



State Representative ANITA ASTORINO KULIK

45th Legislative District

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WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/KULIK

Welcome to my first newsletter as your state representative!

The year has been issue-filled, including a four-month impasse in approving a 2017-18 state budget and the passage of several new pieces of legislation that will help keep Pennsylvania moving forward.

Through it all, my staff and I are here to serve you.

My main district office is located at 1350 Fifth Ave. in Coraopolis, and we're open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The phone number is 412-264-4260.

I've also opened a satellite office at 2 E. Main St. in Carnegie. It's open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The phone number is 412-429-6310.

Please stop by the offices or attend one of the outreach events if you need assistance or have any questions with state government issues.

Information, including news releases and links to key state resources, is available online at www.pahouse.com/Kulik, where you may sign up for e-mail alerts for up-to-the-minute news from the state Capitol and around the district.

You can also follow me on social media on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RepAnitaKulik and Twitter at @RepKulik.

The 45th District covers Kennedy, Kilbuck, Neville, Robinson and Stowe townships, and part of Scott Township, as well as the boroughs of Ben Avon, Ben Avon Heights, Carnegie, Coraopolis, Emsworth, Pennsbury Village and Rosslyn Farms.

I'm serving on four significant House committees: Gaming Oversight, Liquor Control, Local Government and Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness.

The appointments are a great match for the district, as I will be dealing with issues that have a direct impact locally.

Please feel free to reach out to us. My staff and I are here to serve YOU!

All the best,

Anita Astorino Kulik



Here to serve you!



My staff and I are eager to serve you at our district offices in Coraopolis and Carnegie.



I opened my satellite office at 2 E. Main Street in Carnegie in July. It's open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

ALCOSAN's Clean Water Plan and you



At some point over the next 20 years, Allegheny County Sanitary Authority's Clean Water Plan is going to affect you.

ALCOSAN's long-term blueprint for improving the quality of the region's waterways is essential for the region's economic future, its long-term health and the vibrancy of western Pennsylvania as a whole.

It's going to take time – as much as 20 years – and a whole lot of work.

The plan centers on reducing overloads to ALCOSAN's treatment plant when it rains or when snow melts. The region's topography and aging infrastructure play a role in the problem, which causes untreated wastewater containing sewage and other contaminants to overflow into the area's rivers, streams and creeks.

The authority signed a consent decree in 2008 that called for significant upgrades and changes. Although it's been working with community leaders and municipalities to solve the overflow problem, it became apparent that some of the work as originally envisioned would be too expensive for ratepayers.

Because of those costs, ALCOSAN has been working

toward devising an environmentally and wallet-friendly Clean Water Plan to comply with local, state and federal regulations, and eliminate overflows.

As part of the effort, ALCOSAN established the GROW – Green Revitalization of Our Waterways – grant program that funds projects that municipalities and sewer authorities otherwise might not be able to afford.

In September, two ALCOSAN GROW grants totaling over \$945,000 were awarded to Carnegie Borough for projects that will remove over 5.6 million gallons of overflow.

Eliminating overflows will cost more than \$2 billion over a 20-year period. To cover that cost, rates for families and businesses will increase, unfortunately.

To make adequate wastewater treatment services more affordable, ALCOSAN has established the Clean Water Assistance Fund to help families pay their bill. Please visit www.alcosan.org for more information.

I urge all residents to check regularly on the Clean Water Plan at <https://3riversproud.com>.

The Clean Water Plan is coming to your neighborhood, and forewarned is forearmed.

AROUND HARRISBURG



In February, I was selected to help escort Gov. Tom Wolf to the House chamber for his budget address.



Above: I spoke before the Pennsylvania Homecare Association and family caregivers about caring for loved ones. Keeping seniors and family members in their homes is a choice that should be open to all Pennsylvanians.

Right: October was National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and I was proud to support efforts to spread awareness about the benefits of preventative care, self-examination, annual mammograms and routine doctor visits.



AROUND THE DISTRICT

Combating addiction



I joined forces with state Rep. Dan Deasy and state Sen. Wayne Fontana to sponsor a Heroin and Opiate Community Awareness Town Hall meeting last April at the McKees Rocks VFW. An excellent turnout learned about ways to prevent and combat drug abuse from a panel of experts, including local law enforcement. This January, Gov. Tom Wolf issued a disaster declaration establishing Pennsylvania's heroin and opioid addiction crisis as a statewide emergency.

Vets Roll!



Vets Roll came through Carnegie this summer on its way to Washington, D.C. Vets were greeted with lunch at Cefalo's and a cheering crowd.

Trail Council



It is always a pleasure to meet with members from the different groups around the district. The Montour Trail Council works hard to keep the trail ready for walkers, runners and bikers!



New digs!

In August, I joined Coraopolis officials for a tour of the new municipal building.



Flu shot clinics



I sponsored two flu shot clinics – in Emsworth and Kennedy Township – in September, and the turnout for both events was tremendous!



Halloween event

Left: I had a great time at the Robinson Township Fire Department's Halloween event!



Saluting service

Right: I was proud to present a House citation to members of the Kennedy Township Independent Volunteer Fire Company congratulating them on 80 years of service!

