



# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

UPDATE

From Milliron and Goodman Government Relations, LLC, Harrisburg, PA

**Berks County  
Water & Sewer**  
ASSOCIATION

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## Major Takes Oath of Office during Capitol Ceremony

**O**n June 7, 2021, Rep. Abby Major (R-Armstrong/Indiana/Butler) took the oath of office to represent the people of the 60th Legislative District. She is focused on cutting government spending and protecting Second Amendment rights.

"I am humbled to be elected to replace my former boss, Rep. Jeff Pyle," Major said. "I plan to continue his high-quality constituent service to area residents and be their voice in Harrisburg. If you need assistance with a state-related matter or would like to share your thoughts on pending legislation, please contact one of my offices."

A native of Armstrong County, Major graduated from Ford City High School, Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science and Southern Illinois University. Major served three years in the U.S. Army as an intelligence analyst, including a 12-month tour in Iraq. She was awarded the National Defense, Global

War on Terrorism and Iraq Campaign Service medals, and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

Major is keeping her predecessor's district offices in Ford City and Sarver. The Ford City office is located at 312 Ford St., and the Sarver office is located at 612 S. Pike Road, Suite 106. The office phone numbers are 724-763-3222 and 724-295-2200 respectively. Both offices are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

More state information is available on her website at <http://www.repabbymajor.com/>, and her Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/RepAbbyMajor>. There visitors will find information on the latest legislative developments in Harrisburg, state programs and the latest happenings in the 60th District.

The 60th Legislative District includes Bethel, Boggs, Burrell, Cadogan, East Franklin, Gilpin, Kiskiminetas, Kittanning, Manor, North Buffalo, Rayburn, South Bend, South Buffalo, Valley and West Franklin townships and the boroughs of Applewold, Ford City, Ford Cliff,

Freeport, Kittanning, Manorville, North Apollo, West Kittanning and Worthington in Armstrong County; Buffalo and Winfield townships in Butler County and Blacklick, Conemaugh and Young townships in Indiana County.

**Source:** Representative Abby Major Press Release, 6/7/2021

## **Ready to Lead: Rossi Takes Oath to Serve and Represent the People of the 59th Legislative District**

**P**ledging to lead with accountability, transparency, integrity and uncompromising conservative values, state Rep. Leslie Rossi (R-Westmoreland/Somerset) was officially sworn into office on June 7, 2021 at the state Capitol to begin her first term in the Pennsylvania General Assembly serving the people of the 59th Legislative District.

As the first-ever woman to represent the 59th District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Rossi reiterated her dedication to hitting the ground running as a newly elected state lawmaker.

"First and foremost, I'm not a politician," said Rossi. "I'm a small business owner with a proven track record of success in creating jobs, balancing budgets and getting things done as a highly active community volunteer for more than two decades. I will fight every day in the Legislature to reverse the excessive government overreach, economy-collapsing lockdown policies and unchecked executive dictates that have shuttered far too many family-sustaining businesses, and resulted in what the governor's Department of Labor and Industry has publicized as 500,000 permanent job losses."

A proud wife, mother of eight, strong woman of faith and a fierce defender of the original intent of the state and federal Constitutions, Rossi is deeply committed to safeguarding the right to keep and bear arms, protecting the sanctity of all human life

and reclaiming government to be run by and for the people.

Her other top legislative priorities include enacting landmark election integrity reform, eliminating wasteful spending, and reducing taxes for families, seniors, farmers and job creators to restore a prosperous economy and bring home more well-paying jobs to the 59th District.

"We are still blessed to live in the greatest country on earth," said Rossi "The founders created a government by the people, for the people, free from out-of-touch politicians and special interest coercion. It is extremely imperative to strengthen our voter laws to preserve our most fundamental right to self-government: fair and secure elections. I will defend our shared values, stand up for our God-given rights, and fight for every citizen residing in the 59th District. The people who elected me to serve them deserve nothing less."

