



Summer
2025

LIZ HANBIDGE

PA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Dear Friends,

As we continue the 2025–2026 legislative session, I'm proud to report that many bills—including several I've sponsored—have advanced in the PA House. However, I'm disappointed to share that state budget negotiations remain stalled, even though the new fiscal year began on July 1.

Each year, the Governor proposes a budget, and the House and Senate negotiate a final version following extensive Appropriations Committee hearings. This year, the Governor's proposal included major investments in infrastructure, public safety, economic development, transportation, healthcare, housing, education, and childcare. The House passed a budget that is \$1 billion less, but still protects funding for public education, job creation, childcare, healthcare, state universities, the departments of Environmental Protection and Transportation, the state police, human services, and food assistance. Unfortunately, the Senate has yet to propose or pass a budget, creating a significant budget impasse.

To reach an agreement, we must address core policy challenges. Those include reforming cyber charter school funding, which costs taxpayers \$616 million a year more than necessary; securing public transit systems like SEPTA; raising the minimum wage so full-time workers aren't forced to rely on public assistance; and closing tax loopholes and regulating skill-games to generate new, stable revenue. The House has already passed legislation addressing each of these priorities, but these bills have stalled in the Senate.

Throughout much of the summer, the House has remained in Harrisburg, ready to negotiate a final budget—especially as the recently passed federal budget brings steep funding cuts, particularly in healthcare and education. Last year, Pennsylvania's General Appropriations budget totaled \$47.598 billion, with an additional \$53 billion in federal support. We know the state can't supplement those lost federal funds, but we're taking steps to protect residents—such as passing legislation to preserve key provisions of the Affordable Care Act to ensure healthcare access.

I remain committed to fighting for a budget that meets the needs of all Pennsylvanians, especially the most vulnerable. I currently serve on six House committees,

including Children & Youth (as Vice Chair), Judiciary, Agriculture & Rural Affairs, Health, Local Government, and the Committee on Committees. I'm also honored to be named a National Conference of State Legislatures Juvenile Justice Fellow, where I'm working in a bipartisan group with 17 colleagues from across the country to advance meaningful juvenile justice policy.



As always, I look forward to hearing from you about the issues that matter most. I encourage you to sign up for my weekly emails so we can stay connected. I hope to share more progress on the state budget soon and wish you a safe and enjoyable remainder of your summer!

Liz Hanbidge

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Updating the Custody Factors

I'm pleased to share that my bill to modernize Pennsylvania's child custody laws was signed into law as Act 11 of 2025 on June 30.

Previously, judges were required to evaluate and explain 16 separate custody factors, which often led to redundancy and confusion. Act 11 streamlines that process by consolidating

the list to 11 clearer factors, without weakening protections—especially those related to child abuse. This update will help courts make faster, more effective decisions that serve the best interests of children and reduce the burden on families, judges, and attorneys. The bill passed the House 202–1 and was approved unanimously in the Senate.



Protecting Residents of Manufactured Home Communities

Manufactured homes are a crucial part of Pennsylvania's affordable housing landscape, with over 2,000 communities statewide serving more than 55,000 households. However, many residents don't own the land beneath their homes, leaving them vulnerable to sudden rent hikes and displacement. In recent years, private equity firms have exploited weak regulations by purchasing these communities and raising lot rents—sometimes by 100% in a single year—forcing families to choose between housing, and food or medicine. To address this, I introduced H.B. 1250, which promotes stability and long-term affordability in manufactured-home communities. The bill passed the House 144–59 and is under consideration in the Senate Urban Affairs and Housing Committee.



Preserving Pre-K Counts

Another of my bills, H.B. 1505, which would safeguard children's access to Pre-K Counts—even if federal support for Head Start is reduced or eliminated—passed the House 202-1.

Intermediate Units (IUs) can only receive state Pre-K Counts funding if they also operate a Head Start program. House Bill 1505 would remove that requirement, allowing IUs to continue serving children regardless of changes to federal funding. Our children deserve uninterrupted, high-quality early education, and Pennsylvania must act to secure it. The bill is in the Senate Education Committee.



Making Childcare More Affordable

My bill, H.B. 1534, aims to ensure all working families can fairly access the Pennsylvania Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Tax Credit. Due to a conflict between state and federal tax forms, some families who use a Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account (FSA) on their federal return have been unintentionally disqualified from receiving the state credit—impacting up to 24,000 families, some of whom have lost as much as \$2,100 annually. House Bill 1534 creates an alternative eligibility path so these families can still receive the credit. Childcare is a necessity, not a luxury, and no family should be left behind. The bill passed the House 128–75 and is now in the Senate Finance Committee.



Addressing Menopause

Menopause and perimenopause are often overlooked in healthcare policy and insurance coverage, impacting women’s physical well-being. To change this, I’ve introduced a package of bills aimed at expanding access, improving education, and raising awareness, which I’m hopeful will get voted on this fall.

House Bills 1345 and 1346 would require coverage for menopause-related treatments such as hormone therapy. Meanwhile, H.B. 1411 directs the PA Department of Health to create and share clear, evidence-based information about menopause, partnering with healthcare providers to help women recognize symptoms and understand treatment options.

This is a first-of-its-kind effort to bring menopause into the public health conversation and ensure women across Pennsylvania receive the care and respect they deserve.



