

News From State Representative

# CHRISTINA SAPPEY

158th Legislative District | Chester County | Spring 2025



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

## CHRISTINA D. SAPPEY

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## DEAR NEIGHBOR,

We are living in challenging times. Regardless of our politics, each day many of us are experiencing uncertainty, frustration and concern about the future. It often feels like nothing is working the way it's supposed to. I hear from so many of you worried about your businesses, workers, childcare, affordable housing, education, roads, safety, utilities and the high cost of living. In a word, we are overwhelmed.

I'm listening, and I am working with my colleagues in Harrisburg, federal and local governments, private sector and non-profit partners to hear your concerns, work toward solutions, secure our state and to alleviate some of that uncertainty.

My staff and I are here for you. Please always feel free to contact my office with state related concerns and questions.

Take care of yourselves, and others when you can.

All the best,

# YOUR BIG ELECTRIC BILL

You have probably noticed your electric bills going up. Why is this happening? While many factors influence electric rates, one major reason is the way our electric grid is managed.

PJM Interconnection (Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland), is a regional transmission organization (RTO) located in Valley Forge, responsible for making sure electricity flows reliably across the Mid-Atlantic region. It oversees the marketplace where power companies buy electricity, determines how much energy is needed, and prevents blackouts by managing supply and demand.

PJM uses a capacity auction to secure a reliable supply of power for consumers. This process brings together electricity suppliers and buyers under the oversight of PJM to guarantee future energy sources and ensure the grid remains dependable.

Unfortunately, Pennsylvania is currently facing a shrinking energy supply because aging power plants are retiring and the state's aging infrastructure struggles to meet peak demand. This shortage drives rates up and puts a strain on the grid.

A major obstacle to getting more power on the grid is PJM's severely backlogged queue. Right now, approximately 3,000 proposed new energy projects—95% of them from renewable sources—are awaiting approval in a queue to

connect to the grid. Many of these projects could deliver more affordable energy, but are delayed by PJM's outdated review process, inability to manage new project proposals, and lack of modern infrastructure in some areas.

So, what are we doing about all of this?

Earlier this year, Governor Shapiro took legal action against PJM to cap capacity auction prices. This will control the rates PJM charges producers for maintaining energy supply—costs which are ultimately passed on to consumers in their bills. Very recently, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved a settlement in this case which will save consumers over \$21 billion dollars.

To help combat rising rates and address our state's growing need for energy, I am working with my colleagues on a package of bills designed to modernize our energy infrastructure and provide a mechanism for more affordable energy projects in communities that want them. These bills will improve grid reliability, stabilize rates and lay the framework for a more sustainable energy future in Pennsylvania.

To learn more about how our electricity is produced and managed, check out the video and materials from my recent event at [www.pahouse.com/Sappey/ClimateInfoSession](http://www.pahouse.com/Sappey/ClimateInfoSession).

## GOOD NEWS! ROUTE 82 BRIDGE UPDATE



The unexpected closure of the Route 82 Bridge over Doe Run in West Marlborough Township has caused great inconvenience for many of us. The bridge was shut down late last year by PennDOT because of safety concerns about its structural integrity.

Work began in March, and I am happy to share that construction is expected to be completed in early July!

I urge anyone traveling on Route 82 to follow PennDOT signage for the official detour using Routes 841 & 842. Please do not use alternate routes, as this creates unsafe travel on local roads.



*Visiting Rt. 82 Bridge Construction Site.*

# LEGISLATION I'M WORKING ON

## ECONOMIC RELIEF

- **Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit (HB 820):** A state-level earned income tax credit for low wage working families mirroring the federal program. It's important to keep this workforce at work, moving forward and out of social safety net programs. For every \$1 we would spend on this program \$4 in revenue is returned to the state. This is a win-win. With bi-partisan support, this bill has passed the House and now moves to the Senate for consideration.
- **Longtime Owner Occupant Programs (LOOPs) (HB 1032):** This bill would amend the state constitution to allow every county in the state the option to cap property tax for homeowners who have lived in their homes for at least 10 years, even if their home assessment values were to increase in future years. Currently, only Philadelphia and Allegheny counties are permitted to use LOOPs, but the potential property tax relief is needed statewide.

## STANDING UP FOR PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES

- **Office of Child Advocate (HB 1305):** Introduced with my colleague Representative Natalie Mihalek (R-Allegheny), this bill would make the current OCA, formed by previous executive order, a permanent, independent office, ensuring oversight and accountability for child welfare and juvenile justice systems. I believe we have a shared responsibility to do all we can to protect our children, particularly those in high-risk environments.

