

News From State Representative

CHRISTINA SAPPEY

158th Legislative District | Chester County | Late Summer 2024

District Office: 698 Unionville Road | Kennett Square, PA 19348 | (484) 200-8264

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Dear Neighbor,

Well, another summer is in the books! We're now navigating the big shift from summer into fall routines. As I think of this transition, I think of you, your families, your children, and all the opportunities that lie ahead in the new season. One such opportunity is modeling for our children how we treat each other, particularly in this political season with its heightened emotions. Indeed, we can model civility for each other. It's impactful and contagious. Recently, I drove over one of our one-lane bridges. I always pray another car isn't coming over simultaneously, forcing me to back up. I came down the other side and waved to thank a waiting driver for their patience. Usually, drivers just look ahead when I do this, but this time the driver smiled and waved back. I experienced an instant serotonin boost, smiling the rest of my trip.

This fall, let's embrace our shared humanity. Let's show each other, and our children, the respect, civility and compassion we want for ourselves, regardless of the news cycle. I know we have this capacity, and it makes me so proud to serve you all!

Happy Fall!



PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Property taxes have concerned PA property owners for years. During my time in office, I've supported legislation to control these taxes and offer some relief, most notably expansion of the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program to include more taxpayers. Recently, in an effort to elevate the conversation on property tax relief, I have proposed legislation with my colleagues, Representatives O'Mara, Ciresi and Prokopiak, to amend the state constitution in order to permit property tax relief for homeowners who have lived in their homes for at least 10 years. Such a program would exempt or defer tax increases, even if their home assessment values increase over time.

This legislation, House Bill 2536, entitled Longtime Owner Occupant Programs (LOOPs), mirrors the program outlined in our state constitution for the cities of Philadelphia (Philadelphia County) and Pittsburgh (Allegheny County). It would expand this statute to include the 65 remaining counties in the state to permit municipalities to create their own LOOP programs.

The process of amending the state constitution requires passage of the bill by both House and Senate over the course of two consecutive legislative sessions, so this legislation has a way to go, but its introduction will hopefully get the issue of property tax relief off the back burner for the General Assembly.

SECRETARY MIKE CARROLL VISITS THE 158TH

Over the last several years, I have spoken with many of you to discuss the condition of our roads. We all share these roads and I agree they are in desperate need of attention. To bring high level focus on our local issues, I hosted Pennsylvania Transportation Secretary Mike Carroll in our district this June to tour our local roads and bridges and participate in a Town Hall meeting on this topic.

During our drive through the 158th, the Secretary took note of numerous issues and relayed them to his office and PennDOT District 6. Afterwards in the Town Hall meeting, I led a very frank conversation with attendees about the conditions of our roads, bridges, public transit, cyclists, how funding works and staffing levels. The Secretary and I both shared what is being done on the state government level to address these challenges, including additional funding in the 2024-25 state budget.

Since the Town Hall, PennDOT has been able to address some of the road issues that were raised, including repairs to Kaolin Road in Kennett Township, Northbrook Road repairs and installation of new guard rails by Brandywine Canoe company and a plan for cutting/trimming vegetation along state roads throughout the district. On U.S. 30 Bypass, litter pickup was completed on the eastern end. There will be an evaluation of the western end and litter pickup will be completed if needed. Inlet clearing and debris removal has also been completed for U.S. 30 Bypass.

I will continue my work to bring attention to our area and am grateful to Secretary Carroll for taking the time to listen. Remember, if you have a specific roadway concern, you can contact my office at 484-200-8264, email RepSappey@pahouse.net, contact PennDOT directly by calling 1-800-FIX-ROAD or visiting www.customercare.penndot.gov.



BALANCED STATE BUDGET PASSED

The 2024-2025 state budget, which I voted for, was passed earlier this summer and is the product of bipartisan effort and collaboration on the part of both the state House and Senate. Historic investments in agriculture, education, economic development, disability waivers, mental health, law enforcement and violence prevention, workforce development, affordable housing, infrastructure and much more act on some of our state's most pressing needs and prepare for the future.

You can read more about the budget here: www.budget.pa.gov

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Governor Shapiro signs Telemedicine Legislation into Law

A years-long collaboration with House Insurance Committee staff and industry representatives on legislation to require insurance coverage of telemedicine has finally been signed into law. This was particularly important during the pandemic, and in the ensuing years it has grown in popularity. My legislation (HB 2170) passed in the House this Spring, in parallel with similar Senate legislation. Ultimately, SB 739 was passed by both chambers and was signed into law as Act 42.

I am gratified that we were able to get this legislation over the finish line to benefit so many Pennsylvanians in a bipartisan and collaborative manner.



Permanent Office of Child Advocate Passes House

Legislation I introduced this term creating a permanent Office of Child Advocate passed the House in June with bipartisan support.

