



HEATHER BOYD

State Representative | 163rd Legislative District



Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for reading my Summer Newsletter, where I'll highlight some hometown moments and update you on some of the latest legislative news from the PA House.

I take pride in representing our part of Delco, including Upper Darby and Darby townships, and the boroughs of Aldan, Clifton Heights and Collingdale. I relish the opportunity to take your voice to Harrisburg, where I vote on many matters important to the people of Pennsylvania.

In addition to voting in the Capitol, I serve constituents of the 163rd Legislative District here in my district offices, as well. You can contact my offices about any state-related issue between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, at my Clifton Heights office. I also run part-time hours at my Drexel Hill office.

I also will be offering expanded hours in Collingdale Borough and Upper Darby this fall. Please call my main office for those hours.



In May, PA House Appropriations Committee Chair Rep. Jordan Harris and House Speaker Rep. Joanna McClinton joined me and my colleagues in Upper Darby to talk about the 2024-25 PA State Budget. Thank you to all the residents who came out to participate in the conversation!

Clifton Heights Office

6 South Springfield Road
Unit A

Clifton Heights, PA 19018-2234

P*: (484) 200-1563

Call ahead for hours or an appointment.

Drexel Hill Office

5248 Township Line Rd.
Drexel Hill, PA 19026-4527

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To stay even more up to date, you can subscribe to my email updates by signing up on my website at www.PaHouse.com/Boyd.

You can find me on social media, as well.

/RepHeatherBoyd

@RepHeatherBoyd

@RepHeatherBoyd

Read on to learn more about the state budget we passed this summer, advancements for women's health, prevailing wage legislation and more. If you have questions about anything you read here or have other thoughts you'd like to share about Pennsylvania government, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Sincerely,

Budget makes comprehensive investments in education

This summer, I voted in favor of a state budget that marks a significant victory for Pennsylvania, paving the way for a brighter future for all. This budget aligns with the priorities of Pennsylvanians and showcases our capacity to lead and collaborate effectively in a divided government.

There is much to be proud of.

Foremost, it allocates substantial additional funding for schools, focusing on those in vulnerable districts. With an unprecedented \$1.3 billion investment, this budget supports every student and fulfills our moral, constitutional and legal responsibilities to our children, faculty, parents and taxpayers.

The increased infusion includes \$526 million to begin to fix the funding disparities among Pennsylvania's school districts – as directed by Commonwealth Court – and help homeowners who've been shouldering the heaviest burden in paying for their schools.

In our legislative district, more than \$26 million more in state funding was added for our area school districts – William Penn, Upper Darby and Southeast Delco.

The budget also establishes a new State Board of Higher Education, provides more support for public universities, and invests in making a college education more affordable for Pennsylvania students. It helps students with over \$120 million in increased funding for scholarships and grants, including \$28 million for scholarships to students pursuing a degree in a high-demand field, a \$54 million increase to PHEAA student grants and \$5 million for disadvantaged students' scholarships.

Meanwhile, we're keeping more senior citizens in the homes they spent a lifetime building – and putting more money back into their pockets to spend on what they want. The budget adds \$12.6 million in funding to the Living Independence for the Elderly (LIFE) program that helps keep seniors in their homes by offering care and support to seniors facing health challenges. In Delaware County, Mercy LIFE administers these services including medical care, transportation and recreational therapy.

Major economic development priorities secured in the budget also include \$500 million for site development, \$20 million for the Main Street Matters program to support small businesses and commercial corridors, \$20 million in state funding for small minority-owned businesses in Pennsylvania and \$15 million for tourism marketing to boost our economy, attract more visitors and support good-paying jobs.

The budget also delivers wins for health care in Pennsylvania, including an additional \$2.5 million in funding for maternal health care initiatives. It also contains \$3 million for a new initiative to get menstrual hygiene products in schools.

While there is more we'll continue to work at, this budget also makes historic investments in public safety, community and economic development and much more.



