



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Gerald

Summer 2018

Mullery  
119th Legislative District

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**Committees:** Education • Game & Fisheries • Health • Judiciary • Labor & Industry

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## Mullery announces \$2.74 million for Luzerne County projects

Earlier this year, \$2.74 million in grants were awarded for several projects in the portion of Luzerne County that I represent.

The Local Share Account dollars provided through casino gaming proceeds received by the state allow the commonwealth to help municipalities and school districts with projects that otherwise might not be completed or that would probably require a local tax increase.

### The 14 LSA grants were approved by the Commonwealth Financing Authority for the following projects:

- **Rice Township:** \$286,530 to repair Laurel Drive and Ice Lakes Drive; and \$34,000 to purchase a police cruiser.
- **Wright Township:** \$288,641 for Phase III of the Walden Park paving project to correct storm water drainage problems and pave Brandywyn Drive and Mystic Drive.
- **Nanticoke City:** \$450,000 to acquire and demolish three blighted and/or vacant properties on South Market Street; and \$250,000 on behalf of the Greater Nanticoke Area School District to construct a turf field and artificial track.
- **Hazle Township:** \$625,617 for Phase II of transportation improvements at Humboldt Industrial Park for the intersections of Forest Road/Maplewood Drive and White Birch Road/Maplewood Drive to address existing deficiencies in traffic congestion and to improve safety.
- **Plymouth Borough:** \$217,208 for Phase II of the Downtown Plymouth Redevelopment, which includes acquisition and demolition of four old unused buildings adjacent to the municipal parking lot for improvements; and \$100,000 on behalf of the Wyoming Valley West School District for roof repairs at the high school to eliminate chronic leakage problems above the cafeteria and kitchen.
- **Nuangola Borough:** \$60,958 to purchase a work truck and attachments.
- **Plymouth Township:** \$150,000 for the DeHaven Street Pump Station and Force Main project to construct a new sanitary pump station and force main to properly collect and convey sewage from 220 properties currently serviced by wildcat sewers and malfunctioning on-lot sewage disposal systems.
- **Newport Township:** \$150,000 to address the failing storm water drainage system along Railroad Street.
- **Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority:** \$70,000 on behalf of the Wyoming Valley Sanitation Authority, to produce a GIS location database to fulfill the mapping requirements for the 2018 Department of Environmental Protection permit cycle.
- **Sugar Notch Borough:** \$37,986 to purchase a new truck with a snowplow attachment.
- **White Haven Borough:** \$25,000 on behalf of White Haven Area Community Library Inc. to renovate a former Lehigh Valley Railroad engine repair shop.

# Youth Advisory Council gives next generation a voice

After listening to the young survivors of the Parkland, Florida shooting, I was inspired to be more proactive in giving the next generation a platform to discuss what is important to them and offer suggestions and solutions moving forward.

For that reason, I created a Youth Advisory Council and began listening and learning from the best and brightest students from our district. Twenty-seven students from seven high schools make up our first council.

To date, we've held a roundtable discussion and invited speakers from the Attorney General and Auditor General's offices to meet and interact with our students. Plans for the remainder of the year include a visit to Harrisburg, community service projects and additional listening sessions.



Our Youth Advisory Council had the chance to learn about a variety of issues, thanks to Attorney General Josh Shapiro and Auditor General Eugene DePasquale's offices. Senior Supervisory Special Agent Janene Holter, Deputy Press Secretary Maggie Shuttlesworth and Senior Report Writer Amy Gulli spoke and answered questions. Topics included the opioid battle, school safety, voting security, net neutrality and data breaches by Facebook and Uber.



I celebrated July 4th at the Mountain Top Parade with District Attorney Stephanie Salavantis, District Judge Ferris Webby, Mountaintop Hose Company President Dave Hourigan, Wright Township Supervisor Mike Marshall and state Rep. Ed Pashinski. I honored this year's Mountain Top on the Move July 4th Parade Grand Marshall Anneliese Moghul who has devoted nearly 50 years of service to the Mountain Top communities.

## 119 Seconds with Jerry

Recently, I launched a new video series titled "119 Seconds with Jerry."

I understand how busy and stressful your life can be and wanted to provide you an avenue to obtain a brief update on some positive news from around our district.

If you can spare two minutes, click on one of the videos on my website [www.pahouse.com/Mullery](http://www.pahouse.com/Mullery), my Facebook page [www.facebook.com/RepMullery](https://www.facebook.com/RepMullery) or my Twitter account [www.twitter.com/RepJerryMullery](https://twitter.com/RepJerryMullery), and stay up to date with the happenings in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

## ON Semiconductor expansion to bring more jobs

It was wonderful to hear the June announcement that ON Semiconductor will expand its operations in Mountain Top.

