



STATE REPRESENTATIVE **Dan Deasy**

27TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

FALL 2020

DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN, LIQUOR CONTROL COMMITTEE

www.RepDeasy.com • /RepDeasy • @RepDeasy

WEST END: 436 S. Main St., Suite 100 • Pittsburgh, PA 15220 • 412-928-9514 • Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. • By appointment.

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PAUSING TO REMEMBER THE IMPORTANCE OF LABOR IN OUR REGION AND COUNTRY

Earlier this month, we celebrated Labor Day. This holiday originated on Sept. 5, 1882, when the Central Labor Union of New York City fought to create a day off for working citizens. Oregon was the first state to designate Labor Day as an official state holiday in 1887. Over the next three years, a handful of other states followed, including Pennsylvania. On June 28, 1894, the United States Congress passed an act designating Labor Day as a National Holiday, to be celebrated the first Monday of September of each year.

As a proud supporter of workers and workers' rights, here are a few related bills I have co-sponsored this session:

H.B. 898 – Ban the (criminal record) Box on Job Applications – This bill would prohibit any employer from inquiring about a criminal history until a conditional offer of employment has been made to the applicant. The bill would still allow employers, who are required by state or federal law to inquire about a criminal history, to do so at the appropriate and required time.

H.B. 1082 – Worker Safety Bill – This bill would extend federal Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA) protections to public sector workers in Pennsylvania. All workers deserve the right to work in an environment that is free from unnecessary health and safety hazards, including the public sector workers who have some of the most dangerous jobs in the Commonwealth.

H.B. 280 & H.B. 2424 – Unemployment Compensation Bills – **H.B. 280** would increase the time allotment to appeal the determination of an unemployment

Rep. Deasy discusses workers' rights with Darrin Kelly, President of the Allegheny County Labor Council earlier this year.



compensation claim from 15 days to 21 days. **H.B. 2424** would require the PA Department of Labor and Industry to create an electronic delivery method for PINs needed for the unemployment compensation system. Individuals would need to select the option of electronic delivery during the initial application process. Traditional mailing of the PIN would remain the default delivery method.

H.B. 422 – Building Code Official “Trainee” Program – This bill would create a building code official “trainee” program to ensure we have a sufficient number of building code officials in the future. The number of certified inspectors and plans examiners has decreased in PA over the last few years from over 4,200 to less than 2,500. We must act now to ensure we have skilled and certified inspectors to fill positions down the road.

H.B. 1040 – Discrimination and Harassment Training – This bill would amend the Human Relations Act to require employers to conduct annual interactive discrimination and harassment training for all employees, interns, and volunteers. Additional training would also be required for supervisors and managers on the prevention of discrimination in the workplace.

BUDGET *update*

This year's budget process was disrupted by the COVID-19 health crisis. Extensions to tax deadlines created uncertainty in 2020-21 fiscal year revenue projections. For the government to continue operation, the legislature passed a six-month spending plan that carries the state at 2019-20 fiscal levels through November, at which time we will reevaluate and revise the budget. **Education funding was funded for the entire 2020-21 academic year at the same funding allocation as last year.**

The current budget consists of state funding, as well as \$2.6 billion in federal funding from the CARES Act. The CARES funding is designated as follows:

- **\$980 million** for vulnerable populations, including long-term care centers and nursing homes.
- **\$870 million** for business and local services relief.
- **\$347 million** for schools, \$300 million of which is being used to make up for declining gaming revenue that annually supports school property tax relief for homeowners.
- **\$225 million** toward food and shelter resources, such as the mortgage and rental assistance program and additional funding for food banks and pantries.
- **\$150 million** for worker protections, such as child care, paid sick, family and/or medical leave and student loan forgiveness.
- **\$30 million** to health care initiatives, such as community-based health centers and vaccine research.

IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BILLS

I believe we must do all that we can to protect and preserve our environment for our children and all future generations. To that end, I have co-sponsored a number of bills addressing key environmental issues, including the following:

H.B. 139 – Creating Growing Greener III

This legislation represents a Growing Greener III proposal that would provide \$315 million in annual investments for environmental conservation, recreation, and preservation projects across the Commonwealth. Funding for the Growing Greener program has decreased from an estimated average of \$200 million annually in the mid-2000s to \$57 million, a 75 percent reduction. The goal of this bill is to establish a Growing Greener III framework that the governor and legislature can support to renew this critical program and ensure it continues long into the future.



H.B. 2026 – Lead Levels in Playground Areas

This legislation would lower the acceptable limit of lead in playground soil in the Commonwealth to 200 ppm. This reduction would assist in helping families to keep their children safe and healthy.

H.B. 1176 – Plastic Straw Prohibition

Every day, the United States uses between 170 and 390 million single-use plastic straws. Once those straws are discarded, they find their way into landfills and our water supply. This legislation would prohibit establishments from offering plastic straws except upon the specific request of a customer.



