



State Representative *to the* 50th Legislative District

Pam
SNYDER



www.pahouse.com/Snyder

Capitol Office: 123B East Wing • P.O. Box 202050 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2050 • (717) 783-3797
District Office: 104 S. Market St., Suite 101 • Carmichaels, PA 15320 • (724) 966-8953
Satellite Offices: 200 Second St. (Council Chambers) • Brownsville, PA 15417 • (724) 785-8477
 93 E. High St., Room 215 • Waynesburg, PA 15370 • (724) 627-8683

Summer 2014

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

It CAN Wait!



In partnership with AT&T, I sponsored "It Can Wait" distracted driving events at area schools this year. On top, Brownsville High School drivers' education students and I view the consequences of texting while driving on a texting-and-driving simulator. Bottom, Bethlehem-Center High School students take the pledge not to text while driving.

Greenhouse gas plan must work for us!

My H.B. 2354 would ensure reasonable electricity rates, protect reliability

On July 1, the state House of Representatives passed my measure that would ensure Pennsylvania's interests – and our local concerns – are served as a federal mandate to reduce greenhouse gases is implemented.

My House Bill 2354 would provide a safety net to protect Pennsylvania's electric ratepayers as well as the reliability of the electricity grid that we all rely on. It would establish commonsense protocols as the state Department of Environmental Protection develops a plan for submission to the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Pennsylvania is under a federal mandate to cut coal plants' carbon dioxide, and my measure, the Pennsylvania Greenhouse Gas Regulation Implementation Act, would not alter that.

However, Pennsylvania has a responsibility to see that the plan serves the commonwealth by protecting jobs, pocketbooks and power supplies.

All stakeholders need to work together to achieve this, and I believe cooperation and consensus are much better strategies than assuming that the EPA will do what's best for Pennsylvania.

House Bill 2354 would direct DEP to develop emission curbs at least cost to Pennsylvania ratepayers after holding public hearings to receive input on the latest technologies and energy efficiency programs.

DEP also would consider factors such as Pennsylvania's unique energy blend and the efficiency improvements already implemented at power plants.

Only after all stakeholders are heard from would an implementation plan be submitted to the state House and Senate for approval.

Under my proposal, the plan could be returned to DEP for modifications if either the House or Senate finds fault with it. Pennsylvania also could request more time from the EPA to submit a plan.

Pennsylvania WILL have a plan to reduce greenhouse gases, but my bill would help ensure that it protects our interests, citizens and wallets.

House Bill 2354 is now before the state Senate.

HOUSE BILL No. 2354 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY **SNYDER**, OBERLANDER, KORTZ, KOTIK, SANKEY, NEUMAN, JAMES, TOPPER, HARHAI, GOODMAN, GIBBONS, LUCAS, HANNA, KULA, AUMENT, D. COSTA, CARROLL, EVERETT, CLYMER, READSHAW, P. DALEY, MARSHALL AND MAHONEY, JUNE 18, 2014

New budget is a poor roadmap for Pa.

Pennsylvania's \$29.1 billion budget for 2014-15 is fiscally irresponsible and strategically barren.

I couldn't support it. It is a bad roadmap for Pennsylvania's future.

Look around us: Most states are dealing with budget surpluses – not deficits to the tune of \$1.5 billion.

Other states' job-creation numbers are putting Pennsylvania's to shame – we've recently been ranked 47th and 49th.

The rest of the country is moving forward to recover from the Great Recession. Pennsylvania – at best – is treading water.

Instead of creating jobs and promoting economic development, the budget takes the policy mistakes of the last three years and doubles down on them.

The spending blueprint does little to reverse the governor's \$1 billion cut to public education in his first budget. The funding cuts have now grown to \$2.7 billion, causing larger class sizes, fewer course offerings, higher property taxes and the loss of 20,000 education jobs.

Worse yet, the budget proposal is based on gimmicky revenue assumptions and one-time funding sources, including:

- Diverting \$30 million from the Volunteer Fire Companies Loan Fund;
- Raiding \$95 million and \$85 million, respectively, from the Small Business First and Machinery and Equipment Loan funds;
- Cutting \$1.9 million from the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; and
- Flat-funding county-run human service programs, retaining the governor's 10 percent funding cut for a third year.

