




STATE REPRESENTATIVE Donna Bullock

195th Legislative District

2835 W. Girard Ave. • Philadelphia, PA 19130 • (215) 684-3738
104 Irvis Office Building • P.O. Box 202195 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2195 • (717) 787-3480

www.pahouse.com/Bullock • RepBullock@pahouse.net
 facebook.com/RepDonnaBullock •  [@RepDonnaBullock](https://twitter.com/RepDonnaBullock)

February 2020

Hello neighbor,

It was an honor serving as your state representative throughout 2019. Now that session has reconvened in Harrisburg, I am excited to continue serving you and keeping you well informed on state matters.

Earlier this month, Gov. Wolf gave his 2020 budget address before the General Assembly. His proposed budget included wins for education, including aid for students attending Pennsylvania state universities and over \$1 billion to make our schools safe and free of toxins. The governor also dedicated resources to address gun violence and reaffirmed his commitment to raising the minimum wage. I look forward to working with the administration and my colleagues over the next few months to deliver an on-time, responsible budget to the people of Pennsylvania.

In this newsletter, you will learn more about other key issues I am addressing and my vision for the 195th district. I am so pleased with the services we offered and the legislative progress that we made in 2019, but there is still plenty of work to do to make Pennsylvania safer and more equitable for all. I will continue to fight for progress!

Don't forget to follow me on social media and sign up for notices of upcoming events and legislative updates. You can also visit us anytime at our Girard Avenue district office. As always, my staff and I are available to help you with any state-related issues.

This House is Your House

As a member of the House of Representatives, I get to work in one of the most beautiful buildings in Pennsylvania, the state Capitol. This building is the people's house, but it can also be very intimidating. I welcome constituents, schools, and other groups to visit Harrisburg for a tour, to observe session or a hearing, to lobby, or to participate in a rally.



Left: Elizabeth, a 6th grader from Fairmount, shadowed me in Harrisburg and observed a press event recognizing the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote in Pennsylvania.

Below: Students from Big Picture Vaux High School visited the Capitol in the fall of 2019.



Supporting small businesses

One of my top priorities for 2020 is to support our small businesses, from Spring Garden Street to Lehigh Avenue and Ridge Avenue to Lancaster Avenue.

Last year, I helped secure state grants and investments to support the proposed West Girard Avenue Business Resource Hub, streetscape improvements on Ridge Avenue, and a supermarket development in Mantua.

Small businesses are essential to job creation and reducing poverty in our neighborhoods. That is why I am dedicated to helping them access state resources, while also sponsoring legislation that lowers the costs to start a business, encourages local hiring, boosts minority and women-owned businesses, and promotes our commercial corridors.



Adrienne Ray, proprietor of Curve Conscious, and Geni Klein, Fairmount CDC Board Member, joined me for a grant announcement to support the West Girard Business Resource Hub.

My office can help YOUR local business with:

- Information on government funding and resources for growing your business
- Assistance obtaining state business forms of all kinds
- Questions about PA CareerLink and finding skilled workers
- Workforce information and labor market data
- Equal opportunity and labor law information
- Minority and women-owned business information and certification
- Renewal of state-issued permits and certifications
- Unemployment compensation questions or concerns
- Workers' compensation questions or concerns
- Pennsylvania business tax questions or concerns
- Questions about or problems with any state agency
- Citations for business-related outstanding accomplishments and milestones

If you need help with any state government-related services for your business, please contact my office!



Stay up to date throughout the year

Transparency in government is critically important and I want to keep you as informed as possible about what is happening in Harrisburg and here in the district.



You can follow me on Facebook to get regular updates on constituent services, events, legislation and much more.

“Like” my page at:

www.facebook.com/RepDonnaBullock.



Follow me on Twitter at: @RepDonnaBullock.

You can also visit my website at

www.pahouse.com/Bullock to sign up for my free e-mail alerts and electronic newsletters to stay up to date on my legislative initiatives and events happening in our district.



My office helped Terrell and Nicole Barkley apply for a grant to support renovations of their business, Barkley's BBQ, at 29th and Ridge.

Empowering children and youth experiencing homelessness

Each year, I introduce a resolution recognizing Educating Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Week and Red Shirt Day to raise awareness of homeless youth in Pennsylvania.

Last year, 36,823 school children in Pennsylvania experienced homelessness, many of them in Philadelphia. A 2017 report found that there were at least 569 homeless, unaccompanied youth, ages 13 to 25. These numbers continue to grow.

I plan to introduce legislation that will improve the lives and futures of children and youth experiencing homelessness, and specifically empower unaccompanied homeless minors. If you know a student experiencing homelessness, the school district's Office of Educating Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness can help. Call 267-784-9956 for assistance.



My office hosted an #EndPeriodPoverty Drive to collect and distribute period products to a youth shelter in the district.

Making child care affordable

Child care is a major expense for most families. Federal, state and local governments recognize the financial burden that child care places on families and have offered subsidies, tax credits and other financial assistance to ease the burden. Even with these programs, the cost of child care can often represent a family's single largest expense. The average Pennsylvania family pays more than 15% of their income in infant child care. I am working to increase access to quality, accessible, and affordable child care by advocating for budget increases for child care and pre-k programs and legislation that can put more in your pocket through a state child and dependent care tax credit.



