



STATE REP. JENNIFER O'MARA

SPRING 2023

165TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



Constituent Services Office: 905 West Sproul Road • Suite 203 • Springfield, PA 19064 • P: (610) 544-9878
Capitol Office: 217 Irvis Office Building • P.O. Box 202165 • Harrisburg, PA 17120 • P: (717) 783-4090

Dear Neighbor,

On Jan. 3, I took the oath of office for state Representative, and I am immensely honored to kick off my fifth year and third term working for you. From Delco to Harrisburg, it is the honor of a lifetime to bring our community's voice into the legislature. I'm already hard at work drafting and co-sponsoring bills to help create a better Pennsylvania for all. I'm strongly advocating for paid family leave and gun violence prevention, increasing access to mental health services and funding for public schools, preserving the commonwealth's environment, addressing the student debt crisis, and supporting veterans and first responders.

On a more personal note, I am thrilled to share that my husband and I welcomed our daughter, Katherine, to the world on July 24, 2022. Katherine is learning the ropes of legislating already and joined me on Swearing-In Day on the House floor! Thank you to so many wonderful constituents and neighbors

who have offered kind words of support as we become a family of three.

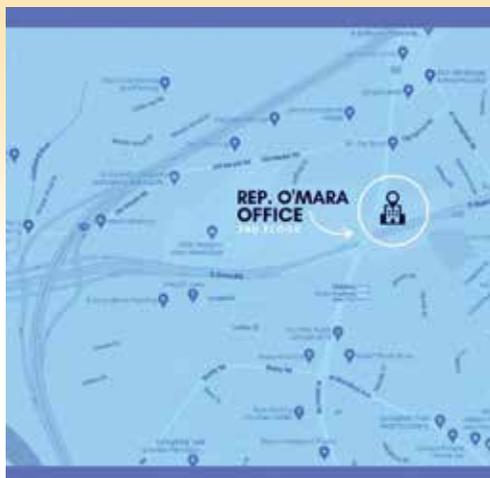
Finally, I want to emphasize that I am in Harrisburg on behalf of YOU – the people of our community. If there's a state-related matter that you want to bring to my attention so I can bring your idea or concern into the Capitol, feel free to stop by or contact my district office at any time. My staff and I are here to serve you.

Kindly,

Jennifer O'Mara



Stop by my District Office



My district office at 905 W. Sproul Road, Suite 203, is open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Come visit if you need help with any state-related service! Look for the Edward Jones sign and enter through that side of the building. Our office is ADA accessible, and there is an elevator on site.

Media Mobile Office Hours

State Representative
JENNIFER O'MARA

Mobile Office Hours

Media Borough

2nd Tuesday of the Month
10AM - 2PM

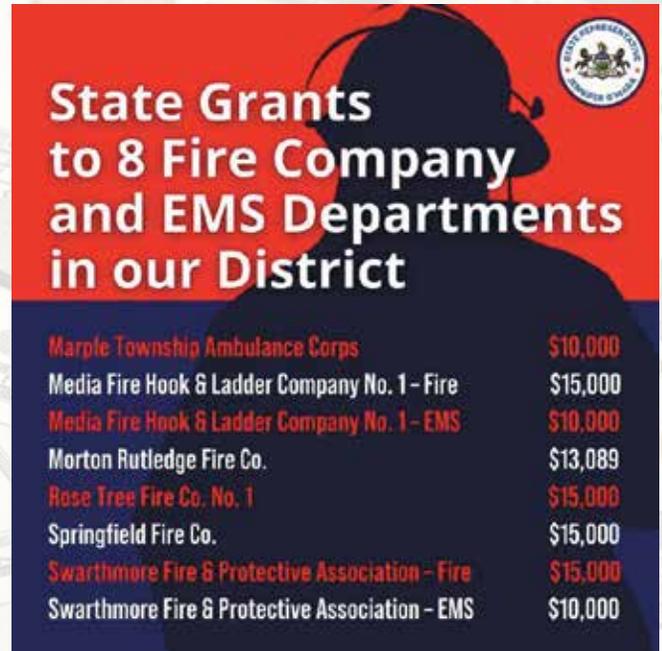
301 North Jackson Street | Media

Do you need help with a state-related matter, but my Springfield office is too far from you? Stop by my mobile office hours in Media. I'll have staff at Borough Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of every month!

