



STATE REPRESENTATIVE Liz Hanbidge

61ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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Dear Friends:

I am proud to share that I was one of 48 government officials selected nationally by the Council of State Governments (CSG) to be a Toll Fellow. Part of this prestigious fellowship includes an intensive leadership bootcamp I've just returned from attending. I am hoping that the skills I learn through this experience allow me to continue to serve you well as your representative in years to come. CSG is the nation's largest nonpartisan organization serving state elected and appointed officials from all three branches of state government. Its mission is to champion excellence in state government.

These events remind me of the benefits of working across party lines to find common sense solutions to some of society's greatest challenges, like my recent work with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and so much of my work in the House. Going into my roundtable work with NCSL, I remember being concerned I would find little common ground on child guardianship laws with a representative from Maine who advocates for child marriage to remain legal. However, we were able to work on solutions together on issues of agreement. While I am not in any way advocating that we ignore issues we are passionate about, government leaders, at all levels, must start doing the hard work of solving problems rather than simply using them as wedges to drive home political points.

This skill set is becoming harder and harder to find, especially as our partisanship increases. While one party has run the state's Senate for the past 30 years and the House for 26 of the last 30, this shouldn't mean that voices from the other side of the aisle are silenced. This session, while about half of legislation proposed in the House was proposed by Democrats, less than 4% of the bills which passed the House were authored by Democrats. Only 0.7% of the bills which then passed the Senate and were signed into law were authored by Democrats. My own HB 2534 was one of only seven Democratic bills to be voted on in the State Government Committee this year out of the 90 House bills that have been voted out of committee (another 185 have been languishing in committee). This session, only around 23% of bills are receiving a vote at the committee level, irrespective of party. We must do better!

Not all things are dire. This year's budget, while over a week late, was a negotiated budget. This was the first truly negotiated budget I've seen during my tenure in the House. It made significant investments in education, infrastructure, lowering taxes, job creation, public safety, the environment, and public health. We also finally used the billions in pandemic relief monies that had been languishing in our accounts (rather than being used to help people, as they were intended). We increased our Rainy-Day fund, which now totals almost \$5 billion (only 7 years ago we had just \$200,000). While we did make great strides making education funding more equitable, we failed to update our charter school law in any meaningful way. Allocating more state funding to our schools will lower the burden of property taxes on individual taxpayers. However, our failure to close this loophole is a missed opportunity.

As this legislative session continues, I'll continue to fight for common sense solutions that limit cost drivers and for legislative solutions that serve our commonwealth. I'm also going to continue to advocate for good government reforms so that the voices of ALL Pennsylvanians are heard in Harrisburg. Please continue to reach out to me with your concerns and needs! I love hearing from and working for you!

Liz Hanbidge



Banning Abortion in Pennsylvania

Many of you reached out to me with your concerns about SB 106, the way voting on it happened, and with some follow-up questions. For those unfamiliar with this issue, SB 106 is a first step in the process of banning abortion in the commonwealth. It was part of a group of proposed constitutional amendments that passed the House and Senate in late-night votes on the final days of budget negotiations in July. I was a 'no' vote and will continue to be a 'no' vote on bills restricting women's reproductive freedom.

SB 106 states, in part, that there is no constitutional right to abortion in the commonwealth. We could see this question on our 2023 primary ballot followed shortly thereafter by passage of already introduced bills calling for near-total abortion bans, HB 904 (Borowicz) or SB 378 (Mastriano), which do not include exceptions for rape, incest or the health of the mother.

As a child advocate who has handled incest-rape cases resulting in the pregnancies of pre-teens, I am appalled by the extremism we are seeing in this commonwealth. Pregnancy, even with modern medicine, can lead to complicated and sometimes dangerous situations. Bills like these mean that women will die from delayed care in instances of ectopic pregnancies, septic uterus, and placental abruption. They also undermine the rights of women to have control of their own bodies, health, and futures. They will also impact IVF and fertility care. Reproductive health care is essential health care. It's also a private and sensitive issue, one that the legislature should not be making sweeping prohibitions about in order to gain political points.

