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 18th 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or companies with paid personnel and emergency medical services companies are most in need of loans to replace outdated or unsafe equipment and buildings to meet the increased demands for a higher level of service in the communities they serve.

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

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.

Register to vote or update your registration by 11:59 p.m. on May 3 at votesPA.com/register.


Drop Box Locations by County

Montgomery
Chester County Secure Ballot Drop Locations

OPEN 24/7
Government Services Center 601 Westown Road, West Chester, PA Chester Co. Library 1050 S. Coulter St, Malvern, PA Henrietta Hankin Branch 313 Willow Grove Dr, Chester Springs, PA

Avon Grove Library 117 Roswell Ave West Chester, PA
Coyoteville Public Library 514 Lincoln Hwy E Coventry, PA

Downtown Library 122 Westown Ave Downingtown, PA

Easttown Library 720 Ford Ave Exton, PA

Henry Ford Library 647 Compass Rd Honey Brook, PA

Kennett Library 216 State St Kennett Square, PA

Oxford Library 48 S. 2nd St Oxford, PA

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.

Burks
Burks County Services Center 633 Court Street, Main Entrance Lobby of the Burks County Services Center Reading, PA 19601

MAP - Burks County Services Center

PICTURES OF DROP BOX - Burks Drop Box - Services Center

County of Berks Agricultural Center 1238 County Welfare Road Leesport, PA 19533

Burks 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
- Service Center
- AG Center

Monday, May 17, 2021 8 AM - 8 PM

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

Chester 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 Locations
2021 Primary Election Secure Ballot Drop Locations

HOURS - 24 hour availability

10:00 AM on May 1st, 2021 through 5:00 PM on May 18, 2021.

Chester County Services Center
633 Court Street, Main Entrance Lobby off of Reed Street
Reading, PA 19601

County of Berks Agricultural Center
1238 County Welfare Road
Leesport, PA 19533

PICTURES OF DROP BOX - Berks Drop Box - Services Center

Drop Box Hours
Monday, May 3, 2021 8 AM - 5 PM
- Services Center (Reading)
- Agricultural Center (Bern Township)

Tuesday, May 17, 2021 8 AM - 8 PM
- Service Center
- AG Center

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

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Learn more here.
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.
*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) 948-3237

HARRISBURG OFFICE
10 East Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3044
Phone: (717) 783-4587