Grants Awarded to the District

Part of my job as your legislator is to ensure that we get our fair share of state funding. I'm happy to say that I recently helped bring home these grants, and I'm going to continue working to bring even more back to our community!

- ▶ Springfield Township: \$500,000 for indoor air quality HVAC replacement at the municipal building.
- ▶ Swarthmore Borough: \$200,000 for an ADA compliant sidewalk rehabilitation project.
- ▶ Upper Providence Township: \$424,500 to upgrade Ray Roche Park and strengthen ADA accessibility
- ▶ Marple Township: \$367,500 for the construction of a walking trail and park improvements in Veterans Park Trail, including stormwater management measures.
- ▶ Marple Township Police Department: \$268,150 for body cameras and dash cams.
- ▶ Upper Providence Police Department: \$49,602 for a new police cruiser.
- ▶ Broomall Fire Company: \$99,106 to purchase a utility vehicle equipped with a snowplow.
- ▶ Six local fire and EMS companies: \$103,089 to be used toward facility upgrades, equipment, debt reduction, training and certification, education and public outreach, and recruitment and/or retention efforts.
- ▶ Springfield Fire Company: \$50,000 to replace the Plymovent exhaust system inside the station. This system captures the trucks' exhaust emissions, ensuring clean air for the company's firefighters.
- ▶ Rose Tree Media School District: \$11,128 to purchase new food service equipment for cafeterias.



State Grants to 8 Fire Company and EMS Departments in our District

Marple Township Ambulance Corps	\$10,000
Media Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 - Fire	\$15,000
Media Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 - EMS	\$10,000
Morton Rutledge Fire Co.	\$13,089
Rose Tree Fire Co. No. 1	\$15,000
Springfield Fire Co.	\$15,000
Swarthmore Fire & Protective Association - Fire	\$15,000
Swarthmore Fire & Protective Association - EMS	\$10,000

Recent Commonwealth Court Ruling on Education Funding

For too long, the Pennsylvania legislature has neglected our students by failing to properly fund our schools. A Commonwealth Court ruling from the William Penn School District v. Pennsylvania Department of Education case in February confirmed this. The ruling concluded that Pennsylvania underfunds some school districts so badly it violates the state constitution. Specifically, the judge held that:

- 1) Education is a fundamental right in Pennsylvania.
- 2) The Education Clause of the Pennsylvania Constitution was "clearly, palpably, and plainly violated because of a failure to provide all students with access to a comprehensive, effective, and contemporary system of public education that will give them a meaningful opportunity to succeed."
- 3) It is the legislature's, executive branch's and educators' responsibility to uphold the education clause and ensure that right is a reality throughout the commonwealth.

This was a historic decision by Commonwealth Court and affirms what we knew to be true: our current system for funding schools, which relies heavily on local property taxes tied to community wealth and wages, has been denying Pennsylvania students equal access to public education. While the judge's ruling lacked direction for the state legislature on just how much aid to distribute or how, she did indicate that it's up to the governor, lawmakers



and the school districts that sued to formulate a plan that addresses the constitutional violations.

Now that budget season is underway in Harrisburg, it's time for the legislature to create a funding system for our schools in which every student and every taxpayer is treated equally. With our new Democratic majority in the House, I'm ready to fight for equitable funding in Pennsylvania's public schools.

SIGN-UP FOR MY E-NEWSLETTER

Scroll down to the "Stay Informed" portion to sign up for my bi-weekly emails.



WORKING HARD IN HARRISBURG

Here's a glimpse of some legislative initiatives I'm currently working on in the state Capitol.

Extreme Risk Protection Orders

ERPOs, or "red flag" laws, temporarily disarm people in crisis to disrupt spontaneous acts of violence. Under current Pennsylvania law, the only intervention available for loved ones to keep family members in crisis safe is a 302 involuntary commitment. This approach deprives people of their liberty and holds them against their will without speaking with an attorney or judge. ERPO laws remedy this, by allowing for due process while ensuring that people who prove to be an immediate threat to themselves or others cannot possess or access firearms and ammunition for no more than one year. Data shows that ERPOs, when enacted, can also prevent mass shootings. In California, 21 orders were issued for individuals planning to commit a mass shooting from 2016-2018.

Early Voting

To cut down on long wait times at the polls and ensure those who work on elections can cast their ballots, my bill would permit Pennsylvanians to vote up to 30 days before an election. Early voting would take place at the county board of elections office and at designated polling places chosen by the county board.

