



State Representative

VALERIE GAYDOS

44th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”
— Helen Keller

There is immense power when communities of interest work together toward the same goals and I am happy to report that beginning in 2023, as a result of the reapportionment of legislative districts, the existing 44th Legislative District will be adding the communities of Leet Township and the Borough of Leetsdale, where I was born. This addition will enable all 11 boroughs and municipalities in the Quaker Valley School District to be united into one House district for the first time in over 40 years.

In the spirit of keeping school districts together, Ohio Township will be moved from the existing 44th Legislative District to the 30th Legislative District, which will also allow all the communities in the Avonworth School District to be together. It will now unite Ohio Township with Franklin Park and Avonworth.

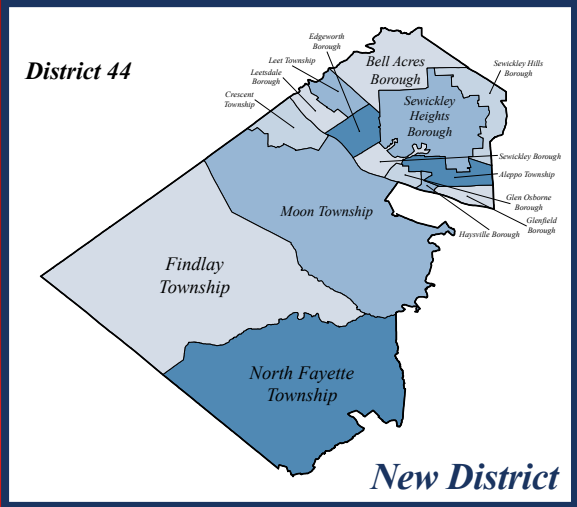
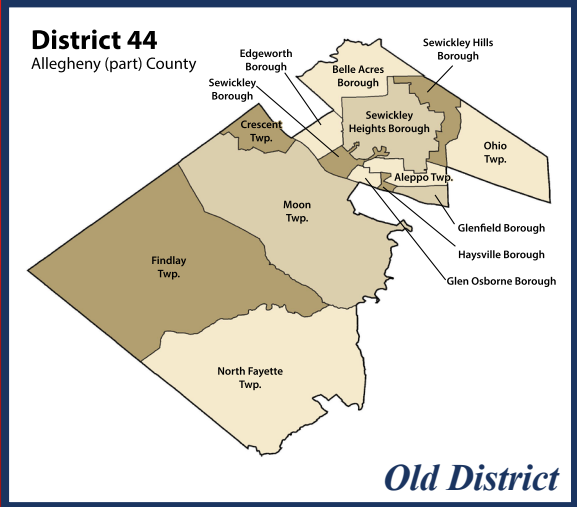
The new district features less splitting of municipalities and will encompass three complete school districts of Moon Area, West Allegheny and Quaker Valley while reuniting Ohio Township with the rest of the communities in the Avonworth School District.

Redistricting comes every 10 years so that the boundaries of the Commonwealth’s House and Senate districts are redrawn to reflect changes in population. The 44th District has seen tremendous growth since the last U.S. Census in 2010 and prior to redistricting, the 44th District was representing more than 72,000 people – almost 10,000 more than what it was 10 years ago. Hence, the need for change.

I will continue to serve all of the constituents in the existing 44th District through Nov. 30.

Sincerely,

Valerie Gaydos



State Budget Sets PA on the Right Path

There are many responsibilities that come along with being a state legislator. Adopting a state budget is a top priority. Standing up for taxpayers must be the first legislative consideration when crafting a budget.

The General Assembly enacted the budget for the 2022-23 Fiscal Year. Rep. Gaydos voted in favor of the spending plan.

This is a \$42.8 billion budget, which is a 2.9% increase over last year. This is a historic and responsible budget which has bipartisan support. This budget includes no new taxes.

The budget saves for the future to prevent unnecessary tax and fee hikes by carrying more than \$3.6 billion for future budgets and directing \$2.1 billion to the Rainy Day Fund, bringing that account’s balance to a historic \$5 billion. The budget also pays back more than \$2 billion worth of debt.

This budget will expand expense deductions to help businesses buy equipment and invest/grow in Pennsylvania. Also, small businesses will be allowed to defer (or carry forward) tax liabilities on gains from similar property exchanges, as allowed in 49 other states. The budget also reduces the nation’s second highest Corporate Net Income Tax from 9.99% to 8.99% this year, and by 0.5% each year after until it reaches 4.99%.

The budget increases the commitment to public education and school choice and sets a record high \$15 billion investment in PreK-12 education. It also supports educational opportunities for children whether they attend a traditional public school, public charter school or a private/parochial school.

This budget invests heavily in Pennsylvania’s environment. The state Constitution guarantees Pennsylvanians “a right to clean air, pure water and to the preservation of the natural values of the environment.” With this budget funding the largest environmental program in a decade, we are continuing to meet the constitutional demands for Pennsylvanians.

