



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Liz Hanbidge

61ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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Dear Friends,

As many of you know, every ten years, following the census, legislative maps for both chambers of the General Assembly and federal congressional seats are redrawn. This year issues related to this process have been causing uncertainty about the upcoming election calendar. Creating these maps takes two highly different paths. A Legislative Reapportionment Commission (LRC), oversees the redistricting process for the state House and Senate. Legislative leaders from each chamber sit on the commission, as does an independent fifth member chosen by the existing members, or where no consensus can be reached, appointed by the court. Maps generated by the LRC must pass the LRC with a 3/5ths majority and are NOT voted on by the General Assembly. The LRC voted on final maps on February 4th, starting a 30-day litigation period for legal challenges.

Seeking to overcome our history of extraordinary gerrymandering and accommodate for significant shifts in population densities across the state, the new House and Senate maps look considerably different. Overall, the LRC's process has been more transparent, accessible, and responsive than that of years past. While no map can be perfectly shaped, going into the granular data and looking at things like community access and keeping communities of interest intact has created vastly different and more fair maps. The maps created by the LRC reflect the intent of our constitution, and I am pleased with them. For more information about them visit the LRC website at www.redistricting.state.pa.us

Congressional maps are generated in the State Government committees of the General Assembly, must pass the full House and Senate, and are subject to Gubernatorial review. Pennsylvania is going from 18 to 17 congressional districts. At this point, the partisan map-drawing developed by the House, and which passed the House and Senate on party lines was vetoed by the Governor and the map drawing process was submitted to the courts for final determination.

As this process comes to its conclusion, I still think that the members of the General Assembly should not be in the position of deciding who votes for them or influencing those who make such decisions. We serve at the will of our constituents; we should not get to choose who our constituents are. We must make mapmaking truly independent from the political process.

Dissatisfaction by some who prefer the gerrymandered maps of the past has led to attempts to derail this process, even going so far as seeking to change our constitution to go back to the days of pure partisan gerrymandering. More and more often we are seeing attempts to amend our constitution in order to pass legislation that cannot otherwise pass or in order to threaten, limit, or coerce another branch of government, impacting the balance of power that is the very foundation of our government. Bills are pending to create constitutional amendments to limit voting rights, create a partisan redistricting commission, ban abortion, and gerrymander Pennsylvania's appellate courts. Please be mindful about researching the constitutional amendments we will see in the coming years. Since 1990, 100% of the 18 constitutional questions posed to voters have been approved. This process can be abused by deceptive language, timing, or by hiding the full consequences of an amendment. Recently, these measures have not been the product of a thorough or deliberative process. There have been no amendments allowed in the House or Senate, no public hearings or commentary period, and they are rushed through with just a simple majority. The nuclear option, changing our very constitution, is being abused for political gain.

I send a weekly email to keep people informed about what's happening in Harrisburg and our legislative district. If you already receive my email, thank you for inviting me into your inbox each week to stay informed. There's a link at the bottom of every email where you can update your preferences and identify your interests. If you are not already opted in to receive my email, please consider doing so. Go to www.RepHanbidge.com/emailsingup to sign up. I enjoy the conversations I have with you through them and enjoy learning more about you. I will continue to make sure to keep you apprised of events I'm hosting, local issues, SEPTA passes and renewals, legislation, and other vital state information.

Liz Hanbidge



UPCOMING EVENTS

Veterans' Expo

March 27th | 10am to 1pm

Montgomery County Community College
Health Science Center

Veterans and family members are cordially invited to our annual Veterans' Expo to learn more about VA benefits and services. There will be experts from agencies such as The Crescenz VA Medical Center, Primerica, American Legion Post 901, among others.

You will also have the opportunity to apply for your Veterans' Discount ID through the office of Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds Jeanne Sorg. If you would like to get your discount ID, you will need to bring your DD214 papers as well as photo identification.

E-waste Event

April 30th | 10am to 1pm

Stony Creek Sports Park

My office will be hosting an electronics recycling event at Stony Creek Sports Park in Blue Bell, in partnership with Junkluggers. We ask that you remain in your vehicle while my staff and I collect your items to be recycled. We can accept small appliances, printers, computers, laptops, VCRs, mics, wires, random metal items and anything with a plug. However, we CANNOT accept any TVs or monitors.

