



The Daley News

from Representative Mary Jo Daley



Spring 2015

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Dear Friends,

After a long, harsh winter, it is good to see spring in full bloom. For the legislature, springtime brings a great deal of activity to the Capitol. With our new governor, Tom Wolf, a new legislative session and the annual budget process looming, Harrisburg is a busy place. Gov. Wolf has been building relationships with and listening to Democratic and Republican members of the General Assembly since being sworn in on January 20.

The commonwealth faces significant challenges that Gov. Wolf addressed in his budget address March 3. Gov. Wolf's budget is a bold and comprehensive plan that outlines Pennsylvania's priorities as "Schools that Teach, Jobs that Pay, and Government that Works." The bottom line is that it recognizes the structural deficit facing Pennsylvania, along with the need for a fair and equitable funding formula for Pennsylvania public schools and property tax relief. The governor is focused on creating an improved business climate in order to attract well-paying jobs. He wants to rebuild public trust by making government more efficient, improving access to health care, paying down our pension debt and enhancing public safety programs.

As a new member of the House Appropriations Committee, I had a front-row seat during the 12 days of budget hearings in April, during which each state agency and department presented and defended its budget request to the committee. Serving on the House Appropriations Committee has been described as "the Ph.D. program for state government." Appointment to this committee provides me with enhanced access to information, allowing me to continue to be a strong voice for you throughout the budget process.

Inside, you will find more information on the budget proposal, legislation I have introduced this session, my third annual Senior Fair and much more. As always, if there is any information you need or if you ever have questions on state programs and services, I invite you to contact my constituent service office.

Sincerely,

Mobile Office Program Offered for Northern & Southern Portions of 148th District

While my Conshohocken Constituent Service Office is located in the geographic center of the 148th Legislative District, I understand that it may not always be convenient. For residents in the northern and southern reaches of the district, I have set up two "mobile offices" as a way to bring district office services to you. A legislative staffer from my office will be present to answer questions and help with state-related problems, provide brochures and forms, and provide information on state programs and services. Mobile office hours are held at the following locations and times:

Ambler Borough Hall

122 E. Butler Ave.

10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month

Narberth Borough Hall

100 Conway Ave.

9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month

Providing residents and businesses in the 148th District with convenient access to state services is important to me, and while my staff and I are easily available by telephone, we also know that person-to-person contact is often necessary. We want to be available for this contact and trust that the Narberth and Ambler mobile offices, along with the Conshohocken office, will continue to meet your needs. For more information about either mobile office, please call my Conshohocken office at 610-832-1679.



Daley, Frankel Introduce Bill to Help Curb Tobacco Product Use

Recently, I joined with my colleague Rep. Dan Frankel (D-Allegheny) to introduce legislation that would help cut down on the usage of tobacco and tobacco-related products, which can lead and have led to lifelong addictions.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States and continues to be popular with young people and the population at large. Roughly 22 percent of high school students recently reported using tobacco products of some kind. And while new unregulated technologies such as e-cigarettes are often billed as safer alternatives to traditional cigarettes, initial laboratory tests have found detectable levels of carcinogens and toxic chemicals in these products. In 2013 alone, more than a quarter-million youth who had never smoked a cigarette used electronic cigarettes.

While public health is the primary concern addressed in this legislation, if enacted it will provide a needed source of revenue to the commonwealth. My ultimate hope is that this tax serves as a barrier for people, especially children, to use tobacco products and cigarettes. Our current system of taxing cigarettes and other tobacco products in Pennsylvania is broken and in need of serious repair. As you may know, Pennsylvania is the only state in the nation which does not tax pipes, "roll-your-own" tobacco, and smokeless tobacco like snuff and chew. It also is only one of two states that does not tax cigars. Our legislation would finally close this loophole by enacting a tax on the wholesale price of these tobacco products, including e-cigarettes. Further, our bill would increase the cigarette tax by \$1 per pack.

Around the 148th District



Rep. Daley joins, from left, Ambler Borough Council Member Nancy Deininger and Mayor Jeanne Sorg for a quick photo before the Ambler Holiday Parade.



Constituents listen to Rep. Daley explain the governor's budget proposal during a recent town hall meeting in Narberth.

Rep. Daley joined members of Conshohocken VFW Post 1074 and Conshohocken Mayor Bob Frost at a Veterans Day ceremony.



Sign Up For Roadway & Traffic Email Updates

We all have busy lives, and sudden changes to traffic patterns can cause serious disruptions for your daily commute. To help keep you informed, I am offering a special email program for residents interested in hearing about road closures, scheduled road repairs or utility-related roadwork. Updates will be limited to roadwork occurring in the 148th District and surrounding area. To sign up for these road updates,

simply scan the QR code or go to: <http://www.pahouse.com/MDaley/Form/?id=1091>.



Outreach Events Survey

My office frequently holds outreach events on specific topics to help inform you of state programs, services and laws, and how they impact your daily life. While we have many successful events throughout the year, I want to hear what events would interest you the most. Go to: <http://www.pahouse.com/MDaley/Survey/?id=1090> or

scan the QR code below to fill out a brief survey noting what outreach events you would most like to attend. Your help and input is greatly appreciated!



