



# The Daley News

from Representative Mary Jo Daley



Summer 2016

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## Pennsylvania's budget: a step in the right direction

Pennsylvania's 2016-17 fiscal year has a spending plan in place that will carry the commonwealth through next June. We passed it on time and avoided a repeat of last year's disastrous stalemate that put many of our schools and human service agencies in financial peril.

While I do not believe it's an ideal budget, it begins to reverse the education funding cuts made by the previous administration. It provides a \$250 million increase for pre-K through 12th grade education funding, including \$200 million for K-12, \$30 million for pre-K and Head Start, and \$20 million for special education.

The budget package also closes most of Pennsylvania's tobacco tax loopholes, something that I have long advocated. As of Aug. 1, \$1 was added to the cigarette tax, raising it to \$2.60 a pack. There is also a 40-percent tax on e-cigarettes and a tax based on weight of loose leaf and smokeless tobacco. Studies have shown that higher prices for tobacco products discourage young people from using them, and closing these loopholes avoids putting more of the tax burden on other taxpayers.

Despite having a budget for this year, there is still more work that must be done. It is imperative that we find a sustainable way to lower property taxes in the commonwealth. We also need to implement an overdue tax on natural gas drillers.

I remain committed to working with legislators on both sides of the aisle to continue moving Pennsylvania in the right direction. We need to do more, and Pennsylvania deserves better!



*Rep. Daley with students at the Carson Valley Children's Aid in Flourtown.*

## Daley supports making the commonwealth's environment a legislative priority

I truly appreciate all of the correspondence I have received from my constituents regarding protecting the commonwealth's environment. I continue to actively support legislation that would improve the health and sustainability of our environment.

Recently, I voted against House Bill 2013, both as a member of the House Appropriations Committee and when it came before the full House, which promoted commercial development, such as amusement parks and office buildings, in our state parks. This legislation was never properly vetted and was not open for public feedback. There is absolutely no need for this type of development in Pennsylvania's state parks. However, some of my Democratic colleagues and many Republicans disagreed. Fortunately, the bill failed in the House.

I also joined 20 other House members in sending a letter to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC), urging approval of regulations that would make gas drilling safer in Pennsylvania. IRRC approved the regulations, only to have a Republican-majority committee reject them. In support of these regulations, I voted no on Senate Bill 279, which cancels a portion of these regulations for conventional drilling operations, but not unconventional drilling operations. Unfortunately, this bill became law.

As your state representative, it is my responsibility to push for legislation that protects Pennsylvania's environment. We need to do a better job at reducing the influence the lobbying community has on legislation aimed at protecting our environment. We must preserve it now and for generations to come.

I always look forward to hearing from my constituents on any issues – the environment or otherwise. I invite you to visit or call my office, or email me at [repmaryjodaley@pahouse.net](mailto:repmaryjodaley@pahouse.net).

# Pennsylvania tackling opioid, heroin epidemic head-on Special session planned for the fall

Pennsylvania is dealing with a major epidemic. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heroin and opioid overdoses are the leading causes of accidental deaths, killing more Pennsylvanians than those involved in car crashes. This epidemic crosses all social, geographic and political lines.

A recent report by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration presents a grim reality: Nine Pennsylvanians die every day due to heroin or prescription opioid overdoses. In 2015, 3,383 Pennsylvanians died from drug overdoses.

Pennsylvania has taken several important steps to combat the heroin and opioid crisis. The 2016-17 budget dedicates \$15 million to combat heroin and opioid addiction, including funds for emergency addiction treatment and behavioral health services. Dr. Rachel Levine, physician general for the commonwealth, signed a standing order for naloxone, which makes this crucial anti-overdose drug available to all Pennsylvanians. State troopers are equipped with naloxone

for use when they arrive first on the scene of a drug overdose. This life-saving drug is also available in public high schools across the commonwealth at no cost. Pennsylvania has developed a prescription drug monitoring program to help detect and prevent prescription fraud and abuse.

Gov. Tom Wolf has been hosting roundtable discussions with state lawmakers, local officials, law enforcement, emergency responders and health care professionals to discuss ways to work together to combat the opioid abuse and heroin use epidemic. A bipartisan task force was formed to study the opioid problem in the commonwealth and recommend legislation. A special session has been scheduled for the fall to focus lawmakers' attention on combatting this crisis.

I will continue working with my colleagues – Democrat and Republican – on bipartisan ways to address this crisis head-on. Pennsylvanians are counting on us to make it happen!



**Rep. Daley, along with her Chief of Staff Maria Dispensiere, 4-H District Director/Penn State Extension Nancy Stevens and 4-H Coordinator Amy Shollenberger, in front of the Montgomery County 4-H Center.**



**Rep. Daley talking with Linda Hoade, Master Gardener Coordinator in the Horticulture Center at the Montgomery County 4-H Center.**

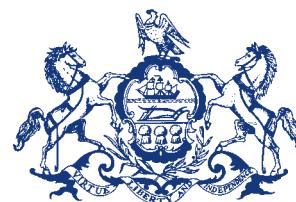
## Expanded wine sales, improved convenience on tap

This spring, the House passed legislation that allows the sale of wine-to-go in restaurants and grocery stores, and makes the sale of wine and liquor more convenient for Pennsylvania consumers. Gov. Tom Wolf signed this legislation, which is formally known as Act 39 of 2016, into law June 8.

