



# STATE REP. JENNIFER O'MARA

SUMMER 2021

## 165<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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### Dear Neighbor,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family happy and healthy. Summer 2021 is upon us and there is so much to be thankful for. COVID-19 is declining in our community, more and more residents are getting vaccinated, and the economy is recovering. In addition, the state legislature recently finalized its spending plan for the 2021-22 fiscal year, and more information on that is enclosed in this newsletter. That means the House will not reconvene again until September, so I'll be here at home working for you!

Over the next two months, I'll spend my time attending community events, working with my staff to help residents utilize state resources and, most importantly, connecting with community members to learn what's most important to you. I'd love to hear from you on what state-related issues you think impact the people of our district the most and what we can do on the legislative level to improve Pennsylvanians' lives. As our community's voice in our commonwealth's capitol, I want to bring your thoughts and ideas into the legislature.

As always, my office is here to serve you. If my staff or I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to reach out to us by phone or email, or come visit the office. We wish you a very safe and happy summer!

Kind regards,

Jennifer O'Mara

### Pennsylvania passes a timely budget

On June 25, the General Assembly approved a \$40 billion budget and the governor signed it into law. While the spending plan that we passed was far from perfect, it did include measures that will truly benefit the people of Delco. For example, this budget allots \$1.4 million to launch the Delaware County Health Department this January and provides a collective \$13.4 million to Radnor, Marple Newtown and Springfield school districts. We also allotted \$100 million in "level up" funding to distribute to the 100 school districts most in need. This is a step in the right direction toward closing disparities within our commonwealth's public education system and ensuring that every child has a quality education regardless of their ZIP code.

While investments in health and education are huge wins, this budget falls short in several other areas. Instead of distributing billions of federal dollars we received from the American Rescue Plan, we squirreled them away into the state's Rainy Day Fund. This money was intended to help individuals, families, small businesses and organizations still trying to get back on their feet from the COVID-19 pandemic. Our budget does not even prioritize the essential workers who kept our society moving as we were in the thick of the public health crisis last year, and it does not include any grant assistance for our struggling small businesses. Some of this funding could have also been used to provide property tax relief to struggling homeowners. It is truly a shame we failed to distribute these funds to actually provide relief to the people of Pennsylvania.

Although the budget is riddled with missed opportunities, I did ultimately vote yes on it. This spending plan provided Delco with funding we need to move forward and preserve the health and future of our community.



# REAL ID deadline extended until 2023

Due to complications brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, the REAL ID deadline has been extended from October 2021 to May 2023. See below for further information.

**The federal REAL ID Act has been extended in Pennsylvania until May 3, 2023**

The best thing you can do to prepare for REAL ID is to get your documents together:

- ✓ Proof of identity
- ✓ Social Security card
- ✓ Two current, physical proofs of PA residency
- ✓ Proof of all legal name changes



Visit **PENNDOT.GOV/REALID**

# SEPTA Senior Key Cards now available

My office is able to once again process applications for SEPTA Key Cards! Seniors 65 or older may call my office at (610) 544-9878 to schedule a time for you to drop by and get your photo taken.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

My office can help you process SEPTA Senior Key Card requests.



Seniors 65 + older are eligible to travel for **FREE** on all PA SEPTA service lines with a SEPTA Key Card.

**Contact my office:**

- (610) 544-9878
- RepOMara@pahouse.net
- 905 West Sproul Rd. Suite 203 Springfield, PA 19064



THIS IS A SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

BUT THEY'LL LOOK MORE LIKE THIS WHEN YOU SEE THEM

THEY HATCH FROM EGG MASSES LIKE THIS, THEN LOOK LIKE THIS AS THEY MATURE

**SCRAPE THE EGGS. SQUASH THE BUGS. REPORT EVERYTHING.**



# Spotted lanternflies re-emerging

As summer continues, Delco will once again see an abundance of adult spotted lanternflies. If you see any, please squash them and report your sighting by calling 1-888-4BAD-FLY or online at <https://extension.psu.edu/have-you-seen-a-spotted-lanternfly>. Penn State Extension's website also contains helpful information on building spotted lanternfly traps, identifying spotted lanternflies throughout their various life stages, pesticide safety and more!

Rep. O'Mara will have a Veteran Service Officer on hand once a month!

SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
10 A.M. – 2 P.M.

We can help with:

- VA claims
- Reduced property taxes
- Educational benefits and more!

CALL TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT 610.544.9878



STATE REPRESENTATIVE **JENNIFER O'MARA** 165<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

**FOLLOW ME**

   @RepOMara and subscribe to my bi-weekly emails by visiting **RepOMara.com** for information on future events I'm planning!

