

Dear Friends,

As we set out into this new year and I complete my first year as your new State Representative, I reflect on what a blessing it has been to serve so many hardworking people of the 44th Legislative district.

I made it a priority during this first year in office to meet with as many people as possible and to be a good listener.

Since being sworn into office, I have kept good on my promise to fight for increased accountability and transparency in our state government—making sure that your hard-earned tax dollars are spent wisely for the betterment of our communities. And, working hard to ensure that government is serving your needs and not a burden.

While there remains work to be done, I am proud of our accomplishments this year and I am excited to share them with you.

Sincerely,

Valerie Gaydos



Visit me online at
www.RepGaydos.com
facebook.com/RepGaydos



With my colleagues in the House Transportation Committee for a tour of the Pittsburgh Airport.



Rep. Gaydos honors local heroes on Veterans Day at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School in Moon Township alongside former teacher and U.S. Navy veteran Bob Brasko.



Rep. Gaydos at the Findlay Township Parade with Jim Scott, a member of her District Office staff.



Reviewing the budget proposal with House Appropriations Chairman Stan Saylor.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

We are forever grateful for the sacrifices these men made for our county and our freedoms.



316th ESC Soldiers at McGarity Reserve Center Retirement

I had the privilege and honor to present Pennsylvania House of Representatives citations to several retiring soldiers who reside in the 44th District. Chief Master Sgt. John J. Lee recently retired from the United States Air Force. He was the civil engineer manager of the 911th Civil Engineering Squadron in Pittsburgh. Throughout his career, he was deployed six times in combat.

I also presented citations to four 316th ESC soldiers, Frank Supinski, Thomas Lewis, Steven Hipwell and Richard Pochiba, at the McGarity Reserve Center as part of their retirement ceremony.

The 44th District is proud and lucky to have these men and greatly appreciate their dedicated service to our country.



Retirement of Master Sgt. John Lee

Mark Your Calendars for my Upcoming Events!

Homeowners Association Seminar - "Know the Laws"

Thursday, Oct. 3, 6-8 p.m.

Crescent Township Volunteer Fire Social Hall

McGovern Boulevard, Glenwillard, PA 15046

A panel of three experts will be on hand to discuss the laws for communities governed under a Home Owner Association board, for homeowners/unit owners. This will be an informative and educational event. All seating is on a first-come-first-served basis and must be reserved in advanced. Please reserve your spot by visiting my website www.repgaydos.com under events or call my Moon district office.

Senior Citizens Wellness Program 2019

Friday, Oct. 18, 10 a.m.

Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport
Moon Township

Seniors are invited to my Senior Citizens Wellness Program. There will be free health screenings, flu and pneumonia vaccines and many exhibitors with valuable resources. A light lunch will be provided for those who attend! Please call my Moon district office to reserve your flu or pneumonia shot.

Please reserve your spot or shots by calling my Moon District Office at 412-262-3780.

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Moon Township: 1009 Beaver Grade Road, Suite 220, Edgetown Commons, 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

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COMMITTEES

During the 2019-20 legislative session, I have been assigned to serve on four standing House committees: Commerce, Education, Health and Liquor Control. I was also asked to serve as the chair of the subcommittee on Economic Development. These committees oversee legislation and help shape the language in bills that fall under the subject areas of responsibility.



HEALTH

Gaydos Introduces Pharmacy Bill that will make Prescription Drug Prices Transparent and Affordable for Consumers

I introduced legislation that will permit pharmacists to share lower-cost options with patients so they can get the best possible price. My bill, House Bill 943, was part of a legislative package which aims to curb unfair practices and pricing by pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) contracting with the state-approved managed care organizations.

Financial Boost to Fight Lyme Disease in Pennsylvania Approved in 2019-20 Budget

Western Pennsylvania has some of the highest increased incidents of Lyme disease. I voted for a \$3 million line item that will go to support awareness, prevention and surveillance associated with the tick-borne illness. Please be sure to check for ticks on both you and your pets!



