



State Representative | 74th Legislative District

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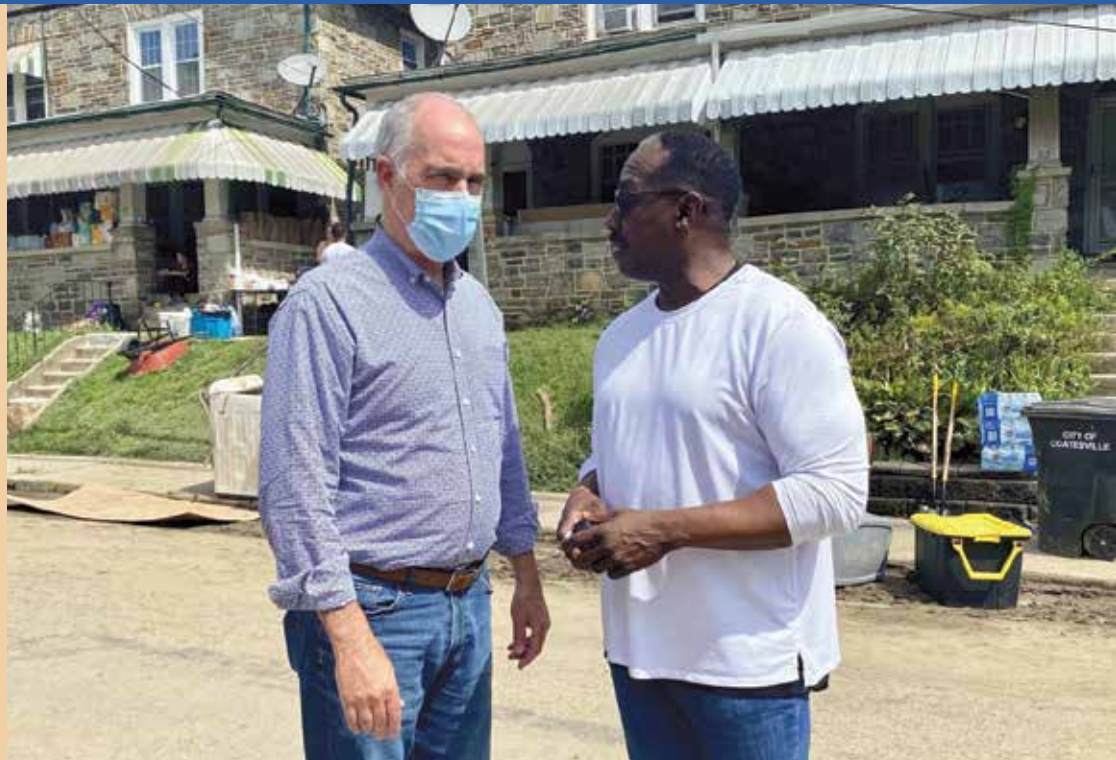
DEAR NEIGHBOR,

This past September has been a tough one for many residents, as many are still struggling to repair their homes and their lives in the wake of Hurricane Ida's devastation. As I showed Gov. Wolf and Sen. Casey the scenes of devastation in our communities, I asked them for assistance and am asking my colleagues in Harrisburg to have compassion and empathy for our community by appropriating at least \$50 million from Pennsylvania's Rainy Day Fund to give light to those lives devastated by Ida.

Despite the hardships so many of you faced, you came out to help each other after the storm to lend a helping hand. I am in awe of how our community came together to help each other.

As they have been throughout the pandemic, our frontline workers have been helping our community through this recovery period. We owe them immense gratitude for always being there for us.

My office is answering constituents' requests for help and sharing resource information as soon as it is available. If you can, please spread the word to those who do not currently have access to their homes or mailboxes about the information in this publication. Resources will also be posted to my website and social media accounts.



Do you need financial assistance to help you recover from Hurricane Ida?

Ida hit our residents hard and many are still trying to recover. President Biden approved a major disaster declaration for the 74th District from the damage caused by Hurricane Ida. This means that FEMA can now provide federal funding and services to eligible individuals and households and communities. Note: If you filled out paperwork through your municipality, you must still apply through the federal website to receive federal funding!

State and Federal Assistance

The major disaster declaration through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will provide federal funding and services to eligible individuals and households through the Individual Assistance program and impacted communities through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

For individual assistance, please visit www.fema.gov/assistance/individual. In addition, FEMA has established a Disaster Relief Center in Ashbridge Square (945 E. Lincoln Highway, Downingtown) as a one-stop-shop for all your flooding relief needs.

For community grants, please visit www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation.

Reporting Damage

Property damage reports should be filed with Chester County. For forms, and the most up-to-date county assistance, please head to www.chesco.org/4996/Ida.

