



# State Representative ▼ 191st Legislative District

# JOANNA E. McCLINTON

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SUMMER 2018

Dear Constituent,

I hope all is well with you and your family this summer! I am writing to update you on the great things that happened in Harrisburg and around the 191st Legislative District. We have been able to accomplish a lot in the last few months. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to continue serving as your state representative. I am both humbled and grateful to represent West and Southwest Philadelphia along with Darby and Yeadon boroughs.

In this newsletter, you will find a recap of how hard we have been working on your behalf. This includes passing a state budget before the June 30 deadline and with more money for education; legislation that is now law that will give people with minor offenses a second chance; as well as ways we are fighting for safer schools and cracking down on gun violence in our neighborhoods.

I look forward to meeting with you face-to-face to learn more about your concerns and how together, my staff and I can work with you to solve them. We hope you and your family will join us for the **60th Street Health and Wellness Community Summer Jam on Saturday, Aug. 11, 2018**. Our office continuously seeks to exceed your expectations. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us directly or stop by the district office.

Sincerely,

*Joanna E. McClinton*

**Joanna E. McClinton**  
State Representative  
191st Legislative District

*Legislative Update*

## Pennsylvania now providing a clean slate

I co-sponsored a bill that Gov. Tom Wolf signed into law that will give people with low-level, nonviolent criminal records an opportunity to have their records sealed from public view.

House Bill 141, now Act 56 of 2018, will enforce the following structure for sealing records:

- Non-violent misdemeanor convictions – sealing will occur after a person has remained crime-free for 10 years.
- Non-conviction records – sealing will be done as a matter of course, given that the presumption of innocence is one of the bedrocks of the American criminal justice system.

The “Clean Slate” law is the first of its kind in the United States and will remove one of the many barriers to employment that our citizens face and hopefully assist thousands of Pennsylvanians to reenter the workforce.



## REGISTER AND VOTE

### Important 2018 General Election Deadlines

- **October 9 – Last day to register to vote**
- **October 30 (by 5 p.m.) – Last day to apply for an absentee ballot**
- **November 2 (by 5 p.m.) – Last day for county election offices to receive absentee ballots**
- **November 6 – Election Day (polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.)**

You may vote by absentee ballot if you are unable to make it to the polls because of illness, disability or if you will be out of your municipality on Election Day.

Applications for absentee ballots are available at my district offices, through Philadelphia County Voter Services or Delaware County Voter Services, or online at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com).

# Legislative Update

## SEXTORTION LEGISLATION

I will soon be introducing legislation with Rep. Becky Corbin of Chester County that would help law enforcement and victim services organizations address sextortion, which is a growing form of sexual exploitation.

This crime occurs when someone uses coercion and misuses their power to demand sexual acts, photos or videos from victims. The perpetrator withholds an essential service or thing of value from the victim whether or not the victim follows through with the demands.

The legislation would enable Pennsylvania to keep pace in a digital age that often facilitates certain types of sextortion.



## TAKING ACTION TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

Gov. Wolf signed into law a bill that will provide our students, teachers and parents an avenue to crack down on school shootings while improving safety across the commonwealth.

Act 44 will establish a new School Security and Safety Fund that comes with a budget of \$60 million, part of which will go to the William Penn School District and the School District of Philadelphia. The funding will be used to implement a wide range of safety measures including mental health counseling; training people, such as emergency dispatch centers, local law enforcement and school personnel on appropriate awareness and response; and developing education materials and promote program awareness to participating school districts.

In addition to this funding for our schools, I joined my colleagues of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus and Gov. Wolf to commend the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in releasing \$48 million in grants to organizations serving crime victims across Pennsylvania.

Gun violence is a public health crisis just like opioids, and it has impacted communities of color in Philadelphia and Delaware counties for years. We must continue to tackle this crisis head-on and this funding is just one step toward achieving that goal.

Of the \$48 million, seven programs in Philadelphia received a total of \$4.1 million to specifically address victims of gun violence and violent crimes.

## DNA TESTING

I have co-sponsored legislation that would help give justice to people in Pennsylvania who are wrongly convicted, while protecting crime victims and witnesses.

House Bill 2307 would improve the Post-Conviction Relief Act to help people present new evidence, particularly newly available DNA, to challenge their potentially wrongful convictions.

House Bill 2308 would update the state's post-conviction DNA statute. It would make those with guilty pleas eligible for testing, remove the supervision requirement to obtain DNA testing, allow courts to order the uploading of DNA profiles into national and state databases, and clarify that testing is permitted with advances in technology.

## GETTING GUNS OFF OUR STREETS



More than 300 guns were turned in and more than \$30,000 in gift cards were awarded during my Safe Summer Gun Buyback. Special thanks to the Philadelphia Police Department, Sen. Anthony Williams, Councilman Kenyatta Johnson and all of the sponsors for this important event.



