



STATE SENATOR

MARIA COLLETT

Representing the 12th Senatorial District

WINTER 2026

Dear Neighbor,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends.

My team and I are ready to tackle a new year of serving our neighbors, hosting free community events, and advocating for a healthier, more affordable Pennsylvania where all of us can thrive.

Take a look inside my latest newsletter to see what we've accomplished together and learn how my office can be of assistance to you and your family. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions or concerns – we are here to help!

Maria Collett

State Senator
12th Senatorial District



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SAVE THE DATES

My staff and I will be hosting a number of community events this year, including:

JAN 30 CAREERLINK ON THE ROAD
Sessions at
10:30 AM – 12 PM & 12 PM – 1:30 PM
Senator Collett's Office
1035 Virginia Drive, Suite 201 | Fort Washington
This is a great opportunity to get free career counseling and job training resources with CareerLink of Montgomery County. *Appointments required: 610-270-3429 x 1291 (Timothy Lee, Career Services Navigator).*

MARCH 18 EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC
co-hosted with Rep. Nancy Guenst
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Upper Moreland Free Library
109 Park Ave. | Willow Grove
Don't let a prior offense keep you from making a fresh start. Join us for a free expungement clinic with the Montgomery County Public Defenders, who will answer your questions and assist you with clearing your record. Only Montgomery County arrests are eligible. *Appointments required: 215-368-1429.*

MARCH 21 SHREDDING & ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT
co-hosted with Reps. Melissa Cerrato, Liz Hanbidge & Ben Sanchez
10 AM – 12 PM
Temple University Ambler
580 Meetinghouse Rd. | Ambler (Use Butler Ave. Entrance)
Get your spring cleaning done at our free paper shredding and electronics recycling event! We cannot accept monitors, TVs or any products containing freon. Please limit shredding materials to three brown paper bags.

MAY 8 SENIOR EXPO
10 AM – 12 PM
Montgomery Township Community & Recreation Center
1030 Horsham Road | Montgomeryville
My annual senior expo features 50+ community vendors, health screenings, giveaways and refreshments – all geared toward older adults and their families. Don't forget to bring a friend!

MAY 9 PAPER SHREDDING EVENT
co-hosted with Rep. Greg Scott
10 AM – 12 PM
Central Montco Technical High School
821 Plymouth Rd. | Plymouth Meeting
Shred sensitive documents and protect your identity!
3 bag limit per car, please.

JUNE 20 FAMILY FEST
co-hosted with Rep. Steve Malagari & Souderton Connects
12 PM – 2 PM
Souderton Community Park
459 Wile Ave | Souderton
Join us for a free, fun family fair in Souderton to kick off the summer! We will have a variety of vendors, games, snacks and activities for kids and families. No rain date – weather dependent.

Be sure to sign up for my weekly e-newsletter at SenatorCollett.com/Subscribe and follow me on social media for additional details about these and other upcoming events!

PET-A-PALOOZA IN HATFIELD

Thanks to everyone who stopped by my and Rep. Steve Malagari's first Pet-a-Palooza in September, featuring over a dozen wonderful vendors! We had a blast meeting your pets and connecting you with resources like vet care, grooming services, rescue organizations and more. It was a perfect way to end the summer!

DON'T FORGET:

My office can provide annual dog licenses to protect your pup! Give us a call or visit the office to get started.



HARRISBURG UPDATES

POLICY WINS: BUILDING A HEALTHY PENNSYLVANIA

■ Protecting Medication Assistance for Older Adults

In December, Governor Shapiro signed HB 923, the companion bill to my and Sen. Farry's SB 731, into law, **ensuring that older Pennsylvanians don't lose access to the PACE & PACENET prescription assistance programs** due to an increase in their Social Security payments. These programs make it possible for hundreds of thousands of PA seniors to afford their medications, and I will continue to work to protect and expand that access.



■ Safeguarding Vaccine Access

In November, the PA House passed Rep. Arvind Venkat's HB 1828, which **requires insurers to cover approved vaccines without cost-sharing**. As prime sponsor of the senate version of the bill (SB 989), I am ready to vote yes and send this to the Governor's desk. Because national politics and unnecessary cost barriers should never stop Pennsylvanians from protecting their health and their families.

■ Boosting the Nursing Workforce Pipeline

Every year, our nursing schools are forced to turn away thousands of qualified applicants. Not because they lack the drive or the grades, but because we don't have enough faculty to teach them, or enough preceptors to train them in the field. SB 998, my bill with Sen. Brown, directly addresses these workforce barriers by **creating a grant program for nursing schools to boost the nursing workforce pipeline**. The bill passed unanimously in the Institutional Sustainability & Innovation Committee this October and now heads to the full senate for a vote.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



I'm proud that the 2025-2026 budget - while the product of compromise - delivers historic wins for everyday Pennsylvanians. But our work is not done. I remain fully committed to delivering results for my constituents - including sustained transportation and transit funding. The goal is simple: to rebalance the playing field so that our working families, our students, our seniors matter more than corporate interests and deep pockets.

