



State Representative

**VALERIE GAYDOS**

**44<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**



### Dear Friends,

During the last year, my colleagues and I in the House of Representatives focused our attention on economic recovery for our communities. We have worked hard on getting our children back in school and learning, advocating for our communities, supporting small businesses, and helping the people who have struggled so greatly in trying to navigate cumbersome government systems like the state unemployment compensation system and licensing. The past two years have brought challenging times, but we hope that the year ahead brings greater prosperity to all.

As we navigate through what we hope is the post-pandemic era, I will continue fighting for lower taxes, reversing excessive government overreach and advocating for more affordable health care. My staff and I are here to continue assisting constituents in the 44th District. We accept every question, comment and concern regarding state government issues and resources. You may contact my office at 412-262-3780 or [www.RepGaydos.com/contact](http://www.RepGaydos.com/contact). If you wish to visit us in person, the district office, located in Moon Township, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

I am honored to be your voice in Harrisburg  
Please continue to stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Valerie Gaydos

construct a new Cargo Building 4 complex. The project involves the development of a 75,000-square-foot warehouse/processing facility, a 122,000-square-foot parking lot for tractor trailers and passenger vehicles, and a 348,000-square-foot parking apron for planes, as well as a new 212,500-square-foot taxi lane. It is estimated that PIT will need more cargo warehouse space by 2023. The funds will be used for the plumbing and electrical work associated with the construction of the warehouse/processing facility.



### *Gaydos Selected to Serve on Team Pennsylvania Foundation Board of Directors*

Rep. Gaydos was nominated by House Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff (R-Centre/Mifflin) and approved by the Team Pennsylvania Foundation to serve on its board of directors. Team Pennsylvania is a collaboration of the highest levels of public and private leadership to support Pennsylvania's goal of being a national leader in education and economic development. She is also a member of the Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) Hydrogen Group.

In this capacity, Gaydos will help Team Pennsylvania Foundation, a dynamic public/private partnership, to improve and strengthen the state's workforce and help grow a vibrant economy in Pennsylvania. CCUS is a useful option for reducing greenhouse gas emissions while ensuring energy supply and spurring development of new markets for alternative fuels like hydrogen.

As a current member of the House Commerce and Education committees, and with her experience as a business owner, Gaydos will be able to contribute to furthering business growth, education and workforce development, and government efficiency in Pennsylvania.

Team Pennsylvania Foundation is a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit established in 1997 to connect private and public sector leaders to achieve and sustain progress for Pennsylvania.

### *Grants Awarded to Fire, EMS Companies in the 44th District*

First responders need funding to do their jobs at peak efficiency. Rep. Gaydos announced that fire and ambulance companies in the 44th District collectively received nearly \$111,000 in state grants through the Fire Company and Emergency Medical Service Grant Program.

The following received grants in the district.

- Aleppo Township Volunteer Fire Company - \$12,411.
- Big Sewickley Creek Volunteer Fire Department - \$12,411.
- Cochran Hose Company Inc. - \$14,907.
- Crescent Township Volunteer Fire Department - \$12,590.
- Imperial Volunteer Fire Department - \$14,016.
- North Fayette Township Volunteer Fire Department - \$13,481.
- Ohio Township Volunteer Fire Company of Allegheny County - \$13,124.
- Quaker Valley Ambulance Authority EMS - \$8,993.
- Valley Ambulance Authority EMS - \$8,993.

### *Funding Approved for PIT Cargo Complex*

In November, the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) awarded \$1 million to the Allegheny County Airport Authority (ACAA) for the Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT) Cargo Intermodal Freight Transfer Facilities Development in Moon Township.

ACAA will use the funding to expand the PIT Cargo Building 3 aircraft apron and taxi lane and



### *Perfect Attendance Recognized*

One of the many duties of a state representative is to attend all House sessions so he or she can debate and vote on legislation that will benefit you.

During the 2021 calendar year, Rep. Gaydos participated, either in person or remotely due to the pandemic, in all 65 session days of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Her record includes all 618 votes, including 338 bills on third consideration or concurrence, 24 resolutions, 205 amendments and 51 motions.

House Majority Whip Rep. Donna Oberlander was on hand to recognize Gaydos.



## House Passes Resolution to Study Common Interest Owned Communities

To help ensure fairness for homeowners, the House of Representatives adopted Rep. Gaydos' House Resolution 69 that would direct the Joint State Government Commission to study common interest owned communities (CIOCs). Specifically, the study would focus on the impact the communities have on local governments and Pennsylvania, the challenges facing the residents and governing bodies of these CIOCs, and opportunities for the Commonwealth to assist local governments and CIOCs to deliver adequate services to their residents at an affordable cost.

