



State Representative | 157th Legislative District

# MELISSA L. SHUSTERMAN

**District Office:**

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Summer  
2022

RepShusterman.com | @RepShusterman

## Dear Neighbor,

Happy Summer! I first want to congratulate all of the 2022 graduates! I'm extremely proud of your hard work and dedication. I'm assured that our future is in good hands and look forward to seeing you all take on new challenges.

I'd also like to welcome the new 157th Legislative District residents! In February, the state Supreme Court approved a plan for reapportionment in Pennsylvania.

State reapportionment, along with congressional redistricting, is required every 10 years, following the U.S. Census, to maintain equal representation based on population changes.

Starting Dec. 1, 2022, the 157th District will include Easttown Township, Schuylkill Township, Tredyffrin Township and Willstown Township.

If you have any questions or would like to get news and information about the district, please contact my office by emailing [RepShusterman@PAHouse.net](mailto:RepShusterman@PAHouse.net) or calling (484) 200-8260.

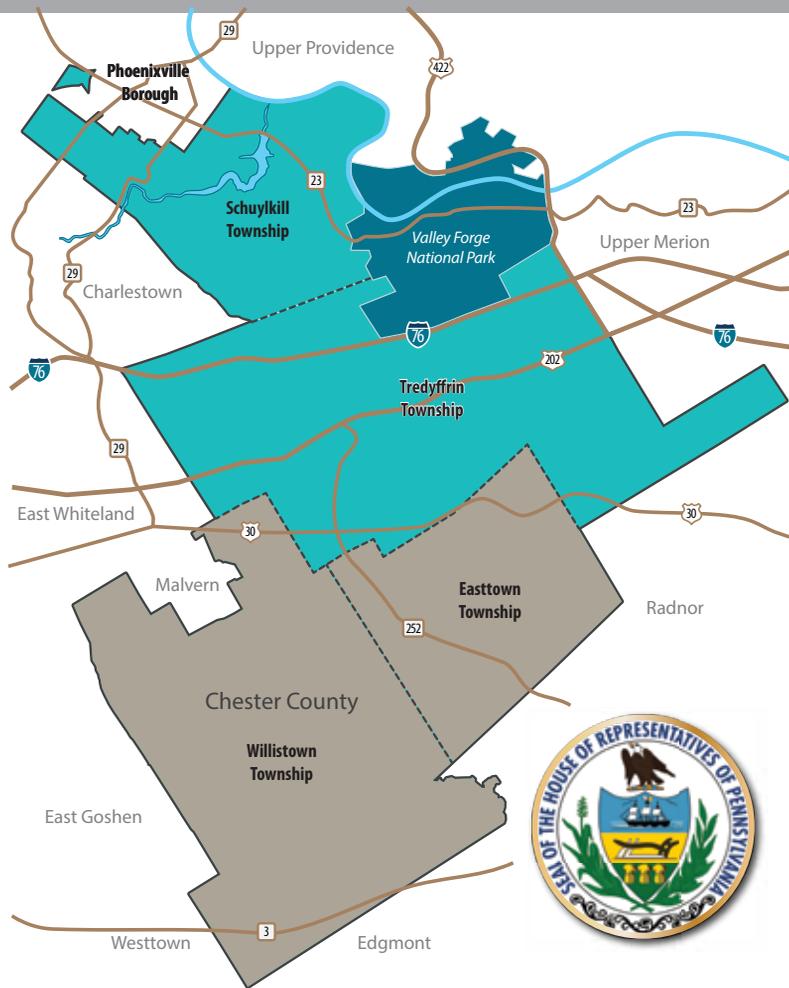
Please remember, I am here to work for you. My office can help you with many state-related matters.

**Rep. Melissa Shusterman**

Phone: (484) 200-8260

Email: [RepShusterman@pahouse.net](mailto:RepShusterman@pahouse.net)

Website: [RepShusterman.com/contact](http://RepShusterman.com/contact)



State Representative Melissa Shusterman

## I'm here to help!

My team and I can help with:

- SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate
- Information about jobs, housing relief and utility assistance
- Prescription assistance for seniors
- Driver's License & Vehicle Registration

# MY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## BILLS TO STOP GUN VIOLENCE

The gun violence across our nation, including the senseless killing of 19 innocent children and two teachers in Uvalde, Texas, is heartbreaking.

After each heartbreaking and unnecessary tragedy, I am asked, "Well, what are you going to do about it?" My response: I am doing everything I can.

I have introduced the following:

- Legislation that would require a Semi-Automatic Assault Rifle Safety Certification Course and

successful completion before a person could purchase a semi-automatic assault rifle.

- Legislation that would prohibit the sale of semi-automatic assault rifles capable of holding more than five rounds of ammunition to people under 21.

- House Bill 271 would ban 3D printed guns in Pennsylvania. These "ghost guns" can be bought without a background check and assembled at home, and then

the gun is untraceable. It leaves police with few options to keep our families safe.

