







# STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# Liz Hanbidge

## 61ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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Dear Friends,

It is undeniable that the COVID-19 crisis has affected every one of us in innumerable ways. It has led to massive unemployment and widespread economic instability. It has magnified the injustices inherent in our economy, our education system, and our health care system. While it has become increasingly clear that the novel coronavirus will remain a very real part of our lives for the foreseeable future, our commonwealth remains steadfast in the fight against it.

Pennsylvania's aggressive mitigation measures have saved thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of lives and have allowed our commonwealth to fare significantly better than the vast majority of the country. I do not believe Pennsylvania has been flawless in its response to this crisis. However, I do believe that the administration and our Department of Health have worked tirelessly to keep workers and families as safe as possible in the face of this unprecedented threat.

Experts and officials agree that universal masking is one of our strongest weapons in the fight against COVID-19. Please help in this fight by wearing a mask in all public spaces and continuing to engage in social distancing whenever possible. You can also help the community by helping neighbors who are high-risk in gathering supplies, donating blood, or volunteering at one of our local food banks.

As we continue to navigate the new normal of living alongside the threat of COVID-19, our country and commonwealth are going through a crucial period of reflection and change. From ensuring that we have the tools we need to beat COVID-19 in every corner of our commonwealth to addressing systemic injustice at its core, it's going to take strong political will, as well as open hearts and minds, to mount a truly just recovery for all Pennsylvanians.

I am eager to engage in conversation about the ways our legislature can continue to rise to these challenges and look forward to working with the entire General Assembly to ensure that our recovery remains focused on advancing economic and social justice across our commonwealth. I will continue to focus on supporting the administration in its data-driven response and forwarding legislation that will support our frontline and essential workers, secure our food supply and fortify our small businesses, assist those struggling without employment, health care or child care, and – above all – protect my constituents' health and safety to the best of my ability.

Best,

*Liz Hanbidge*



Speaking on House Bill 2246, sponsored by myself and Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler, at our rally for Informed Consent on Jan. 14, 2020.

# COVID-19 RESOURCES AND U

## LOCAL TESTING SITES

Visit [montcopa.org/covid-19](https://montcopa.org/covid-19) to find a Montgomery County COVID-19 testing location near you.

➔ Montgomery County Aging Services offers tests to anyone who needs or wants to be tested whether they have symptoms or not.

**421 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446**

Monday/Wednesday/Friday: 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Tuesday/Thursday: 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Call **610-970-2937** to schedule an appointment at any of six locations. Phone registration opens at 8:30 a.m. each day & lines will remain open until all appointments slots are filled for the day.



## EMERGENCY FOOD ACCESS

➔ **Manna on Main Street**  
606 E. Main St., Lansdale  
(215) 855-5454  
[mannaonmain.org](https://mannaonmain.org)

➔ **Cornucopia Cupboard**  
449 E. Walnut St., North Wales  
(215) 661-8800  
[lambpa.com](https://lambpa.com)

Apply for the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** benefits today at [compass.state.pa.us](https://compass.state.pa.us) and join the 1.8 million Pennsylvanians who use SNAP to keep food on the table!

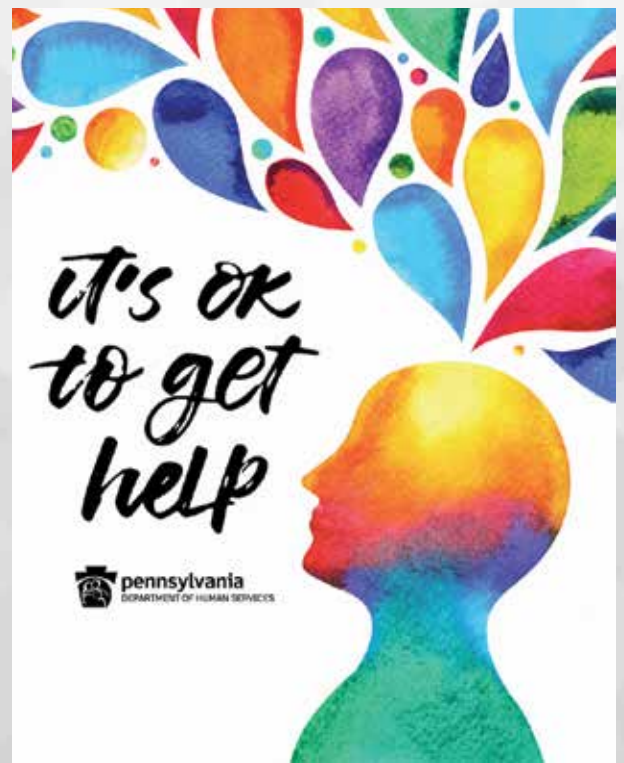
## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

According to a recent study by the Kaiser Family Foundation, nearly half of adults in the U.S. reported that their mental health has been negatively impacted due to COVID-19, with the burden likely to continue even as the pandemic's threat diminishes. Please know that community support is available. You are not alone.

