



SENATOR STEVE SANTARSIERO

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Fall 2020



Working for Our Community



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Dear Neighbor,

These last several months have been like nothing we have experienced before. We have come face to face with a global health crisis that has changed our way of life, with effects that will be felt for years to come. Change is never easy, but for the health and safety of family, friends, and neighbors, we have adapted to new standards. We have found new ways to connect as a community, highlighting the ingenuity and resiliency within us all.

During these unprecedented times, my office is continuing to serve the 10th District, by helping hundreds of constituents with unemployment claims. We have also worked with our small businesses to help them secure critical state and federal aid. During the spring lockdown, I held weekly Facebook live town hall meetings, to provide important information to residents, and to answer your questions. I also held several telephone town halls on important subjects, like the virus, available benefits, and our new vote-by-mail system.

Despite the challenges that the pandemic has presented, our community has continued to thrive, with museums and historic sites offering virtual tours, performing arts groups sharing online performances, and local shops and restaurants turning to online sales, curbside pickup and outdoor dining. The 10th District is a place of history, culture, and the arts, and I applaud the creativity and hard work of everyone who has done their part to overcome COVID-19. I especially want to thank our frontline workers, for their selfless service to our community. They are the true heroes of the pandemic.

Steven J. Santarsiero
10th Senatorial District

FRONT COVER

(Top Right: Main Photo) Sen. Santarsiero and Rep. Wendy Ullman loading food donations for the Bucks County Opportunity Council at the shredding and food donation event at Groveland Elementary School in Plumstead.

(Top Left) Sen. Santarsiero (second from left) at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Doylestown Borough Hall and Central Bucks Regional Police Headquarters with Mayor Strouse, Rep. Ullman, Council Pres. O'Brien and Commissioner Harvie. Sen. Santarsiero and Rep. Ullman secured a \$1.5 million state grant to help fund the project.

(Middle Left) Sen. Santarsiero (far left) assisting in the delivery of a thank you lunch to essential workers with Philly Love Co., a non-profit that has been supporting our healthcare heroes during the pandemic.

(Bottom Left) Sen. Santarsiero (far left) at the construction kickoff event for the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center of Bucks County in Doylestown with Dr. Tim Block, Lou Kassa, Rep. Ullman, Congressman Fitzpatrick and Commissioner Harvie.

(Bottom Middle) Sen. Santarsiero (far left) attending the Rainbow Room Youth Raising of the Pride Flag over Bucks County with Mayor Strouse, Commissioners Harvie and Ellis-Marsegia and Yardley Council Pres. Bria. This was an historic moment for our county, as it marked the first time that a Pride Flag was flown over the courthouse in Doylestown. The flag used was the Philadelphia pride flag, that the Lt. Governor gave to Sen. Santarsiero after it had flown over the State Capitol.

(Bottom Right) Sen. Santarsiero attending an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for four members of Troop 10 in Yardley.



Steve in the Comm



Sen. Santarsiero visiting the Garden of Reflection Memorial in Lower Makefield Township on the morning of September 11 to pay tribute to those who lost their lives.

Bucks County



Sen. Santarsiero speaking at the nurses' rally at St. Mary Medical Center in support of our essential healthcare workers as they negotiate for a fair employment contract.



Sen. Santarsiero (back row, third from right) attending the dedication of the "Greetings from Yardley" mural, gifted by Experience Yardley, to the residents of Yardley Borough.



Girl Scouts Gold Award recipients with their congratulatory Senate citations and state flags. (Pre-pandemic)



Sen. Santarsiero honoring VFW Post 6495 on its achievement of All-State Status with the Post's now former Commander David Pearl and his wife, and Auxiliary President Judy. (Pre-pandemic)

Community



Sen. Santarsiero hosting the PA ABLE Informational Forum with the PA Treasury, the PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Disability Rights Pennsylvania, the PA Department of Human Services and Rep. Wendy Ullman to discuss resources for those living with disabilities. (Pre-pandemic)



Sen. Santarsiero presenting a state flag at First Friends Childcare Center in New Britain, celebrating 31 years of child care services. (Pre-pandemic)



Sen. Santarsiero, as minority chairman of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, participating in a briefing on the Chesapeake Bay. (Pre-pandemic)



Sen. Santarsiero (third from left) attending the ribbon cutting for the newly re-opened Yardley Service Center with Yardley Council members Segal-Morris and Thompson.



Sen. Santarsiero with Amelia Honer, a student at Council Rock High School North and the 2019 PIAA Class AAA Girls' Singles Tennis Champion, and family on the Senate floor in Harrisburg. (Pre-pandemic)

Kayden's Law Unanimously Passed Out of Committee

In September, Senate Bill 868 (Kayden's Law) was voted unanimously out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. This life-saving legislation is named in honor of Kayden Mancuso, a seven-year-old girl from Lower Makefield Township, who was killed by her biological father during a court-mandated, unsupervised visit in 2018. Kayden's murder devastated our community.

For nearly two years now, I have been working with Kayden's family and experts in the field of child abuse and child custody issues, as well as Representatives Tina Davis (D-141) and Perry Warren (D-31), the sponsors of the legislation

in the State House, to craft legislation that would fundamentally change Pennsylvania's child custody law to make it forever clear that the safety of our children is the most important factor in deciding any custody arrangement and, by doing so, save lives. Working with Kayden's Korner has been vital in moving this legislation forward, and I'm grateful to Kayden's mother, Kathy Sherlock, for her tireless advocacy on behalf of the safety of all children. This is an encouraging step toward this important legislation becoming law.



Electricity Reliability Update

With more severe weather as a result of climate change, we have seen an increase in power outages as heavy winds and downpours cause damage to lines and equipment. Over the summer, I created a survey to hear from you about your concerns with electricity reliability in our area. Almost 1,000 constituents responded to the survey, sharing their experiences and concerns with frequent power outages. In follow up meetings with PECO, I have shared this information and have requested updates on all grid improvement initiatives in our area.

In September, at my request, the Senate Democratic Policy Committee held a virtual public hearing to focus on electricity outages, reliability, and preparedness. You can access a recording of that hearing by visiting my website SenatorSteveSantarseiro.com/video. Year-round electric reliability and preparedness is vital to the health and safety of all Pennsylvanians. It is an issue that must be addressed both by the public utilities and the agencies that regulate them. I will continue to press for improvement projects that will increase service reliability in our area.

Two Environmental Victories

Elcon & Rock Hill Quarry Updates

We recently had two major environmental victories here in the 10th District. In April, it was announced that the lease agreement for mining at Rockhill Quarry has been terminated. The termination of Pierson Co.'s lease to mine at the quarry is a tremendous win for the residents of East Rockhill Township, who have been tirelessly fighting to protect the health and safety of everyone in the community.

I previously called for the permanent closure of the quarry, citing community health risks due to findings of naturally

occurring asbestos at the site. The second victory came in July, when it was announced that Elcon Recycling Services was withdrawing its application for a proposed hazardous wastewater processing facility in Falls Township. I have been opposed to Elcon's proposal from the beginning and have worked alongside residents and activists in advocating for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to reject Elcon's proposal. The withdrawal of Elcon's applications for the project is a win for residents and the environment.



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Steve Santarsiero

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Issue Spotlight: Collaborate on Climate

Climate change is one of the most important issues facing us. We must act now to prevent the worst of its effects. Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection has begun the process to enter into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a cooperative program among 11 states in the

Northeast and Mid-Atlantic that limits the release of carbon dioxide from fossil fuel power generation. When the regulations are fully implemented, Pennsylvania's membership in RGGI will result in dramatic decreases in our carbon emissions, while creating nearly 30,000 jobs and billions of dollars in new economic activity.

The regulatory process for Pennsylvania to begin participation in RGGI began in September at the Environmental Quality Board meeting. As a member of the board, I voted to proceed with the regulatory process, which will involve months of vetting and opportunities for public and stakeholder input.

Grants

Recently, I was able to secure over \$2.4 million in grants to municipalities in the 10th District to make improvements to their water and sewer infrastructure. Through the Small Water & Sewer and the H2O PA Grants,

Chalfont Borough, Doylestown Borough, Doylestown Township Municipal Authority, Bedminster Municipal Authority, Yardley Borough, Morrisville Borough, Falls Township Authority, and Perkasie Regional Authority will receive funds for a variety of local projects. These projects will help make critical improvements to our municipal

water and sewer systems, strengthen our infrastructure to protect our environment, maintain quality drinking water for our community, and promote economic development. I was happy to support these projects by securing the funds for our district.