



State Senator **LISA M.**

BOSCOLA



Independent • Effective • Working to Make a Difference

SUMMER 2017

Redistricting Reform Gains Steam



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◆ On the Cover...

Redistricting Reform Effort Gains Steam

Hundreds of government reform advocates descended on Harrisburg recently to support my bipartisan redistricting reform measure.

Senate Bill 22 calls for a constitutional amendment that would lead to the creation of an 11-member independent citizens' reapportionment commission to draw congressional and legislative boundaries in an open, transparent and publicly accountable way.

My bill would end gerrymandering and get the politics out of redistricting by getting the politicians out of the process. Voters should be selecting their elected officials, not elected officials selecting their voters.

To change the way in which legislative boundaries are created in time for the next redistricting cycle in 2020, the legislature needs to act quickly. For the reform bill to become law, we must amend the Pennsylvania Constitution by passing the legislation in two consecutive legislative sessions and then gain the public's approval through a ballot referendum.

My bill is endorsed by Fair Districts PA, a nonpartisan statewide citizens' coalition that advocates for fair elections and redistricting reform. Over 6,000 Pennsylvanians have signed a petition supporting the concepts in my bill. Also, a wide range of municipal officials throughout the state have passed resolutions supporting the legislation.

The time is right and there is momentum to finally make this critical change and bring meaningful reform to our political process.



FAIR Districts = FAIR Elections

F **Form** an independent redistricting committee of citizens to redraw both congressional and legislative districts.

A **Apply** sound methodology when setting district boundaries to enable communities of interest to remain together.

I **Include** meaningful opportunities for active public participation and transparency.

R **Remove** stakeholders and politics from the process and give it to the people.

Thank You Local Government Officials

To date, there are nearly 40 local government entities across the state that have passed resolutions in support of my legislation and redistricting reform!

Thank you to the following local communities from the Greater Lehigh Valley area for joining me in calling for reform:

Bethlehem Township Board of Commissioners

Carbon County Commissioners • Easton City Council

Lehigh County Board of Commissioners

Lower Macungie Township Board of Commissioners

Northampton County Council • Riegelsville Borough Council

Whitehall Township Board of Commissioners



Boscola's "Christine's Law" Would Improve Highway Safety

The Senate Transportation Committee recently approved my legislation that would require truck drivers to remove ice or snow from their vehicles following heavy snow or ice storms.

Named "Christine's Law," the measure would help prevent tragedies like the one that befell Christine Lambert of Palmer Township in 2005. She died when a large piece of ice dislodged from a passing truck and crashed through her windshield.

I have been fighting to get this law on the books ever since that tragic accident. The committee's swift, unanimous and bipartisan support for moving this bill forward in the legislative process is encouraging.

Currently, the law only penalizes a driver when serious bodily harm or death occurs from a snow or ice projectile. Christine's Law would be more proactive, giving police officers discretion to pull over a truck where the buildup of ice or snow poses a potential hazard.

Under my bill, motor carrier operators would have up to 24 hours following a snowstorm to clear the snow and ice from trucks. This is a similar timeframe that most homeowners are provided to clear their sidewalks after a winter storm.

The bill now advances to the full Senate.

◆ Update...

The Fight to Eliminate Property Taxes

One my biggest legislative priorities remains property tax reform. I am proud to again be a prime sponsor of the Property Tax Independence Act (**Senate Bill 76**).

The bill would eliminate school property taxes, which are especially burdensome for senior citizens and first-time homeowners, and replace them with slight increases in the personal income and sales taxes. Local school districts would still have control over spending these dollars in their schools.

The reintroduced version of Senate Bill 76 for this new legislative session will address many of the concerns raised in stakeholder discussions, such as existing school district debt, delinquent taxes, and a commission to study legacy cost drivers.

In addition to sponsoring the legislation, I also called upon the governor to convene a special session to focus on the rising burden of property taxes. I will continue to work with my legislative colleagues and the governor on a pathway to elimination.

With public hearings and community forums scheduled throughout the state, it is my hope to see a property tax elimination bill reach the governor's desk this year.



Boscola Amendment Helps Nurse Practitioner Bill Pass Senate

Earlier this year, the Senate voted in favor of **Senate Bill 25**, which would improve access to much needed front line medical care. The bill updates and expands the role of certified registered nurse practitioners by allowing them to practice independently after meeting certain requirements.

The bill includes a provision I previously sponsored that added necessary safeguards. My amendments helped secure support for the bill in the Senate.

This issue is about making healthcare more accessible by giving people additional care options. Under the bill, nurse practitioners would be required to practice with a physician for three years and 3,600 hours before they may provide care independently. These changes would help protect patients by ensuring quality training and preparedness of independent nurse practitioners.