# APPLY NOW TO RECEIVE PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE

The deadline to file a 2017 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program application is Dec. 31, 2018!

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates can boost rebates up to \$975.

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 FREE assistance with filling out your application, please call or visit my offices.

## MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Car registrations, special tags, titles and license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Notary services
- Birth and death certificate applications
- Child clearances services
- Problems with Pennsylvania income taxes
- Problems with Department of Human Services (food stamps, welfare)
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information, student aid information, etc.
- Citations from Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishment and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
- SEPTA senior IDs
- Problems or questions about PennDOT
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Disability license plates and placards
- Assistance in getting and filling out state forms of all kinds, like PACE (Pharmaceutical Assistance for qualified senior citizens), voter registration, property tax/rent rebate (for qualified seniors), PHEAA (PA Higher Education Assistance), etc.



Stay connected to what's happening in Harrisburg and in the district by signing up for my email updates. Go to [www.pahouse.com/McClinton](http://www.pahouse.com/McClinton) to sign up.



Your input is important to me. Please take the time to fill out the form below on how we can improve the district. Mail this attachment to me or drop it off.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# PA COMMISSION ON SENTENCING DELAYS VOTE ON SENTENCE RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL

As a member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, I made a motion in June, which the commission unanimously approved, to delay the vote on the controversial sentence risk assessment tool. I brought up the motion after the commission received several pieces of testimony against implementing this tool.

The General Assembly mandated the commission to adopt a sentence risk assessment instrument to serve as an aid in the sentencing process in an effort to reduce the prison population. It would provide judges with facts and information to ensure a defendant receives the proper punishment while indicating if they need help, such as a drug treatment program.

I believe the risk assessment tool is unfair because it would adversely impact people of color. During three public hearings, including one in Philadelphia where 33 people testified, we heard from citizens, the Philadelphia Bar Association and advocate groups opposing the sentence risk assessment tool because of its racial implications.

We cannot allow a judge to put someone in a box when they have a family to support and bills to pay. They should be granted another chance to put their best foot forward and work to become a productive member of society. I am pleased the commission decided to take a

step back, digest and evaluate the comments and wait until another time to move on this action.

In addition to reviewing the testimony from the public hearings, my motion directs the commission to publish the findings of the Urban Institute's external review of the proposed sentence risk assessment instrument upon receipt, solicit proposals from the public and stakeholders for a sentence risk assessment tool as mandated, and schedule a minimum of three public hearings in December 2018 to receive proposals and to review comments on any revisions to the commission's proposal.



## JOSEPH W. CATHERINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECEIVES STATE FUNDING FOR LEAD ABATEMENT

I am pleased to see Joseph W. Catherine Elementary School is one of several schools in Philadelphia to receive state funding to improve conditions.

In June, Gov. Wolf announced \$15.6 million in joint funding for lead, mold and asbestos removal at 57 school buildings. Of that funding, the commonwealth is providing \$7.6 million for lead paint remediation at 40 schools across the city, and the School District of Philadelphia is investing \$8 million to remove lead paint, mold and asbestos.

In 2018, no child should be at risk of lead poisoning, and no parent should be concerned that their children may be at risk when they go to school.

## BUDGET UPDATE

The budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year passed the General Assembly before the June 30 deadline. I am pleased to announce there are no tax increases, and there is additional funding to improve education for all students regardless of zip code.

Here are the education increases in the 2018-19 budget:

- Basic Education Funding: \$118 million
- Special Education Funding: \$15 million
- Early Childhood Education: \$25 million
- Early Intervention: \$22 million
- Career and Technical Education (includes PA Smart): \$30 million



# Happenings around the 191st



**Celebrating Darby Free Library's 275th Birthday.**



**The annual Yeadon Flag Day celebration was created 65 years ago by William T. Kerr who lived in the borough.**



**It was a pleasure honoring Ribhi Mustafa and Jamilah Thompson for their outstanding leadership during my Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Seminar in April.**



**It was so much fun celebrating our community with music, dancing, food and fun during my Southwest Community Day in June.**



**Lt. Gov. Mike Stack joined me in presenting a check for \$1.25 million to the Paschalville Library.**



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## INSIDE:

- Clean Slate enacted
- Fighting gun violence
- Funding for education,  
school building  
improvements

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# SAVE THE DATE

## Representative Joanna McClinton's 60th Street Health and Wellness Community Summer Jam

**Aug. 11, 2018  
11 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**60th Street between Arch and Chestnut  
Philadelphia, PA 19139**

Join us for a **FREE** fun and engaging event that will feature main stage entertainment, food, family fun, and our mobile office to provide constituents with answers to state issues and programs.

