

Comitta's Corner

State Representative Carolyn Comitta

My office can help you with:

- Car registrations, special tags, titles and license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Unemployment compensation problems
- Birth and death certificate applications
- Problems with Pennsylvania income taxes
- Problems with Department of Human Services (food stamps, public assistance)
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
- Consumer complaints
- Problems or questions about PennDOT
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Disability license plates and placards
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- Local government officials' problems with state agencies

Any problem with state government!!

Dear Neighbor,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. These past few months have been a difficult time for all of us. We've all experienced a disruption to our daily lives and continue to adjust to a new normal with COVID-19. I hope to share valuable information and updates on my work in Harrisburg and news from around the district.

It's an honor to serve the 156th Legislative District. Please know that my office is here to assist you with any state-related concern or question.





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District Office:

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www.RepComitta.com •   @RepComitta

For help and the latest on COVID-19 in Pennsylvania, please check out the following resources

■ Questions about COVID-19?

PA Department of Health: 877-PA-HEALTH

■ COVID-19 testing questions?

Chester County Department of Health: 610-344-6225

■ LIHEAP: 866-857-7095

■ Chester County Food Bank: 610-873-6000

■ Mortgage/rental assistance: 855-827-3466

■ Feeling overwhelmed?

Valley Creek Crisis Center: 610-280-3270
or text "PA" to 741741

■ Chester County Warmline: 866-846-2722, for those feeling depressed or needing someone to talk to.

■ Chester County Human Services: 610-344-6640

■ West Chester Food Cupboard: 610-344-3175



My district office staff and I #SmileBehindOurMasks.

'My Mask Protects You and Your Mask Protects Me'

On July 1, Governor Tom Wolf announced an extended order by Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine of requiring universal face coverings. The order requires face masks, a covering of the nose and mouth, in all public spaces, especially when social distancing cannot be maintained.

More and more health experts have called for mask wearing, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who said during a June 30 Senate hearing on COVID-19, "Americans who don't wear masks may propagate the further spread of infection."

Wearing a mask is an act of kindness that will not only serve to protect you, but also those around you and those most vulnerable.

2020 GENERAL ELECTION IMPORTANT DATES

- OCT 19** Last day to register to vote for the general election.
register.votesPA.com
- OCT 27** Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot.
votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot
- NOV 3** Voted mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by the county by 8pm.
votesPA.com/County
- NOV 3** General election day. Polls are open from 7am to 8pm.
votesPA.com/Polls

2020 General Election:

Now in Pennsylvania, every registered voter can use mail-in voting. You may either request a mail-in ballot or an absentee ballot to complete and return to your county election office. You can apply online at www.votesPA.com or you can contact my office at (610) 696-4990 for an application to be mailed to you.

■ Absentee ballot: If you plan to be out of the municipality on Election Day or if you have a disability or illness, you should request this ballot type, which still requires you to list a reason for your ballot.

■ Mail-in ballot: Any qualified voter may apply for a mail-in ballot. You may simply request this ballot without a reason.

VotesPA.com

Defending our Environment

As Vice Chair of the bicameral Climate Caucus and the Joint Legislative Conservation Committee, I understand and full-heartedly support the urgent need to transition to clean and renewable energy sources.

We have a constitutional right to clean air and water. Here are some of the ways I'm fighting for our environment in Harrisburg. Recently, the Conservation Voters of PA gave me a 100% rating on environmental issues for 2019-2020, and I have a lifetime score of 100%

I was a 'no' vote on HB 732, a bill that would give a \$670 million tax credit to the petrochemical industry.

During this recession and pandemic, it is critical that we take care

of our most vulnerable citizens - the elderly, the sick, the homeless, and those laid off due to COVID-19. This does nothing for those who have been affected most by the pandemic.

HB 732 is a tax credit that would lock us into 25 years of boosted pollution, and in return, each factory is expected to create jobs, but many of these are temporary jobs that will disappear once the construction of these investments is completed. A coalition of 62 conservation, faith, business, and environmental groups asked for a no vote on these measures, and I heard them loud and clear.

I will continue to vote 'no' on legislation that threatens our environment so that we can begin to transition away from our dependence on fossil fuels, not encourage its growth.

Mariner East Pipeline

Over the past three years, I have convened stakeholder meetings, facilitated discussions, and advocated for safety regulations for natural gas liquid (NGL) pipelines. I support the tireless efforts of the various pipeline groups in our area. While understanding that there is no safe pipeline, we must be prepared to do everything we can to make sure there are proper regulations and rigorous safety measures in place.

I reintroduced my two pipeline bills this 2019-2020 session, HB 1567: Eminent Domain for Public Utilities, and HB 1568: Pipeline Safety and Communication Board. Last summer, the Veteran's Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee held a hearing on HB 1568 but there have been no efforts to move it out of committee since then.

Regular multi-stakeholder meetings have brought state agencies, Chester County Department of Emergency Services, elected officials and representatives from Energy Transfer to promote public safety and communication on Mariner. The most promising outcome of these meetings is the PUC



Ensuring clean air and water for all is a part of our Pennsylvania constitution.

rulemaking process, which would add safety regulations for NGL pipelines as there are currently none. This process is on track to be completed and hopefully adopted by the end of the year.