- **The Family Care Act (HB 200):** I am a proud cosponsor of HB 200, which would establish a statewide paid family and medical leave program for Pennsylvania workers. This bill ensures that employees can care for a new child, a sick family member, or recover from illness without sacrificing financial security. Currently, nearly 4 million Pennsylvanians—66% of the workforce—lack access to paid leave, with rural families facing increased financial vulnerability in emergencies. HB 200 provides crucial protection for employees while benefiting employers by improving their employees' work-life balance. This bill supports small businesses by helping them attract and retain talent through improved employee benefits, while also easing the financial burden by requiring reduced contributions from employers with fewer than 15 employees. Businesses that offer paid family leave see lower turnover, higher morale, and stronger performance, as employees are more likely to stay with employers who prioritize their well-being. This bill will also help Pennsylvania stay competitive with neighboring states like New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland, which have already implemented paid leave programs.

- **Protecting and Preserving the Affordable Care Act (HB 404, HB 545, HB 618, HB 755):** I co-sponsored, and voted for, a group of four bills to codify into state law key provisions of the ACA including protection for those with pre-existing conditions, banning lifetime coverage caps on essential medical care, and allowing young adults to stay on their parents' health insurance plans until age 26. These bills specify that the state-level coverage would only go into effect if the ACA were to be repealed by Congress or a federal court. These bills have passed the House and are now in the Senate for consideration.



*Working Families Tax Credit Press Conference.*



*Latino Caucus, of which I am a member, meets with Governor Shapiro.*



*Tour and Visit to LCH.*

# ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

**Lightning Plan:** I am a co-sponsor of a series of bills aimed at producing reliable and sustainable energy, which is critical to lowering our electric bills, reducing carbon emissions and modernizing PA's energy sector. These bills include:

- **Pennsylvania Climate Emissions Reduction Act (PACER):** Establishes a cap-and-invest program to set carbon limits and invest in reducing electricity costs. The majority of revenues generated under PACER would be returned to Pennsylvanians as rebates on their electric bills.
- **Pennsylvania Energy Costs for Rural Communities:** Helps rural communities and farmers to jointly share energy resources to lower costs using methods such as methane digesters.
- **Pennsylvania Reliable Energy Sustainability Standard (PRESS):** Modernizes our state's outdated energy standards and incentivizes innovation in nuclear and renewable energy to remain competitive with other states.
- **Pennsylvania Reliable Energy Siting and Electric Transition (RESET):** Streamlines the process for building the next generation of energy projects.
- **Rebates to Reduce Household Energy Costs:** Updates state energy efficiency standards to provide rebates and incentives to buy new energy efficient appliances, which saves consumers money on their electric bills.
- **Pennsylvania Economic Development for a Growing Economy (PA EDGE):** A tax credit program to bring in next-generation energy and fuel projects to ensure PA continues to be an energy leader for years to come.
- **Riparian Buffers (HB 673):** Riparian buffers, which are vegetated areas along streams, prevent flooding and help protect Pennsylvania's stream and tributary water quality by filtering pollution. I have co-sponsored HB 673, which strengthens protections by requiring a 100-foot buffer along stream banks, empowering municipalities to set local regulations, and enhancing DEP enforcement.



*Visiting White Clay Creek Preserve.*

## COLLECTION DRIVE FOR LCH

**CHRISTINA SAPPEY**  
★ STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★



# EXPECTANT FAMILIES SUPPLY DRIVE

Supporting families with essentials  
– from baby care to period products.



Supplies being collected for LCH until Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

- Diaper Bags
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Onesies
- Baby socks
- Blankets
- Pads
- Tampons
- Liners

Please drop off donations to my office at 698 Unionville Road, Kennett Square, PA from Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm.

Any questions, please call my office 484-200-8264 or email [repsappey@pahouse.net](mailto:repsappey@pahouse.net).