A lifelong resident of Westmoreland County, Rossi lives in Unity Township with her husband Mike and their family.

Internet and social media users are encouraged to visit <http://www.reprossi.com/> and <http://www.facebook.com/RepRossi> for the latest district information and state government updates.

The 59th Legislative District encompasses part of Somerset County consisting of the townships of Conemaugh and Jenner, and the boroughs of Boswell and Jennerstown.

In Westmoreland County, the district includes the townships of Cook, Donegal, Fairfield, Hempfield (part of districts Todd, University and West Point), Ligonier, Mount Pleasant, St. Clair and Unity (part of districts Baggaley, Beatty, Crabtree, Dennison, Kuhns, Marguerite, Mutual and Pleasant Unity) and the boroughs of Bolivar, Donegal, Laurel Mountain, Ligonier, New Florence and Seward.

**Source:** Representative Leslie Rossi Press Release, 6/7/2021

## Gebhard Takes Oath of Office to Begin Serving 48th Senatorial District Residents

On June 9, 2021, Senator Chris Gebhard took the oath of office to begin his first term in the Senate serving the 48th District. The current term will conclude in December of 2022.

During his time in office, Gebhard wants to ensure Pennsylvania has fair and honest elections; reopen the Commonwealth's economy and schools; help small business owners recover from Gov. Tom Wolf's draconian lockdown orders; and replace the governor's tax-and-spend budget proposal with a fiscally responsible budget that puts families and taxpayers first.

"Passing a budget that protects taxpayers from tax increases, like the one that was part of the governor's budget proposal, is my top priority. As a small employer and father of two boys, I know how critical it is to balance the needs of the Commonwealth - like providing our children with a quality education - with the financial limitations of families and employers," Gebhard said. "So much has been done in the last year to drive employers from Pennsylvania, and we desperately need to take a different approach."

Before winning a special election following the passing of Senator Dave Arnold, Gebhard spent the past 25 years working in the insurance field. He currently owns Hoaster Gebhard & Co., an insurance and risk management firm in Lebanon.

Gebhard has not yet been assigned to the committees on which he'll serve, but will announce that information when it is available.

Residents are encouraged to visit his website at <https://senatorgebhard48com/>. There they will find information on the latest legislative developments in Harrisburg, state programs and the latest happenings in the 48th Senatorial District.

The 48th District includes all of Lebanon County and parts of Dauphin and York counties.

**Source:** Senator Gebhard Press Release, 6/9/2021

## Senator Marty Flynn Sworn in to Serve the 22nd Senatorial District

On June 9, 2021, former State Rep. Marty Flynn was sworn in to serve the 22nd District in the Pennsylvania State Senate. Now Senator Flynn was elected to serve Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Monroe counties in a special election held in May 2021. The position was formerly held by Senator John Blake who resigned to take a job on the staff of US Congressman Matt Cartwright.

Senator Flynn is a native of Scranton, Marywood University graduate and a former professional boxer. Since January 2013, he served the 113th District in the State House of Representatives. Now as State Senator, Flynn will serve all 163 precincts in Lackawanna County, 10 in Luzerne County, and 7 in Monroe County.

He will serve as the Senate Democratic Chair of the Finance Committee. Flynn will also join the Appropriations Committee, the Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee, and Transportation Committee.

During his campaign in the 22nd District, Senator Flynn made clear he would focus on local economic development, labor union rights, and housing initiatives to support communities and stop blight. "I'm thrilled to join the Pennsylvania Senate and to have an even louder voice for workers, seniors, teachers, unions, and families. I've always been a fighter and I look forward to keeping up the fight for the needs and values of everyone I represent," said Senator Flynn.

His full bio is available on his Senate website: [www.senatorflynn.com/about/](http://www.senatorflynn.com/about/).

**Source:** Senator Marty Flynn Press Release, 6/9/2021

## Speaker Announces Special Election for the 113th District

On June 9, 2021, Speaker of the House Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) ordered a special election to coincide with Pennsylvania's municipal general election on Nov. 2, 2021, to fill the vacant seat in the 113th Legislative District in Lackawanna County.

