



State Senator

CAROLYN COMITTA

Serving the 19th Senatorial District

SUMMER 2022

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES



INSIDE

**Fighting Food Insecurity • Protecting Our Planet • Redistricting Update
Supporting Strong Schools • Standing for Safe Communities & More**



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– Our Weekly E-Newsletter

Hello Friends,

One of the most important parts of my job as your State Senator is connecting communities, finding common ground, and building consensus on the issues that matter to all Chester Countians. It also happens to be one of my favorite aspects of public service.

In this newsletter, you'll find information on my work and ongoing efforts to protect our environment, fight food insecurity, invest in education, support clean energy, promote economic opportunity, and ensure that our communities remain safe, welcoming, and prosperous places for all residents, families, and workers to thrive.

Today, we look to a post-pandemic future with promise and hope. While we have all faced challenges and adversity over the past two years, we have learned to be stronger through innovation, generosity, and gratitude.

Let's move forward together. Let's listen thoughtfully and respectfully to all voices and perspectives. Let's seek common ground and actionable solutions to shape a healthy future for our communities, our Commonwealth, and our country.

Thank you for all your good work. Please reach out to me anytime with questions, insights, and suggestions. Take good care of yourself. And know that my staff and I are always here for you.

Sincerely,

Carolyn T. Comitta

19th Senatorial District

MY STAFF CAN ASSIST WITH

Birth and Death Certificate Applications • SEPTA Senior Passes Applications for Benefits (SNAP, Cash Assistance, Medicaid, CHIP) Rent and Property Tax Rebates • PennDOT Application Assistance Assistance with Utilities (LIHEAP) • And Many Other Services

ON THE COVER

Senator Comitta speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Coatesville Train Station. Over two years, she secured \$4.65 million for the parking and transportation facility adjacent to the new station. Construction on the station is currently underway with work slated for completion in 2025.

FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY

Did you know . . .

- More than 1.5 million Pennsylvanians – including 443,000 children – don't know where their next meal is coming from.
- About 1/3 of college students report missing meals due to food insecurity.
- Nearly 35% of college students know someone who has dropped out due to food insecurity.

The Hunger-Free College Campuses Act empowers colleges and universities to tackle food insecurity head-on by:

- Providing up to \$1 million in grant funding.
- Establishing free campus food pantries.

- Launching innovative programs like allowing students to donate their unused meals or “swipes” from pre-purchased meal plans to those who face food insecurity

Hunger in our communities and on campus is a solvable problem. Let's solve it together.

Learn More: www.pasenatorcomitta.com/hunger



Senator Comitta believes no student should have to go hungry to pursue the dream of higher education and career success. She was recently joined by college students from West Chester University and across Pennsylvania to call for the passage of her Senate Bill 719, the Hunger-Free College

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

As minority chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, Senator Comitta is working to:

- **Cut Emissions:** Pennsylvania accounts for about 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative will help cut carbon and air pollution by hundreds of millions of tons per year.
- **Invest in Renewables:** Pennsylvania should expand the electricity it requires from renewables, like wind and solar, to 30 percent by 2030.

- **Save Open Space:** Nearly \$2 million in total funding to preserve 156 acres in East Bradford and 162 acres in Elk Township.
- **Enact Stronger Pipeline Rules:** Leading the most significant development on pipeline safety in recent history, as new pipeline rules advance through the Public Utility Commission. Comitta also convenes regular multi-stakeholder meetings on pipeline safety and communication with the Chester County Association of Township Officials.
- **Transition to Clean Energy:** Training workers for family-sustaining careers in the clean energy economy.
- **Support Recycling:** \$1 million for new equipment for the Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority.
- **Protect the Night Sky:** Reducing light pollution saves energy while positively impacting human health, wildlife, and ecosystems, as well as traffic and pedestrian safety.
- **Focus on Realistic Climate Goals:** Aiming for Pennsylvania to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

We only have one planet. We must act now to protect it. Learn More:

www.pasenatorcomitta.com/climatecrisis



Senator Comitta secured key investments in open space and outdoor recreation, including \$175,000 for a new playground at Everhart Park in West Chester.

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Senator Comitta with Abdul Mughees Chaudhri, Vice President of the Islamic Society of Chester County, and local law enforcement officers at a community event celebrating Eid al-Adha. She continues to stand with members of all communities against hate, violence and bigotry.



As Mayor of West Chester, Senator Comitta brought together community and interfaith leaders to support tolerance, inclusivity, and peace. Today, she's bringing those same values to her work in the state legislature with a focus on health, safety, and community development.

