

News From State Representative

CHRISTINA SAPPEY

158th Legislative District | Chester County



Dear Neighbor,

After a long year of uncertainty, we're finally seeing signs of reemergence from the COVID-19 pandemic. Each and every one of us experienced challenges as the pandemic wore on, and during this time I have kept you all close in my mind and my heart.

Throughout the pandemic I have been busy advocating for the 158th. In the House, I have voted for numerous relief efforts to keep our families, schools and communities afloat. I have advocated for our small business community, particularly the hospitality and specialty crop agriculture industries. I successfully joined my fellow elected officials from Southeastern PA to advocate for adequate vaccine supplies for our area. My office assisted hundreds of you with the unemployment process and federal PUA, and since January, I have hosted 18 virtual or in-person events focusing on important policy topics.

As we move toward summer, my attention is focused on the state budget. For the first time in many years we have exceeded state revenue projections. This, coupled with federal American Rescue Plan funding, presents opportunities to invest in our commonwealth that could make PA more attractive to industry, modernize infrastructure, increase training and workforce development, and improve services our citizens rely on such as child care, long-term care and at-home care for senior citizens.

Later this year, I will be keeping a close eye on the redistricting process. More than any other issue, the negative impacts of gerrymandering have engaged thousands of PA citizens and I know you'll be watching this process as well.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for caring about this very special place we call home. It's an honor to serve as your state representative.

Have a safe and happy summer,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Sappey'.

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COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDS: INVESTING IN A BETTER FUTURE

The federal American Rescue Plan, passed by Congress and signed into law earlier this year, allocated \$7 billion in COVID-19 relief funds to Pennsylvania. I want to make sure those funds are invested in ways that will help us recover and build a better economy for everyone.

The proposed Pennsylvania Rescue Plan introduced by House Democrats would address the needs of Pennsylvanians and have long-term impacts on our state. Some highlights from the plan I support include:

- \$500 million in job creation grants for businesses.
- \$279 million investment in the Commonwealth Financing Authority to fund transportation multimodal projects such as streetscapes, pedestrian access, trail development and transit-oriented development.
- \$250 million for property tax relief.
- \$250 million to businesses and nonprofits unable to stay open or work remotely due to COVID-19.
- \$250 million for school upgrades and remediation.
- \$200 million to connect everyone to high-speed internet and vital infrastructure.
- \$150 million to eliminate the intellectual disabilities and autism emergency waitlist for assistance with daily living.
- \$100 million to invest in health care research, innovation and increase access to health care and telemedicine.
- \$50 million to address climate change and prioritize clean energy.

\$24.6M IN STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS

Grant funds will help the 158th District with COVID-19 costs as well as support improvement projects and other services in our community!

Federal Funds For COVID-19 Recovery

The federal American Rescue Plan included funding directed to both local governments and school districts to help them recover from the pandemic and deal with COVID-19-related expenses.

The following amounts were allocated to local municipalities, based on population. Municipalities will also be able to use the funds for water, wastewater, and broadband infrastructure projects.

Avondale Borough.....	\$140,000
East Bradford Township	\$980,000
East Marlborough Township	\$750,000
London Britain Township	\$320,000
New Garden Township	\$1,200,000
Newlin Township	\$130,000
West Bradford Township	\$1,300,000
West Goshen Township.....	\$2,300,000
West Marlborough Township.....	\$80,000

These funds will be distributed to local school districts through the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act formula as part of the American Rescue Plan. An additional \$144.4 million in funding will be allocated to nonpublic schools in the near future.

Avon Grove School District	\$3,585,361
Downingtown School District.....	\$2,495,933
Kennett Consolidated School District.....	\$4,793,153
Unionville-Chadds Ford School District.....	\$737,292
West Chester School District	\$4,289,284

State Dollars Returning To The District

Grants from a variety of state programs are bringing tax dollars back to the 158th Legislative District. I'm pleased to support organizations as they request funding for projects to benefit our community.

Education

- \$29,574 for programming to prevent sexual violence at West Chester University from the Pennsylvania Department of Education "It's On Us PA" campaign.
- \$499,860 to expand access to computer science and STEM education at West Chester University.

