



State Representative **DONNA SCHEUREN** *147th Legislative District*

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we continue into the new year, I am pleased to announce numerous key projects in our area have been awarded grants from the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA).

The Franconia Sewer Authority sanitary sewer extension project received a \$1.12 million grant from CFA's H2O PA Program for the High Street and Homestead Avenue service area, as well as the Schoolhouse Road/Indian Creek Road area.

The Berks-Montgomery Municipal Authority sanitary sewer rehabilitation project received a \$276,617 grant from CFA's PA Small Water and Sewer Program to rehabilitate existing clay pipes with cured in-place pipe technology.

The Telford Borough Authority Hidden Valley sewer project received a \$268,025 grant, also from CFA's PA Small Water and Sewer Program. This project will extend public sanitary sewer service to the existing Hidden Valley residential neighborhood in West Rockhill Township and provide public sewer service to adjacent homes located along County Line Road in East Rockhill Township and Franconia Township.

The Mennonite Historians of Eastern PA History Museum received a \$16,589 grant from the PA Arts and Culture Recovery Program and a \$4,000 grant from the PA Historical and Museum Commission to help fund operating costs, a new program and marketing for either the museum or the historical site.

I advocated for these critical grants and was happy to see the projects receive crucial funding. I will always make sure our infrastructure has the support and funding it needs so it works at top level for everyone in the 147th District.

Donna

Finally Passing a Budget

After months of negotiation, we officially completed the budget process in December. I was proud to support both the Fiscal Code, which included an increase in the number of troopers for our Pennsylvania State Police and a new workforce development program for veterans. With regards to the School Code, \$100 million was funded for mental health programs in grades K-12 and brand-new funding of \$100 million was invested in our tech schools. The EITC (Educational Improvement Tax Credit) program was expanded by \$150 million to allow for local businesses to receive tax credits for their donations to public and private schools, and funding was finally distributed to our community colleges and public libraries across the Commonwealth.

While I am pleased to see this process finally completed, the fact remains that we missed our constitutional deadline for the budget, which is June 30, by nearly six months. That was an unacceptable delay in this process, and one that was halted heavily by House Democrats being unwilling to negotiate with Senate Republicans. I wish that was not the case, but those facts do hold true. I hope that in the future, the House majority party learns from this process and comes to the negotiating table much earlier so crucial funding is not delayed like it was in 2023.

Protecting Our Open Space

When I was elected as your state representative, I made a promise to always heed my constituents first. Immediately after Upper Pottsgrove Township announced it wanted to use preserved land for a government building, I heard from many of you about your disapproval of this new project.

With your concerns in mind, I proposed legislation which would amend the Open Space Act to make sure municipalities could not use preserved space for any new project, no matter the way or reason the municipality acquired the land. This legislation was introduced as House Bill 1734, but the language is currently being rewritten so it works for the entire Commonwealth and garners support from all House members. However, it is a crucial first step to expanding our protections for open space and preserved land in Pennsylvania. I will continue to listen to my constituents on every matter that is important to you, and if there is legislative action I can take on the issue, I will do so.



12-acre farm preservation in Franconia



458-acre land preservation in
New Hanover & Upper Frederick
(Photo courtesy Girl Scouts of Southeastern PA)

Investment for Farmland Preservation

I am pleased to announce that a 12-acre crop and livestock farm on Allentown Road, owned by Andrew Dale and Tanya Joy Frankenfield in Franconia Township, received a 1.42 million investment for farmland preservation from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Of that 1.42 million investment, \$902,031 comes from the state, \$302,400 comes from Montgomery County and \$216,000 comes from Franconia Township.

This investment will protect this farmland from residential or commercial development, allowing Pennsylvania to conserve land, soil and water resources across the Commonwealth.

Preservation of farmland is a key issue for me, and I am pleased to see this issue taken seriously. If we do not protect our farmland now, we will not have the resources to grow food and supply the \$132.5 billion dollar industry that agricultural contributes to PA's economy every year. This investment ensures this farm will stay a farm, and guarantees our agricultural resources are protected in the 147th Legislative District.

State Representative DONNA SCHEUREN

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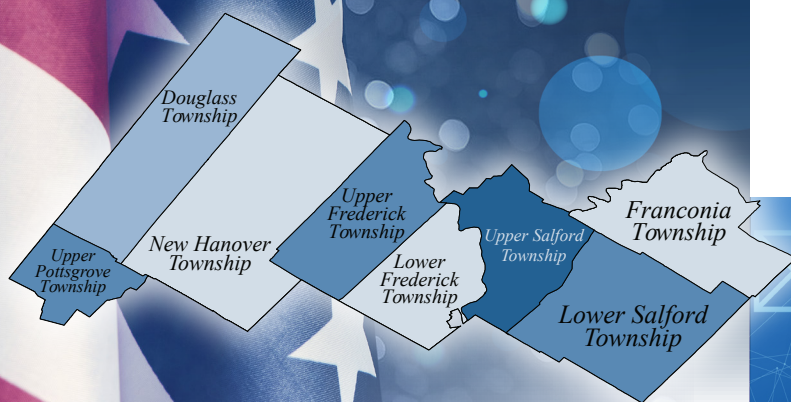
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147th Legislative District



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2023 Year in Review

I opened two district offices that are staffed full time, five days per week. I hope many of you have had a chance to meet or speak with Colleen, Helen, Rob, Eric or Gaby in either my Gilbertsville or Harleysville office, or Sharon in my Harrisburg office. With great knowledge and professionalism, my staff assisted with the following:



129

Claims with
Unemployment
Solved



8

Legislative Events
Hosted



1,400

Constituents Assisted
with State Agencies



1,484

Inquiries Regarding
Legislation



\$2.3 Million

Grant Funding Brought
Back to the District



23

Groups of School
Children, Families &
Veterans Visited and
Toured the Capitol



72

Acres of Farmland
Preserved
with \$2.3 Million in
State, County and
Local Funds



\$190,000

Grant Funding Secured for
Emergency Services



350

Meetings with
Constituents, Businesses
& Nonprofits

It is my hope that after reading through a sample of the issues my office has addressed above, the residents of the 147th will be more aware of the help that can be provided by the state representative's office. Even if you are unsure if we can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out and ask. I am also available by appointment to explain the legislation proposed in Harrisburg and listen to your thoughts. Both district offices are open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.