

**CAPITOL OFFICE:**  
121B East Wing • P.O. Box 202175  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2175  
(717) 783-8098

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
610 N. 2nd St. • Philadelphia, PA 19123  
(215) 503-3245

[www.RepMaryIsaacson.com](http://www.RepMaryIsaacson.com)

[@RepMaryIsaacson](https://www.facebook.com/RepMaryIsaacson)



State Representative | 175th Legislative District

# MARY ISAACSON



## *Dear Neighbor,*

I hope your 2022 is off to a great start.

This year, I've hit the ground running. We are currently in the middle of hearings for next year's state budget and I am prioritizing the needs of Pennsylvanians as we recover from this pandemic.

Education funding, charter school reform, gun violence prevention, raising the minimum wage, and transitioning Pennsylvania to a green economy have been legislative priorities of mine since I was elected in 2018. However, in the immediate future, I will be advocating for the release of the federal pandemic recovery funds that the Republicans have hoarded in our Rainy Day Fund when they should have been invested in supporting workers and initiatives across the state that were already struggling before the pandemic.

Additionally, I will be fighting to address the growing shortage of teachers, bus drivers, school nurses, paraprofessionals and education support personnel. I am also working hard to ensure health care facilities and nursing homes are adequately staffed. These past two years have shown us more than ever that we must make investments in our workforce and keep our supply chain strong. We must also make vast improvements in our child care sector and provide hazard pay for essential workers.

It literally rains inside some of our schools and far too many classrooms pose toxic hazards to our children and our teachers. We must repair our school buildings and provide students with a safe environment in which they can learn and thrive. Our state budget must reflect fully and fairly funding our schools and making investments in the buildings where our children learn and teachers and faculty work.

I invite you to reach out to me and my team with questions about anything you read in this newsletter, as well as with questions about any state government-related resources. My office phone number is 215-503-3245, and my email address is [RepIsaacson@pahouse.net](mailto:RepIsaacson@pahouse.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary".

Rep. Mary Isaacson

## Working Hard in Harrisburg

In 2021, I worked to bring more than \$7 million in funding back to our district in the form of grants. These grant dollars will benefit the receiving organizations and the greater community, with funds injected into economic development projects, parks and recreation projects, historic preservation projects and more.

If you work with an organization that is trying to secure grant funding and would like my help, please reach out to my office at 215-503-3245 and my team and I will help however we can.

**State Rep. Mary Isaacson**  
**WORKING HARD IN HARRISBURG**  
to bring more than \$7 Million in grants to the 175th District in 2021

- Delaware River Waterfront Corporation - **\$750,000**
- Friends of the Rail Park - **\$25,000**
- RACP grants for local redevelopment - **\$4,501,740**
- Reading Terminal Market - **\$1,000,000**
- Third, Scots and Marines Presbyterian Church - **\$100,000**
- Fishtown Kensington Area Business Improvement District - **\$14,000**
- Palmer St. extension (Fishtown waterfront access point) - **\$1,240,000**
- South Street Headhouse District COVID-19 relief - **\$50,000**
- Security grants for vulnerable groups + houses of worship - **\$200,000+**
- Christ Church Preservation Trust - **\$13,000**

PAHOUSE.COM/ISAACSON @REPMARYISAACSON

## Reforming Charter Schools

Charter schools in Pennsylvania are among the lowest performing schools in our commonwealth, and yet they spend a lot of tax dollars marketing to attract more students. I serve



on the Education Committee and I am constantly pushing for legislation to hold the Board of Education accountable, advocating for transparency in reporting, reforming charter schools and stopping our tax money from flowing into corporate education. No one should profit off Philadelphia's children having to learn in classrooms that are crumbling and filled with hazardous conditions. I am a full supporter of charter school reform with a specific focus on cyber charter schools.

I have actually introduced legislation to address charter school reform, funding and methods through a thorough study and report. I am not a proponent of corporate education and I am sick of charter schools not being held to the same standards and accountability as our neighborhood public schools. I have visited cyber charter schools in which they are selling curriculum to public schools that was paid for by state funding that should have gone to educate our children in public schools. I have received brochures for cyber charter schools that are literally gilded in gold. While a tax credit program exists for private school benefits, I have voted against any expansion of the program and would rather see those funds go to the public education system.

## Legislation To Reduce Catalytic Converter Thefts Introduced

As precious-metals prices soared, catalytic converter thefts jumped nationally from about 100 a month in 2018 to triple that rate the next year. Last year, that number skyrocketed to more than 1,200, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

Victims often have to shell out about \$2,000 to replace their catalytic converter, which is necessary to pass inspection.

