



State Representative | 157th Legislative District

# MELISSA L. SHUSTERMAN

**District Office:**

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Fall  
2022

📡 RepShusterman.com | @RepShusterman

## Dear Neighbor,

We are just a few weeks away from fall. I hope everyone is enjoying the last part of summer before the kids head back to school! It has been busy here in the 157th District!

My annual Veterans BBQ was a success! Thank you to all who braved the weather to attend! I always enjoy meeting constituents and try to attend as many district events as I can! I am always here, working for you. Please send an email or call my district office to let me know what is important to you and how I can help.

Enclosed in this newsletter, you will find information on the initiatives and projects I have been working on to move our district and our commonwealth forward. You will find a breakdown of the 2022/23 state budget, which includes historic investments in education. I also discuss a dangerous proposed constitutional amendment and my continued fight for reproductive rights and access to health care. I am also happy to share information about my upcoming events. My fall schedule will include a Shredding Event, Open House, and a free Veterans Breakfast. See inside for more details! I look forward to connecting with you soon.

Sincerely,

**Rep. Melissa Shusterman**

**Phone:** (484) 200-8260

**Email:** RepShusterman@pahouse.net

**Website:** RepShusterman.com/contact

## GRANTS

### ROSIE'S GIRLS

I am happy to announce nearly \$395,000 to help women seek technical career training in the electrical industry. The "Rosie's Girls" program is designed to familiarize young women with safety, tools, theoretical basics of electrical and telecommunications installation and jobsite conditions as well as an introduction to other career paths in the building and construction trades.

The program is administered through Apprentice Training for the Electrical Industry in partnership with public-school districts in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties.

### TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANTS

Our district has been awarded nearly \$1.4 million to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety through the 'Green Light-Go' Program.

The grant program will help fund the following two projects:

- \$976,880 awarded to Tredyffrin Township for upgrades to traffic signals at five intersections along Valley Forge Road.
- \$399,101 awarded to Upper Providence Township to modernize the traffic signal at Collegeville Road (Route 29) and Doe Run Boulevard.

I'm working hard to bring your tax dollars back to our community, and these projects will help improve the quality of life of all residents.

You can find a list of open grant applications on my website, [www.RepShusterman.com](http://www.RepShusterman.com). If you would like help applying for grants, please contact my office at (484) 200-8260 or email [RepShusterman@pahouse.net](mailto:RepShusterman@pahouse.net).

# 2022/23 STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

I was pleased to vote in favor of the 2022/23 state budget, which includes tax savings for families and homeowners as well as increased funding for schools and conservation.

## INCREASED EDUCATION FUNDING

This budget is a historic investment in our children's futures, providing equity in education and ensuring our most underfunded school districts receive the necessary funds to better their schools and provide opportunities for all students.

Our children deserve a quality education regardless of where they live. I am proud to see the playing field leveled for students across the commonwealth.

- \$750 million (\$525 million in Basic Education Funding and \$225 million in Level Up funding) increase in basic education funding.
- \$100 million in Special Education.
- \$100 million in school safety and security.
- \$100 million in mental health resources in schools.
- \$79 million investment in Pre-K and Head Start programs.

School districts in the 157th Legislative District will receive the following additional basic education funding:

- Great Valley School District: \$524,056 (17.2% increase from last year).
- Phoenixville Area School District: \$600,389 (11.1% increase from last year).
- Tredyffrin-Easttown School District: \$589,067 (14.6% increase from last year).

## CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT

This permanent credit is a necessity for working families in Pennsylvania and will allow parents to claim up to 30% of childcare related costs on their taxes. This state credit is based on the federal program. It will put money back into the pockets of families that need it most. I'm very proud that the child and dependent care tax credit I've been fighting for has made it into this year's budget!

## ACT 66 EXTENSION

I am thankful that the Act 66 Extension, introduced by Rep. Jason Ortitay and which I co-sponsored, was also included in this year's budget.

The original version of Act 66 provided an extra year of in-person instruction for special education students who lost a year due to the pandemic, but it left out students who turned 21 during that time. This is a bipartisan effort to amend Act 66 and close this unintentional educational gap.

## WHOLE HOME REPAIRS

Included in the budget is \$125 million in funding to establish the Whole-Home Repairs program. This program, under the Department of Community and Economic Development, will provide financial assistance to qualifying homeowners and small-scale landlords to help upgrade their properties by improving habitability, energy/water efficiency, winterization and accessibility for those with disabilities.

## HUNGER FREE CAMPUS

I am so proud to be a co-sponsor of the Hunger Free Campus Act, which was included in this year's budget! This law will provide grants to institutions of higher learning to address student food insecurity.

Hunger shouldn't be one of the challenges students face as they pursue higher education. Their minds should be focused on learning and not worrying about how and where to get their next meal.

Thank you to Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta and Rep. Jennifer O'Mara for introducing this important legislation!

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- \$320 million for water and sewer projects in order to ensure Pennsylvania residents have clean drinking water and proper sewage systems that are resistant to failure and protect the natural environment.
- \$220 million for the Clean Streams Fund to help restore local streams and protect watersheds.
- \$100 million for an Outdoor Recreation Program to be managed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for State Parks and Forest infrastructure, conservation and recreation projects.

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



## ABORTION CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

In July, the state House and Senate passed a bill that proposes a state constitutional amendment that could lead to an abortion ban. Constitutional amendments cannot be vetoed by the governor. They must be passed in two consecutive legislative sessions and then placed on the ballot for voters to decide. If the same language passes again next session, it could go on the ballot as soon as May 2023.

