



STATE REP.
JENNIFER
O'MARA
165TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



SEPTEMBER 2020

Constituent Services Office: 905 West Sproul Road • Suite 203 • Springfield, PA 19064

P: (610) 544-9878 • F: (484) 200-8270

Mon. – Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; with extended hours on Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and weekends by appointment only

Capitol Office: 28 B East Wing • P.O. Box 202165 • Harrisburg, PA 17120 • P: (717) 783-4090 • F: (717) 772-2284

OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY



Back to school What to expect

On July 16, Pennsylvania's Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine and Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera released guidance on how our K-12 schools can safely reopen for the fall and educate students for in-person learning.

Resuming school this year will be a complicated and emotional process. As always in education, there is no one-size-fits-all answer for supporting the physical and mental health of every child. With this in mind, this academic year will look different between school districts throughout our area and our commonwealth. For the most up-to-date information, I encourage you to visit your school district's website/social media pages, or contact your district or local school board director.

Specific questions may be directed to our area school districts. Reopening plans are also available on each school's website.

- **Marple Newtown SD:** (610) 359-4200 • www.MNSD.net
- **Springfield SD:** (610) 938-6000 • www.SSDCougars.org
- **Radnor Township SD:** (610) 688-8100 • www.RTSD.org

Reopening colleges and universities

Many of our commonwealth's colleges and universities are preparing to reopen this fall for either in-person or virtual instruction, or a mix of the two. For specific information, contact your higher education institution or visit their website/social media pages.

- **Delaware County Community College:**
 (610) 359-5000 • www.DCCC.edu

Dear Neighbor,

So far, 2020 has been a year unlike any other. Like many of you, I have felt anxious at times and fine at others. I've wondered if I was sick, worried about my loved ones and compulsively cleaned my home. I've also used this time to read some amazing books, learned how to use Zoom and most importantly, I have continued working tirelessly for you.

We are over halfway through this year that has been so trying and unnerving. Despite the circumstances, the unwavering patience, support and generosity of everyone in the 165th Legislative District have not ceased to amaze me. I saw our community come together like never before by sewing hundreds of masks and donating literal truckloads of food for those in need and pints of blood to replenish our commonwealth's dwindling supply – these are things to be proud of.

It is undeniable that we've made significant progress toward beating COVID-19, but our fight isn't over yet. We don't know what the fall will bring, and I know that can be scary to hear. However, I find reassurance in the fact that we know more about this virus than we did in the spring and we're better prepared to fight a potential second wave.

Although it might seem like this pandemic won't end, it will not last forever. We are going to overcome this and emerge stronger together. Hang in there, Delco, and remember that my office is here for you.

Sincerely,

State Rep. Jennifer O'Mara

**FOLLOW ME ON
 SOCIAL MEDIA**



@RepOMara

www.RepOMara.com

Honoring our fallen heroes on Memorial Day

I recognized Memorial Day with my husband, Brad, a combat veteran himself, by honoring some area servicemen and women who made the ultimate sacrifice. We spent our morning on May 25 replacing 144 American flags on tomb markers to honor the African-American Civil War veterans buried at Hayti Cemetery in Marple.



Veterans Day Update

Due to COVID-19 and the uncertainty of whether we can convene in person, we are not going to hold the annual Veterans Day Breakfast at Paxon Hollow Country Club this year. My staff and I still want to mark the occasion though and recognize our nation's heroes.

So this year, we are going to hold Veterans Day Breakfast On the Go! Veterans and their spouses will be asked to RSVP ahead of time so we can order meals. We're finalizing the details for this new celebration now, so please keep your eye out for updates from my district office. Be sure to sign up for my emails at www.repomara.com or call my office at 610-544-9878 with any questions.

It's not too late! Fill out the 2020 census

Every 10 years, the United States conducts a census. This count of U.S. residents helps determine how \$675 billion is spent by the federal government and how Pennsylvania is represented in Congress and in the General Assembly for the next 10 years.

You can help ensure that our community gets its fair share of funding by responding to the census either online at www.2020census.gov, by paper or over the phone.

Funding based on the census helps improve roads and bridges, access to quality public education and improves our public safety, so make sure you get counted!

VOTER'S GUIDE

Voting by mail

For the first time, Pennsylvanians were able to vote by mail this past June. This quickly became a popular option as we practiced strict social distancing measures, and over 1 million people voted by mail for the primary. Since we are unsure what the fall will bring with COVID-19, I strongly encourage everyone to utilize this safe, secure and convenient choice. If you'd prefer to vote in person, that option will still be available to anyone interested.

Applying for a mail-in ballot is easy and only takes about 5 minutes. Refer to the infographic to the right for instructions on how to get started.

Register to vote

If you are at least 18 years old or will be by Nov. 3, make sure you're registered to vote! If you're not, visit VotesPA.com/Register or scan this QR code. The application process takes about 15 minutes.