COMMERCE

Gaydos Supports Need to Retool the State's Workforce Development System

This session, I participated in a joint-hearing of the House Commerce and Labor and Industry committees to review the findings of the auditor general's Performance Audit of the PA Workforce Development System. I support the need to ensure that Pennsylvania remains focused on meeting the needs of its employers and that our educational institutions adequately prepare students with the skills that are needed for future employment.

Shell Chemicals Ethane Plant to Bring Growth to the Region

I joined the PA House GOP Policy Committee in welcoming U.S. Department of Energy Under Secretary Mark W. Menezes and other colleagues for a tour of the ethane plant construction site in Beaver. We want to help ensure that this project remains focused on keeping people safe, protecting the environment and being good neighbors while redeveloping the brownfield that will provide 600 permanent jobs in the region upon completion.



LIQUOR

Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) Flexible Pricing: Does it Help or Hurt Consumers?

I participated in a joint hearing of the Senate Law and Justice Committee and House Liquor Control Committee to examine the results of Act 39 of 2016, which implemented a method of pricing that enables the PLCB to change prices. In a free market, this method would typically transfer the savings onto the customer. When the state operates a monopoly where there is no competition, we need to ensure that savings are passed on to consumers.

Gaydos Supports updating Old Hotel Licenses to Allow Legacy Owners to be Treated Fairly

As a member of the House Liquor Control Committee, I joined my colleagues for a public hearing in Philadelphia on legislation that would permit owners of old hotel licenses to convert them to restaurant liquor licenses. House Bill 1617 would give owners of hotel licenses, issued prior to 1949, a window during which they could apply to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to convert them to restaurant licenses.



EDUCATION

Education Funding in State Budget Benefits School Districts in the 44th

In the 44th District, every public school district will receive an increase:

- **Avonworth:**
\$201,646 or 3% increase from last year.
- **Moon Area:**
\$654,853 or 4% increase from last year.
- **Quaker Valley:**
\$278,809 or 4.1% increase from last year.
- **West Allegheny:**
\$466,453 or 3.3% increase from last year.

Improving Career and Technical Education (CTE) Opportunities

This session, the House Education Committee developed and passed a legislative package to ensure the state's workforce is prepared to meet the needs of business. This legislation passed the House and is currently in the Senate.



FLOODING AND LANDSLIDE ISSUES

Residents in the 44th Legislative District have been hit hard by recent flooding. My staff and I visited many areas of damage and have spoken to several residents in distress in areas such as those along **Flaugherty Run Road in Moon, Mt. Nebo Road in Ohio Township, Blackburn Road in Sewickley, Little Sewickley Creek Road in Bell Acres, PA Route 51/Crescent Boulevard in Crescent Township** and others.

Please be patient while we decipher which agencies are responsible to assist our residents and to fix the many roads, bridges, pipes and intakes that were damaged. Our office is actively working with our municipalities, Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to see what can be done.



How Can You Tell Who Owns Which Road and Who's Responsible for Fixing It?

With the number of roads and bridges having been affected by the recent flooding and landslides, we frequently get asked who has the responsibility for fixing things. Now you can see, "Who Owns My Infrastructure?" by checking out my website www.RepGaydos.com to see an interactive map which allows you to search by address to see what roadways in Allegheny County are state, county, municipal or private.

Landslide Resources Available Online

Allegheny County has a long history of landslides due to its unique geography and topography and this year we have experienced significant and ongoing weather conditions. A 2001 Pennsylvania Geological Survey published by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) listed landslides as a very significant geologic hazard throughout most of southwestern Pennsylvania. While it may create an inconvenience, safety is paramount. So please be patient as we work with the various municipalities.



COMMUNITIES

The 44th District encompasses 14 municipalities including Aleppo Township, Bell Acres, Crescent Township, Edgeworth, Findlay Township, Glen Osborne, Glenfield, Haysville, Moon Township, North Fayette Township, Ohio Township, Sewickley, Sewickley Heights and Sewickley Hills.