Here are some of the budget wins I am excited to share:

- **Significant investments in public and special education.** This means our schools in the 12th District are getting \$4 million more than they did last year, thanks in part to cyber charter reform savings.
- A new **Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit** adds an extra 10% refund for families who qualify for the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit. More than 30,000 families in MontCo will receive up to \$805 back in their pockets.
- The creation of the **Nursing Shortage Assistance Program**, which will provide up to \$30,000 in student loan relief for PA nurses, building off my Student Loan Relief for Nurses program in 2021.
- \$25 million for a **Child Care Staff Retention and Recruitment Program** to help address childcare workforce shortages and low wages.
- Another \$3 million to provide **period products for students** in public schools across the Commonwealth, a key element of my Menstrual Equity Act.



NEW LEGISLATION PREVIEW

■ Universal Child Care

Accessible childcare is key to ensuring our families and our Commonwealth can thrive, but when monthly costs rival a mortgage, it's clear something needs to change. That's why I'm introducing legislation to create a task force exploring what a universal childcare program could look like in Pennsylvania.

■ Commission on Social Connection

Though we live in an age of digital connectivity, loneliness and isolation are on the rise. These issues are linked to higher rates of disease, mental health challenges and

even premature death. My legislation would establish the Commonwealth Commission on Social Connection, an interdisciplinary body of experts, community leaders and stakeholders to recommend statewide policies and programs that strengthen our connections and foster a healthier Pennsylvania.

■ Menstrual Products Right to Know Act

Some menstrual products have been found to contain dangerous chemicals that can pose significant health risks, including certain cancers, endometriosis and infections. As we seek to continue and expand programs that provide period products in PA schools and other public spaces, my bill would require the disclosure of ingredients on each package to help consumers make informed purchases.



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12th District

2025
BY THE NUMBERS

\$24.8 Million
Grant Funding Secured

15,928

Legislative
Conversations
with Constituents

2,287

Constituent Cases
Handled

27

Town Halls &
Events Hosted

650 Mobile Office
Hours

Phone Calls
Answered **4,355**

75
Bill Memos Introduced

201 Bills Co-
Sponsored

154

Community
Events
Attended

FIGHTING FOR PAID LEAVE

I want to live in a Pennsylvania where people can raise families, care for aging parents, and have thriving careers at the same time – without burdening our small businesses. That’s why I introduced the bipartisan **Family Care Act (SB906)**, and why I hosted a roundtable event at the Upper Dublin Library this fall to spotlight the need for paid family and medical leave for every working Pennsylvanian.

You can watch our discussion at senatorcollett.com/video.



SERVICE SPOTLIGHT IN THE 12TH DISTRICT

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

About 1 in 10 Pennsylvanians have unclaimed property, and the average claim is over \$1,000! Unclaimed property includes items like inactive bank accounts, uncashed checks, overlooked stocks and more. My office can help you identify and claim your property with the PA Treasury! One of our constituents recently discovered over \$9,000 waiting for them.

To get started, give us a call at **215-368-1429** or visit patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property.



HONORING LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS

I was excited to host a First Responder Appreciation Breakfast at the Eastern Center for Arts and Technology to honor and thank local law enforcement officers, firefighters and EMS providers. These brave public servants work around the clock so we can feel safe in our homes, at work, and in our communities every step of the way.

A special thanks to our featured speaker, Montgomery County Sheriff Sean Kilkenny, and to Eastern’s Protective Services and Culinary Arts students who made our program possible.



BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY



▲ Fill a Cop Car Food Drive

When SNAP benefits were halted by the federal government, local residents and organizations stepped up to help. A huge thanks to the Upper Moreland and Hatboro Police Departments, Willow Grove Giant, and the hundreds of neighbors who generously donated to our Fill a Cop Car Food Drive in November benefiting local pantries. When we come together in times of need, we show just how resilient we are—and we build a healthier, stronger community for everyone.



◀ Wissahickon Robotics & STEM Learning

In October, we celebrated the 25th Ramp Riot hosted by the Wissahickon Robotics Program! Dozens of teams competed in the annual robot battle competition, showing us how STEM learning fosters collaboration, critical thinking, and resilience in the next generation. When we encourage innovation and teamwork, we equip students with the grit and problem-solving skills needed to build a healthy economy that benefits us all.



▲ Visiting Settlement Music School

Settlement Music School is one of the oldest and largest community schools of the arts in the nation, and its Willow Grove Branch serves hundreds of students at every age, skill and income level. This September, I was excited to tour their facilities, learn more about their programming, and see some of their talented students in action!

▶ The Wall That Heals

In July, I had the honor of attending Montgomery Township's opening ceremony for The Wall That Heals—a traveling replica of the Vietnam War Memorial. Like the original in Washington, D.C., this powerful monument serves as a beacon of reflection and healing, bearing the names of more than 58,000 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice. My husband and I found his uncle's name and shared the impression with my mother-in-law whose warm memories of her brother reminded us of what so many families lost.



