



State Senator **MARIA COLLETT**

Summer 2019

Representing the 12th Senatorial District

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Dear Neighbor,

My first six months as your state senator have flown by! My staff and I have enjoyed meeting with the 12th District's eighteen municipalities, eight school districts, countless community organizations, and most importantly you, the constituents! I've had the pleasure of getting to know many of you as I've attended community events, visited local businesses, and listened to the concerns you've shared with me over email, by phone, and in person. My district offices are up and running in North Wales and Warminster and we're here to help with all your state-related services and questions. In Harrisburg, I've hit the ground running by introducing and supporting legislation that addresses the issues that matter to you, like PFAS contamination, access to quality, affordable healthcare, and an economy that works for us all. It is my sincere honor to serve you! Please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions, concerns, or ideas.

Sincerely,

Senator Maria Collett, 12th Senatorial District

REAL ID In Pennsylvania



Starting on October 1, 2020, REAL IDs, US passports, or military IDs will be required to board domestic commercial flights or enter a federal building or military base that requires ID in Pennsylvania. REAL IDs are optional for Pennsylvania residents, but you may want one if you don't have a current passport or military ID.

Looking to get a REAL ID? Here's how:

- You will need to provide all of the following documentation:
 - Proof of ID (original or certified copy of a birth certificate or a valid U.S. passport)
 - Social Security Card
 - 2 Proofs of Current Address
 - Proof of All Legal Name Changes
- You can get your REAL ID in person or online. The cost to upgrade to the REAL ID is \$60.50 (\$30 one-time fee + \$30.50 license renewal fee).
 - You can order your REAL ID online if you received your FIRST Pennsylvania driver's license, learner's permit or photo ID card AFTER September 2003. You must apply online for pre-verification, then apply for the physical ID. Both applications can be found at penndot.gov/realid.
 - To get your REAL ID in person, bring your required documentation to any PennDOT driver's license center for pre-verification.

REAL ID Locations

- Same Day REAL ID
 - **Norristown:**
1700 Markley St., Suite 30
Norristown, PA 19401
 - **King of Prussia:**
143 S Gulph Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406
- REAL ID By Mail (15 Business Days)
 - **Dublin:** Dublin Village Plaza
161 North Main Street
Dublin, PA 18917
(Check and money order only)
 - **Huntingdon Valley:** The Market
Place at Huntingdon Valley
2022 County Line Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
(Check and money order only)

Still confused about REAL ID? You can learn more at Senatorcollett.com/RealID, or contact our office with any questions!

■ Senior Services Visits

As the Democratic Chair of the Senate Committee on Aging and Youth, I know how important it is to ensure our seniors have the resources they need to age with comfort and dignity. Every week, my staff visits senior living communities around the district. These visits allow us to meet our constituents where they are, offer services like SEPTA Senior IDs and Rent/Property Tax Rebate forms, and answer questions about state issues. My office is looking forward to expanding our mobile office hours in the coming months!



■ *The Latest on the PFAS Crisis*

One of the biggest issues in our district is the ongoing contamination crisis surrounding our local military bases, where PFAS chemicals from firefighting foams have leached into our soil and water. PFAS chemicals are very persistent in the environment and in the human body – meaning they don't break down and they can accumulate over time. At high exposure levels, PFAS have been linked to a host of serious health risks.

■ In 2014, PFAS were first detected in our district (specifically in Horsham, Warminster and Warrington) during routine water testing. By 2015, wells were being taken offline and the affected communities were getting clean drinking water from public sources. The slow speed with which the federal government is acting means deep ground-water plumes are still a threat to surrounding areas.

■ **YOUR PUBLIC DRINKING WATER IS SAFE.** Local municipalities and water authorities have taken steps to shut down contaminated wells and hook residents up to clean water sources. If you have questions about a private well, please reach out to our office.



Pending Legislation

■ This environmental and public health crisis is my top priority and I have introduced two bills to address it:

- **SB 581** sets an interim maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 PPT for PFAS in our drinking water until such time as the Governor, EPA, or DEP establishes one.
- **SB 582** classifies PFAS as hazardous chemicals under the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act (HSCA).

■ I have been hard at work to gather support from my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for these bills and make sure we finally get a committee hearing!

■ The good news is area legislators are working in a collaborative and bipartisan way – State Representatives Murt, Polinchock, Sanchez and Stephens have also introduced legislation, as have US Representatives Boyle, Dean and Fitzpatrick and US Senator Casey.

