



CAPITOL UPDATE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE MAUREEN E. MADDEN

Representing the 115th Legislative District

Summer 2025

Budget Crisis Hits Week 8: Senate on Vacation While Essential Services go Unfunded

With no deal in sight, schools, seniors, healthcare, transportation and community programs are without critical funding

As of the printing of this newsletter, Pennsylvania remains without a finalized state budget, and the consequences are growing more severe by the day. In July, the House passed a \$50.6 billion spending plan focused on education, healthcare, and public transit, including \$500 million more to repair roads and bridges.

However, the Senate leaders won't bring the budget up for a vote, leaving billions in critical funding frozen as schools get ready to open their doors.

More than \$2 billion in school district funding and \$542 million for county human services are currently delayed. Public services we all use are bracing for layoffs, service cuts, and halted aid. Schools face hiring freezes and postponed upgrades, threatening to disrupt the start of the academic year and deepen the strain on already limited local resources and taxpayers.

This isn't just a political impasse, it's a crisis affecting families, students, and vulnerable communities across

the state. Every day without a budget means more children lose access to quality education, more families go without essential services, and more communities fall behind.

Pennsylvanians deserve better. If you believe our future shouldn't be held hostage by partisan gridlock, now's the time to act. Call your State Senator and ask them to call THEIR leaders and demand to get back to work to pass a full, fair budget that funds our schools and protects the public programs we all rely on.

SEE INSIDE: Legislative Update • Grants for Our Community
Upcoming Events: PA CareKit Events + Veterans' Expo

Rep. Madden's Legislative Update

Representative Madden is hard at work in Harrisburg as the Chairwoman of the Aging and Older Adult Services Committee and as your representative to propose legislation to help seniors and those suffering from substance abuse disorders, and allow greater municipal oversight in warehouse development.

H.B. 1528 — The Grand Family Assistance Program Act

This bill would provide local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) with grants to provide emergency funds to grandparents raising grandchildren, helping them afford the personal care needs of the children in their care. The funding for these grants will come from the Opioid Settlement Fund, which means no new funding will need to be acquired.

H.B. 1310 — Supporting our Elders

Nursing homes in Pennsylvania rely on Medicaid funding to care for seniors. However, payments change every quarter, making it hard for facilities to plan and staff properly. House Bill 1310 would create a more stable funding system – helping nursing homes stay open and provide the best care for seniors.

H.B. 561 — Helping County Jails Establish and Expand Medication Treatments for Opioid Use Disorder Programs

To increase access to life-saving treatments, House Bill 561 would allow county jails to utilize all FDA-approved medications to treat those suffering from substance use disorders, including those suffering from opioid addictions. This legislation passed the House with bipartisan support twice since it was introduced last session and now awaits action from the Senate to become law.

H.B. 1611 — Comprehensive Update of the Older Adult Protective Services Act (OAPSA)

House Bill 1611 seeks to update the Older Adult Protective Services Act to do two things: (1) provide financial institutions with the tools to intervene if they suspect an elder is being financially exploited and (2) to allow more people to work in nursing homes. This bill also updates certain rules to make seniors safer.

H.B. 1764 — Time to Fight Back for Our Communities

Introduced by Representative Madden and Representative Freeman (Chairman of the Local Government Committee), this bill would amend existing state code to give local municipal leaders the tools they need to better handle developers and the construction of new warehouses in our communities. In short, it would allow municipalities to require that developers provide a detailed analysis of the impacts of development. These analyses would be used by municipal leaders to make informed decisions regarding the construction of these warehouses.



Around the District & More!