◀ Halloween at the Horsham Library

I spent my Halloween morning at a special story time at the Horsham Township Library and attended their spooky costume parade. Libraries are more than just places to borrow books—they are vibrant community hubs that foster learning, creativity, and connection for people of all ages. Be sure to check out the great community programming our local libraries offer every single day: senatorcollett.com/district.



◀ Hatfield Police Ride Along

Here in the 12th District, we're fortunate to have top-notch law enforcement officers working to make our communities better, safer places. This fall, I went behind the scenes with the Hatfield Police Department for a patrol ride along and a tour of their brand-new public safety facility, which Rep. Steve Malagari and I proudly supported with state grant funding. A healthy neighborhood starts with mutual trust and respect between law enforcement and the community.



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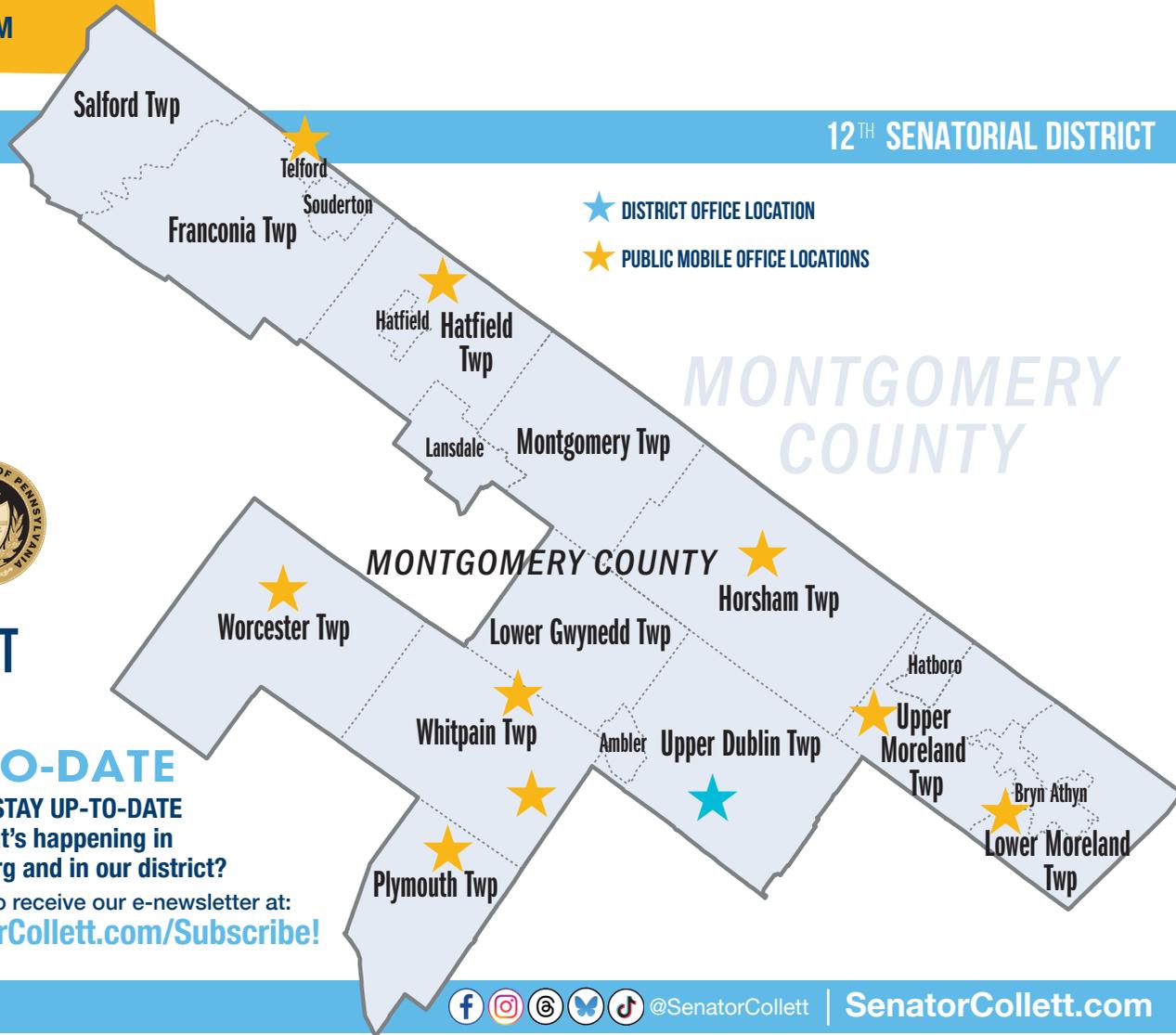
STATE SENATOR
MARIA COLLETT

STAY UP-TO-DATE



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