I voted for this legislation because it will modernize the state store system that annually delivers millions of dollars to help balance the state budget. Additionally, it provides nearly 5,000 good-paying jobs to Pennsylvania residents, and has the potential to create more jobs.

### Here's what Act 39 of 2016 allows:

- Grocery stores, convenience stores, restaurants and hotels to sell wine
- Direct wine shipments by the case
- Expanded hours – state liquor stores can be open on Sundays and holidays
- Ability for PLCB to take advantage of better pricing on wine and liquor, and to offer coupons and loyalty programs in state stores
- Expanded hours for selling beer, wine and liquors at casinos
- An expected \$150 million-a-year in new revenue



# Medical marijuana bill passes

This spring, Pennsylvania became the 24th state to legalize marijuana for medicinal purposes. I was there in April when Gov. Tom Wolf signed Senate Bill 3 into law. It took effect in May.

I voted to legalize medical marijuana and allow doctors to recommend this treatment as they see fit in order to help their ailing patients. I was a member of a bipartisan task force that worked on the main amendment to the bill. We worked for months to help craft legislation that would be acceptable to a majority of legislators.

Regulated medical marijuana will help bring relief to tens of thousands of children, adults and senior citizens suffering from serious medical problems, including epilepsy, chronic pain, post-traumatic stress disorder, HIV/AIDS, Lou Gehrig's and Parkinson's diseases, and glaucoma.

Senate Bill 3, now Act 16 of 2016, establishes an independent, 12-member State Board of Medical Cannabis Licensing to oversee growers and their secure, indoor facilities, and to regulate dispensaries across the state. Doctors will be able to recommend marijuana in pill, oil, vapor or liquid form. Patients will not be able to legally obtain marijuana to smoke and will not be allowed to grow it on their own.

A parent of a child who suffers from one of the qualifying illnesses will be immune from prosecution for possessing medical marijuana that was legally purchased in another state. Caregivers



**Rep. Daley with lawmakers, advocates and Gov. Tom Wolf for the medical marijuana bill signing.**

must apply for a Safe Harbor letter and carry it with them whenever medical marijuana is being transported outside the home. You can apply by going to <https://apps.health.pa.gov/PASafeHarbor/>.

All patients will be required to receive a Department of Health Medical Marijuana ID card. At long last, Pennsylvania can provide another tool for doctors to help patients, including countless suffering children, who are battling debilitating and life-threatening illnesses.

## Rep. Daley meeting with constituents during her fourth annual Senior Fair



## Working to expand seniors' prescription coverage

I'm pleased to report the state House of Representatives unanimously passed legislation – House Bill 2069 – that would expand prescription drug coverage to over 32,000 older Pennsylvanians by increasing income eligibility guidelines for the PACENET program.

The PACE and PACENET programs offer lower-cost prescription medications to qualified residents 65 or older, thanks to roughly \$200 million a year in funding from the Pennsylvania Lottery. Advancing this measure would bring even more life-saving medicines to older Pennsylvanians.

The PACENET program covers people with incomes exceeding the PACE maximum income limit. It's been more than a dozen years since PACENET income limits have increased. By updating the income limits, we can ensure access to affordable prescription drugs and help thousands of senior citizens maintain their quality of life.

House Bill 2069 would increase the annual maximum income limits in the PACENET program to \$31,000 for a single person and to \$41,000 for a married couple.

Current maximum annual income limits for the PACENET program are \$23,500 for an individual and \$31,500 for a married couple.

The bill is now up for consideration in the state Senate.



## State Representative **Mary Jo Daley**

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## My office can help you find money from any unclaimed assets

Every year, the state Treasurer's Office receives millions of dollars in unclaimed property – some of which could belong to you!

My staff and I are happy to help you find out if any money is due to you from a closed bank account, lost bonds, contents of safe deposit boxes, or even family heirlooms.

Just contact my office and we'll help you navigate the system for free!

## Apply now to receive your Property Tax/Rent Rebate

The deadline to file a 2015 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program application is Dec. 31, and my office is here to help!

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 and older, widows and widowers 50 and older, and people with disabilities 18 and older. The maximum standard rebate is \$650.

My offices can help with the applications. Please don't assume you are not eligible. Half of Social Security income is discounted, and claimants are not disqualified from rebates solely because of Social Security cost-of-living-adjustments.

To find out if you qualify, or if you need assistance with filling out your application, please call or visit my office.

## Upcoming events in 2016:

### Veterans Tribute Breakfast

**Friday, September 23**

8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Conshohocken Community Center  
at the Fellowship House

### APPRISE Medicare Counseling

**Thursday, October 27**

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

**Wednesday, November 16**

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

RSVP Required – Call District Office to RSVP

### Shredding Event

**Saturday, Oct. 15**

Location & Time: TBD

## Sign up for email updates

In order to keep you informed about my upcoming events and legislative topics important to you, I invite you to sign up to receive my email alerts.

From Sept. 8 to Nov. 8, House rules stipulate that I cannot contact you unless you have agreed to let me do so. You can opt in to continue to receive my emails.

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; and
- Other relevant government-related information.

You can sign up to receive my email alerts – and opt in to continue to receive them before elections – by visiting my website at [www.pahouse.com/MDaley](http://www.pahouse.com/MDaley), clicking the envelope icon at the top of the main page, then “Sign Up for Emails” before filling out the form and leaving the box checked.