New Businesses Come to the 44th!

I am pleased to welcome many new businesses into the 44th District and delighted to see such positive growth in our community. We highlight a few here:

- o I toured the **Niagra Bottling Plant** in Imperial, which moved into its facility earlier last year. Its facility bottles more than 144,000 bottles of water a day, which is distributed to several major retailers in the region.
- o **Nord-Lock Group**, the original inventor of multi-jackbolt tensioning technology, received a funding proposal from the Department of Community and Economic Development which includes \$111,000 in job creation tax credits and a \$29,000 workforce development grant. The expansion project includes the construction of a 125,000-square-foot building in Findlay Township that will serve as the company's North American headquarters and will create dozens of new jobs!
- o **Amazon** announced that it will expand its presence in Pennsylvania and is expected to create more than 800 new full-time jobs in Findlay Township.

Gaydos Participates in North Fayette Community Days; Sponsors Montour Watershed Booth

Award Winning Black Dog Winery Tour - I toured the award-winning Black Dog Wine Company in Oakdale (North Fayette). Much of its fruit is sourced from local farms in Pennsylvania. Former software engineer turned vintner, Mark Rozum, gave us a tour of his facilities in an historic farmhouse built in 1880s and that was originally the home to the Hankeys, who ran Hankey Baking Co. in McKees Rocks.

Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens Breaks Ground for New Facilities Near Settlers Cabin - Thanks to funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), the Garden broke ground on new projects, including a new Welcome Center, Auto Garden and the Garden of the Five Senses. Construction is set to begin soon and all three will be open to the public in 2020!



Shredding! My office hosted two shredding events throughout the 44th District, one in Findlay Township at the Findlay Township Municipal Building and another at the Moon Area Middle School. At Moon, we shredded and recycled nearly 11,000 pounds of paper material with the help of Iron City Shredding. We also collected 122 pounds of unused medication! All materials will be recycled and reused to help reduce waste, pollution and energy consumption.



Moon Area HS Boys Basketball Team – State Champs Visit Harrisburg Capitol

Moon Area High School boys' basketball visited the Capitol earlier this year, where I had the opportunity to recognize them on the House floor for their first-place victory during the 2018-19 PIAA State Class 5A Boys' Basketball Championship. They won the state title at the Giant Center by defeating Archbishop Wood High School, 74 - 64.



Gaydos helps secure \$1 million in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Project (RACP) program funds to assist with development of the Pittsburgh Airport Innovation Campus

I am pleased to have helped secure \$1 million in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Project (RACP) program funds to assist with development of the Pittsburgh Airport Innovation Campus – Phase Two in Findlay Township. This is a fabulous example of turning space that was once a part of Pittsburgh's old economy into the region's new economy to attract and retain talent in science and technology.

REAL ID Events – Starting on Oct. 1, 2020, Pennsylvania residents will need a REAL ID (or another form of accepted ID like a passport or military ID) to fly domestically and to enter federal buildings. To help residents learn more about the REAL ID program, my office held three REAL ID informational seminars around the district, which included an informational presentation by representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. If you have questions about REAL ID, please contact my office or visit my website, www.RepGaydos.com.

Sewickley Library Tour – This summer I had the opportunity to tour the Sewickley Public Library with director Carolyn Toth and head of Children's Services, Jen Farmerie. The library is a great community asset and resource! **Support for Public Library Funding Helps Community Libraries Thrive.** The PA budget this year adds an additional \$5 million for the state's public libraries.



Opioids Take Center Stage - I attended the Sewickley Youth Connect community forum on opioids, where Rich Levitt shared the tragic story of his son's struggle with addiction. The forum was held at Sewickley Academy's Rea Auditorium and included speakers from Allegheny Health Network, FBI Heroin Outreach Prevention and Education, and police.