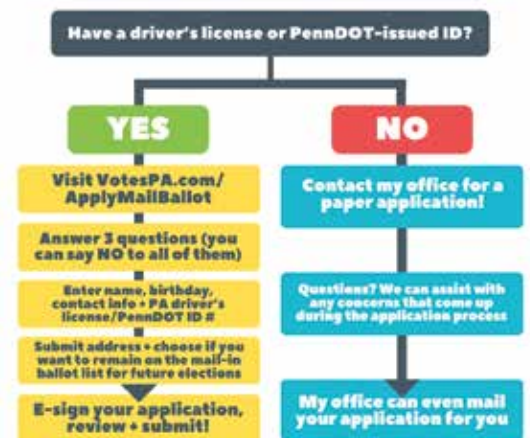
If you're not sure that you are registered at your current address, you can check at VotesPA.com/Status.



Polling place consolidation

Polling places may be consolidated again for the general election, so I encourage you to double check your polling place if you'll be voting in person on Nov. 3. For Election Day updates, you can follow me or the Delaware County Council on social media.

APPLYING FOR A MAIL-IN BALLOT



2020 GENERAL ELECTION IMPORTANT DATES

- OCT 19** Last day to register to vote for the general election. register.votesPA.com
- OCT 27** Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot. votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot
- NOV 3** Voted mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by the county by 8pm. votesPA.com/County
- NOV 3** General election day. Polls are open from 7am to 8pm. votesPA.com/Polls

VotesPA.com



Throughout the pandemic, I've been checking in with small businesses throughout our community so I can bring their needs to Harrisburg and show them my support.

Help for small businesses

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a serious toll on many small business owners. Please know that I've been working in Harrisburg to secure financial aid to help our area businesses stay afloat and survive this public health crisis.

In July, I hosted a webinar for business owners on how to apply for rescue funding and how to navigate the appropriate state systems. Some of those funding opportunities have since closed but others are still available, and new ones are in the works. I discuss all of the updates in real time on social media, so follow me there and read my bi-weekly emails. Subscribe to my emails at www.repomara.com.

Open programs as of Aug. 14 include:

- **SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans**

Low-interest loans still available to eligible small businesses and agricultural businesses with 500 or fewer employees. These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible.

More information is available www.sba.gov/page/disaster-loan-applications

- **Grant opportunities for non-profits**

A few grant programs are still open for non-profits in Delco. For more information, visit www.delcochamber.org/coronavirus.html#helpfullinks.

- **COVID-19 Relief Small Business Assistance Grant Program (second round)**

Businesses must apply through a partnering Community Development Financial Institution. Visit www.pabusinessgrants.com for resources, including an application checklist, eligibility details and a full list of participating CDFIs.

- **SBA Disaster loans for damaged or destroyed property**

Delco homeowners, renters and businessowners impacted by the recent instances of civil unrest in our area may be eligible for low-interest disaster loans through the SBA Disaster Loan Programs. Funds may be used to restore damaged or destroyed buildings, inventory, equipment and assets. Economic Injury Disaster Loans may also be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact.

Visit www.disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/s/ for more information.

Around the district



The productive conversation we had at my community forum on building unity in Morton Borough was the latest step to implementing positive change in our community. Thank you to all who attended and to the evening's panelists!



Commissioner Lisa Borowski, Rev. Dr. Howard from St. John AME, Officer Brady McHale from the Radnor Police Department and I were at Radnor's drive thru food drive in June; we loved seeing the community come together in this meaningful way!



Above: Cool Off with a Hero was a giant success! Thank you to the Morton Police Department and Morton Rutledge Fire Company for giving our community a much-needed night of socially distant fun and ice cream.

I hosted a spotted lanternfly virtual town hall on July 15. I'm in the process of scheduling more webinars and will announce them on my social media channels (tip: raise your device up to eye level with help from some of your favorite books for a more comfortable viewing experience).



On July 1, I donated blood at Stratford Friends School to benefit the American Red Cross of Southeastern Pennsylvania. Special thanks to my constituent Jill from Springfield for putting together two amazing blood drives with record turnout!



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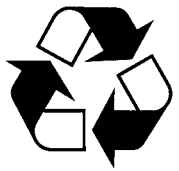
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Mark your calendar for these **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sept. 12: Shred, E-Data, & Drug Take Back Event



9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Springfield District Office
 905 W. Sproul Road

Bring personal documents to be shredded on-site and safely dispose unused electronics and medications at this free event!



Oct. 31: Shred & Drug Take Back Event with DA Stollsteimer

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Broomall Fire Company
 1 N. Malin Road

Bring documents containing personal information to be shredded on-site and any unneeded/expired prescription medications to be safely disposed. I'll be dressed in costume and handing out candy, so bring the kids along to get an early start on Halloween festivities!



Nov. 11: Veterans' Breakfast To Go Time and location TBD

For my second annual Veterans Day Breakfast, my staff and I will show our appreciation for Delco's veterans by hosting a breakfast to go! Those interested must RSVP to ensure we reserve a breakfast for you.



RSVP at: <https://bit.ly/2DHJEKk>

I'm in the process of planning a series of webinars.
 Follow me on social media @RepOMara for information as I finalize details!