



SUMMER
2020

State Representative | 53rd Legislative District

STEVE MALAGARI

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Dear Neighbor,

I hope you are all staying healthy and well during this historic time. We've made significant progress over the last several months – from being an epicenter to the novel coronavirus to entering the Green Phase and keeping cases low in Montgomery County – so I sincerely thank you for your patience, determination and resiliency. Thanks to all your sacrifices, we were able to greatly reduce the virus' presence in Pennsylvania and save countless lives. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention even recognized our commonwealth for successfully flattening the curve.

Although my office closed for in-person constituent services between March and June, my staff and I never stopped working for you, whether remotely, or from one of our two district office locations in Lansdale and Souderton.

In fact, just in the first half of 2020, my team provided 3,747 services to 9,782 community members. Meanwhile, I authored several COVID-19-related pieces of legislation to benefit property taxpayers, food workers, small business owners and their employees.

Know that my staff and I are here and ready to assist you every step of the way. Please reach out to my office with any state-related questions or concerns.




In the first half of 2020 my team provided **3,747 services to 9,782 people.** Services like:




HAPPENING NOW

Assisting almost 700 unemployment cases

Hosted hundreds of attendees at my 2020 forums in Jan. + Feb.



2020 STATS



Checked in with 1,000 seniors during COVID-19 shutdown



Helped 120 seniors get SEPTA Key cards in January + February

ASSISTING WITH STATE RESOURCES

My team can help you navigate many state programs and resources. Some matters we can help with include:

- Unemployment compensation PUA
- Property Tax and Rent Rebate program
- Free notary services for state documents
- SEPTA Senior ID cards
- Birth and death certificates
- Help you find and collect unclaimed money in your name through the Pennsylvania Treasury
- Send state forms for you to their appropriate departments in Harrisburg to expedite processing
- Voter registration, absentee ballot, and vote by mail applications
- Help with obtaining and completing state forms

For most cases, such as requests regarding unemployment, my team can help by phone at 267-768-3671 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

We are accepting limited in-person appointments on a case-by-case basis. Those interested in scheduling an in-person appointment can do so by calling my office or contacting me through my website, www.RepMalagari.com. If you arrange an appointment, please wear a mask/face covering for the duration of your visit.

Help for small businesses

I've spoken with several small business owners in our community and I know that many have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. That's why I've been fighting in Harrisburg to pass bills that would help area businesses overcome the financial impacts brought on by the pandemic.

In May I proposed a resolution urging Congress to extend the Paycheck Protection Program from the eight-week maximum for loan forgiveness to a sixteen-week minimum and advocated for workable solutions during the mitigation restrictions.

I also authored a bill to earmark grant funding for our local breweries, distilleries, and wineries. This bill is part of a whole package of legislation to support the small businesses in our communities, including grants for small community restaurants, removing red tape, waiving fees and tax penalties, and improving insurance coverage during a disaster emergency.

Pennsylvania's Small Business Assistance Grant Program currently allocates \$225 million in federal CARES Act funding to help business owners offset the financial hardships brought on by COVID-19. This program is awarding grants of up to \$50,000 to small businesses with 25 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees or fewer. Funding may be used toward payroll costs, mortgage interest, rent or utility payments, or other COVID-19-related expenses, such as purchasing specialized equipment, barriers, or employee training to ensure compliance with state and federal CDC guidelines for reopening.

During the first round of funding, I hosted a virtual town hall for our local companies to assist them in applying for this funding. To learn more about this particular program, visit <https://pabusinessgrants.com>.



Police reform bills pass Pennsylvania House, signed into law

Following calls from across the state and nation seeking police and justice reform focused on communities of color, my colleagues from the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus and I advocated for action on police reform bills that were stalled in committee. Our calls – backed by the public’s demands – finally sparked a House Judiciary hearing in late Spring 2020, and two of these bills were approved unanimously in the House and Senate. On July 14, Gov. Wolf signed these pieces of legislation into law:

- **H.B. 1910** – A police training bill that mandates in-service training on the use of force, de-escalation techniques, cultural awareness and bias; and amended to include training on trauma-informed care, specifically PTSD.
- **H.B. 1841** – A bill that expands background checks for police and other law enforcement officers, which was amended to create a confidential repository of employment records relating to misconduct.

NEW:

TWO OFFICE LOCATIONS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

I’m proud to announce that my team is now even more accessible to you! With the opening of an additional office location in Souderton, we can better assist you. To make an appointment at either my Lansdale or Souderton office, just call my team on 267-768-3671.