Sewickley YMCA - I enjoyed watching Sewickley Valley YMCA's Senior Olympic Games to see our active and competitive seniors engage in a basketball toss, golf, corn-hole, Wii bowling and more. I loved learning more about the terrific programs available for seniors at our local YMCA.





Tessa and
Rep. Gaydos



BSA Troop 248

Summer/Fall 2019

Join my Telephone Town Hall!
Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 6:45 p.m.

Call in to voice your opinion,
ask questions or just listen!

Dial In: 877-229-8493
ID Code: 118497

Keeping Promises on FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY and TRANSPARENCY

✓ **Gaydos Supports No Tax, Fee Increase State Budget**

I voted on a \$33.997 billion state budget which will continue to grow our state's economy, educate our students and help create new jobs. I supported this year's budget because I believe it is a step in the right direction to living within our means.

✓ **Gaydos Helps Pass Bill to Save Money by Paying Our Bills**

We recently passed a new law that will enable the Commonwealth to pay off state debt more quickly and save on interest costs. Act 43 of 2019 will change the way state bonds are issued to accelerate the retirement of PA's General Obligation debt, reduce the amount of interest paid over the life of state-issued bonds, and help PA improve its bond rating.

✓ **Gaydos Advocates for the Taxpayer Protection Act**

To limit the future tax-and-spend impulses of leaders in Harrisburg, the Taxpayer Protection Act (TPA), Senate Bill 116, would cap the growth in state budgets at the rate of inflation with an adjustment for growth in population. Let's make sure government does not grow faster than families' ability to pay for it.

✓ **Gaydos Asks for Investigation into Partisan Politics Possibly Infiltrating DEP**

I joined some of my colleagues in sending a letter to House leadership requesting they send the House Oversight Committee a referral to investigate the alleged installation of partisan lawyers within the Pennsylvania Department of Environment Protection (DEP). During this year's budget hearings, lawmakers questioned

the attorney general's office about the program and the indications lead us to believe that these special interest attorneys may possibly be housed within Pennsylvania's own DEP. These alleged partisan activist lawyers are being funded by billionaire and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg through New York University's State Energy and Environmental Impact Center.

"We all want clean water and air but if these allegations are true, this is a serious breach of public trust, a total lack of government transparency, and most of all sets an incredibly bad precedent by allowing partisan politics and special interests to infiltrate government agencies."

✓ **Gaydos' Legislation to Help Municipal Government Reform Passes Committee**

I introduced legislation designed to provide greater oversight to ensure public dollars are further protected. House Bill 885 passed through the House Local Government Committee. This bill is part of a series of bills on municipal government reform and awaits further action on the House floor.

✓ **Gaydos Plans to Introduce Bill to Reduce Size of Legislature**

When we return to the House for session this fall, I plan to introduce legislation to reduce the size of the legislature. This bill would amend the Constitution of the Commonwealth of PA to reduce the number of legislative districts in the House of Representatives from 203 to 151.

✓ **Gaydos Introduces Bill to Protect Victims**

I have introduced House Bill 1507, which requires school districts to assign a student convicted of a sexually-based offense to a school building other than the one attended by the sex offender's victim or the victim's siblings. My bill would also require the parent or legal guardian of the student sex offender to provide transportation to the assigned school building.

Legislative Expense Report

As your state representative, I am working hard to fight for fiscal and government accountability and transparency. That being said, I wanted to let you know how I am saving taxpayer money since taking office in January.

- Using lodging versus per diem expenses – in six months I've saved taxpayers \$5,061.15. Projected out to the end of 2019, **I will be saving taxpayers \$7,382.43.**
- Refusing to accept a taxpayer-funded cell phone: \$100 on average per month, saving \$800 since I took office. Projected to the end of 2019, **I will be saving taxpayers \$1,200.**
- Refusing to accept a taxpayer-funded automobile: \$650 per month, saving \$5,200 since I took office. **Projected to the end of 2019, I will be saving taxpayers \$7,800.**