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Dear Residents of SD-44:

There's a lot of work to do in Harrisburg! Aside from my role as the Policy Chairwoman for the Senate Democratic Caucus, I am excited to have been named the Minority Chair of the Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee for the 2021-2022 legislative session. Other committee assignments include environmental resources & energy, finance, state government, and rules.



It is my job as your state Senator to represent the interests of all of my constituents and I want to know what issues are most important to you. Your input is always welcomed, and encouraged on any legislative or policy issue.

Please share your thoughts and concerns to my team and I by sending an email to senatormuth@pasenate.com, or by calling us at 610-792-2137.

In honor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, my office will be closed today. Let us use this day to honor the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. We commemorate as well the timeless values he taught us through his example — the values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility and service that so radiantly defined Dr. King's character and empowered his leadership. On this holiday, remember the life and legacy of MLK Jr. by participating in a service event, or attending a virtual social justice rally to learn more about ways to advocate for equality and racial justice in our community.

Senator Katie Muth

MONTCO Recovery Tuition Assistance Program

The enrollment deadline for the Montco Spring 2021 semester is two days away – January 20. We're looking to make another push to make residents aware of the program before enrollment closes.

This is available to any Montgomery County residents who suffered full- or part-time employment loss on or after March 6, 2020, the date of Governor Tom Wolf's Emergency Disaster Declaration. Supporting documentation is required.

For more, visit: mc3.edu/montcorecovery



COVID Vaccine Release Plan

Distribution of the vaccine has begun for Phase 1A priority groups and with the recent announcement by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services about a shift in populations included in Phase 1B, many of the counties are altering their strategy to distribute doses as they become available.

Montgomery County

The Montgomery County Office of Public Health has started [scheduling appointments](#) for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for Phase 1A which includes qualifying healthcare staff who live or work in the county.

If you have received ANY type of vaccine in the past 14 days, or plan to get a vaccine in the next 14 days, YOU CANNOT GET THE COVID VACCINE UNTIL 14 DAYS HAVE PASSED.

The Office of Public Health will review the responses and send a registration link to persons that fit into the 1A category, which will take them to an appointment system. Appointment confirmation and a medical license, badge, or paystub verifying employment will be required to receive a vaccination.

- Healthcare Offices and Healthcare professionals: Individuals employed by a healthcare office should have their office complete one survey form for all staff.
- Private Healthcare Contractors: Private contractors who work in the healthcare industries listed in the Phase 1A category below, and who do not have a primary employer may apply as an independent contractor. In this case, "Business Name" would be "Your Name Private Contractor." Business contact information would be the individual's contact information. A description of the individual's work in the healthcare industry (as described above in 1A) should be included under "describe the service your agency providers."

Preparing for Phase 1B/C priority groups.

[Pre-registration is for:](#)

- People who are 65 years of age or older, OR
- Individuals who have health conditions that qualify them for Phase 1B or 1C

At this time, this survey is not accepting responses from individuals who qualify for vaccination in Phases 1B and 1C based solely on occupation. We are currently working to address this issue. Please check back soon for updates, and in the meantime, contact your employer to see if they have completed the [Pre-Screening for Healthcare Agency \(1A\) and Phase 1B Business Vaccination Registry](#).

Chester County

Chester County, through the Health Department, the hospitals and other healthcare providers, are actively receiving COVID-19 vaccine and administering it as quickly as possible.

Currently vaccinating Phase 1A priority groups.

- All healthcare personnel not affiliated with a hospital/health system, please complete the [Healthcare Vaccine Interest Survey](#).

Preparing for Phase 1B priority groups.

- Phase 1B groups and individuals should complete the [Vaccine Interest Survey](#) to express your interest in the vaccination and receive notifications when appointments are available.

Once you complete the survey, you will see a confirmation page confirming it was submitted. You will not receive an email confirming the receipt of the survey. When appointments are available you will be emailed more information to schedule your appointment.

Priority groups can be found on the [COVID-19 Vaccination Information](#) page.

Berks County

Currently in phase 1A of the vaccine distribution plan. For more information, please refer to the PA Department of Health [vaccine distribution dashboard](#).

COVID-19 VACCINATION PHASES IN PENNSYLVANIA

Phase 1A

- Long-term care facility residents

Health care personnel including, but not limited to:

- Emergency medical service personnel
- Nurses
- Nursing assistants
- Physicians
- Dentists
- Dental hygienists
- Chiropractors
- Therapists
- Phlebotomists
- Pharmacists
- Technicians
- Pharmacy technicians
- Health professions students and trainees
- Direct support professionals
- Clinical personnel in school settings or correctional facilities
- Contractual HCP not directly employed by the health care facility
- Persons not directly involved in patient care but potentially exposed to infectious material that can transmit disease among or from health care personnel and patients

Phase 1B

- People ages 75 and older
- People in congregate settings not otherwise specified as LTCF and persons receiving home and community-based services
- First responders
- Correctional officers and other workers serving people in congregate care settings not included in Phase 1A
- Food and agricultural workers
- U.S. Postal Service workers
- Manufacturing workers
- Grocery store workers
- Education workers
- Clergy and other essential support for houses of worship
- Public transit workers
- Individuals caring for children or adults in early childhood and adult day programs

