



State Representative to the 50th Legislative District

Pam SNYDER



www.pahouse.com/Snyder

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Winter 2014

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

Rep. Snyder opposed tax increase at the pump

Rep. Snyder voted four times against proposals that already are increasing gasoline and diesel prices at the pump.

“We need to rebuild our crumbling roads and bridges, but not on the backs of workers and families,” Rep. Snyder said.

The proposals call for gradually increasing the tax rate on wholesale gasoline purchases, potentially adding 28.5 cents a gallon to gasoline prices and 38.5 cents for diesel over five years.

Some of the more than 150 tax and fee increases being phased in by the transportation plan include:

- A 28.5-cent-a-gallon increase on gasoline;
- A 38.5-cent increase on diesel;
- A \$2 increase for passenger car registrations;
- An optional \$5 county vehicle registration fee;
- A \$61 increase for personal registration plates;

- Annual registration increases for large trucks for the next four years;
- A \$2 increase for driver’s license renewal;
- A \$15 increase for photo ID cards;
- A \$15 increase for replacement driver’s licenses; and
- A \$32.50 increase for certificates of title.



“I fully support the need for transportation funding, but I could not support reducing wages for our hard-working middle-class families while at the same time significantly increasing the price of fuel,” Snyder said. “The increases will have serious repercussions – now and down the road – on household budgets, fuel prices and incomes.”

Safeguards needed on shutdowns of coal-fired plants

Rep. Snyder has introduced legislation that would provide protections and parameters when a coal-fired power plant in Pennsylvania faces closure.

“We know only too well that the current system does not serve southwestern Pennsylvania or the commonwealth adequately,” Rep. Snyder said.

“Owners of facilities now can simply power down and lock their doors with no clear-cut responsibilities for the shuttered facilities or the impacts on plant employees and surrounding communities.”

Rep. Snyder said her House Bill 2030 would create a Coal-Fired Electric Generation Deactivation Commission to assess the energy, environmental, economic, and community impacts associated with a plant shutdown.

“Currently, only the regional electric grid operator has oversight when a coal-fired generation facility is slated for shutdown, and that oversight is limited to preserving reliability of the power supply,” Snyder said. “We must do better to ensure power supplies and protect the communities affected by closures.”

Snyder said the responsibilities of PJM Interconnections, the grid operator for the Northeast, are limited to the preservation of grid reliability, leaving many critical issues not fully vetted by local or state governments before a deactivation.

“PJM only requires 90 days’ notice when a generator decides to deactivate, and no requirements exist to provide similar notifications to the employees left adrift,” Snyder said. “These communities have given their life blood to power Pennsylvania and the nation, and the current ‘cut and run’ policies leave too many harms and questions in their wake.” **Continued on page 2**



Rep. Snyder confers with power plant workers during a legislative hearing to discuss the shutdowns of the Hatfield’s Ferry and Mitchell coal-fired power plants. Rep. Snyder has introduced legislation calling for better protections and parameters when coal-fired plants face deactivations.

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Rep. Snyder questioned PJM's determination that adequate power supplies existed to allow two FirstEnergy coal-fired generation plants in southwestern Pennsylvania -- the Hatfield's Ferry plant in Greene County and the Mitchell power plant in Washington County -- to close last year.

"We didn't get 10 days into 2014 before PJM asked consumers to curb power use as demand soared during a cold snap," Rep. Snyder said. "More

questions were raised than answered by the process, and my bill aims to see that it doesn't happen again."

Snyder said the Coal-Fired Electric Generation Deactivation Commission would enable state and local government officials, affected employees, business owners, and other stakeholders to participate in public hearings.

"After all the stakeholders have weighed in, the commission would be required

to render a final decision concerning the deactivation of a coal-fired electric generation power plant," Snyder said. "The panel also would be charged with developing employee protections, such as minimum requirements for severance payments and the continuation of health care benefits."

Rep. Snyder said the legislation would require the owner to remediate the facility and the surrounding area to receive approval to deactivate.

Snyder bill would forbid job bias based on marital, family status

Rep. Snyder has introduced legislation that would prohibit employers from discriminating based on a job applicant's marital or parental status.

"Under my legislation, House Bill 1984, employers would be prohibited from asking job applicants of any gender whether they have children, plan to have children, or are married," Rep. Snyder said. "Such irrelevant and inappropriate questions have no place in Pennsylvania or its workplaces."

Rep. Snyder said many people mistakenly believe that familial discrimination is illegal in Pennsylvania.

"It's a misperception that harms families," Rep. Snyder said. "Neither federal nor state laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of an employee's or an applicant's marital status."

Snyder said employers also lose through job discrimination based on marital or family status.

"Employment should be based more on qualifications, not stereotypes," Rep. Snyder said. "Until these relics are removed from hiring standards, employers are missing out on countless motivated, productive and valuable employees."