Contraceptive access proposal passes House

I'm happy to announce that we could finally arrive at better contraceptive health care in Pennsylvania under a proposal that passed the House.

House Bill 1140 would require health insurance policies to cover all forms of contraceptive care without any out-of-pocket costs to consumers.

This is particularly important because women of all ages and conditions rely on contraceptive medications to keep their bodies healthy and/or to plan for a family. No longer should it be treated like a special-case medicine.

Nine out of 10 women of reproductive age have used some form of contraception at some point in their lives, but many contraceptives are still difficult to access.

The bill is with the Senate for consideration.

Although abortion remains legal in PA two years following *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, our work to protect abortion rights is never done. We must unequivocally support and codify a woman's right to choose and access the full scope of reproductive health care. These services are essential.



Voting for telemedicine

Studies show that four out of five Americans have used telemedicine. It was a lifesaver for many people during the COVID-19 pandemic and continues to help people access critical health care, including mental health care.

Unfortunately, Pennsylvania is one of a handful of states that do not require health insurers to cover telemedicine. This leaves Pennsylvanians at serious risk of not receiving care at all, and that's unacceptable.

This summer, we voted for legislation in the House that would improve access to health care by requiring health insurers to cover telemedicine in their plans. Under the bill (H.B. 1512), a health insurer could not refuse to pay or reimburse a participating health care provider or a covered person for a medically necessary and appropriately covered health care service provided through telemedicine.

The bill is with the Senate for consideration.

Bill improving elections stalled in Senate

As a member of the House State Government Committee, I've been particularly plugged into issues focusing on voting access and the security of our elections. People all over Pennsylvania have said that voting security and access are two of the most important issues facing us at the state-government level.

In response, I'm proud to report that the House passed a bill to allow pre-canvassing of mail and absentee ballots to begin up to seven days before an election. This is an important safeguard to running our elections and has been asked for specifically to help our county workers. I hope the Senate votes to pass it first thing this fall.

An earlier start to pre-canvassing – which involves inspecting and opening envelopes containing ballots; removing them from the envelopes; and counting, computing and tallying the votes (but not reporting or publishing those votes) – is needed to address delays and frustration arising under the current law, which does not permit election workers to start the process until 7 a.m. on Election Day.

The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania issued a statement of support for (H.B. 847), calling the need to provide counties the expanded ability to pre-canvass mail-in and absentee ballots a "top priority for counties, especially ahead of what is expected to be a closely watched 2024 presidential election year."

The has been stalled in the Senate since May 17.

Prevailing wage legislation passes House

I'm proud to report that the House passed a bill (H.B. 2153) that would update the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act to address the issues of split rates and custom fabrication.

This legislation would prohibit the practice of paying "split rates" on publicly funded construction projects and ensure that custom fabrication work done by tradespeople away from the main job site is paid to the prevailing wage.

Since off-site work is not currently covered by the Prevailing Wage Act, many contractors use this loophole to pay their employees a sub-standard "shop" rate when they do this work and only pay the prevailing wage when the workers are on the job site. This cheats the intent of the law and undercuts honest contractors in the bidding process, while exploiting their labor force for increased profits.

The legislation now goes to the Senate for consideration.

SEPTA Senior Key Cards and renewals

If you have a SEPTA Senior Key Card that has expired or will expire within the next month, we can renew it in our district office. To renew your card before it expires, please stop by my district office or call us to make an appointment.

My office can also process applications and take photos for new SEPTA Senior Key ID Cards, which allow seniors 65 and older to travel for free on all SEPTA Regional Rail and transit routes within Pennsylvania. Just stop by my district office and bring a form of ID with your date of birth on it, such as a PA driver's license or non-driver ID, U.S. passport, or birth certificate. We'll enter your information into SEPTA's online system, take a quick photo, and then SEPTA will mail your new card to you directly.

Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program deadline moved

The application period for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program has been extended to Dec. 31. But don't let that slow you down from applying if you qualify – payments are already being sent out.

