



CRAIG WILLIAMS



REPORT OF OUR WINS IN HARRISBURG AND AROUND THE DISTRICT

Traffic Improvements in the 160th District

I am working extremely hard to address the persistent traffic challenges in our district. As you know, we endured a major foundation repair to Baltimore Pike in Chadds Ford and Pennsbury a couple of years ago. Last year, we worked hard to finish the repairs at the Smithbridge Road bridge and the Naamans Creek Road/202 intersection. Some of those repairs (and then the follow-on utility digging in the same intersection) caused us to miss repaving season along 202. But when the weather finally warmed, we got our new road up to the Baltimore Pike intersection.

As your neighbor, I know firsthand the frustration we feel with our driving experience, especially when traffic grinds to a halt at intersections with no cross traffic in sight. So, I have made the automated traffic signaling in our district the next target of my attention.

I have met with PennDOT officials multiple times this year to discuss problems with the adaptive traffic signal system installed in 2014 by Rhythm Engineering. This system manages nine intersections along the Route 202 corridor. PennDOT has addressed multiple problems with the system, but parts of the

adaptive system are nearing the end of their mechanical life.

PennDOT has conducted a full review of the corridor's traffic signalization and already resolved some issues. Later this month, I will conduct an in-person inspection along Route 202 with their engineers. This will allow me to directly convey our concerns and ensure that they understand the disconnect between their remote, online assessments and what we actually experience daily on the road.

If you have not done so already, I encourage you to sign up for our weekly newsletter by going to our website, RepCraigWilliams.com. That is how I regularly communicate our efforts and results.

My political detractors attempt to make fun of my emphasis on road and driving quality, including when I intentionally travel the roads during storms to report conditions to you. The unassailable truth is that I am your neighbor, and I know that our driving experience is the most frustrating part of living where we do. I want you to love your hometowns as much as I do, so working hard on your driving experience will remain a high priority for me.



Expanding Education Benefits for National Guard Families

It came to our attention that upon reenlistment, National Guard families faced an odd moment in our laws where their educational opportunities did not extend into the new enlistment. When Rep. Arvind Venkat (D-Allegheny) brought that issue to me, I readily agreed to work with him to find a statutory fix. Together, we introduced a bill to make clear that every six-year re-enlistment earns a new Military Family Education Program (MFEP) benefit, which may be used by the service member or a dependent to cover the full cost of a college education at a Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education school. This law ensures that families may rely on the benefit every time that a Guard member re-enlists. The House and Senate each passed the bill, and I am glad to report that the Governor signed it into law on July 7.



BUDGET RECAP

June 30 marked the constitutional deadline for our state legislature to pass a balanced budget. Instead, Democratic leadership in the House proposed a spending bill on July 17, brought up for a vote only three hours after introduction.

This was not the budget. It was only proposed spending and not the constitutionally required balanced, expected revenue. That is because balancing their expenditures would require exorbitant tax increases, so it was omitted. In his budget, the Governor proposed massive increases in spending offset by claimed new revenues with marijuana sales and skill-game taxes. Neither of those policy objectives have been achieved. So, as of this newsletter, there remains a standoff. The main dispute is over the size of the Governor's deficit spending.

I voted yes on the Democrats' procedural spending bill. While we face serious fiscal challenges, I supported this measure as a show of good faith while negotiations continue. I remain focused on securing resources that matter most to our district.

I continue to push for \$3 million a year in the Fiscal Code to fund additional gun prosecutors in Delaware and Philadelphia counties. At the request of the Delaware County District Attorney, I also seek an additional \$1 million annually for gun violence prevention programs in Chester as part of my Project Safe Neighborhoods program funding. In addition, I requested \$8 million to refurbish the student union building at Cheyney University, the nation's oldest Historically Black College or University. I also raised concerns about Garnet Valley receiving the only significant funding decrease in the state (as proposed in the Governor's budget), and the Appropriations and Education Committee Chairs agreed to work with me to address this. And, of course, I continue to fight for my \$200 million Hospital Acquisition Assistance Fund to reopen closed hospitals, like Crozer.

The Senate advanced a \$47.6 billion budget plan, passed on a party-line vote. House Democrats rejected it in the Appropriations Committee, so it never came up for a vote.

My promise is to continue fighting for a responsible budget which also brings value directly to you.