■ **Other Actions**

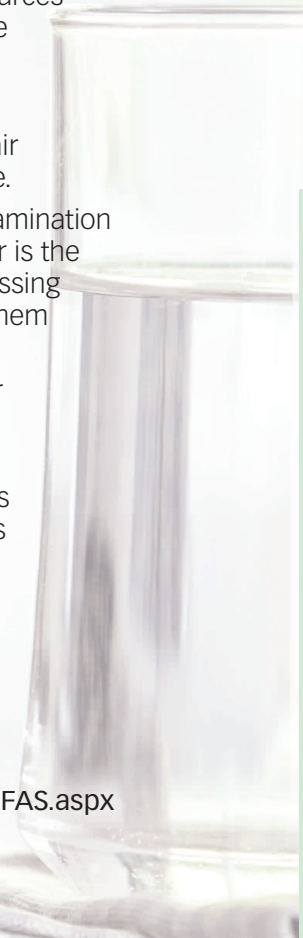
- Both the federal EPA and Pennsylvania DEP have committed to setting an MCL. However each predicts a timeline of several years.
- The CDC/ATSDR has committed tens of millions of dollars to a national health study. Pennsylvania is applying to participate. I have submitted a letter urging the importance of including our district and am hopeful we will be.
- The DEP recently began testing for PFAS chemicals in more than 300 public water systems across the state near likely sources of contamination such as military bases, airports and fire training facilities.

■ **Get Angry, Get Involved**

- I know you're frustrated and scared. And I know it's unfair that you are paying the price for a mess you didn't make.
- Recouping damages and remediating our district's contamination is complicated by the fact that our primary contaminator is the military. Indeed, it is multiple branches of the military. Passing legislation such as SB 581 and SB 582 will help us hold them accountable.
- If you want to be heard, write to Governor Wolf and your state and federal legislators – and ask your friends and family to do the same where they live.
- For all the latest, you can also join local advocacy groups like the BuxMont Coalition for Safer Water. Local activists like Hope Grosse and Joanne Stanton have been key in pushing for greater attention and quicker action.

■ **Further Resources**

- To learn more, visit:
 - www.bit.ly/PFASActionTeam
 - www.epa.gov/pfas
 - www.health.pa.gov/topics/envirohealth/Pages/PFAS.aspx





Harrisburg Update

I've been working hard to hit the ground running and address the issues you care about most. Have an issue you want me to be aware of? Call or email me!

■ Safe Patient Limits

As a nurse, I know firsthand that when staffing levels are low, nursing care suffers. And when nursing care suffers, patients are at risk. SB 450 sets safe nurse-to-patient limits in Pennsylvania hospitals to ensure safer working conditions for nurses and the best possible outcomes for patients.



■ Take Your Child To Work Day



My son and I had a blast at the Capitol for Take Your Child to Work Day!

■ Family Care Act

Earlier this year, I met with constituents Jackie Swain and Chris Sheeder, who tragically lost their daughter Emersyn to a congenital heart defect. While Emersyn was in the hospital, one of the things they said would have helped their family was some sort of safety net so they could focus on their daughter. I am proud to be introducing legislation to establish a statewide Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program, which does just that, in Emersyn's honor. No one should have to choose between caring for a loved one or keeping their job.

■ Statute of Limitations Reform

Sexual assault is horrific in every instance, especially when done at the hands of those we trust. SB 540 would eliminate the statute of limitations for sexual offenses and open a window for civil liability, acknowledging the reality of why victims are often slow to report as well as the egregious lifelong damage this trauma inflicts.

■ Gun Safety

I've personally introduced legislation allowing local governments to have the same rights as private property owners to decide whether to permit guns to enter or be used on their premises. I've also signed on to cosponsor a number of other gun reform bills including safe storage, extreme risk protection orders, no-fly, no-buy, universal background checks, and an assault weapons ban.



Honoring the Horsham Air Guard Station

In May, Military Appreciation Month, my family and I visited the Horsham Air Guard Station. I presented Col. Griffin with our state flag and a certificate of congratulations in honor of the 111th Attack Wing's 2018 US Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. We learned about the history of the base and what they do today. We talked about many of the issues facing our military and veterans, including mental health, the transition to civilian jobs, and the PFAS water crisis.



Listening to Your Thoughts on Recreational Marijuana



Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman is touring each county in Pennsylvania to listen to what residents have to say about the legalization of recreational marijuana statewide. I joined the Lt. Governor at his Montgomery County and Bucks County stops. The auditoriums were packed with residents wanting to weigh in with concerns on both sides of the issue. By the final hand count, it appears that the vast majority of local residents support legalization. It's not too late to weigh in at www.governor.pa.gov/recreational-marijuana-feedback.



In The Community



Fastnachts

In March, I spent the day with Telford Mayor David Snook and the members of the Little Zion Lutheran Church learning to make fastnachts, PA Dutch donuts.

Elbow Lane School

I had a blast as a guest reader at Elbow Lane in Warrington!



Clemens Food Group / Hatfield Meats

I visited Clemens Food Group / Hatfield Meats, a fourth generation owned family business with nearly 2500 employees working at their Hatfield facility.



International Spring Festival

My staff and I had a great time at North Penn's 28th Annual International Spring Festival! The festival celebrates cultural diversity through food, entertainment, and activities.



Keith Valley Challenge

I was honored to help kick off the 43rd Annual Keith Valley Challenge Day, a charity floor hockey event at Keith Valley Middle School in Horsham that raised nearly \$48,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.



Ambler SAAC March for Meals

Taking part in March for Meals, I helped prepare meals for homebound seniors at the Senior Adult Activity Center in Ambler.