Phase 1C

- People ages 65-74
- People aged 16-64 with high risk conditions causing increased risk for severe disease

Essential workers in these sectors:

- Transportation and logistics
- Water and wastewater
- Food service
- Housing construction
- Finance, including bank tellers
- Information technology
- Communications
- Energy, including nuclear reactors
- Legal services
- Federal, state, county and local government workers, including county election workers, elected officials and members of the judiciary and their staff
- Media
- Public safety
- Public health workers

Phase 2




- All individuals not previously covered who are 16 and older and do not have a contraindication to the vaccine (note that at this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech product is approved for those age 16 and 17)



COVID Vaccine Townhall

To give you more information on the vaccine distribution plan and provide an opportunity to have YOUR vaccine questions, I am cohosting a virtual townhall with Department of Health Secretary Dr. Rachel Levine and Senator John Kane.

Dr. Levine will answer questions from our audience, along with a panel from PEMA and the Department of Health responsible for overseeing the roll out of the COVID vaccine. The townhall will be held on Zoom on **January 20th**, and all you have to do to participate is [sign up here](#)! The event is open to everyone and completely free.




Please Join

DR. LEVINE AND MEMBERS OF THE PA SENATE & HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUSES

For a

COVID VACCINE VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

for the **SOUTHEAST PA AREA**



Learn more and register @
[PASenate.com/Vaccine](#)

LIVESTREAMED VIA ZOOM | JANUARY 20 • NOON

Say 'NO' to Judicial Gerrymandering

Fair Districts PA recently held [a town hall](#) about the judicial gerrymandering bill that the Majority party in both chambers plan to pass again early this session, in order for it to appear as a ballot question on the Primary ballot in May of this year.

Under the bill, the General Assembly would create judicial districts based upon the number of justices or judges on each court. Since the three appellate courts have different numbers of judges – Supreme Court (7), Superior Court (15) and Commonwealth Court (9) – this means the legislature would be able to carve the state into 31 new districts of varying size.

Judicial districts would be drawn with the same secretive, partisan process that has yielded some of the nation's most gerrymandered districts.

You have to wonder why the Majority party is so hell bent on gerrymandering the courts, when an overwhelming amount of Pennsylvanians have voiced significant support for an independent citizens redistricting commission.

If you want to learn more, you can view the town hall from Jan 6th [HERE](#).



It undermines judicial independence

Constitutional checks and balances are only possible if judges can carry out their work without fear of retribution from legislators.



It mis-states the relationship between judges and PA public

The summary of the bill states "It organizes the Judiciary into representative districts and further provides for residency requirements." **Judges, unlike legislators, are NOT expected to represent constituents. Their role is to interpret the law.**



It values location over expertise

PA has hundreds of local judicial races. Judges in PA's highest courts should be chosen for their high level of experience and competence, not based on where they live.

What's Wrong with Judicial Districts?

Let us explain why Fair Districts PA opposes this bill so strongly

The bill was passed with no public deliberation

This amendment to the PA constitution passed in both chambers without public hearings, without expert testimony, without any hint of due diligence or transparent response to concerns or objections.

This bill is exactly the opposite of what PA voters asked for

PA voters have demonstrated significant support for an independent citizens redistricting commission. Bills to amend the constitution to accomplish that never got a vote. This bill has no documented public support yet moved quickly through the PA legislature. **PA voters want to know WHY.**

It opens the door to judicial gerrymandering

Judicial districts would be drawn with the same secretive, partisan process that has yielded some of the nation's most gerrymandered districts. **PA voters want less gerrymandering, not more.**

Only nine states continue to elect appellate judges in partisan elections. Only two states (Illinois & Louisiana) elect Supreme Court judges in partisan **district** elections. **Even those do not allow legislators a free hand in regularly redrawing those districts.**

Pennsylvania's judicial district bill would pioneer new lows in partisan gerrymandering

Say "NO" to judicial gerrymandering!



Policy Hearing: Raising the Minimum Wage in PA

Join Senator Haywood, Senator Tina Tartaglione, Senator John Kane, and I on MLK Day of Service for a PA Senate Democratic Policy Committee Hearing on Raising the Minimum Wage in PA!

The hearing is scheduled for Monday, 18 January 2021 at 1 p.m. on Zoom The event will also be live-streamed at <http://senatormuth.com/Live>. Register now at <https://www.senatormuth.com/policy/>!

PA Senate Democratic Policy Committee Hearing:
Raising The Minimum Wage in PA

Monday, January 18, 1PM on Zoom



Sen. Katie Muth
Policy Comm. Chair



Senator Art Haywood



Senator Tina Tartaglione



Senator John Kane

#SenDemPolicy
Register: SenatorMuth.com/Policy





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.



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before, during, and after outbreaks.

Be sure to check out the complete list of information, data, and resources available to those in:

[Berks County](#)

[Chester County](#)

[Montgomery County](#)





SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS

from

KATIE MUTH

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATOR

Submit your mobile number to stay up-to-date with the latest events and happenings from Senator Katie Muth sent right to your phone.

Mobile Number

Submit



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