# Progress on my legislation

As your elected representative, I've been hard at work bringing the issues most important to you to Harrisburg. Here is just a glimpse of some of the bills I drafted this legislative session and their status in the legislature. For more information and to view a complete list of my bills, you can visit: <https://bit.ly/2SgCPqt> (case sensitive).



## ✓ **Allowing for increased contributions to the Veterans Trust Fund**

Last session, my bill to increase donations to the Veterans Trust Fund passed the House unanimously. Unfortunately, it didn't receive as much traction in the Senate. This year, I am happy to say that the Senate version of my bill has been signed into law as Act No. 55. Now, Pennsylvanians may conveniently donate even more dollars to support the Veterans Trust Fund when applying for or renewing a driver's license, ID card or vehicle registration. The VTF provides grants to charitable and service organizations that help veterans thrive in the civilian world.

Last action: Approved by the governor on June 30, 2021.

## ✓ **Insurance coverage for infertility treatments**

Infertility affects men and women equally, and treatments can cost as much as \$80K. Everyone has the freedom and the right to start a family; it's not something reserved only for those who can afford these astronomical expenses. I teamed up with Reps. Steve Malagari from Montgomery County and Sara Innamorato from Allegheny County to introduce legislation that would require Pennsylvania insurers to cover infertility services. Every state that borders Pennsylvania has infertility insurance laws; it's time that we catch up.

Last action: Seeking co-sponsors.

## ✓ **Early voting**

To cut down on long wait times at the polls and ensure those who work on Election Day can cast their ballots, my bill would permit Pennsylvanians to vote up to 30 days before an election. Early voting would take place at the county board of elections office and at designated polling places chosen by the county board.

Last action: Seeking co-sponsors.

## ✓ **Protecting workers' right to organize**

Fair wages, paid holidays, sick leave and dependable health care were made possible largely thanks to unions and brave workers exercising their right to organize. To strengthen and preserve this right, I teamed up with other legislators from southeastern PA to introduce House Bill 658. Our legislation would hold predatory corporations that violate workers' rights accountable and ensure that newly formed unions have the resources they need to effectively protect workers.

Last action: Referred to House Labor and Industry Committee on Feb. 26, 2021.

## ✓ **Boosting Pennsylvania's energy efficiency and conservation**

State Rep. Wendi Thomas, R-Bucks, and I drafted House Bill 1185, which would set energy efficiency and water conservation standards for commercial and residential appliances sold in the commonwealth. This would significantly help conserve water and reduce air pollution while saving millions of dollars every year.

Last action: Referred to the House Consumer Affairs Committee on April 15, 2021.

## ✓ **Student borrower's bill of rights**

It is estimated that 2.1 million Pennsylvanians carry an average of \$38,521 in student loan debt. I teamed up with Rep. Meghan Schroeder, R-Bucks, to draft a bill that would increase awareness of affordable repayment options, ensure borrowers receive accurate information on their loans and implement stronger oversight on lenders from the Department of Banking.

Last action: Seeking co-sponsors.

## ✓ **Updating Pennsylvania's equal pay law**

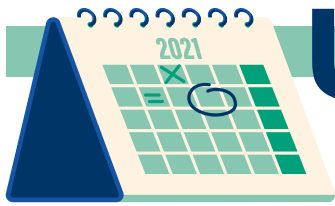
Pennsylvania has not updated its equal pay law in 50 years. State Reps. Donna Bullock, Melissa Shusterman and I are looking to change that with House Bill 821. Our legislation would work to close the gender wage gap by protecting employees inquiring about wages, requiring employers to disclose this information and enacting new, harsher penalties on employers who use discriminatory wage practices.

Last action: Referred to House Labor & Industry Committee on March 8, 2021.

## ✓ **Increasing access to driver's licenses & ID cards for individuals living with disabilities**

To ensure that Pennsylvanians living with a disability never have to go without a form of ID, I introduced legislation that would allow people with certain conditions to renew their driver's license or identification card from home. My House Bill 1631 would allow individuals with conditions such as blindness, limited mobility issues and cardiac disease to request PennDOT to issue a driver's license or identification card using the most recent color photo and signature of the applicant on file.

Last action: Referred to House Transportation Committee on June 15, 2021.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

I hope to see you at one of my many upcoming events! Whether you want to talk about legislative concerns at a town hall or would prefer a more casual walk and talk, check out my events schedule below for one that works best for you.