The seat was vacated when Rep. Marty Flynn (D-Lackawanna) was elected to the Pennsylvania Senate.

House rules state the speaker shall issue a writ for a special election to be held on a date which shall occur on or before the date of the first municipal election which occurs not less than 60 days after the issuance of the writ.

Candidates for the office will be selected by a process designated by their respective political parties, and the winner of the special election will take office after the results are confirmed.

Source: Speaker Cutler Press Release, 6/9/2021

## General Assembly Passes Benninghoff Resolution to Terminate COVID-19 Emergency Disaster Declaration

On June 10, 2021, Pennsylvania House Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff (R-Centre/Mifflin) announced that the Pennsylvania General Assembly has passed **House Resolution 106**

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2021&sInd=0&body=h&type=r&bn=106>, a resolution he prime sponsored that would immediately terminate Gov. Tom Wolf's COVID-19 emergency disaster declaration.

"The people of Pennsylvania have spoken and our members have turned their vote on May

18th into action by exercising the will of the people to immediately terminate the COVID-19 emergency disaster declaration," Benninghoff said. "With Pennsylvania rapidly returning to normal thanks to a legislative-led vaccine rollout and the need to keep our economy on a track to vigorously reopen, we did not want to wait a minute longer to terminate this emergency disaster declaration that has been responsible for so much economic devastation over the last 16 months."

In a separate bill approved by lawmakers Thursday, existing regulatory flexibilities will be extended until Sept. 30, 2021.

"Over the past 16 months, Pennsylvania's regulatory framework has been upended. As our economy continues to emerge from the effects of government-induced shutdowns and our health care community continues to be reliant on existing flexibilities, I was glad to see both chambers quickly come together to effectively manage the remaining days of the pandemic."

Source: Rep. Benninghoff Press Release, 6/10/2021

## Majority Leader Kim Ward Issues Statement on the Termination of the Emergency Declaration

Senate Majority Leader Kim Ward (R-Westmoreland) issued the following statement on June 10, 2021 regarding legislative actions addressing the termination of the emergency declaration for the COVID-19 pandemic:

"Delivering on its promise to the people of Pennsylvania who voted 'Yes' on the ballots in the primary election, the Senate officially voted today to end the COVID-19 pandemic emergency declaration. A collective effort by the legislative and executive branches resulted in actions that terminated the current emergency declaration while preserving the health and safety of Pennsylvanians. The extension of waivers provides health care and

economic flexibilities to protect Pennsylvania families, especially our elderly and vulnerable populations, while ending the most stringent and unnecessary restrictions still in place since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This vote restores liberty by helping to reinstitute legislative powers throughout times of an emergency by giving the general assembly a seat at the table.

"Pennsylvanians deserve a government that works for them, and the senate looks forward to continuing to do its part to lead this effort and in the best interest of all Pennsylvanians."

**Source:** Senator Kim Ward Press Release, 6/10/2021

## Senate Agriculture Committee Approves Yaw Conservation Assistance Bill

**L**egislation creating a new Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program was unanimously approved today by the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, according to Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23) who prime sponsored the bill.

If funded, **Senate Bill 465** <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2021&sInd=0&body=S&type=B&bn=0465> would provide additional technical support to expand on-farm conservation practices throughout Pennsylvania, including high-priority areas such as the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

"Agriculture is looked to for significant reductions to meet pollution reduction goals for the Chesapeake Bay and other major watersheds in the state," Senator Yaw said. "Unfortunately, almost one-third of our commonwealth's streams do not meet standards for drinking, fishing or recreation, and agriculture remains one of the largest sources of impairment. To meet the challenges, I have again introduced legislation to establish an Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program."

