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Dear Residents of SD-44:

Over the past month my office, like many of my colleagues, has been flooded with calls and emails from frustrated constituents who desperately want to register for the vaccine, but the current complicated process has proved difficult to navigate. We have taken on the task of helping to register many of our senior citizens who are unable to sign-up for a number of reasons.

Despite our calls for a statewide database that would allow our constituents to register for their COVID-19 vaccination, we have been told that restrictions of our Commonwealth do not permit us to create a statewide database of available appointments.



Senator Lindsey Williams, Senator Maria Collett, Senator Amanda Cappelletti, and I will be introducing [companion legislation](#) in the Senate that will allow Pennsylvanians to register themselves and their loved ones as willing recipients of the COVID-19 vaccine, provide proof of eligibility for a risk category, and provide how far they are willing to travel to receive their vaccination. For example, under this legislation, you and your spouse or significant other can register at the same time, add any risk categories such as smoking or pre-existing medical conditions, note first responder or essential worker status, and delineate how far you are willing to travel to secure a vaccine. Vaccine providers will then have to register to access this database and give priority to these individuals in making appointments available.

This legislation will reduce frustration, eliminate the need to spend hours searching for appointments and permit prioritization of vaccine distribution to our most vulnerable citizens.

If you need assistance, my office is here to help. You can send my team and I an email to senatormuth@pasenate.com or call us at (610) 792-2137. Follow the latest updates, be sure to like and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Senator Katie Muth

Racial & Gender Bias in the Court System

Last Friday, at the request of PA Legislative Black Caucus (PLBC) chair Rep. Donna Bullock (D- Philadelphia), vice-chair Rep. Summer Lee (D- Allegheny), and PLBC members Sen. Anthony H. Williams (D- Delaware/Philadelphia) and Sen. Sharif Street (D- Philadelphia), the Pennsylvania Senate and House Democratic Policy Committees held a virtual public hearing to discuss racial and gender bias in the court systems across the state.

Members have requested this hearing to build off the continuing efforts of the Philadelphia City Council and Councilmember Kenyatta Johnson to work toward justice in the Philadelphia court system.

In 2019, the Center for Urban and Racial Equity (CURE) released an equity organizational assessment of the First Judicial District (FJD) of Pennsylvania. The report found that there was a culture of nepotism, mistrust, and racial tension within the FJD. These feelings were particularly significant among women of color.

Being able to hold this hearing with the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus and elevating the stories of longstanding systemic racism and gender biases that have been harming communities and individuals for generations is one of the most important aspects of my job, particularly during Black History Month. I encourage every single one of my colleagues to make racial and gender equity a priority in all of our state chambers and institutions.

The full recording of this hearing can be found [here](#).

PA Senate & House Democrats Join PA Legislative Black Caucus for Hearing on Racial and Gender Bias in the Courts



Animal Welfare Cooperation Act

In 2017, Pennsylvania took enormous bi-partisan strides to crack down on animal cruelty in passing Libre's law, finally creating felony level penalties for egregious acts of animal cruelty.

The FBI has started tracking animal cruelty crimes as a risk factor for future violence against humans, and many studies have shown the link between animal cruelty and

domestic violence. Pennsylvania taking animal cruelty seriously is an important first step in protecting our most vulnerable citizens, however, we must make sure to do all we can to ensure its enforcement.

In the near future, Senator John Kane and I will be [introducing legislation](#) to grant the Attorney General concurrent jurisdiction on animal cruelty. This legislation is a companion bill to that of Rep. Mary Isaacson is similar to Senator Farnese's SB1073 from last session.

This legislation would permit the assistance of the Attorney General in prosecuting large scale animal cruelty cases in counties which have had little experience in doing so. The Attorney General's office would be able to both prosecute cases and train assistant district attorneys and humane police officers. Currently, the Attorney General is only able to step in on cases as referred by the District Attorney due to conflicts of interest.

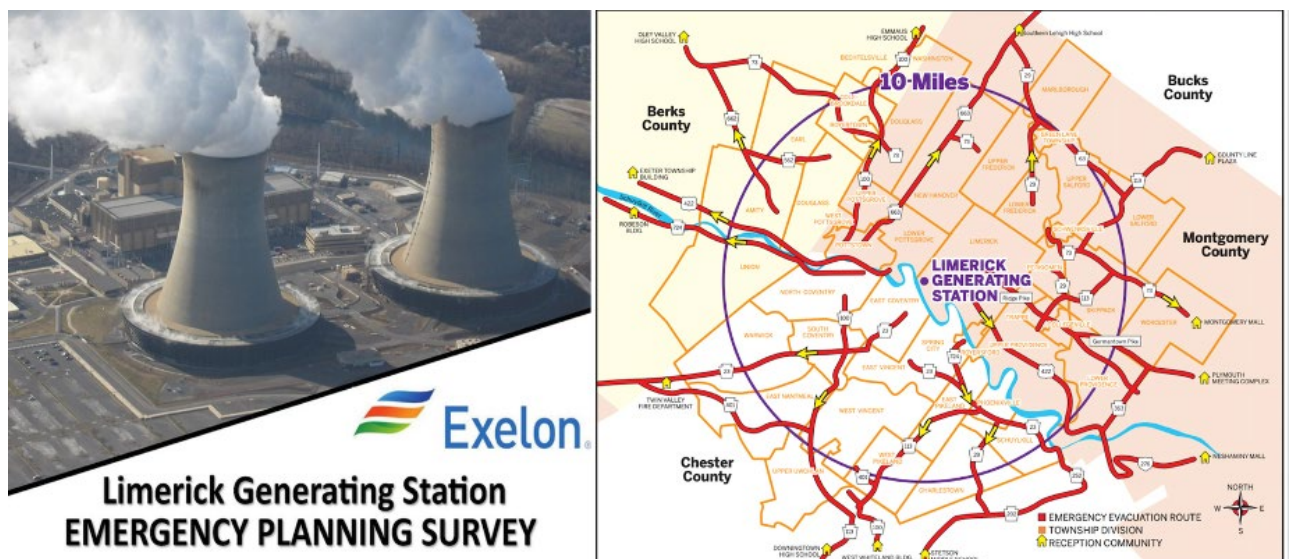
This legislation has been endorsed by the Pennsylvania General Assembly's Animal Protection Caucus, a bipartisan coalition of legislators from both chambers working on legislation to protect the domestic, equine and farm animals in our Commonwealth.



