



STATE REP. JENNIFER O'MARA

WINTER 2020

165TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



Constituent Services Office: 905 West Sproul Road • Suite 203 • Springfield, PA 19064

P: (610) 544-9878 • F: (484) 200-8270

Mon. – Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; with extended hours on Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and weekends by appointment only

Capitol Office: 28 B East Wing • P.O. Box 202165 • Harrisburg, PA 17120 • P: (717) 783-4090 • F: (717) 772-2284

Dear Neighbor,

I'm excited to embark on my second year as your state Representative. My staff and I have been busy planning our events schedule and implementing new ideas to promote engagement in the community. In this issue of our newsletter, you will find our upcoming events schedule, a recap of services that we provide both in the office and around the district, and updates about some of my legislative priorities. I'm also very excited to announce our new Letters to Legislator program. It is my goal to promote civic engagement and education through this unique program.

I hope you find this newsletter informative and useful. I encourage you to reach out to my office if there is anything you'd like to discuss or any issue you need help solving. My staff and I are here to serve you!

Warm regards,
Jenn

Grants Awarded to the 165th:

Bringing money from the state back into our community is important to me, as both a resident and as your voice in Harrisburg. Leading into my second year of service to our district, I am happy to report that the following grants have been awarded to the 165th Legislative District.

Department of Community and Economic Development Grants:

Marple Township: \$60,000 – Guardrails for local roads

Radnor Township: \$500,000 – Flood Project

PAsmart Grants:

Funds awarded to three schools to enhance computer science education

Springfield School District: \$35,000

Radnor School District: \$35,000

Delaware County Intermediate Unit: \$35,000

*Fire Company & Emergency Medical Service Grant:

Broomall Fire Company: \$13,974.17

Marple Township Ambulance Corps: \$9,192.44

Morton Rutledge Fire Company: \$24,104.88

Radnor Fire Company of Wayne: \$14,248.03

Radnor Fire Company of

Wayne, EMS: \$9,192.44

Springfield Fire

Company: \$13,426.46

**Please note that recipients still need to complete and return original signed copies of their grant agreements by May 31 in order to receive their money. Any department that needs help with this requirement to contact my district office at (610) 544-9878.*



The 2020 Census is Counting on You



The United States Census Bureau is hiring to fill temporary positions assisting with the 2020 Census count. They're looking for Census takers, field supervisors, recruiting assistants, clerks, and office operations supervisors. These positions offer paid training, flexible hours, weekly paychecks, and pay \$19.50 per hour.

To learn more about how you can get involved in helping our community with the 2020 Census, please visit: <http://bit.ly/OMaraDelcoCounts>

Tackling the Student Debt Crisis

Pennsylvania has the second-highest amount of student debt, with the average student owing over \$37,000 as of 2018. As a co-chair of the student debt caucus who has first-hand experience with student loans, it is my priority to find a solution to this issue.

A question I'm often asked is, "What is the student debt crisis?" The student debt crisis is the economic reality that graduates are postponing major life decisions due to the mounting debt they've accumulated from earning their degree. On a national level, over 44 million Americans collectively owe nearly \$1.5 trillion in education debt. This prevents borrowers from buying homes and starting families as they struggle to cover monthly loan payments, bills, groceries and the like. Since borrowers aren't spending as much because of this crippling debt, it can severely slow down economic growth.

With all of this in mind, many highly educated workers are living paycheck to paycheck. I've heard from many residents, not just recent college graduates, but families and grandparents, too, about how they've been impacted by this financial ball and chain. Living in indefinite financial distress should not be a side effect from obtaining higher education.

This is why I teamed up with state Rep. Meghan Schroeder, a Republican from Bucks County, to address this crisis in Pennsylvania. We formed the Student Debt Caucus to improve financial literacy among students, go after predatory lenders and draft legislation to protect student borrowers.

Tackling the student debt crisis isn't a fight for free college, it's a fight for fair funding for education, financial literacy, responsible lending, consumer protection and accessible education.



