State Representative | 157th Legislative District

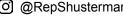# MELISSA L. SHUSTERMAN

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FALL 2020

www.RepShusterman.com | 🅕 🐦 📷 @RepShusterman

Dear Neighbor,

Our community has made it through a lot this year. Despite these unprecedented challenges, we are still here, we are strong, and we will face whatever comes our way together. Although it may sometimes feel like our fight with this novel coronavirus will never end, it will someday. These last few months have been hard on everyone, but I know our community is a resilient one and that we can beat this pandemic.

Enclosed here, I have shared some of the projects and initiatives that I have been working on to move us forward by addressing the critical issues facing our district today. These include securing a safe and reliable food supply, fighting for social justice reform and providing important COVID-19 updates. I am also happy to share information about two upcoming events, which have been planned with new safety guidelines and precautions in mind. Our fall schedule will include both a Shredding Event and a free Veterans Drive-Thru Lunch. See inside for more details! I look forward to connecting with you soon.

Sincerely,

Rep. Melissa Shusterman

Back to school

Resuming classes this fall will look different for each school district and higher education institution in our area. Many schools will reopen for in-person learning while some may go entirely virtual – or utilize a mix of the two.

For the most specific, accurate information, please contact your or your child's school. Reopening plans should also be available on schools' websites and social media pages.

Tredyffrin/Easttown SD: 610-240-1900
TESD.net
🅕 /TESchoolDistrict
🐦 @TESchools

Spring-Ford Area SD: 610-705-6000
Spring-Ford.net
🅕 /SpringFordASD
🐦 @SpringFordASD

Montgomery County Community College:
(215) 641-6551
MC3.edu
🅕 /MontgomeryCountyCC
🐦 @MCCC

STILL WORKING FOR YOU

Through social distancing and stay-at-home orders, I never stopped working for you! I've co-sponsored and authored multiple pieces of legislation to help our commonwealth cope with COVID-19 and modernize our police force.

Here is a summary of just a few of these bills, what they seek to achieve and their status:

FOOD SECURITY AND SAFETY

- **House Bill 1999:** Would protect food donors from limited civil and criminal liability if the donated food has exceeded its labeled shelf life, but it is still fit for human consumption.

  Last action: Referred to the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on Oct. 25, 2019.

- **House Bill 2572:** Would provide grants and low- to no-interest loans to area farmers' markets, direct marketing farmers and independent grocery stores so they may accept SNAP benefits.

  Last action: Referred to the House Health Committee on June 8, 2020.

POLICE REFORM

- **House Bill 1910:** Updates police training in PA to include de-escalation techniques, cultural awareness and biases, and recognizing the earliest signs of child abuse.

  Last action: Signed into law on July 14, 2020.

- **House Bill 2691:** Would create a County Independent Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board authorized to investigate selected local police misconduct complaints and establish mediation programs or conduct public hearings, subpoena witnesses and other actions to enhance local police accountability.

  Last action: Referred to the House Judiciary Committee on July 14, 2020.

WORKER PROTECTIONS

- **House Bill 2721:** Would gradually raise the minimum wage to $15 per hour, and $8 per hour for tipped workers, by 2022.

  Last action: Referred to the House Labor and Industry Committee on July 30, 2020.

- **House Bill 2495:** Would require employers with 500 or more workers to provide both full- and part-time employees with additional COVID-19 paid sick-leave hours without finding someone to cover their shift and protect them from retaliation.

  Last action: Referred to the House Labor and Industry Committee on May 13, 2020.

ELECTION DAY INFO

Since 2020 has been a very unpredictable year, I encourage everyone to plan for the general election on Nov. 3. Here are some important notes for this year's election to ensure everyone's voice can be heard:

- Register to vote if you're not already – or encourage your friends and family members to register – by visiting VotesPA.com/Register.

- If you're unsure whether you're registered to vote at your current address, you can check at VotesPA.com/Status.

- Polling places may be consolidated again. If you'll be voting in person, double check your polling location at PAVoterServices.PA.gov.

- If you have a PennDOT issued ID, you can request a mail-in ballot online at VotesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot. If you don't have an ID, contact my office for a paper application.

- If you're voting by mail, the state will include a postage-paid envelope with your mail-in ballot.

- The United States Postal Service recommends that voters request mail-in ballots at least 15 days in advance.

2020 GENERAL ELECTION IMPORTANT DATES

SEPT 14 First day to register for mail-in ballots at county election offices.

