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Dear Residents of SD-44:

The rate of new coronavirus cases in Pennsylvania is slowing. More people are getting COVID-19 vaccines with nearly 1 in 3 people in Pennsylvania fully vaccinated.

If you haven't received the vaccine yet, many providers are now offering walk-in vaccination clinics of either the 2 shot Moderna/Pfizer vaccines, or the 1 shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine that was recently re-authorized for use. If you live in [Montgomery](#), [Chester](#), or [Berks](#) Counties click on the link to find a vaccine clinic near you.

In this newsletter you will find information on four ballot questions that ALL voters are encouraged to cast their ballot on for the May 18<sup>th</sup> primary election. Also included are updates to Pennsylvania laws that are now in effect and a policy committee [hearing](#) held last week on food insecurity in Pennsylvania.

Follow the latest updates, be sure to like and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Senator Katie Muth

## May 18th Primary Election: What You Need to Know

Aside from casting a vote in the municipal primary for local and judicial positions, ALL Pennsylvania voters will have the opportunity to vote "yes" or "no" on May 18 on four ballot questions.

The first asks whether a state loan program created for volunteer fire companies, ambulance services, and rescue squads should be expanded.

- ✓ A "yes" vote supports expanding the state's loan program for volunteer fire companies and ambulance services to also include municipal fire companies and EMS services.
- ✗ A "no" vote opposes expanding the state's loan program, meaning the program would remain available to volunteer fire companies and ambulance services but not municipal fire companies and EMS services.
- ➡ Currently, municipal fire departments or companies with paid personnel and emergency medical services companies are not authorized to apply for loans from this program. The Pennsylvania General Assembly has determined that municipal fire departments or companies with paid personnel and emergency medical services companies are most in need of loans to replace outmoded or unsafe equipment and buildings to meet the increased demands for a higher level of service in the communities they serve.

### ON THE BALLOT: STATEWIDE REFERENDUM

# VOLUNTEER LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EXPANSION



ALLOW LOANS TO NON-VOLUNTEER EMS COMPANIES AND MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS OR COMPANIES WITH PAID PERSONNEL

**KATIE MUTH**  
PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATOR

The other three ballot questions are proposed amendments to the state Constitution explained below.

## ★ ★ ★ ★ PENNSYLVANIA ★ ★ ★ ★ BALLOT QUESTIONS EXPLAINED

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT & EMERGENCY POWERS

### EQUAL RIGHTS & PROTECTIONS

#### BALLOT QUESTION 1

##### IF YOU VOTE YES

THE PARTY IN POWER CAN END AN EMERGENCY AT ANY TIME, REGARDLESS OF THE SEVERITY LEVEL.

##### IF YOU VOTE NO

THE GOVERNOR CAN ACT QUICKLY TO DELIVER FEDERAL DOLLARS AND STATE AID. TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY OF THE LEGISLATURE IS NEEDED TO END THE DECLARATION.

#### BALLOT QUESTION 2

##### IF YOU VOTE YES

A DISASTER EMERGENCY AUTOMATICALLY ENDS AFTER 3 WEEKS, EVEN IF LAWMAKERS ARE UNABLE TO MEET AND EXTEND IT.

##### IF YOU VOTE NO

A DISASTER RESPONSE WILL CONTINUE FOR AS LONG AS IT IS NEEDED IN ORDER TO AID IN RECOVERY.

#### BALLOT QUESTION 3

##### IF YOU VOTE YES

PENNSYLVANIA'S CONSTITUTION WOULD BE UPDATED TO INCLUDE EQUAL RIGHTS PROTECTIONS BASED ON RACE OR ETHNICITY.

##### IF YOU VOTE NO

PENNSYLVANIA'S CONSTITUTION WOULD CONTINUE TO LACK PROTECTIONS FOR DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE OR ETHNICITY.

To make an informed decision, you can read all of the ballot questions in their entirety [here](#).

#### Are you registered to vote?

- Check your status at [votesPA.com/status](https://www.votespa.com/status).
- Register to vote or update your registration by 11:59 p.m. on May 3 at [votesPA.com/register](https://www.votespa.com/register).
- Apply for a mail-in ballot by May 11th at <https://www.votespa.com/.../Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx>

#### Drop Box Locations by County

##### Montgomery





## 2021 Primary Election Secure Ballot Drop Box Locations

Secure ballot boxes have been placed throughout Montgomery County for constituents to drop-off their ballots prior to the Election on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. Secure boxes will be available for the public to return their completed ballots at the locations listed below 24 hours a day beginning May 1, 2021 at 10:00 AM. Completed ballots must be placed in the drop-off boxes by the time the polls close at 8pm on Election Day, Tuesday, May 18, 2021. Ballots issued by other counties cannot be accepted. All Secure Drop Box Locations are monitored using CCTV Surveillance 24 hours a day.