Infrastructure

- \$500,500 for rail replacement and improvements along the East Penn Railroad which runs through Newlin Township in the 158th.
- \$400,000 to assist with the Kennett Greenway project. An over 14-mile-long trail connecting the greater Kennett area, including New Garden Township.
- \$19,000 for sewage facility planning in East Marlborough Township.

Agriculture

- \$40,000 to the American Mushroom Institute for mushroom product promotion.
- \$15,000 to the Downingtown School District for agriculture education in elementary schools.
- \$11,348 for the Chester County Intermediate Unit Agriculture and Youth Program to promote agricultural workforce development.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following are bills I have introduced or co-sponsored in Harrisburg.

Education

HB 102: Access to Mental Health Services – The pandemic escalated many mental health issues, such as anxiety, for children. This bill aims to make sure schools have the necessary complement of school counselors, psychologists, social workers and nurses to ensure help is available for students.



Health Care

HB 641: Family Medical Leave - This legislation, which I introduced, would extend Family and Medical Leave Act employment protections for six weeks to employees caring for a grandparent, parent, sibling or grandchild with a certified terminal illness. The Senate Labor and Industry Committee recently approved a companion bill, SB 617, with the same goal. I have been working with a local constituent on organizing support and awareness of this issue for years and I am proud to see this progress in the legislature.

HB 642: Telemedicine - Currently, Pennsylvania insurers are not required to cover telehealth services. This term, I have re-introduced this bill to ensure ongoing telemedicine coverage for Pennsylvanians following the pandemic.

PLACE
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HERE

State Representative
CHRISTINA SAPPEY
698 Unionville Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Animal Protection

HB 1031: Pets in Domestic Violence - I have introduced House Bill 1031 with Rep. Natalie Mihalek (R-Allegheny) which would codify animals in the Protection from Abuse (PFA) filing process, ensuring any danger imposed on animals is met with the appropriate punishment.

HB 988: Fireworks - Fireworks negatively impact people with disabilities, livestock and pets, many of which attempt to escape, frequently causing serious injury to themselves and the humans around them. To help eliminate these incidents, I have co-sponsored House Bill 988, which would repeal Act 43 and return Pennsylvania to previous firework sale restrictions.

Another bill, introduced by Rep. Frank Farry (R-Bucks), would make adjustments to the fireworks law to ensure public safety. The bill would implement time constraints on when fireworks could be discharged, increase criminal penalties for selling or using consumer fireworks in violation of the laws, provide notice to consumers about fireworks laws and offer guidance to local governments on reasonable controls for the sale and use of fireworks.



Gun Violence Prevention

Firearm Training - Since PA began requiring hunter education training before a first-time hunter or trapper could buy a Pennsylvania Hunting or Trapping License, hunting-related shooting incidents decreased by nearly 80%. I feel the same practice can be applied to first-time gun owners and will be introducing legislation that would require this training. The course will highlight safe storage practices, mental health, domestic violence, road rage, and how to interact with law enforcement while armed.

Government Reform

HB 1369: Open Primaries - PA is one of 14 states still without open primaries. This legislation would give unaffiliated voters in Pennsylvania the right to participate in the primary election process. They could choose to cast their vote on the Republican or Democrat ballot on primary day.

HB 144: Water Ratepayers Bill of Rights - As an opponent of the sale of Chester Water Authority (CWA), I have introduced legislation that would require a ratepayer referendum prior to the sale of a public water authority. The bill also provides additional information to ratepayers such as public reporting of rates, water sources, changes in those sources and ensures that land with public access stays that way after a sale.

HB 735: Term Limits - As a co-sponsor of House Bill 735, I am once again calling for a vote on legislation that caps an individual's time in office. It is important for our state to have fresh views and ideas brought to the table.

HR 104: Committee Televotes - House committees frequently meet when the House is not in session. These meetings use taxpayer dollars in travel expenses, as members travel from around the state to Harrisburg to attend. This resolution would amend the House rules to permit members to televote in committee meetings held on non-session days, allowing them to stay in their districts and save on travel costs.

Closing DEP's Revolving Door - It has become common practice for trained Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff to be recruited by energy sector employers. At the suggestion of an Attorney General Grand Jury Report, I will soon introduce legislation that would create a two-year hiring hiatus for these employees.