Many residents have voiced their complaints about association fees and limited services, including a lack of full police coverage, road repairs and trash pickup. This legislation will help local government obtain more information about Homeowners Associations (HOA) so that the general public may know more about their needs.

## Supporting Tactical EMS Providers

As a former Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Rep. Gaydos understands the need to better support the work of tactical emergency medical services (EMS) providers.

She has introduced House Bill 1331 that would add tactical EMS providers to the definitions under Title 75 of the Vehicle Code to include a certified tactical EMS provider who is affiliated with and directly supports a county or regional municipal Special Emergency Response Team or the Pennsylvania State Police Special Emergency Response Team. The inclusion of these emergency responders in the definitions will allow tactical EMS providers to use emergency vehicle lights that deliver added safety while providing for the ability to rapidly respond to an incident in progress.

The legislation is now with the House Transportation Committee for consideration.

## Helping Small Businesses to Provide More Affordable Health Care Benefits to Employees

Rep. Gaydos has introduced legislation to provide a mechanism for small business employers to join together to offer quality health insurance as a benefit to their employees.

House Bill 555 would require that a group or association health plan being offered is fully insured, provides essential health benefits and protects small businesses and employees. The association health plan coverage would be guaranteed issued and renewable, prohibiting denying coverage based on a pre-existing condition, providing essential health benefits and plans comparable to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) plans. Prior to the enactment of the ACA, many companies, trade association members and nonprofits were allowed to pool together for health care, but the ACA made that prohibitive.

Federal law and regulations currently do not allow the small businesses in an association to be treated as a large employer. This legislation simply restores the right of small businesses to group together.

This practice already occurs in more than 30 states and enacting the same in Pennsylvania will enable our small businesses to reduce health care costs through group buying power.

The legislation has been referred to the House Insurance Committee for consideration.



Gaydos attended the Pennsylvania Farm Show which is the largest indoor agricultural exposition on the east coast, is a celebration of animals, equipment, entertainment and trade from the agriculture world. Agriculture is the top industry in our state, and it is essential that all of us support it. Rep. Gaydos visited **Will Stiltner of Black Dog Wine Company**. Recently, it was announced that the new Moon Township Dog Park will be officially known as the Black Dog Wine Company at Moon Park. The company is a boutique winery producing award-winning fine wines in the countryside of western Allegheny County.



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
VALERIE GAYDOS

### Gaydos Human Trafficking Legislation Now Law

Legislation authored by Rep. Gaydos that would better protect the victims of human trafficking was signed into law by Gov. Tom Wolf last summer.

Act 45 of 2021 will expand the list of sexual offenses that require offenders to attend and participate in a Department of Corrections program of counseling and therapy designed for incarcerated sex offenders.

Gaydos introduced the legislation to continue to raise public awareness as well as arm prosecutors and law enforcement with every tool possible to take down traffickers and protect victims. No one should have to experience the trauma these victims are going through every day.

### Gaydos Sponsors Legislation to Eliminate Death Tax

Rep. Gaydos, along with Rep. Greg Rothman (R-Cumberland), has introduced legislation that would eliminate the Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax, otherwise known as the "death tax."

Pennsylvania is one of only six states in the nation with an inheritance tax. The elimination of this tax at the state level will ensure that inheritance goes to the family or heir it was meant to go to, and it will help to protect individuals who receive an inheritance from ending up with a bill at a time they are mourning the loss of their loved one.

The federal inheritance/estate tax is applied to the transfer of property to an heir after the passing of the original owner. Federal tax is calculated based on the fair market value of the property transferred to the beneficiary of the state. However, unlike Pennsylvania, the federal estate tax has a general exclusion amount. Under the Tax Cut and Jobs Act (TCJA), the filing threshold was increased to \$11.58 million in 2020, \$11.7 million in 2021 and is adjusted for inflation through 2025.

House Bill 1148 has been referred to the House Finance Committee for consideration. Gaydos is hopeful that this legislation will come up for a vote before the full House soon.

### Gaydos Advanced Manufacturing Legislation to Build Stronger, Better Economy

Rep. Gaydos has introduced legislation to support advanced manufacturing technologies by incentivizing investments in equipment, infrastructure and retention of top-tier talent.

