



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Leanne Krueger-Braneky

161ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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FALL 2016

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Legislative news you can use

Below are updates on several different legislative initiatives that may be of special interest to you. If you would like more information on any of these topics, please feel free to contact my office.

Liquor modernization

Earlier this year, Gov. Tom Wolf signed into law legislation that modernizes Pennsylvania's Liquor Control Board regulations to expand the sale of alcohol and increase consumer convenience. The new regulations went into effect in early August, and should enable you to purchase wine at your local grocery store in the very near future, possibly by Thanksgiving. The updated law also allows state-run wine and spirit stores to extend their regular hours, offer better prices and open on Sundays.

You're also now able to order direct shipment of wine to your home, purchase a 6-pack in many gas stations and take advantage of special discounts, promotions, loyalty programs and use more coupons in state stores.

Fighting PA's opioid crisis

I've been an advocate for increased funding to combat Pennsylvania's opioid crisis since taking office and we fought for and won a \$15 million increase to fight this problem in this year's budget. Addiction knows no boundaries and can impact people in any community across our state. According to the Pennsylvania State Coroners Association 2015 Report on Overdose Death Statistics, 3,505 Pennsylvanians died as a result of drug poisoning. In Pennsylvania, more people now die of drug overdoses than in car accidents.

I hope that this increased funding and Gov. Wolf's effort to create Centers of Excellence across the state to help treat all aspects of opioid addiction start to turn the tide in this deadly epidemic. In addition, the House has planned a special session for this fall to specifically address the opioid crisis. Together we can work to increase education and lower the risk of addiction for residents across the state. For more information on the Centers of Excellence, please visit www.dhs.pa.gov. If you

or someone you know is struggling with an opioid or heroin addiction, please visit www.pastop.org.

Safe Harbor for minors in need of medical marijuana

Earlier this summer, I reported that Pennsylvania passed legislation to legalize medical marijuana for those suffering from one of 17 serious medical conditions. While Pennsylvania's program is currently being built from the ground up and still about 18 months from being operational, there is hope for minors who are suffering with debilitating medical conditions. Part of the legislation contained a measure called Safe Harbor, which allows the guardians of a minor with one of the 17 serious medical conditions to acquire medical marijuana from out of state and return to Pennsylvania without fearing prosecution.

For more information on Safe Harbor for minors, please visit <https://apps.health.pa.gov/PASafeHarbor> or call (877) PA-HEALTH.



I had a great time speaking with young women at the Well Leadership Conference at Swarthmore College.

Small Business Development Breakfast unites local businesses, resources

In late July, I was able to bring together approximately 45 local businesses from our district and put them in contact with valuable resources available to help them succeed. I spent over a decade working with small-business owners before I took office, so I understand many of the challenges they go through and want to use my role in the legislature to help them succeed.

We were able to host multiple guest speakers with valuable business tools, including:

- Scott Deitrich, director, Small Business Champion Network, Department of Community and Economic Development;
- Trish McFarland, president, Delaware County Chamber of Commerce;
- Lenin Agudo, director, Widener Small Business Development Center;
- Steve Crumline and Gerald Francis, chair and past chair, SCORE; and
- Jennifer Tilden, lead business opportunity specialist, U.S. Small Business Administration.

These events are excellent resources for our entrepreneur and small-business communities. One of the greatest resources we can provide is clear information on the programs and services that are available. Entrepreneurs and small-business owners are busy people passionate about what they do; therefore, putting this information in front of them gives them the opportunity to build relationships and grow a successful business.

I hope the local business owners that joined us found the panel discussion and opportunity to learn more about the services available to them helpful. They truly are the backbone of our community and supporting them creates positive economic growth and good jobs for our community. If any small-business owners have questions about how my office can help, I encourage them to call us at 610-534-6880.



Thanks to the presenters and business owners who joined our Small Business Development Breakfast in July!



With Trish McFarland from the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce.

Leadership briefing at the White House

This summer, I had the honor of joining several of my fellow legislators from Pennsylvania in attending a White House Legislative Leadership Briefing. We were joined by only a handful of legislators from states around the country to have a discussion about domestic policy priorities, and opportunities for collaboration between state legislators and the White House.

The briefing, which was led by senior White House officials and top departmental advisors, was extremely informative and beneficial to all who attended. So many of the topics we deal with in Pennsylvania, such as education, middle-class economics and criminal

justice reform, are also issues at the federal level. Gathering such knowledgeable and well-respected individuals to discuss these issues gave us a new perspective and will help us push for a better agenda in Pennsylvania.

