

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JOANNA E. McCLINTON

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

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Dear Neighbor,

I will start by saying how extremely humbled, grateful and eager I am to not only begin my journey as Leader of the House Democratic Caucus for the upcoming 2021-22 legislative session, but to be on the right side of history as the first woman to hold such a position in the state legislature.

First and foremost, I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for your ongoing support. The trust and confidence you've instilled in me as your state representative has been a blessing and helped immensely in making this opportunity possible.

There's no question 2020 has been challenging for all of us, especially for our most vulnerable neighbors.

Families are suffering because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lives are being lost at an alarming rate and communities are being torn apart at the hands of gun violence. The demand for real police reforms has never been greater, as well as the need to eliminate racial barriers further dividing this commonwealth and country.

While things may seem bleak at times, there is good news, and you'll find it in this newsletter, which includes many resources to help you and your family get through this health crisis safely, along with details about the progress and plans we're making to protect our neighborhoods and bring justice to all.

The work ahead of us is certainly sobering and serious, but together, we can make a difference!

Sincerely,



Rep. Joanna McClinton



Laying Out My Priorities as Leader



My priority is and always will be to put the needs of you and your family first.

Right now, COVID-19 protections and relief must be front and center. This means tackling the economic fallout of the virus by ensuring funding assistance is available for local businesses, the unemployed and those struggling to make ends meet. We need to also ensure COVID-19 tests and personal protective equipment are available not

based on zip code, but available and accessible in all neighborhoods, especially communities of color.

Furthermore, I will keep fighting to implement criminal justice reforms and measures to stop gun violence, along with the core values of the House Democrats' Plan for PA, which includes:

- Raising the minimum wage.
- Creating good-paying jobs.
- Providing a quality education to students.
- Protecting the environment.
- Making health care affordable for everyone.



Scan with your phone to watch my comments and hear more about the issues I want to address as Leader.

Meet the New Leadership Team

Change is possible through a collaborative effort, and I am excited to embark on this journey with a new, diverse leadership team.

While I may hold the title of Leader, each of these members holds strong leadership qualities themselves, sharing my passion and commitment to giving those they represent a voice in Harrisburg.

I look forward to working alongside them to make Pennsylvania an even better place to live, work and raise a family.



House Democratic Caucus Leadership for the 2021-22 Session



Rep. Matt Bradford
Democratic Appropriations
Chair



Rep. Joanna McClinton
Democratic Leader



Rep. Jordan Harris
Democratic Whip



Rep. Mike Schlossberg
Democratic Caucus
Administrator



Rep. Ryan Bizzarro
Democratic Policy
Chair



Rep. Dan Miller
Democratic Caucus
Chair



Rep. Tina Davis
Democratic Caucus
Secretary

Combating COVID: Relief, Resources and Reminders



Mask Up, Social Distance, Wash Your Hands

It's infuriating to hear anyone say COVID-19 is not real and shouldn't be taken seriously.

The fact is the virus is spreading and the proof is in the record rise in cases and an increased number of hospitalizations reported by the Pa. Department of Health in November.

I know wearing a mask and social distancing, especially during the holidays, is frustrating. However, these precautions are scientifically proven to help protect one another and save lives.

It's important to remember you are not alone and help is available.

Stay Up to Date!

For the latest on COVID-19, please check out the following resources:

Health Department: health.pa.gov

Delaware County: delcopa.gov

Philadelphia: phila.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: cdc.gov

My website: repmcclinton.com

Greater Philadelphia Coronavirus Helpline: 1-800-722-7112

Unemployment Assistance

The Unemployment Compensation program: provides temporary income support if you lose your job through no fault of your own or are working less than your full-time hours.

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program: provides an additional 13 weeks of benefits to people who exhaust their regular unemployment compensation.

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program (PUA): available for self-employed workers, independent contractors, gig workers, and those affected by COVID-19 but not eligible for regular UC.

Find out if you're eligible and apply by visiting uc.pa.gov.

You can also search job opportunities and workforce training on Pennsylvania Career Link's website: pacareerlink.pa.gov.

Free Food Sites Are Still Available

Find food distribution sites nearest you online at:

Philadelphia: phila.gov/food

Delaware County: <https://bit.ly/3hODBSJ>

You can also call the WhyHunger hotline to find to find food pantries in your area: **1-800-5HUNGRY**.

Ensuring the Safety of Students

While this year has certainly been different, the School District of Philadelphia and the William Penn School District have both worked tirelessly to create a safe learning environment to keep education going in this difficult time.

You can find updates and information, including details about Chromebooks and Internet assistance, in your school district by visiting their websites or giving them a call:

School District of Philadelphia
Online: philasd.org
Phone: 215-400-4000

William Penn School District
Online: williampennsd.org
Phone: 610-284-8000

Helping Local Businesses Survive the Pandemic

As I continue working to connect local businesses with critical COVID-19 relief, here are online resources to help you navigate assistance that is available:

Department of Community and Economic Development: dced.pa.gov

Find resources, including detailed guidance for businesses, information on funding and state and federal programs, and more.