I enjoyed reading to the preschoolers at The Caring Center.



Our District Community Dinners are a hit! Our office is hosting regular community dinners to bring neighbors together and to share information about state and local resources. Call the office for details about our next Community Dinner.

2019

By the numbers

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Donna Bullock
195TH DISTRICT

<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">28</h2> <p>Legislation Authored</p>	<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">30</h2> <p>Events Hosted</p>
<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">185</h2> <p>Legislation Co-sponsored</p>	<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">1,755</h2> <p>Community Members Helped</p>
<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">450</h2> <p>Property Tax/Rent Rebate Applications</p>	<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">98</h2> <p>Events Attended</p>



Does the state have something that belongs to you?

Have you checked the Pennsylvania Treasury's Unclaimed Property database?

Unclaimed property can include a closed bank account, uncashed checks, certificates of deposit or lost stocks and bonds sent to the state because the owner could not be found.

My office can help you search the database to see if there's property in your name and help you claim it. Contact my office at 215-684-3738 or search online at www.patreasury.gov.

Senior Services:

My office is here to help our seniors with state and local services. We host senior fairs and other events to connect them to much needed resources. If you are a senior, contact my office if you need help with:

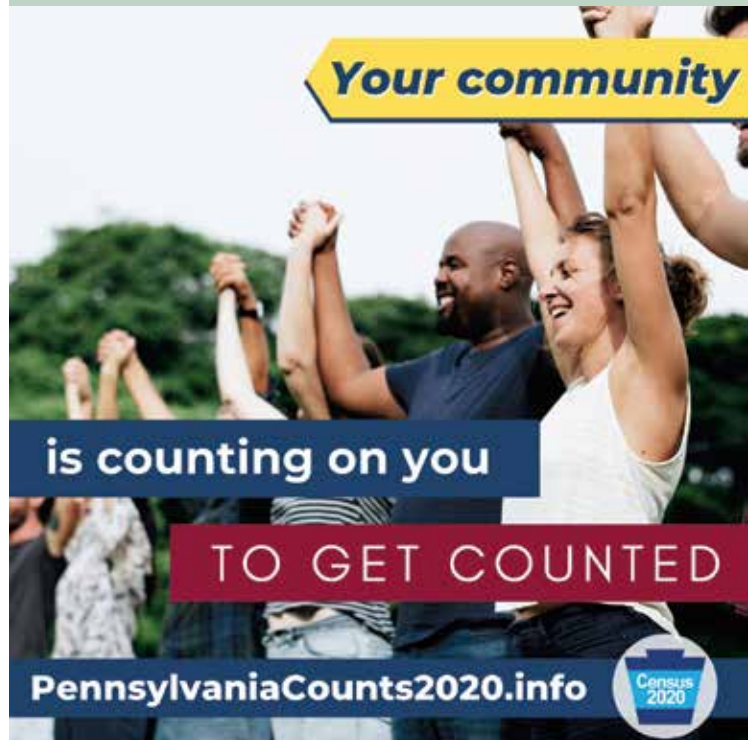
SEPTA Key Senior ID Card

Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions

PACE cards and other prescription programs

Senior Real Estate Tax Freeze

Access to food cupboards, SNAP, produce vouchers



Be counted... Participate in the 2020 Census

The census is taken once every 10 years to get an accurate count of the American population. The information gathered is used to determine how federal money is spent on infrastructure projects, emergency services, schools and programs like CHIP in each state. It also determines the number of congressional representatives for Pennsylvania in Washington, D.C.

Getting counted is easy! You may choose to respond online, by paper, or over the phone. Paper forms will be mailed to every household that hasn't responded by late March. My office can also help you.

Census day is April 1, 2020, but online responses will be accepted in March.

✓ Modernizing the vote for 2020

Effective for the April 2020 Primary Election
More info | www.votespa.com | Register online

More ways to vote

- No-excuse mail-in voting**
New option to vote by mail Without providing an excuse
- Permanent mail-in ballot list**
Receive applications for mail-in or absentee ballots for all elections

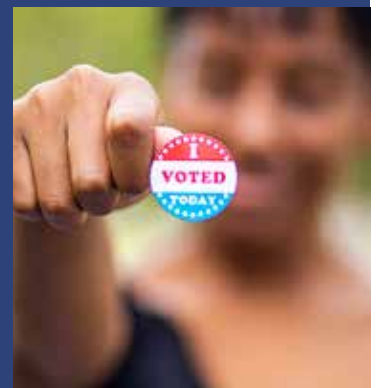
More accessible elections

- More time to register**
Deadline to register to vote is now 15 days before an election
- Extended voting period**
Request a mail-in or absentee ballot up to 50 days before an election

Extended deadline
Submit mail-in or absentee ballot by 8 p.m. on Election Day

Voice your opinion. Register to vote

Recently, several changes were made to our voting system that will hopefully make it easier for you to voice your opinion. Those changes will be in effect for the upcoming primary election, which will be held April 28. Visit www.votespa.com for more information.





STATE REP. DONNA BULLOCK

P.O. Box 202195
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2195

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The 3rd Annual Girard Avenue Street Festival was a great success for local businesses and residents. We look forward to seeing everyone again at this year's festival.

