



State Senator MARIA COLLETT

Summer 2021

Representing the 12th Senatorial District

Inside:

- Harrisburg Update
- In the Community
- COVID-19 Vaccine Efforts



Dear Neighbor,

As I reflect on these past sixteen months, I want to recognize the immense sacrifices you have made to support and protect your families, businesses and communities. These have been times of terrible loss and struggle for so many in our district, but the strength and compassion of our communities gives me hope. As your representative in Harrisburg, I will continue to fight to ensure our district gets the resources it needs to recover from this pandemic and rebuild stronger than before. As always, my staff and I are here to support you and assist with any state-related issues. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our office with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Senator Maria Collett, 12th Senatorial District

**WE ARE HERE
TO HELP**

Ever wonder what services our office can help you with?

We are available to assist with a wide variety of concerns. This includes:

- **Unemployment Compensation Issues**
- **REAL ID and Other PennDOT Questions**
- **Disability Plates and Placards**
- **Department of Human Services Programs (SNAP, LIHEAP, Disability and Cash Assistance)**
- **Car Registrations, Special Tags, Titles and License Applications**
- **Birth and Death Certificate Applications**
- **Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program**
- **PA Income Tax**
- **Any Question or Problem with State Government!**

You can reach us by e-mailing senatorcollett@pasenate.com or calling us at **215-368-1429**, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.



STAY UP TO DATE
SenatorCollett.com



2020
BY THE NUMBERS

\$5.2 Million
To Small Businesses

16,586
Legislative Conversations With Constituents

2,786
Constituent Cases Closed

928
Unemployment Cases Resolved

\$63 Million
Grant Funding for Our Communities

13
Bills Introduced

54 **Bills Co-Sponsored**

12
Virtual Events & Town Halls

2020 was a year like no other. Thank you all for continuing to put your trust in me and my staff through these challenging times. I am proud to represent the people of the 12th District, and I will continue fighting for you in Harrisburg.

A Successful Fall Donation Drive

In collaboration with our Gwynedd Mercy Academy intern, my office hosted a pre-school food drive this past fall to support Pre-K Counts students in our community who may not receive the support of regular school district meals. With your help, the drive was one of our most successful yet! We had boxes and boxes full of snacks, drinks, and meals for our preschool friends at Children of America in North Wales and Jolly Toddlers in Southampton.



COVID-19 Vaccine Efforts

- Since December, fighting for a more accessible, equitable, and fast vaccine rollout has been one of my top priorities. Our Commonwealth had a rocky start with limited supply and a confusing, de-centralized appointment system, and it was clear our region was not receiving its fair share of doses. I spoke out and brought your concerns to the PA Department of Health and Wolf Administration during public hearings, through official letters, at legislative meetings and in conversations with the press.
- Thanks to our advocacy and our hardworking providers and county health departments, vaccine supply has finally caught up with demand in our region, and anyone 12 and older can easily make an appointment or find a walk-in clinic.
- In my efforts to protect our communities from COVID-19, I have been excited to put my nursing skills to use. So far, I've helped vaccinate residents at more than a dozen local clinics.

To find the latest COVID-19 guidance and information on making vaccine appointments, visit my website at

senatorcollett.com/coronavirus

Our counties and Area Agencies on Aging are providing assistance to residents looking to get their vaccine, including homebound individuals:

Montgomery County COVID Hotline

833-875-3967

Montgomery County Area Agency on Aging

610-278-3601

Bucks County COVID Hotline

1-800-383-0371

Bucks County Area Agency on Aging

267-880-5700

Senator Collett's Office

215-368-1429



**Wellness Pharmacy
Services Clinic in Dresher**



**Skippack Pharmacy
Clinic at North Penn
High School**



Jaisohn Medical Center Clinic at St Maria Goretti



**Eric's RX
Shoppe Clinic
in Upper
Dublin
Township**



**Sellersville Pharmacy Clinic at My
Dayhouse Achievement Center in Chalfont**



North Penn Mosque Community Center Clinic

PFAS Update

PFAS, or "forever chemicals," spread into our soil and ground water from firefighting foams used for decades on local military bases in Warminster and Horsham. Though our local water systems are now filtering out PFAS and our drinking water is safe, the chemicals are very persistent in the environment and human body, and exposures over one's lifetime could lead to serious health risks. Addressing PFAS contamination has been one of my top concerns, and I would like to share important information about an upcoming health study.

Community Health Study

- Our region is one of only eight sites chosen across the United States to take part in this first-of-its-kind federally-funded multi-site study on the health impacts of PFAS exposure.
- The study will include 1,000 adults ages 18 and older and 300 children ages 4 through 17 from Warminster, Warrington, Horsham and the surrounding municipalities, with a focus on residents living near wells that have verified reports of high PFAS levels. In the Summer of 2021, eligible residents can volunteer for the study. Study testing will take place in Warminster.

For the latest information, you can visit **papfas.rti.org**, call **1-866-354-1076** or e-mail **papfashealth@rti.org**.



