

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



Rep. Gaydos presenting a check to Valley Ambulance Authority for \$75,000 secured in state grant funding to complete their parking lot repaving project.



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.



Rep. Gaydos presenting a check to the Crescent Township Volunteer Fire Department for \$76,000 secured to finance renovations and equipment upgrades to enhance public safety.

COMMERCE COMMITTEE COMES TO TOWN

Lawmakers Visit Dick's headquarters in Findlay Twp.

And meet with area Businesses to Discuss the Growth of the Region and needed workforce



As chairman of the Economic Development subcommittee, Rep. Gaydos invited her colleagues in the House Commerce Committee to take a tour of several new and innovative businesses in the 44th District and Greater Pittsburgh area, including autonomous vehicle manufacturer Aurora, Carnegie Mellon University, advanced robotics manufacturer Carnegie Robotics and corporate research and development center Mill 19.

Rep. Gaydos and members of the Commerce Committee spoke with several Pittsburgh Tech Council members at a roundtable discussion hosted by Dick's Sporting Goods at their headquarters in Findlay Township. Those present included Lucas Systems, Duolingo, ARGO A.I., I.Q. Inc., Tech Elevator and Academy Pittsburgh. They discussed workforce development and explored how state lawmakers can help to facilitate the continued success of businesses in the region.



Mark Your Calendars for my Upcoming Events!

HEALTHY KIDS & FAMILY RESOURCE DAY

Saturday, April 25
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
The Sewickley YMCA
625 Blackburn Road
Sewickley, PA 15143

IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION, SHREDDING EVENT

Saturday, June 13
9:30-11:30 a.m.
Moon Middle School
904 Beaver Grade Road
Coraopolis, PA 15108

SENIOR CITIZEN WELLNESS PROGRAM

Friday, Oct. 23
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Pittsburgh Sheraton Hotel
1160 Thorn Run Road
Coraopolis, PA 15108

TELEPHONE TOWN HALL- Tuesday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m.
Register at www.repgaydos.com

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

As your State Representative, Rep. Gaydos serves on four standing House committees: Health, Commerce, Liquor Control and Education. Additionally, she chairs the Economic Development subcommittee within the Commerce Committee. These committees oversee legislation and help shape the language in bills that fall under the subject areas of responsibility.



HEALTH

Gaydos' Drug Pricing Transparency Bill Unanimously Passes House

Creating a more transparent and consumer-friendly prescription drug marketplace, Rep. Gaydos introduced a bill to enable pharmacists to inform customers of lower-cost prescription options available to them. The House of Representatives voted unanimously to pass this legislation. It is now in the Senate for consideration.

Gaydos Joins Bipartisan Effort to Combat Medicare Fraud

Rep. Gaydos joined fellow lawmakers to introduce legislation designed to identify and eliminate fraud and waste within the state's Medicare Program as it relates to improper payments.

Gaydos Votes to Expand Insurance Coverage for Telemedicine

Rep. Gaydos voted to pass legislation that would clarify and expand insurance reimbursements available to individuals receiving telemedicine services.



COMMERCE

Gaydos Cosponsors Employee Stock Ownership Plan

With her extensive history working with businesses, Rep. Gaydos was appointed to the Pittsburgh Mayor's employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) task force, seeking to expand opportunities for workers to take advantage of programs and tax break.

During the 2019-20 session, Rep. Gaydos co-sponsored legislation that would reform the Tax Code to encourage owners to offer ESOPs to their employees. As part of the legislation, the House Finance Committee heard testimony from Dan Adley CEO of KTA-Tator, a 100 percent employee-owned engineering company located in the 44th District. During his testimony, Adley detailed the numerous advantages of ESOP programs, including benefits to employees, companies and the state economy. This legislation was approved by the House of Representatives and currently awaits further action in the Senate.



LIQUOR

Gaydos Votes to Pass Consumer Convenience Bill

Rep. Gaydos supported legislation to provide greater convenience to wine consumers raising the limit from four bottles to eight bottles for the amount that can be purchased in one trip. This bill passed the House Liquor Committee and will receive a full vote in the House of Representatives.

Expanding Wine Permits to Beer Distributors

Rep. Gaydos sponsored legislation to expand eligibility for wine permits to beer distributors for even greater consumer convenience. This bill passed the House Liquor Committee and will receive a full vote in the House of Representatives. This bill passed the House Liquor Committee and moves on to the House for a full vote.



Dan Adley, CEO of KTA-Tator, testifies about the benefits of employee stock ownership plans before the House Finance Committee.



EDUCATION

Curbing Runaway Property Tax Increases

Rep. Gaydos cosponsored legislation that would require school districts to reduce their property tax rates as they pay down their debt, to help put a stop to ever-increasing property taxes. This bill passed through committee and will receive a vote on the House floor.

Protecting Juvenile Sexual Assault Victims

Rep. Gaydos introduced and sponsored a bill that would require school districts to assign a student convicted of a sexually based offense to a school building other than the one attended by their victim or the victim's sibling. This bill would increase protections available to victims of juvenile sexual abuse.

Increasing Education Tax Credits to Pennsylvania Families

Rep. Gaydos co-sponsored legislation that would increase the amount of tax credits available under the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program by \$100 million to give tens of thousands of additional Pennsylvania families the opportunity to choose schools that best fits their children's needs. The bill passed successfully through both chambers but was eventually vetoed by Gov. Wolf.



PROTECTING TAXPAYERS FROM RECKLESS TAXATION

"While it is admirable to actively address issues of clean air and water for Pennsylvanians, the governor must articulate just how much this initiative will affect the electricity bills for the average consumer."

