

State Senator  
**LISA M.  
BOSCOLA**



*Independent • Effective • Working to Make a Difference*

*Summer 2016*



*Inside*

**18th District  
Highway  
& Bridge  
Update**

**Redistricting  
Reform**



## **Road Transfer Bill**

*To Bring FedEx Distribution Hub  
& Thousands of Jobs  
to the Lehigh Valley*

# State Senator LISA M. BOSCOLA

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## 2015 Newsletter Survey Results

Last summer, I sought your input on numerous issues that are currently before the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Constituents responded on topics ranging from my proposal to change the way the Commonwealth draws its congressional and legislative districts, to privatizing the state store system, to property tax relief and others. Over **1,200 responses** were returned to my office.

I was pleased that **80%** of responses supported the need to reform how Pennsylvania draws districts for both Congress and the General Assembly. My proposal, SB 484, is currently in the Senate's State Government Committee and will hopefully be considered by the Legislature this year.

Divesting of state stores or modernizing the system was divisive. Respondents opposed the selling of the state store system by **56%-44%** margin, while selling beer/wine in grocery stores was supported by a **59%-41%** margin.

In April, Governor Wolf signed into law Act 16 to legalize medical marijuana in Pennsylvania. **64%** of respondents supported medical marijuana, while **36%** opposed. Temporary regulations are currently being developed and the full implementation is expected to take 18 to 24 months from the date that Act 16 was signed. On a related issue, **66%** of respondents supported the decriminalization of marijuana, which has been done in states such as Colorado and Washington.

I have long championed the need for the elimination of local school property taxes by shifting to other revenue sources. The survey asked residents if they supported an increase in the sales tax to allow for either a reduction in local school property taxes or for the total elimination of local school property taxes. **68%** supported a sales tax increase to provide relief while **67%** supported an increase to allow for the total elimination. Senate Bill 76, which would provide for an elimination of property taxes, was narrowly defeated when it was brought up for a vote in the Senate last year. I am hopeful the Senate will soon reconsider this legislation given that two new members are in the Senate who were not in office when the vote was held last year.

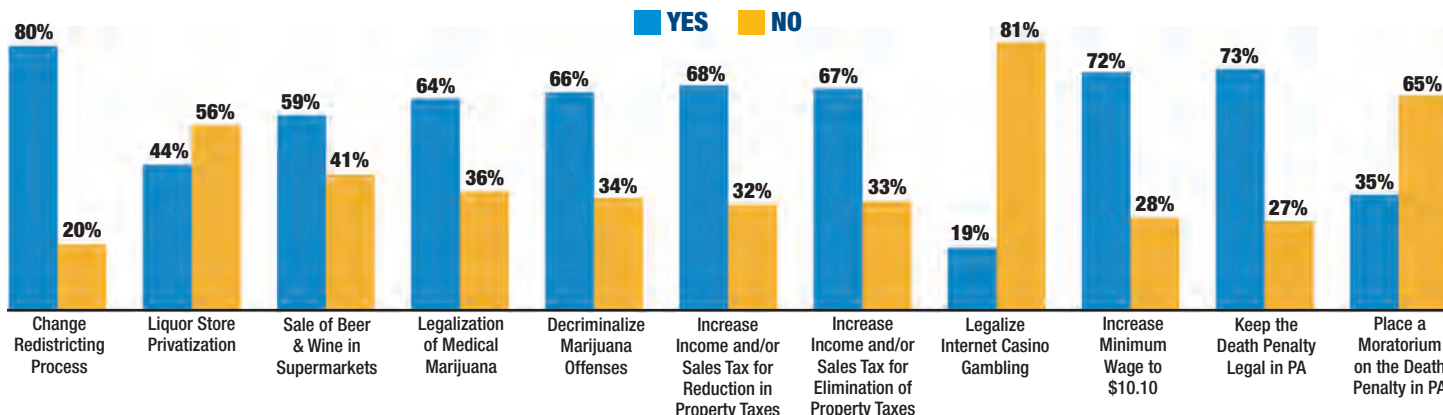
Allowing internet casino gambling has been a hot topic across the country; however, in the 18th Senatorial District, the response was one-sided as part of the survey. **81%** of respondents opposed legalizing online gaming.

The survey asked if Pennsylvania should raise the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 per hour. **72%** of respondents said yes.

When Governor Wolf took office, he placed a moratorium on the death penalty until a report was completed reviewing how the death penalty is carried out in the Commonwealth. **65%** of respondents opposed the moratorium and **73%** supported keeping the death penalty legal in Pennsylvania.