There are elected officials who do care and want to act so tragedies like these don't keep happening. There are nearly 60 commonsense gun safety measures (currently held hostage in committee) that never see the light of day. The time for waiting is over. Pennsylvania needs laws that promote responsible gun ownership.

## PENNSERVE LEGISLATION

My bipartisan legislation that promotes volunteerism in Pennsylvania was approved by the House Labor and Industry committee! House Bill 2529, the PennSERVE Act, would establish an official PennSERVE office within the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry that would coordinate community service programs across the commonwealth, effectively streamlining and multiplying their impact.

This is a big win for our most vulnerable communities that benefit from such programs. PennSERVE, which is the Pennsylvania branch of AmeriCorps, annually distributes over \$12 million in federal aid and empowers thousands of volunteers to improve lives, safeguard the environment, and support our schools.

I have the honor of serving as a House appointed member of the PennSERVE board. Through this experience, I have had the opportunity to work collaboratively with other board members to promote volunteering, service, and community engagement throughout Pennsylvania. It has been truly meaningful work.

## HIGH SCHOOL VOTER REGISTRATION LEGISLATION

In Pennsylvania, 25% of registered voters are between the ages of 18 and 34. This age group represents the newest crop of eligible voters in the state. As our existing voting population continues to age, we must do more to inspire the next generation of voters to participate in our democracy. Other states have encouraged voter registration in their high schools, and we can do the same.

For these reasons, I plan to introduce legislation to allow high schools across the state to designate a faculty member as being responsible for voter registration efforts during the school year. The faculty member must also choose a student to lead registration efforts, thus involving a peer to better relate to students eligible for voter registration. Schools must ensure that voter registration efforts remain nonpartisan.

This is a commonsense proposal to increase voter registration among our young people, the future of our democracy.

## INCLUSION BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

On average, 17% of PA students have an Individualized Education Program, yet many report no integration into extracurricular activities.

To better understand the participation level of our students, state Rep. Dan Miller and I introduced House Bill 2180. It would require our schools to report the participation rate for students with exceptionalities in their extracurricular activities starting in grade 6. No personal information would be collected.

# RECYCLING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

With the rise of internet shopping, we are receiving more packages than ever. The convenience of shopping online rather than visiting a store means more packaging is necessary to protect the things shipped to our doorsteps. In order to protect these items, sellers use multiple types of packaging – and

quite a lot of it. While some of these materials are recyclable, there are many materials that are not recyclable or wind up in communities in which curbside recycling is not available.

State Rep. Chris Rabb and I have introduced House Bill 1873 to create an Extended

Producer Responsibility program in Pennsylvania. This program would require companies that manufacture packaging products to be registered with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and create a recycling procedure for the products they sell within the commonwealth.

## PENNSYLVANIA CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT

The average cost of child care in Pennsylvania is \$11,842 per year, or \$987 a month. To put this in greater perspective, child care costs 8.1% more than the average rent and only costs 18.5% less than in-state tuition for a four-year public college.

There is a federal child and dependent care tax credit, but Pennsylvania is one of 19 states that does not offer its own tax credits for child or dependent care.

My legislation, House Bill 2053, would create a Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit in Pennsylvania. To be eligible, taxpayers must already qualify for the federal tax credit. Taxpayers with one qualifying individual would receive \$350 in tax credits, while taxpayers with two or more qualifying individuals would receive \$700 in tax credits.

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## LOBBYING TRANSPARENCY

Lobbying allows American citizens to actively participate in the governmental process and lobbyists allow our government to prioritize competing interests, which in turn can lead to a more productive and prudent society.

However, important safeguards must be placed in order to promote transparency and openness. As it stands, Pennsylvania's lobbying laws fall critically short in terms of promoting transparency. The principals, rather than the lobbyists themselves, must produce expense reports, which fail to provide sufficient details as they relate to their business operations. What's more, lobbyists are not required to submit any reports related to their business relationships.

I have introduced legislation which would require lobbyists to provide an extensively detailed annual report, which would help provide this necessary data to the General Assembly and the general public.

Under House Bill 269, lobbyists would also be required to report their business relationships. Failure to adhere to these stipulations would subject lobbyists and their principals to various fines and penalties.

## STOP THE REVOLVING DOOR

Public officials in Pennsylvania need only wait one year before lobbying the people they formerly worked with. This political "revolving door" – public officials and employees leaving office to become lobbyists – presents problems for our democracy that largely go unrecognized, unaccounted for and unpoliced.

I introduced House Bill 268, which would institute a lifetime lobbying ban for all public officials while extending the waiting period for public employees from one year to two years.

## TAX INCENTIVES FOR CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Federal law provides tax deductions for contributions made to a charitable organization. This provision not only provides some financial relief for Americans but is also a great incentive for more people to donate to charities. Many states offer their own tax deductions for charitable donations in addition to what federal law allows. However, Pennsylvania is not one of these states.

To show support for and incentivize donations to charitable organizations, I introduced House Bill 2101 which would allow the amount Pennsylvanians, contribute to charitable organizations to be deducted from the taxable income of the donor. By enacting such legislation, we would be aligning Pennsylvania with the many states that offer the same tax incentives for donating.

