



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Jacklyn Rusnock

126TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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A Message to Our Community

Dear Neighbors,

Community is the thread that connects us all, linking our families, neighbors, and shared hopes for a secure and stable future. It's a bond built on caring for one another, especially in challenging times.

I want you to know that I hear you.

I hear from families worried about rising utility bills, seniors struggling to keep up with property taxes, workers stretched by everyday costs, and neighbors concerned about healthcare expenses. These pressures are real and deeply felt across our community.

Please know you are not alone— your voices guide my work every day.

My office, my colleagues, and I are working to help lighten that burden. We are advancing efforts to rein in utility costs, put money back in Pennsylvanians' pockets through the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit, and connect residents with relief programs such as the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.

I am also working closely with our local municipalities to better understand their needs and partner on solutions

that strengthen services and improve quality of life. We continue to advocate for fair school funding to help stabilize property taxes and protect access to affordable healthcare so that getting sick never means going broke.

Beyond legislation, we show up for our community— volunteering with our local food bank, organizing and participating in the Antietam Creek cleanup, hosting paper shredding and recycling events to help protect residents' personal information, and partnering with organizations that support neighbors experiencing homelessness. Caring for one another keeps our community strong.

It is the honor of a lifetime to serve you. Please reach out to my office if you need assistance.

With gratitude,

State Representative

WORKING FOR YOU IN HARRISBURG



I recently attended a meeting between the Pennsylvania House Energy and Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities committees examining the causes behind rising energy prices.

It's no secret that energy costs are rising across the country. In Pennsylvania, they've increased at a rate that significantly outpaces inflation. Last year, energy costs rose by nearly 10% throughout the commonwealth, and utility shutoffs due to non-payment rose by 38%.

Heating your home in the winter and keeping the lights on aren't luxuries – they're necessities. In Harrisburg, we've moved beyond identifying the problems and are working toward real legislative solutions.

Flooding is the most common and costly natural disaster in the United States. While FEMA flood maps designate certain properties as being within a flood zone, floodwaters do not respect lines on a map.

Some homeowners are required to have flood insurance, but many homes just outside of these designated zones are still at significant risk, and the homeowners are unaware that affordable flood insurance is available to them.

My bill, HB 1718, would require insurance companies offering or issuing homeowner's insurance policies to notify homeowners of the availability and pricing of flood insurance.

Furthermore, the bill would require annual notice to be given to individuals with homeowner's insurance. My legislation would address the existing knowledge gap and empower homeowners to make informed decisions about protecting their property and financial well-being.

Last action: Reported out of the House Insurance Committee



\$3.3 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDING COMING TO OUR COMMUNITY!

- \$1,250,000 to St. Lawrence for its 2025 Sidewalk Connectivity Project. The funding will be used to install sidewalks along St. Lawrence Avenue and North Prospect Street in St. Lawrence Borough.
- \$538,286 to Laureldale Borough for sanitary sewer inspections and improvements across multiple borough roads. The funds will be used for construction, engineering and administrative costs.
- \$401,649 to Lower Alsace Ambulance Association for the purchase of a new ambulance. The funds will purchase a replacement ambulance with a power load system and electric power lifter.
- \$350,000 to Muhlenberg Township Authority for the Alsace Road water main replacement project.
 - \$249,000 to Laureldale for sewer repairs and rehab work.
 - \$232,718 to Mount Penn Borough for equipment purchases, upgrades to the borough's office IT infrastructure, and renovations to the Borough Hall garage.
 - \$144,413 to Lower Alsace Township for Crystal Lake stormwater remediations.
 - \$110,683 to Muhlenberg Fire & Rescue for the purchase of a traffic control truck.
 - \$45,000 to the Berks County Redevelopment Authority to redevelop 3925 Perkiomen Ave., transforming an underused retail site into a vibrant mixed-use community. The funds will go toward the demolition of existing structures.



WORKING FOR YOU IN THE 126TH

In January, my office held two Property Tax/Rent Rebate filing assistance events at senior living apartments in the district.

