

MELISSA L. SHUSTERMAN



Winter
2026

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Dear Neighbors,

At a glance, 2025 was a strong year for our district. I secured over \$4.2 million in state funding for our community, and my office assisted more than 7,500 of you with questions and state government needs. We even brought our services directly to you by hosting 11 community events. I'm excited to continue finding new ways to serve YOU during the second half of the 2025 - 2026 legislative session.

My priorities for 2026 focus on affordability for residents of our Commonwealth and addressing our public transportation challenges. Increasing the minimum wage is critical to retaining our workforce in Southeast PA and preventing workers from moving to neighboring states with higher wages. Affordability also means advancing policies that expand paid leave and lower housing costs. At the same time, we must tackle the transit funding crisis across Pennsylvania to support our workers, strengthen businesses, and fuel economic growth.

I'm proud of what my colleagues and I have accomplished across the Commonwealth, but there's still more work to do for our residents. I deeply value your trust as I serve our community, and I remain committed to improving the lives of all Pennsylvanians!

2025 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

I am proud of the high-quality state budget passed by the General Assembly in November. This budget supports working families, invests in our schools, and reflects responsible governance - balancing fiscal discipline with compassion. It increases education funding, preserves vital services, and does so without raising taxes. By prioritizing education, infrastructure, and job creation, this plan strengthens our communities and our economy.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

- Increases education funding and improves access to school mental health services.
- Protects cyber charter school students by requiring the schools to ensure students cameras are on or to do in-person wellness checks.
- Helps working families by delivering \$25 million for quality childcare workers.
- Invests in job creation and innovation.
- Develops the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit to provide some relief to low-income working families.
- And invests in PA to fix roads and bridges, protect our air and water, and supports local businesses.

FUNDING FOR SEPTA



Public transportation is not a luxury - it is a lifeline. In 2025, SEPTA faced a serious financial crisis. Despite cost-cutting measures, vital services were at risk without adequate state funding. SEPTA's funding needs were central to state budget discussions throughout the summer. Governor Shapiro acted twice to transfer capital funds to SEPTA, but a sustainable, long-term solution is still lacking. Southeastern Pennsylvania is the economic engine of our state, and SEPTA is critical to that success. I will continue to advocate strongly for reliable transportation funding, and I urge the House and Senate to reach an agreement on a lasting solution.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

ADVOCATING FOR OUR VETERANS



In October, I introduced H.B. 2024 to ensure our county directors of veterans' affairs receive proper training in trauma-informed care. Nearly 1 in 3 women and 1 in 50 men in the armed forces report experiencing sexual assault or harassment during their military service - and these numbers only reflect those who have come forward. My bill was approved by Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee in December with strong bipartisan support. It is crucial that we support our veterans by providing comprehensive, trauma-informed training for the staff who serve them.

COMMON SENSE GUN LEGISLATION

The state of gun violence in our country is alarming, and Pennsylvania must be part of the solution. This fall, I voted **YES** on a slate of gun violence prevention bills that passed out of the House Judiciary Committee. My bill to protect against 3D-printed guns was incorporated into legislation targeting undetectable firearms, which also was approved by Judiciary. I also voted **YES** on H.B. 1593, which expands universal background checks to include long guns, when it passed the House. While I am disappointed that not all bills advanced, I remain hopeful H.B. 1593 will receive consideration in the Senate. In addition, I have introduced legislation to combat illegal firearm trafficking in Pennsylvania and to raise the age to 21 for carrying semi-automatic rifles. With commonsense solutions, we can make our state safer for law enforcement, children, and our communities.

ANIMAL WELFARE

As founder and co-chair of the Animal Protection Caucus, I believe it is our duty as legislators to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. This fall, I was proud to vote yes on all animal protection measures presented in the Judiciary Committee, including my bill, H.B. 1938, which increases penalties for repeat offenders of animal cruelty. I am hopeful this bipartisan effort will be considered by the full House.