I've proposed legislation intended to stop the theft of catalytic converters by expanding regulations on the transaction of catalytic converters in scrapyards.

My legislation would require: (1) those selling a catalytic converter to a scrapyard to provide the year, make, model, and VIN for the vehicle; (2) the buyer to take a picture of the catalytic converter and its seller at the time of sale; and (3) the buyer to withhold payment until two days after the purchase.

**NEW BILLS**  
*Forthcoming +*  
**HB 2290: TITLE 18- PREVENTING CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT AND HB 2291: DETACHED CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT**  
RepMaryIsaacson.com

## Addressing Gun Violence in PA

As we near budget season, I'm unhappy to report that the majority party in Harrisburg is not interested in investing in gun violence intervention programs.

They seem to not seek legislation or programs that address the root cause of gun violence – inequity – but are instead at times attempting to make it easier to purchase guns or to conceal one, without a permit even.

The majority party's legislation will not get past the Governor's veto pen thankfully. But the constant threat of legislation that upends the gun violence debate takes up time and resources in the House. It's time for special interest groups to stop wasting your time and money. That nonsense keeps us from moving bills that most Pennsylvanians agree would make our communities safer.

Every year, nearly 1,600 Pennsylvanians' lives are lost due to firearm violence. Yet, Republicans are more invested in disenfranchising Pennsylvanians from their right to vote and making voting less accessible. To underscore their hypocrisy, I introduced a package of bills that would place the same restrictions and regulations that Republicans proposed for Pennsylvania's voters on those attempting to purchase a firearm. If they think these restrictions make sense for voting, they should feel likewise about their implementation on gun purchases.



### My legislative package of bills includes:

- The first bill would require that all purchases of firearms must be a face-to-face transaction between the seller and the purchaser and must occur in the place of business of a licensed seller or county sheriff's office.
- Another would require that individuals must deliver the application/record of sale for a background check in-person to a Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) station, with exceptions for individuals with a disability. It also requires that all incomplete or inaccurate applications must be rejected, and the applicant must wait 14 days before resubmitting.
- The third bill would require that all concealed carry permit applications be submitted in-person, with exceptions for individuals with a disability. It would also require that all incomplete or inaccurate applications must be rejected, and the applicant must wait 14 days before resubmitting.
- A fourth bill would permit observers to witness the processing of background checks in the PSP's Instant Check Unit as well as to witness the processing of concealed carry permit applications in the county sheriff's office.

## 2022-23 State Budget Has The Chance To Invest In You

Funds from the American Rescue Plan have been largely readied for state investment here in Pennsylvania, and as we enter the budget season rather flush with tax dollars in Harrisburg, I support plans that don't get between those funds reaching the critical supports we must fund now – including you.

Number one, I support the Governor's plan for yet another year of record-breaking education investment. Our schools need it now more than ever. I also support the call to fully fund or newly fund programs aimed at getting people back to work, compensating frontline workers, improving our daycare centers, and investing in anti-violence and mental health treatment continuums. We need to better support those people struggling with substance use disorder and our veterans who may have fallen on tough times. There are ways that we can steer the budget to best reflect the values we hold dear as a commonwealth, and work toward a more fair, just and equitable city and state.

It's only February, and the budget will continue to take shape until the new fiscal year starts July 1. I will keep you posted on its progress from my social media and website at [www.PaHouse.com/Isaacson](http://www.PaHouse.com/Isaacson).



## No SEPTA Senior Key ID Cards Will Expire This Year

Due to continuing COVID-19 pandemic-related social distancing measures and staffing constraints that have limited SEPTA's ability to process as many renewals as needed, SEPTA is extending the expiration dates for Senior Key ID Cards with 2020, 2021 and 2022 expiration dates.

Those cards will now remain effective through the end of the month printed on the card in 2023.

For example:

- A card with a May 2020 (5/20) expiration date will continue to be valid for travel through May 2023
- A card with a May 2021 (5/21) expiration date will continue to be valid for travel through May 2023
- A card with a May 2022 (5/22) expiration date will continue to be valid for travel through May 2023



## Water Assistance Program Now Open

Do you or someone you know need help with a water bill? Help is available through a new program, the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) created by the American Rescue Plan Act, which is now accepting applications. LIHWAP grants are issued directly to water service providers, and families must meet income requirements.



You'll need the following information before applying:

- Names, Social Security numbers, and dates of birth for all people in your household.
- Proof of income for the applicant and all household members.
- A recent water bill.

You can apply online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us), or reach out to my office for assistance.