Protecting Deployed Military Parents

The House unanimously passed my bill to protect the custodial and visitation rights of deployed military parents. The Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act makes clear that deployment cannot reduce a service member's parenting rights. The bill also creates a uniform process for custody and visitation during deployment to ensure consistency across Pennsylvania courts. As a retired Marine Corps Colonel, I understand the unique burdens military families face. When a parent receives orders to deploy, that change in circumstances should not be used against them in child-custody court proceedings. This legislation provides clear, uniform standards for how courts handle these situations, including protections for temporary custody arrangements and delegation of visitation rights. My bill also uses modern technology to extend visitation rights through online connections during the deployment of a parent. Sixteen other states have already enacted this law. It is time for Pennsylvania to do the same. Military parents should not be forced to choose between serving their country and maintaining a relationship with their children.

I am grateful for the strong bipartisan support of this legislation. The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously and awaits consideration by the full Senate. I will continue to fight for policies which recognize and respect the sacrifices of our military families.



Around the District



Fourth of July

This year Jennifer, Charlotte and I returned to Thornbury Township for its 4th of July parade and had a wonderful time. We shared a couple of hot dogs and laughs while hanging out with Uncle Sam and the kindhearted people of Thornbury.



Cub Scout Guest Speaker

I met with Cub Scout Pack 168, and we had a great discussion on public service and government. I spoke with the Webelos Den (fourth graders) about the importance of service to others. The Webelos worked on their "My Community Adventure" badge, and speaking with one of their elected leaders is one of the requirements. Thank you to Principal Sister Regina Elinich and Den Leader Katie Sierakowski for putting this visit together!



Document Shredding Event

I want to extend a big thank you to everyone who came out for our Spring Shredding and Prescription Drug Takeback event in May. We had an awesome turnout and safely disposed of a large volume of documents and medications. I want to give a special thanks to the young men from the Garnet Valley basketball and football teams for their help. I was also grateful to be joined by my friend, District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer.



Capitol Visit

I am always so thrilled to host the fourth-grade class and parents from St. Thomas the Apostle School for a visit to the Pennsylvania Capitol. We talked in my office about the separate functions of government, toured the Capitol together and then went past my seat on the floor before taking our photo in the House chamber of the House of Representatives. They then stayed in the House chamber during session where they were recognized by the Speaker during open session. It was a lovely day!



Girl Scout/Boy Scout Recognition

We proudly celebrate the exceptional accomplishments of local youth who have earned the highest honors in Scouting. These awards reflect years of dedication, leadership and community service. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, recognizing projects that make a lasting impact in the community. We congratulate: Virginia Rose Hayes, Eleanor Day and Stella Tucker. The rank of Eagle Scout is the pinnacle of achievement in Scouting, earned through outstanding leadership, service and perseverance. We applaud: Anthony Thomas Ristine, Gavin Robert Jacobs, Joseph Williamson, W. Cole Williams, Griffin Hays and Sahana Gajavelli. We commend all these young leaders for their hard work, commitment and positive impact on our community.



Senior Scam Seminar

I hosted a special seminar with seniors in our community this past spring. This seminar helped inform our senior community about ongoing scams and fraud. The program was in partnership with the PA Office of the Attorney General and discussed the tactics used to target our seniors and steps to guard against these schemes. We had a great turnout and it was lovely to talk with all who attended. Check our weekly e-newsletter, as we are hosting several more of these sessions this fall!

Honoring the Fallen on Memorial Day

On Memorial Day, Jennifer and I began the morning at my parish, St. Thomas the Apostle, where we honored our fallen with Taps and a gun salute at our cemetery. My family then joined a capacity crowd at Maris Grove for its Memorial Day ceremony. The professional color guard presented the flags of our armed forces, and the Fellowship Choir gave moving renditions of the service hymns.

It was an honor to deliver the keynote address, where I spoke about our responsibility to earn daily the sacrifices made by those who gave their lives for our freedoms. I want to thank everyone who joined us for these meaningful ceremonies.



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR 4 UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Shredding Event | Sept. 20 | 9 a.m. to Noon

Garnet Valley Middle School Parking Lot, 601 Smithbridge Road, Glen Mills, PA

Veterans Recognition Breakfast | Nov. 7 | 9 a.m. to Noon

One Fellowship Drive, Glen Mills, PA | RSVP required

Legislative Open House with Santa

Dec. 11 | 4-6 p.m.

One Beaver Valley Road, Chadds Ford, PA

Veterans Service Office 1st & 3rd Wednesday of Each Month

Available by appointment to assist constituents.