2015-16 Budget Update

In early March, Gov. Tom Wolf offered his first budget proposal at a joint session of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. In his proposal, the governor provided a stark contrast to the previous administration with a bold, comprehensive budget that would address the structural deficit, fair education funding and responsible revenue increases. His proposal

was the first step in the state's budget process. It is my hope that the legislature can pass a sound budget that raises the needed revenue to provide a fresh start for our schools and businesses, which will help reinvigorate the middle class in Pennsylvania. Here are some of the main points of Gov. Wolf's budget proposal:

EDUCATION

Gov. Wolf's budget would restore the cuts made by the previous administration by providing \$1 billion in revenue, through budgetary increases and cost-saving reforms.

Education Line Item:	Funding Increase:		Local Impact:	Funding Increase:
Pre-K-12 Funding	\$662M		Colonial SD:	\$181,197
Higher Education	\$148M		Lower Merion SD:	\$276,506
Added Revenue by PHEAA	\$25.5M		Wissahickon SD:	\$189,586
PHEAA Programs	\$10.6M			
Cyber Charter Funding Reform	\$162M			
TOTAL	\$1B			

PROPERTY TAXES

The governor's budget includes a proposal to rebalance the financing of public education, with the state providing 50 percent of the average cost of a K-12 public education. This would reduce the local burden of school property taxes in our communities and take significant steps to a fairer education

funding formula, with the neediest schools receiving greater allotments of state funding. The governor's goal is to provide equitable funding, not equal funding. This shift would amount to an estimated statewide \$3.8 billion in property and wage tax relief. Here's how it would impact you:



School District	Proposed Property Tax Relief	Estimated Percentage Reduction
Colonial SD	\$8.9M	19.82%
Lower Merion SD	\$24M	16.27%
Wissahickon SD	\$9.1M	19.25%

PENSIONS

Pension reform has been the talk of the state, but with changes instituted in bipartisan reforms enacted in 2010 with Act 120, it may be more accurate to say that we have a debt problem, not a pension problem. The unfunded liability is a result of benefit enhancements enacted by Act 9 of 2001, employer funding deferrals from Act 40 of 2003, and two major economic catastrophes in 2001 and 2008. The combined actuarially calculated unfunded liability for the State Employee Retirement System (SERS) and Public School Employee Retirement System (PSERS) is \$53 billion (\$35.1 billion – PSERS; \$17.9 billion – SERS). Act 120 of 2010 put Pennsylvania back on the right track by creating a plan to pay down the unfunded liability accrued in the PSERS and SERS pension plans. Act 120 of 2010 reversed the benefit increases made in Act 9, provided a retirement benefit that replaces roughly 60 percent of employee salary, a 20 percent reduction from pre-Act 120 employees, cut employee benefits by reducing the multiplier from 2.5 percent to 2 percent, eliminated lump sum withdrawals and, increased the retirement age to 65 and the vesting period from five to 10

years. There is also a shared risk provision requiring a higher employee contribution if investment returns come up short. With these changes, Act 120 is the benchmark for judging the quality of other pension reform proposals.

Gov. Wolf has proposed refinancing \$3 billion of the pension-related debt to reduce school districts' annual pension payments and the unfunded liability. Beginning in 2017-18, the proceeds generated from modernizing the commonwealth's wine and spirits system would be used to pay the full cost of the debt service. This is estimated to be \$184 million per year over 30 years. It is anticipated that the \$3 billion infusion of cash into PSERS would generate approximately \$7.9 billion in savings over 24 years. The borrowing costs associated with this proposal would be approximately \$5.5 billion over 30 years.

The governor's plan also would permanently eliminate the pension "double dip" caused by the state and public school system contributions to charter and cyber charter school pensions.



State Representative
Mary Jo Daley

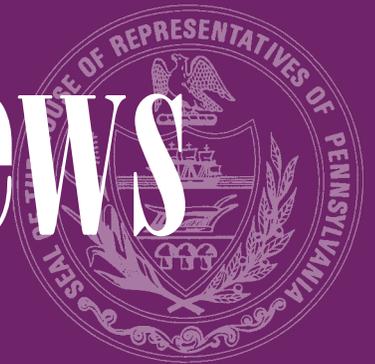
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Save the Date! Daley Hosting Third Annual Senior Fair



Rep. Daley takes some time to chat with a constituent during last year's Senior Fair.

My district office staff is busy planning my third annual Senior Fair and I am pleased to invite you to attend. We think the Senior Fair is one of the most informative and best-attended events my office hosts, and we are pleased to bring in a variety of vendors to provide seniors and their families with useful information. The event will be from **10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, June 19** and will be held at the **Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School East Cafeteria, 201 E. Germantown Pike**.

We'll have information on health care, the state Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, volunteer opportunities, prescription-drug plans, finding unclaimed property and more. In addition, we will have free health care screenings and refreshments, giveaways and door prizes.

Parking for the event will be available in the Colonial Drive lot, with additional overflow parking available next door at the St. Jude & the Nativity Episcopal Church.

We hope you can join us at this informative and enjoyable event and look forward to meeting you!