



Fall  
2025

State Representative | 157th Legislative District

# MELISSA L. SHUSTERMAN

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## Dear Neighbors,

Fall is almost upon us! This year my colleagues and I are working tirelessly to pass good legislation that benefits our communities.

We are passing legislation that works for ALL Pennsylvanians, including additional funding for senior programs, protecting our children and families, increasing the minimum wage, and advocating for equal pay. At the forefront of this effort is passing a state budget and adequately funding mass transit. While we continue to negotiate, I will not stop fighting for us and our community.

As of this printing we do **not** have a finalized state budget. My House colleagues and I have worked all summer to create a budget that invests in education, adequately funds SEPTA, supports our senior citizens, values workers, protects access to healthcare, and continues to foster economic growth within our Commonwealth. We have listened to concerns from our Senate colleagues on accountability, security and cleanliness within mass transit systems and have included these measures in our latest transportation funding bill. As negotiations continue, I trust that leaders on both sides of the Capitol are continuing to work together to fund transportation across PA. My priorities regarding the budget and our community remain the same:

- **Passing the State Budget NOW**
- **Investing in Education and Public Libraries**
- **Funding SEPTA plus Roads and Bridges**
- **Valuing Workers**
- **Fostering Economic Growth**
- **Supporting Senior Citizens**
- **Defending Human Rights**
- **Keeping our Air and Water Clean**
- **Protecting Reproductive Rights and Access to Healthcare**



**Rep. Shusterman**  
APPOINTED TO  
**the Board of  
the Ben  
Franklin  
Technology  
Development  
Authority**

I'm proud to have been appointed by Speaker Joanna McClinton to the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority (BFTDA). The BFTDA is an initiative of the PA Department of Community and Economic Development that leverages the excellence of Pennsylvania's colleges and universities and promotes greater collaboration among companies, academia, private investors, and government to build and develop technology-based industries to foster innovation and drive entrepreneurial success. I am excited for the opportunity to further serve our community and to continue to ensure that we are investing in the future of our Commonwealth.





# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## MY LOTTERY BILL BECOMES LAW

My lottery bill has been signed into law by Gov. Josh Shapiro! Act 37 of 2025 will reduce the PA Lottery's profit margin requirement, which will allow the lottery to focus on maximizing gross profits. This change will strengthen its finances and enable it to be more competitive. It will also lead to an increase in revenue that benefits PA's senior citizens. This is a significant victory for PA seniors and the programs that benefit them, and it could not have happened without bipartisan support from the Legislature.



## EQUAL PAY BILL APPROVED BY THE HOUSE

I am happy to announce that my Equal Pay bill passed the House and awaits action in the Senate. H.B. 630 would prohibit employers from paying workers less due to their gender, race, or ethnicity and protects employees from retaliation regarding wage discrimination matters. Additionally, the bill will curtail the practice of using salary history in pay-setting decisions for new employment. According to the US Department of Labor, in 2023, women in PA were paid an average of 80.9% of what men were paid. The pay gap leads to less income for women, making it harder to support their families. It also means women experience higher rates of poverty, lower financial earnings over a lifetime, and less money saved for retirement. It's time for more women to get their fair share in Pennsylvania – women and their families deserve equal pay for equal work.

## CHILD CUSTODY MODIFICATION BILL MOVES TO THE SENATE

My Child Custody Modification bill, H.B. 1412, has passed the House. Currently, the only thing needed for a parent to file a petition to change a custody order is the assertion that the current order is no longer in the best interest of the child. This enables parties involved in family law disputes to use the filing of modification petitions to harass one another. My bill will stop this practice by requiring the requesting individual to show a material change in circumstances when filing; it will still allow the courts to modify if deemed appropriate. This bill balances the need to protect children and parents involved in custody disputes. This is a big win for families, and I continue to advocate for this bill to advance in the Senate.



## JUVENILE JUSTICE PACKAGE PASSES THE HOUSE

My three juvenile justice bills - H.B. 1573, H.B. 1576, H.B. 1577 - were passed by the House in June. Created from recommendations by a statewide task force, these bills will make necessary improvements to the Commonwealth's juvenile detention system. Our children - all of our children - are our future and our responsibility. I am hopeful these bills will receive consideration in the Senate.