- **Strengthening Healthcare Infrastructure:** \$2.1 million to expand inpatient and emergency department capacity at Chester County Hospital and \$50,000 for the physical therapy program at Community Volunteers in Medicine, which serves low-income families.
- **Supporting Emergency First Responders:** \$1.5 million for Berwyn Fire Company's new main firehouse and \$50,000 for upgraded equipment for Southern Chester County Emergency Medical Services/Medic 94.
- **Safeguarding Religious Freedom:** \$235,000 in total funding for security upgrades at five local nonprofit organizations that serve diverse communities, including two mosques and two synagogues.

- **Protecting Our Neighbors in Need:** \$50,000 for housing and shelter infrastructure repairs at the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County and new legislation to better protect people with disabilities from hate crimes.
- **Investing in Community Development:** \$1.35 million for the new Great Valley Community Center, \$2 million for a new theater in downtown Oxford, and \$2.4 million for the new Kennett Library.
- **Stimulating Job Growth:** \$370,000 for rail improvements that helped bring 150 new manufacturing jobs to the Atglen area.



Senator Comitta worked with disability rights advocate and West Chester special education teacher Jessica Keogh (center) to pass legislation that helps workers with disabilities find jobs and advance their careers. Also pictured is Megan Patrick of Hershey.



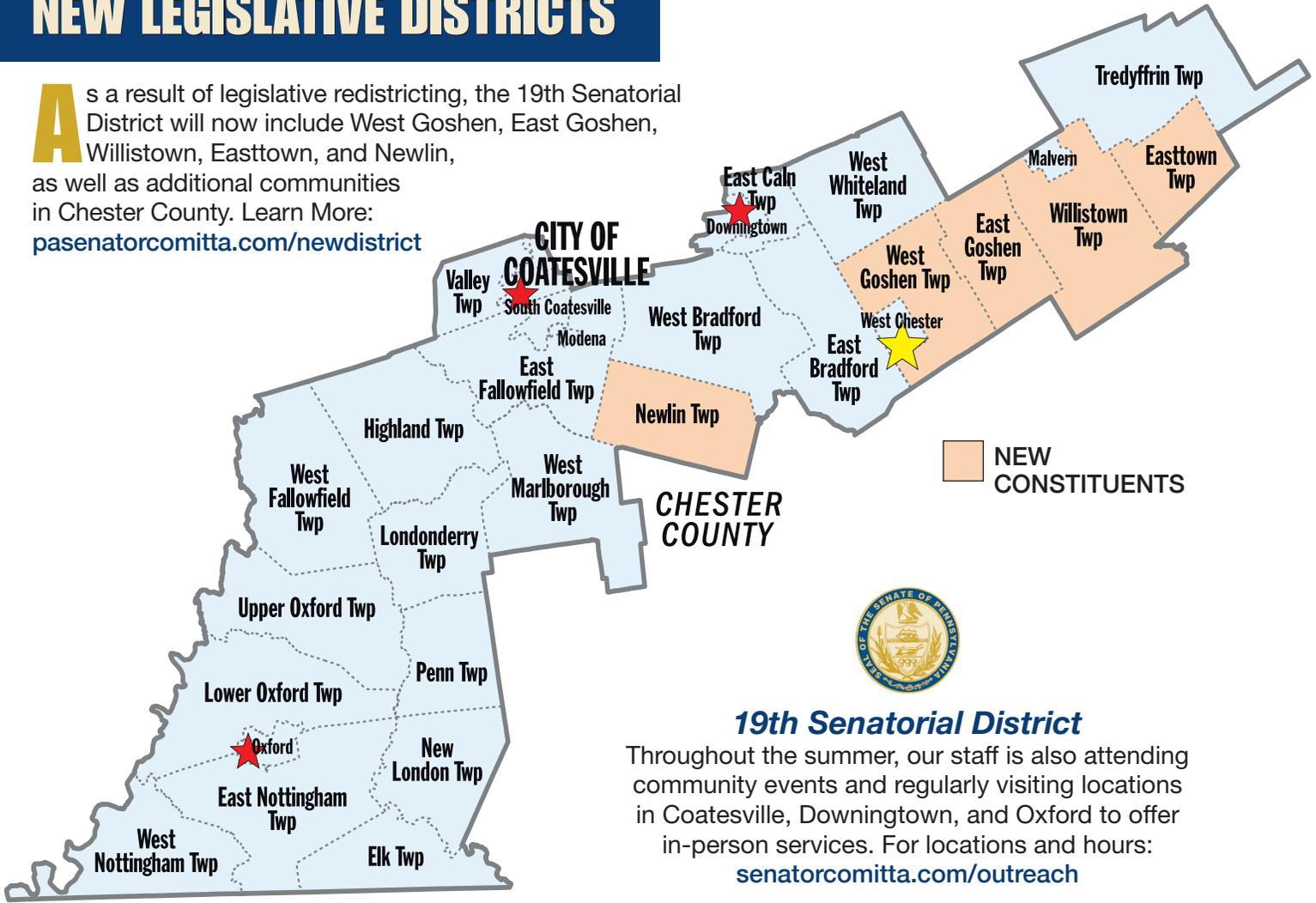
Senator Comitta and her staff participated in a volunteer day of service with Good Works, Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides free home repairs to low-income residents and families. Comitta also successfully secured \$50,000 in state funding for the group to purchase materials and supplies.