The proposed plan would work similarly to the State Conservation Commission's Dirt and Gravel

Roads program. Funding would be distributed to county conservation districts throughout the commonwealth using a formula that benefits all parts of the state, while directing additional resources to areas with the greatest opportunity for improvement. Conservation districts would then partner with farmers and landowners in their communities to complete the conservation projects that make the most sense locally. Funding could also be allocated using federal dollars.

Earlier this year, Senator Yaw joined Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Rick Ebert; Shannon Gority, Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Pennsylvania office; and local farmer Andrew Flinchbaugh for a press conference in York County to champion the bill. To watch the press conference, click [here](https://www.senatorgeneyaw.com/2021/04/26/pennsylvania-farm-bureau-chesapeake-bay-foundation-endorse-senator-yaws-ag-conservation-bill/) <https://www.senatorgeneyaw.com/2021/04/26/pennsylvania-farm-bureau-chesapeake-bay-foundation-endorse-senator-yaws-ag-conservation-bill/>.

For more state-related news and information visit Senator Yaw's website at <http://www.senatorgeneyaw.com/> or on Facebook and Twitter @SenatorGeneYaw.

**Source:** Senator Yaw Press Release, 6/7/2021

## DEP: Availability of Technical Guidance

**T**he Department of Environmental Protection announced the availability of technical guidance Documents (TGD) at the DEP website <http://www.depgreenport.state.pa.us/elibrary/>. This updated TGD involves changes to the Turbidity reporting instructions for public water systems using filtered surface water or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water sources. Interested persons may submit written comments on this draft TGD through Monday, July 12, 2021.

Draft Technical Guidance: Substantive Revision

DEP ID: **393-3301-003**  
<http://www.depgreenport.state.pa.us/elibrary/GetDocument?docId=3745809&DocName=TURBIDITY%20REPORTING%20INSTRUCTIONS%20FOR>

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**Title: Turbidity Reporting Instructions for Public Water Systems Using Filtered Surface Water or Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water (GUDI) Sources.**

**Description:** Guidance is necessary because of significant revisions due to the 2018 General Update to the Department's Safe Drinking Water regulations at 25 Pa. Code Chapter 109 (relating to safe drinking water). Revisions to the draft TGD include:

1. Removed specific references to individual regulations (for example, Filter Rule, IESWTR, LT1 ESWTR, LT2 ESTWR) and combined into "Filter Rules."
2. Updated CFE monitoring from every 4 hours to continuous.
3. Updated IFE monitoring to include all filtered systems.
4. Updated Membrane PLR requirements from 0.3 NTU to 0.15 NTU.
5. Updated SDWA-5 form (paper and DWELR formats).
6. Updated scenarios with new regulation requirements.
7. Other changes specified in the 2018 General Update.

Commentators are encouraged to submit comments using the department's online **eComment tool** <https://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eComment/> or by email to [ecomment@pa.gov](mailto:ecomment@pa.gov). Written comments can be mailed to the Technical Guidance Coordinator,

Department of Environmental Protection, Policy Office, Rachel Carson State Office Building, PO Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063. Questions regarding this TGD can be directed to Kim Snook at [ksnook@pa.gov](mailto:ksnook@pa.gov) or (717) 787-0123.

**Source:** Pennsylvania Bulletin, 6/12/2021  
<https://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabull?file=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol51/51-24/926.html>

## **DEP: Environmental Assessment Approval for PENNVEST Funding Consideration**

**T**he Department of Environmental Protection approved the environmental assessment for a list of projects and is accepting comment on their approval. The department must receive comments on this approval on or by Monday, July 12, 2021.

Commentators are encouraged to submit comments using the department's online **eComment tool** <https://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eComment/> or by email to [ecomment@pa.gov](mailto:ecomment@pa.gov). Written comments can be mailed to the Policy Office, Department of Environmental Protection, Rachel Carson State Office Building, PO Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063. Use "PENNVEST SRF-Environmental Assessment" as the subject line in written communication. Additional information is available on the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

**Source:** Pennsylvania Bulletin, 6/12/2021  
<https://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabull?file=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol51/51-24/940.html>

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