Income-eligible residents – seniors age 65 or older,



NOW OPEN

Property Tax / Rent Rebate Applications
Giving money back to PA renters and homeowners

Homeowner & Renter Income	Max Rebate
Up to \$8,550	\$1,000
Up to \$16,040	\$770
Up to \$19,240	\$460
Up to \$48,110	\$380

Applications due by June 30, 2026



widows or widowers age 50 or older, and residents with a disability age 18 or older – can claim rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2025. My office can check if you qualify and help fill out and send off the forms. Call my Temple office at (610) 921-8921 or stop by 4933 Kutztown Road for assistance.

Exide cleanup and Community Advisory Groups

I want to encourage residents to stay engaged and involved in the EPA's cleanup efforts at the former Exide site in Laureldale. One meaningful way to do that is by establishing or joining a Community Advisory Group.



CAGs are great ways for neighbors to stay informed, ask questions, share concerns, and make sure the community's voice is part of the process as cleanup moves forward.

I was so encouraged by the strong community turnout at the Muhlenberg Township Building in January! This cleanup affects all of us, and staying involved helps ensure transparency, accountability, and better outcomes for our families and our community. To get involved, follow this link: www.epa.gov/superfund/exide-laureldale.



Organizing an Antietam Creek cleanup with Antietam Valley Community Partnership

In October, my office partnered with Antietam Valley Community Partnership to organize an Antietam Community Creek Cleanup!

Volunteers rolled up their sleeves, and the results were incredible. We started at the new bridge on Carsonia Avenue and made it almost all the way to the pool, clearing debris and improving flow for future storms. I'd like to send a huge thank you to all our volunteers, including AVCP, Antietam and Exeter students, Lower Alsace emergency responders and municipal workers, Exeter municipal workers, Senator Judy Schwank, and Ken Bonkoski!



Exeter PA American Water Update

In December, I attended a community-led meeting at Exeter's Dunn Community Center to discuss what residents can do to oppose Pennsylvania American Water's latest request for rate hikes.

In 2019, Pennsylvania American Water bought the Exeter Township wastewater treatment plant. Since the purchase, customers have seen their water bills skyrocket – with more increases on the horizon.

Recently, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission voted 5-0 to suspend Pennsylvania American Water's latest request for seven months from the proposed effective date of Jan. 13.

It's a temporary relief, but we can't stop now.

I've written letters to the PUC and testified at PUC hearings to stop these hikes, but every voice matters. We must make it clear that these rates are outrageous and create an unbelievable hardship for residents.

The PUC takes complaints into account when it comes time to determine whether to grant all, some, or none of the requested rate increases. This link leads right to the PUC's formal complaints filing page:

<https://www.puc.pa.gov/complaints/formal-complaints>.



Volunteering at the Helping Harvest Community Kitchen



My staff and I were proud to volunteer at the Helping Harvest Community Kitchen in November! We helped pack over 1,700 hot turkey sausage skillet dinners, filled with fresh frozen vegetables and cheesy potatoes.

Many of these ready-to-eat meals traveled to low-income seniors in the district. We were proud to roll up our sleeves and be part of something that makes a real difference in the lives of our community's most vulnerable.



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Upcoming Events

We're still ironing out the final details for our upcoming events, but I wanted to share some preliminary information to keep on your calendars! Scan the QR code to stay updated and informed on these events and more.

Shred events on April 4 and Oct. 10



Stay up to date on all my upcoming events by signing up for my **monthly newsletter!**



REPRESENTATIVE
JACKLYN RUSNOCK

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- Communications & Technology
- Energy
- Game & Fisheries
- Gaming Oversight
- Intergovernmental Affairs & Operations
- Tourism, Recreation & Economic Development



Rep. Jacklyn Rusnock

DISTRICT OFFICE SERVICES

My team and I can help you with:

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate
- PennDOT Services
- Help with Unemployment
- Sportsman's Center
- Register to Vote
- CHIP Health Insurance
- LIHEAP
- SEPTA Senior Key Card
- And so much more!

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RECLAIM WHAT'S YOURS!

Pennsylvania
MONEY MATCH



1 in 10 Pennsylvanians have unclaimed property. The House helped pass a law to allow the PA Treasury to automatically return certain unclaimed property to **YOU** including:

- Dormant bank accounts
- Uncashed checks
- Rebates
- Insurance Payments *and much more!*

Visit PATreasury.gov/unclaimed-property to search anytime, or contact my office if you need assistance!