MENOPAUSE AWARENESS

Menopause is a natural stage of life, yet awareness and education remain limited. Last fall, my resolution to designate October as "Menopause Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania passed the House. Additionally, my resolution, H.R. 287, directing the Joint State Government Commission to study how perimenopause and menopause symptoms affect workers and to recommend workplace accommodations, was approved by the Health Committee. Women deserve to understand the changes their bodies undergo and to take proactive steps to protect their health.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM TO SENATE



A woman's right to reproductive healthcare is essential to her self-determination. The House is taking steps to ensure everyone in our Commonwealth can make decisions about their own bodies. In December, I voted **YES** on a proposed Constitutional Amendment (H.B. 1957) to codify Roe v. Wade into state law, which passed the House with bipartisan support. I also voted **YES** as the House Judiciary Committee advanced several reproductive freedom bills, including my bill (H.B. 2005) to eliminate the 24-hour waiting period and additional counseling requirements for abortion care - both medically unnecessary barriers that make it harder for women to access essential healthcare.

IN THE DISTRICT

CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS



Thank you to everyone who joined my Annual Veterans Breakfast at the Phoenixville Country Club! It's always an honor to meet and spend time with our veterans and their families. This year, our speakers shared how they continue to serve their communities, applying lessons learned in uniform - lessons of perseverance, consistency, and strength.

I want to extend a special thank you to our Liberty Bell-level sponsor, **Greencastle Consulting** - their generosity made this event possible. I also want to thank our presenters: the **Phoenixville VFW Post 1564**, the **Valley Forge Chorus**, the **Daughters of the American Revolution**, **Erica Lierman** from **Dub Fitness**, and **Dave Tatum** from the **Pennsylvania Veterans Museum**, as well as our dedicated volunteers. I can't wait to see everyone this summer at my **Veterans BBQ on June 20th!**

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION



Thank you to everyone who joined me for my Coffee and Conversation event! It's important to me to meet with my community and hear firsthand about the issues that matter to you. I look forward to seeing even more of you soon!

PAOLI HOSPITAL VISIT



In September, I toured the updated facilities at Paoli Hospital. Senator Carolyn Comitta and I worked to secure state funding to improve their facilities and expand the ER, which serves over 52,000 patients annually. This vital emergency department is a cornerstone of our community, and I'm proud to help support its growth and continued excellence!

FALL SHREDDING EVENT



My Fall Shredding Event with Senator Carolyn Comitta was a huge success! It was wonderful to see so many of you and help securely dispose of your sensitive documents. Thanks to your generosity, we also collected a full truckload of toiletries and essential items for **Mitzvah Circle** - making a real difference in our community!

COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE



Thanks to your generosity, my office collected **1,406 pounds of food** for the Chester County Food Bank! During the federal government shutdown, our neighbors needed support - and you delivered. I look forward to finding new ways to give back to our community this year!

DISTRICT OFFICE OPEN HOUSE



Last year, my office relocated from Darby Road to **1536 E. Lancaster Ave**. While it took a little time to settle in, we were thrilled to open our doors and welcome our neighbors to our new space. My staff and I always enjoy meeting you and hearing your thoughts!



State Representative **MELISSA L. SHUSTerman**

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Keeping Up with Shusterman

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SIGN UP FOR MY E-NEWSLETTER!

Stay informed by scanning the QR code or emailing me at RepShusterman@pahouse.net.



YEAR IN REVIEW

2025

51 bills introduced
9 passed the House
2 enacted into law

Top Service Provided:
**SEPTA Senior
Fare Card
Application**

7662 constituent
services provided

\$4,293,190 back into
our community

820 attendees
came to
11 events hosted
by my office

SAVE THE DATE



**FEBRUARY
25**

Coffee & Conversation
Tredyffrin Library
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM



**MAY
9**

Shredding & Food Drive
Technical College HS
- Pickering Campus
9:00 - 11:00 AM



**JUNE
20**

Veterans BBQ
Wilson Farm Park
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM