



State Senator

CAROLYN COMITTA

Serving the 19th Senatorial District

2023



**CARING FOR OUR
COMMUNITIES**

INSIDE

The "Buzz" on Pollinators • Protecting Our Environment
Investing in Public Safety • Supporting Access to Healthcare & More!



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Serving Chester County

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– Our Weekly E-Newsletter

Hello Friends,

Caring for our communities – it's my focus as your State Senator and a guiding principle in everything I do. Whether voting on bills in Harrisburg, visiting neighborhoods across the 19th District, or working to secure funding for our priorities, I always strive to lead and listen with care, concern, and compassion.

In this newsletter, you'll find information and resources on my work and ongoing efforts to safeguard our environment, invest in public safety, support access to healthcare, protect our pets, and ensure our Chester County communities remain friendly and welcoming places for all people and families to live, work, and prosper.

As we look ahead with optimism and hope for the future, please know that my staff and I are always here for you – to listen to your concerns, to help in any way we can, and to care for all our communities.

Thank you for all of your good work. I am grateful to serve as your state senator. Please reach out anytime with questions, feedback, or suggestions. Take good care of yourself, and if you can, take care of someone else, too.

Sincerely,

Carolyn T. Comitta
Carolyn T. Comitta
19th Senatorial District

MY STAFF CAN ASSIST WITH

Birth and Death Certificate Applications • SEPTA Senior Passes
Applications for Benefits (SNAP, Cash Assistance, Medicaid, CHIP)
Rent and Property Tax Rebates • PennDOT Application Assistance
Assistance with Utilities (LIHEAP) • And Many Other Services

ON THE COVER

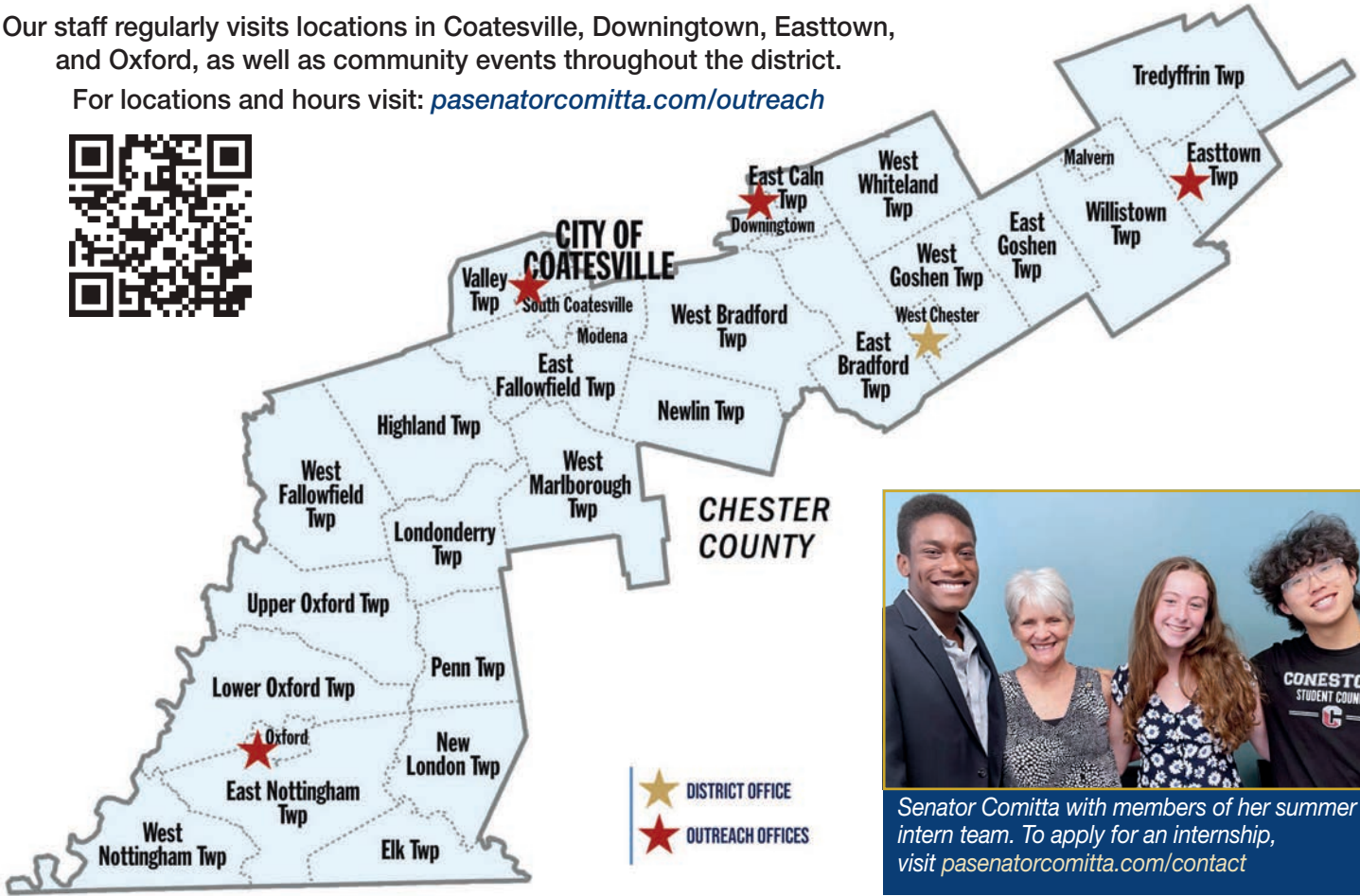
Senator Comitta joins West Chester University (WCU) student artist Noah Burns to dedicate the mural he created celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Friends Association in West Chester. Comitta secured \$50,000 in state funding for renovations to the nonprofit organization's emergency shelter and \$100,000 for a program to help women impacted by incarceration reenter their communities. Pictured (from left to right): John Baker, WCU professor emeritus and member of the West Chester Public Arts Commission; Comitta; Burns; and West Chester Borough Mayor Lillian DeBaptiste.



19TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

Our staff regularly visits locations in Coatesville, Downingtown, Easttown, and Oxford, as well as community events throughout the district.

For locations and hours visit: pasenatorcomitta.com/outreach



Senator Comitta with members of her summer intern team. To apply for an internship, visit pasenatorcomitta.com/contact

COMMITTEES

- Environmental Resources & Energy, Minority Chair
- Aging & Youth
- Agriculture & Rural Affairs
- Education
- Local Government



To learn about the caucuses and boards Senator Comitta also serves on visit: pasenatorcomitta.com/caucus

Constituent Spotlight: THE STEHLE BROTHERS



Senator Comitta met with West Chester University student Josh Stehle and his brother Zach, two social media influencers working to promote autism acceptance. Zach, who has autism, became an internet sensation with his vast knowledge of superhero and comic book trivia. The brothers' social media accounts and their new book, "I Am a Superhero Expert," have reached tens of thousands with their message of hope and inclusion.

SUPPORTING PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND PROSPERITY



Senator Comitta with doctors and nurses at Paoli Hospital. Comitta secured millions in funding to strengthen our regional healthcare infrastructure and is working to reform the hospital closure process.

- **Strengthening Healthcare Providers:** \$2.5 million to help expedite the opening of ChristianaCare's West Grove Campus (at the site of the former Jennersville Hospital) and \$2.1 million each for Paoli Hospital and Chester County Hospital for expansion projects. Worked to help facilitate the acquisition of Brandywine Hospital by Penn Medicine.
- **Supporting Fire and Ambulance Companies:** \$450,000 for eight ambulance and emergency services providers impacted by the closure of Tower Direct (Medic 93). \$620,000 for a new tanker and rescue equipment for Modena Fire Company. And \$3.5 million for a new firehouse and public works facility in Coatesville.
- **Promoting Preventive Care and Wellness:** Requiring insurers to cover preventive breast and ovarian cancer screenings for high-risk women at no cost. Working to prevent insurers from imposing annual or lifetime limits on coverage.
- **Standing Up for Equality:** Supporting the Pa Fairness Act to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression, and introducing a bill to codify marriage equality into state law.

- **Championing People of All Abilities:** \$750,000 to expand the Timothy School in Tredyffrin, \$2.5 million for upgrades to the Delaware Valley Friends School in Paoli, and \$70,000 for improvements to the Bournelyf Special Camp, all of which serve people in the autism and disability communities. And working to make violence against people with disabilities a hate crime.
- **Supporting Community Revitalization:** Funding for downtown improvements, including investments in Coatesville, a pedestrian transportation plan for Oxford Borough, and storefront facade updates in West Chester.