For the first time, the Governor's 2020-2021 Executive Budget Book and address included pipeline safety as a priority, including emphasizing the proposed rulemaking on

NGLs. This would not have been possible without the persistent efforts that I and my Chester County colleagues and our citizens have made. My top priority continues to be the public health and safety of our community and residents.

Please visit my website for updates and more information on my work related to Mariner East pipeline: <https://bit.ly/2EoTbGc>.



Photo provided by Mayor Dianne Herrin

Addressing Systemic Injustices

The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others were inhumane, criminal and unacceptable. In response, we've seen a wave of protests erupting across the country and around the world in the fight to stand up against injustices. In the 156th District, hundreds in the West Chester community and beyond gathered to stand in solidarity with our Black neighbors and friends. I was inspired and proud to stand with so many from our community for such an important cause.

As a result, Governor Wolf outlined multiple actions directed at meaningful police reforms, many based on the 21st Century Policing Task Force and supported by the PA Legislative Black Caucus. I am pleased to announce that in June the House passed two pieces of legislation that would tackle police reform.

On July 14, Governor Wolf signed both bills into law. There is still so much work needed but these bills are a step in the right direction. I pledge that I will always do everything I can

POLICE REFORM PROPOSALS

REFORMS THAT REQUIRE STATE LEGISLATION

- ✓ Require law enforcement officers to be evaluated for PTSD after a lethal use-of-force incident.
- ✓ Create database to track officer disciplinary actions that law enforcement agencies can search to find potential red flags before hiring an officer that's separated from another law enforcement agency.
- ✓ Remove consent as a defense to sexual assault that occurs while in police custody.

SIGNED INTO LAW

JULY 14, 2020

to help each of you and our community fight racism, protect each of our neighbors and affirm the dignity of all people. We all have the right to be treated with dignity, respect, and equality

Unemployment FAQ & Updates

The Department of Labor & Industry offers several unemployment compensation programs for Pennsylvanians. While it can be hard to navigate and understand all the information available, my office has assisted with hundreds of cases of the following programs. If you have a question or concern about your case, please contact my office at (610) 696-4990 or email me at repcomitta@pahouse.net.

■ **(Regular) Unemployment Compensation:** Worked as an employee in the last 18 months or was both self-employed and an employee in the last 18 months.

■ **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA):** Was self-employed in the last 18 months and is unemployed for a COVID-19 reason. Expanded eligibility for individuals who have traditionally been ineligible for UC benefits (e.g., self-employed workers, independent contractors).

■ **Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC):** Already exhausted a regular UC claim on or

after July 5, 2019 and do not requalify yet. If your benefit year is active: Auto-Setup (Do NOT apply). If your benefit year is not active: Submit an application.

■ **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC):** FPUC is paid

on all these programs. \$600 on top of each benefit payment, applying to weeks 4/4/20 through 7/25/20.

You can also visit the department's website for more information on any of these programs, FAQ and helpful tips here: www.dli.pa.gov.

Which UC program should you file for?



PennDOT Updates

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has postponed the enforcement date for REAL ID from October 1, 2020, to October 1, 2021, in response to COVID-19 and the national emergency declaration. PennDOT made the decision to

pause REAL ID issuance in the commonwealth out of an abundance of caution and in the interest of public health. Most driver and vehicle services can be completed online at www.DMV.pa.gov.

Do you want to submit a road concern

to PennDOT? You can do so via the PennDOT Customer Care website: <https://customercare.penndot.gov/>.

Please feel free to contact my office at (610) 696-4990 for assistance, questions, or concerns about PennDOT services.



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lpo.is.0820

2020 Census

Have you completed the 2020 Census?

Census data will determine how more than \$675 billion in federal funds will be distributed to states each year of the following decade. These are funds that go to critical infrastructure, roads, bridges, Medicare, education, senior citizens' programs, human services support, rural development and much more.



The 2020 Census "Self-Response Phase" will end on Sept. 30, 2020. You can respond online, via phone by calling (844) 330-2020. All census responses are confidential and secure.

Visit the 2020 Census website to respond online or for more information: www.2020census.gov.

SEPTA Key Update

My district office is now available to take applications for SEPTA Key Senior ID cards. **Please call ahead to schedule an appointment. We will be limiting the number of appointments per day, in order to properly sanitize and disinfect between each applicant.**

No SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards will expire during calendar year 2020. Seniors holding cards that expire in 2020 will be able to continue to ride SEPTA using their current card for 12 months beyond the printed date of expiration. For instance, cards expiring in July 2020 will remain valid through July 2021.

Customers with lost, stolen or damaged Key Senior ID cards can send a \$5.00 check or money order payable to "SEPTA" to the following address: SEPTA, P.O. Box 824833, Philadelphia, PA 19182-4833. The first replacement card is \$5.00; each subsequent replacement card is \$25.00.

Please contact my office at (610) 696-4990 if you have any questions or to schedule an appointment.