• • • **HOURS** • • •

**24 hour availability**

**10:00 AM on May 1, 2021 through  
8:00 PM on May 18, 2021.**



**Cheltenham**  
Township Tax Office  
8230 Old York Rd • Elkins Park, PA 19027

**Lansdale**  
District Court 38-1-28  
430 Pennbrook Pkwy • Lansdale, PA 19446

**Lower Merion**  
Ludington Library  
5 South Bryn Mawr Ave • Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

**Norristown**  
Montgomery County Airy Street Parking Lot  
Corner of Airy and DeKalb Streets • Norristown, PA 19401

**Pottstown**  
Montgomery County Community College - South Hall  
101 College Dr • Pottstown, PA 19464

**Royersford**  
Victory Park Parking Lot  
2nd & Arch St • Royersford, PA 19468

**Skippack**  
Montgomery County 4H Center  
1015 Bridge Rd • Collegeville, PA 19474

**Upper Dublin**  
Upper Dublin Library  
520 Virginia Dr • Fort Washington, PA 19034

**Upper Frederick**  
Green Lane Park Office  
2144 Snyder Road • Green Lane, PA 18054

**Upper Merion**  
Upper Merion Township Building  
175 W. Valley Forge Rd • King of Prussia, PA 19406

**Upper Moreland**  
Willow Grove Annex  
102 N York Rd • Willow Grove, PA 19090

Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Election Code you may only return your own voted ballot. You may not return any ballot that does not belong to you. All locations are under 24 hour surveillance via CCTV. Anyone depositing a ballot that does not belong to them will be referred to the District Attorney's office.

### Chester

## Chester County Secure Ballot Drop Locations



### OPEN 24/7

**Government Services Center**  
601 Westtown Road,  
West Chester, PA

**Chester Co. Library**  
450 Exton Sq. Mall  
Exton, PA

**Henrietta Hankin Branch**  
215 Windgate Drive  
Chester Springs, PA

**Avon Grove Library**  
117 Rosehill Ave  
West Goshen, PA

**Coatesville Public Library**  
501 Lincoln Hwy E  
Coatesville, PA

**Downingtown Library**  
122 Wallace Ave  
Downingtown, PA

**Easttown Library**  
720 First Ave  
Berwyn, PA

**Honey Brook Library**  
687 Compass Rd  
Honey Brook, PA

**Kennett Library**  
216 State St.  
Kennett Square, PA

**Parkesburg Library**  
105 West St.  
Parkesburg, PA

**Phoenixville Library**  
183 2nd Avenue  
Phoenixville, PA

**Spring City Library**  
245 Broad Street  
Spring City, PA

**Oxford Library**  
48 S. 2nd St.  
Oxford, PA

**Hours of operation: M-F 9am-7pm,  
Sat-Sun 10am-2pm**



### Berks

#### Berks County Services Center

633 Court Street, Main Entrance Lobby off of Reed Street  
Reading, PA 19601

MAP - [Downtown Reading Map](#)

PICTURES OF DROP BOX - [Berks Drop Box - Services Center](#)

#### County of Berks Agricultural Center

1238 County Welfare Road  
Leesport, PA 19533

### Drop Box Hours

Monday, May, 3 - 14, 2021 8 AM - 5 PM

- Services Center (Reading)
- Agricultural Center (Bern Township)

Saturday, May 15, 2021 8 AM - 1 PM

- Services Center
- AG Center

Monday, May 17, 2021 8 AM - 8 PM

ELECTION DAY - Tuesday, May 18 8 AM - 8 PM

## Pennsylvania's 'Move Over' Law

Pennsylvania's new "move over" law went into effect early last week. What's changed?

- Requires drivers approaching an emergency response area who can't safely merge into a lane further away from the response area to slow to 20 mph less than the posted speed limit.
- Stricter penalties for those in violation.

Learn more [here](#).