Honoring veterans

It was an honor to speak in November to students at David E. Williams Middle School in the Montour School District as they and school staff honored our military veterans. As a member of the House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, the interests and concerns of our veterans are very important to me. I had the pleasure of meeting scores of veterans at the event. Hats off to the school for sponsoring such a magnificent event and for remembering those who have served our country!



Sign up for email updates

You can sign up to receive my email alerts by visiting my website at www.pahouse.com/Kulik, clicking "Stay Connected" and filling out the form. Signing up for my emails will enable you to receive notices about important issues that matter to you, including:

- Updates on legislation
- News and events in the district
- Other relevant government-related information.

You can also stay updated on social media. Just "like" my legislative Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RepAnitaKulik. I'm also on Twitter: @RepKulik.

Libre's Law – a new lease on life for animals – signed into law!



Last summer, Gov. Tom Wolf enacted a comprehensive overhaul of Pennsylvania's animal protection laws.

I was proud to support the effort, which culminated with Act 10 of 2017 – better known as Libre's Law, named after the loveable Boston terrier pup left for dead but nursed back to health.

Appropriately, Libre participated in the signing ceremony for Act 10. The new law is literally a new lease on life for the animals that depend on us for care, comfort and compassion. It is now a felony to torture a pet, and anyone who severely abuses a horse or tethers a dog outside in extreme weather will face more than a slap on the wrist.

Those convicted of abusing or neglecting animals face forfeiture of their pets and animals.

Another provision will grant civil immunity for veterinarians and humane society police officers who report suspected animal cruelty.

It's a huge step forward.



How to prepare for obtaining a Real ID-compliant driver's license



Please be aware that PennDOT has compiled what's needed to obtain a Real ID-compliant driver's license and the things you can do to prepare for obtaining one when they become available in spring 2019.

The good news is that the federal government granted Pennsylvania an extension through Oct. 10, 2018, which means your current, regular ID will still be accepted through that date when entering federal buildings or boarding a domestic commercial flight. PennDOT expects further extensions until the state's Real ID will be available.

Once the extensions expire, you can use a U.S. passport as official documentation.

To receive a Real ID-compliant driver's license, you'll need the original, certified documents that reflect proof of identity, Social Security number and state residency. Examples of those items are:

- U.S. passport;
- Birth certificate with a raised seal;
- Original Social Security card;
- Current, unexpired Pennsylvania driver's license or ID card; and
- W-2 form or tax records.

To obtain a Real ID, you'll be required to pay a one-time fee of \$30 plus the cost of your license renewal. A Real ID will not be required to operate a vehicle or vote.

Heating aid via LIHEAP now available



The 2017-18 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program – LIHEAP – is open and accepting applications for heating assistance grants.

LIHEAP offers cash grants of \$200 to \$1,000 that are sent directly to the utility company to defray heating costs for eligible households, and crisis benefits of \$25 to \$500 for households in immediate danger of being without heat from such emergency situations as broken heating equipment or leaking lines, lack of fuel or utility service termination.

LIHEAP applications are available at my offices. We also can help you file the application!

Besides my offices, LIHEAP information is available by calling the statewide LIHEAP Client Helpline at 1-866-857-7095. You also may apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us.

The state Department of Human Services, which administers the federally funded LIHEAP program, mailed applications or information to people who received LIHEAP last season.

This season's income guidelines for both LIHEAP cash and crisis grants are \$18,090 for an individual and \$24,360 for couples, and increases for each additional person in the household.



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INSIDE:

- Here to serve you!
- Clean Water Plan and you
- Heating aid available

lpo.kl.0118

Coraopolis improvements on tap with state grant



The 45th Legislative District that I represent in Harrisburg received some positive economic news

this fall with the award of grants to Coraopolis and Robinson Township.

Coraopolis was awarded a \$256,416 grant by the Commonwealth Financing Authority to upgrade roadways and sidewalks at eight borough intersections.

I supported this funding because it will make the intersections safer for motorists and pedestrians, and will address curb cuts that do not meet access requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The grant also will pay for crosswalk markings, yield-to-pedestrian signs and other improvements.

A second, \$50,000 CFA grant will help pay for replacing a deteriorating storm pipe this summer along the 4400 block of the Steubenville Pike in Robinson Township. The work was needed because a deteriorating 72-inch storm pipe and culvert had threatened infrastructure and buildings along the highway.

Protecting benefits for veterans

Pennsylvania thanks our veterans for the sacrifices they made by providing them with small stipends. However, these benefits could have disqualified veterans from eligibility for popular state programs, including the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.

To address the problem, Act 117 of 2016 ensures Pennsylvania veterans are not shut out of the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program and other programs because a state-provided stipend related to their service puts them over the eligibility income limit.

Some of the veteran benefit programs addressed by Act 117 include the Blind Veterans Pension and the Amputee and Paralyzed Veteran Pension, both of which provide a maximum of \$1,800 to a veteran per year.

As a member of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, I support such efforts and voted in 2017 for House Bill 673, which would ensure these benefits do not prevent veterans from qualifying for the state's prescription drug assistance programs, PACE and PACENET.

H.B. 673 awaits further action in the state Senate.

