



Legislation Aims to Ease Costs for Families

By State Rep. Ann Flood

I was proud to stand alongside my colleagues to launch the House Republican “Freedom Through Affordability” initiative, a plan designed to cut costs and deliver meaningful relief for Pennsylvania families.

With rising prices continuing to impact household budgets, the effort focuses on delivering commonsense solutions to make everyday expenses more manageable. The initiative includes proposals such as suspending the state gas tax and certain utility taxes, reducing the personal income tax rate for six months, and creating sales tax holidays on items ranging from sports equipment to school supplies.

As part of this effort, I am introducing legislation to establish an annual back-to-school sales tax holiday. My proposal would create a three-month tax-free period from July 1 through Sept. 30, allowing families to purchase school supplies and computers without paying sales tax.

Preparing for a new school year can be costly, especially for families with multiple children. This legislation is designed to provide real savings and help ensure students have the tools they need to succeed in the classroom.

By advancing policies like this, we are taking steps to make Pennsylvania a more affordable place to live, work and raise a family.

Celebrating 100 Remarkable Years

By State Rep. Ann Flood

Congratulations to Rosemarie Hangey on the celebration of her 100th birthday. I was pleased to present a House citation on Saturday recognizing this remarkable milestone.

Born in West Hazleton on April 2, 1926, Rosemarie has lived a life defined by hard work, family, and service. A graduate of William Allen High School, she contributed to the war effort during World War II by installing hydraulic systems in airplanes, much like Rosie the Riveter, stepping up to support our nation.

She is the proud mother of four children and is blessed with eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, a reflection of a life centered on family. A devoted Philadelphia Eagles fan, Rosemarie added a personal touch to the celebration, wearing Eagles gear and enjoying a cake decorated with the team’s mascot.

Wishing her continued health, happiness, and many more special moments in the years ahead!



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Well Water Quality and Your Family

By Janel Gist

SLATE BELT - Do you know what’s in your water? If you have public water, you should receive a yearly report and most likely can drink your water with confidence. However, if you have a private well like many people in this area, it’s your responsibility to monitor and maintain it.

Many homeowners with well water either skip drinking it completely or choose to stay ignorant of the quality of their water. Relying on bottled water can be costly and creates unnecessary plastic waste, but many homeowners with wells choose to buy water. Reasons for not utilizing their wells range from not liking the taste, not trusting the quality of the water or believing it’s unsafe because of the color or odor. Homeowners can take the guess work out of well water safety by having their water tested for common contaminants.

Getting your well water tested will give you peace of mind and save money from buying bottled water. There is a plethora of things you can test in well water, which can make deciding what to test difficult. Depending on where you get it tested you can choose from a basic package that may test for a few things, up to comprehensive testing that will do a whole panel of tests. With all these different options for testing it can be overwhelming and difficult to tell how in depth to go. Luckily the EPA has guidelines for what well owners should be testing yearly.

The EPA recommends testing well water once a year for Total Coliform, pH, Nitrate and Total Solid. These tests are considered water quality indicators. These water quality indicators can help give well owners a better idea of what’s going on in their well. If the results of these tests are all good, it’s a good sign of the quality of your water. Test failures indicate the well may be compromised and more in-depth testing is needed.

Wells change year to year, which is why yearly testing is needed. One of the most common ways for wells to get contaminated is if they are exposed to runoff or are affected by flooding. It’s also a good idea to test if any work has been done on any part of the well system, as contaminants are more likely to be introduced then. Another sign that it’s time to test your well water is if you have any sudden changes in the taste, odor or appearance of your water.

For well-owners regular testing will provide them with the information they need to be confident in the quality and safety of their water. Add well testing to your to-do list today to ensure your families health and hydration year after year.

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