Harrisburg Update

While things in Harrisburg often move frustratingly slow, the Pennsylvania legislature worked together this past session to take action on some of the issues that mattered to our constituents most:

What We've Passed

COVID Relief for Pennsylvanians

- In May 2020, PA CARES (**SB1108**) allocated \$2.6 billion in federal funding including \$245 million for small businesses, \$125 million for child care and early education, and much-needed investments in long-term care, housing assistance, and more.
- PA COVID Relief Funding (**SB109**) passed in February 2021 and included an additional \$145 million for small businesses, \$569 million for rent and utility assistance, \$47 million for school entities, and \$150 million for non-public schools.

Criminal Justice Reform

- Comprehensive Background Checks for Police Officers (**HB1841**).



- New Training Requirements (**HB1910**) implements officer trainings on use of deadly force, trauma-informed care, de-escalation, implicit bias and more. It also requires mental health examinations following the use of deadly force.
- No Consent In Custody (folded into **HB256**) outlaws the use of consent by a detained individual as a defense in court when a police officer sexually assaults a person in custody.

In The Pipeline

Though these bills are still in development, I am proud to be a prime sponsor and will continue to be a champion for these issues:

Patient Safety Act

Nurses have had our backs throughout the pandemic, now it's time we had theirs. The Patient Safety Act (**SB240**) would set safe nurse-to-patient ratios, allowing nurses to provide the best possible care.

Family Care Act

The bipartisan Family Care Act (**SB580**) would establish a paid family and medical leave program for working Pennsylvanians. This bill will keep our economy competitive with other states and ensure workers can care for themselves or a sick loved one without fear of losing their jobs.

Room For Progress

Clean Water

I'm reintroducing legislation (**SB611** and **SB612**) that will allow us to go after the polluters responsible for PFAS contamination to make them pay, so we can stop using state dollars to remediate this hazard.

Statute of Limitations Reform

Survivors of childhood sexual abuse deserve their day in court, no matter how long ago the crime was committed. Legislation to create a two-year window for these survivors to sue their abusers (**HB951**) has passed out of committee, and I urge Senate leaders to bring it up for a vote immediately.

Raising the Minimum Wage

19 states increased their minimum wage as of January 2021, but PA wasn't one of them. PA hasn't raised its minimum wage since 2009. It's past time for us to ensure Pennsylvanians can get an honest day's pay for an honest day's work.

Criminal Justice Reform

Though we've made some bipartisan progress on reform measures, we have a lot of work left to do. I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of Breonna's Law (**SB296**) to ban no-knock warrants in the Commonwealth, and I look forward to supporting additional efforts to improve police practices and hold bad cops accountable.

Legalizing Adult-Use Cannabis

We know that cannabis-related charges disproportionately impact Black and Brown Pennsylvanians. And we know that the majority of PA voters across the political spectrum support legalization. It's time for the legislature to put politics aside, work across the aisle, and act.

Joining Caucus Leadership

I was honored to have been elected by my caucus to join their leadership table as Secretary. I look forward to bringing the same level-headed compassion, openness, and integrity, as well as a suburban perspective, to the leadership table as we craft our caucus's policy goals.





In The Community



Lions Pride Park Ribbon Cutting

I was excited to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Lions Pride Park in Warrington Township this past October. The organizers' focus on inclusivity, good health, appreciation of nature, and multi-generationality makes Lions Pride Park truly one of a kind.

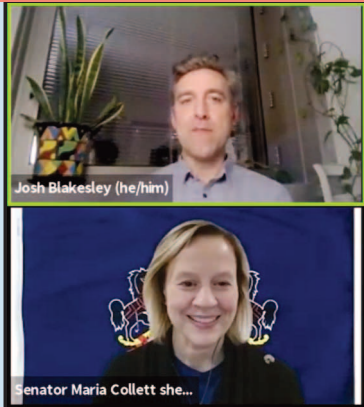
Virtual Story Time with Warminster Library



I've had the opportunity to do several virtual story times with local libraries and schools this year! I can't wait to start doing these visits in person in the coming months.

SAGA Community Center Virtual Discussion

In March, I joined the SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Acceptance) Community Center, located in Hatboro, for a virtual discussion about LGBTQ+ concerns and advocacy on the state level.



Marijuana Pardon Bins

I was glad to join Montco NORML and TerraVida Victims of the War on Drugs in January as they placed their third Montgomery County cannabis pardon bin at the Ambler train station. I'm proud to partner with them and our local communities to place additional boxes throughout the district to make the pardon process more accessible.



E-Waste Recycling & Food Drive Event

In May, my office hosted our first in-person event since 2020 – a successful e-waste recycling event and food drive benefiting Manna on Main Street! It was great to see everyone's faces and chat about the services our offices can help with.



Hatfield Meats Facility Groundbreaking

This February, we were excited to break ground for the new Hatfield Meats facility, which will bring nearly 90 full-time jobs to our area!



Welcoming A New PPE Manufacturer

In September, we welcomed UMBO, a new PPE manufacturer, to Franconia Township. Having this vital business right here in our district will be a tremendous help to ensure our health care workers, first responders, and other frontline workers continue to have access to this lifesaving equipment for years to come.