I appreciated all who responded. If you didn't take the survey and would still like to make your voice heard, contact any of my district offices. Hearing from my constituents makes me a better legislator, so please know your opinions matter to me!

## Survey Results







## Ensuring All Voters Have a Voice

This year's Presidential primary has once again exposed a weakness in state law that disenfranchises some voters throughout Pennsylvania. By not allowing independents to vote in primary elections, the will of Pennsylvania's electorate is not being fully recognized.

Earlier this session, I introduced Senate Bill 90, the Statement of Voters' Rights. In addition to allowing registered independents to vote in primary elections, the bill ensures a number of voter protections. One such protection is the bill ensures a person's right to vote as long as they are in line while the poll is open even if their turn to vote comes after the poll has closed. My legislation requires the list of voters' rights to be visible at all polls.

By making these common sense changes, we would ensure that more individuals have the right to participate in elections and have their voice heard. We should encourage people to vote, not restrict their right to do so.

▶ Senator Boscola speaks during ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the Easton Public Market project. The marketplace builds on the success of the Easton Farmers' Market, America's oldest, continuous open-air market.



## Boscola Spearheads Redistricting Reform Movement

Fair Districts PA, a nonpartisan statewide citizens' coalition that advocates for fair elections and redistricting reform, has endorsed my legislative redistricting proposal.

With member organizations ranging from Common Cause to the League of Women Voters to the Commonwealth Foundation, this issue has broad support and appeal across the political spectrum. Over 6,000 Pennsylvanians have signed a petition supporting my bill, while a number of communities have passed resolutions indicating their support as well. I'm proud to have citizen advocates and local communities in my corner and hope their support will stoke additional bipartisan backing for my proposal.

As I've said many times, we cannot hope to get politics out of the legislative reapportionment process until we get the politicians out of the process. Voters should pick their representatives, not representatives picking their voters. It's just that simple.

My bill does that by creating an 11-member independent citizens reapportionment commission that would draw congressional and legislative boundaries in an open, transparent and publicly accountable way.

Under Senate Bill 484, the citizens' commission would use sound and modern methodology when setting district boundaries, ignore political considerations, make all districts as

equal in population as possible with a minimum range of deviation and respect municipal subdivisions and communities of interest.

I also formed a bipartisan, bicameral legislative workgroup last June that is working toward an agreement on redistricting reform that can make it through the legislative process in time for the 2020 redistricting cycle. The workgroup members and I recently announced a list of guiding principles that we believe must be part of any redistricting reform proposal.

I am pleased that my bill contains these core principles and I look forward to continuing my work to finally bring real, meaningful reform to our redistricting process.

### Redistricting Reform Guiding Principles

- Assign redistricting authority to an independent citizens commission;
- Reform both congressional and legislative redistricting;
- Prohibit districts from being drawn to favor or discriminate against a political party or candidate;
- Use statistically sound methodology when setting district boundaries;
- Ensure transparency in the process with meaningful opportunities for active public participation;
- Make all districts as equal in population as possible with a minimum range of deviation;
- Respect political subdivisions and communities of interest.

▼ Spearheading the charge for congressional and legislative redistricting reform, Senator Boscola addresses the media with members from all four caucuses of the General Assembly.







# LISA M. BOSCOLA

## Around the 18th District & Beyond



▲ Students of the Emmaus High School field hockey team recently visited the state Senate. The Green Hornets won the 2015 state title in overtime, which marked the school's seventh straight undefeated field hockey team.



▲ Senator Boscola participates at the unveiling of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Easton Area High School, which honors students who served in Vietnam, especially remembering those who died.

▶ Frank Lambert and son Matthew testify before the Senate Transportation Committee in support of Senator Boscola's legislation to clear ice and snow from vehicles.



◀ Students from the Centennial School of Lehigh University recently met with Senator Boscola during this year's PAECT Student Showcase on innovative use of technology in learning.



▲ Senator Boscola and Governor Tom Wolf lead a discussion on combating Pennsylvania's opiate and opioid addiction crisis at Northampton Community College.

▼ Senator Boscola and fellow alumni hosted the Villanova University men's basketball team at the Capitol to celebrate their 2016 NCAA National Championship.



# Road Transfer Bill Will Bring FedEx Distribution Hub & Thousands of Jobs to the Lehigh Valley



While road transfers between the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and local municipalities may seem like minor legislation moving through the process in Harrisburg, very few will have the significant economic impact that legislation I introduced will have for the Lehigh Valley.