Rep. Meghan Schroeder and I, founders of the Student Debt Caucus.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Student Debt Town Hall

February 18

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Marple Public Library, Meeting Room (Lower Floor)

2599 Sproul Rd.
Broomall, PA 19008

Join Attorney General Josh Shapiro, Seth Frotman (Executive Director of Student Borrower Protection Center) and me for a town hall on student debt. RSVP is required as space is limited, **RSVP to publicengagement@attorneygeneral.gov or call my office at (610) 544-9878.**

Telephone Town Hall

February 20

7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Your house, or wherever you are

You can have your voice heard from the comfort of your own home! I'm hosting a telephone town hall to address the state-related issues that matter the most to you. Residents with a landline will receive a call around 7 p.m. on Feb. 20 inviting them to join the discussion. Whether you want to participate or just listen in, simply stay on the line. If you'd like to register your cellphone to receive the call, please contact me by email at RepOMara@pahouse.net or call my office at (610) 544-9878.

Radnor Senior Breakfast

February 21 • 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Wayne Senior Center • 108 Station Road, Wayne, PA 19087

Join my staff and me for our senior breakfast at the Wayne Senior Center, where we will have guest speakers at our breakfast to discuss a variety of senior services. Additionally, my staff will be on site to assist with SEPTA Senior Key Passes and other state government matters.

Unclaimed Property Treasure Hunt

March 16 & 17 • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

District Office • 905 West Sproul Road, Suite 203, Springfield, PA 19064

Is your pot of gold at the end of the rainbow? Each year the state Treasurer's Office takes custody of thousands of dollars' worth of unclaimed property accumulated from forgotten stocks, uncashed checks, abandoned bank accounts and other similarly items that have not been claimed by their owners. Come find out during our office hours if you have any pots'o'gold waiting for you and learn how to claim them!

Career & Technical Education Fair

April 4 • 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Marple DCIU • 85 N. Malin Road, Broomall, PA 19008

Our district has a wide range of career, technical and labor apprenticeship training opportunities for people seeking careers in growing fields where they can simultaneously earn living wages and benefits during their training, as well as associate degrees in some cases. Sen. Tim Kearney and I are co-hosting an event showcasing the dozens of local opportunities in these high-demand industries so you can see if one of these careers would be right for you.

Shred Event

May 2 • 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

District office parking lot • 905 West Sproul Road, Springfield, PA 19064

Visit my district office parking lot to have your paper documents safely shredded and disposed of during this free event. Please only bring personal documents to be shredded, commercial papers will not be accepted. Limit of four boxes/bags per person. This is the first event of the year, there will be other shredding events in the future! Keep an eye out!

Letters to Legislators

Every voice in our community matters, including the voices of our youngest residents. That is why I am partnering with local libraries in our district so that the children of the 165th have a resource to write to me. Be it concerns, questions, big ideas or opinions, I want to hear from the whole family – especially the kids!



4-year-old Henry wrote a letter to me last October advocating for Bat Week in Pennsylvania.

Each participating location will have a green mailbox in which you can drop off a letter. Concerns on bullying? Questions on how bills get passed? Opinions on how we can help the district we live in? Big ideas, like naming the last week in October Bat Week to raise awareness on their importance to our ecosystem? I want to hear from you!

Call my office at (610) 544-9878 or email ahammock@pahouse.net for the closest green mailbox location to you, or for more information.

APPRISE Helps Pennsylvanians with Medicare

My office will have specially trained volunteers to provide objective, easy-to-understand information about Medicare, Medicare supplemental insurance, Medicaid, and long-term care insurance throughout the year. Appointments can be made from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the days listed below:

March 4th

June 3rd

September 2nd

April 3rd

July 1st

October 8th

May 6th

August 5th

November 13th

**STATE REP. O'MARA
MORTON BOROUGH
MOBILE OFFICE HOURS**

Third Thursday of Each Month | Noon to 4 PM
500 Highland Ave. Morton, PA 19070
610-543-4565

**STATE REP. O'MARA
RADNOR TOWNSHIP
MOBILE OFFICE HOURS**

First Thursday of Each Month | Noon to 4 PM
301 Iven Ave. Wayne, PA 19087
610-688-5600 ext. 177

VSO

My district office has a Veteran Service Officer available monthly who can help with VA Claims, reducing property taxes, and identifying education benefits. If you are a veteran and interested in speaking with a VSO, please contact my office to make an appointment.

REAL ID

Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, photo ID card, or another form of federally-acceptable identification (such as a valid passport or military ID) to board a domestic flight or enter a secure federal building or military installation.