Upcoming Events:



NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE – POCONO CAMPUS
POCONO HALL • COMMUNITY ROOM 108
2411 ROUTE 715, TANNERSVILLE, PA 18372

September 13
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

*Join Rep. Madden
for her Veterans Expo!*

**VENDORS:
SCAN THE
QR CODE TO
REGISTER BY
AUGUST 31,
2025**



Support For Family Caregivers

Introducing the PA CareKit



Rep. Maureen E. Madden
Majority Chair of
Aging & Older Adult Services



Sec. Jason Kavulich
PA Department of Aging



**Scan here
to register!**

October 2, 2025

Morning Session:
Eastern Monroe Public Library
Afternoon Session:
Pocono Mountain Public Library

Hughes Main Library - Community Room
1002 PA-611, Stroudsburg, PA 18360
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

R. Dale & Frances Hughes Community Room
5500 Municipal Drive, Tobyhanna, PA 18466
Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Meet Our Interns: Future Leaders in Focus

Meet Angie Espinoza: A Law, Criminal Justice, and Society Student and a Community Advocate



By Brianne Roman

Angie Espinoza is currently studying Law, Criminal Justice, and Society (LCJS) at the University of Pittsburgh, with minors in Political Science and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies (GSWS). She chose her internship with Maureen Madden because she is passionate about public

service and wants to better understand how policy is shaped at the state level.

Through her internship, she hopes to amplify underrepresented voices and support efforts that make our government more accessible, transparent, and inclusive. Additionally, she wants to learn more about the needs of our community and how elected officials work to identify and address those needs through legislation and outreach. She is committed to ensuring that those who have historically been left out of the conversation feel heard and supported, and as though their elected officials are here to serve them. She is especially passionate about immigration reform; particularly given the challenges immigrant communities are facing.

Angie's long-term goal is to become a corporate lawyer who uses her platform to advocate for marginalized communities and push for more equitable policies across both private and public sectors.



Meet Brianne Roman: Criminal Justice Student and Civic Leader

By Angie Espinoza

Brianne Roman is studying criminal justice at Kutztown University, with a minor in social work. She chose her internship with state Representative Maureen Madden because she wants to help advocate for those in need. The internship also gives her hands-on experience working with people and learning about the needs of the community. Additionally, Brianne saw it as an amazing opportunity to learn directly from Maureen about policies and how a state-level system works.

Through her internship, Brianne hopes to advocate for people who aren't always heard and contribute to improving the community. She also aims to make everyone feel welcome and stress-free when visiting a government official's office.

Looking ahead, Brianne plans to focus on advocating for children and juveniles, as she wants to be a voice for those who aren't always able to advocate for themselves. While she is still figuring out her exact career path, she views this internship as a great place to start.

Revitalizing the Monroe County NAACP



The Monroe County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is revitalizing its advocacy efforts and entering a new era of leadership. Upcoming committee elections, including positions such as President, Vice President, Secretary, and others, will take place in September 2025.

If you're interested in getting involved, becoming a member, or verifying your membership status, visit monroecountynaacp.org. For the latest updates, follow the Monroe County PA NAACP on Facebook.



Grants for Our Community

Representative Madden is pleased to support this year's county grant allocations, which prioritize investing in local projects, from equipping first responders and EMS personnel to preserving our shared history through restoration efforts, and advancing critical transportation infrastructure. These grants help ensure that essential services remain strong and responsive to the needs of our community.

Grants Helping Our Heroes: EMS & First Responders

Stroud Township Volunteer Fire Department is receiving \$158,423 to replace 24 outdated self-contained breathing apparatus units, ensuring firefighters have safe, compliant breathing equipment. The current units are over 14 years old and three revision cycles out of compliance, making the upgrade critical for protecting firefighters in hazardous, smoke-filled environments.¹

The Monroe County Industrial Development Authority was awarded \$161,462 on behalf of Suburban Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for a new advanced paramedicine ambulance equipped with a power lift and PowerPro stretcher. As Jeff Young, the Grant Coordinator for Suburban EMS, shared: "Suburban EMS appreciates Representative Madden's advocacy for all first responders, which in turn helps provide valuable services to residents. Her continued support helped secure a 2024 LSA grant for Suburban EMS in the amount of \$236,462 to be used for the purchase of a Ford Crestline E350 ambulance, fitted with radios, a power load, and a power stretcher."²



Smithfield Township received \$50,000 for Bushkill Emergency Corps to upgrade patient and employee safety through new power stretchers, which allows crew to increase the weight threshold to 700 pounds, too. This upgrade supports safer care for every patient while protecting the health and well-being of our dedicated EMS teams.³

Thanks to these grants, our local first responders are gaining vital support, ensuring they have the tools they need to save lives while protecting their own.