Additional topics included gun violence prevention, economic opportunities for women, the Zika virus and opioid abuse. I look forward to sharing what I learned with fellow legislators from across the state as we work toward a better Pennsylvania and a better future for our children.



I was joined by state Reps. Stephen Kinsey of Philadelphia and Kevin Schreiber of York at the White House for a leadership briefing.

Over \$850,000 coming to Aston Township in state grants

This summer, I was proud to announce the award of three grants to Aston Township totaling \$882,525 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority's Act 13 Program. The amounts and purposes are:

- \$315,000 for multimodal work at Aston Concord Road and Donnelly Avenue;
- \$332,500 for multimodal work at Aston Concord Road and MacIntyre Drive; and
- \$235,025 for a watershed restoration project at Aston Newsome Property Park.

These projects are vital to Aston Township and the entire 161st Legislative District, as they will provide economic and environmental benefits to our community. I look forward to their completion and further helping our communities become more sustainable.

Act 13 of 2012 established the Marcellus Legacy Fund and allocates funds to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for watershed restoration and protection projects that include construction, improvement, expansion, repair, maintenance or rehabilitation of new or existing watershed protection Best Management Practices.



It was an honor to present a check for \$882,525 to Aston Township Council President James Stigale at their July meeting.

APPRISE workshops in Delaware County

As we all know, deciding on health care options is not always an easy task. That's why the Pennsylvania Department of Aging created APPRISE to assist Pennsylvanians with Medicare, Medicaid and other health insurance questions. APPRISE offers multiple services and programs for FREE, including:

- Medicare information and counseling;
- Supplemental Plan information and counseling;
- Medicare Plan and Part D enrollment;
- Assistance with enrollment into Medicare's cost sharing programs; and
- Medicare presentations and workshops.

My office will be teaming up with APPRISE volunteers to host several different workshops throughout our district in the coming months. These workshops include presentations on Medicare, Medicare Cost Sharing, Medigap Basics and Medicare Annual Enrollment Updates. As we confirm details on these workshops, we will put information on my website and social media, as well as send the information out to my email list.

If you would like to receive these updates, please visit www.pahouse.com/KruegerBraneky/Emailsignup or simply call my office at 610-534-6880 and we'll make sure you have the information you need.

DON'T MISS OUR UPCOMING SENIOR BREAKFASTS

Last spring, I hosted several senior breakfasts around the 161st Legislative District to talk to local seniors and their families. This was a great opportunity to reach out and learn more about what their concerns are and ensure they know all the ways my office can help them.

With that in mind, I will be planning more senior breakfasts this fall in communities around the district. To keep up to date on the schedule of breakfasts, please sign up for email updates at www.pahouse.com/KruegerBraneky/EmailSignUp or call my office at 610-534-6880. If you're interested in hosting a senior breakfast with your congregation or civic group, let us know!



I look forward to visiting with seniors around the district again this fall!

Why I voted against the revenue package

This year's state budget was finalized through a series of votes that took place over a number of different weeks in June and July. Following last year's nine-month budget stalemate, I was glad to vote for an on-time spending plan because it increased funding for education and for programs that fight the opioid epidemic. This truly bipartisan effort by a majority of the General Assembly and Gov. Wolf, while not perfect, reinvests in critical areas that Pennsylvanians demand we properly fund.

The budget bill contains a \$200 million increase for basic education, a \$20 million increase for special education and a \$40 million increase for higher education. The higher education funding will benefit state-related universities, the 14 members of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and the state's 14 community colleges by providing a 2.5-percent increase in funding. Additionally, 2.5-percent increases will go to institutional grants benefiting private colleges and universities, and to the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency that benefits students attending public and private institutions.

Early childhood education funding received a \$30 million increase, and \$15 million of new funding was included to fight Pennsylvania's growing opioid epidemic.

When the revenue vote came up a few weeks later, I could not support the revenue package that was proposed to fund the spending plan. This situation

is only magnified by Pennsylvania's continued lack of a natural gas severance tax. Instead of funding the much-needed increases in education spending with a Marcellus Shale severance tax, a last minute addition to the revenue package included a \$7.5 million tax credit for waste coal and a \$12 million handout to oil and gas companies. To continue to give handouts to an industry that does not pay its fair share does not benefit the people of Pennsylvania.

I get it – leaning on those with few resources and little power is easier than asking those with power and wealth to pay their fair share. But why should big oil and gas companies continue to get a free ride while more taxes are levied on hardworking families, seniors and small businesses? This is unfair and I will continue to fight for our community and work to bring real solutions to Pennsylvania that give us a fair and truly balanced budget.

