



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Leanne T. Krueger-Braneky****161ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**WEBSITE: [www.pahouse.com/Krueger-Braneky](http://www.pahouse.com/Krueger-Braneky) • EMAIL: [RepKrueger-Braneky@pahouse.net](mailto:RepKrueger-Braneky@pahouse.net)

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DISTRICT OFFICE: 701 E. MacDade Blvd. • Folsom, PA 19033 • (610) 534-6880 • Fax: (610) 534-6881

SATELLITE OFFICE: Brookhaven Borough Bldg. • 2 Cambridge Road • Brookhaven, PA 19015 • (610) 447-3297 • Fax: (610) 447-3378

Satellite Office Hours: Tues. &amp; Thurs. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## Honored to be your Representative

*Dear neighbor,*

Thank you for electing me in a special election last August. It is a great honor to represent the 161st Legislative District in the state Capitol in Harrisburg!

I went to work for you and the people of Delaware County immediately after being sworn in on August 25. I am proud to serve on the following committees of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives:

- Committee on Children and Youth
- Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy
- Committee on Liquor Control and Policy

As you know, Pennsylvania is currently in the midst of a historic budget impasse. The Republican-led leadership of the state House of Representatives has not proposed a full budget in the entire three months since I was sworn in to serve you. In that time, I have sought your feedback on various questions we face with this budget. (If you didn't receive the email survey, please see Page 5 for information on how to sign up for email alerts from my office.) So far, I have heard support for an increase in education funding, an increase in property tax relief, especially for those on a fixed income, and support for a severance tax on natural gas

extraction. I stand with you, committed to achieving these goals.

I support Governor Wolf's decision to reject unbalanced budgets that do not tackle Pennsylvania's most pressing problems. I

believe we have a responsibility to pass a fiscally responsible and balanced budget that works for all Pennsylvanians. The House voted in October on a revenue plan that would have reduced property taxes for seniors and low-income families and placed a reasonable severance tax on the Marcellus Shale to help fund education but, unfortunately, it was voted down along party lines.

Each of our children deserves a school with a librarian, music teacher and school nurse. Due to massive cuts made to public education during the previous administration, the state has failed to provide basic necessities for our school children and shifted a large tax burden from the state to property owners, pushing our local property taxes sky-high. I pledge to work hard and reach across the aisle to find solutions to our education-funding crisis and reform the way Pennsylvania funds public education.

Voters across the state have been clear about their priorities. They want property tax relief, a reasonable tax on Marcellus Shale, and an increase to our education and human services funding. I will continue to use my background working with small businesses and on job creation to bring ideas to the table and work with all of my colleagues to fight for a budget that works for Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,

Rep. Leanne Krueger-Braneky



*It was an honor to be sworn in to represent the 161st Legislative District in Delaware County on August 25.*



*Meeting with Rep. Steve McCarter and Rep. Mary Jo Daley in the House chamber prior to the start of session.*



*In September, I was proud to stand with fellow legislators, educators and students as we called for a responsible severance tax on the Marcellus Shale drilling companies.*



## Open enrollment periods are fast approaching:

### Medicare

Remember, Medicare plans can change each year.

Here are important dates for you to remember:

**Medicare Open Enrollment held Oct. 15 through Dec. 7**

**Phone: 1-800-633-4227**

**Web address: [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov)**



### Medicaid and CHIP

Enrollment periods for state-sponsored Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) are not limited to any specific time of the year. The following websites and phone numbers will get you to the enrollment area for both programs:

**Medicaid contact information:**

1-866-550-4355

[www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/healthcaremedicalassistance](http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/healthcaremedicalassistance)

**CHIP contact information:**

1-800-986-5437

[www.chipcoverspakids.com](http://www.chipcoverspakids.com)

### Federal health care reform update:

#### 2016 OPEN ENROLLMENT INFORMATION:

**Nov. 1, 2015:** Open enrollment starts. This is the first day you may enroll in a 2016 marketplace plan.

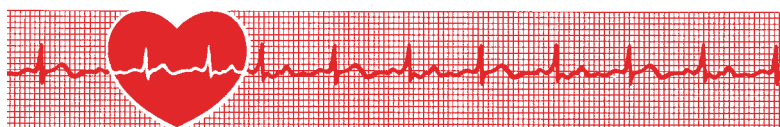
**Jan. 1, 2016:** First date 2016 coverage can start.

**Jan. 31, 2016:** 2016 Open enrollment ends.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

1-800-318-2596

[www.Healthcare.gov](http://www.Healthcare.gov)





## Commonsense gun legislation finds support in Delaware County

In mid-October, I joined a bipartisan group of legislators, gun-safety advocates, domestic-violence experts and victims of gun violence at a rally for legislation that would enact universal background checks for gun purchases in Pennsylvania.

House Bill 1010, which I co-sponsored, would close a loophole that currently allows criminals and perpetrators of domestic violence to skip a background check. The bill would require all gun sales – including the private sale of long guns – to be conducted before a licensed firearms dealer or county sheriff, in order to complete a background check on the purchaser's criminal history. It would also include a check on involuntary commitments to a mental health facility.

This commonsense legislation has support from both sides of the aisle in the House, and even includes support from 10 of the 11 state representatives in Delaware County.



*I was proud to join a bipartisan group of legislators and supporters in calling for commonsense gun legislation.*

If legislators at the federal level cannot compromise and agree on background check legislation, it is left up to us at the state level to protect our citizens.

Since the Sandy Hook shooting three years ago, all efforts to enact gun safety laws at the federal level have failed. I cannot sit idly by and entrust our safety to national politicians who feign sympathy after each new mass shooting and then go back to work and do nothing to address the real issue. Many people, including the vast majority of responsible gun owners, support universal background checks. The time to act is now.