Gaydos has been a strong supporter of the environment for years. She is a co-sponsor of House Bill 1901, which would establish a **Clean Streams Fund** for Pennsylvania dedicated to water quality, and more specifically mitigating sources of historic pollution such as agricultural runoff, acid mine drainage and stormwater runoff. In addition, she is a co-sponsor of House Bill 2020, which would serve as a framework for **Growing Greener III**. This program was included in the final budget bills.

Overall, the budget provides historic tax cuts while targeting investment in the people of Pennsylvania.



FROM THE DESK OF

State Representative *Valerie Gaydos*

44th Legislative District

Helping Small Businesses Provide More Affordable Health Care Benefits to Employees

Rep. Gaydos continues to push for legislation that would provide a mechanism for small business employers to join together to offer more affordable 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, and providing essential health benefits and plans comparable to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) plans.

This legislation simply restores the right of small businesses to group together. Gaydos' bill has been referred to the House Insurance Committee for consideration.

On Wednesday, Oct. 5, Americans For Prosperity and the Pittsburgh Airport Chamber will be hosting a panel discussion with Gaydos and a variety of professionals on House Bill 555 and Association Health Plans.

Bill to Enlist National Guard in Fighting Cyber Criminals Becomes Law

During these unprecedented times, we are relying on the internet and electronic transactions now more than ever. Legislation that Rep. Gaydos and Rep. Craig Williams (R-Chester/Delaware) authored to allow the state to use the Pennsylvania National Guard to combat cyber criminals has been signed into law by Gov. Tom Wolf.

Act 38 of 2022 will give the Pennsylvania National Guard the authority to provide functional support for cybersecurity needs across the Commonwealth. It will allow trained military cybersecurity experts to support requests from the state agencies in need of immediate assistance or training.

Further, the legislation will allow the guard to receive requests and provide support to non-government entities with cybersecurity education and training exercise assistance as needed.

Gaydos and Williams are the co-chairs of the House Cybersecurity Caucus.

Legislation Allowing Direct Shipment of Spirits

The time is now to put the spirits industry on par with the wine industry by allowing direct shipment of spirits to Pennsylvania residents. Rep. Gaydos has introduced legislation that states a person licensed by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, another state or country as a producer or manufacturer of spirits, and who obtains a direct spirits shipper license, would be able to ship no more than 9 liters of spirits per month in a calendar year at a Commonwealth resident's request. Each month the board would publish on the publicly accessible internet website a list of all classes, varieties and brands of spirits available for sale in Pennsylvania liquor stores.

House Bill 2342 has been referred to the House Liquor Control Committee for consideration.

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 inheritance goes to the family or heir it was meant to go to, and 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.

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



Fighting for Fairness in Women's Sports

As a former student athlete and one of five female prime sponsors, Rep. Gaydos helped advance the Fairness in Women's Sports Act. Unfortunately, Gov. Tom Wolf vetoed House Bill 972 on July 8, undermining Title IX federal civil rights protections against sex-based athletic discrimination, and the right of every female athlete to compete on a level playing field.

This disregard for women athletes walks back the tremendous strides that have been made for women during the past 50 years of scholastic sports and is counter to what current sports' governing bodies such as FINA, the world governing body for swimming, are ruling.

All young people, transgender and cisgender, benefit from being involved in school activities, including sports, and should play. House Bill 972 does not prevent transgenders from playing sports. It simply says that biological boys play on boy's teams and biological girls play on girl's teams. A recent Washington Post poll finds that 55% of Americans are opposed to allowing biological males to compete in women high school sports, while 58% are opposed to it for college and professional sports.

Solar Trackers Made in Leetsdale — Grand Opening Celebration of BCI Steel

Congratulations to Nextracker and BCI Steel as they officially reopened a vacant plant in Leetsdale for the purpose of making solar trackers. Economic development initiatives such as reducing the Corporate Net Income Tax in Pennsylvania will continue to be a driver for growth and new jobs in the region.

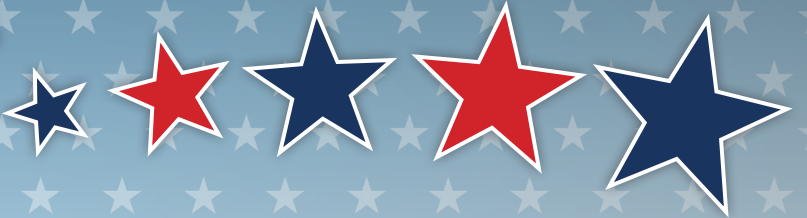
Rep. Gaydos was a guest speaker at the ribbon-cutting ceremony along with other distinguished guests, including U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, Congressman Conor Lamb and U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm.

