

STATE SENATOR TIM KEARNEY



Representing the 26th Senatorial District

Follow me online
for the latest updates on legislation, community events and more!

   @SenTimKearney

www.SenatorKearney.com



2023 IS HERE AND I AM HUMBLLED FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AS YOUR SENATOR FOR ANOTHER FOUR YEARS.

Dear Neighbor,

Reflecting on my first term in office, there is much that we have accomplished together. I've had the chance to meet many of you at community events or during meetings where you voiced concerns or highlighted needs to make our community better. And together through partnerships and advocacy efforts, I've secured nearly **\$70 million** in state funding for the 26th District.

Together through dialogue, persistence and a bit of patience, my office helped push forward district projects, like reviving construction plans to replace the unsafe Ridley Park Sellers Avenue Bridge. We've built trails, vaccinated thousands in pop-up clinics, rebuilt streets and intersections for safety and accessibility, de-privatized the county jail, and connected and resourced many networks of social service providers and community nonprofits working to make Delco a better place.

There is a common theme that echoes in the progress we've made—**TEAMWORK.**

As your voice in the Senate for the next four years, **TEAMWORK** will be essential to winning battles that are happening state-wide and nationally.

From reproductive and voting rights to equity in education and much-needed environmental reform—we have to remain on the frontlines.

When we prepare ourselves to fight for what we believe in, historic investments happen, like the **\$850 million** that was allocated to support public schools in last year's state budget. Yes, the legislature has made strides and I'm calling on you once again, to be a partner in our fight, whatever it may be—so that our lawmakers are compelled to give you the support you deserve.

Over the next four years, I anticipate tough battles, but I believe the victories will outnumber the defeats as long as we reject division and focus on our priorities.

As always, my offices are open. We are committed to serving you and it is my sincerest honor to represent you in Harrisburg yet again.

A handwritten signature of Tim Kearney in black ink.

Tim Kearney
State Senator • 26th Senatorial District

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2023
SPRING



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW



Sworn into 2nd Term SENATOR KEARNEY

In January, I was officially sworn in to serve my second term in the Senate.

I'm eager to get to work in my second term because there is more to be done.

We have to make progress with equitable funding for education, addressing gun violence, protecting our hospitals and access to healthcare, making housing affordable, and more.

These are a few priorities that are critical for our Commonwealth to move forward for our communities.

Do you have certain priorities that are important to you that you would like to discuss with me?

Contact my office. ■

2023 - 2024 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Local Government – Democratic Chair
Appropriations – Democratic Vice Chair
Education
Transportation

"I'm ready to do the work and serve on these committees, advocating for policies that better serve the 26th District and our Commonwealth."



Housing Assistance WHOLE-HOME REPAIRS Program

Last year, Senate Democrats created a first-in-nation program - The Whole-Homes Repairs Program - to help people repair and stay in their homes, fight blight, improve energy efficiency, and create jobs in construction.

With **\$125M** in funding across the state, eligible homeowners will be able to receive a grant of up to **\$50,000** and small landlords will be eligible for loans to make repairs and upgrades for energy efficiency and accessibility.

Eligibility requirements will be set by each county and will focus on supporting low-income individuals.

Homeowners and small landlords can apply for Whole-Home Repairs beginning in Summer 2023. My office will provide updates on the program through my E-Newsletter and social media platforms when the program application period starts.

Make sure you are subscribed to my bi-weekly updates and following me on social media for updates about this program and other housing assistance initiatives.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SPOTLIGHT:

Victory for Students, Parents, and Education Advocates

A few weeks ago, the Commonwealth Court ruled that Pennsylvania's system of funding public education, largely based on local wealth within each school district, is unconstitutional for failing to provide equal opportunity to all students.

This ruling underscores what many of us have known for years—our legislature has fallen woefully short of its obligation to fund public education. The Pennsylvania legislature's broken customs for funding schools are unfair and systematically puts Black and brown communities at a disadvantage.

My Democratic colleagues in the House and Senate have joined education advocates, parents, and students alike at countless rallies to offer our support in their fight for more equitable educational opportunities. I'm proud that a school district that I represent, the William Penn School District, was a lead plaintiff in this lawsuit.

The Commonwealth Court's ruling confirms that our fight was not in vain. Now, this legislature must follow through with the ruling to craft a new system of funding public schools equitably and make up for years of inadequate funding. Investments in our children's education are an investment in the future and vitality of our Commonwealth.

With mixed-party control of the legislature and governor's office this legislative session, bipartisan cooperation will continue to be key to legislative success – just like it was in my first term.

First-Term Legislative Accomplishments

Last year, I worked with Senate Republicans to move my bill to help prevent opioid overdoses by legalizing fentanyl test strips – small tests that can detect the presence of fentanyl. For some, the idea behind this bill was novel, and some people feared condoning drug use by legalizing test strips. But I talked through the issues with Democrats and Republicans in Harrisburg for months to build consensus that fentanyl test strips can help our neighbors and loved ones struggling with addiction to avoid overdosing, giving them a chance to seek treatment successfully. By the end of 2022, we passed a bill with unanimous support from both parties because we focused on the issues, rather than our sides of the aisle.