Fostering innovation is a way the Commonwealth can advance a stronger, brighter and better economy. Advanced manufacturing enables new methods of manufacturing existing products, as well as the creation of new products emerging from new technologies. Anything we can do to incentivize this expanding industry will produce tangible economic activity.

House Bill 1388 creates incentives through two avenues:

- **Creating grants for equipment to be used in an advanced manufacturing project.**
- **Allowing for state-administered low-interest loans for the purchase, construction, rehabilitation and retrofitting of facilities for advanced manufacturing infrastructure.**

The bill would encourage development of advanced manufacturing facilities and infrastructure.

House Bill 1388 is with the House Commerce Committee for consideration.



Gaydos Speaks at Women’s Leadership Conference

Rep. Gaydos was invited to serve as a panelist at Rep. Bud Cook’s Women in Leadership Conference in the 49th District at California University of Pennsylvania. The first female majority whip of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Donna Oberlander and newly elected Rep. Carrie Lewis DelRosso were other legislative panelists. The representatives shared their stories and took questions on how they became state legislators and the challenges faced by women in a man’s world. Other panels included successful females from the trades and other industries.

Gaydos delivered this message to hard-working women: encourage one another. If you make your way to a leadership position, mentor the other women in your organization and allow their creativity and abilities to be put to good use.



News You Can Use

- **Port Authority ConnectCards for Seniors** are available for processing at my district office in Moon Township by appointment only. Only seniors who currently use their Medicare ID card to ride public transportation for free must obtain a Senior ConnectCard. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call my office at 412-262-3780.
- **PennDOT is looking to hire college students** from May through August to supplement its permanent workforce. The job typically entails seasonal maintenance work and sign upgrade services, maintenance and custodial services at roadside rest facilities, and laboring and flagging duties in maintenance organizations and highway worksites. Interested applicants should apply online at [www.employment.pa.gov](http://www.employment.pa.gov) to the PennDOT College Student Summer Worker posting under the Open Jobs section.
- Stop by Rep. Gaydos’ office at 1005 Beaver Grade Road, Suite 106 in Moon Township from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to pick up a **Property Tax/Rent Rebate Application** or to get assistance with completing your application. Call with any questions about eligibility and what documentation is needed to complete the application. Gaydos and her staff are here to help!

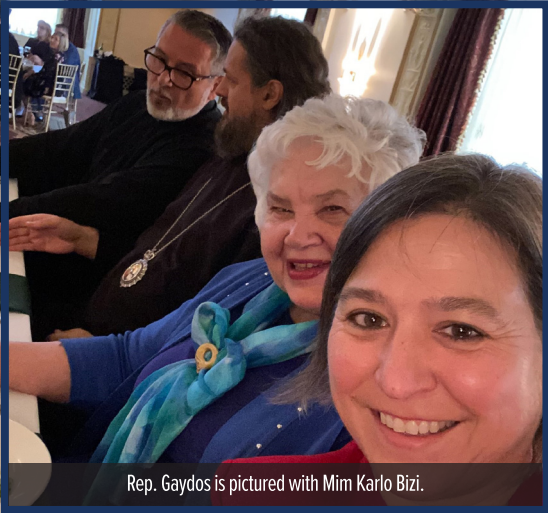
Gaydos Honors Church and Retired Community Librarian

On behalf of the House of Representatives and more than 20 House colleagues, Rep. Gaydos presented His Grace Bishop Irinej with an official House of Representatives recognition to mark the centennial of the founding of the first Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church. Gaydos is an Orthodox Christian and the granddaughter of two Orthodox priests who held great appreciation for the religious freedoms afforded to us in the United States. Thank you, America!

Adding to the importance of this celebration, Quaker Valley resident and retired Edgeworth Elementary School Librarian Milana “Mim” Karlo Bizic was granted by Bishop Irinej the prestigious medal of the High Order of the Holy Despot Stefan Lazarevic for her lifelong endeavors in promoting educational and cultural values in our schools. Among many previous recognitions in her lifetime of teaching, Mrs. Bizic was recognized for her implementation of computers in elementary education, was a multi-year winner of the Apple Distinguished Educator Award while teaching in the Quaker Valley School District, and was also named Woman of the Year in 1987 by the Sewickley Herald Newspaper for her many achievements on behalf of the children of the valley. Congratulations, Mrs. Bizic!



Pictured with me (from left) are Grace Bishop Irinej and His Excellency, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the United States Mark Djuric.



Rep. Gaydos is pictured with Mim Karlo Bizi.