The legislation also addresses challenges in areas of our state where a significant number of patients have limited access to primary care physicians. The bill would give patients expanded access to experienced, well-trained nurse practitioners who can provide good and affordable care in places where it is needed most.

The measure now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

LISA M. BOSCOLA



Around the 18th District & Beyond



Joining the Honorary First Defenders members at their 78th annual business meeting, which included a change of Command ceremony for their new commander and executive council. I'm always eager to support our Guard & Reserve units throughout the Lehigh Valley.



Congratulating six local scholarship awardees with the Easton chapter of UNICO National.

Visiting Harry S. Truman Elementary School in Salisbury Township for Leadership Day, in which students highlight the seven qualities of successful leaders.



Participating in the annual Bethlehem firefighters' memorial service in South Bethlehem, where their new 95 foot aerial platform ladder truck was debuted.



Honoring the 275th anniversary of the founding of Moravian College in Bethlehem with students, alumni and faculty, including President Bryon Grigsby.





Boscola Celebrates FedEx “Ground” Breaking

Last August, FedEx Ground hosted a groundbreaking of their brand new facility that will bring 700 permanent jobs initially and approximately \$40 million to improve roadways near the facility in Northampton and Lehigh counties.

I was proud to work with my colleagues to pass a road transfer bill (Act 11 of 2016) that allowed this \$335 million project to move forward. The

importance of this facility to the regional economy cannot be overstated.

At full build-out, the facility is expected to be 1.1 million square feet and create 3,000 jobs. This will be the largest Fed Ex hub in the country – processing up to 75,000 packages per hour. Moreover, this facility will drive additional economic development opportunities throughout the Lehigh Valley.

State Passes Pension Reform Legislation

In 2001, I voted against the pension increase and refused to take it. It was clear to me then that this was not good policy for taxpayers. Over the years, due to economic downturns, the state’s pension liability became a significant drain on state and local taxpayers and something needed to be done.

I voted for **SB 1**, the pension reform bill signed into law by Governor Wolf. While it was not perfect because it created exemptions for 25 percent of state employees, it will allow Pennsylvania to invest cost savings into rebuilding infrastructure and creating jobs. Reforming our state pension system for future workers places us on a long-term, responsible trajectory that helps prevent local school property tax hikes.



Wounded Guard Vet Advocates for Suicide Prevention

It was my honor to meet SSG Earl Granville of northeast Pennsylvania on the floor of the state Senate. Granville, a medically retired PA National Guard staff sergeant, lost his left leg in Afghanistan in 2008 and lost his twin brother to suicide in 2010. He is a strong speaker and activist for wounded veterans and the quality of their mental health care.

Job-Generating Ben Franklin Partners Awarded \$1.5 Million Grant

Last October, I was proud to announce with Governor Wolf that Ben Franklin’s Technology Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania’s TechVentures facility on Lehigh’s campus was awarded a \$1.5 million state grant to build a 14,500 square-foot addition to the west end of its facility on Research Drive in Bethlehem.

Ben Franklin Technology Partnership of NE PA has created over 16,000 jobs, started 470 companies and developed over 1300 new products or processes.

The \$1.5 million grant helped fund the construction of a four-floor addition that will include business incubation, office and meeting space for early-stage technology-oriented companies. These spaces will complement the existing wet labs and address the expanding office needs of current residents. Investments in facilities like this is one of the best ways the state can encourage entrepreneurship and help create the jobs of tomorrow.





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LISA M. BOSCOLA

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Cut along the dotted line and mail survey to: Senator Lisa M. Boscola • One East Broad Street • Suite 120 • Bethlehem, PA 18018

Constituent Survey

Please consider completing this survey to assist me in providing outstanding constituent service. Your opinion is important to me as I continue to represent the views of the residents of the 18th Senatorial District.

Your opinion is important to me!

- Currently, a commission largely comprised of legislative leaders draws the Congressional and legislative district maps. Should Pennsylvania establish an independent citizens' commission to conduct this process?
- Pennsylvania legalized medical marijuana last year. Do you favor the outright legalization of marijuana?
- Do you support increasing state sales and/or income tax to eliminate property tax?
- Should school employees be allowed to carry guns in schools?
- Should Pennsylvania permit video poker machines in bars and clubs?
- Should registered Independents be permitted to vote in the primary?
- Should rural communities that rely on state police for primary patrol coverage be required to pay a fee to the state?
- Do you support the concept of consolidating school districts into countywide or more regionally-run school districts?
- Should the size of the legislature be reduced?
- Do you think nuclear energy should be part of Pennsylvania's energy portfolio?
- Would you support legislation providing an individual the choice to terminate his or her life following a diagnosis with a terminal disease?

YES	NO
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