Senate Bill 1064, which was signed into law as Act 11 on March 30, 2016, transferred a portion of Willowbrook Road in Hanover Township, Lehigh County to PennDOT. My legislation was one small but important piece that has enabled Federal Express Ground to move forward with plans to construct a new distribution hub here in the Lehigh Valley on land formerly owned

by the Lehigh Valley International Airport (LVIA) in Allen Township. I want to thank and acknowledge Senators Pat Browne, Mario Scavello, and state Reps. Julie Harhart and Dan McNeill for their teamwork and bipartisan effort to help me expedite passage of this important legislation.

FedEx Ground's investment for the first phase of the project is projected to exceed \$227.5 million, which will be an 800,000 square foot distribution hub. It is expected that the initial phase will create 282 new full-time jobs over the next three years, along with 398 permanent part-time jobs. The project will also help retain 1,652 existing employees statewide, with over 300 construction jobs locally while the facility is being built.

At full build-out, the facility is expected to create 3,000 jobs and will make this hub FedEx's largest in the country. Moreover, the presence of the facility will drive additional economic development opportunities throughout the Lehigh Valley.

An added benefit that is equally important to the future growth of our region is that the sale of the land for this project helped place the Lehigh Valley International Airport on solid financial footing. The proceeds of the land transaction were used by LVIA to pay down existing debt that threatened the financial solvency of the airport. A thriving airport will only serve to further enhance the prospect of continued economic prosperity throughout our region.



▲ Senator Boscola recently hosted State Fire Commissioner Tim Solobay to meet with Lehigh Valley firefighters.

## Fire Commissioner Solobay Provides Update to Local Firefighters

Earlier this spring, State Fire Commissioner Tim Solobay spent some time in my district listening to the concerns of local firefighters and providing an update on what changes to expect out of Harrisburg. The event took place at the Chrin Community Center in Palmer Township and was attended by a number of local chiefs, firefighters and elected officials.

The broad ranging conversation covered a number of critically important topics. Several members of the volunteer fire departments discussed the concerns about incentivizing volunteers to serve. Many reported the difficulty they are having securing the needed number of volunteers. Several ideas were discussed that are being reviewed by both chambers of the legislature.

Volunteer and paid departments each shared similar concerns about the costs of equipment and the availability of grant money to help cover that equipment. Also, the potential expansion of fireworks sales with a special tax specifically for fire safety was covered.

Overall, it was a detailed conversation and provided insight into the issues facing our paid and volunteer fire services which are so critical to our community. I appreciate the Fire Commissioner coming and sharing his time as well as those firefighters who attended to share their thoughts and concerns.





STATE SENATOR  
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## Highway & Bridge Project Update in the 18th District

Maintaining an efficient and safe road network is one of the primary functions of state government. Throughout the 18th Senatorial District, there are some major construction projects underway. I want to provide you with a status update on some of the road work in our area.

The largest project currently ongoing in Northampton County is the widening of PA Route 412 in Bethlehem. According to PennDOT, the project will be completed this fall.

PennDOT has begun the second phase of improvements along U.S.

Route 22 in Whitehall, which are the upgrades to the Fullerton Ave. interchange and the reconstruction and widening of the Lehigh River Bridge. Two lanes of travel will be maintained on Rt. 22 during peak travel times. This project will include a widening of the Lehigh River Bridge to accommodate a proposal to widen Rt. 22 between 15th Street and Airport Road. The interchange and bridge project is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2019, while the proposed widening project is currently in the preliminary design

stage with the anticipated construction contracts being bid in 2022.

The Fahy Bridge connecting the northside and southside of Bethlehem is currently reduced from two lanes each direction to one lane each direction. It will remain one lane in each direction with the final phase being the reconstruction of the center median that is projected to be completed by November 2017.

If you have any questions about these or any other highway or bridge project throughout the 18th Senatorial District, please contact any of my district offices.

## Recent Changes to the State's Liquor Law

Recently, Governor Wolf signed House Bill 1690 into law. The bill made historical changes to where wine and beer can be sold. Some of these changes include:

- Allows restaurants and hotels to sell up to four bottles of wine for take-out;
- Allows grocery stores that currently sell beer to sell up to four bottles of wine;
- Allows for direct shipments of wine to homes;
- Makes permanent gas station's ability to sell 6-packs of beer;
- Removes Sunday restrictions and state-mandated holiday restrictions at state stores;
- Enhances customer loyalty programs and opens up coupons for use at state stores;
- Provides options for flexible pricing to allow state stores to offer special discounts and sales.