U.S. Small Business Administration: sba.gov

Find information on federal funding and resources.

Apply Now for Home Heating Assistance



The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is accepting applications now to help eligible homeowners and renters pay their heating bills.

Pennsylvanians can apply for LIHEAP and other public assistance programs online at www.compass.state.pa.us.

Those who prefer to submit paper applications can print one from the website or request an application by phone at **1-800-692-7462** and mail it to their local County Assistance Office.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission also offers additional services to help utility customers pay their energy bills. This information is available on the website at www.puc.pa.gov.

2020 -21 Income Guidelines

for homeowners and renters

household size	Maximum Income
1	\$19,140
2	\$25,860
3	\$32,580
4	\$39,300
5	\$46,020
6	\$52,740
7	\$59,460
8	\$66,180

Each additional person + \$6,720



Criminal Justice Reform Bill Becomes Law

Criminal justice reform is truly the civil rights issue of our time. I am proud to be part of the ongoing progress to create a justice system that works for everyone.

In October, Gov. Tom Wolf signed into law bipartisan legislation that I worked on with Republican state Rep. Sheryl DeLozier to expand upon Pennsylvania's historic Clean Slate law.

This new law removes an obligation to pay any outstanding court-ordered financial obligations before eligible cases can be sealed; waives any restitution owed for convictions committed; and requires that when a person receives a pardon, that record is automatically sealed and if they receive a not-guilty verdict, that the record is expunged.

Other critical proposals I've introduced include:

- **PA CROWN Act:** would outlaw discrimination based on hairstyles by amending the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and clarifying the term "race" to include traits, such as hair texture and protective hairstyles.
- **Conflict Resolution Instruction:** would work to stop gun violence by requiring public schools to provide age-appropriate instruction to all students on conflict resolution and how to resolve differences peacefully.



Congratulations to the new head of Darby Borough Police Department Chief Joseph Gabe. He truly worked his way to the top and I look forward to his leadership.

Demanding Justice for Walter Wallace Jr.

Walter Wallace Jr., a husband, father and son from my neighborhood who struggled with mental health issues should be alive today, period.

While I respect and am forever grateful to the dedicated men and women in blue who risk their lives to protect ours, they still need to be held accountable for their actions.

As a member of the Police Reform Working Group, I am fighting to direct police funds to equip officers with non-lethal weapons, like stun guns, and connect them with the de-escalation training needed to better prepare them to face crises in the field safely.

These critical changes will help prevent tragedies like what happened to Walter Wallace from happening again, and assist law enforcement in strengthening transparency and accountability within their agencies, while at the same time, helping them carry out their commitment to preserve human life.



Serving the Community

1. Whip Jordan Harris and I had a great time with our youngest constituents at our annual outdoor Southwest Philly Fall Festival. We partnered with community leaders at The Common Place to provide free food, treats and coats to children and families.

2. It was a pleasure teaming up with state Sen. Anthony Williams and Councilmember Jamie Gauthier for our Community Resource Fair in Cobbs Creek, where we worked with local organizations to connect neighbors with free COVID-19 testing, voter resources and document shredding.

3. What an honor to work with Councilman Kenyatta Johnson to secure state and city funding to enhance, improve and remodel McCreesh Playground in Southwest Philly. We officially cut the ribbon on the project in October.

4. Alongside St. Joseph's Prep and the Hood Project, we distributed free groceries at Longstreth Elementary School to help people feed their loved ones during the pandemic.

5. From notebooks and folders to pens and earphones, I worked with local organizations to provide free backpacks filled with supplies to students during our back-to-school resource fairs in Philly and Delco.



Here to serve you and your family



3,000+
PPE delivered



\$3,032,328
Money brought back to the district



25

Events Hosted

1,000+

Free food packages distributed





State Representative • 191st Legislative District

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Inside:

- My priorities as next Leader of House Democratic Caucus
- COVID-19 resources
- New criminal justice reform law

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Get free assistance with your Property Tax/Rent Rebate

The deadline to apply for Pennsylvania's Property Tax/Rent Rebate program for the 2019 tax year is Dec. 31, 2020. My office staff is ready to help you file yours for free!

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters. Half of Social Security income is excluded, and the maximum standard rebate is \$650.

Spouses, personal representatives or estates may file rebate claims on behalf of deceased claimants who lived at least one day in 2019 and meet all other eligibility criteria.



With COVID-19 creating health concerns for older Pennsylvanians, I teamed up with Aetna in September to drop off care packages of masks, hand sanitizer and other PPE to help our wisest neighbors at the Friendship Circle Senior Center stay safe.

**Don't Forget to Like
My Facebook Page!**



www.facebook.com/RepMcClinton