This topic will not be on your ballot this

year. Proposed constitutional amendments must pass the General Assembly in two consecutive legislative sessions and be advertised before they may be placed on the ballot. We have seen a relatively high number of constitutional amendments being used recently where the legislature seeks to overcome a gubernatorial veto or a court's ruling. Constitutional amendments cannot be vetoed by the governor. While the constitutional amendment process can be a good and democratic thing, we risk undermining the sanctity of this process with partisan tricks meant to undermine our system of checks and balances or for outright partisan purposes.

Of particular concern, is how the legislature is going about the process of making such amendments. The legislature keeps putting such questions on the ballot in low turnout primary elections (where third-party or non-party affiliated voters don't think they can vote) and refuses to hold policy or public hearings about them. Sometimes confusing or vague language is used. These tactics are working; only about 12% of our voting-eligible population voted to amend our constitution in 2021.

While the abortion provision in SB 106 appears to only relate to taxpayer funded abortions, this is misleading as there is currently no right to taxpayer funded elective abortion in the commonwealth. The language regarding taxpayer funding is intended to distract from the latter part of the amendment. The amendment states, "this constitution does not grant the right to taxpayer funded abortion or any other right relating to abortion." Commentary on the House floor was misleading as representatives who have repeatedly promised that they will ban abortion commented that the current "Abortion Control Act" would still protect abortion



access, making no mention that they seek to later overturn the act, and that, frankly, they're the ones with the power and intent to do so. We must improve this process so that the legislature does not keep undermining the sanctity of our system of checks and balances for partisan purposes.

I also remain committed to protecting women's reproductive freedom. Representative Danielle Friel Otten and I circulated a co-sponsorship memorandum for an alternative constitutional amendment to enshrine the protections afforded in *Roe* into the Pennsylvania Constitution, as well as protections for contraception and fertility care. Currently, the Women's Health Caucus is holding policy hearings about reproductive healthcare access and how the *Dobbs* decision is impacting women across the country and how banning abortion would impact the women of the commonwealth. While I do not expect this amendment will run given the current legislative climate, we are doing the work now to undertake policy hearings, ensuring the language of the amendment is clear and not misleading, and committed to ensuring that any such amendment would be on a high turnout election. I will continue to advocate for the reproductive freedom of women and for improvements to halt abuses to the constitutional amendment process.



Liz joined by young women from GirlGov, who were advocating in the Capitol.



Liz with K9 Officer Tarter and Fury at Upper Gwynedd's National Night Out.



Liz with members of the Hispanic Caucus during a roundtable with the White House.



Liz welcoming constituents to our shredding event with Senator Maria Collett.



Liz & Senator Amanda Cappelletti with staff at the July Electronic Recycling Event.



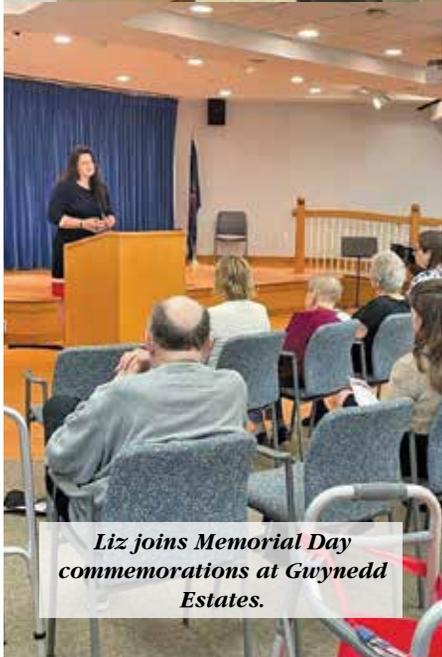
Liz on the House Floor during budget negotiations.



Liz with Acting Secretary of Health & Physician General Dr. Denise Johnson in Norristown discussing community health care and vaccine access.