- Rep. Valerie Gaydos

Rep. Gaydos supported legislation that would require legislative approval before Pennsylvania could enter into any multi-state program, such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), that would impose a tax on citizens. This bill simply reinforces Article 3, Section 10 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, requiring that all revenue bills originate and are approved by the House of Representatives, not by executive order.

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.

Investing in Local Projects

Rep. Gaydos secured \$785,592 in state grants that will go directly toward improvements in the 44th District.

- \$141,267 to projects in Moon Township.
 - o \$81,267 for the construction of a dog park.
 - o \$60,000 for road construction connecting University Blvd. and Rouser Road.
- \$135,000 to projects in North Fayette Township.
 - o \$85,000 for a new salt storage facility.
 - o \$50,000 for improvements to the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden.
- \$100,000 to Findlay Township for a sediment runoff removal project.
- \$100,000 to Sewickley Borough for the replacement of existing storm sewers.
- \$76,000 to the Crescent Township Volunteer Fire Department for renovations to the firehouse.
- \$75,000 to the Valley Ambulance Authority in Moon Township for parking lot repaving.
- \$75,000 to Sewickley Community Center for facility improvements and parking lot expansion.
- \$24,366 to Quaker Valley School District for security improvements.
- \$24,000 to the Ohio Township Parks and Recreation Department for additions to the community park playground.
- \$19,959 to West Allegheny School District for security improvements.
- \$15,000 awarded jointly to Sewickley Hills, Bell Acres and Franklin Park Borough for improvements to the Allegheny Land Trust.

Scout Troop 243

Rep. Gaydos visited with the members of Scout Troop 243 at Sewickley Community Church in October to speak with them about the quality of trustworthiness.



Receiving Service Award from the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce

Rep. Gaydos recently accepted an award from the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce for outstanding service to the community at this year's Annual Celebration of Excellence (ACE) event.



Special Education Funding

Commission Visits Moon Area School District

Rep. Gaydos with Rep. Curt Sonney, co-chair of the Special Education Funding Commission during the Commission's visit to Moon Area School District to discuss the special education needs of students in the 44th District.



Welcoming Neighborhood 91 to the Pittsburgh Airport

Rep. Gaydos along with _____ announced the launch of Neighborhood 91, a first-of-its-kind additive manufacturing site, at the Pittsburgh Airport. This site will be the first in the world to contain every element of the AM supply chain, from design to production and distribution and bring new jobs to the region.



Presenting a Check to Ohio Township Parks & Recreation

Rep. Gaydos presented a check to the Ohio Township Parks and Recreation Department for \$24,00 in state funds which will go toward installing inclusive, ADA-certified playground equipment at the community park playground for children with physical handicaps.



Allegheny County Game Warden

Rep. Gaydos met with Zeb Campbell, State Game Warden in Allegheny County, to discuss deer, bears, harriers, hunting and animal cruelty laws.



Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens Unveils Plans for Welcome Center

The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden began construction a \$10 million project that will include a new welcome center, parking area and interactive sensory garden. The project received financing through a state grant supported by Rep. Gaydos through the Gaming Economic Development Fund.



Winter 2020



Legislative Expense Report

As your State Representative, I am working hard to fight for a smaller government that is both fiscally accountable and transparent.

Following through on my commitment to saving taxpayer dollars wherever possible, I have taken a number of personal measures in my own office to do just that and have saved taxpayers \$15,752 this year alone.

- Using lodging versus per diem expenses, I've saved taxpayers **\$6,752**
- Refusing to accept a taxpayer-funded cell phone, I've saved taxpayers **\$1,200**
- Refusing to accept a taxpayer-funded automobile, I've saved taxpayers **\$7,800**



Tessa and Rep. Gaydos



Telephone Town Hall

Keeping Promises on FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY and TRANSPARENCY

✓ Reducing the Size of the Legislature

With 50 senators and 203 House members, our state Legislature is the largest full-time lawmaking body in the country. Cost-wise, it is the second-most expensive state Legislature, only behind California's general assembly. Rep. Gaydos introduced and cosponsored a bill that would cut the size of the state legislature by roughly a quarter, down to 151 members.

Reducing the size of the Legislature in this fashion would provide a cost-savings to taxpayers in the amount of \$15 million every year. Additionally, shrinking the Legislature would also streamline the legislative process and make it easier for members to reach consensus with one another on the issues that matter to the people of the Commonwealth.

✓ Expanding Quality Health Insurance to Small Businesses

Rep. Gaydos introduced legislation that would assist small businesses in providing health care benefits to their employees through an Association Health Plan (AHP). This legislation would make it possible for employers to band together and negotiate for discounted health insurance coverage in the same way large businesses purchase group insurance benefits. Gaydos testified before the House insurance Committee stating that her legislation, if enacted, would reduce costs for small businesses and help employers attract and retain a talented workforce.

✓ Expanding Quality Health Insurance to Small Businesses

Last year, in response to growing concerns about the threat of gun violence, Rep. Gaydos joined her colleagues in the House to send a letter to Auditor General Eugene DePasquale requesting a formal audit of the Pennsylvania Instant Criminal Background Check System (PICS). Lawmakers look forward to seeing the results so that residents may be better served, and that Pennsylvanians may be secure in the knowledge that this system is operating the way we expect it to.

Sign up for my weekly email updates!

Visit my website, www.repgaydos.com and enter your email to receive regular updates about our activities in the Legislature and at home in the 44th District.