H.B. 1611 – Creating a Plastic Pollution Task Force

Each year, Americans throw away 35 billion plastic water bottles and a total of nearly 30 million tons of plastic. In addition, more than 500 billion plastic bags are used worldwide annually. This legislation would create a Plastic Pollution Task Force in the Department of Environmental Protection to study a variety of issues, such as reducing the amount of plastic entering the waste stream, reducing and removing existing plastic pollution, and restoring ecosystems that have been damaged by plastic pollution.

DISTRICT OFFICE OPEN BY APPOINTMENT

My office is open by appointment only until further notice. To schedule an appointment, please call 412-928-9514 or email me at RepDeasy@pahouse.net. Please wear a mask (covering nose and mouth) to your appointment. If you are not feeling well or are running a fever, please call us and if we cannot assist you by phone, we will reschedule your in-person appointment.

Please note, if you have state-related paperwork to bring to our office for processing, you can drop it off through our mail slot.



House Liquor Control Committee lends helping hand

Throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, legislators have worked in bipartisan fashion to draft, adopt, and vote on key legislative measures that have had a significant impact on residents and small businesses.



As Democratic chairman of the House Liquor Control Committee, I've had the opportunity to do my part and advocate for legislation that would directly benefit Commonwealth businesses. Two legislative initiatives, Acts 21 and 29 of 2020, offered much-needed relief to restaurants and hotels, and eased the financial burdens of our volunteer fire companies and veterans organizations.

Act 21, specifically, has been beneficial to restaurants and hotels that were suffering significant losses due to COVID-19. Thanks to this law, restaurants and hotels were able to sell mixed drinks to go, offsetting initial losses due to a lack of visitors and patrons.

But our job is far from over. COVID-19 is still spreading across the state, affecting industries near and far, including the service industry. Due to this, House Democrats recently introduced a host of bills to counteract the impact the coronavirus has had on the service industry.

I'm honored to not only have a bill included in this legislative package, but to have a hand in something that is going to help our local businesses prosper during this trying time. My bill, **House Bill 2775**, would allow a licensee to expand outdoor seating to areas adjacent to or contiguous with the licensed property if they have a sign off or lease from the other property owner or municipality. In addition, this bill would allow many establishments to use temporary outdoor seating across the street from the business if within 1,000 feet.

It's House Democrats' hope that all the bills included in the legislative package quickly make their way through committee and to the House chamber for a vote. Providing protection for our service industry workers is essential, especially when they're putting their own health at risk as they continue to serve and provide for their communities.

2020 CENSUS - GET COUNTED!

Did you know that funding to help maintain and improve roads and bridges, as well as ensure access to quality public education and to maintain and improve public safety, is based on Census data? To ensure that funds are allocated to our region, please complete the 2020 Census. You can complete it online at <https://2020census.gov/> or by calling 1-844-330-2020.

VOTE BY MAIL

As I am sure you know, mail-in voting was implemented in Pennsylvania with great success for the first time in the June 2020 primary. This mail-in option was vital to ensuring access to voting for those who are immune-compromised or otherwise unable to get to the polls during this global pandemic. To apply for a mail-in ballot for the general election, go to www.votespa.com or call my office for an application to apply for a mail-in ballot.



Important dates to remember:

- October 19 – last day to register to vote
- October 27 – last day to apply for a mail-in ballot
- November 3 – General Election

WHAT CAN WE DO TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19?



WEAR A
CLOTH
MASK



PRACTICE
SOCIAL
DISTANCING



WASH
HANDS
OFTEN



Rep. Deasy and colleagues in the House chamber.

IN THE MIDST OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

There are resources available and my office is here to help!

As we strive to get through this public health crisis, the added stress brought on by COVID-19 can be challenging. If you or someone you know is struggling emotionally, please know there are resources available. Please refer to the list of resources below.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY *resources*

Resolve Crisis Response Network:
1-888-796-8226 (telephone crisis & mobile crisis services)

Allegheny County Peer Support Warm Line:
1-866-661-9276 (mental health or substance use concerns that are not a crisis level)

Center for Victims 24/7 Hotline:
1-412-392-8582

Homeless or in need of Shelter, including domestic violence: 1-866-730-2368

STATE AND NATIONAL *resources*

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

PA Crisis Text Line: Text "PA" to 741-741
(PA Dept. of Human Services)

PA Support & Referral Helpline:
1-855-284-2494 (TTY: 724-631-5600)
(PA Dept. of Human Services)

Veteran Crisis Line: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration: 1-800-662-4357
(www.samhsa.gov)

National Transgender Suicide Lifeline:
1-877-565-8860

In addition to the emotional toll, many have been hit with a devastating financial impact because of COVID-19. There are resources available and my office can assist in directing you. Below are some of programs and services available. For more information on any of these programs, please call my office at 412-928-9514.

Rent, Mortgage and Housing Assistance – The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency has programs available to renters and homeowners financially impacted by COVID-19. There are guidelines and criteria for these programs, and information is available at www.phfa.org.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – This program provides resources to purchase food. You can apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us or call my office for a paper application.