## Townhalls

### Morton Townhall

**When:** Monday, Aug. 30

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Morton Borough Hall

500 Highland Ave., Morton, PA 19070

### Marple Townhall

**When:** Thursday, Sept. 23

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Marple Library Meeting Room

2599 Sproul Road, Broomall, PA 19008

### Springfield Townhall

**When:** Thursday, Oct. 14

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Springfield Township Building

50 Powell Road, Springfield, PA 19064

### Radnor Townhall

**When:** Tuesday, Oct. 19

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Radnor Township Building

301 Iven Ave., Wayne, PA 19087

## Trail Walk Events

### Springfield Walk and Talk

**When:** Saturday, Oct. 2 at 10 a.m.

**Where:** Springfield Trail

### Radnor Walk and Talk

**When:** Saturday, Oct. 9 at 10 a.m.

**Where:** Ithan Valley Park Trail

## Other events

### Spotted Lanternfly Information Session

*Featuring presenters from the Penn State Master Gardeners program*

**When:** Thursday, Aug. 19, from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Willows Park Preserve

490 Darby Paoli Road, Villanova, PA 19085

### Mental Health Expo

**When:** Thursday, Sept. 9, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Where:** Marple Township Library

2599 Sproul Road, Broomall, PA 19008

### Veteran's Day Breakfast

**When:** Thursday, Nov. 11, from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Where:** Paxon Hollow Country Club

850 Paxon Hollow Road, Media, PA 19063

*\*RSVPs will be required for this event. Details to come closer to the fall.*

## Focus on Jobs & Workers



I connected with steelworkers from USW 10-234 while I toured Monroe Energy with the House Policy Committee. We discussed the importance of jobs in the energy sector, safety at the workplace, and the impact on our environment as we look to the future.



I attended the groundbreaking for a new cargo hanger at the PHL Airport! This will help bring jobs to Delco while modernizing one of our area's major transportation hubs.

## Accomplish something incredible? Celebrate with an official legislative citation!

One of my favorite parts of being a state legislator is having the opportunity to celebrate extraordinary moments alongside community members. My office can help commemorate your achievement with a citation from the House of Representatives. Citations can recognize accomplishments such as milestone birthdays for seniors, athletic victories, retirements, wedding anniversaries and other achievements.

If you're interested in receiving or gifting someone a citation, please email my office at RepOMara@pahouse.net with details on the accomplishment.



# AROUND THE DISTRICT

I missed seeing everyone last year! I'm happy to be able to once again safely connect in-person with the people of the 165th Legislative District.



Thank you to those who participated in my flag laying and clean up event at Hayti Cemetery in honor of Forgotten Cemetery Day!



I loved visiting our area's first responders in recognition of National Police Week, May 9 – May 15, and National EMS Week, May 16 – 22. I expressed my gratitude to our community's heroes by delivering lunches from local small businesses and thanking them for all that they do!



I joined Radnor Township in recognizing Memorial Day this year. I was so proud to see so many people come together to recognize the true reason for this holiday.



I commemorated Delco Day (6/10) by presenting Delco Live with an official House citation honoring this special celebration in our community. Thank you to everyone who participated in the day's festivities benefiting the HEADstrong Foundation!



I was delighted to attend the trailhead sign dedication for the brand-new signs installed along the Springfield Trail! These signs were made possible by a state grant that was awarded to our beloved trail after a combined bipartisan effort between me, the Friends of Smedley Park, the Parks Board, and the Springfield Township Board of Commissioners.



Left: I celebrated Arbor Day with Marple Township and Tree City USA. I joined volunteers from the Marple Township Tree Commission who planted a Kentucky Coffee Tree outside of Broomall Fire Company.

Right: My staff and I had an incredible time marching in Marple Newtown's Fourth of July parade!





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905 West Sproul Road, Suite 203  
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## How my district office can serve you:

- SEPTA Senior ID Cards
- Unemployment compensation, disability, and workers' compensation
- Voter registration and mail-in/absentee ballot applications
- Explain the REAL ID application process
- Birth and death certificates
- Requests for literature – bills, regulations, statutes, senior citizen information, driver's education handbooks
- Notarize and process applications for disability parking plates and placards
- Help you find and collect unclaimed money in your name through the Pennsylvania Treasury
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms
- 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
  - Military recognition
  - Athletic team recognition
  - Retirement
  - Condolences
  - Community involvement

## Grants awarded to local emergency service companies

I'm pleased to share that seven local fire/EMS companies received funding through Pennsylvania's Fire Company and Emergency Medical Service Grant Program! Grants were distributed as follows:

- Broomall Fire Company: \$15,000
- Marple Township Ambulance Corps: \$8,993
- Morton Rutledge Fire Co.: \$12,589
- Radnor Fire Co. of Wayne: \$15,000
- Radnor Fire Co. of Wayne (EMS): \$8,993
- Springfield Fire Co.: \$14,906
- Villanova Emergency Medical Services: \$8,984

Fire and EMS companies were hit particularly hard last year by shutdowns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. These organizations lost opportunities to host fundraisers that they heavily rely on every year, so I'm proud to help bring this money home for our first responders.