Currently, abortion is still legal in PA, but this is the first step toward denying women the right to control their own bodies.

This proposed constitutional amendment is extreme and cruel to women. It clearly goes against the protections that are currently in place for a woman to make decisions to control her own body. Instead of codifying religious beliefs into our constitution, legislators should be working to move Pennsylvania forward and stop taking away personal liberties. I will continue to fight to ensure access to women's health care. We cannot turn our backs on mothers, daughters, and our sisters.

## UPDATED FIREWORK SAFETY LAW

Governor Wolf has signed Act 74, which updates the commonwealth's firework safety law and will give local governments the ability to create and enforce firework ordinances.

This new firework law:

- Prohibits use of consumer fireworks between 10 p.m. and 10 a.m. on all days except on July 2,3,4 and Dec.

31, when they may be used until 1 a.m. the following day.

- Requires competent knowledge of safety and handling to set off DISPLAY fireworks.
- Requires any fireworks set off be at least 150 feet away from any building or vehicle.
- Lowers the \$2 million insurance requirement for

municipalities to \$1 million to reduce costs and take the burden off smaller communities.

- Requires permitting of new fireworks facilities.

This is a huge victory for animals, small children, seniors and veterans everywhere.



# IN THE DISTRICT



*Thank you to all the veterans, their families and vendors that made my annual Veterans BBQ a huge success. It was great seeing so many smiling faces while also making state government more accessible for our veterans. I hope to see everyone in the fall for our veterans breakfast!*



*Rep. David Millard is chairman of the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee (of which I am also a member). He is a huge history buff, so I bought him this tie featuring George Washington crossing the Delaware River! We also drove around Valley Forge National Historical Park – Rep. Millard was so impressed with the natural beauty that he plans on hiking the park once he retires in November. Bipartisanship at work!*



*It was a privilege to meet Madam Vice President Kamala Harris. Rep. Joanna McClinton, our colleagues and I met with the Vice President to discuss the recent proposed constitutional amendment that would take fundamental liberties away from women and girls. Defending democracy is critical as we see further restrictions on our rights being written into law.*



*Thank you to the LGBT Equality Alliance of Chester for organizing a wonderful Pride Fest in Phoenixville! I loved seeing so many smiling faces and I'm always happy to show support for equality.*



*Congratulations to Conestoga High School's Girls Lacrosse Team for winning the PIAA State Championship. As a Conestoga Girls Lacrosse alum, I couldn't be prouder of your hard work and determination!*



*I was honored to celebrate Juneteenth in Phoenixville. Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. This holiday is a reminder that we must remain vigilant – the struggle for justice and equality is far from over.*

# IMPORTANT DATES

## DISTRICT OFFICE OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, September 14

5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

42 E. Lancaster Ave., Unit A  
Paoli, PA 19301

Meet your Representative!  
Updates from Harrisburg  
Senior SEPTA Passes  
Check for Unclaimed  
Property

Let us assist you with any  
state-related matters  
All ages are welcome!



## GENERAL ELECTION DATES

- **October 24, 2022**  
Last day to REGISTER before the November election.
- **November 1, 2022**  
Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot.
- **November 8, 2022**  
Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots (must be received by 8 p.m.).
- **November 8, 2022**  
Election Day. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?**

More than ever before  
**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

General Election  
November 8

[vote.pa.gov](https://vote.pa.gov)

PA HOUSE DEMOCRATS

A graphic with a dark blue background. It features two red ballot boxes with white envelopes being inserted. The text is in white and yellow. At the bottom left is a circular logo for the PA House Democrats.

**ANNUAL VETERANS**

*Breakfast*

THURSDAY  
OCTOBER 13TH, 2022  
9:00 - 11:30 AM

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge**  
1601 Valley Forge Road  
Valley Forge, PA 19481

Please RSVP by October 7th by calling (484) 200-8260 or via Facebook link.

GUESTS WELCOME | RSVP REQUIRED

A graphic for a Veterans Breakfast event. It features a large American flag on the left side. The text is in white and red on a dark background.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29TH

9 A.M. TO NOON (OR UNTIL TRUCK IS FULL)

## FREE SHREDDING EVENT

Penn State Great Valley • 30 E. Swedesford Rd. • Malvern, PA 19355



Limit of 3 boxes/bags per person.

No need to remove staples, paper clips or rubber bands.



State Representative  
**MELISSA L. SHUSTERMAN**

42 E. Lancaster Ave., Unit A  
Paoli, PA 19301

## Keeping Up with Shusterman!

@RepShusterman

/RepShusterman

RepShusterman.com

lpo.ts.0822

## DO YOU HAVE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY?

The Pennsylvania Treasury holds more than \$4 billion in unclaimed property that needs to be returned to the rightful owners!

One in 10 Pennsylvanians has unclaimed property waiting for them. To find out if you are one of them, visit [www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property](http://www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property) or call my office – we can help you search the database.

Follow me on social media and opt in to receive my weekly emails to keep up on the latest legislative happenings in Pennsylvania and for information on upcoming events.

Sign up for my emails on my homepage at [RepShusterman.com](http://RepShusterman.com)

@RepShusterman

## DISTRICT OFFICE SERVICES

REPRESENTATIVE PA-157

**MELISSA SHUSTERMAN**

*Working for you!*

## WE CAN HELP!

- Senior SEPTA Key Cards
- Tax & PennDOT Forms
- Property Tax & Rent Rebates
- Disability Plates & Placards
- Birth & Death Certificates
- Unclaimed Property
- Driver's Licenses & Vehicle Registration
- Other State Government Services



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