



State Representative  
**Pamela A. DeLissio**  
194th Legislative District



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**Dear Neighbor,**

As I write this letter, one of the most impactful decisions for the Commonwealth will have been given further consideration by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. That decision is the redrawing of the district boundaries for the 18 congressional seats that have been in effect since 2012. These districts were seriously gerrymandered, and a lawsuit brought by the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters endeavored to finally correct this egregious wrong.

Make no mistake, the state Senate and House districts also are gerrymandered, and it is my hope that all of this will be corrected with the passage of either S.B. 22 or H.B. 722, bills that would put in place an independent redistricting reform commission. In the interim, the state Supreme Court has ordered the legislature to redraw the congressional districts in time for the midterm primary elections, which take place May 15.

Whether you realize it or not, gerrymandering has taken away the ability to ensure that your voice is heard at the ballot box. The result of gerrymandering is districts in which the elected official selects the voter and not the other way around.

At all 70 of my town halls, I have covered the topic of gerrymandering. My reason for covering this topic so frequently is because this situation must be corrected to ensure that true democracy prevails and so we can reverse the gridlock and ideological rigidity that plagues our state and federal governments. Please know that I will continue to work hard for the passage of S.B. 22 and/or H.B. 722 and champion the state Supreme Court's decision to redraw the congressional districts for May 15. If you want to be involved in advocating for this cause, please learn more at FairDistrictsPA.com.

An album of maps showing how gerrymandering leads to split communities with barely contiguous and rarely compact districts is available at <http://bit.ly/2rFPZ2f>.

A video of me discussing gerrymandering can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/2BwawpF>.

*Pamela A. DeLissio*

## Budget Back in the News

The 2017-2018 budget was voted in two parts. The spending plan became law without the Governor's signature in early July. A revenue package of 10 bills became law over a period of time during October and November. Budgets should not be handled in two different timeframes, but the current legislature was determined not to make it an easy situation for our current Governor.

The continual use of one-time money to balance the budget perpetuates the structural deficit that has plagued every budget for the past seven years. At my January town hall, we covered the spending and revenue plans for the 2017-2018 budget and if raising revenue in future budgets is not an option, then the General Assembly needs to start to look at a reduction of budget expenses.

The structural deficit was in the billions, and one way to close that gap could have been to eliminate the funding for the non-preferred line items, which include a state subsidy for Pitt, Penn State, Temple, Lincoln and Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine. The total subsidy to these five schools was \$594.6 million.

There are those legislators who refuse to increase revenue in any manner, and that leaves little other choice if we are to stop the growth of this persistent structural deficit.

The Governor's budget address was the first Tuesday of February, and I am determined to keep this discussion front and center so we do not find ourselves yet again in a situation where we are passing a spending bill separately from a revenue bill and adding to the structural deficit.

# H.B. 1688 Provides Health Care at Lower Cost

In October, I reintroduced legislation that would provide health care coverage in Pennsylvania at a lower cost and with freedom to choose health care providers because the concept of “networks” would go away.

House Bill 1688 would establish the Pennsylvania Health Care Plan, a blueprint of bold steps that would result in a healthier citizenry without the financial burden that many people currently experience with high deductibles and premiums.

Given the nationwide focus on how to best provide affordable health care, this legislation is timelier than ever. This or similar legislation has been introduced in Pennsylvania since 2005.

As of January 2017, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) allows states the option to innovate with their own health care plan as long as the proposed plan is more economical and efficient. This proposed legislation meets that criteria and improves upon the current health care system in many ways.

This legislation preserves the private practice of medicine, and it would ensure the cost-effective delivery of covered services that range from catastrophic care to wellness and preventative care. Health care providers would have autonomy over patient care.

Currently, health care practitioners often have to vigorously defend their recommended treatment plan with an insurance company. Those discussions take time and money, and treatment is often delayed because of this process.

Participants in the plan would know their health care cost exposure for the year, a significant benefit in helping them plan for the future.

The Pennsylvania Health Care Plan would be supported by savings from replacing the current multiple-payer system, which is less than efficient and often profit-oriented, with a streamlined Pennsylvania Health Care Trust Fund. The plan would be funded by a 10 percent employer tax paid on payroll and a 3 percent personal income tax.

There are many myths surrounding universal health coverage and the single-payer model, and it is my goal over the remainder of this session to educate my constituents and colleagues about the advantages of this plan. I look forward to the dialogue and input from many stakeholders to make this legislation the best it can be for Pennsylvania citizens.

The bill has been referred to the House Health Committee. Additional information, including the Pennsylvania Health Care Plan flow chart, can be found at [www.PAHouse.com/DeLissio](http://www.PAHouse.com/DeLissio).

