



State Senator

**CAROLYN COMITTA**

*Serving the 19th Senatorial District*

2024

**BUILDING A STRONG,  
SAFE, HEALTHY  
FUTURE**



**INSIDE**

**IMPORTANT ELECTION INFO • PROTECTING REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM  
INVESTING IN PUBLIC EDUCATION • KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE**



# Senator Carolyn Comitta

Serving Chester County

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\*Appointments encouraged

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Sign Up for Comitta's Corner  
– Our Weekly E-Newsletter

*Hello Friends,*

*Building a strong, safe, and healthy future is the driving force behind my passion for public service. It's why I ran for office and it's why I continue to work every day to protect our environment, invest in public education, expand access to healthcare, and ensure that our communities remain welcoming places where all people can thrive.*

*In this newsletter, you'll find information on my work, legislation, and ongoing initiatives to support children, families, and workers across Chester County and Pennsylvania. As we strive to build a better tomorrow, please know that my staff and I are always here for you – to listen with compassion, to act with care, and to do all we can to help. We appreciate and always welcome your feedback, questions, and suggestions.*

*I am grateful to serve as your state senator. The future belongs to all of us and it depends on all of us working together. Let's work together to create a stronger, safer, healthier, and cleaner world for our children and grandchildren – mine and yours.*

*Thank you for all you do. Take care of yourself, and if you can, take care of someone else, too.*

Sincerely,

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

## Your Vote is Your Voice!

### IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

- **Last Day to Register to Vote** – Monday, October 21
- **Last Day to Request a Mail-In Ballot** – Tuesday, October 29
- **General Election** – Tuesday, November 5

Register online, request a mail-in ballot, locate polling places, and secure dropboxes at [vote.pa.gov](http://vote.pa.gov)



### ON THE COVER

Senator Comitta plays with children at the Oscar Lasko YMCA and Childcare Center in West Chester. A former teacher and a member of the Pennsylvania Senate Education Committee, Comitta is fighting for investments in affordable childcare and important early childhood education programs to prepare young people for future success and help parents pursue their careers.





# Highlights from the . . .

## PROTECTING OUR PETS

Senator Comitta holds a rescue puppy from the Brandywine Valley SPCA. In addition to securing \$50,000 in state funding for upgrades to the nonprofit organization's West Chester shelter, Comitta has introduced the Dog and Cat Protection Act to encourage pet adoption and prevent animal cruelty, as well as Senate Bill 1178 to prohibit medically unnecessary cat declawing. More at [pasenatorcomitta.com/dogsandcats](https://pasenatorcomitta.com/dogsandcats)



## HONORING OUR HEROES



Part of Route 41 (Gap-Newport Pike) in Cochranville is now known as the Corporal Brandon Hardy Memorial Highway, named in honor of a soldier from the Octorara area who gave his life in service to our nation in Iraq in 2006. Senator Comitta, who introduced Act 17 of 2023 enacting the road dedication, was joined by the Hardy family, military officials, and community members to unveil the new sign. Located along Octorara High School, the road commemorates Corporal Hardy and honors all those who answer the call of duty.



## COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

Senator Comitta is investing in the community organizations and programs that make a positive difference in the lives of local seniors, workers, and families. She secured \$100,000 in state funding for a new commercial kitchen at Brandywine Valley Active Aging's Coatesville Campus, \$50,000 for a new van for the Chester County OIC, and millions more to prevent homelessness, promote affordable housing, and support job and career readiness programs.



## PROMOTING LITERACY AND EDUCATION

Senator Comitta shares a laugh with children at her Library Card Sign-Up Festival at the Chester County Library. In addition to supporting investments in our public libraries, Comitta introduced legislation to expand Dolly Parton's Imagination Library statewide. The free program mails high-quality age-appropriate books to all registered children, from birth to age 5, at no cost to the child's family each month. Comitta is also working to secure \$50,000 in state funding for Arts Holding Hands and Hearts, which administers the program to nearly 8,500 children in Chester County.



# DON'T MISS THESE FALL EVENTS

### Saturday • September 7

Free Electronic Waste Recycling & Shredding Event  
 PennDOT Chester County Stockpile  
 1649 Telegraph Road • West Chester

### Sunday • September 8

2nd Annual Library Card Sign-Up Fest  
 Chester County Library & District Center  
 450 Exton Square Parkway • Exton

### Saturday • October 5

Free Community Shredding Event  
 Valley Forge Middle School  
 106 W. Walker Road • Tredyffrin

Visit [pasenatorcomitta.com](https://pasenatorcomitta.com) or contact our office for more information!