ATTENTION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- In partnership with the Pennsylvania American Legion, Rep. Gaydos will be offering **veterans affairs outreach hours** in her district office at 1005 Beaver Grade Road, Suite 106, in Moon Township, on the **fourth Thursday of each month**. A service officer from the American Legion will be available to assist veterans with a variety of issues.
- Join Gaydos and her staff for an **Open House** event on **Friday, Apr. 29, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at the district office. If you have a question or concern stop by.
- An **Identity Theft seminar** will take place on **Saturday, June 11, from 9-11 a.m., at the Moon Middle School**. A representative from the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General will conduct the seminar and answer questions

Call Gaydos’ office at 412-262-3780 for more information on these upcoming events.





PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**VALERIE GAYDOS**

SPRING 2022

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**Moon Township:**

1005 Beaver Grade Road,  
Suite 106  
Moon Township, PA 15108  
**412-262-3780**  
FAX: 412-262-3783

**Capitol:**

Room 428, Irvis Office Building  
PO Box 202044  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2044  
**717-787-6651**  
FAX: 717-782-2889

# Out and About in the 44<sup>th</sup> District



Congratulations to **Chief Rich Manko** on his retirement from the Sewickley Borough Police Department. Chief Manko, pictured middle, served on the force for 40 years. It was Rep. Gaydos' honor to present him with a House of Representatives citation for his outstanding work and dedication. **David Mazza**, pictured to the far left, will be taking over the duties as the new police chief.



Rep. Gaydos enjoyed a fun day taking part in the Trunk or Treat for local Military Families along with fellow Rep. Anita Kulik. This was held at the Army Reserve facilities located in Moon Township near the Pittsburgh Area Commissary and sponsored by the United Service Organizations Inc. (USO). Gaydos recognizes and thanks service members and the families who sacrifice with them.



Rep. Gaydos participated in a Veterans Day celebration at Traditions of America at Summer Seat in Ohio Township and was honored to recognize these community heroes.

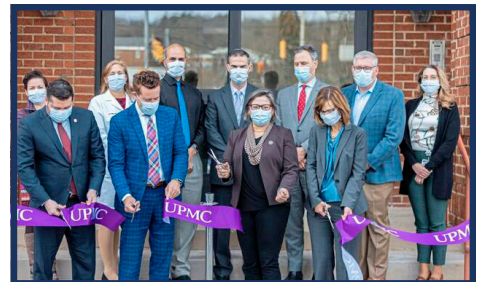


As the chair of the House Cancer Caucus, Rep. Gaydos had the opportunity to join numerous fighters and survivors in recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month at the state Capitol. To honor those who have fought the disease, the Capitol fountain is dyed pink each October.



Rep. Gaydos recently spoke to Girl Scout Junior Troop 80000 about state government as part of their Democracy Badge requirements. The girls were very attentive and asked some great questions. The troop has nine fourth-grade girls, and they meet at the Ohio Township Nature Center twice a month.

**Pictured with me in the back row, from left, are Debbie Bacon; Lily; Eliana; Frankie; Norah; Avery; Vicki Carlson, president of the Avonworth School Board; and Danielle White, treasurer of the Avonworth School Board. In the front row, from left, are Evia, Morgan and Adalynn. Sitting on the floor is Lydia.**



Sen. Devlin Robinson and Rep. Gaydos participated at UPMC's ribbon-cutting event at its new Edgeworth location in Edgeworth Square, 111 Hazel Lane. UPMC occupies the second floor of the building with its UPMC Children's Community Pediatrics, which opened in November, on one half of the floor, and UPMC's new primary and specialty care facility on the other.

**Pictured with me are (front row, left to right), Sen. Devlin Robinson; Mark Sevco, president of UPMC Hospitals; and Susan Hoolahan, president of UPMC Passavant. (back row, left to right) Bernadette Decaria, physician assistant; Dr. Lori Bigi; Dr. Suresh Mulukutla; Dr. George Al-Khoury; Dr. Richard Beigi; Dr. Thomas Hughes; and Dr. Alexandra Gail Potock.**



I enjoyed touring Finish Robotics and watching the company's robots paint a wall. Finish Robotics, an Innovation Works company is located in Haysville and makes semi-autonomous, collaborative robots using standard industrial components. The robots still need human guidance, but their help is expected to address the growing skilled labor shortage in commercial finishing construction. Innovation Works provides investment support, business assistance and connections to investors, talent and other critical resources.

**Pictured with me are members of the Finish Robotics team, (from left) Rob Myer, Ricky Houghton, Colleen Fallert and Brian Saghy.**