



STATE REPRESENTATIVE Liz Hanbidge

61ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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Dear Friends:

As many return to a greater sense of normalcy on our journey with the COVID-19 pandemic and as we make our way in this new normal, I hope we can continue to work together to stave off this virus to allow people to continue working, attending school, and rebuilding our economy. While children under 12 and some adults unable to be vaccinated remain at risk, especially from the Delta variant, the majority of Pennsylvanians have been vaccinated and in Montgomery County, 77% of eligible vaccine recipients have had the vaccine. Please keep up the work you have done and are doing to keep our neighbors healthy and our economy bouncing back. Due to the limitations placed on the Governor's emergency powers, he has fewer tools at his discretion to help mitigate the virus. Please continue to be vigilant in order to protect your family and communities and follow the recommendations outlined by the CDC.

After passing a short-term budget in the summer of 2020, and a second budget in November of 2020, we met in June to finalize our most recent annual budget. I have often heard Congresswoman Madeleine Dean comment that the budget is a "moral document," a reflection of our beliefs and priorities. This year Pennsylvania had a \$3 billion surplus and an additional \$7 billion in federal aid. We had an opportunity to make our priorities and values known and to revitalize our economy and help those who suffered so much during the pandemic.

While our budget included investments in education, emergency rental assistance, long-term care, and community violence prevention, we missed many opportunities to invest in our economic future. We failed to prioritize the industries hardest hit by COVID-19, such as small businesses and the hospitality industry, and we failed to take steps to reduce taxpayers' property tax burdens. Instead of taking steps to offer relief to more people and invest in our economic future, we chose to put \$2.76 billion in the Rainy Day Fund (which we persistently use like a piggy bank to cover up our structural budget deficits). I remain hopeful that we can come to further agreements to bolster our economy and help our constituents when we return to session in September.

This year I have sponsored 26 pieces of legislation, the majority of which are pending a committee vote. They range from bills related to fixing Pennsylvania's unemployment compensation system, to prohibiting deceptive interrogation practices from being used against individuals with intellectual disabilities or autism to animal welfare. While we see a large number of bills aimed at limiting voting access and prohibiting mitigation efforts related to COVID-19, a lot of substantive legislation sits pending in committee. It is my hope that this fall we will see those pieces of legislation start moving through the committee process.

For those of you who want to hear more about what is going on in the district and the legislature, I encourage you to sign up for my weekly email. As ever, it is my privilege and pleasure to serve you. I appreciate it in particular when you reach out to me with legislative ideas. I look forward to continuing the conversation and seeing you at some of our upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Liz Hanbidge



Continuing To Work For You 2021 in Review

The Numbers



Inquiries to Labor & Industry



324

Unclaimed Funds Notifications



2318

Weekly Legislative Summaries



35

Casework Reports



2659

Feedback Emails



553

SEPTA Key Cards Processed



160

My Prime Legislation



26

Co-Sponsored Legislation



147

Votes Cast



401

Upcoming Events

September 11th - 9am to 12pm - Drive thru shredding event at Montgomery County Community College - You **MUST** remain in your vehicle and a staffer will collect the items from your car to be shredded. There is a 3 brown bag limit of personal shredding documents. We cannot accept business documents, plastic bags, three ring binders, ledger books, cardboard, xrays, CDs or large Binder clips - Dignity Donation Drive for Period and Incontinence supplies for Mitzvah Circle

October 19th - 6:30pm - 7:30pm - Tele Town Hall

November 13th - 10am to 1pm - Drive thru electronics recycling event co-hosted by Junkluggers at North Montco Technical Career Center - Holiday toy drive to be donated to local families within our school districts

You **MUST** remain in your vehicle and a staffer will collect the items from your car to be recycled and or donated. Accepting small appliances, printers, computers, laptops, VCRs, mics, wires, random metal items, anything with a plug. We **CANNOT** accept any TVs or monitors.

December 10th - 12pm to 2pm - Holiday open house at our office - Nonperishable food drive for Manna on Main

January 20th - 6:30pm - 7:30pm - Tele Townhall

February 11th - Fox Chase Mammogram Bus - Details forthcoming

Sign up for our weekly e-mail for the most up to date information

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE

Great news! The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue has extended the deadline to apply for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program until December 31st and has added the ability to file your application online. You can do this by visiting mypath.pa.gov.