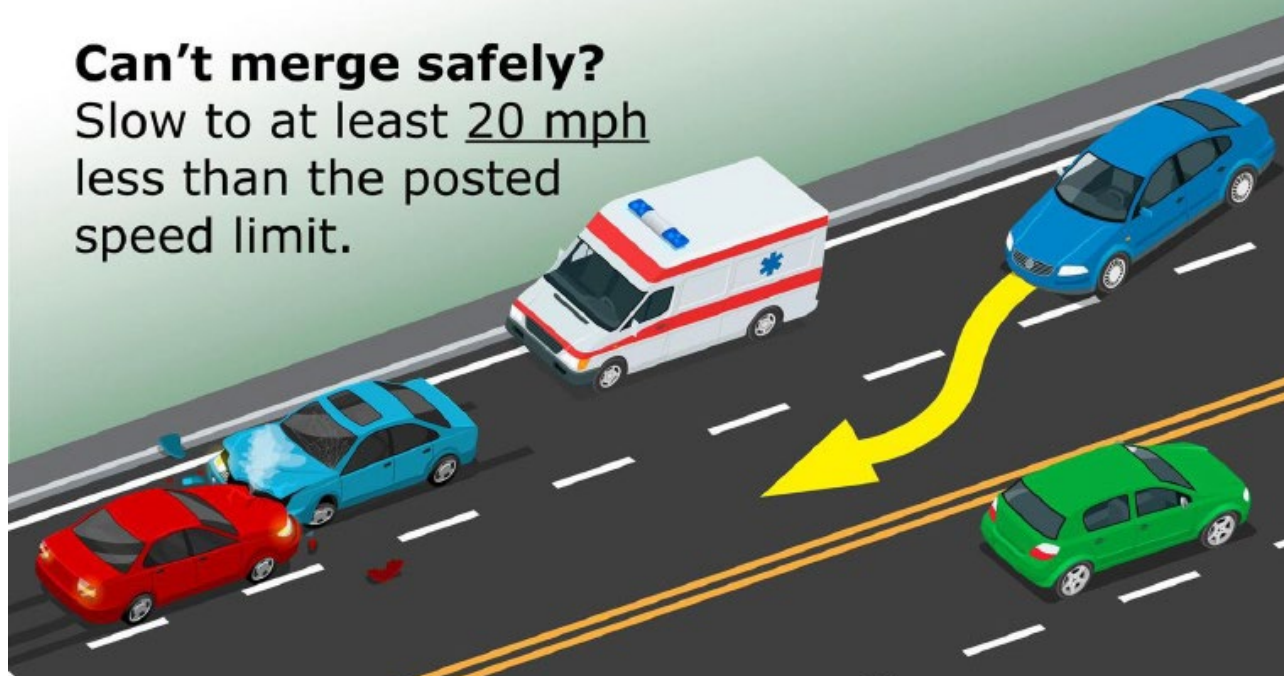


# Pennsylvania's Move Over Law

**Drivers approaching an emergency response area must safely merge into a lane further away from the response area.**

**Can't merge safely?**

Slow to at least 20 mph less than the posted speed limit.



## PA Senate Democratic Policy Committee: Hearing on Food Insecurity in Pennsylvania

At the request of Pennsylvania State Senators Judy Schwank (D- Berks), Tina Tartaglione (D- Philadelphia), and Sharif Street (D- Philadelphia), the Senate Democratic Policy Committee held a [virtual policy hearing](#) to discuss the issue of food insecurity in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania food insecurity rates have increased from 11.1% in 2018 to over 33% as of March 2020. According to the PA Department of Agriculture, before the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 1.53 million Pennsylvanians endured chronic hunger every day, including 478,500 older Pennsylvanians and about 437,000 children. Food insecurity makes it impossible to survive let alone thrive. Every human should have guaranteed access to reliable and nutritious meals. We need to act urgently to end food insecurity in Pennsylvania and across our nation.

Read more and watch the full virtual hearing [here](#).



## Food Assistance for Low Income College Students

If you are a college student and struggling to afford food, you might be eligible for SNAP benefits! Temporary changes have expanded access to SNAP for low-income students.





You can easily [apply online](#), or call 1-866-550-4355.



## Sexual Assault Awareness Month Donation Drive

In partnership with the Montgomery County Victim Services Center, my office will be collecting donated items that will help those living in abusive environments.

The following items are most needed (**Uber Gift Cards, Lyft Gift Cards, Journals**), but the following books can also be donated:

-  The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the healing of Trauma written by Bessel Van Der Kolk
-  The Courage to Heal: A guide for Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse written by Laura Davis and Ellen Bass
-  Healing Trauma Written by Peter Levine
-  Victims No Longer: the Classic Guide for Men Recovering From Sexual Child Abuse written by Mike Lew

Donations can be dropped off until May 7 at my district office located in Royersford Borough at 338 Main Street, Royersford, PA 19468



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## 338 Main Street

Royersford, PA 19468



@SenatorMuth



@senatormuth



@senatormuth

www.senatormuth.com

## \*2 Weeks Left\* Free Tax Prep Service

Pennsylvania has delayed its tax filing deadline from April 15 until May 17, after the Internal Revenue Service said it is delaying the federal tax filing deadline until May 17.

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

- 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](#).

## Stay Connected

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



### DISTRICT OFFICE

338 Main Street  
Royersford, PA 19468  
Phone: (610) 792-2137  
Fax: (610) 948-3037

### HARRISBURG OFFICE

185 Main Capitol | Senate Box 203044  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3044  
Phone: (717) 787-1398  
Phone: (717) 783-4587