Shredding Event

May 21st | 10am to 1pm

Upper Gwynedd Township (back parking lot)

Have unwanted documents that need shredding? I am pleased to announce that we will be hosting a drive-thru shredding event in Upper Gwynedd where you may dispose of such documents. We ask that you remain inside your vehicle and my staff and I will assist in collecting your items for shredding. There will be a limit of three **paper** bags of personal shredding documents.

We CANNOT accept any of the following: business documents, plastic bags, three-ring binders, ledger books, cardboards, x-rays, CDs, or large binder clips.

Constituent Services

We are here to help you with any state government-related issue you might have. Below are some of the most common services we assist with in our office. For help, or to speak with me or a staff member about an issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

- **Driver and vehicle services renewals (Dept. of Transportation)**
- **Disability Plate and Placard applications (Dept. of Transportation)**
- **Unemployment compensation (Dept. of Labor and Industry)**
- **Applications for birth/death certificates (Division of Vital Records)**
- **Providing Property Tax/Rent Rebate and other tax forms (Dept. of Revenue)**
- **SEPTA Key Card applications (SEPTA)**
- **Unclaimed funds recovery (Dept. of Treasury)**
- **SNAP, LIHEAP etc. (Dept. of Human Services)**
- **Free notary services for nonpolitical documents**
- **Requests for brochures such as Senior Handbook and Veteran's Benefits**

We have been receiving an increasing amount of constituent calls about issues with Social Security, passports, Medicare, and federal income tax returns. Due to the fact that we are a state office and do not have liaisons with federal departments we can only refer you to your local federal representative for assistance with these matters.

Sign Up for My Weekly Email

I send out a weekly email about legislative happenings, office services, and upcoming events. If you have not done so already, I encourage you to sign up on my website at www.RepHanbidge.com/emailsSignup. Your voice matters and any comments, questions, and concerns may be shared here. I look forward to keeping you informed!

SEPTA SENIOR KEY CARD

Our office is proud to continue our partnership with SEPTA in helping our constituents gain access to SEPTA Key Cards in the most convenient way! This card is provided to residents aged 65 or older and offers free rides on all SEPTA transit routes including buses, trolleys, subway, and regional rail. Additionally, seniors who wish to take SEPTA to Delaware or New Jersey will receive a 50% discount on fare when they tap their Key Senior Card.

We can assist in your application for an initial SEPTA Key Senior Photo Card. Please call our office to schedule your appointment. We have appointments available every Tuesday from 9am to 11am and again from 1pm to 3pm. The process normally only takes about five to ten minutes, and you are required to bring a government issued ID that lists your birthdate, like a driver's license or photo ID. At this time the current time for SEPTA to process your application and send your Key Card is four to six weeks. Unfortunately, the site will not allow us to create a duplicate Key Card. In order to receive a replacement for a lost/stolen card you can send a \$5 check or money order made payable to SEPTA to:

SEPTA
P.O. Box 824833
Philadelphia, PA 19182

We have had many calls regarding the renewal of expiring Key Cards, so we wanted to share the latest information that we have received from SEPTA with you. SEPTA has begun training legislative offices to do the renewals. With over 80 offices across the southeast portion of the state, it is expected to take some time to complete this training. **We have been assured that all Senior Key Cards have been extended through 2023 and will remain active during this process.**

As soon as our office is trained and permitted to do these renewals, we will be sure to share this information on our social media platforms as well as our weekly legislative email. If you would prefer not to wait, you may have your pass renewed at:

SEPTA Headquarters
1234 Market Street
Philadelphia PA, 19107

You may schedule an appointment with SEPTA at 215-580-7145.

PROPERTY TAX RENT REBATE PROGRAMS – PA-1000

The Property Tax Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians aged 65 or older; widows and widowers aged 50 or older; and people with disabilities age 18 or older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded. Spouses, personal representatives, or estates may also file rebate claims on behalf of claimants who lived at least one day in 2021 and meet all other eligibility criteria. If you think you qualify and that this program may benefit you, we recommend applying!