OCT 19 Last day to register to vote for the general election.
register.votesPA.com

OCT 27 Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot.
votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot

NOV 3 Voted mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by the county by 8pm.
votesPA.com/County

NOV 3 General election day. Polls are open from 7am to 8pm.
votesPA.com/Polls

VotesPA.com

After $600 federal benefit ends state assistance is available

With no action from the federal level to extend it, the additional $600 per-week federal unemployment benefit has come to an end.

With that in mind, the departments of Labor and Industry and Human Services recently reminded Pennsylvanians of additional state programs available. They include:

- Medicaid.
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Child Care Works (CCW) subsidized child care.
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

You can apply for any of these benefits at www.compass.state.pa.us.

I know that applying for these programs can be confusing and stressful, so remember that my office is here to help with any questions that may arise during the application process.

Updates from PennDOT

PennDOT driver license / photo centers

PennDOT has resumed scheduling driving skills tests, including motorcycle skills tests. Aspiring drivers can schedule online or by contacting the PennDOT Driver and Vehicle Services Call Center at (717) 412-5300. The skills test has been modified to mitigate potential COVID-19 exposure among PennDOT staff and customers, while maintaining the integrity of the testing process. Additionally, many photo centers are operating at a limited capacity. For information about services offered and PennDOT centers open near you, visit: www.penndot.gov/pages/coronavirus.aspx.

Highway resurfacing throughout Montco

In late July, the state announced a $7.9 million investment toward repairing and resurfacing 14 state highways in Montgomery County. In our community, this includes Route 113 (Black Rock Road) at Yeager Road in Upper Providence Township.

I've heard from many residents that roads throughout the county need to be improved, and I have remained in contact with PennDOT to make necessary repairs. As a result, we've made progress toward improving our transportation network and overall infrastructure within our community.

Increased rainfall and heavy traffic have hit Country Club Road, North and South Valley Road, and Yellow Springs Road hard. I've heard from many people regarding the poor conditions of these roads since my first year in office, so I made trips out to assess the damage with PennDOT teams. I am so pleased to see these results. Smoother commutes are ahead!

REAL ID deadline extended

The Department of Homeland Security postponed the enforcement date for REAL ID from Oct. 1, 2020, to Oct. 1, 2021, in response to COVID-19 and the national emergency declaration.

The federal REAL ID Act has been extended in Pennsylvania until **October 1, 2021**

As a reminder, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID or other form of federally accepted ID, like a passport to:

- ✓ Board a domestic flight;
- ✓ Enter federal buildings;
- ✓ Get into military facilities.

Visit PENNDOT.GOV/REALID

State Representative
MELISSA L. SHUSTERMAN

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

Keeping Up with Shusterman!

@RepShusterman

/RepShusterman

www.RepShusterman.com

STAY INFORMED!
JOIN MY EMAIL UPDATE LIST
RepShusterman@pahouse.net

lpo.kaf.0820

UPCOMING EVENTS

Virtual Policy Forum:
VOTING
Oct. 8, 10 a.m.

Tune in at pahouse.com/live for an update on Pennsylvania's voting laws.

VETERANS DRIVE-THRU LUNCH
Oct. 16, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge;
1601 Valley Forge Road
Phoenixville, PA 19460

I'll be thanking our area veterans for their service to our country with a drive-thru lunch! Please call my office at (484) 200-8260 to reserve your meal.

SHRED EVENT

Details TBD

Be sure to follow me on social media and opt in to receive emails from me so you'll know when details for this event are finalized!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! Fill out the 2020 Census

Every 10 years, the United States conducts a census. This count of U.S. residents helps determine how $675 billion is spent by the federal government and how Pennsylvania is represented in Congress for the next 10 years.

You can help ensure our community gets its fair share of funding by responding to the census online at www.2020census.gov, by paper or over the phone.

Funding based on the census helps improve roads and bridges, access to quality public education and improves our public safety.

Census grant awarded to Montgomery County

The census is a complete count of everyone in the country, so we must make sure that each one of our community members is accounted for! Earlier this year, Montgomery County received a $15,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to connect with some hard-to-count populations such as those who do not speak English as their primary language; ethnic minority, immigrant, and rural communities; children; the elderly; the LGBTQ population; and individuals experiencing homelessness.

Remember, in Pennsylvania everyone counts!