This \$51 million expansion in the Crestwood Industrial Park is great news because it means more jobs in the Mountain Top community. Any time a business expands, it's a positive reflection on Luzerne County because it lets other companies know that we have a dedicated workforce.

The new state budget includes more money for career and technical education, and that's important because it will help our next generation of workers to be better prepared for the jobs of the future, such as those at ON Semiconductor.

# House OKs Mullery bill to ban nicotine products in schools

Nicotine-based products and electronic cigarettes would be banned in Pennsylvania schools, under legislation that I authored and which passed the state House of Representatives unanimously and awaits consideration by the state Senate.

Part of encouraging young people to live healthy lives is discouraging destructive habits from starting. I drafted the legislation after conversations with school resource officers and teachers concerned with the rapidly growing population of young students using e-cigarettes and JUULs.

Cigarette smoking is already prohibited on school grounds, but my H.B. 2268 also would ban e-cigarettes, cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco and other nicotine products. In recent years, the use of other nicotine-based products has increased where nearly three in five high school students use e-cigarettes, according to the U.S. surgeon general.

Ninety percent of adult smokers picked up the habit as teenagers when they were most susceptible to addiction and in a critical period of growth and brain development.

If my bill becomes law, violations would be punishable as a summary offense with a fine not to exceed \$50.



As the son of a small-business owner, it gives me great pleasure to celebrate the successes of our small family-run businesses in the 119<sup>th</sup> District. Recently, I joined George Burger, Sarah Burger, Deborah Burger, Renea Mayeski and Mario Gentilescu to honor George Burger & Sons on their 50th anniversary.

## New manufacturer creating 95 jobs in Hazle Township

I'm pleased to welcome IRIS USA to Hazle Township after the April announcement by Gov. Tom Wolf that the manufacturer will expand into Pennsylvania and create 95 jobs.

It's always good news when we see new jobs coming to Luzerne County. Northeast Pennsylvania has a long history of having a skilled, dedicated workforce and I'm confident that played a part in the company's decision to locate in our area.

I also want to thank the governor, the Governor's Action Team and CAN DO officials for their teamwork in making this happen.

Good jobs, quality schools, putting people first and fair taxes are components of the House Democrats' Plan4PA. More details can be found at [www.plan4pa.com](http://www.plan4pa.com).



I recently enjoyed some great conversation in my office with constituent David Thole of Mountain Top. David is an avid "Letter to the Editor" author and shares my commitment to making Northeastern Pennsylvania a better place to live, work and grow.



It was my pleasure to help celebrate Grateful Roast Café's 2-year anniversary with owner Brian Williams. The café celebrated with coffee roasting and tasting, live music, games, and a seafood boil.



I recently met with the owners, management and staff of the McDonald's on SR 309 & Crestwood Drive in Mountain Top. We discussed issues and concerns facing their family-owned business and I was able to interact with my patient constituents as I worked the counter and drive thru.

# State House moves to expand career, technical education

A package of bipartisan bills looking to boost career and technical education passed the state House of Representatives, including my H.B. 2204.

It's a pleasure to work with my colleagues in a bipartisan way to help improve the delivery of career and technical education in Pennsylvania. Recently, when I met with the owner of Dotzel Trucking and Topsoil — a small, family-run business in Slocum Township — he stressed to me the importance of technical education for our younger generation.

As minority chairman of the Select Subcommittee on Technical Education and Career Readiness, we discovered that in many areas of the state, various

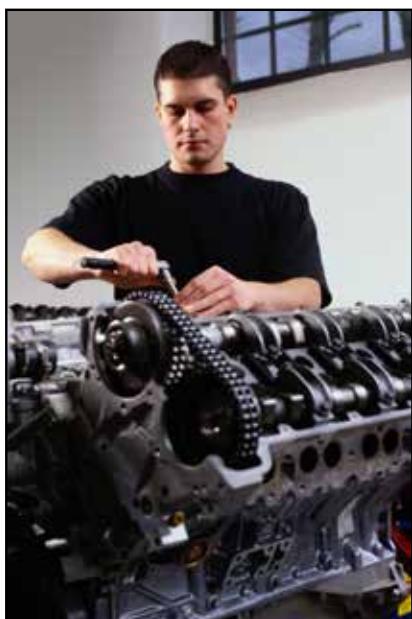
CTE stakeholders are engaging in meaningful partnerships to encourage a continuum of career and workforce development opportunities for our students.

During the group's public hearings, it was noted that efforts shouldn't be focused on reinventing the wheel by creating new programs. Rather,

the state should focus on encouraging the expansion of quality programs into other parts of the state and even statewide.

Before we can accomplish that goal — we must gather a complete accounting of existing CTE programs and use those programs as a model to build and foster local cooperation across the spectrum of stakeholders to improve career opportunities for students in their local communities.

