



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Kristine Howard

167TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

WEBSITE: www.RepKHoward.com

WINTER 2024

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Dear Neighbor,

With the new year already well underway, I wanted to provide an update on the exciting and important legislation I'm working on in Harrisburg, as well as ensure you are aware of the many services my office provides right here in the district.

Best wishes,

Kristine Howard

REGISTER TO VOTE IMPORTANT VOTING DEADLINES

April 8 – Last day to register for the Primary Election.

April 16 – Last day to request a mail-in ballot.

April 23 – Primary Election Day! Vote in person at the polls from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. Mail-in and absentee ballots must be returned to Chester County Voter Services or in a secure drop box by 8 p.m.

*For more info and to register online, visit vote.pa.gov or contact my district office to obtain a voter registration paper application, available in English and Spanish.

Remember, your vote is your voice. Make sure you are ready to vote in the 2024 Primary and General Elections.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians aged 65 and older; widows and widowers aged 50 and older; and people with disabilities aged 18 and older.

Governor Josh Shapiro signed a new law, Act 7 of 2023, to expand the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. With expanded income requirements, nearly 175,000 more Pennsylvanians will be eligible to receive the Property Tax/Rent Rebate in 2024. The majority of the 430,000 past claimants may see increased rebates as well.

The income limit is \$45,000 a year, 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 2023 and meet all other eligibility criteria. Visit www.revenue.pa.gov for more information.

Applications are due by June 30, 2024. If extra funds are available, the deadline is extended to December 31.

SEPTA Cards

Pennsylvanians 65 and older can apply for a free SEPTA Key Senior ID Card or renew their current senior card at my district office. Senior cards can be used on SEPTA trains, buses, trolleys, and subways. Current turnaround time to receive a card is around eight weeks from the application date.



LIBRARY SATELLITE OFFICE HOURS

Members of my staff will be on site at libraries across the district on the following days:

Chester Springs Library

1st Tuesday of each month
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Henrietta Hankin Library

2nd Tuesday of each month
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Chester County Library

4th Tuesday of each month
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The 167th District includes Malvern Borough and the townships of Charlestown, East Whiteland, West Pikeland, West Whiteland, West Vincent, East Caln, and part of East Goshen Township.

NEW LEGISLATION

STOPPING FINANCIAL ABUSE

Earlier this session, I introduced HB838 to address a common but relatively unrecognized facet of domestic abuse – financial exploitation.

While this form of abuse may be out of the public imagination, financial exploitation is a bitter reality for far too many people.

From deception, intimidation, and undue influence over someone's finances to actively causing financial dependence by interfering with employment or education, financial exploitation takes many forms, and our laws have thus far failed to provide adequate protection.

After much stakeholder input and discussion with colleagues, I plan to introduce a revised version of my legislation, in conjunction with Sen. Judy Schwank, which would widen protections from financial abuse through new torts, enabling victims to seek restitution. This legislation will protect countless families, older adults, and care-dependent persons from this nearly invisible ruination.

PROTECTING EMPLOYEES FROM STALKING

Those working in retail and other public settings, especially minors and young women, are vulnerable to stalking. Required name tags, generally featuring the employee's truthful name, make employees easier for perpetrators to track down, given the prevalence of social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men will be stalked at some point in their lives. As social media becomes more pervasive, the threat of both cyber and physical stalking becomes greater by the day.

In response to this rising concern, I plan on introducing legislation that would prohibit the use of truthful first or last names on work name tags, therefore protecting the identity of workers. These simple measures will make the workplace safer for millions of people across Pennsylvania at very little cost to the Commonwealth or the employers.



Birth Certificates and Death Certificates

My office can help you obtain copies of birth and death certificates. Certificates cost \$20 each and must be paid via check or money order made payable to "VITAL RECORDS."

CERTIFICATE OF VITAL RECORD

Visit pahouse.com/Howard and sign up for my email newsletter to stay up to date!



REPORT POTHOLES!

Potholes and other roadway concerns on state roads can be reported by calling 1-800-FIX-ROAD or visiting www.penndot.gov and clicking on "Submit Roadway Feedback."

CONSERVATION CORNER

PRIVATE LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A team of Pennsylvania Game Commission biologists is ready to assist you in making your property more attractive for wildlife, particularly species of greatest conservation need. They even make house calls!

The Pennsylvania Game Commission, responsible for managing the state's wild bird and mammal populations, created the program with the goal of improving Pennsylvania's landscape for wildlife species of special concern through developing detailed plans for interested landowners who want to help these at-risk species. These plans focus on creating or maintaining habitat for the state's 109 bird and mammal species of concern. Although the plans focus on species of concern, a wide variety of species often benefit from these habitat plans once they are implemented.

This program is custom-made for landowners who are interested in creating, preserving, or enhancing wildlife habitat. And remember, every habitat improvement made in support of species of concern solidifies their future in the Commonwealth. Progress is made in the Private Landowners Assistance Program every time another landowner gets involved. The goal of this program is to make private properties better for these species at least one property at a time.

The first step is to contact the regional wildlife diversity biologist or regional office serving your county. After a short interview, the biologist will send the interested property owner a landowner objective survey, which identifies the property by habitat features and ranks the landowner's interests and property uses. After reviewing the survey, the biologist will visit the property and walk it with the landowner. A detailed plan will be developed based upon the biologist's findings and landowner's chosen level of involvement.

There is no charge for participating in the program, nor is there a public access requirement. Biologists will follow up their planning effort by checking with participating landowners to see if they have questions or need additional direction.

If you're interested in participating in the Private Landowner Assistance Program, please contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Central Dispatch Center to get in touch with your RWD Biologist.

1-833-PGC-HUNT or 1-833-PGC-WILD

Where's my plow?

All of PennDOT's roughly 2,200 PennDOT-owned and rented plow trucks are equipped with Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) systems, which use in-truck technology to log and share data in real-time for that truck. The routes of these interstate and expressway trucks can be viewed in real-time at www.511PA.com.





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lpo.km.0124



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CONSTITUENT SERVICES

My office is here to help you with any state-related services. If you're having an issue, please call my office at 610-251-1070, and my staff will do all they can to guide you as you navigate your concerns through our government.

To minimize wait times while allowing us to research your issue, and to provide the best possible service without the need to rush our visitors, appointments are encouraged.

MY OFFICE CAN ASSIST WITH:

- ✓ Pennsylvania Driver's Manuals and Commercial Driver's Manual.
- ✓ PennDOT Services: vehicle registrations, reduced vehicle registration, disability placards.
- ✓ Questions for the Department of Revenue.
- ✓ Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds.
- ✓ Unemployment compensation, disability, and workers' compensation.
- ✓ Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance).
- ✓ Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, and senior citizen information.
- ✓ Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones.
- ✓ Questions or concerns about utilities and the Public Utility Commission.
- ✓ Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications.
- ✓ Questions about the state lottery.
- ✓ PACE cards for senior citizens.
- ✓ Liquor Control Board concerns or questions.
- ✓ And more!

IF YOUR CONCERN INVOLVES A STATE AGENCY, MY OFFICE CAN HELP!