid in 2022. Contact my office at (610) 266-1273 or stop by 1080 Schadt Ave. in Whitehall to find out if you're eligible or for assistance applying.

# Victoria's Law Part of the Solution to End the Puppy Mill Pipeline

It's been well-documented that puppy mills are inhumane commercial dog-breeding facilities, yet they frequently supply pet stores with puppies. Once these pets are sold, consumers often spend thousands of dollars caring for sick puppies.

Named after a German shepherd who passed on an incurable genetic disease to more than 150 puppies before being rescued from a puppy mill, my bill would drive the state's pet market toward more humane sources, such as shelters, rescues and responsible breeders; stop the sale of puppy mill dogs, cats and rabbits in pet stores; protect consumers from misleading sales tactics; and require advertisers to include license numbers in their ads so consumers have access to information on breeders.

The bill is currently in the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee for review. If you would like to help, contact members of the committee and urge them to approve Victoria's Law.



# Humane Society recognizes McNeill for animal rights' efforts

In May, I was recognized by the Humane Society for my efforts to end the puppy mill pipeline in Pennsylvania.

As someone who fosters for local animal rescues, I have seen the horrors that result from inhumane conditions propagated by the puppy mill industry here in Pennsylvania. It's important that we protect those who don't have a voice.

I am grateful for this award and for all of the work my colleagues and advocates have been doing to cut down on puppy mills.



# Scenes from the Senior Fair

There was a great turnout at this year's Senior Fair that I co-hosted with state Sen. Nick Miller. Many vendors were present to give seniors in our area information about local and statewide services that would allow them to live a happier, healthier life. Even some pets showed up!

If you weren't able to attend, check out next year's event, or stop by my office to learn more about the host of state services available to you.



## Money Returned to the District

One of my priorities is to make sure any available funding is brought back to the district. Here is a list of just some of the funding that returned to our communities so far this year:

- \$1.15 million for the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority for road safety and accessibility improvements.
- \$150,000 for the construction of a section of the Delaware and Lehigh Trail from Hanover Canal Park to St. Luke's Center.
- \$100,000 for roadway improvements along Water Street in Catasauqua.
- \$418,559 for the construction of a parking lot on Race Street in Catasauqua to serve residents and businesses.
- \$312,392 for the replacement of the water main and sewer lines at the intersection of Walnut and Saint John streets in Catasauqua.
- \$50,047 for the purchase of a new police patrol vehicle in Fountain Hill.
- \$960,000 for 0.75 miles of the D&L Trail from Race Street to the Catasauqua border.
- \$693,700 for development of the trail in Hanover Township.
- \$97,619 for restoring the Mickley-Prydun farm in Whitehall Township.
- \$22.5 million for replacing the Cementon Bridge that crosses the Lehigh River.

## House Passes Minimum Wage Bill

For the first time in 14 years, the PA House voted to raise the minimum wage earlier this year.

We owe it to our workers who keep our businesses running and economy flowing to pay them wages that reflect the current prices of the 21st century. I was glad to vote alongside my colleagues to get one step further toward that goal.

This legislation would increase the minimum wage in Pennsylvania to:

- \$11 per hour effective Jan. 1, 2024.
- \$13 per hour effective Jan. 1, 2025.
- \$15 per hour effective Jan. 1, 2026

There would be annual cost-of-living increases beginning in 2027. The bill would also set the minimum wage for tipped workers – which has been stuck at \$2.83 per hour since the 20th century – at 60% of the hourly minimum wage. The bill is currently awaiting action in the Senate.

## Cracking Down on Skyrocketing Insulin Prices

For far too long the price of insulin has skyrocketed, leading to people to have to figure out how to pay for it, or take a deadly chance by rationing their insulin.

I have introduced a bill that would ease these financial worries and health scares by setting a cap on the price of a 30-day supply of insulin at \$35.

Twenty-one other states have passed similar insulin co-pay bills.