Also, the program's qualifying income limits were raised this year to \$45,000 for both homeowners and renters. The program's maximum standard rebate has also increased to \$1,000 — up from the prior \$650 maximum.

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. Rebates must be applied for every year as they are based on annual income and property taxes or rent paid during the prior year.

Contact my office or visit my event in October for more information or for help applying! Please RSVP by contacting my office if you plan on attending.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE CLINIC
EXPANDED TO HELP MORE PEOPLE

State Senator **TIM KEARNEY** &
State Representative **HEATHER BOYD**

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE CLINIC

Friday | October 25 | 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Clifton Heights Municipal Building
(Community Room)
130 South Springfield Road | Clifton Heights, PA 19018

Property Tax / Rent Rebate 2024 Program Expansion

MORE people eligible, **MORE** money back!

Homeowner Income	Rebate	Renter Income	Rebate
Up to \$8K	\$1,000	Up to \$8K	\$1,000
Up to \$15K	\$770	Up to \$15K	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$460	Up to \$18K	\$460
Up to \$35K	\$380	Up to \$45K	\$380
Up to \$45K	\$380		

Questions? Contact my office for help receiving your refund!

Talking with Nemours Children's Health

In May, my colleagues and I joined Nemours Children's Health for a critical discussion on health care equity and innovative ways to improve maternal and child health.

Meanwhile, as part of our critical look at maternal health in Harrisburg, the House passed legislation authored by state Rep. Morgan Cephas that would extend Medicaid coverage to doula services in the state. The bill is with the Senate.

Under H.B. 1608, Medicaid would reimburse certified doulas for providing childbirth education and support services, including physical and emotional support, during pregnancy, labor and delivery and up to one year postpartum.



Supporting immigrants

I rallied with immigration supporters to call for driver's licenses for all. Driving PA Forward promises that granting driver's licenses to immigrants, regardless of their immigration status, is a policy that can enhance public safety, support economic growth, improve law enforcement efficiency and promote social integration.



I was proud to stand with the PA Legislative Latino Caucus, PA Legislative Black Caucus, the American Immigration Business Coalition and more to advocate for granting work permits to long term immigrants. Let's remember that behind every statistic is a human story of courage, determination and the pursuit of a better life. Immigrants embody the values of hard work and resilience that we all admire!



Shred event a success!

It may have been hot out, but state Rep. Gina H. Curry and I held an amazing Shredding and Data Protection event! Thanks to everyone who participated!



Purple House Project

It was such a pleasure to meet with the Purple House Project and celebrate the \$25,000 grant they were awarded to continue their mission to strengthen, empower, and transition women impacted by Intimate Partner Violence.



Honoring Juneteenth

This year's was a perfect night for Delco's 3rd Annual Juneteenth Celebration. It was wonderful to honor and reflect on the significance of Juneteenth on our community's history.





State Representative
HEATHER BOYD

5248 Township Line Rd.
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

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**State Senator
TIM KEARNEY**

along with

**State Representative
HEATHER BOYD**

invite you to their

**SEPTEMBER
12th
THURSDAY**

9AM - 12PM

**SAVE
THE DATE**

**SENIOR
EXPO**

2024

**The Drexelbrook
Catering and
Events Center**
4700 Drexelbrook Dr.
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

Senior Expo

I hope all our seniors, their family members and caregivers can join us later this month as we hope to welcome hundreds of seniors for free refreshments, entertainment, giveaways and more. Learn about all the services you need and maybe find a new local vendor who carries the products you want.

My Office Can Help You With ...

- SEPTA Senior Key Cards
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications
- Birth Certificate applications
- PennDOT driver and vehicle documents
- Disability plates and placards
- Concerns about potholes and state road conditions
- Unemployment Compensation issues
- Unclaimed Property search and forms
- Questions about Real ID
- Department of Human Services benefits (SNAP, Medical Assistance, LIHEAP)
- Consumer complaints
- Any state-related issue or program!