# Establishing Relationships with the White House

On Oct. 12, Pennsylvania state representatives were invited by White House Intergovernmental Affairs Director Justin Clark to establish a better working relationship among the White House, federal agencies and Pennsylvania House members.

The day began with a tour of the East Wing of the White House, and representatives then gathered to meet with numerous departments and agencies of the federal government. The group met with senior staff from the following departments: Interior, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Commerce, Energy, Small Business Administration, State, Transportation, Veteran Affairs, and Mick Mulvaney, director of the Office of Management and Budget, and one of the deputy chiefs of staff to President Donald Trump.

The purpose of the meeting was to establish lines of communication, which could be instrumental to enhancing policy outcomes at the state and federal levels. I intend to call upon these newly formed relationships for assistance when warranted.

Most importantly, it was a great opportunity to bring the voice of my district to Washington.

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## Is the State Holding Your Unclaimed Property?

The state Treasurer's Office is holding \$3.2 billion in unclaimed property, and it is estimated that about one of 10 Pennsylvanians has unclaimed property.

Unclaimed property may include:

- Closed bank accounts;
- Uncashed checks, including paychecks;
- Lost stocks and bonds;
- Contents of safe deposit boxes;
- Expired gift cards/gift certificates.

To find out whether you have unclaimed property, you can search your name, as well as that of your friends and family in the Unclaimed Property database at [www.patreasury.gov/Unclaimed](http://www.patreasury.gov/Unclaimed) or call 1-800-222-2046. There is no charge to claim your unclaimed property.

You also can contact or stop by my office. My staff will be happy to help you search the Pennsylvania Office of the State Treasurer website for unclaimed property free of charge.





**My Annual Holiday Open House was festive and fun, with constituents asking questions and interacting with one another, me, and staff.**

**In January, I participated in the PA Farm Show 2018 Celebrity Cow Milking Contest – I was in it to win it!**



**My Senior Expo in 2017 was held Sept. 28. It was a great event for hundreds of constituents to interact with a diverse group of agencies and organizations offering services, volunteer opportunities, and civic and community engagement ideas.**



**The Saint Joseph's University Rugby team, along with community members, commemorated MLK Day this year by picking up many, many bags of litter along the lower end of Domino Lane and Umbria Street from Domino Lane to Shawmont.**



**My monthly Town Halls engage constituents with policy issues that are being discussed in Harrisburg. Here, folks gather to better understand H.B. 1688, my legislation on single-payer health care.**



## Many Ways My District Office May Be of Help

My great office staff is prepared to help you with state Department of Human Services programs such as SNAP, Medical Assistance, and LIHEAP, as well as Unemployment Compensation concerns, birth and death certificates, voter registration, unclaimed property, PennDOT forms and applications for things such as handicap placards and driver and non-driver licenses, Property Tax/Rent Rebate filings, most consumer complaints, and many other state-related issues.

**Come visit!**

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
**6511 Ridge Ave.**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19128**  
**Phone: 215-482-8726**

## Have Your SEPTA Photo Taken in the District Office!

If you are 65 or older, you're invited to have your picture taken for the free senior SEPTA Key ID card in my office. Please call and make an appointment first. We have helped more than 2,200 constituents get their picture taken, and we look forward to helping you, too!



**Cathedral Village residents take advantage of my office providing fun and 'painless photo ops' in order for folks 65 or older to register and apply for senior SEPTA Key photo ID cards.**

## Bill Addressing Nuisance Stop-and-Go Establishments Signed into Law

Last November, I joined Gov. Tom Wolf, members of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) and statewide and local Philadelphia legislators for the signing of a bill that increases the state's ability to better deal with "stop-and-go" nuisance establishments in Philadelphia and throughout Pennsylvania.

The new authority is included in the recently enacted Fiscal Code (Act 44 of 2017, formerly H.B. 674). Under the law, if the PLCB finds that a licensed establishment does not meet the seating, square footage, food or health requirements under the state Liquor Code, the PLCB can suspend the license immediately. The new law also gives local government entities the power to make recommendations to the PLCB to investigate establishments believed to be failing to meet code requirements.

This has been an issue that has plagued Philadelphia neighborhoods for decades, and I applaud Gov. Wolf for his help and action on the bill.

The bill was signed at the same location where I convened city, state and civic stakeholders two years ago to understand the problem from as many perspectives as possible and to identify, in particular, the barriers to a solution.

I brought the agenda and the stakeholder chart from that meeting to the bill signing. The bill signing reflects the collective efforts of my colleagues in the House and Senate to give communities the opportunity to eliminate nuisance stop-and-go establishments that so negatively impact their neighborhoods.