Both Wissahickon and North Penn school districts have their own additional property tax/rent rebate programs that you may also qualify for. To qualify for the school district rebates, you **must** have first qualified and applied for the state rebate program from the previous year and provide a copy of your PA-1000 2021 filed with the PA Department of Revenue as well as a copy of the 2021 rebate check or statement of direct deposit from the state. If you have any additional questions about this process, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office!



REAL ID

The REAL ID Act is a federal law that affects how states issue driver's licenses and ID cards if they are going to be used for federal purposes, such as boarding a domestic commercial flight or entering a military installation or federal facility that requires ID.

The deadline in PA to get a REAL ID is May 3rd, 2023, but you may continue using your passport for these purposes after that date if you do not wish to get a REAL ID. Therefore, the REAL ID is NOT mandatory should you not wish to get one.

If you received your first PA license AFTER September 2003 you will be able to apply for a REAL ID online. If you received your first license BEFORE September 2003 you will need to apply for your REAL ID at a PennDOT Driver License Center.

In order to qualify for a REAL ID, you will need to bring several supporting documents with you when you go to the DMV.

1. One document as Proof of Identity.
 - a. Birth Certificate (issued by the state and including parents' names – my office can assist with obtaining a birth certificate).
 - b. Valid Passport.
2. Social Security Card (For information on how to obtain a replacement SS card visit www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/ or visit the closest Social Security office).
3. Two Acceptable Proofs of PA Residency.
 - a. Current PA Driver's License.
 - b. Current PA Vehicle Registration.
 - c. Proof of Insurance.
 - d. Bank Statement (no more than 90 days old).
 - e. W-2 Form or Pay Stub.
 - f. Tax Records.
 - g. Lease Agreement or Mortgage Documents.
4. Proof of all Legal Name Changes (If Applicable).
 - a. Certified Marriage Certificate (This can be obtained from the county clerk of courts or orphan court).
 - b. Court Order.

There is a one-time fee of \$30 when you file for a REAL ID as well as the license renewal fee of \$30.50 for a total cost of \$60.50. If you have recently renewed your license this will add an additional 4 years onto the expiration date of your current license.

REP HANBIDGE COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Judiciary – Minority Chair for the Family
Law Sub-Committee
Children and Youth
Local Government
Agriculture and Rural Affairs

Appointed by Democratic Leader Joanna
McClinton to the task force for Child
Pornography Protections

Chair of the Montgomery County
Delegation

***Representative Hanbidge also
participates in several active
Caucuses:***

Autism and Intellectual Disabilities
Animal Welfare
Climate
Women's Health
Women's
Mental Health
Animal Protection
Hispanic Caucus
LGBTQ+
Diversity

TAX FORMS

The 2022 tax deadline for filing your 2021 taxes is April 18th. If you need **State** tax forms feel free to contact our office and we will be more than happy to provide them for you. Printable personal tax forms are also available on the Department of Revenue's website.

Rep. Hanbidge in the Community



Ambler Holiday Parade



Holiday Open House



Coat Donations for Mitzvah Circle



#GORED for Women's Heart Health



Raise the Wage Press Conference



In Harrisburg for the Governor's Budget Proposal



Canned Good Donations for Manna on Main



Representative Liz Hanbidge
 1098 W. Skippack Pike
 Blue Bell, PA 19422

lpo.ad.0222



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 27 - 10am to 1pm
Veterans' Expo
Montgomery County Community College Health Science Center

April 30 - 10am to 1pm
E-waste Event
Stoney Creek Sports Park

May 21 - 10am to 1pm
Shredding Event
Upper Gwynedd Township back parking lot

Primary Election and Blackout Period

A reminder that the upcoming Primary Election will be held on May 17, 2022. Coinciding with the primary is a 60-day 'blackout' for mass publications from our office starting March 18, 2022. However, you can stay up to date with local information at all times by opting in to receive the weekly email by going to www.PAHouse.com/Hanbidge/EmailSignUp.