HB 1032: Expanding Property Tax Relief for Disabled Veterans - Property tax exemption is available in Pennsylvania for eligible disabled veterans, but wartime service is required. My legislation would extend that relief to any veteran who has a disability from their service time, regardless of wartime service.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 12 | 6 p.m.

What's Next in K-12 Education

A Virtual Panel Discussion

September 23 | 6 p.m.

Economic Recovery Forum

Chester County Intermediate Unit

455 Boot Road

Downingtown, PA 19335

October 14 | 6 p.m.

Telephone Town Hall

October 23 | 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Animal Shelter Donation Drive

East Bradford Township Building

666 Copeland School Road

West Chester, PA 19380

November 12 | 9 a.m.

Annual Veterans Breakfast

Unionville Presbyterian Church

812 Wollaston Road

Kennett Square, PA 19348

December 4 | 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

3rd Annual Charitable Donation Drive

District Office Parking Lot

(Willowdale Town Center)

698 Unionville Road

Kennett Square, PA 19348

To register or for more information on any of these events, please email repsappey@pahouse.net or call 484-200-8264.

INFRASTRUCTURE

To report potholes call 1-800-FIXROAD. In addition to pothole repairs, PennDOT is currently contracting for summer repaving at the following locations throughout our area:

- U.S. 1 from Route 796 to Route 896 in Penn and London Grove townships.
- Route 52 between Delaware state line and U.S. 1 in Kennett and East Marlborough townships.
- Pottstown Pike between Goshen Road and Boot Road in West Whiteland and West Goshen townships.
- U.S. 1/Baltimore Pike between Route 52 (Kennett Pike) and Delaware County line in Pennsbury and Kennett townships.
- Route 896 (New London Road) between Gypsy Hill Road and Hutchison Road in Penn, New London and Franklin townships.
- Route 926 (Street Road) between Creek Road and U.S. 202 (Wilmington Pike) in Westtown, Thornbury and Birmingham townships.
- Appleton Road between the Maryland state line and New London Road in Franklin Township.
- Chesterville Road between Route 841 and Route 41 in New Garden and Franklin townships.
- Newark Road between the Delaware state line and Landenberg Road in New Garden Township.
- Ramps at U.S. 1/Route 841 Interchange in London Grove Township.
- Ramps at U.S. 1/Route 41 Interchange in London Grove Township.

Baltimore Pike

In New Garden Township, PennDOT is currently replacing a culvert carrying Baltimore Pike over the Red Clay Creek. During this project, the roadway will be closed in both directions until construction is completed in early September. This \$5 million project will replace the 93-year-old structure currently in place.

U.S. 30 ITS Improvement

PennDOT will continue to install the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) this year along over 20 miles of U.S. 30 from Route 10 to U.S. 202 in Chester County. This \$8.1 million project includes variable message signs, traffic cameras and travel time readers to help improve traffic conditions in advance of a U.S. 30 reconstruction scheduled to start in the mid-2020s.



State Representative **CHRISTINA SAPPEY**

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✂ PLEASE CLIP, STAMP AND MAIL.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

Your feedback is critical to my work as your representative. To share your thoughts on state issues, please fill out the survey below and return it to my office, 698 Unionville Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348.

1. What are your top 5 priorities?

- Agriculture
- Broadband Internet Access
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Drug Use and Addiction
- Economy
- Environment and Climate Change
- Government Reform
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Health Care
- Higher Education
- K-12 Education
- Mental Health Services
- Open Space
- Roadways
- Small Business Assistance/Recovery
- Taxes

2. Do you support legalizing recreational marijuana?

- Support
 - Oppose
- Comment _____

3. Do you support a phased-in (over three years) increase in the minimum wage to \$15/hour?

- Support
 - Oppose
- Comment _____

4. Do you support an increase in the personal income or sales tax in order to reduce or eliminate school property taxes?

- Support
 - Oppose
- Comment _____

5. How do you receive updates from Rep. Sappey?

- Mailings
- Social Media (Follow on Facebook @RepSappey)
- Website
- Enews (Weekly opt-in email updates)
- Events

Please contact me to discuss the following issue(s): _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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ONLINE!