Under my bill, the Department of Education and the Department of Labor and Industry would conduct an inventory of existing workforce development programs at both the secondary and postsecondary levels with particular emphasis on opportunities for business-education partnerships. The goal would be to share those best practices learned with the various entities to help improve the delivery of career-focused opportunities.



## Other bills in the package would:

- reform certification requirements for CTE teachers by emphasizing work experience in the field over additional course credits.
- speed the process for the classification of instructional programs.
- provide all students in grades four through 12 at least one opportunity to receive career information from career presenters and it would open schools to a wide range of educational contributors.
- expand the database that allows courses, programs, certifications and diplomas to transfer among public schools and colleges.
- create an online CTE resource center.
- require Workforce Development Boards to include an administrator of a CTE center.

Expanding career and technical education is part of the Plan4PA, the House Democrats' proposal for creating and sustaining good jobs. More information can be found at [www.plan4pa.com](http://www.plan4pa.com).

As a commonwealth, it's important that we train students for the jobs that will be available in the future; and successful career and technical education programs do just that. I would like to thank both Education Committee chairmen for leading our efforts and I also want to thank Gov. Tom Wolf for his commitment to career and technical education.

In fact, the state's 2018-19 state budget includes \$40 million for PASmart, the initiative proposed by the governor to boost workforce development, computer science and STEM training as follows:

- a \$30 million increase is in the career and technical education appropriation in the Department of Education. That includes \$10 million for the regular career and technical education subsidy and \$20 million for programs promoting employer engagement in postsecondary education, expanding computer science course offerings, developing STEM educator development and training programs, and advancing workers in career and technical fields.
- a new \$7 million apprenticeship training appropriation in the Department of Labor and Industry.
- a \$3 million increase in the industry partnerships appropriation in L&I.

# Property Tax/Rent Rebate deadline extended to Dec. 31



The deadline to apply for the state Department of Revenue's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program was extended until Dec. 31. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates up to \$975.

Eligibility requirements include: Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, or people with disabilities 18 or older; an income limit of \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, with half of Social Security income excluded. Spouses, personal representatives or estates may also file rebate claims on behalf of claimants who lived at least one day in 2017 and meet all other criteria.

Applications and FREE assistance are available at my office or from the Department of Revenue district offices, local Area Agencies on Aging or senior centers.



**It was my pleasure to recognize Veranne Rinehamer, mother of 13, grandmother of 22, and great-grandmother of 24, at her 90th birthday celebration. Veranne's influence spans multiple generations and her happiness is contagious.**



***Seaman First Class  
Edward F. Slapikas***

**On June 9, Newport Township welcomed home Navy veteran and former resident Petty Officer 1st Class Edward F. Slapikas who was killed in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, 77 years ago.**

## Hazle Township road project gets \$558,435 state grant

Hazle Township was approved for a \$558,435 grant from PennDOT to improve Old Airport Road.

The money will be used toward a \$798,435 project that will allow for full width milling and overlay of the road, constructing a new bike lane, and drainage improvements near Hazleton Regional Airport. The new bike lane is a continuation of the existing bike lane, which begins at nearby Hazle Township Community Park.

Grants like this one help local governments to complete important projects that otherwise might need to be put off or would result in increased taxes. Extending the bike lane also will lead to better outdoor opportunities for Hazle Township residents.

The state Transportation Department's Multimodal Transportation Fund provides grants to ensure that a safe and reliable system of transportation is available to residents of the commonwealth. It was created by Act 89 of 2013, Pennsylvania's broad transportation funding plan.



**During Freeland's Memorial Day festivities, I recognized John Teliho and Joseph Karlick for 50 years of dedicated and distinguished service to American Legion Post 473.**





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**Gerald Mullery**

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## 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

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.

Voter registration forms and applications for absentee ballots are available at my office.

### Join my email list

[www.pahouse.com/Mullery>EmailSignup](http://www.pahouse.com/Mullery>EmailSignup)

lpo.jc.0818

# Save the date! FREE Shredding Event

10 a.m. to Noon

Saturday, September 15

Crestwood High School

This event is only for residential documents.  
Business documents will not be accepted.

**Documents will be shredded on site.**

This is a great opportunity to protect yourself from identity theft by properly disposing of documents that contain personal information such as Social Security numbers or bank or credit card account numbers. Types of old documents you may no longer need can include:

- Credit card applications
- Canceled or unused checks
- Insurance and income tax records
- Pension information



**Please do not bring plastics, such as page protectors, binders and checkbook covers, or metals, such as large spring clips, wire from wire-bound notebooks and file folders with metal prongs in material to be recycled.**

**For more information, please call my Nanticoke office at 570-740-7031.**