*My Souderton office is located at 103B N. Main St.
and my Lansdale office is 100 W. Main St., Suite 110.*



SERVING ON THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, PROTECTING FOOD SERVICE EMPLOYEES

Earlier this year, I was appointed to serve on the House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee. House committees are bipartisan groups of state representatives from throughout the commonwealth, and we vote on bills relevant to the respective committees' topic. If the bill clears its committee, it then heads to the House chamber for a full vote.

Some matters we vote on in the House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee include conservation efforts, food security, food safety and animal health. Shortly after my appointment as a committee member, the COVID-19 crisis hit Pennsylvania.

As the pandemic drastically impacted Pennsylvania's supply of food readily available, I was able to quickly draft legislation that would ensure Pennsylvania's food processing and protein facilities had the necessary protections in place for their employees so they could continue operating and supplying people with food. My House Bill 2492 sought to establish guidance to protect these essential employees, which addressed social distancing within the workplace, paid leave, attendance policies, and protocols for protecting and notifying employees should a coworker become ill.

I also co-sponsored House Bill 2435 which would provide worker protections for food packers and processors. The bill seeks to establish a grant program that would pay for protective equipment, physical barriers, hand washing stations, enhanced sanitation efforts and medical monitoring all to protect these workers. This bill passed the House unanimously and is now awaiting consideration in the Senate.

As we continue to wade through the public health crisis, I'll be advocating to protect essential employees and all vulnerable Pennsylvanians.

I volunteered with Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Garden of Health Food Bank to help distribute over 500 meals in just one day! I also coordinated meetings with area school districts, Keystone Opportunity Center and Manna on Main Street to ensure that our district was able to distribute resources effectively.



Bringing home over \$3 million in grants

One of my jobs as your representative is ensuring that your taxpayer dollars return to the district or region to improve life for residents. Therefore, I'm happy to share the news of the following grants:

- \$100,000 awarded to Salford Township to purchase an additional 9 acres for White's Mill Preserve.

- \$61,051 awarded to eight area fire and EMS companies for facilities work, equipment purchase, debt reduction and training.

- \$5,625 awarded to the Mennonite Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania for general operating support.

- \$147,010 awarded to Family Services of Montgomery County to expand the Positive Parenting Program.

- \$99,997 awarded to Montgomery County Children's Advocacy Center's Mission Kids program to continue family advocacy work.

- \$2,997 awarded to Montgomery County Conservation District for their Conservation and Water Pollution Prevention Workshop for homeowners.

- \$1,093,333 awarded to Hatfield Borough to replace defective sewers on North Main and West Broad Streets that were causing sinkholes.

- \$3,000 awarded to Souderton Area School District for a new plant science course for high school students using a campus greenhouse.

- \$83,070 awarded to Lansdale's Numa Foods LLC to purchase and install several pieces of milk processing equipment.

- \$590,584 awarded to Franconia Sewer Authority to install and upgrade sewer equipment for the Morwood Road project.

- \$323,570 awarded to Lansdale Borough to upgrade storm sewer systems along Laurel Lane.

School safety grants from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency awarded to three area school districts:

- Souderton Area School District: \$460,437

- North Montco Technical Career Center: \$150,000

- North Penn School District: \$45,000



Before COVID-19 entered our commonwealth, I celebrated Read Across America Day with the students of Franconia Elementary School – part of Souderton School District.



State Representative

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DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate application deadline has been extended to Dec. 31, 2020. Applications are open to residents age 65 or older; widows and widowers age 50 or older; and people with disabilities age 18 or older who meet the specific income requirements. Due to financial hardships brought on by the pandemic, rebates will be processed and distributed on a first-in, first-out basis. Eligible Pennsylvanians can request an application online at www.revenue.pa.gov or by contacting my office.

Also, I want to update you on legislation that I've sponsored which aims to help property taxpayers. House Bill 2460 would extend the discount period during which school property taxpayers may pay their property taxes at the discounted rate by one month and extend the face value period before any penalty would be imposed until December 31, 2020. As one of the largest tax bills to our residents, I believe that this needs to be enacted to help the millions of Americans financially impacted by COVID-19. This legislation is currently awaiting a vote in the House chamber.

Homeowners Receive:

<u>Income</u>	<u>Max Rebate</u>
\$0 - \$8,000	\$650
\$8,001 - \$15,000	\$500
\$15,001 - \$18,000	\$300
\$18,001 - \$35,000	\$250

Renters Receive:

<u>Income</u>	<u>Max Rebate</u>
\$0 - \$8,000	\$650
\$8,001 - \$15,000	\$500