Liz with other Montgomery representatives at the annual legislative luncheon hosted by the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.



Liz joins Memorial Day commemorations at Gwynedd Estates.

Liz presenting a citation at American-Korean Alliance Peace Park, honoring the 72nd anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War.



Liz meets Jaxon, a search and rescue dog, on the House floor.





Liz with Vice President Kamala Harris at a roundtable to discuss reproductive rights.



Liz speaking on HB 2534 in the State Government Committee.



Liz & Chief Duffy at Upper Gwynedd's National Night Out.



Liz joins Governor Wolf at the Women's Center of Montgomery County to discuss domestic violence and reproductive health care access.



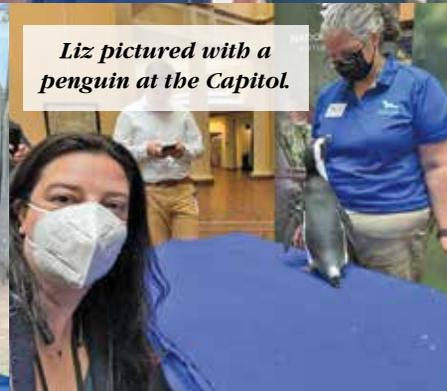
Liz attending a roundtable on reproductive rights with Vice President Kamala Harris.



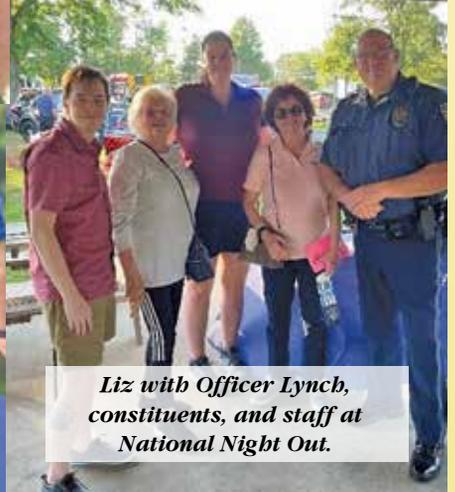
Liz presents a citation to the North Penn Squires, honoring their 50th anniversary.



Liz with Michele Minnick with the office of Montgomery County Treasurer, Jason Salus.



Liz pictured with a penguin at the Capitol.



Liz with Officer Lynch, constituents, and staff at National Night Out.

BELOW ARE A FEW PROGRAMS THAT MAY BE BENEFICIAL TO YOU:

Real ID

The REAL ID Act is a federal law that affects how states issue driver's licenses and ID cards if they are going to be used for federal purposes, such as boarding a domestic commercial flight, entering a military installation or federal facility that requires ID.

The deadline in PA to get a REAL ID is **May 3, 2023**, but you may continue using your passport for these purposes after that date if you do not wish to get a REAL ID. Therefore, the REAL ID is NOT mandatory should you not wish to get one.

If you received your first PA license AFTER September 2003 you will be able to apply for a REAL ID online. If you received your first license BEFORE September 2003 you will need to apply for your REAL ID at a PennDOT Drivers License Center.

In order to qualify for a REAL ID, you will need to bring several supporting documents with you when you go to the DMV.

1. One document as Proof of Identity.
 - a. Birth Certificate (Issued by The State and Including Parents' Names – my office can assist with obtaining a new birth certificate.)
 - b. Valid Passport.
2. Social Security Card (For information on how to obtain a replacement SS card visit www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/ or visit the closest Social Security office.)
3. Two Acceptable Proofs of PA Residency.
 - a. Current PA Driver's License.
 - b. Current PA Vehicle Registration.
 - c. Proof of Insurance.
 - d. Bank Statement (No More Than 90 Days (Old.)
 - e. W-2 Form or Pay Stub.
 - f. Tax Records.
 - g. Lease Agreement or Mortgage Documents.
4. Proof of all Legal Name Changes (If Applicable.)
 - a. Certified Marriage Certificate (This can be obtained from the county clerk of courts or orphan court.)
 - b. Court Order.