Investing in Our Shared Spaces

The Stroudsburg Little Bethel Historical Association (SLBHA) will receive \$130,115 to support essential renovations at the Little Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, a landmark of Monroe County's African American history. SLBHA President Ann Parham expressed her gratitude, stating, "The Stroudsburg Little Bethel Historical Association is eternally grateful to Representative Maureen Madden for her help and guidance in procuring the LSA grant for our project. The \$212,000 award will be used to preserve and enhance the building on Little Bethel Way, inside and out. This will ensure that the museum, lending library, and community space will continue to celebrate its important history and be of service to the community."⁴

Thanks to the vision and persistence of SLBHA, Little Bethel serves not only as a historic landmark, but also as a museum, library, and community gathering space.

The Monroe County Transportation Authority (MCTA) will receive a \$200,000 grant to improve its transit facility. Planned upgrades include covered bus parking, maintenance garage rehabilitation, and operations area updates, enhancing safety and efficiency. Currently, outdoor bus storage exposes the fleet to weather and vandalism, including catalytic converter thefts. These improvements will reduce delays, protect assets, and support reliable service as Monroe County's population grows, ensuring residents can continue to depend on public transit for work, school, medical care, and more.⁵

In Middle Smithfield Township, a \$164,238 grant will support the creation of a new community park and expanded road department facility. The park developments will include a parking lot for approximately 20 vehicles, a picnic pavilion, a new playground with ADA accessible equipment, and a 0.5-mile walking trail. This facility will provide the township with a dedicated space for winter equipment maintenance and new composting operations, helping the township better serve the community.⁶

Across Monroe County, these grants represent more than just upgrades; they are investments that enhance accessibility, honor local history, and improve public services. Together, they lay the groundwork for a stronger, more connected future for all who call Monroe County home.



¹ Rep. Madden helped secure \$158,423 of total \$242,649 award through the LSA program.

² Rep. Madden helped secure \$161,462 of total \$236,462 award through the LSA program.

³ Rep. Madden helped secure \$50,000 of the total \$100,000 award through the LSA program.

⁴ Rep. Madden helped secure \$130,115 of the total \$212,353 award through the LSA program.

⁵ Rep. Madden helped secure \$200,000 of the total \$509,250 award through the LSA program.

⁶ Rep. Madden helped secure \$164,238 of the total \$239,238 award through the LSA program.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MAUREEN E. MADDEN

2959 Route 611, Suite 105
Tannersville, PA 18372

(570) 894-7905
Fax: (570) 894-7906

RepMadden.com
 RepMaureenMadden
 RepMadden

Join the email list
www.pahouse.com/Madden/EmailSignup

lpo.ts.0825



State Representative Maureen E. Madden

Your Voice in Harrisburg

*Whether it's state services, programs, or questions,
my office is here to serve you.*

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

RepMadden@PAHouse.net
 (570) 894-7905
 RepMadden.com
 @RepMaureenMadden
 @RepMadden

Pocono Township Office
2959 Route 611,
Suite 105, Tannersville
Hours: Monday to Friday,
9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Coolbaugh Township Municipal Complex
5580 Memorial Blvd., Tobyhanna
Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays,
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(Appointments Required)

Middle Smithfield Township
Municipal Building
147 Municipal Drive, East Stroudsburg
For a full list of dates and times and to schedule
an appointment, please contact the office.



*Representative Madden
would like to thank members
of her staff – Ariana Rivera,
Latisha Griffith, Molly Peters,
Zachary Rusnak, Sonia
Kabuiku, Brianne Roman,
Angie Espinoza, Elyse Nehring
and Tara Scarcia – for their
collaboration on this newsletter.*