



State Representative | 157th Legislative District

SUMMER 2026

MELISSA L. SHUSTERMAN

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Dear Neighbors,

We are finally defrosting after a cold winter for our community, and I am looking forward to a brighter, warmer summer ahead! As we enter state budget season, I want to assure you that my top priority will be helping pass a fair, balanced budget that will be delivered on time for all Pennsylvanians.

This spring, I introduced a **package of bills** that address the need to pass Pennsylvania's annual budgets before the new fiscal year starts each July 1st. These bills propose two options to achieve that goal: a) that the General Assembly must remain in session each weekday after June 30th if a budget is not passed (**H.B. 2484**), and b) amending the state Constitution to allow the Governor to call a special session if a budget is not passed before July 1 (**H.B. 2483**). On a related note, in April, I voted YES to pass **H.B. 2400**, Governor Shapiro's **proposed 2026/27 budget**. This bill passed with bipartisan support. I am hopeful my colleagues in the state Senate will consider this budget in a timely manner.

In addition to passing our state budget, my legislative priorities are focused on education funding, sustainability of mass transit, including funding for roads and bridges, and policies that promote affordability, such as **raising PA's minimum wage**, and continuing the Child & Dependent Care and Working Pennsylvanians tax credits. I am always grateful to serve our community, and I value your trust in me to do so. I will continue to encourage commonsense policies that improve the lives of all Pennsylvanians!

PROTECTING PUBLIC WATER

Currently, American Water and Essential Utilities (the parent company of Aqua America) have proposed a merger that would create a monopoly and the largest private water utility in the country. Regardless of whether you are a customer of American Water, Aqua, or your municipality, this **merger** eliminates competition and increases the risk of inevitable rate hikes. I believe it is critical that we protect our water resources for public consumption. I recently joined my Chester County House colleagues in speaking out against this merger at a local hearing with the PUC. All Chester County residents and water utility customers deserve safe, reliable water at an affordable rate.



MST BILL PASSES HOUSE UNANIMOUSLY

This spring my bill, **H.B. 2024**, to **provide additional trauma-informed care resources** to our County Veteran Affairs Directors, passed the House unanimously and is with the Senate for consideration! Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our country. We owe it to them to ensure that the staff supporting them are best equipped to meet their needs. My bill prepares our County Veteran Affairs Directors to care for our veterans by providing additional trauma-informed training, including military sexual trauma (MST), PTSD and traumatic brain injury. I am hopeful this commonsense bill will receive consideration in the Senate soon!

ENJOYING THESE UPDATES FROM MY OFFICE?



To read the interactive version of my newsletter that contains hyperlinks to the bill numbers, programs and statistics referenced, please use the QR code or visit my website at:

www.pahouse.com/Shusterman/InTheNews.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



CELEBRATING PA'S ROSIE THE RIVETERS

My resolution, **H.R. 385**, to designate March 21st as “Rosie the Riveter Day” in Pennsylvania, was adopted by the House unanimously. Our Rosies inspired generations of women with their strength, sacrifice, and patriotism, yet they often do not receive the credit and recognition they deserve. When attempts are made to erase certain aspects of our history from the public eye, it’s more important than ever that we highlight all of our nation’s Rosies – especially the ones from many **cultural** and **ethnic backgrounds**. In honor of Rosie the Riveter Day, my colleague Rep. Tina Davis and I welcomed Pennsylvania Resident and one of the original Rosies, **Mae Krier**, to the state Capitol. We also celebrated Mae’s 100th birthday!

HUMANE ADVOCACY DAY

We had another successful **Humane Advocacy Day** at the state Capitol this spring. It is always an honor to gather with animal advocates and my other humane legislators. As the founder and a co-chair of the bipartisan and bicameral **Animal Protection Caucus**, I am proud of the work that my colleagues and I are doing to protect animals in Pennsylvania. Some of our legislative priorities include prohibiting the declawing of cats, halting lab testing on animals, humane pet stores, ending live pigeon shots, prohibiting wildlife trafficking, and limiting contact with wildlife. Our work is far from over, but we have made great strides in protecting our Commonwealth’s furry, feathered, and even scaly friends.



RECOGNIZING EQUAL PAY DAY

In 2025, the House passed my bill, **H.B. 630**, the Equal Pay Act. This year on Equal Pay Day, I held a **press conference** to urge the Senate to pass my bill for equal pay. According to the **U.S. Department of Labor**, for every \$1 a white, non-Hispanic man makes, women on average make \$0.73; black and Hispanic women are making even less. My bill would strengthen our state’s Equal Pay Act by adding protections for race and ethnicity. **Enforcing equal pay protections** means we are investing in our working families and economy. It’s a commonsense solution to a longstanding inequality.

THE COURT’S DECISION IN ALLEGHENY V. PA DHS

Reproductive rights achieved a historic victory recently when the Commonwealth Court of PA established reproductive autonomy as a fundamental right in our state’s Constitution with its ruling in **Allegheny Reproductive Health v. PA DHS**. Neither your zip code nor your insurance plan should determine your right to access **essential reproductive healthcare**. I have introduced **legislation** to ensure this right is protected for all women in our state, even if this ruling continues to be challenged. There is so much more work to do to reinforce these fundamental rights, and I look forward to a future of equal access.



IN THE DISTRICT



COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Thank you to all my neighbors who came out to my Coffee and Conversation in February. I appreciate speaking directly with you about the issues that matter most to our community!



CELEBRATING THE CONESTOGA GIRLS GOLF TEAM

It was an honor to welcome the **PIAA 3A State Champions to the Capitol!** On the journey to the state title, the team won the Central League Championship for the third consecutive year and the District 1 Championship for the second time.



SPRING SHREDDING EVENT

My Spring Shredding event was a success! We helped more than 110 of our neighbors securely discard their documents and collected 430 pounds of food and \$150 for the Chester County Food Bank. I can't wait to see you in the fall!



VISITING THE YMCA EARLY LEARNING CENTER

In April, to celebrate Week of the Young Child, I spent the afternoon with the YMCA Early Learning Center as their special guest reader. Our childcare workers and teachers foster curiosity and creativity for our students - thank you for all that you do!



COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ON EQUAL PAY

This spring, I joined the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County, the Chester County Economic Development Council, and HireONE for a conversation with our business community about the importance of passing my bill, the **Equal Pay Act.**

SUMMER MOBILE OFFICE HOURS

EASTTOWN LIBRARY

June 16, July 21, August 18

10 AM - 1 PM

SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP BUILDING

June 25, July 23, August 27

10 AM - 12 PM



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**Keeping Up with
Shusterman**

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SIGN UP FOR MY E-NEWSLETTER!

Stay informed by scanning the QR code or emailing me at RepShusterman@pahouse.net.

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ANNUAL *Barbeque*
VETERANS

Veterans and their families are invited to join me for a BBQ Lunch and learn about state resources available for those who have served.



WILSON FARM PARK PAVILION
500 Lee Road | Chesterbrook, PA 19087

SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH, 2026 | 11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.



Please RSVP by June 15th by emailing RepShusterman@pahouse.net
or calling (484) 200-8260.

ALL AGES EVENT | FAMILY & GUESTS WELCOME | RSVP REQUIRED