Sign up for email updates



I want to alert you to House rules that prohibit when I can contact you leading up to an election. Unless you specifically opt in to continue receiving my emails, I'm prohibited from sending you legislative email updates for 60 days preceding the 2014 primary and general elections.

Opting in will allow you to continue to receive notices about important issues that matter to you, including:

- Updates on legislation, including the new state budget
- News and events in the district
- Information about recycling drives/shredding events
- Other relevant government-related information

You can sign up to receive my email alerts -- and opt in to continue to receive them around elections -- by visiting my website at www.pahouse.com/Snyder, clicking "E-MAIL ALERTS" and filling out the form.



Rep. Snyder introduced the 2013 Greene County Fair Queen, Chelsey Wilson of Waynesburg, around the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Joining them for the Capitol tour was Chelsey's mother, Amy.

New 50th Legislative District takes effect in December

Dear Friend,

Come December, the 50th Legislative District will look a bit different.

The changes are coming because the state constitution requires that legislative districts be redrawn every 10 years to reflect population shifts and to ensure accurate distribution of state and federal money.

Some of you are receiving a newsletter from me for the first time, meaning you will live in the 50th Legislative District, which I now represent, later this year. Your current state representative will remain your representative until Nov. 30, 2014.

Most of the current 50th Legislative District will not be affected by the changes. All of Greene County will remain in the 50th District. Also remaining in the 50th District will be East Bethlehem Township and Centerville boroughs in Washington County. Luzerne Township and Masontown and Brownsville boroughs in Fayette County also will remain in the 50th District.

It is important to note that the changes do not affect your township, borough or school district affiliation. Again, the transition will take effect in December 2014.



No matter the changes, I remain committed to providing the best of service to ALL citizens. My legislative website, www.pahouse.net/Snyder, features information about me and the district, as well as news releases, links to an employment center and a variety of key state resources.

My offices are available for any questions you may have.

I look forward to serving you!

All the best,



Rep. Snyder competed in the VIP Dairy Showmanship Contest at the 2014 Pennsylvania Farm Show and was assisted by Stephanie Stahl of Somerset County, an experienced Farm Show exhibitor. The contest was coordinated by the Pennsylvania Center for Dairy Excellence and Penn Ag Industries Association to spotlight the significant role the dairy industry plays in Pennsylvania.

Bill would name span after decorated Army officer

To honor a deserving area military veteran, Rep. Snyder has introduced House Bill 1972, which would name the bridge carrying State Route 18 over Fish Creek in Freeport Township, Greene County, as the Lieutenant Colonel Cephus Lee Roupe Memorial Bridge.

Lt. Col. Roupe was born on Nov. 7, 1957, in Waynesburg, and passed away at age 54 on March 2, 2012, after serving his country in the United States Army for 36 years.

“He was one of the most experienced Medical Service Corps aviators and someone we all can be proud of,” Rep. Snyder said.

As a Master Army Aviator, Lt. Col. Roupe was a combat veteran of two tours in Iraq as part of Operation Desert Storm. He also served in Afghanistan – Operation Enduring Freedom—and the Bosnian War.

Lt. Col. Roupe began his career as an enlisted soldier and excelled

through the ranks. He received his aviation wings at Fort Rucker, Ala., as a warrant officer and obtained a direct commission appointment to the Medical Service Corps, qualified to pilot numerous types of aircraft.

“He served proudly and courageously, and his sacrifices deserve to be remembered and noted.”

H.B. 1972 awaits consideration by the full House.



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Rep. Pam Snyder

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INSIDE:

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- A 'No' vote on tax increase
- Snyder seeks safeguards on shutdowns of coal-fired plants

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The region responded with open hearts – and hundreds of coats – to the coat drive Rep. Snyder sponsored in December to benefit local families in need. Rep. Snyder and her staff partnered with the Waynesburg Salvation Army, the Masontown Helping Hands Ministry and Crosskeys Human Services of Brownsville to distribute the coats locally.

My office can help you with:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Public Welfare (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kind – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

ANY QUESTION ABOUT STATE GOVERNMENT!

Here to serve YOU!

Can't make it to one of my offices?

No problem. My staff is now making regular monthly visits to Washington and Fayette counties!

In Fayette County, my staff will be available on the following days and locations:

- From 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Hiller Volunteer Fire Dept., 937 First St.; and

- From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Masontown Borough Municipal Center, 1 E. Church Ave.

In Washington County, staff will be available on the following days and locations:

- From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the Fredericktown Area Public Library, 38 Water St.; and

- From 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Richeyville Volunteer Fire Co., 14 Firehall Road.

No appointments are necessary, and my staff will be able to assist with any state program, from the state's prescription drug assistance programs to property tax and rent rebates and everything in between.

The monthly outreaches do NOT affect my regular offices at 104 S. Market St. in Carmichaels, at 33 Market St. in Brownsville and at 93 E. High St. in Waynesburg. Contact information is available through my website, www.pahouse.com/Snyder.

Please call my Carmichaels office at 724-966-8953 with any questions.

All the best,

Pam Snyder