



STATE REPRESENTATIVE CATHERINE WALLEN

Ready to Serve You



It is a privilege to serve you in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Being sworn into office was a humbling experience as I took an oath to represent the people of the district where I was born and raised. I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me and honored to be your voice in Harrisburg.

I also recognize the important moment in which I am taking office. Pennsylvania stands at a crossroads, and the decisions we make today will shape the future of our Commonwealth. I am committed to advancing policies that promote prosperity, protect our values and strengthen our communities. I will work every day to bring the principles of hard work, personal responsibility, respect for others and fiscal conservatism to the Capitol.

For the remainder of this legislative session, I am serving on the Children and Youth, Communications and Technology, Intergovernmental Affairs and Operations, and State Government committees.

I look to the future with optimism and will serve you with purpose and an unwavering focus on the issues that matter most to our families and communities.

Property Tax Relief Programs

In lieu of widespread school property tax reform, there are two programs that provide relief now. I encourage residents to see if they qualify.

Most owner-occupied homes and farms are eligible for the Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion Program, but only a primary residence qualifies for the tax reduction. To receive school property tax relief for tax years beginning July 1 or Jan. 1, applications must be filed by March 1 of the preceding year. Once approved, homeowners do not need to reapply annually. The program is funded through tax revenue from legalized casino gaming.

Applications must be filed through the county Tax Assessment Office. Homeowners should verify they are not already enrolled before applying.

The other is the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. The deadline for senior citizens and Pennsylvanians with disabilities to apply for rebates on rent and property taxes paid in 2025 is Dec. 31. Income limits increased to \$48,110 for both homeowners and renters. Remember to exclude 50% of Social Security when determining your income. The maximum rebate is \$1,000. The program is open to residents age 65 years and older; widows and widowers 50 years and older; and people with disabilities 18 years and older.

You do not need to pay anyone for assistance to apply for the programs. My office is ready to assist residents with submitting applications. To make an appointment, call one of my offices.

Tracking Tick-Borne Diseases

As someone who lives with Lyme disease, I know the challenges that come with a tick-borne illness. What often begins with a tick bite can lead to months, years and sometimes a lifetime of symptoms, doctor visits and uncertainty. Unfortunately, my story is not unique.

Pennsylvania continues to lead the nation in Lyme disease cases, reporting 16,624 cases in 2024. While Lyme disease is the most recognized tick-borne illness, it is far from the only one threatening the health of Pennsylvanians. Diseases such as babesiosis are becoming increasingly common across the Northeast, yet Pennsylvania does not currently require cases to be reported to the Department of Health.

That needs to change. To better understand the scope of tick-borne diseases and improve patient outcomes, I introduced legislation to require healthcare practitioners, facilities and laboratories to report cases of babesiosis. Accurate reporting will provide public health officials with the data needed to track its spread and respond appropriately.

My proposed legislation would also require medical professionals to complete one hour of continuing education on tick-borne disease diagnosis and treatment as part of their initial licensure and renewal requirements. Early diagnosis and proper treatment can make a significant difference for patients, and ensuring providers have up-to-date information is an important step forward.

While the Department of Health has proposed regulations that could eventually add babesiosis to the state's reportable disease list, those regulations may not take effect until 2028 or later. Patients cannot afford to wait years for action.

If we are serious about combating the growing tick-borne disease epidemic, we must improve disease tracking and strengthen education for medical professionals. Better data and greater awareness will help ensure that future patients receive timely diagnoses, appropriate treatment and the support they deserve.

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Get Updates from Harrisburg

I send email updates about important legislation, events in the district, traffic updates and other information you will find helpful.

It's simple to receive these updates directly. Just visit my website at RepWallen.com to subscribe to my email list. You can also follow me on social media for more immediate updates. My Facebook page can be found at [Facebook.com/RepWallen](https://www.facebook.com/RepWallen) and my Instagram page is [Instagram.com/RepWallen](https://www.instagram.com/RepWallen).

SERVICES My Office Provides

My district office is here to assist you. Some of the services my staff and I provide include:

- Assistance submitting PennDOT paperwork, including REAL ID.
- Property Tax and Rent Rebate applications.
- Voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications.
- PA tax forms available to pick up for individuals and businesses.
- Assistance with legislative matters.
- Other state forms and services.

Call my district offices or go to RepWallen.com for assistance with any of the above, or other state-related matters.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MY SENIOR EXPO FRIDAY, OCT. 2 | 9-11 A.M.

My first Senior Expo will be held at the **Nicarry Meetinghouse of Cross Keys Village**, located at 2990 Carlisle Pike, New Oxford.

Attendees will receive a wealth of information about medical equipment, transportation, health programs and legal services aimed at senior residents, and will learn about state legislative efforts. There will also be free giveaways and raffle prizes.



I enjoyed welcoming students from Bermudian Springs to Harrisburg.



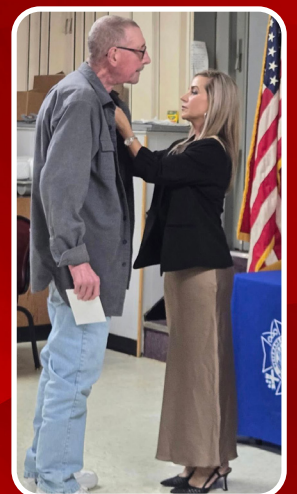
Rep. Dan Moul and I discussing the spring freeze that negatively impacted crops at our Adams County Farmers Breakfast last spring.



Communities, like the Upper Adams area of the district, came together in celebration to mark the 250th birthday of the United States.



It was a privilege to present House citations to Cross Keys residents Dorothy Greer and World War II veteran Harrison Fair, both of whom recently celebrated their 100th birthdays.



It was an absolute honor to take part in the veterans pinning event at VFW Post 6168 in Shippensburg. Thank you to all veterans and active-duty members of our military