The Office of Child Advocate (OCA) was created by executive order in 2019 due to complaints of abuse of children in congregate care facilities. The OCA currently operates in PA, but could potentially be dissolved by a future administration. Pennsylvania is one of a few states that do not have a permanent ombudsman or advocate for children in place. House Bill 2175 would make the OCA a permanent, independent agency, housed in the Department of Human Services. It also outlines the authority and scope of the office's duties, including educating and raising awareness of child abuse prevention; advocating for and advancing the interests of children; collaborating with state and county agencies; conducting facility visits; participating in fatality or near fatality review teams; and evaluating state and local complaint processes.

There is nothing more important than the health, safety and welfare of our children. I have worked with numerous child welfare stakeholders, law enforcement, state agencies, Senators and the Shapiro administration to get this crucial legislation right. It's for this reason it has been endorsed and supported statewide.

House Bill 2175 is now in the Senate Aging and Youth Committee for consideration.

Amending the PA Dog Law to Help our Boarding Kennels

Many PA dog boarding kennels are located near bordering states, which has subjected them to our PA Dog Law statute regarding animals entering our state. While the intent of this law has been to protect people and animals, it was burdensome to these kennels. After months of bipartisan work with colleagues in both the House and Senate and the PA Department of Agriculture, we were able to amend this law to make it easier for clients from border states to board a dog with a PA kennel, all while including safety measures. It's important to note that this issue was raised by constituents to me and my colleagues that border other states. So, I congratulate these business owners on this win and give some high fives for their great self-advocacy to their elected representatives. We rely on your input to make government work better for all of us!



REAL ID TAKES EFFECT IN 2025

The federal REAL ID Act takes effect May 7, 2025, and puts in place new identification requirements for boarding domestic flights and entering federal facilities or military bases. REAL IDs are an optional state-issued driver's license. They are not required in order to drive, vote, access hospitals or post offices, or receive federal benefits.

There are three ways to apply for the REAL ID.

- 1. If your documents are pre-certified, you may apply online, and your REAL ID will be mailed to you.
- 2. Apply in person at a PennDOT Driver License Center to have your documents verified and then receive your REAL ID within 15 business days.
- 3. To receive your REAL ID immediately, apply in person at an official PennDOT Driver License/Real ID Center to have your documents verified. The closest REAL ID Centers to our area are in King of Prussia (143 S. Gulph Road) and Lancaster (2090 Lincoln Highway East).

For information on required documents and fees, please visit the PennDOT website at www.penndot.pa.gov/REALID or call my district office at 484-200-8264.

2024 GENERAL ELECTION

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES



Last Day to Register to Vote



**Last Day to Request a Mail-in
or Absentee Ballot**



Election Day *Polls open from 7AM – 8PM*

**All completed mail-in ballots must
be received by Chester County
Voter Services by 8:00pm**

For any election related questions, including finding your precinct, registration or applying for a mail-in ballot, please contact **Chester County Voter Services at 610-344-6410** or by visiting chesco.org/156/voter-services.



Senator
**Carolyn
Comitta**
Serving Chester County



CHRISTINA SAPPEY
★ STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★

FREE SHREDDING & E-RECYCLING EVENT



Saturday September 7th
10am-1pm



PennDOT Chester County Stockpile
1649 Telegraph Road,
West Chester, PA 19382

This event is for **individuals**, no businesses please.

Electronics Recycling Accepted Items:

Computer hard drives, CPU's, LCD (non-glass screen) and CRT (glass screen) TV's & monitors, printers, computer accessories.
Any small household appliances with a plug.

Items that will NOT be accepted:

Air conditioners, dehumidifiers (anything with Freon)

Document Recycling:

There is a three (3) box limit per car.
Only paper will be accepted.
Please do not bring binders, binder clips, or books.



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IMPORTANT DISTRICT OFFICE UPDATE

Starting in September 2024, my district office will be closed **the third Thursday of each month** in order to allow for focused staff work time on constituent casework and projects. If you have an urgent need on these days, please contact my Capitol office at 717-772-9973.





CHRISTINA SAPPEY
★ STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★

698 Unionville Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348



*Versión en español de este
boletín disponible aquí.*

lpo.kg.0824

REP. SAPPEY'S 2024 FALL EVENTS

September 7, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
**FREE SHRED AND ELECTRONICS
RECYCLING EVENT**

Hosted with Senator Comitta.

Please see graphic for details

September 26, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
COFFEE & CONVERSATION*

*RSVP Required | Scan QR code or
contact my office to RSVP.

Kennett Library

320 East State Street | Kennett Square 19348



November 8, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
**ANNUAL VETERANS
RECOGNITION BREAKFAST**

***RSVP Required**

Kennett Square VFW Post 5467

704 W. Baltimore Pike | Kennett Square 19348



**Any questions? Please contact
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