And that just isn't good enough – or fair – for Pennsylvania, for its schools, its property taxpayers, its working families or for senior citizens.

Pennsylvanians are looking for genuine and meaningful investment in education, health care and job creation. But the damage from previous policy mistakes will not be undone by the 2014-15 budget.

In many ways, the plan will make things much worse.

Reduced vehicle registration fees for seniors

If you are retired and have a total income less than \$19,200, you may be eligible for a reduction in your vehicle registration fee.

PennDOT registration fees usually cost \$36, but this program provides the registration to you at a discounted rate of only \$10. Applications are available at my offices or on PennDOT's website: www.dmv.state.pa.us.



I won unanimous support for my House Resolution 816, which recognized May 11-17 as National Hospital Week in Pennsylvania. National EMS and Nurses Week also was celebrated in May, and state Sen. Tim Solobay joined me to present a citation to personnel at the Southwest Regional Medical Center in Waynesburg to honor the contributions of our health care providers.

Governor's pension push is misguided

Gov. Tom Corbett has been insisting that the state legislature tackle public pension "reform."

However, Gov. Corbett's idea of "reform" would:

- Cut retirement benefits for many employees by 40 percent or more;
- Not reduce pension costs any faster than the current pension reform law, Act 120;
- Not lower property taxes for homeowners; and
- Add \$67.1 billion to the pension debt by 2018, which comes to \$13,525 per household.

Pennsylvania's pension "crisis" was caused by Gov. Corbett's massive education cuts in 2011. Those cuts, sustained over the following three years, have now cost school districts nearly \$3 billion.

School districts across Pennsylvania would have an additional \$3 billion if the governor had simply funded schools at the level they were funded when he took office.

Pennsylvania's pension problem is a budget problem, a problem created by Gov. Tom Corbett.

Snyder targets drug abuse

In April, legislative leaders in Harrisburg appointed me to a four-member task force responsible for providing a full report on the changes needed to address opioid prescription drug abuse in Pennsylvania.

Remedies are needed urgently. The commonwealth has the 14th-highest death rate from drug overdoses in the nation, and southwestern Pennsylvania is in the crosshairs of the drug abuse epidemic.

As a member of the Joint State Government Commission's task force, I am working closely with health, addiction, law enforcement

and pharmacology experts to determine how legal opioids – morphine-like drugs often prescribed as painkillers – are intertwined with illegal heroin abuse.

Just because a doctor prescribes it doesn't make a drug any less dangerous or addictive. An estimated 70 percent of drug abusers are getting their drugs from family and friends who take old prescriptions being stored in family medicine cabinets.

I support legislation that would create a prescription drug database. However, we cannot simply crack down on rogue prescriptions and

"doctor shopping" for painkillers without considering that such moves might push people into the waiting arms of heroin dealers.

Addictions are ripping apart the fabric of our society and costing the state economy around \$14.3 billion – almost half the amount of the state's General Fund budget – from the loss of productivity, crashes, crime, illnesses and health care.

Now is the time to work to address this problem, and the task force is on the front line of the battle against the drug epidemic.

Changes coming Dec. 1 to 50th Legislative District

Dear Friend,

Soon, the 50th Legislative District, which I currently represent, will have a new look.

Effective Dec. 1, Brownsville and Redstone townships in Fayette County will become part of the district.

It is important to note that the changes do not affect your township, borough or school district affiliation.

My offices are available for any questions you may have.

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In addition, my staff makes regular monthly visits to Fayette and Washington counties.