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians aged 65 or older; widows and widowers aged 50 or older; and people with disabilities age 18 or older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded. Spouses, personal representatives, or estates may also file rebate claims on behalf of claimants who lived at least one day in 2018 and meet all other eligibility criteria.

In addition, the law gives the following relief to seniors in most need:

- ➔ Seniors who live in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, or Scranton, where local wage/income tax rates are very high, will not benefit from a local tax shift to lower taxes on top of the reduction offered by the state funded property tax relief. To ensure that seniors in these communities receive significant property tax relief, each senior household with income under \$30,000 has its property tax rebate increased by an additional 50 percent.
- ➔ In addition, property tax rebates are increased by an additional 50 percent for senior households in the rest of the state, so long as those households have incomes under \$30,000 and pay more than 15 percent of income in property taxes.

Homeowners Receive:	
Income	Max Rebate
\$0 - \$8,000	\$650
\$8,001 - \$15,000	\$500
\$15,001 - \$18,000	\$300
\$18,001 - \$35,000	\$250

Renters Receive:	
Income	Max Rebate
\$0 - \$8,000	\$650
\$8,001 - \$15,000	\$500

SEPTA KEY CARD UPDATE

In spring, for the first time in over a year our office was able to host our Senior SEPTA Key Card sign-up event. With COVID-19 restrictions relaxing and businesses continuing to reopen, we were overjoyed to partner with SEPTA to provide our seniors with the ability to get out and enjoy all that the area has to offer. Our office has been hosting weekly outdoor SEPTA Senior Key Card events, each Tuesday (weather permitting) from 9 – 11 AM and 1 – 3 PM.

We have been thrilled to process well over 100 applications so far this year and look forward to continuing serving our constituency with this process. If you are interested in scheduling an appointment to receive your Senior Pass, call our office at (610) 277-3230 between 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM Monday thru Friday to have a staffer help you with your booking. As a reminder, SEPTA automatically renewed all passes that were set to expire in 2020 and 2021 and those will now expire on the same date in 2022. We look forward to assisting you!



UNCLAIMED FUNDS UPDATE

We are wrapping up our 9-month notification process of unclaimed funds that may be available to our constituents thru the Pennsylvania Treasury's Bureau of Unclaimed Property. Since mid-December, our office has mailed 2,318 notifications for unclaimed funds totaling \$1,167,105.02. There are still millions of dollars in unclaimed funds that originated from addresses in the 61st and over the past year we have been attempting to match those funds with as many owners as possible.

There is no need to wait for your letter as you can always check if you have unclaimed funds in your name by visiting www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property. Please note that the Property IDs and values listed on the notification we send are for reference and not used in your search. In the search box, you will enter your last name in the first block and your first name in the second block and then click search. You will then find a list of properties in your name - if any exist.

In addition to claiming funds for yourself, you may claim funds for a deceased spouse, parent, or sibling. If you are claiming for yourself and the amount is less than \$1,500 the form will not need notarization. If you are claiming for a deceased individual, you will need to include an original death certificate and the forms will need notarization.

To help expedite the return of your funds, we would be happy to submit your claim forms from our office. Simply complete your claim form and return it to our office via mail, by dropping off during normal business hours (Monday thru Friday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM), or by stopping by after hours and placing your forms in the secure drop box by our door.

Should you have any general questions about the process or need assistance, you may contact our office at (610) 277-3230 or e-mail my District Director, Melissa, at mcosmo@pahouse.net. For notarial services, you may call the office or e-mail our notary, Nicole, at nthompson@pahouse.net to schedule an appointment.

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY EMAIL

I send out a weekly email about legislative happenings, office services and upcoming events. If you have not done so already, I encourage you to sign up on my website at www.PAHouse.com/Hanbidge/EmailSignUp

UC FRAUD REPORTING

Recently our office has received an increased level of constituent complaints regarding fraud related to unemployment. The Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Treasury have updated their guidelines for citizens who may be the victims of unemployment fraud. Labor and Industry has provided the following checklist for anyone who becomes aware they have been a victim of UC/PUA-related identity theft.