There is a one-time fee of \$30 when you file for a REAL ID as well as the license renewal fee of \$30.50 for a total cost of \$60.50. If you have recently renewed your license this will add an additional 4 years to the expiration date of your current license.

SEPTA Senior Key Card

Our office is proud to continue our partnership with SEPTA in helping our constituents gain access to SEPTA Key Cards in the most convenient way. This card is provided to residents aged 65 or older and offers free rides on all SEPTA transit routes including buses, trolleys, subway, and regional rail. Additionally, seniors who wish to take SEPTA to Delaware or New Jersey will receive a 50% discount on the fare when they tap their Key Senior Card.

We can assist in your application for an initial SEPTA Key Senior Photo Card. Please call our office to schedule your appointment. We have appointments available every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and again from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., or you can visit any time during our office hours.

The process normally only takes about five to ten minutes, and you are required to bring a government-issued ID that lists your birthdate like a driver's license or photo ID. At this time the current time for SEPTA to process your application and send your Key Card is four to six weeks. Unfortunately, the site will not allow us to create a duplicate Key Card. In order to receive a replacement for a lost/stolen card you can send a \$5 check or money order made payable to SEPTA to:

SEPTA
P.O. Box 82483.
Philadelphia, PA 19182

We have had many calls regarding the renewal of expiring Key cards, so we wanted to share the latest information that we have received from SEPTA with you. **We have been assured that all Senior Key Cards have been extended through 2023 and will remain active during this process.** Despite the extension, you can come to my District Office to renew your card.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program (PTRR) – State & Local

Since 1971, the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program has provided more than \$7.1 billion in property tax and rent relief. 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. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded. Pennsylvanians who are approved for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2021 will receive an additional one-time bonus rebate equal to 70 percent of their original rebate amount. This means the total amount a claimant will receive could be as much as \$1,657.50

My office can help assist you in completing this application to receive your rebate. The deadline to apply for your PA Property Tax/Rent Rebate is **December 31**.

Additionally, both the North Penn and Wissahickon School Districts have developed their own rebate program.

Applicants must qualify for the state rebate program to be eligible. North Penn is granting a 60% rebate. Wissahickon is granting a 30% rebate.



North Penn



Wissahickon



Representative Liz Hanbidge

1098 W. Skippack Pike
Blue Bell, PA 19422

lpo.ad.0822

Upcoming Events

September 17 | Lower Gwynedd Fall Fest

Come visit our table at Lower Gwynedd Fall Fest!

September 22 | FraudSleuth Event in District Office

Sign up for FraudSleuth and get alerted if anything is ever recorded against your property.

September 24 | North Wales Community Day

Come visit us at our table at North Wales Community Day.

September 24 | Whitpain Community Festival

Come visit us at our table at Whitpain Community Festival!

October 4th-6th | Senior Fraud Prevention Events

Speakers from the Dept. of Banking & Securities will discuss scams & fraud, and a few rounds of fraud bingo.

October 8 | Towamencin Day

Come visit our table at Towamencin Day.

October 15 | Family Expo

Come enjoy a day of family fun and connect with local organizations serving families.

October 15 | Upper Gwynedd Fall Fest

Come visit our table at Upper Gwynedd Fall Fest!

For other events, please visit

www.pahouse.com/hanbidge/events



View my weekly legislative briefings here



View bills I have introduced in the current session here

Sign Up for My Weekly Legislative Email

I send out a weekly email about legislative activities, office services, and upcoming events. If you have not done so already, I encourage you to sign up on my website at www.RepHanbidge.com/EmailSignUp.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES CORNER

(Mid-year report)

Cases: 1,290 (95% closed)

10 District Outreach Events

139 SEPTA Key Cards Processed

35 weekly legislative briefings (1/1/22 to 8/19/22)