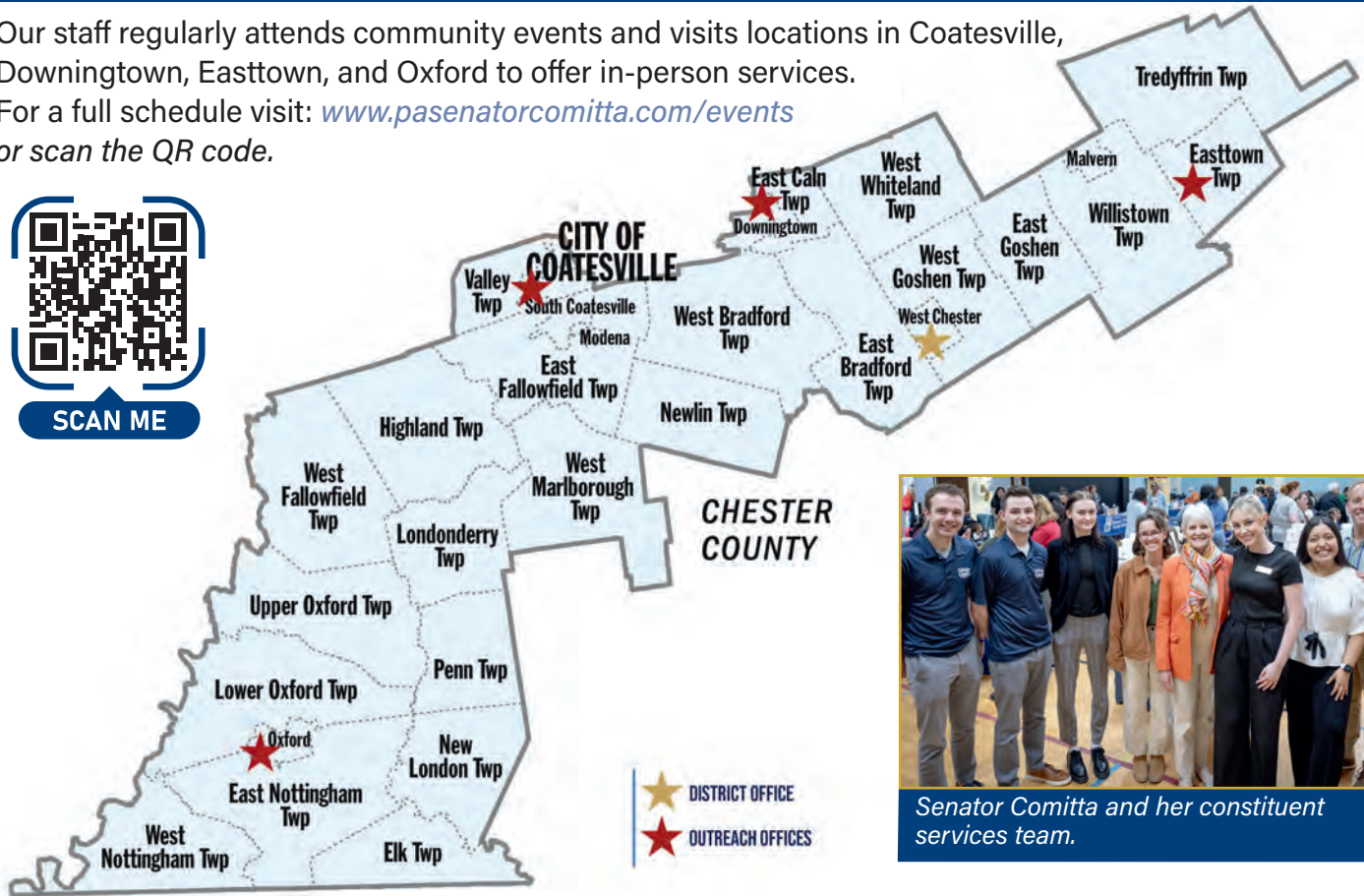
# ... 19th Senatorial District



Our staff regularly attends community events and visits locations in Coatesville, Downingtown, Easttown, and Oxford to offer in-person services. For a full schedule visit: [www.pasenatorcomitta.com/events](http://www.pasenatorcomitta.com/events) or scan the QR code.



SCAN ME



Senator Comitta and her constituent services team.

## WE'RE HERE TO HELP

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

## 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](http://pasenatorcomitta.com/caucus)

## Constituent Spotlight: Colonel Jaime Ramirez



The Pennsylvania Senate unanimously approved the confirmation of Colonel Jaime E. Ramirez, of Upper Oxford, to the rank of Brigadier General in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. Col. Ramirez has served in the Air Force for more than three decades. Senator Comitta is pictured with the Ramirez family (from left to right:) wife Kate, son Jackson, Col. Ramirez, and daughter Margaret.

# HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES

*Access to quality, affordable healthcare is a cornerstone of our communities. Senator Comitta is helping lead the effort to:*

- **Expand Post-Partum Care:** Mothers on Medicaid are now covered for one year following the birth of a baby (instead of just 60 days).
- **Invest in Community Services:** Securing \$50,000 for the Maternal and Child Health Consortium to provide one-on-one support throughout a pregnancy.
- **Reduce Maternal Mortality:** Most pregnancy-related deaths are preventable. A new law (Act 5 of 2023) improves data collection and tracking to help save lives.
- **Empower Doulas:** Creating a certification process for doulas and supporting coverage for doula services.
- **Fight Breast Cancer:** Act 1 of 2023 eliminates all costs associated with screenings and genetic testing for high-risk individuals. Senator Comitta is also bringing back \$50,000 for Unite for HER, a nonprofit offering breast cancer support services.



Dozens of moms, children, and families attended Senator Comitta's Community Baby Shower in Coatesville. The free event connected new and expectant mothers with nearly 30 local community organizations and the invaluable resources they offer.

- **Protect Reproductive Freedom:** Abortion remains safe and legal in Pennsylvania. Senator Comitta is working to keep it that way by defending access to reproductive care, contraception, and the freedom to make our own healthcare choices.



Pennsylvania Women's Health Caucus members Senator Comitta (right), Senator Judy Schwank (left), Co-Chair, and House Speaker Joanna McClinton (center). Comitta and the caucus are working to defend reproductive healthcare and freedom.

# SAFE SCHOOLS AND NEIGHBORHOODS

*When she was Mayor of West Chester, Senator Comitta launched initiatives to prevent violence and bring people together. Today, she continues to prioritize public safety and strengthen our emergency services so we all can live in peace. She is working to:*

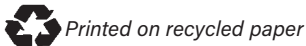
- **Support Student Health and Wellness:** Putting more nurses and counselors in schools and establishing a voluntary pilot program to help students struggling with depression.
- **Invest in Our EMS Infrastructure:** Securing \$450,000 for eight ambulance and emergency services providers. Investing \$20,000 to update and expand communications for Avon Grove Regional Emergency Management.
- **Prevent Medical Emergencies:** Teaching students CPR, training teachers to respond to seizures, and securing state funding to put new automated external defibrillators in every public school in Chester County.
- **Promote Community Policing:** Convening a gathering of local police chiefs and supporting funding for hundreds of new state troopers.
- **Save Lives and Fight Addiction:** Distributing Naloxone and training residents, families, and employers on using it to reverse an opioid overdose.

- **Stand Up to Hate:** Supporting funding for security improvements at local synagogues, mosques, churches, and other communities at risk of being targeted.
- **Stop Discrimination:** Enshrining marriage equality into state law and protecting LGBTQ+ students from discrimination.
- **End Gun Violence:** Supporting measures to keep guns out of the wrong hands, like universal background checks and safe, secure firearm storage programs.

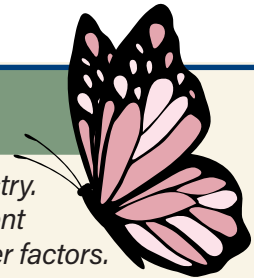


Senator Comitta with West Chester Police Chief Josh Lee. Comitta has consistently supported important investments to provide local law enforcement with the latest tools, like body cameras and new technology, to prevent crime and keep our communities safe.





## PROTECTING ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL



*The beauty of nature is how it works together. Pollinators are vital to our economy and agricultural industry. Other insects are an important food source for birds and small animals. However, an estimated 40 percent of insect species are in decline and a third are endangered due to climate change, habitat loss, and other factors.*

### How Can You Help?

**Limit Light Pollution:** Excessive over-lighting can harm insects and wildlife by disrupting their behavior and exposing them to predators. It can also negatively impact our health and sleep patterns. Please follow these tips from Dark Sky International to ensure outdoor lighting is:

- Shielded and directed only where needed.
- No brighter than necessary and used only when needed.
- Consistent with warmer color lights.

**Let it Grow:** Frequent mowing can destroy eggs, larvae, and food sources for developing insects. Consider converting a portion of your lawn to a meadow to increase biodiversity in your backyard.

- Plant wildflowers and native species to create a pollinator habitat or sanctuary for birds, bugs, fireflies, and other creatures.
- Be cautious of the potential for ticks (*and the diseases they carry*) in wooded areas and high grass.

**Skip Pesticides and Herbicides:** Many pesticides – including insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides – harm pollinators and other beneficial insects while also posing a threat to us and our pets.

- Consider using more environmentally friendly and less toxic alternatives.



Senator Comitta with students who helped start New Eagle Elementary School's Giving Garden. The students, who recently graduated high school, returned to the school to celebrate the garden's 10th anniversary and receive the Community Pride Award from Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. Last year, more than 160 pounds of produce grown in the Giving Garden was donated to a local food pantry.