

News From State Representative

CHRISTINA SAPPEY

158th Legislative District
Chester County | Summer/Fall 2025

BRANDYWINE FLOOD STUDY

Flooding has become an urgent concern across PA, and particularly in our area. In 2023, I was pleased to join stakeholders at the kickoff for the Brandywine Flood Study conducted by the Brandywine Conservancy, University of Delaware Water Resources Center, and the Chester County Water Resources Authority.

The study looks at the increasing regularity of flooding, and particularly the devastating impact of Hurricane Ida in 2021. It also points to the need for strategic damage mitigation from future catastrophic weather events.

Key takeaways from the study include the critical need to maintain reliable local notification systems for severe precipitation events, and consistent investment for the evaluation and repair of roadways, bridges, and culverts that experience frequent flooding. When these systems fail, we are all at risk.

As a member of the House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness and Insurance committees, I work on the many aspects of natural disasters and how the legislature can act to maximize safety and minimize the negative impacts of these events. As such, I recently co-sponsored House Bills 1704 and 1705. House Bill 1704 would require sellers to provide flood disclosures as part of the homebuying process. House Bill 1705 stipulates that landlords must provide flood disclosures to renters.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Over the first half of 2025, the House moved a large amount of legislation. The bills below passed the House and have been waiting for consideration in the Senate.

TRANSPORTATION:

- **House Bill 1788:** Provides the most significant investment in our roads and bridges in over a decade without raising taxes, with \$325 million for repairs across the Commonwealth and \$292.5 million for 52 transit systems in all 67 counties, and \$275 million over two fiscal years for highway and bridge projects on three- and four-digit state roads, which we have so many of in the 158th. It also increases the percentage of existing sales tax revenue directed to the Public Transportation Trust Fund (PTTF) from 4.4% to 6.15%, strengthening long-term support for mass transit. This bill includes accountability measures for transit agencies like SEPTA to improve fare evasion, public-private transportation partnerships and bus routes. In August, the Senate passed its own proposal for mass transit and transportation, but unfortunately, this bill is not a sustainable solution and would leave us in a funding crisis again next year.

HEALTHCARE

- **House Bill 1460:** Gives the state Attorney General stronger oversight of acquisitions and mergers of hospitals and healthcare systems, and would allow for public input in these types of proceedings.
- **House Bill 583:** Restores dental coverage for Medicaid patients in Pennsylvania. Routine preventative dental care combats disease and chronic health issues, reducing medical costs and keeping rates down for all of us.
- **House Bill 433:** Eliminates expenses like deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments for breast cancer diagnostic testing. Without these added costs, more individuals may have the ability to obtain early detection screenings for breast cancer.
- **House Bill 1140:** Protects access to contraception for those with private health insurance, Medicaid and CHIP. Contraception is frequently prescribed for several common gynecological conditions, such as endometriosis, in addition to family planning use.

WORKFORCE

- **House Bills 668, 80, 482:** Eliminates burdensome bureaucracy and enables therapeutic professionals to come work in our state by recognizing their licensure in good standing from another state. This legislation addresses workforce shortages of professionals in Mental Health (House Bill 668), Occupational Therapy (House Bill 482), and Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (House Bill 80).
- **House Bill 1403:** Addresses our teacher shortage. This bill helps bring back teachers with “voluntary inactive” certifications by waiving fees and allowing them to complete continuing education through in-service days after returning to work.
- **House Bill 1404:** Amends the Public School Code to lengthen the time for future teachers to utilize an intern certification. House Bill 1404 allows more flexibility to balance work, school and other responsibilities as they move into a teaching career including those coming from other professions.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

- **House Bill 1216:** Specifies all mandatory fees from ticketing, lodging, and food delivery platforms to be disclosed in the price first displayed and advertised to customers.
- **House Bill 129:** Requires explicit consent before customers are automatically enrolled in subscriptions, ensuring no surprise charges from free trials and giving consumers more control over their purchasing decisions.
- **House Bill 1299:** Requires companies to notify consumers before each automatic renewal and allows subscriptions to be canceled online, helping protect consumers from unwanted fees.

AGRICULTURE:

- **House Bill 1584:** Lowers the parcel size needed for farmland preservation to under 10 acres, giving small farms the same opportunity as larger ones to continue farming in perpetuity and to protect their land from development.
- **House Bill 242:** Modifies the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Program, to make it easier for the next generation of farmers to get their start in agriculture. House Bill 242 allows the tax credit to be shared between retiring and new farmers, increasing the maximum amount, and removes several barriers to eligibility.
- **House Bill 1431 (Act 36):** Allows for Sunday Hunting with dates approved by the PA Game Commission. Under this new law, private property owners, which includes most of our open space preserves, are able to decide whether to permit Sunday hunting or not. At this time, most have shared they will not be changing their policies. This legislation has been proposed for many years because of growing herd size, decrease in the number of hunters to manage herd size, increased auto accidents involving deer, significant crop damage on farms and damage to woodlands impacting ecosystems and floodplains.



YOUR ROLE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Awareness and involvement in the decision-making process of your municipality (township or borough) assures you understand and have a voice in expenditures, proposals and projects that will directly impact you. Once you see bulldozers, construction signs, or get a new bill for projects in your community, the process has likely been voted on, approved and is underway- it is too late to express your opinion.

Your municipality is governed by an elected, unpaid body called a Board of Supervisors or Borough Council. These bodies hold a monthly or biweekly meeting, open to the public, where budgets, public works, law enforcement, ordinances and important issues such as road projects, selling a water/wastewater system and land development are reviewed. Opportunity for public comment is provided at each of these meetings, so that residents can ask questions and express viewpoints.

Municipalities also have a Planning Commission, an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors/Borough Council which reviews all municipal and land development plans to assure accuracy and making sure zoning ordinances are in compliance with state and local regulations. This board also reviews variances and special exceptions to zoning ordinances.

Your Zoning Hearing Board conducts hearings and reviews appeals related to requests for variances of township zoning ordinances, and a Historical Commission is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. This commission does not have decision authority, but it studies and shares local history and provides a comprehensive framework for the preservation of historic sites, structures and objects located within the municipality.

So, what can you do to make sure you know what's going on in your municipality?

- Meeting agendas for Board of Supervisor/Borough Council and commission meetings are advertised in advance, emailed to you (if you sign up) and posted on township websites. Many of these meetings are live-streamed too.
- Meeting minutes are also shared after meetings via email (if you sign up) and website if you are unable to attend.
- Be sure to sign up for your municipality's electronic newsletter and follow them on social media for timely, important information.
- Again, it's important to understand how local government works in our Commonwealth. It's fair, transparent and you have a voice in its decisions. Once the process is complete and those decisions are made, you've missed your chance.





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★ STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★

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*Versión en español de este
boletín disponible aquí.*

lpo.kg.0925

REP. SAPPEY’S 2025 FALL OUTREACH EVENTS

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

***RSVP Required | Scan QR code to RSVP**

The Garage Youth Center
121 Pennsylvania Avenue, Avondale, PA 19311



October 18, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
FREE DRIVE-THRU SHRED EVENT

West Bradford 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**

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**Any questions? Please contact my office at
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