## Affordable Rx for Seniors

Older Pennsylvanians living on fixed incomes should never have to choose between affording medicine and affording food or rent or heat. Pennsylvania's prescription assistance programs for older adults, PACE and PACENET, offer low-cost prescription medication to qualified residents, age 65 and older.

My office is ready to assist with applications and answer any questions you may have about the program.

To find out more visit [www.aging.pa.gov](http://www.aging.pa.gov) or call my office.

## LIHEAP is Open for Applications

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is now open for applications. If you or someone you know needs help paying your home energy costs, you might be eligible for assistance. Visit <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/LIHEAP.aspx> for more information, or reach out to my office.



## Do You Have Unclaimed Property?

The Pennsylvania Treasury holds \$3.8 billion in unclaimed property that needs to be returned to the rightful owners!

One in 10 Pennsylvanians has unclaimed property waiting for them. To find out if you are one of them, visit [www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property](http://www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property) or call my office – we can help you search the database.

A dark blue graphic with yellow and white text. At the top, it says "PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE APPLICATIONS OPEN". Below that, it says "OLDER AND DISABLED PENNSYLVANIANS CAN NOW APPLY FOR REBATES ON PROPERTY TAXES OR RENT PAID IN 2021". At the bottom, it provides the website "revenue.pa.gov/ptrr". There are also icons of a dollar sign and a house with an 'R' inside.

## The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is Open for Applications for Rent and Taxes Paid in 2021

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is now accepting applications for rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2021. The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with disabilities 18 and older. Visit [www.revenue.pa.gov](http://www.revenue.pa.gov) and search for "Property Tax/Rent Rebate" for information on how to apply online. My office can also help you apply.

## Real ID Enforcement Postponed Until 2023

REAL ID enforcement has been postponed until May 3, 2023, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Starting that date, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, photo ID card, or another form of federally-acceptable identification (such as a valid passport or military ID) to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a federal building or military installation that requires ID.

REAL ID is optional for Pennsylvanians. Additional details are available at [penndot.gov/REALID](http://penndot.gov/REALID).

# Around the Community



Speaking with Children First PA calling for thorough and efficient public school funding. The toilet paper signifies how even the most basic necessities have become hard to come by in our schools.



With Governor and First Lady Wolf during work in Harrisburg on the budget.



Cooking while helping a shelter supper with The Bethesda Project at Old First Reformed UCC.



With Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation's John Chin at the Chinese New Year - Year of the Tiger Banquet.



This staff photo is from a vaccination clinic we co-hosted with other elected officials at Adaire Elementary.



Discussing the realities of maternal health during a hearing in Hershey.

## SPRING SHREDDING & E-RECYCLING

Saturday, March 19  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Fishtown Rec Center  
1202 E. Montgomery Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19125



Join Representative Mary Isaacson and Council President Darrell Clarke's offices to start spring off right with FREE shredding of personal information and recycling of used electronics! You will also be able to pick up a new recycling bin from Sanitation. Our offices are here to help you begin a responsible and sustainable spring cleaning.

**We look forward to seeing you on March 19th.**



State Rep. Mary Isaacson  
175th Legislative District  
(215) 803-3245 • @RepIsaacson  
www.RepMaryIsaacson.com

Council President  
Darrell Clarke  
5th Council District

Darrell.Clarke@phila.gov • (215) 686-3442





**STATE REP. MARY ISAACSON**

P.O. Box 202175  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2175

lpo.kd.0322

## Constitutional Amendments Are Many From Majority

Seemingly frustrated by their inability to get around the governor's veto pen for pet issues, the majority party in Harrisburg is now attempting to change the state constitution in its favor on issues as important and personal as health care and emergency response.

Repeated attempts to erect barriers to voting, to limit the power of the governor, and to rule by constitutional amendments placed carefully on low-turnout primary ballots would reduce the strength of our democracy as a "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

Instead, we should consider ways to invest in, renew, and celebrate our democracy. We must stop the Republican attempts to drastically alter our state constitution and the rights afforded to Pennsylvanians within it.



## Push to Join RGGI Making News in PA

With Pennsylvania set to join the rest of the Northeast in the carbon sequestration effort known as RGGI, or the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, I was proud to stand with Gov. Tom Wolf and his administration's intent to have PA join it this year by blocking an attempt in the General Assembly to override Pennsylvania's ability to do so.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is the first cap-and-trade program in the U.S. to limit carbon dioxide from the power sector. It promises to make Pennsylvania a leader in green emerging technologies and limit our pollution.

Pennsylvania is expected to join RGGI in the summer. I will keep you updated on this welcome development.



Check out here to hear more about the move to a green economy in PA.