For local resources for you or your loved ones, visit [namimontcopa.org/support](https://namimontcopa.org/support) or [montcopa.org/1219/MentalBehavioralHealth](https://montcopa.org/1219/MentalBehavioralHealth).

For crisis intervention, contact Montgomery County Mobile Crisis at **1-855-634-HOPE (4673)** or **text 741741** to connect with the Crisis Text Line's trained Crisis Counselors, both available 24/7.

SAMHSA National Substance Abuse Helpline: 1-800-662-HELP (4357)



## EDUCATION

It is undeniable that planning for the coming school year will be a complex and an emotional process. As always in education, there is no one-size-fits-all answer for supporting the physical and mental health of every child. I am grateful for the dedication, creativity, and transparency both North Penn and Wissahickon School Districts have brought to the planning process, and I am eager to support district leaders as they navigate these difficult decisions.

Please keep in mind that plans for this school year will vary between districts. For the most up-to-date information, I encourage you to visit the districts' websites/social media pages:



### North Penn School District:

NPenn.org  
Facebook: /northpennsd  
Twitter: @NPSD



### Wissahickon School District:

Wsdweb.org  
FB: /wissahickonschooldistrict  
Twitter: @WissahickonSD



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & CHILD ABUSE INTERVENTION

As our community reenters public spaces, the ability to begin physically reconnecting with one another will present a critical opportunity for intervention. In your interactions with friends, family and neighbors, please take care to note any evidence of abuse or neglect.

- ➔ Report suspected child abuse:
  - Call the PA Department of Human Services' **ChildLine at (800) 932-0313**.
  - Report online at **www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis**.
  - For legal support for children experiencing abuse or neglect, connect with the **Montgomery Child Advocacy Project at (610) 279-1219**.
- ➔ Find domestic violence support, available 24/7:
  - Laurel House: 1-800-642-3150, **laurel-house.org**
  - The Women's Center of Montgomery County: 1-800-773-2424, **wcmontco.org**
  - Victim Services Center of Montgomery County: 1-888-521-0983, **victimservicescenter.org**

## SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

The legislature has allotted \$225 million in federal CARES Act funding to help small business owners offset the severe financial impacts brought on by COVID-19 through the new Small Business Assistance Grant Program. The program awards grants of up to \$50,000 to small businesses with 25 or fewer employees. Applications are currently being accepted for future rounds of funding. Visit **pabusinessgrants.com**.

## RENT/MORTGAGE RELIEF

Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency is accepting applications for rent and mortgage assistance from now until 9/30/2020. Rent relief up to \$750/month and mortgage relief up to \$1000/month will be available to qualified applicants. Learn more & apply at **www.phfa.org**. Rent relief is also available to Montgomery County residents at **www.montcopa.org/RentRelief**. For further guidance, contact a Navicate from the Office of Community Connections at **(610) 278-3929**.



## UPDATES FROM THE PA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

I understand that it can be difficult to keep up with the most current and reliable guidance when it comes to mitigating the spread of COVID-19. I've compiled some highlights on guidance currently in place (as of Aug. 5) and best practices to help protect our community from a dangerous resurgence. These guidelines are subject to, and will likely, change over the course of the coming weeks and months. For the most accurate, up-to-date guidance, I encourage you to visit [health.pa.gov](http://health.pa.gov) or [montcopa.org/covid-19](http://montcopa.org/covid-19).

- ➔ **Masks are required in all public places.** If going to a restaurant or bar, your mask may be removed once seated, but it must be worn when traveling through the establishment.
- ➔ **Restaurants and bars may operate only at 25% capacity for indoor dining.** Outdoor dining is still permitted with social distancing precautions.
- ➔ **Telework must continue where possible.**



- ➔ **To-go alcohol sales are still permitted.** Alcohol only can be served for on-premises consumption when in the same transaction as a meal.
- ➔ **Indoor gatherings must consist of less than 25 people.**
- ➔ **Outdoor gatherings must consist of less than 250 people.**



## STATE LEGISLATURE PASSES TEMPORARY BUDGET

Because the emergency funding needed to manage COVID-19 in Pennsylvania restricted the revenue necessary to put a sound, realistic budget together for the full 2020-21 fiscal year, Governor Wolf signed a five-month stop-gap budget to be revisited in November. This budget includes federal CARES Act funding to help protect those most vulnerable to the virus, defend worker protections for essential employees, and support our education system.