In particular, I am proud of the work of the Community Action Group, a civic association that includes constituents in the 194th Legislative District. These civic leaders have clearly made a difference for not only their neighborhood but all of Philadelphia.

# Vehicle Registration Renewals

My office can help you with PennDOT vehicle registration renewals now that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is no longer issuing stickers.

Drivers are still required to maintain current vehicle registration and must present a registration card to law enforcement when asked and for annual vehicle inspections.

Motorists can now renew a vehicle registration

online and print a valid registration card to carry with them.

If you are without a computer or printer, my office can assist you by applying online on your behalf. Simply bring in your current registration card and proof of insurance, and staff will print out your new valid, updated card. You will need to provide a credit card in order to complete the transaction.

## Does Size Really Matter?

Recently, leaders in the House introduced H.B. 153, a constitutional amendment to shrink the size of the PA House of Representatives from 203 to 151 members.

In order for this amendment to become law, it must pass both the House and Senate in two consecutive legislative sessions before being placed on the ballot for voters to make the final decision. H.B. 153 was already passed by both the House and Senate last session and will appear on the ballot if approved again this year.

Last session for a variety of reasons I voted against H.B. 153, one being because I believe any plan to change the size of the legislature should involve the adoption of a nonpartisan redistricting process.

The current method for redistricting, which takes place every 10 years after the census, uses a highly partisan method for redrawing state House and state Senate legislative district boundaries.

I will remain a no vote on H.B. 153.

If we worked as a part-time legislature, I believe we could accomplish what Pennsylvanians need without spending time and dollars on as many extraneous issues as I currently see spent.

Meanwhile, the PA Supreme Court recently decided Pennsylvania needs to redraw its Congressional boundaries. I will be paying close attention as this process is interrelated to the effectiveness of competitive districts, and fair, efficient, responsive governance.

I have covered the topic of reducing the size of the legislature in depth in at least two Town Halls and will continue to have a dialogue with constituents on this topic.



**Darece Williford, Cheryl Spencer, and Denise Whittiker, members of the Community Action Group, actively advocated for a Bill addressing Nuisance Stop-and-Go Establishments plaguing Philadelphia neighborhoods for decades. (see corresponding article on inside page.)**

## Keep Informed

- Sign up and **'opt in'** to continue to receive my emails, which I send twice a month, for news and upcoming events in the district, legislative topics important to you, and other state government-related information. Go to:  
**[www.pahouse.com/DeLissio/emailsignup](http://www.pahouse.com/DeLissio/emailsignup)**
- Find out how we voted:  
**[www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us)**
- Follow State House & Senate Sessions, Committee Hearings & State Judiciary proceedings on PCN:  
**Comcast – 186**  
**Verizon – 9**
- **PennWATCH:** For information about how state tax dollars are spent. **[www.pennwatch.pa.gov](http://www.pennwatch.pa.gov)**
- Shadow me and 'work the day of a legislator': Call my Harrisburg office to arrange a date. 717-783-4945
- Be sure to check my website, like my Facebook page, and follow me on twitter!

**Website:**  
**[www.pahouse.com/DeLissio](http://www.pahouse.com/DeLissio)**

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State Representative

**Pamela A. DeLissio**

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“We greatly appreciate all the Town Halls to try to keep us informed about the happenings in Harrisburg. Rep. DeLissio is so well prepared, taking questions, answering them with ‘no cheat sheets,’ and with excellent educated, understandable responses. What a woman, representing us valiantly, trying to find the best path for her constituents no matter how many or what obstacles are thrown in her path, doing the right thing for us in Harrisburg.”

- Sandra Dillon and Dr. Mary Loveland

## TOWN HALLS

### **71st Town Hall**

**Monday, March 19 • 7 p.m.**

Falls Ridge Community Room  
4349 Ridge Ave., Philadelphia

### **72nd Town Hall**

**Wednesday, April 25 • 10 a.m.**

Cathedral Auditorium, Cathedral Village  
600 Cathedral Road, Philadelphia

### **73rd Town Hall**

**Thursday, May 17 • 7 p.m.**

Details to follow

## Save the dates:

### FREE SHREDDING EVENTS

**Saturday, April 14 • 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Magisterial District Court parking lot  
925 Montgomery Ave., Narberth 19072

**Saturday, April 28 • 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

514 Dupont St., Philadelphia 19128

**Shredding occurs on site.**

### ELECTION DAY SCHEDULE

**April 16** – Last day to register before Primary Election

**May 8** – Last day to apply for Absentee Ballot

**May 11** – Last day Absentee Ballot can be received  
by County Election Office

**May 15** – General Primary Election: Polls open  
7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

**Online Voter Registration –**  
[www.register.votesPA.com](http://www.register.votesPA.com)