Housing and Utilities

The Emergency Rent & Utility Assistance Program can be accessed by dialing 2-1-1, and press (2) for Homelessness and Housing Crisis. You will then be asked to select your county. After selecting your county, press (2) again for Emergency Assistance Program. For more information and eligibility guidelines, please visit www.211SEPA.org.

Free Cleanup Assistance

SEPA VOAD (Southeastern PA Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster). Please contact co-chair Julia Menzo at jmenzo@libertylutheran.org or 267-464-7740 OR the general email inbox at info@sepavoad.com.

Mental Health

SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) Disaster Helpline Provides 24/7, 365-days-a-year crisis counseling and support to people experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters. Please call 1-800-985-5990.

BRANDYWINE HOSPITAL'S STRUGGLES FOR SURVIVAL

Tower Health, which owns Brandywine Hospital, is in financial peril which threatens a critical force in our community—Brandywine Hospital. Tower has been forced to close two southeastern PA hospitals and is preparing to sell more than a dozen urgent care centers. Tower is currently examining alternatives to closure for Brandywine Hospital.

Brandywine Hospital would be a particular loss to patients struggling with mental health issues. It notably has 64 beds devoted to psychiatric care, something that no other acute-care hospital in Chester County has.

In an interview with The Philadelphia Inquirer, Pat Bokovitz, Chester County's director of human services, said that Brandywine's behavioral health unit is one of the best in the region. Our community can't afford to lose quality mental health resources at this time.



CHESTER COUNTY FLU/ COVID-19 CLINICS

This year it's likely that the flu and the virus that causes COVID-19 will both spread this fall and winter. Healthcare systems could be overwhelmed treating patients with either the flu or with COVID-19. Protect yourself by getting vaccinated from both.

The single most effective protection against the flu is getting a flu vaccine. It is recommended that all people aged 6 months and older receive a flu vaccine every year.

If you have not yet been vaccinated against COVID-19, you can receive COVID-19 and flu vaccines at the same appointment. First and second dose COVID-19 vaccine appointments are available for individuals 12 years and older.

Registration is required to help protect the health and safety of our community and clinic staff. You can register for an appointment at this link: <https://bit.ly/3CvHo1q>.

Individuals with private health insurance will not be charged a copay at the Health Department vaccine clinics but should bring their insurance card for billing. Flu and COVID-19 vaccines are available regardless of insurance status and individuals without health insurance will not pay any out-of-pocket costs.

With multiple viruses spreading this fall and winter, every bit of protection helps including washing hands, wiping down commonly touched surfaces like keyboards, phones and doorknobs, and staying home when sick.

CHESTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY VACCINE CLINICS DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS ARE:

10/23/2021

**West Chester Fugett Middle School
500 Ellis Lane, West Chester
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

10/28/2021

**Gordon Early Literacy Center
315 Kersey Street, Coatesville
4:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

10/28/2021

**Great Valley Middle School
255 Phoenixville Pike, Malvern
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

11/8/2021

**Kennett Area YMCA
101 Race Street, Kennett Square
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

NEWS FROM HARRISBURG

Act 59 (H.B. 1910) – One year later here in Chester County.

In June 2020, my bill, H.B. 1910, a police reform bill that will bring about the most significant changes to Pennsylvania policing, was signed into law as Act 59 of 2020.

Act 59 updated police training in several areas, including recognizing and reporting child abuse; de-escalation and harm reduction techniques; interacting with individuals of diverse racial, cultural, ethnic, and economic backgrounds; and appropriate use of force.

This is not the end of our struggle for justice, but a gigantic step forward towards achieving greater treatment under the law for all in Pennsylvania.

Ending Prison Gerrymandering

In August, the Legislative Reapportionment Commission voted to stand for fairness and equity in elections by backing the plan to #EndPrisonGerrymandering. Now, the incarcerated are counted in the communities in which they reside and are longer unjustly treated as permanent residents of where they are incarcerated.

No longer are these votes taken from Black and Brown communities whose citizens are disproportionately incarcerated. No longer are these votes counted in districts that contain prisons.

I am proud the Legislative Reapportionment Commission stood up for equal treatment before the law and truly embraced the ideals of "one person, one vote." Kudos to House Democratic Leader Joanna McClinton for leading the charge on this issue in the LRC!

FIGHTING FOR YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

At this moment, the fundamental American right to vote is under attack in state legislatures across the country. In August, I was one of over 100 state legislators from the PA House of Representatives and from across the country who joined congressional lawmakers in a rally in Washington, DC in support of #ForthePeopleAct and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, which would expand and protect voting rights. I will never stop fighting to protect our sacred right to vote!

Are You Ready to Vote?

November 2, 2021, is the Municipal Election.

The last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot is October 26, 2021. **COMPLETED BALLOTS** must be **RECEIVED** by your county election office by 8 p.m. on Election Day - postmarks are not enough.

If you have any questions, please call 1.877. VOTESPA (1.877.868.3772).

GRANTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

\$1.5 Million to Repair, Reopen Wagontown Road

Valley Township will receive \$1.5 million in state funding to repair and reopen Wagontown Road to safely restore vehicular connectivity, through PennDOT's Multimodal Transportation Fund.

Caln Blight Remediation Program

The Commonwealth Financing Authority awarded \$65,000 in funding for blight remediation in Caln. The funding will be used to help demolish a building on the Caln Township-owned Ingleside Golf Course and perform asbestos abatement. Upon completion, the golf course will become a safer and more aesthetically pleasing space for its visitors to enjoy.

Federal Dollars for Children at Risk Program

Too many children take and get hooked on drugs and alcohol at an early age. Studies have shown that early intervention programs can help prevent children from developing dangerous habits. I'm very glad that the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency approved the Chester County Intermediate Unit #24's request of \$99,705 in federal SOR funds to implement the LifeSkills Training program in the middle and high schools of 12 school districts.

This federal grant money will help educate our children of the dangers of cigarette, alcohol, and illegal drug use. I hope this program will teach our children that their lives are simply too valuable to risk by indulging in such dangerous behaviors.

Making Homes For People With Disabilities Safer

For many of our residents with disabilities, their houses often feel like potential danger zones as they haven't been constructed with their unique needs in mind. I'm very glad that this \$300K state grant for the Chester County Home Modification Program will help make homes more accessible for low-income residents with disabilities. By providing for modifications that increase safety and mobility, this state money will help our residents truly feel safe and secure in their homes.

Healthy Food, Healthy Kids

It is critical that fresh, healthy food is regularly available to our students to support physical and academic growth, but fresh fruits and vegetables are often not easily available in schools. So I'm very glad that the Coatesville Area School District will receive \$146,900 in U.S. Department of Agriculture Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program grants to make sure our kids are eating healthy in school. The funds will be distributed among the following schools: Caln Elementary School, East Fallowfield Elementary School, Kings Highway Elementary School, Rainbow Elementary School, and Reeceville Elementary School.

ALL THINGS SEPTA

Beginning on August 1, SEPTA took over for Krapf "Route A," turning it into Route 135.

SEPTA Senior Passes

Our office is providing free SEPTA Senior Passes to all seniors 65 and older.

Expirations of current SEPTA Senior passes have been extended, based on the month on the card, through the end of 2022.

New Train Station in Coatesville

I am very pleased to announce that the long-awaited building of the new train station in Coatesville will begin construction in the spring.

I was instrumental in getting a \$1M RACP grant to build a multimodal garage next to the new train station. This new train station is critical to advancing the city's plans for redevelopment and revitalization.

ERAP assistance for housing

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) was created to help renters dealing with financial challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. For eligible households, the program offers rental and utility assistance to help Pennsylvanians avoid eviction or loss of utility service.

Pennsylvanians can apply for themselves as tenants or a landlord can apply on behalf of current tenant(s).

A household must be responsible to pay rent on a residential property, and:

- **One or more people within the household have qualified for unemployment benefits, had a decrease in income, had increased household costs, or experienced other financial hardship due directly or indirectly to the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **One or more individuals in the household can show a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability.**
- **The household has an income at or below 80 percent of Area Median Income (AMI).**

Applications for most counties can be submitted online at www.COMPASS.state.pa.us.

SIKORSKY COATESVILLE PLANT CLOSING

I am deeply saddened by the decision to close the Sikorsky Coatesville plant in March 2022, which will result in the loss of about 240 jobs, with another 120 workers having the chance to relocate or work remotely.

I am working to help these highly skilled workers find new jobs in the region to ensure we keep their skills in the Coatesville area as well as acquire a suitable use for the Sikorsky plant to continue contributing to the tax base and the city's overall economic energy.



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PennDOT hiring winter help

As winter approaches, PennDOT will need people to fill temporary positions to help it prepare for extreme weather conditions across the commonwealth and the challenges of maintaining and clearing Pennsylvania's roads.

To apply for the Winter Maintenance Program, go to the commonwealth's employment site and search for the PennDOT Winter Maintenance Program job posting. This encompasses several job titles.



PHEAA sign-ups starting this fall

Are you getting ready to apply to college and are trying to figure out how you can afford it? The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) has information on loan and grant programs that aspiring college students and their families would find helpful.

Created by the PA General Assembly in 1963, PHEAA is a national provider of student financial aid services, serving millions of students and thousands of schools through its loan guaranty, loan servicing, financial aid processing, outreach, and other student aid programs.



Congrats to the Coatesville, Downingtown East, and Downingtown West marching bands for your success at the 2021 Cavalcade of Bands contest at Downingtown West HS. Over 17 marching units participated in this fantastic showcase of musical and athletic talent, where I had the honor of presenting awards. Thank you to all involved in making this event happen!