Earmarked from PA's \$2.6 billion CARES Act funding:

- ➔ \$632M for vulnerable populations (including long-term care centers and nursing homes, which have been impacted the most by COVID-19)
- ➔ \$150M toward worker protections
- ➔ \$870M for business and local services relief
- ➔ \$347M for schools
- ➔ \$30M to health care initiatives
- ➔ \$225M toward food and shelter resources

# STILL WORKING FOR YOU!

Despite social distancing and stay-at-home orders, I never stopped working for you! Here's a glimpse of how my staff and I have been serving the residents of the 61st Legislative District since the COVID-19 public health crisis began in March:

**1,283**  
constituent  
calls



**651**  
feedback  
emails



**5,279**  
mail-in ballot  
applications



**110**  
virtual  
meetings



I've also co-sponsored and authored multiple pieces of legislation to help our commonwealth cope with COVID-19. Here are some bills that I've drafted or signed onto, what they seek to achieve, and their current status:

## FOOD SECURITY AND SAFETY

→ **House Bill 2592:** Would establish a special fund under our state's Agriculture Rapid Response Disaster Readiness Account to provide grants to feed sellers and livestock producers financially impacted by COVID-19.

**Last action:** Referred to the House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee on June 15, 2020.

→ **House Bill 2492:** Would establish guidance to protect food production employees by addressing social distancing within the workplace, paid leave, attendance policies, and protocols for protecting and notifying employees should a coworker becomes ill.

**Last action:** Referred to the House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee on May 12, 2020.

## ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEE PROTECTIONS

→ **House Bill 2493:** Would create guidance on best practices to protect grocery store and pharmacy workers to limit the exposure and spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19.

**Last action:** Referred to the House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee on May 12, 2020.

→ **House Bill 2396:** Would ensure that workers would not be required to use sick, vacation, personal or any other accrued paid-time off or contractual-time off if they contract an infectious disease that requires hospitalization, quarantine, isolation or other controlled measures.

**Last action:** Referred to the House Labor & Industry Committee on April 13, 2020.

## PROVIDING RELIEF TO SMALL BUSINESSES

→ **House Bill 2703:** Would delay the registration fee that Pennsylvania businesses must annually pay and provide critical economic relief that our businesses need to stay afloat.

**Last action:** Referred to the House Commerce Committee on July 30, 2020.

→ **House Bill 2369:** Would direct the Department of Community and Economic Development to administer low- to no-interest emergency loans to businesses who were severely impacted by COVID-19.

**Last action:** Unanimously passed the House and referred to the Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee on June 22, 2020.

## IN-PERSON CONSTITUENT SERVICES RESUMED BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Over the last several months, my staff have been managing casework for thousands of constituents via phone and email. Although my office remains closed to walk-ins, if my staff is unable to assist you virtually, one-on-one in-person appointments can be arranged for your convenience.

### Please note the following:

- All constituents must wear a mask and are asked to bring their own pen.
- Weather permitting, appointments will be taken outside at our picnic table with social distancing precautions.
- Our secure lockbox will remain available for document drop-off.

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Representative Liz Hanbidge

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# VOTING BY MAIL

In June's primary election, all Pennsylvanians had the option to vote by mail for the first time. Social distancing precautions fueled an unexpected surge in mail-in ballot requests with more than 1.8 million PA voters requesting mail ballots, and majority of Montgomery County voters – about 126,000 – voting by mail.

County officials are preparing for November's general election by addressing the expected large turnout, another likely surge in mail-in ballots, and equipment upgrades to help the counting process. I strongly encourage everyone to utilize this safe, secure, and convenient option. Applying for a mail-in ballot is easy and only takes about 5 minutes!

## APPLYING FOR A MAIL-IN BALLOT

Have a driver's license or PennDOT-issued ID?

**YES**

Visit [VotesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot](https://www.votespa.com/ApplyMailBallot)

Answer 3 questions (you can say NO to all of them)

Enter name, birthday, contact info + PA driver's license/PennDOT ID #

Submit address + choose if you want to remain on the mail-in ballot list for future elections

E-sign your application, review + submit!

**NO**

Contact my office for a paper application!

Questions? We can assist with any concerns that come up during the application process

My office can even mail your application for you

# VISIT VOTESPA.COM

**OCT 19** Last day to register to vote for the general election.  
[register.votespa.com](https://register.votespa.com)

**OCT 27** Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot.  
[votespa.com/ApplyMailBallot](https://votespa.com/ApplyMailBallot)

**NOV 3** Voted mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by the county by 8pm.  
[votespa.com/County](https://votespa.com/County)

**NOV 3** General election day. Polls are open from 7am to 8pm.  
[votespa.com/Polls](https://votespa.com/Polls)