Insurance Coverage of Hearing Aids

I recently introduced H.B. 1670 to expand access to hearing aids for Pennsylvanians, especially seniors who often face high out-of-pocket costs. The bill would require private insurance and Medicaid plans—including Medicare Advantage—to cover at least \$2,500 every three years for hearing aids, usable at any licensed provider in the state. Hearing loss can lead to an increased dementia risk, but this legislation aims to remove financial barriers and ensure everyone can access essential hearing care.

Several of my bills have passed the House and are now awaiting Senate action, including H.B. 1412, which would protect children when custody orders are modified, and H.B. 937, which would make death-related reports more affordable for next of kin. Additionally, bills that have passed committee and await a House vote include H.B. 804, granting Lemon Law protections to RV buyers, and H.B. 1239, which would give homeowners in HOA communities more freedom to install solar panels.

If any of these issues resonate with you, I encourage you to contact your state senator and urge their support. If you live in North Wales Borough, Upper Gwynedd or Towamencin townships, your senator is Tracy Pennycuick. If you live in Lower Gwynedd or Whitpain townships, your senator is Maria Collett.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES CORNER

NOW OPEN

Property Tax / Rent Rebate Applications

Giving money back to PA renters and homeowners

Homeowner & Renter Income	Max Rebate
Up to \$8,270	\$1,000
Up to \$15,510	\$770
Up to \$18,610	\$460
Up to \$46,520	\$380

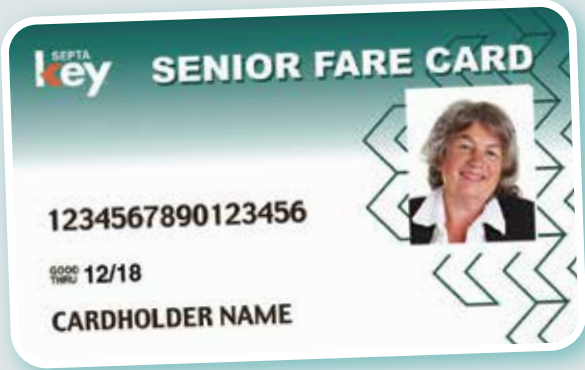
Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

Since 1971, Pennsylvania’s Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program has delivered over \$7.1 billion in relief to eligible residents. The program benefits:

- Pennsylvanians age 65+
- Widows/widowers age 50+
- Individuals with disabilities age 18+

My office can help you complete your 2024 rebate application—the deadline to apply has been extended to Dec. 31. Call us to schedule an appointment.

The North Penn and Wissahickon school districts offer their own rebate programs for seniors and residents with permanent disabilities. To qualify, you must first be approved for the state program.



SEPTA Senior Key Card

We’re proud to partner with SEPTA to help residents age 65+ apply for a SEPTA Key Card, which provides free rides on all SEPTA buses, trolleys, subways, and regional rail. Seniors also receive 50% off fares when traveling to Delaware or New Jersey with the card.

Appointments take 5–10 minutes. Bring a government-issued photo ID with your birthdate (e.g., driver’s license). SEPTA currently takes 4–6 weeks to process and mail cards. Call our office to schedule your appointment.

Note: We cannot issue replacements. For lost or stolen cards, mail a \$5 check or money order to SEPTA at:

SEPTA
P.O. Box 824833
Philadelphia, PA 19182

If your SEPTA Senior Key Card is expired or about to expire, our office can help you renew it and have a new card mailed to you.



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OFFICE EVENTS

August 27
Wednesday • 6 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.

**Protect and Play –
Family Safety Night
with Mission Kids**

*Workshop for parents and
children ages 8-12.*

Register using QR code →

Ambler Area YMCA
1325 McKean Road, Ambler



September 13
Saturday • 12 P.M. – 5 P.M.
Lower Gwynedd Fall Festival

Wissahickon High School
521 Houston Road, Ambler

September 25
Thursday • 10 A.M. – 1 P.M.
Senior Resource Fair

Lansdale Area Family YMCA
608 E. Main Street, Lansdale

September 27
Saturday • 12 P.M. – 4 P.M.

Whitpain Community Festival

Montgomery County Community College
340 Dekalb Pike, Blue Bell

September 27
Saturday • 11 A.M. – 5 P.M.

North Wales Community Day

North Wales Borough

October 18
Saturday • 11 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Upper Gwynedd Fall Fest

1 Parkside Place, North Wales

October 25
Saturday • 2 P.M. – 4 P.M.

**Family Resource Trunk-or-Treat with
Reps. Melissa Cerrato & Ben Sanchez**

Ambler Area YMCA
1325 McKean Road, Ambler

**My office is here to help you with any state
government-related issue you might have such as:**

- Driver & vehicle services renewals (Department of Transportation)
- Disability plate & placard applications (Department of Transportation)
- Unemployment compensation (Department of Labor & Industry)
- Applications for birth/death certificates (Division of Vital Records)
- Providing Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program applications and other tax forms (Department of Revenue)
- SEPTA Key Card applications (SEPTA)
- SNAP, LIHEAP, etc. (Department of Human Services)
- Free Notary Services (for nonpolitical documents)

Please do not hesitate to contact my District Office if you have any questions and/or issues.