Senator Comitta participates in CPR training with students at Downingtown's Marsh Creek Sixth Grade Center. The Aidan's Heart Foundation has trained hundreds of students, parents, teachers, and coaches in life-saving CPR and AED skills. She is a strong supporter of legislation to require AEDs in all schools, and to ensure that athletic coaches are certified in CPR.

Senator Comitta tours downtown Oxford with Borough Manager Pauline Garcia-Allen. Comitta secured \$2 million in funding for a new theater and also recognized the community for its main street beautification efforts.

Senator Comitta calls for passage of the Pennsylvania Fairness Act. As a West Chester Borough Council member, she helped pass a nondiscrimination ordinance in 2006 – making the borough one of the first in Pennsylvania to do so. Now, it's high time to pass a statewide law. Also pictured are Senator Nikil Saval (left) and Senator Sharif Street (right).



THE “BUZZ” ON POLLINATORS

Did you know . . .

- Bees and other pollinators are responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of food?
- They pollinate more than 180,000 different plants and crops?
- Pollinator populations are facing significant decline due to habitat loss and other factors?

Now, you can help protect pollinators by purchasing a Pollinator Conservation Registration Plate for your vehicle. Sales of the

specialty license plates help fund a program, launched by Comitta, to plant native grass and perennial wildflower-filled pollinator habitats along our state highways.

Learn More at pasenatorcomitta.com/pollinators



Senator Comitta checks out a display of honeybees at the PA Farm Show. Bees, beetles, butterflies, and other insects and small animals provide pollinator services that have a tremendous impact on our environment and economy.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

As minority chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, Senator Comitta is helping lead the effort to:

- **Establish a New State Park:** Supporting the new 1,700-acre Big Elk Creek State Park in Landenberg, and securing funding for trail and bridge repairs at the adjoining White Clay Creek Preserve.
- **Support Solar:** Solar-generated electricity is already the cheapest electricity in history. The Solar for

Schools Grant Program bill would cut energy costs and save taxpayer dollars by funding solar energy projects at public schools and universities.

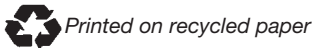
- **Invest in Environmental Education:** Securing \$50,000 in state funding to expand STEM and environmental education programs at the YMCA of Greater Brandywine to serve more students and schools.
- **Transition to Clean Energy:** The transition from greenhouse

gas emissions to renewables is underway. New programs can help train workers for family-sustaining careers in the clean energy economy.

- **Update Our Community Parks:** Improving parks including Copeland Park in East Bradford, Everhart Park in West Chester, Ash and Palmer Parks in Coatesville, Penn Township Park, and Wilson Farm Park in Tredyffrin.
- **Limit Light Pollution:** Communities across Pennsylvania are taking steps to reduce light pollution, which can negatively impact our sleep patterns, wildlife, and traffic and pedestrian safety.
- **Keep Our Water Clean:** Supporting investments in clean water programs, including reducing runoff and addressing pollutants like microplastics, pesticides, and dangerous chemicals in our water supply.
- **Save Crebilly Farm:** Guiding the process to save historic Crebilly Farm, and investing \$4 million to acquire more than 200 acres of the farm for a new park.



Senator Comitta plants a tree during Earth Day at the Upper Main Line YMCA. Pictured (from left to right) Commissioner Todd Pride of the Pennsylvania Game Commission; Comitta; Oliver Bass, President of Natural Lands; and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn.



Senator Comitta and Rory Connolly, Brandywine Valley SPCA Behavior Coordinator, get to know two rescue puppies. For more information about the SPCA and the pets available for adoption at their shelters, visit bvspca.org.

Anyone who has ever spent time with a pet or a companion animal knows what pure love and joy it can be. Senator Comitta is working to support shelter organizations and pass laws to help ensure the humane treatment of animals in Pennsylvania.

Comitta secured \$50,000 in funding for the Brandywine Valley SPCA to improve their West Chester shelter and expand onsite animal veterinary services.

She also introduced The Dog and Cat Protection Act, a package of legislation that calls for:

- Requiring that safe and healthy dogs and cats that were used for testing have an opportunity for adoption.
- Prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats bred by a person with animal welfare act violations.
- Extending whistleblower protection to employees who report humane violations.
- Narrowing the exemptions for animal cruelty to help ensure that testing facilities are conducting real scientific or medical research.

Learn more at pasenatorcomitta.com/dogsandcats