In Fayette County, my staff is 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 is 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

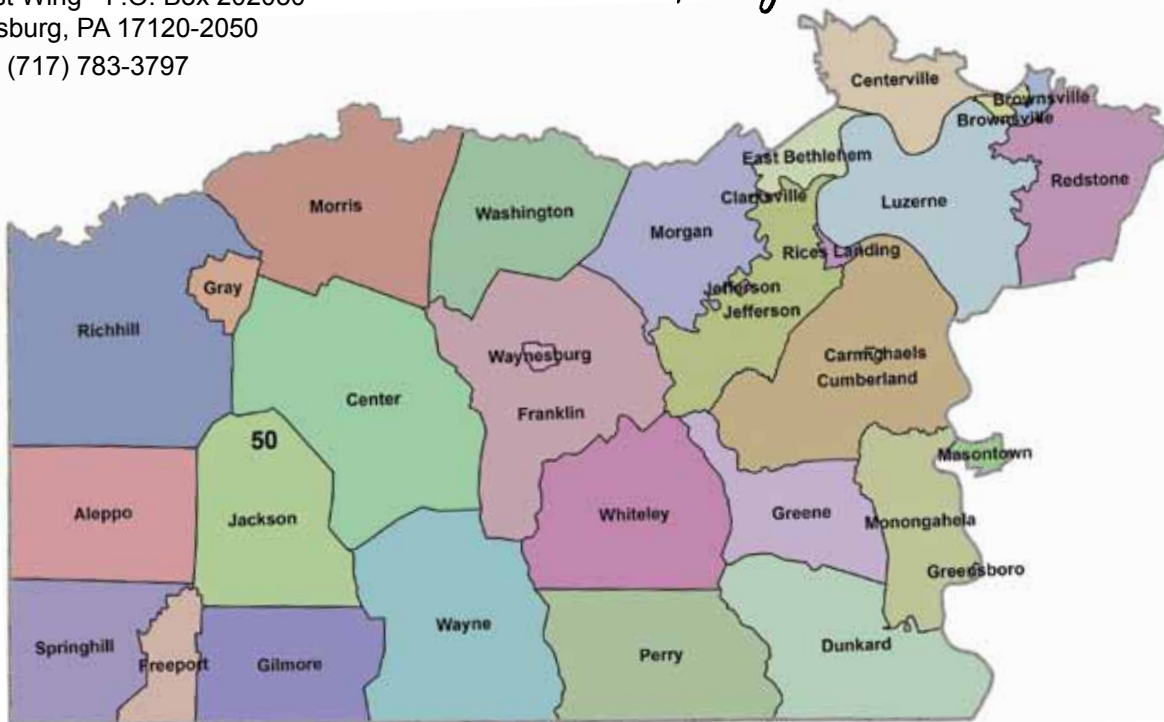
■ From 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Richeyville Volunteer Fire Co., 14 Firehall Road.

No appointments are necessary, and my staff and I can assist with any state program or concern.

All the best,

Pam Snyder

New 50th Legislative District





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P.O. Box 202050
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Rep. Pam Snyder

INSIDE:

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- State budget irresponsible
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lpo.kl.0814

A good Head Start



Quality early education is essential in today's society. Here, I gather with young friends at Masontown Head Start in April after we shared a book and some fascinating conversation.

Sign up for email updates



I want to alert you of 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 before 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
- News and events in the district
- 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.

You can also stay updated on social media. Just “like” my legislative Facebook page: www.facebook.com/RepSnyder. I'm also on Twitter: @RepSnyder.

The Lt. Gen. William M. Keys Bridge

The “Lieutenant General William M. Keys Bridge” was dedicated July 11 at the span carrying State Route 88 – Front Street – over Ten Mile Creek, linking Washington and Greene counties.

He's a man whose 34 years of dedication and service to his country deserve recognition. From Vietnam to Iraq, General Keys' leadership skills shone through and earned him the Navy Cross and Silver Star, among many other honors and accolades.

The Fredericktown native retired from the Marine Corps in 1994 but his exploits will be remembered forever.

Snyder bill would streamline mental health services for minors

The House Human Services Committee in June unanimously approved my House Bill 2212, which would clarify when a minor's consent is needed for mental health examinations and other health services.

The measure would streamline the process so mental health professionals can work expediently and effectively when circumstances dictate. I know personally of situations that have arisen locally that needed swift responses for the safety and well-being of all.

The changes I propose would specify the conditions when consent is needed, and provide for more uniform application of the standards so recovery programs can be implemented more quickly.

H.B. 2212 now faces consideration by the full House.