## Are you interested in the Valley Forge Military Academy?



My office is now accepting applications for the Valley Forge Military Academy Legislative Appointment Initiative. This program allows each of Pennsylvania's 203 representatives, and 50 senators, to appoint a student from their district as the Commonwealth Scholar for guaranteed admission and a guaranteed partial scholarship to Valley Forge Military College.

The minimum academic requirements are a cumulative high school GPA of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) and a combined verbal and math SAT score of 1000 (ACT score of 20).

You can apply anytime during the fall of your senior year until February 15 for admission the following fall.

The full amount awarded depends upon the academic achievement of the student selected. The minimum annual award is \$12,000 for a high school GPA of 2.5, rising to an annual award of \$17,000 for a high school GPA of 3.75. Please call my office at (610) 534-6880 for more information.



## Visiting with our educators and students

As a proud supporter of public education, I have pledged to visit every school in our district to speak with students, parents and educators about our public education system. I want their on-the-ground perspective about what matters most in the current debates about education.



*I spent time with the first-graders and Principal Dr. Angela Tuck at Swarthmore-Rutlege Elementary School during National School Lunch Week.*



*Brenda Sweeny and Ken Acker gave me great tours of Woodlyn Elementary and Ridley High School.*

*Ridley School District Superintendent Lee Ann Wentzel was kind enough to explain her thoughts from an administrator's standpoint.*



*Penn Delco Superintendent George Steinhoff and Principal L.J. Blair introduced me to students and educators at Northly Middle School.*

## Help us celebrate artwork in the 161st Legislative District



To help put a local touch on my new office, I'm sponsoring a student art contest in our district. This is a great chance for students in the 161st Legislative District to show off their talents and be recognized for their ability. Students may enter a drawing or painting of their community, school, nature scene or anything that they feel represents our district. Entries will be judged on beauty, uniqueness and fulfilled intent.

**The deadline to submit artwork is Wednesday, December 16.** Winning artwork will be displayed along the wall in my office. Winners will be chosen from four categories:

- Kindergarten through 2nd Grade
- 3rd through 5th Grade
- 6th through 8th Grade
- High School

There will also be a "People's Choice" winner that will be selected by the community. Artwork must be at least 8x10 inches and no larger than 11x14 inches, and must somehow represent the 161st Legislative District. Please submit entries with student name, parent name, address, telephone number and school on the back to my office at 701 E. MacDade Boulevard, Folsom, PA 19033.

*I look forward to seeing your entries!*



*I was proud to host the leaders of local veterans' groups for a breakfast on Nov. 12 to thank them for their service to our country.*



## Stay in touch!

Stay up to date with all the latest news from Harrisburg and the 161st Legislative District by following me on social media. You can also sign up for email updates about breaking news and legislative updates by visiting [www.pahouse.com/KruegerBraneky/EmailSignup](http://www.pahouse.com/KruegerBraneky/EmailSignup).



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[www.pahouse.com/KruegerBraneky](http://www.pahouse.com/KruegerBraneky)



[RepKrueger-Braneky@pahouse.net](mailto:RepKrueger-Braneky@pahouse.net)

## Online voter registration now available in Pennsylvania

Recently, Gov. Tom Wolf launched a website to make it easier for you to register to vote and participate in elections. You can access it by visiting: <http://register.votespa.com>.



The new website is available in English or Spanish and it also allows you to make updates to your voter record, such as change of name, address or party affiliation. You can also request assistance at a polling place.

This online system is more secure because the form will be transmitted directly to the proper county voter registration office for processing, compared to the traditional paper application containing personal information that might pass through several hands before you are officially registered.

The site is directly linked to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Motor Voter system, so if you have a driver's license or PennDOT ID card, your signature on file can immediately be linked to your voter record.

If you do not have a driver's license or ID card, you can print, sign and mail the completed online application to your county voter registration office. If you are unable to print the application, you may request the Department of State mail you a signature card to complete and send back.

## Stop by our office to find out how we can help you

My new office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to help with all your state government-related needs. You're invited to stop by and meet my staff and find out if we can help you with a variety of issues, including:

- Car registrations, special tags, titles and license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Unemployment compensation problems
- Birth certificate applications
- Complaints about road conditions
- Problems or questions about PennDOT
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program problems or questions
- PACE/PACENET prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Any issue with state government!

**Stop by my office, located at 701 E. MacDade Boulevard, Folsom, PA 19033 or contact us by calling (610) 534-6880 or emailing [RepKrueger-Braneky@pahouse.net](mailto:RepKrueger-Braneky@pahouse.net).**





State Representative

**Leanne T. Krueger-Braneky**

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Folsom, PA 19033

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## Join us for an open house!



You are invited to join me and my staff for a holiday open house at my district office. We can discuss what Pennsylvania's budget means for you, services available through our office, and policy issues in Harrisburg.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 18**  
**1 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

701 E. MacDade Boulevard, Folsom, PA 19033

Light refreshments will be served. I hope to see you and your family on Dec. 18!

## My office can help you with a Property Tax/Rent Rebate application

The deadline to apply for Pennsylvania's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2014 has been extended to December 31, 2015.

The program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters. Half of Social Security income and all COLAs are excluded, and the maximum standard rebate is \$650.

Claimants must reapply for rebates every year because they are based on annual income and property taxes or rent paid each year.

Spouses, personal representatives or estates may file rebate claims on behalf of deceased claimants who lived at least one day in 2014 and meet all other eligibility criteria.

Please contact my office with questions about the application or stop by for assistance completing the form. My staff can let you know what paperwork you need to apply.

Some companies are running ads offering to do the paperwork for this state program and charge a fee, but you absolutely do not have to pay for this help. If you're not a senior or don't think you're eligible, please pass this message on to a relative, friend or neighbor.