Implementing Statewide Energy Efficiency Standards

Former state Rep. Wendi Thomas, R-Bucks, and I drafted legislation that would set energy efficiency and water conservation standards for commercial and residential appliances sold in the commonwealth. This would significantly help conserve water and reduce air pollution while saving millions of dollars every year. Plus, it would pose no inconveniences on Pennsylvanians' day-to-day lives.

Hospital Closure Reform

This legislation I introduced with Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski, D-Luzerne, would reform our state's hospital closure process, increasing transparency and accountability every step of the way without disrupting access to care. Our bill would double the currently required 90-day notice of a hospital closure to 180 days. Our bill also bolsters community members' voices by requiring public hearings, gathering of relative and sufficient data, and providing for public comment prior to any closure.

Join the National Counseling Compact

The National Counseling Compact consists of 17 member states that allow mental health professionals to practice within its multi-state network without needing multiple licenses. By enrolling our commonwealth in this compact, we can mitigate the long wait times that patients experience for mental health care and increase accessibility. This could be done by utilizing telehealth and expanding care options for Pennsylvanians who live near one of our six bordering states.

Co-Chairing the Mental Health Caucus

It's my honor to be a chairperson for the bipartisan Mental Health Caucus. This is a group of legislators coming together across party lines to discuss how we can strengthen access to mental health services, reduce its stigma and connect with all Pennsylvanians to hear their perspective on issues that contribute to mental health concerns – from students to first responders. As a suicide loss survivor, mental health is an issue deeply important to me and has been one of my top priorities since taking office. I look forward to continuing and leading the work of the Mental Health Caucus and working from a legislative standpoint to ensure that Pennsylvania's health care system works for everyone.



DISTRICT SERVICES

Notary Services at My District Office

Most official documents can be notarized for FREE at my office in Springfield. Please call ahead to make sure that our notary is in and able to notarize your type of document prior to arriving. Please note there are some documents that my office cannot notarize – such as car titles, wills, deeds, powers of attorney and the Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9. A notary is available weekdays between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. For questions or appointments, please call my district office at 610-544-9878.

My Office Can Help with Veterans' Services

A Veteran Service Officer is available monthly here in my Springfield Office. The VSO will be available for appointments the second Monday of every month from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Interested veterans may call my office at 610-544-9878 to schedule an appointment and learn about the state resources that are available to you.



Rep. O'Mara will have a Veteran Service Officer on hand once a month!

SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH
10 A.M. – 2 P.M.

We can help with:

- VA claims
- Reduced property taxes
- Educational benefits and more!

CALL TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT 610.544.9878

STATE REPRESENTATIVE **JENNIFER O'MARA** 165TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
905 WEST SPROUL ROAD, SUITE 203 • SPRINGFIELD, PA 19064 • (610) 544-9878 • FAX: (484) 200-8270



DID YOU KNOW?
My office can help you process SEPTA Senior Key Card requests.

Seniors 65 + older are eligible to travel for FREE on all PA SEPTA service lines with a SEPTA Key Card.

Contact my office:

- (610) 544-9878
- RepOMara@pahouse.net
- 905 West Sproul Rd. Suite 203 Springfield, PA 19064

Apply for your SEPTA Key Senior ID at my Office

If you are 65 or over, you can receive a free SEPTA ID card that allows you to ride all of SEPTA — including the regional rail — for FREE! We can also renew your expired passes. Seniors are welcome to call to make an appointment. It is easy and quick! Just make sure to bring your license/identification card. We will also be traveling to local towns to hold SEPTA ID card events, so keep an eye out for more info!

Update on the Guanella site

ICYMI: Delaware County Council is in the initial phases of turning the site of the former Don Guanella School into a beautiful county park! This phase includes creating a planning committee made up of architects, environmental scientists, community leaders, recreation planners, and transportation specialists. The phase also includes hosting open houses and hearing from the most important stakeholders—the residents in the community!

The county is asking all interested residents to participate in a survey so you can share your opinion on what you would like to see at our new park. If you are not one of the over 2,000 residents who filled it out already, I encourage you to do so today!

Visit live.metroquestsurvey.com/?u=yw2n2r#!?p=web to submit your response or scan this QR code.