Stutz Candy

Just in time for Easter, I learned how to make chocolate almond bark at Stutz Candy Hatboro.

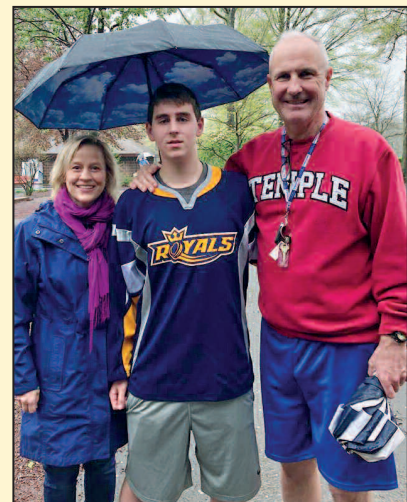
Ben Wilson Senior Expo

At the Ben Wilson Senior Activity Center Senior Expo in Warminster, I talked with constituents about the services our office can help with.



Suicide Prevention Walk

I walked alongside Rep. Tom Murt in a Suicide Awareness and Prevention walk in Huntingdon Valley organized by Andrew Boyle for his Eagle Scout project in honor of his friend Max.





STATE SENATOR
Maria Collett

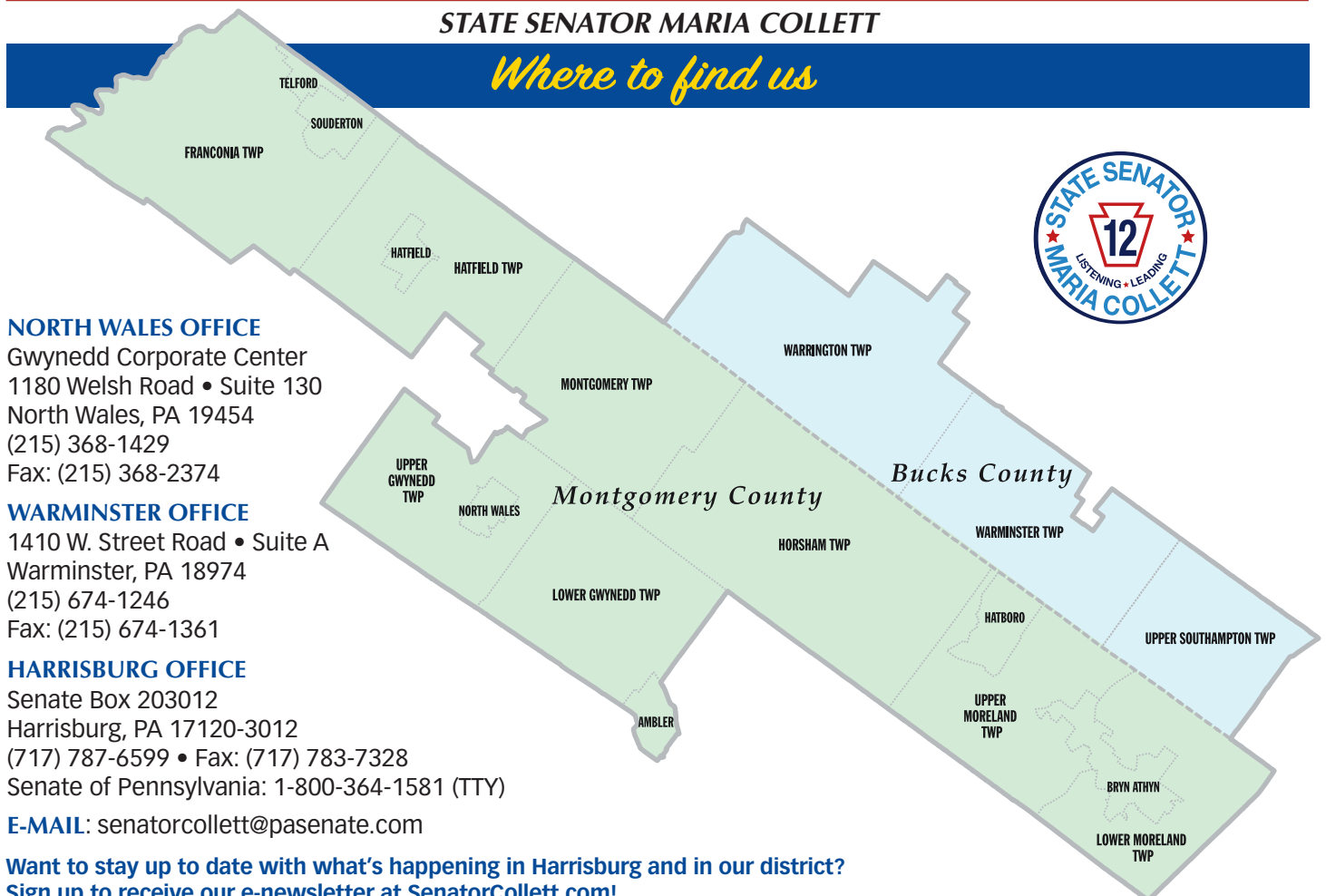
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