What to do when someone files for unemployment benefits using your identity:

→ File a form online:

- Unemployment compensation fraud
- Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) fraud

→ File via phone:

- Call the PA Fraud Hotline at 800-692-7469

→ File a report with police:

- Contact police in the municipality you resided in at the time the unemployment fraud occurred/ benefits in question were paid. A copy of the filed police report must also be provided to the Office of Unemployment Compensation.
- Start a recovery plan with the Federal Trade Commission by visiting www.identitytheft.gov

To be clear, these steps should be taken for any instance of identity theft occurring in any of the unemployment programs. Every instance of UC fraud and PUA fraud involves some level of identity theft, so every instance should be reported as described above.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on our community that exacerbated the difficulties that many had already been struggling to deal with. There are several community resources available to provide aid to those who may find themselves in need. We want to ensure that anyone who needs help knows how to get it. Please consider volunteering for any one (or multiple) group(s) listed if you have the capacity. With the increase in demand for services, comes an increase in the need for volunteer help.

1. Non-Profit Food Banks and Essential Needs Resources

- a. Community Cupboard – 150 N. Main Street, Ambler, PA (215) 628-3002
- b. Manna on Main – 606 Main Street, Lansdale, PA (215) 855-5454
- c. Mitzvah Circle – 2562 Boulevard of the Generals #100, Norristown PA 19403 (267) 649 - 7610

2. Info for How to Apply on COMPASS for Food Stamps/Medical Assistance

- a. Visit www.compass.state.pa.us
- b. Click “APPLY NOW” to apply
- c. Click “Renew Now” to renew

3. Non-Profit/Gov't Domestic and Child Abuse Resources

- a. Montgomery Child Advocacy – 409 Cherry Street, Norristown, PA (610) 279-1219
- b. Laurel House – 180 W. Germantown Pike #2, East Norriton, PA (610) 277-1860
- c. Child Advocacy Center Montgomery - 180 W. Germantown Pike #1, East Norriton, PA (484) 687-2990
- d. Victim Services Center of Montgomery County – 325 Swede Street #2, Norristown, PA (610) 277-0932

e. National Sexual Assault Hotline – 1 (800) 656-4373

f. National Domestic Violence Hotline – 1 (800) 799-7233

4. Mental Illness Resources

- a. National Alliance on Mental Illness Montgomery County – 100 W. Main Street, Unit 204, Lansdale, PA (215) 361-7784
- b. Resources for Human Development Critical Time Intervention – 1000 Sandy Hill Road, Norristown, PA (610) 279-4240
- c. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255, En Espanol 1(888) 528-9454
- d. The Crisis Text Line – Text “HELLO” to 741741
- e. Veteran’s Crisis Line – 1(800) 273-8255, Press 1. Or Text 838255
- f. Safe Helpline for Members of the Military – 1(877) 995-5247
- g. Disaster Distress Helpline – 1(800) 985-5990. Or Text “talkwithus” to 66746
- h. Trevor Lifeline for LGBTQIA+ Community – 1(866) 488-7386 or Text “START” to 678678 LGBTQIA+ Senior (50+) Hotline – 1(888) 234-7243
- i. Trans Lifeline – 1(877) 565-8860

REP. HANBIDGE IN THE COMMUNITY



Swearing in 2021



North Wales Borough Independence Day Celebration (Council President Jim Sando, Mayor Greg D'Angelo, Borough Manager Christine Hart)



Speaking out on the Floor about HB118



Electronics Recycling Event 2021



Electronics Recycling Event 2021



Touring the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center



At her Policy Committee Tour of the Brandywine Valley SPCA



Touring Mitzvah Circle Foundation



At her Policy Committee Tour of the Brandywine Valley SPCA



Donation Drop off at Manna on Main with Senator Collett

Tour of Manna on Main



Montco Chamber of Commerce Donations to the Montgomery County Library on behalf of the Representatives



Representative Liz Hanbidge

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CONSTITUENT SERVICES

I am here to help you with any state government-related issue you might have. Below are some of the most common services we assist with in our office. For help, or to speak with me or a staff member about an issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

- ➔ **Driver and vehicle services renewals (Dept. of Transportation)**
- ➔ **Disability Plate and Placard applications (Dept. of Transportation)**
- ➔ **Unemployment compensation (Dept. of Labor and Industry)**
- ➔ **Applications for birth/death certificates (Division of Vital Records)**
- ➔ **Providing Property Tax/Rent Rebate and other tax forms (Dept. of Revenue)**
- ➔ **SEPTA Key Card applications (SEPTA)**
- ➔ **Unclaimed funds recovery (Dept. of Treasury)**
- ➔ **SNAP, LIHEAP etc. (Dept. of Human Services)**
- ➔ **Free notary services for nonpolitical documents**