## Committee Approves Early Lease Termination Bill

Losing the ability to drive because of diagnosed medical reasons can be a very trying time for families, especially for those who are leasing a vehicle. Currently, if someone who is leasing a vehicle is deemed unfit to drive, then they bear that significant financial burden. My bill would allow individuals to terminate vehicle leases early if a medical professional has determined that they are unfit to safely drive a vehicle.

## Protection in School Residency Disputes

This spring the House Education Committee approved my bill that would protect students who are caught in school district residency disputes.

Every Pennsylvania child deserves a quality education, and when a residency dispute arises between a child's parents or caregivers and the school district, the child should not be punished while the issue is being resolved. For districts to remove a student is callous and uncaring and punishes the child through no fault of their own.

Under the bill, a school district would not be permitted to remove a child from school until any school residency dispute has been fully resolved and the proper school district for the student has been determined.

## House Approves Safety Measure for Childcare Facilities

Day care facilities should be equipped with working carbon monoxide detectors. It's common sense. That's why I was pleased when the House approved my bill that would require childcare facilities to do just that. Carbon monoxide is odorless and colorless, so it's difficult to know if you've been exposed and its symptoms mimic those of other common illnesses, so carbon monoxide poisoning wouldn't be the first ailment to come to mind at a daycare. That's why it is absolutely essential that childcare centers are equipped with these detectors.

This is a sensible safety precaution that needs to be implemented, and I am hopeful the Senate will act on this bill, to protect children.

## Women of the House



*In 1975, only 7 women served in the state House and Senate. Here are the women who serve in the PA House today and I'm proud to count myself among them.*

## NE Delegation



*We represent Northeastern PA and we're NE strong! It's my privilege to serve as delegation vice chairman. The role of the delegation is to support and advocate for issues, legislation and funding for the region.*



Representative Jeanne McNeill  
 1080 Schadt Avenue  
 Whitehall, PA 18052  
 (610) 266-1273

lpo.tb.0923

## SAVE THE DATE!

### License Plate Restoration Event

Wednesday, Sept. 20 | 9 a.m. to noon  
 Behind the Catasauqua Municipal Building  
 \*\*Pre-registration required\*\*  
 Call (610) 266-1273

**PLEASE NOTE:** New license plates will NOT be provided at the event. A new plate will be mailed to the vehicle owner.

**LICENSE PLATE RESTORATION EVENT**  
 An officer will determine if your license plate needs to be replaced.

Wednesday, September 20  
**9:00 AM - 12 PM**  
 Behind the Catasauqua Municipal Building  
 located at 90 Bridge St. in Catasauqua

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**  
 Please call 610.266.1273 or stop by  
 1080 Schadt Ave. in Whitehall  
 WITH YOUR PLATE #, TITLE #, VIN #  
 (all found on your registration card)

New license plates will be mailed to your home address

### Senior Scam Event

Wednesday, Oct. 25 | 4 p.m.  
 Zentz Community Center at  
 Fellowship Community  
 3020 Fellowship Drive, Whitehall

Experts from the Office of Attorney General will educate older Pennsylvanians and their families on crime prevention, how to avoid being victimized and what to do if they think they've been scammed.

### Free Disability Resource Fair

Friday, Oct. 20 | 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
 Suburban North family YMCA  
 880 Walnut St., Catasauqua

Vendors will have information on programs and services for individuals with physical and mental disabilities.

### Monthly Vet Outreach

Third Monday of the month | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 McNeill Whitehall Office

Each month I host a veterans outreach specialist in my Whitehall office for area veterans and their families to learn more about the benefits and programs available to them and receive assistance in the application process.

Appointments are available between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the third Monday of each month and may be made by calling my office at (610) 266-1273.

# FOUNTAIN HILL OFFICE HOURS EVERY FRIDAY!

State Representative  
**JEANNE MCNEILL**

*We're back!*  
**Satellite  
 Office Hours**  
 Fountain Hill Borough Hall

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**STARTING FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8  
 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

941 Long St, Fountain Hill, PA 18015