Emergency Planning Survey

If you live within a 10-mile radius from the Limerick Generating Station, please take a few minutes to help emergency planners enhance local emergency response. [Fill out this survey](#) (or take a few seconds to share with someone who lives in the area).

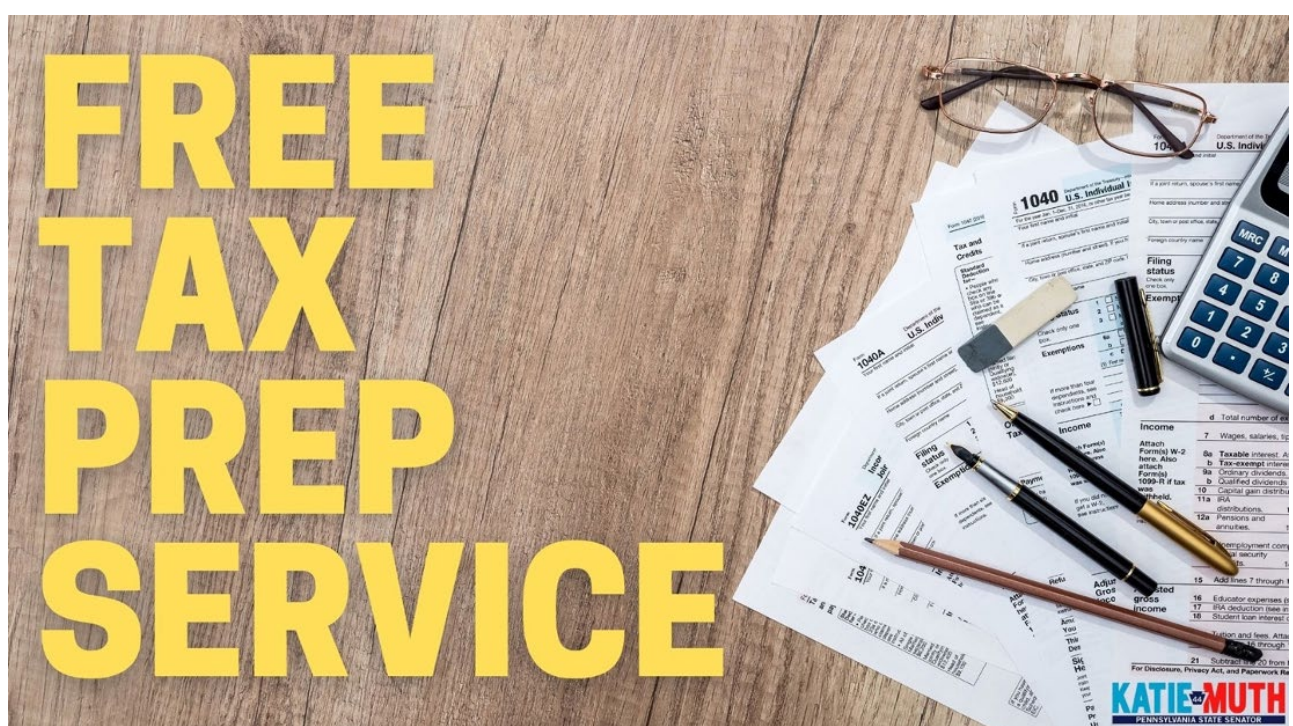
Take the survey [now](#).



Free Tax Prep Service

My district office in Royersford Borough is offering free tax prep service for anyone who needs to file a tax return by using a 1040 form. This service will be offered on Thursdays from 5-7pm through April 8 (all COVID precautions will be enforced).

You **MUST make an appointment** by calling my office at 610-792-2137 (ask for Nikki). To learn more about the service and what you will need to bring to your appointment click [HERE](#).



How to Stay Informed

Pennsylvania Department of Health

- The PA DoH [Daily COVID-19 report](#). Updated regularly throughout the day.
- Follow the PA Health Department on [Twitter](#).
- Follow them on [Facebook](#).

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Follow the CDC on [Twitter](#).
- Follow the CDC on [Facebook](#).
- Learn how best to [prevent "community transition"](#) with specific details on what to do before, during, and after outbreaks.

Stay Connected

Follow me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for the latest news and updates.



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