Senator Comitta watches as Paramedic Sgt. John Ryan demonstrates the capabilities of the new Philips Tempus ALS Cardiac Monitor defibrillators, which allow Medic 94 paramedics to communicate seamlessly with emergency room doctors.



NEW LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

As a result of legislative redistricting, the 19th Senatorial District will now include West Goshen, East Goshen, Willistown, Easttown, and Newlin, as well as additional communities in Chester County. Learn More: pasenatorcomitta.com/newdistrict



19th Senatorial District

Throughout the summer, our staff is also attending community events and regularly visiting locations in Coatesville, Downingtown, and Oxford to offer in-person services. For locations and hours: senatorcomitta.com/outreach

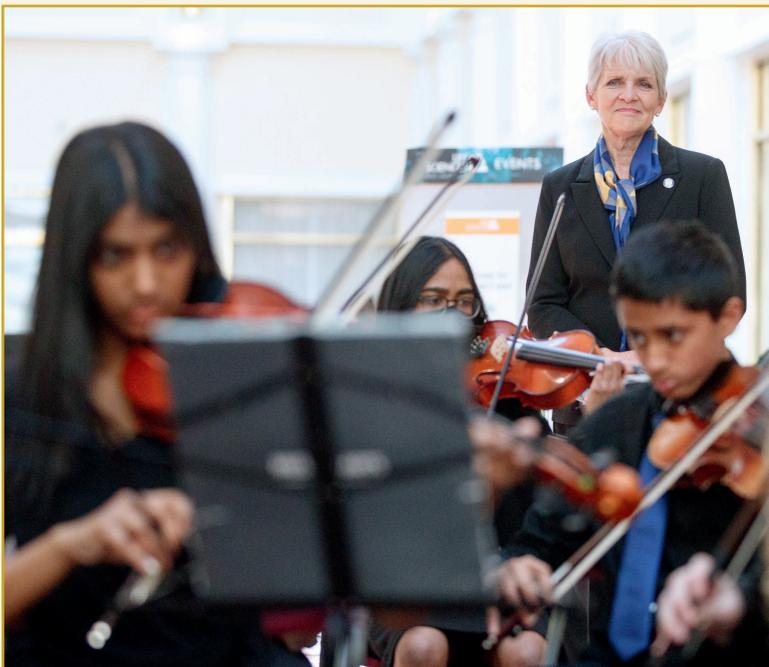
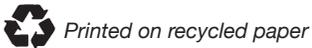
COMMITTEES

- Environmental Resources & Energy, Minority Chair
- Agriculture & Rural Affairs
- Education
- Health & Human Services
- Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness

Constituent Spotlight: HENRY JACKS



Senator Comitta recently recognized Henry Jacks for his decades of work and leadership in advancing the mission of the Coatesville NAACP, which this year marked its 85th anniversary. Jacks, who will celebrate his 100th birthday this summer, was also honored for his service in the U.S. Army during World War II.



Senator Comitta recently welcomed the Great Valley Middle School Chamber Orchestra to perform in the State Capitol in Harrisburg as part of a celebration of “Music in Our Schools” month. She also introduced Senate Resolution 240, recognizing the role of music, theatre, dance, and arts education as an essential part of the learning process.

A former public school teacher, Senator Comitta has experienced firsthand the transformative power of education in improving the lives of students and families. On the Senate Education Committee, Comitta continues to work to:

- **Invest in All Levels of Education:** Students and schools need ongoing resources and support to recover from learning loss associated with the pandemic.
- **Support After-School Programs:** \$25,000 for a computer lab for the Coatesville Youth Initiative, \$25,000 for the Garage Community Youth Center in Kennett Square and Avondale, and \$50,000 for environmental education programs at the Brandywine YMCA.
- **Enhance Student Mental Health and Wellness:** Comitta’s Senate Bill 791 aims to help increase access to school counselors, psychologists, social workers, and nurses.
- **Assist Parents and Teachers:** Forming a partnership with West Chester University to offer free stress reduction programs and techniques to parents and teachers.