REAL ID Update

The Department of Homeland Security announced that REAL ID enforcement will not go into effect until May 2025. This means that the previous deadline (spring of this year) requiring airline passengers to have a REAL ID or passport to fly domestically is postponed.

If you are still planning to get REAL ID, my office is available to help you get the necessary state documents. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions about the application process.

Delco in the White House

In December, it was my honor to represent Pennsylvania at the White House for a roundtable discussion. The theme was public policy that we can pass in state legislatures that directly supports American working families. I gained so much valuable insight and new perspectives on matters ranging from gender equity and the affordability of childcare to workplace discrimination and paid family leave.

I spoke about three bills I've introduced (and plan to re-introduce) – insurance coverage for infertility treatments, paid sick leave and updating our state's equal pay law. This whole discussion revolved around how we can make people's working lives easier and less stressful. After this experience connecting with lawmakers from all over the country and people from the Biden administration, I left feeling more inspired and motivated than ever for the 2023-24 legislative session and the work I do for you and working families across Delco.



AROUND THE DISTRICT



A little bit of rain couldn't dampen the spirit at Springfield's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. We topped off the celebration with a grant presentation to Springfield Fire Company!



Every year on Small Business Saturday, I finish up my Christmas shopping at our area's incredible locally owned businesses. We're fortunate to have such a vibrant small business community!



Thank you to everyone who participated in my office's Toys for Tots, Diapers, and Winter Wear drives. In total, we collected more than four trunk-loads of supplies, all of which went to local families during the holidays.



I was honored to meet Jeannine Osayande and learn about her work creating a virtual walking tour of Historical Black Neighborhood Swarthmore.



I had the pleasure of meeting with Upper Providence Township Council Chairperson Elgin Akarsoy and Upper Providence Police Chief David Montella. They, along with Township Manager Don Vymazal, showed me how unique this community is with a small walking tour.



Above: Katherine and I celebrated the Eagles making it to the Super Bowl at a pep rally in Media. Go Birds!

Right: I met with David Fairman to learn more about the Media Business Authority and its work around State Street District. I look forward to working together in the near future!



I visited Swarthmore Borough to chat with the borough manager about ways my district office can support the community.



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lpo.km.0423



UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are some events that my office is organizing. Information is subject to change, especially for events happening farther out. Follow me on social media as my staff and I finalize all of the details so you can stay up to date. Also, feel free to call my office before any of these events to confirm the date, time, and location.

PA MEDI Counseling*

April 26

*Registration is required to speak with a Pennsylvania Medicare Education and Decision Insight (PA MEDI) professional for confidential benefits counseling. Anyone interested in attending should call my office at 610-544-9878.

District Office Open House

April 27, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Springfield office, Suite 203

Renewable Energy and Environmental Expo

May 6, 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

*Smedley Park Environmental Center
 20 Paper Mill Road*

When approaching the center from Baltimore Pike, turn left at the trolley tracks.

SEPTA Senior Key Renewal & Enrollment

May 10, 10 a.m. – Noon

Swarthmore Library

Suicide Prevention Presentation

May 10, 6 p.m.

Media Borough Hall

*Registration is required

SEPTA Senior Key Renewal & Enrollment

May 17, 10 a.m. – Noon

Marple Library

SEPTA Senior Key Renewal & Enrollment

Aug. 9, 10 a.m. – Noon

Media Borough Hall

Paper-only Shred Event with Rep. Greg Vitali

Aug. 26, 9 a.m. – Noon

Broomall Fire Co.

Veterans Day Breakfast

Friday, Nov. 10

Springfield Country Club

**NOTE: New location!*

Important Deadlines for the Spring Election

Please note the following deadlines for the May 16 primary elections. If you have questions on election day, call the Department of State's hotline at 1-877-868-3772 or visit vote.pa.gov. Voters can get official answers from the Department of State regarding voter rights, mail-in ballots, polling place locations, report complaints and more.

★ 2023 Municipal Primary ★
★ Important Dates ★

May 1	Last day to register to vote for the primary election. <small>vote.pa.gov/Register</small>
May 9	Last day to apply for a mail ballot. <small>vote.pa.gov/ApplyMailBallot</small>
May 16	Voted mail ballots must be received by 8 PM. <small>vote.pa.gov/County</small>
May 16	Election Day. Polls are open from 7 AM to 8 PM. <small>vote.pa.gov/Polls</small>

★ ★ vote.pa.gov ★ ★