Schools within the 161st Legislative District received these increases for basic education funding:

- Penn-Delco School District, a 2.6-percent increase of \$157,519;
- Ridley School District, a 3.7-percent increase of \$430,234; and
- Wallingford-Swarthmore School District, a 3.7-percent increase of \$119,270.

'Green Light-Go' grants bring \$400,000 to district

In May, I announced several grants totaling over \$400,000 in signal improvement funding coming to Aston Township, Brookhaven Borough and Ridley Township, as part of the state's "Green Light-Go" program.

This massive investment, made possible by the transportation funding plan passed several years ago, will benefit commuters and pedestrians in our district by increasing safety measures and helping traffic flow. The local grants will go toward several projects, including:

- Aston Township – \$132,102 to improve pedestrian facilities at seven intersections along Route 452 (Pennell Road) and five intersections along Route 3007 (Concord Road).
- Brookhaven Borough – \$224,000 to

upgrade pedestrian and electrical traffic signal equipment at one intersection along Bridgewater Road and six intersections along Edgmont Avenue.

- Ridley Township – \$44,730 to improve the existing crosswalk with LED pedestrian crosswalk lighting systems at the intersection of Kedron Avenue and Academy Avenue, MacDade Boulevard and Milmont Avenue, MacDade Boulevard and Edgewood Avenue, MacDade Boulevard and Swarthmore Avenue, MacDade Boulevard and Amosland Road, and MacDade Boulevard and Holmes Road.

The "Green Light-Go" program allows municipalities to request up to half of the funding needed for traffic signal projects in the form of grants.



WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITY



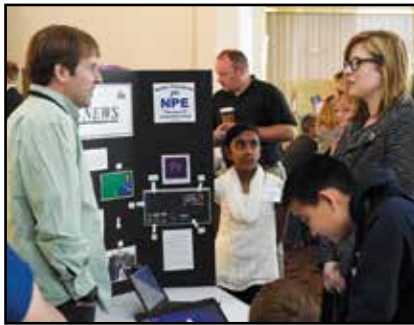
My staff was on hand to take part in the grand opening of a new ShopRite in our district.



Prior to our Small Business Development Breakfast, I was able to visit with the Small Business Development Center at Widener University.



Few things make me as proud as seeing our students come to Harrisburg to showcase their work. In June, Nether Providence Elementary School students came to the Capitol to highlight their Nether Providence News work.



I had a great time speaking at the Delaware County Intermediate Unit Legislative Breakfast this spring.



It was an honor to take the students of Swarthmore-Rutledge School on a tour of the Capitol!



State Representative

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Don't miss these upcoming events!

Senior Expo:

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. • Thursday, Sept. 22

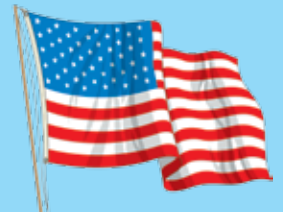
Brookhaven Municipal Building
2 Cambridge Road
Brookhaven, PA 19015

Join exhibitors from local, state and federal agencies for valuable information about how you can live a healthier life and take advantage of programs just for seniors. We will be at this event to provide information on state services you could qualify for. We'll have door prizes and light refreshments. I hope you can join us!

Veteran's Expo:

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. • Thursday, Oct. 20

American Legion Hall, Post 926
3220 Concord Road
Aston, PA 19014



Too many of our veterans are returning home and having trouble accessing the assistance they deserve and have earned through their sacrifices. We'll be joined by the Pennsylvania Mobile Veterans' Van to assist accredited veterans and their family members in connecting with needed benefits, such as disability, health care, pension, education, career assistance and more!



Town Hall with PA Auditor General:

10:30 a.m. – Noon • Thursday, Oct. 6

Brookhaven Municipal Center
2 Cambridge Road, Brookhaven, PA 19015

We'll be joined by state Auditor General Eugene DePasquale to discuss government waste and what more can be done to ensure your tax dollars are spent as efficiently as possible.



Shred Event:

9 a.m. – 12 p.m. • Saturday, Oct. 22

Ridley High School, Tennis Court Parking Lot
901 Morton Avenue, Folsom, PA 19033

Identity theft can be a serious threat to your financial security. Criminals that get their hands on personal documents, such as bank statements, medical information or old credit card bills may try to steal your identity and open new bank accounts or credit cards in your name. To safely dispose of sensitive documents, such as anything with a bank account or credit card number or your social security number on it, you can stop by and watch your papers get shredded.