Women Infant & Children Food Program (WIC) – Through WIC, pregnant women, mothers, and caregivers of infants and young children learn about good nutrition to keep themselves and their families healthy. Visit www.pawic.com for more information and to learn how to apply.

Medical Assistance Program – Provides health insurance for low-income Pennsylvanians. You can apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us.

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) – Health insurance coverage for uninsured kids and teens who are not eligible or enrolled in Medical Assistance. You can apply online at www.chipcoverspakids.com.

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program – This program is open from June to November and provides low-income seniors with vouchers to purchase Pennsylvania-grown fruits, vegetables, and fresh cut herbs from approved farm markets and farm stands across PA. Visit <https://bit.ly/31IqTON> for an application.

Child Care Centers – Child care centers could reopen in counties that reached the yellow phase. They must adhere to certain restrictions and CDC guidelines. Parents and caregivers can visit www.dhs.pa.gov for information. If you are looking for child care, visit www.findchildcare.pa.gov.

Nursing Home Information – Many families have a loved one who lives in a nursing home or skilled nursing facility. COVID-19 has been devastating on a whole other level if you are in this situation because of restrictions on visits to keep residents safe and healthy. Those missing seeing a family member in these situations want to know what procedures facilities must adhere to, especially when they cannot see that process for themselves. If you are looking for information on current guidelines for such facilities, please refer to the PA Department of Health at www.health.pa.gov.

POLICE REFORM & RACIAL EQUITY

In June, the General Assembly enacted new laws as we continue to see racial intolerance and police use-of-force issues. While these are great new laws now on the books, it is only a starting point. **House Bill 1841** expands background checks for law enforcement officers and creates a confidential record repository relating to police misconduct. **House Bill 1910** mandates training on the use of force, de-escalation techniques, cultural awareness/bias and training on trauma-informed care, specifically post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).



Rep. Deasy met with direct care workers earlier this year to discuss increasing the wage for these crucial healthcare workers.

DEASY TO HOST OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS FALL

Join State Rep. Dan Deasy and Sen. Wayne Fontana as they co-host:

FREE PAPER SHREDDING & MEDICATION TAKE BACK EVENTS!

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020

8 a.m. – 11 a.m. *OR until shred trucks are full
Crafton Park • 167 W. Steuben St., Crafton, PA 15205

Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020

8 a.m. – 11 a.m. *OR until shred trucks are full
Green Tree Park • 905 Greentree Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220

OUR STAFF WILL BE WEARING MASKS AND GLOVES

**MUST STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE • PLEASE WEAR A MASK
RECYCLING MUST BE IN PAPER BAGS OR CARDBOARD BOXES
RECYCLING MUST BE IN YOUR TRUNK OR BACK OF VEHICLE**

MEDICATION TAKE BACK: In partnership with the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office - Project D.U.M.P., we will be collecting unused/unwanted prescription medication for safe disposal during all outdoor events.

OUTDOOR IMMUNIZATION CLINIC & MOBILE MINI SENIOR FAIR

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18

West End - City of Pittsburgh Parking
Alexander & S. Main Streets

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25

McKees Rocks - McKees Rocks Shopping Center
114 Chartiers Avenue

FRIDAY, OCT. 2

Crafton - Crafton Park • 167 W. Steuben Street

FRIDAY, OCT. 9

Beechview - St. Catherine of Siena Parking Lot
1915 Broadway Avenue



Rep. Deasy receiving his flu shot at last year's event.

Must register by calling my office at 412-928-9514.

~ DAY OF EVENT ~

- * Wear a mask
- * Stay in car until we call you
- * Receive vaccine
- * Receive resource bag

DEASY TO CO-HOST WEBINAR ON SCAMS AND IDENTITY THEFT

Tuesday, Sept. 29th • 2 p.m.

CALL OFFICE FOR DETAILS – 412-928-9514

Can't make it on the 29th? Webinar will be available for viewing on www.RepDeasy.com in October.



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KEEPING UP WITH DAN DEASY!

@RepDeasy

/RepDeasy

www.RepDeasy.com

STAY INFORMED!
SIGN UP FOR MY
EMAIL ALERTS!

RepDeasy@pahouse.net

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PIRATES BASEBALL DOESN'T LOOK OR SOUND THE SAME THIS SEASON

Pirates fans are missing the color commentary this season of the legendary Steve Blass who retired in 2019 after 60 years with the team. I was honored to host Mr. Blass, a constituent of mine, in Harrisburg last year to celebrate Steve Blass Day in Pennsylvania!

Blass and I were joined in Harrisburg by Pirates Broadcaster Greg Brown.



Congratulations to Sam Palombini and his wife DeDe, and thank you for your commitment to the Sheraden Community.

Thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Sheraden for your hard work and commitment to improving the neighborhood.

LANGLEY K-8 SCHOOL HOME OF THE EVELYN NEISER PLAYGROUND



Pittsburgh Public School District recognized long-time former board member Evelyn Neiser, who served on the board for more than 20 years.