

THE DALEY NEWS Winter 2022

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Mary Jo Daley

148TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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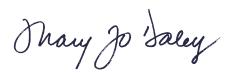
Dear Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you experiencing a terrific start to 2022!

As your state representative, I continue to have the privilege of working on your behalf at the state Capitol. This means fighting for access to health care to keep our communities healthy, especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm also working to increase efforts to preserve and repair our environment, as well as reduce pollution and keep the natural beauty of Pennsylvania intact for future generations to enjoy. I'm making sure your voice is heard when it comes to expressing concerns and asking questions about state government or local issues in your neighborhood.

2021 was a busy year, full of these efforts to keep you and your family safe, healthy and thriving in our commonwealth. 2022 will be no different as I plan to continue these efforts in Harrisburg. I look forward to working again this year as your state representative, and I encourage you to reach out to my office if you have any questions, concerns or need help with any state-related issue.

Sincerely,





STAY INFORMED

Want to learn more about what is happening in our district and in Harrisburg? I have you covered. Sign up for my emails, which provide periodic updates on what I've been doing in both the 148th Legislative District and at the state Capitol. These monthly "eblasts" include video, pictures and links, all designed to keep you informed. Contact my office by calling (610) 832-1679 or emailing RepMaryJoDaley@pahouse.net to sign up! Or, just visit my website at www.pahouse.com/daley/emailsignup.

You can also follow my Facebook page to receive updates from Harrisburg as well as events and news relevant to our neighborhood. Find my page at Facebook.com/RepMJDaley.

Contacting My Office

Due to COVID-19, I urge you to please call my office at (610) 832-1679 before coming to the office for any assistance. We can handle almost everything via phone, email and mail, so please call to determine if in-person service is necessary for your needs. We've also implemented a contactless pick-up and drop-off process to limit in-person interaction.





Working for You in Harrisburg

This year, I've been working hard with my House colleagues to put forth bills to help you, the hard-working people who elected us to represent you. Getting legislation moved through the process can seem like a long uphill battle at times, but rest assured that I'm fighting daily to keep these issues at the forefront of debate.

In November, I joined my colleagues in introducing PropelPA – a package of bills with the goal of supporting workers and families while making Pennsylvania more competitive regionally and nationally for business growth. I spoke at the event to highlight my proposal to lower the state's Corporate Net Income Tax to help bring new and existing businesses to the commonwealth and bring us more in line with rates imposed by neighboring states. You can learn more about the bills at PaHouse.com/PropelPA.

Also in November, I stood in favor of a package of bills to support veterans in Pennsylvania. These bills include:

■ House Bill 159 would improve the sharing of information between state agencies to deliver services faster and more effectively when a child abuse or neglect case involves a military family.

- HB 1055 would extend the time a county recorder of deeds would not be allowed to disclose a veteran's discharge records.
- HB 1220 would increase the monthly pension for blind, amputee or paralyzed PA veterans from \$150 to \$250.
- HB 1612 would expand life insurance coverage to more Guard members when called to active duty for more than 30 days.
- HB 1868 would remove barriers for licensing and employment for service members, veterans and military spouses.
- Senate Bill 248 created the Persian Gulf War Veterans
 Day and the Global War on Terrorism Veterans Day and
 encourages schools to include observance in the curriculum.
- SB 550 makes sure all veterans' graves are honored with American flags.

These bills were passed unanimously by the House of Representatives, just in time for Veterans Day. It's critical that we welcome our veterans home from service with respect, dignity, and resources to help them return to civilian life.

SEPTA Senior Card Expiration Dates



SEPTA Senior Cards with expirations dates in 2020, 2021 and 2022 will now be effective through the end of the month printed on the card in 2023. For example:

- A card with a May 2020 (5/20) expiration date will continue to be valid for travel through May 2023
- A card with a May 2021 (5/21) expiration date will continue to be valid for travel through May 2023
- A card with a May 2022 (5/22) expiration date will continue to be valid for travel through May 2023

This extension ensures that anyone needing to still renew their card will have ample time amid the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Home Heating Assistance

Available

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program helps families pay their heating bills in the form of a cash grant. Households in immediate danger of being without heat may also qualify for crisis grants.



The cash grant is a one-time payment sent directly to the utility company/fuel provider to be credited on your bill. These grants, which do not have to be repaid, range from \$500 to \$1,500 based on household size, income, and fuel type. You can apply online using COMPASS, or my office can provide a paper application and help filling it out. Eligibility and application details are available on the Department of Human Services website at dhs.pa.gov.

In the Community



Throughout the last two years, we've come to realize the importance of food service workers and others who may be getting paid minimum wage. These jobs are viewed by society as more than minimally important, and they should be compensated accordingly. I joined Governor Wolf and my fellow state legislators at &Pizza in Willow Grove to advocate for a raise in the minimum wage, which has remained stagnant since 2009.



It's always a delight to meet and speak with those who come to my events! My staff and I worked together to bring important information and free lunches to attendees at my Seniors and Veterans Drive-Thru event.

Help for Pennsylvania Homeowners

Pennsylvania was awarded \$350 million in COVID-19 relief funds for homeowners from the U.S. Treasury for the Pennsylvania Homeowner Assistance Fund (PAHAF). PAHAF applications are now open to all eligible Pennsylvania homeowners. The fund supports Pennsylvania homeowners whose household income is at or below 150% of the area median income (AMI) who are struggling with financial hardships as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. PAHAF will use these funds to provide eligible Pennsylvania homeowners with much-needed assistance to prevent and/or ease mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, displacement, and utility disconnection.

For more information about eligibility and how to apply, visit PAHAF.org, or call 888-987-2423 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccines in Montgomery County

With new variants of COVID-19 continuing to rapidly spread in our area and across the commonwealth, it's critical to have ample resources for testing and vaccination. Testing and vaccination sites set up by the County are free, with testing available for all ages and vaccines available for anyone ages 5 and up. To find a site near you, use the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR codes, or go to Montcopa.org and click "COVID-19" at the top of the page.



TESTING



VACCINATION

More Time for Tax Returns due to Ida

The Department of Revenue is extending the due dates for individual and business tax returns in areas that were affected by Hurricane Ida. Please note: this does not apply to tax payments. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has designated Montgomery County as one of several counties in Pennsylvania to qualify for aid, allowing for this extension by the IRS. More information can be found at IRS.gov.

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How can my office help you?

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications
- PennDOT services, such as car registrations, handicap placards or titles
- **Unemployment Compensation issues**
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Birth and death certificates
- Pennsylvania income tax questions
- Consumer complaints

- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- → Notary services for state documents
- SEPTA Senior ID Cards (initial issue only, no renewals)
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications

Any other question about state government!