## CELEBRATING POLLINATOR WEEK

This year, the House recognized June 16 - June 22 as Pollinator Week with the passage of my resolution to celebrate Pennsylvania's pollinators: bees, flies, butterflies, beetles and hummingbirds. They are critical to our ecosystem. Their work ensures full harvests of crops and contributes to healthy plants. Pollinators are essential to our Commonwealth's farm crops, which contribute millions to Pennsylvania's economy each year.



## PROTECTING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

I continue to work hard to protect your civil rights and liberties. No one should have the power to tell another person what they can and cannot do with their body. My House colleagues and I have been working on an abortion protections package. This includes "shield" legislation to safeguard records related to reproductive services, protections for health care providers from legal action or loss of licensure, and a prohibition on cooperation with out-of-state civil and criminal cases involving reproductive health care services.



# IN THE DISTRICT



## MEET OUR SUMMER INTERNS

Lawson Miller is a rising Sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania pursuing a major in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. He is a resident of Schuylkill Township and an active member in his university's Mock Trial team.

Lawson and Jordan were integral to our office by helping with constituent outreach, social media, and legislative research!

Jordan Jacoel is a rising Sophomore at Columbia University and is studying Political Science and Public Policy. She is a graduate of Conestoga High School and volunteers with the NY Small Claims Advisory Support.



## NEW DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF

I would like to welcome my newest staff member, Gabriella Llanos. She is a graduate of Phoenixville School District and most recently, the University of Tennessee, where she studied Public Administration with a concentration in Political Science and Economics. She comes from a communications background and is already a tremendous asset to our team!



## PAOLI FIRE COMPANY RECEIVES \$53,000 IN STATE GRANT MONEY

At the end of May, I visited the Paoli Fire Company and met with our local first responders. In addition to congratulating Chief Andrea Testa on her retirement, I was able to see the new emergency ATV that the fire company acquired with state funding. This investment will help ensure that our emergency personnel can respond in a safe and timely manner in some of the greener "off-road" areas of our district and neighboring communities.



## ANNUAL VETERANS BBQ

Thank you to everyone who made my Vets BBQ a huge success! It is always an honor getting to celebrate our veterans. A special thank you to all the vendors who came and provided community resources for our service members. I can't wait to see everyone at our Veterans Breakfast on November 5th!



## SPRING SHREDDING EVENT

My Spring Shredding Event was a hit! We were able to help our neighbors securely discard their important documents and collected 640 pounds of food for the Chester County Food Bank!



## STORYTIME

I spent National Library Week at Easttown Library during Storytime with some of my youngest constituents. It was wonderful to celebrate all that our libraries do for our community and to connect with parents and children through reading!



## COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Coffee and Conversation events this year. I always enjoy getting to meet with my neighbors and learn about what matters to YOU! I look forward to seeing all of you at my next event on October 14th.





State Representative  
**MELISSA L. SHUSTERMAN**

1536 E. Lancaster Ave.  
Paoli, PA 19301

Keeping Up with  
Shusterman!

- @RepShusterman
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GENERAL ELECTION REMINDERS

OCT.  
20

Last day to register to vote before November Election. Register at [vote.pa.gov](https://vote.pa.gov)

OCT.  
28

Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot.

NOV.  
4

**ELECTION DAY!**  
Polling places are open from 7 A.M. – 8 P.M. (mail-in and absentee ballots are due at 8 P.M.)

Rep Shusterman Invites You to Her

District Office  
OPEN HOUSE

OCTOBER 14, 2025 | 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Come see our new office building & get help with state service matters

Meet & Chat with Rep Shusterman

NEW DISTRICT OFFICE ADDRESS  
1536 E. LANCASTER AVE.  
PAOLI, PA 19301

SAVE THE DATE  
*You're Invited!*

OCTOBER

04

SHREDDING WITH SENATOR COMITTA & COLLECTION FOR MITZVAH CIRCLE  
Valley Forge Middle School  
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

OCTOBER

14

COFFEE & CONVERSATION  
Tredyffrin Library  
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

NOVEMBER

05

VETERANS BREAKFAST  
Phoenixville Area Country Club  
RSVP by Oct. 29th  
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM



SIGN UP FOR MY E-NEWSLETTER!

Stay informed by scanning the QR code or emailing me at [RepShusterman@pahouse.net](mailto:RepShusterman@pahouse.net)