I was also proud to help win greater state aid for our schools during my first term. Over the last four years, our state budgets increased funding for K-12 public schools by **\$1.7 billion**. Additionally, last year's budget included my legislation to put **\$225 million** directly into 100 school districts with the lowest amount of financial resources and greatest needs. Pennsylvania is still far off from equitably funding our school districts, but we made good strides during my first term.

2nd Term Priorities

The legislation that I will champion in Harrisburg for my second term reflects the challenges facing Delaware County and the strategies we need to make our communities healthy, equitable, and thriving.



▲ Senator Kearney joins Representative James Struzzi for the ceremonious signing of House Bill 1393, which legalizes fentanyl test strips.

Schools – With overcrowded classrooms and decades-old HVAC systems creating challenges for our schools, I'll be fighting to win state funding for school building renovations and construction improvements, because our kids deserve good facilities and our local taxpayers already put in their fair share of property taxes. Additionally, with the Pennsylvania courts recently declaring that Harrisburg is failing its constitutional duty to provide adequate education for all of our communities, I am committed to crafting a new framework for equitably funding all of our schools. The bottom line is that every single child in every school district must have an equal opportunity to succeed.

Juvenile Justice – Following the court-ordered closure of the Delaware County Juvenile Center, the release of two major government reports calling for legislative changes to the juvenile justice system, and the recent spike in juvenile crimes, it's clear that the juvenile justice system is harming the children going into it and failing to make our communities safer. We need reforms to how juvenile facilities operate and how county and state programs rehabilitate youth rather than isolate and re-traumatize them. I believe that children and young adults making mistakes through difficult circumstances and trauma can change their path in life if given support and restorative accountability.

CAADC's New Office
Joining Community Action Agency of Delaware County (CAADC) and community members for the grand opening of their new satellite office in Upper Darby.



▲ 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony
Annually, Delaware County hosts a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at Rose Tree Park to remember the lives lost on September 11, 2001, and to celebrate our local public servants who are currently serving to protect us every day.



▲ Palestra Historical Marker Dedication
As a Commissioner for the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC), I was proud to take part in a celebration to commemorate and protect the undeniable impact The Palestra has made in our state.



▲ Breaking Bread Opening
Standing proudly by Rep. Gina H. Curry to celebrate the opening of Breaking Bread Community in Upper Darby. (Photo Credit-Daily Times)



▲ Landlord/Tenant Forum
Talking to Landlords and Tenants during a public forum I hosted at the Watkins Senior Center.

BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY

Lansdowne Townhall
Excited to be introduced at Representative Gina H. Curry's Town Hall in Lansdowne, which is now a part of my district.



▲ Overdose Awareness Vigil
Nationally, Overdose Awareness Day is annually observed on August 31. Senator John Kane and I invited colleagues and the community to our event at the Delaware County Courthouse so that we could collectively remember those whose lives have been impacted by overdose and to offer resources to people who may need the support.



▲ Diaper Collection Drop-off
For the 2nd year in a row my office was able to drop off thousands of diapers and other baby items to families in need thanks to generous donations from neighbors, and collection efforts by local-area YMCAs, my office and the offices of Reps. Mike Zabel, Jennifer O'Mara, and David M. Dellosa, and The Foundation for Delaware County.



▲ 2023 Senior Expo
Greeting seniors at the Senior Expo in Drexel Hill.



▲ Veterans Bowling Event
Talking to local veterans during my Veterans & Family Bowling event at Playhouse Lanes in Drexel Hill.



▲ National Night Out
Engaging with local law enforcement and community organizations during National Night Out.



▲ Hildacy Preserve
Joining colleagues and members of the land conservation community at the Hildacy Preserve to celebrate a \$640 million new investment in conservation, clean water, parks, and recreation which were included in last year's state budget.



▲ Kerr Field Groundbreaking
Breaking ground with William Penn School District representatives and local elected officials to mark the start of the new \$14.6 million sports complex at Kerr Field in Yeaton. (Photo Credit-Daily Times)

GRANTS for the district

During my first term, I was able to secure **\$69.2 million** in state funding to support various projects in the 26th District. The funding has helped with redevelopment efforts, enhanced public safety, addressed housing and food insecurity, promoted sustainability, and provided social organizations with assistance to continue services. All of these initiatives help to strengthen our community. I am proud that my office was able to work in partnership with our local stakeholders to close these funding gaps. In my second term, my hope is to bring even greater state investments to Delaware County. ■

NEW Administration Begins

Governor Josh Shapiro's administration began on January 17, 2023. Governor Josh Shapiro and Lt. Governor Austin Davis have both been proponents and supporters of policies that are important to our Senate district, including greater investments in public education, and reproductive and workers' rights.

I am looking forward to working with the new administration and am confident that we will continue to build on many of the successes that were accomplished under the leadership of Governor Wolf. ■

HOW CAN OUR OFFICES HELP YOU?



SERVICES WE PROVIDE

- Absentee Ballot Application
- Birth/Death Certificate
- Consumer Complaint Forms
- Handicap Placards
- Hunting/Fishing License Application
- Free Notary Service
(state documents only)
- Prescription Assistance Application
- PennDOT Assistance
- Pennsylvania Department of Revenue
- Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)
- Public Utility Commission Complaints
- Property Tax & Rent Rebate Assistance
- State Income Tax Forms
- Unclaimed Property
- Unemployment Issues
- Voter Registration Application

ANY issue with state government

SenatorKearney.com

is also available in Spanish.

If you visit my website, click on the word **Española** in the upper right-hand corner.



STAY INFORMED

Join my email update list

I maintain an email list for those who wish to receive weekly updates from me about public meetings, traffic alerts, community events, state and local programs and services, and other items of interest to the community. If you would like to be added to that list, please email me at **senatorkearney@pasenate.com**

WAYS TO CONNECT WITH US

Connecting with my office just got easier. There are several ways for you to contact someone in my office.

Whether you want to schedule an appointment with me, have questions about state-related services, or are on my website and need help navigating through the site—we can help.

VISIT MY DISTRICT OFFICES DURING NORMAL BUSINESS OFFICES

CALL: 610. 544.6120 or 610.352.3409

TEXT: 610.590.8581

CHAT with us using the
NEW chat feature on my website.

MOBILE OFFICE HOURS

UPPER DARBY TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

501 Bywood Avenue
Upper Darby, PA 19082
Every 1st Thursday of the Month
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

RIDLEY TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

100 E. MacDade Boulevard
Folsom, PA 19033
Every 2nd Friday of the Month
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Attention Seniors!



Get Your
**SEPTA SENIOR
FARE CARD**

If you are 65 years or older you are eligible to apply for a free SEPTA Senior Fare Card through my offices. The process is simple and takes less than 15 minutes. We can also process renewal applications if you have an old or expired card.

What are the benefits of a SEPTA Senior Key Card?

SEPTA Senior Key Card holders ride **FREE (at the time)** on all Transit Routes – Bus, Trolley, and Regional Rail travel to/from stations located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. 50% of the weekday fare for travel to/from New Jersey and the state of Delaware.

No appointment is necessary, but proof of age is required.

Call **(610) 544-6120**
or **(610) 352-3409** with questions.

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Stop by my office and see if you have Unclaimed Property!

No appointment is necessary.
Unclaimed property can include:



- Closed bank accounts
- Uncashed checks (including paychecks)
- Lost stocks and bonds
- Contents of safe deposit boxes
- Life insurance policies
- Expired gift cards/gift certificates

patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property/

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATES

My office now has 2022 Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications available for eligible Pennsylvanians. This program provides rebates on property tax or rent paid in the previous year. You can stop by my office to pick up a form or for assistance completing the application.

Who is eligible?

- Pennsylvanians ages 65+
- Widows and widowers ages 50+
- People with disabilities ages 18+ living on limited income
- All applicants must be homeowners with an income under \$35,000 or renters with an income under \$15,000 (Applicants exclude one-half of all Social Security income)

You can also visit **mypath.pa.gov** or call **1-888-222-9190** to apply.

STATE SENATOR
TIM KEARNEY

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Harrisburg, PA 17120-3026



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WHERE YOU CAN FIND US:

Representing the 26th Senatorial District

UPPER DARBY OFFICE

51 Long Lane
Upper Darby, PA 19082
610.352.3409
Fax: 610.352.3641

HARRISBURG OFFICE

Senate Box 203026
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3026
717.787.1350
Fax: 717.787.0196

MEDIA OFFICE (*Opening April 2023*)

438 East Baltimore Avenue
Media, PA 19063
610.544.6120
Fax: 610.544.6140



My office loves to host events for the community. See an event below that interests you? **SAVE THE DATE.**

Mark your CALENDER

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 9

Expungement Clinic
with Representative Gina H. Curry
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Twentieth Century Club
84 South Lansdowne Avenue
Lansdowne, PA 19050

April 22

Pet Expo
with Representative Leanne Krueger
9 a.m. – Noon
American Legion Post 777
137 Walter Street
Crum Lynne, PA 19022

MARCH 25

Apprenticeship Fair
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Delaware County Intermediate Unit
(Morton)
200 Yale Avenue
Morton, PA 19070

AUGUST 31

Overdose Awareness Vigil
with Senator John Kane
Location and Time TBD

APRIL 15

Shredding Event
with Representative Jennifer O'Mara
9 a.m. – Noon
Location TBD

To stay up to date about future events, visit:
senatorkearney.com/events/



SenatorKearney.com