# GOVERNMENT REFORM

- **Gift Ban (HB 744):** As an elected official, I firmly believe in the need for clear and reasonable restrictions on gifts to public employees and those in or seeking office. That's why I have co-sponsored HB 744, which prohibits public officials, employees, and candidates from accepting any cash gifts, regardless of amount, and limits non-cash gifts to a fair market value or total actual cost of no more than \$50 from a single source within a calendar year.
- **Campaign Finance Reform (HB 266):** House Bill 266 establishes clear limits on campaign contributions in our Commonwealth by amending the Elections Code to cap donations from individuals and Political Action Committees (PACs) per calendar year.
- **Redistricting Reform (HB 31):** I have been a longtime supporter of redistricting reform. This bill would create an independent redistricting commission responsible for drawing legislative maps every 10 years after the national census. Under HB 31 the process would be open to the public, with access to proposed maps and data.



*Residents from Kendal-Crosslands Communities visit the Capitol.*

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: HISTORIC DOE RUN VILLAGE

Doe Run Village is a national historic district in West Marlborough and East Fallowfield Townships. This charming rural village features buildings dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries, clustered in three main sections: along Route 82 south of Doe Run Creek, the west side of Highland Dairy Road, and the intersection of Route 82 and Springdell Road.

Originally settled by English and Welsh immigrants, Doe Run Village thrived due to its proximity to Doe Run Creek, a tributary of the Brandywine. The water source supported flour and textile mills and farms. By the 19th century, the village had expanded to

include a post office, general store, inn, school, church, and even a successful insurance company. Many of the beautiful stone homes and barns within the village were built during this time.

Thanks to 20th-century conservation efforts, Doe Run Village has retained its historic charm and beauty. Today, it is recognized for its equestrian heritage, historic stone structures, and preserved farmland. Whether passing through or stopping to explore, Doe Run Village is a wonderful piece of Chester County history.



**CHRISTINA SAPPEY**  
★ STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★

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*Versión en español de este boletín disponible aquí.*

lpo.km.0525

# REP. SAPPEY'S 2025 SUMMER & FALL OUTREACH EVENTS

**May 18, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

**WEST BRADFORD DAY**

Broad Run Park

**Select Fridays. June - August, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

**KENNETT SQUARE FARMERS MARKET**

**September 18, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

**COFFEE AND CONVERSATION\***

\*RSVP Required | Scan QR code to RSVP

The Garage Youth Center

121 Pennsylvania Ave., Avondale, PA 19311



**October 18, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

**FREE DRIVE-THRU SHRED EVENT**

Embreeville Park | 1818 Hecker Drive, West Chester, PA 19382

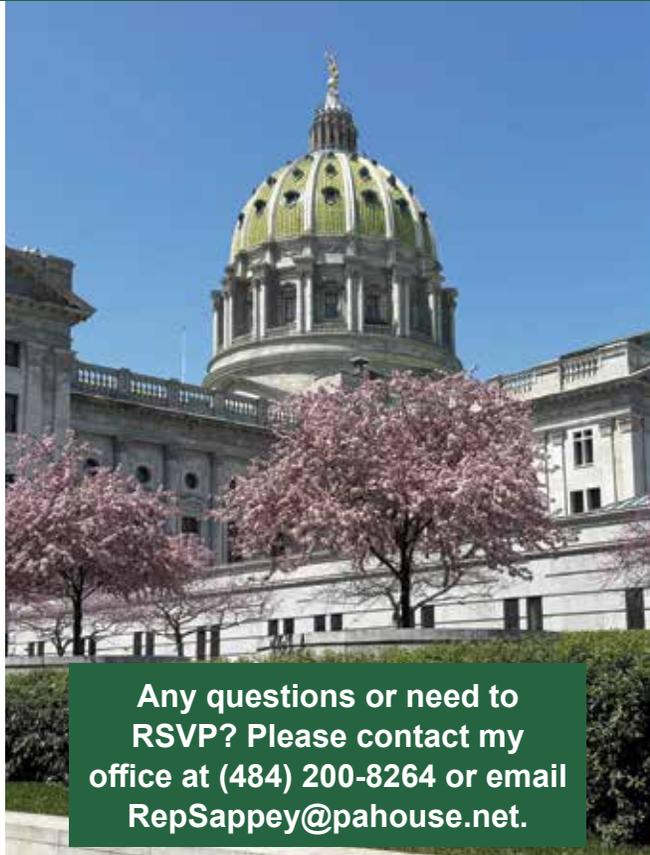
**November 7, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

**VETERANS BREAKFAST & RECOGNITION CEREMONY \***

\*RSVP Required | Scan QR code to RSVP

Kennett Square VFW 5467

704 W. Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square, PA



Any questions or need to RSVP? Please contact my office at (484) 200-8264 or email RepSappey@pahouse.net.