# NEARLY \$2.3 MILLION INVESTED LOCALLY

## PENNSYLVANIA REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM

- \$1.5 million awarded to Berwyn Fire Company to replace its main station with a new, state-of-the-art firehouse on the company's existing footprint on Bridge Avenue in Berwyn. The new station will replace the more than 90-year-old existing structure to allow firefighters and company personnel to respond faster and more safely to fire and EMS emergencies in the growing region for decades to come.

## GROWING GREENER GRANTS

- \$12,740 was awarded to Tredyffrin Township for its rain garden program. This project will educate residents about the value of rain gardens by building two public rain gardens, organizing educational events and building 13 residential rain gardens.
- \$340,000 was awarded to Tredyffrin Township for the Bair Road/Trout Creek infiltration, water quality and flood mitigation project. This project will manage stormwater runoff of upstream residential drainage areas. The funds will help build two subsurface storage and infiltration beds, which will be able to store nearly 110,000 gallons of stormwater runoff.
- \$269,298 was also awarded to the Brandywine Conservancy and Museum of Art. The funds will be used to assess and improve water quality in the Brandywine-Christine watershed. This project will have a countywide effect.

## PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY GRANTS

\$136,370 was awarded to the Woodlynde School in Chester County to support student mental health needs. The Woodlynde School plans to use the funding to:

- engage a trained specialist in social-emotional mental health and to provide accompanying professional development for colleagues to support and develop their comprehensive Social-Emotional Learning programming, data gathering processes, counseling services, and behavior referral program.
- hire a teaching colleague who has experience in counseling, social-emotional learning, emotional support, and/or behavior analysis.
- provide team-based support to continue the school's efforts in a comprehensive model for social-emotional learning and support in grades K-12.
- create a bank of resources and a shared vision of social-emotional supports in every classroom and every content area.
- grow the school's behavior referral program and data collection procedures to respond to emotional needs in their population with evidence-based behavior intervention plans.
- implement evidence-based behavior plans with consistency and staffing support in grades K-12 and maintain data on efficacy, progress and demographics.
- engage additional outside trainers and experts to provide evidence-based strategies and supports to address student needs.
- continue the school's partnership with the Center for Responsive Schools in implementing Responsive Classroom with fidelity and consistency in grades K-8.
- develop an advisory program in grades 9-12 to continue social-emotional learning in a developmentally responsive mode that builds on the Responsive Classroom foundation.

# CELEBRATING THE 157TH



*In January, I was pleased to recognize the Conestoga Girl's Tennis Team with an official citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. The Pioneers were undefeated during the 2021 season and won the state title.*



*The Conestoga Boys Soccer Team also had an incredible season! The team was undefeated and the 2021 state champions.*



*In June, the Conestoga High School Robotics Team 6121A was honored with an official citation in Harrisburg. The team won the VEX Robotics State Championship and represented Pennsylvania at the World Championship in Texas.*



*It was honor to host the Devon Preparatory School Basketball team in the Capitol in June. The team won the Boys Basketball State Championship!*



*Thank you to Jenkins Arboretum and Gardens for inviting my staff and me to tour the gardens in May. We are very lucky to have access to these wonderful public gardens right here in our community.*



*Thank you to everyone who came out for my shredding event in Phoenixville on May 7. Over 100 constituents drove by to have their documents destroyed. Neither torrential rain, nor sleet, nor freezing cold kept my office from working for you!*



*Thank you to everyone who came out for my Savvy Senior Expo in May! It was a great opportunity to learn about the services and resources available to seniors in our community.*



*In May, I toured the Emergency Room at Paoli Hospital. Paoli Hospital is critical to our community, and I look forward to ensuring it receives the support it needs to keep our families healthy and safe.*



State Representative  
**MELISSA L. SHUSTERMAN**

42 E. Lancaster Ave., Unit A  
Paoli, PA 19301

## Keeping Up with Shusterman!

@RepShusterman

/RepShusterman

RepShusterman.com

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## DO YOU HAVE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY?

The Pennsylvania Treasury holds more than \$4 billion in unclaimed property that needs to be returned to the rightful owners!

One in 10 Pennsylvanians has unclaimed property waiting for them. To find out if you are one of them visit [www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property](http://www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property) or call my office – we can help you search the database.



MELISSA **SHUSTERMAN**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

★ ★ ★  
**ANNUAL VETERANS**  
*Barbeque*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Wilson Farm Park Pavilion  
600 Lee Road, Chesterbrook, PA 19087

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SATURDAY

**JULY 9TH, 2022**

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM



Please RSVP by July 5th by calling 484-200-8260 or via Facebook link.

FAMILY & GUESTS WELCOME | RSVP REQUIRED



Follow me on social media and opt in to receive my weekly emails to keep up on the latest legislative happenings in Pennsylvania and for information on upcoming events. I've hosted several virtual events covering issues such as human trafficking, Pennsylvania's election process, local history and systemic racism.

**Sign up for my emails on my homepage at [RepShusterman.com](http://RepShusterman.com)**

@RepShusterman