Nextracker and BCI Steel have combined to make our region a supply chain partner.



Pictured with Gaydos is Jennifer M. Granholm, secretary, U.S. Department of Energy. ►

Out and About in the 44th District



In May, Rep. Gaydos was the guest speaker for the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the 210-foot Montour Run Trail Bridge, which was funded through \$625,000 in grants from the state, county and local sources. The new bridge will link the Montour Trail, America's longest suburban bike trail (46 miles), to Moon Park through the Montour Woods Greenway.

The trail bridge project of Hollow Oak Land Trust is a key milestone toward completion of the broader Montour Woods Greenway, a 10-mile trail loop located 1 mile from the Pittsburgh International Airport and 10 miles from downtown Pittsburgh.

The next phase of trail construction will link Moon Township Park to the 88-acre Trout Run Conservation Area, completing the greenway loop.



In April, Rep. Gaydos was the guest speaker prior to the 10th Annual Brave American Classic 5K running event in Sewickley. More than 500 runners competed in the event with the proceeds going to the Boulder Crest Retreat for Military and Veteran Wellness. It also supports Retreat and PATHH Programs that assist wounded military service members and their families.



During Working Animal Appreciation Day at the Capitol in Harrisburg, Rep. Gaydos posed with the Pittsburgh Pirates' new dog, Bucco. The Pirates have teamed up with Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs (GAMSD) to provide a service dog to a military veteran. These very special dogs help to give people back their self-confidence and independence. Gaydos fully supports this effort. We need to help our disabled veterans every day.



Rep. Gaydos had the pleasure of visiting Covestro, a world leading supplier of high-tech polymer materials. The company produces precursors for polyurethane foams and the high-performance plastic polycarbonate, as well as precursors for coatings, adhesives, sealants and specialty products, including films. Pictured with her are (from left) Ted Frick, global vice president, tailored urethanes research and development; Richard Skorpenke, vice president, sustainability and public affairs; and Haakan Jonsson, chairman and president.



Liam Welge was Rep. Gaydos' guest page at the state Capitol in April. Accompanied by his mother, Jodie, Liam is a distinguished honor roll student at Quaker Valley High School. If you would like to join Gaydos as a guest page, call her office in Moon Township at 412-262-3780. Also pictured is House Speaker Bryan Cutler.



Rep. Gaydos hosted a series of town hall meetings at Moon Area Middle School, Slovene National Benefit Society, Sewickley Valley YMCA and Masonic Village at Sewickley. The turnout for these discussions was excellent. People had the opportunity to voice their concerns or ask questions about the 44th District and the Commonwealth.



Rep. Gaydos took part in July 4 festivities with Sen. Devlin Robinson and Moon Township supervisors Alan Bross, John Hertzner, Al Quaye and David Bachman. A special thank you to Dawn Lane, township manager, for making this special day a big success. The Moon Area High School marching band entertained people with their outstanding music.



PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE
VALERIE GAYDOS

SUMMER 2022

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Riverlife hosted a group of bipartisan legislators for a boat tour of Pittsburgh's rivers. Rep. Gaydos looks forward to working together to keep Pittsburgh's riverfronts safe, accessible and enjoyable for everyone.



The July 4 Leetsdale parade was very enjoyable. Gaydos was born in Leetsdale. She said it was a pleasure to see so many familiar faces. Gaydos had fun talking to the walkers who joined her to pass out candy and smiley face stickers.



Rep. Gaydos and Sewickley Mayor George Shannon joined the Masonic Allegheny Commandery No. 35 for the sixth annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Sewickley Cemetery. The Tuskegee Airmen Memorial at Sewickley Cemetery is the largest outdoor memorial of its kind in the United States!

***Gaydos Selected to Improve
and Strengthen PA's Workforce,
Economy***

Rep. Gaydos currently serves on the board of directors for the Team Pennsylvania Foundation, a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit established in 1997 to connect private and public sector leaders to achieve and sustain progress for Pennsylvania.

Gaydos will help Team Pennsylvania Foundation to improve and strengthen the state's workforce and help grow a vibrant economy in Pennsylvania. She is also a member of the Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) Hydrogen Group. CCUS involves the use of technologies to capture carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from industrial processes or combustion of fuels in power generation.

Gaydos feels that Pennsylvania can and will be a leader in the global energy transition. This will help strengthen business growth, education and workforce development, and government efficiency in Pennsylvania.

***SAVE
the
DATE***
**Sportsman & Gun
Safety Expo**

**Thursday, Sept. 29
From 6-8:30p.m.**

**Findlay Township
Activity Center
310 Main St., Imperial, PA 15126**

**RSVP at
[SenatorDevlinRobinsonPA.com/
sportsmen-expo](https://SenatorDevlinRobinsonPA.com/sportsmen-expo).**