To obtain a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card, you will need to bring all of the following documentation to a full-service Driver's License Center:

- Proof of identity (original birth certificate with a raised seal, or a valid U.S. Passport)
- A Social Security card
- Proof of all legal name changes (marriage license or court order from applicable county's family court)
- Two proofs of current, physical PA address, such as an unexpired PA license or ID, no-more-than-90-day-old a bank statement or utility bill that is no older than 90 days and with the same name and address

Notary Services at My District Office

My district office has a notary on staff who would be happy to assist with notarizing most documents with a few exceptions. There is no charge for notarizing of documents. However, please call my district office to check the notary's availability and the exceptions.



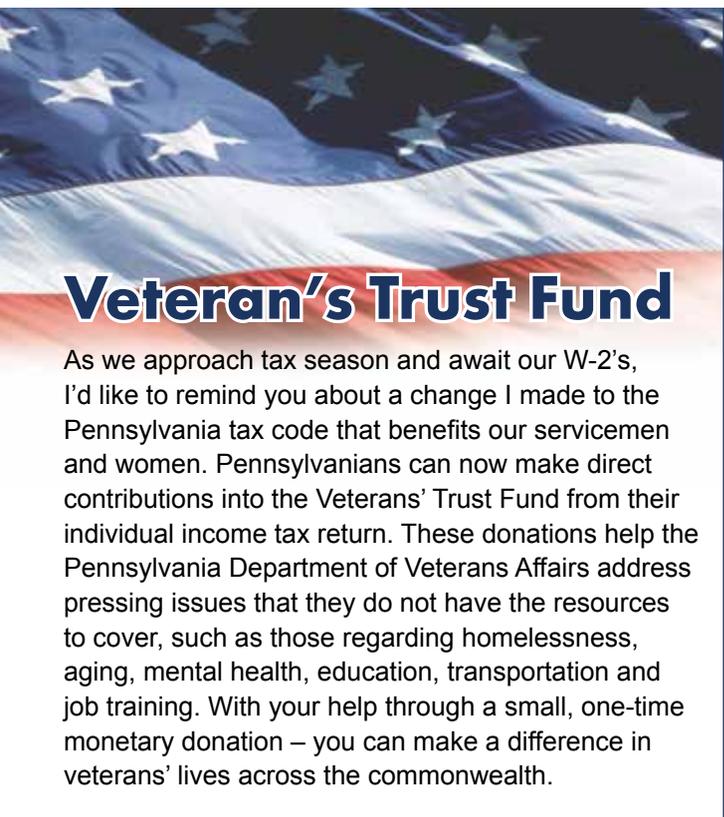


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Veteran's Trust Fund

As we approach tax season and await our W-2's, I'd like to remind you about a change I made to the Pennsylvania tax code that benefits our servicemen and women. Pennsylvanians can now make direct contributions into the Veterans' Trust Fund from their individual income tax return. These donations help the Pennsylvania Department of Veterans Affairs address pressing issues that they do not have the resources to cover, such as those regarding homelessness, aging, mental health, education, transportation and job training. With your help through a small, one-time monetary donation – you can make a difference in veterans' lives across the commonwealth.

AARP 2020 Tax Dates

AARP is providing tax help to our community at the following locations:

Springfield Township Building

50 Powell Road, Springfield, PA 19064

Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Walk-ins welcome, no appointment required

Wayne Senior Center

108 Station Road, Wayne, PA 19087

Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, Friday appointments will be available in March, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

An appointment is required. To schedule, please call: 610-688-6246.



Stay up to Date with Representative O'Mara

Every two weeks, I email an e-newsletter to fill my constituents in on important news, upcoming events and legislative updates pertaining to our community! You can sign up to receive my bi-weekly e-newsletter on my website:

www.pahouse.com/OMara.

Additionally, I'm active on all social media platforms:

 @RepOMara •  @RepOMara •  @RepOMara •  RepOMara@pahouse.net

How my district office can serve you:

- SEPTA Senior ID Cards
- Explain the REAL ID application process
- Provide you with Pennsylvania state tax forms
- Tax/Rent Rebate forms
- Notarize and process applications for Disability Parking Plates and Placards
- Help you find and claim unclaimed money in your name through the Pennsylvania Treasury
- Provide you with any state form or brochure
- Schedule tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Provide you with recognition from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and milestones, including:
 - Milestone birthdays
 - Military recognition
 - Athletic team recognition
 - Retirement
 - Condolences
 - Community involvement