STATE SENATOR
Maria Collett

Senate Box 203012
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3012

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARRISBURG, PA
PERMIT NO. 603



Printed on recycled paper

STATE SENATOR MARIA COLLETT

Where To Find Us

NORTH WALES OFFICE

Gwynedd Corporate Center
1180 Welsh Road • Suite 130
North Wales, PA 19454
(215) 368-1429
Fax: (215) 368-2374

WARMINSTER OFFICE

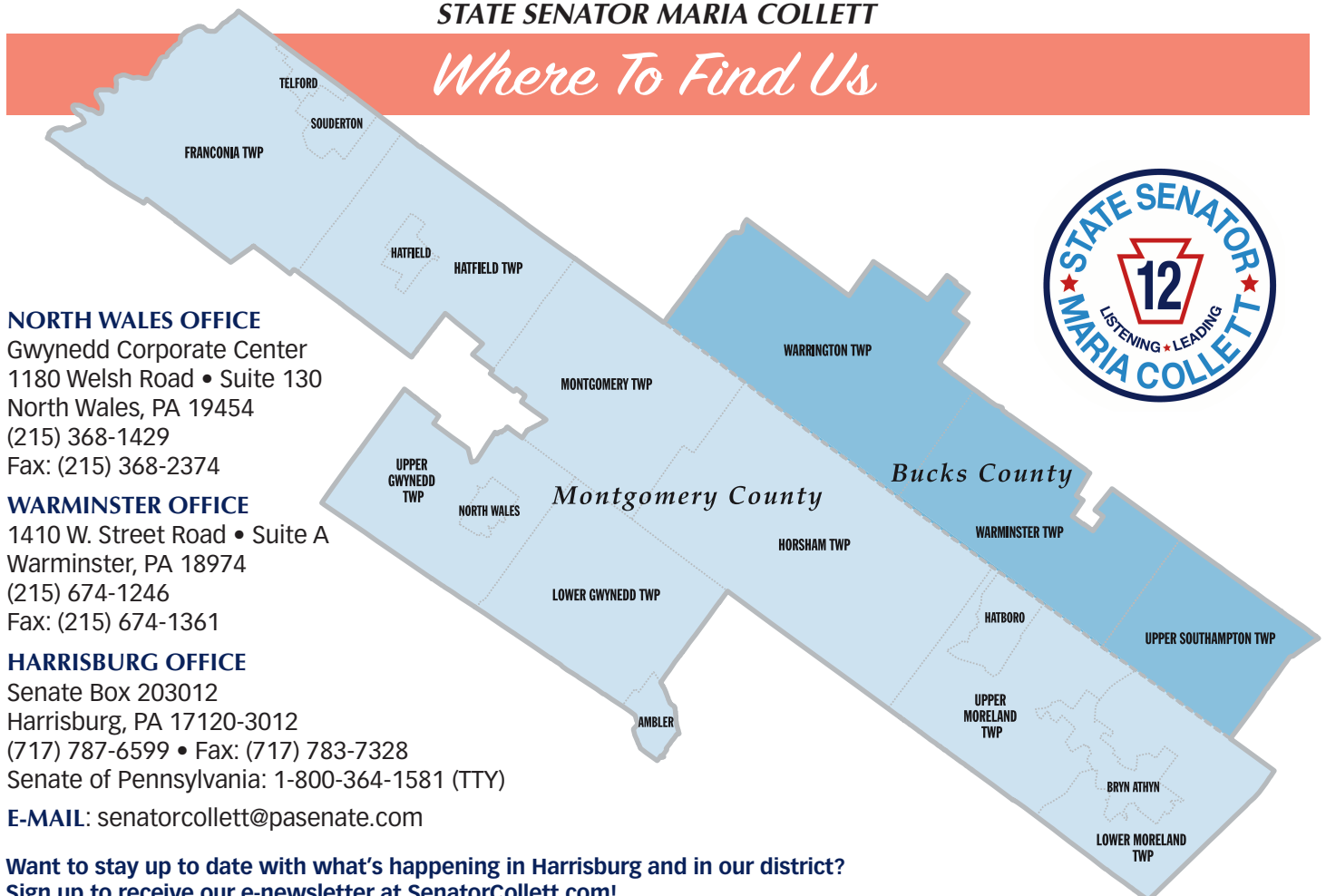
1410 W. Street Road • Suite A
Warminster, PA 18974
(215) 674-1246
Fax: (215) 674-1361

HARRISBURG OFFICE

Senate Box 203012
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3012
(717) 787-6599 • Fax: (717) 783-7328
Senate of Pennsylvania: 1-800-364-1581 (TTY)

E-MAIL: senatorcollett@pasenate.com

**Want to stay up to date with what's happening in Harrisburg and in our district?
Sign up to receive our e-newsletter at SenatorCollett.com!**



@SenatorCollett



@SenatorCollett



@SenatorCollett

www.SenatorCollett.com