



Protecting Victims and Your Public Safety

By Senator Rosemary Brown

Sen. Brown standing at a podium with Sen. Pennycuik, Sen. Brooks, Sen Gebhard and others behind her as she speaks.

As Pennsylvania residents, you deserve laws that protect you and your families, protect victims and keep dangerous criminals off our streets. It's common sense. While the Senate worked to do this, the PA House of Representatives chose inaction, politics and prioritized criminals over our everyday residents.

What does this mean to you? Pennsylvania now has no statewide sentencing standard for second-degree felony murder. These are serious crimes that should not be taken lightly and can play an important role to public safety.

As a brief background, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that our sentencing guidelines for second-degree felony murder were unconstitutional, therefore the General Assembly was given 120 days to establish a new sentencing framework. The Senate worked diligently on this issue and twice passed bipartisan legislation to ensure those convicted of these second-degree felonies, continue to face meaningful consequences while protecting public safety.

Despite bipartisan support and the backing of the Pennsylvania Attorney General, the Pennsylvania Fraternal Order of Police, and the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association, the PA House of Representatives sat on these proposals and at the eleventh hour, advanced amendments that prioritized criminals over the Senate's balanced approach to protecting victims and overall public safety.

Keeping our communities safe should be a priority! I am deeply disappointed by the votes of some of our local state representatives, choosing political maneuvering over working collaboratively to enact meaningful legislation that protects all Pennsylvanians. Review your representative's vote here.

Prioritizing Affordability Through Fiscal Responsibility

I understand we are all facing higher costs for groceries, utilities, housing, and everyday needs. In my work as your Senator, I remain committed to advancing fiscally responsible policies that protect taxpayers, strengthen our economy, and help make living more affordable.

Importantly, the state enacted a budget that will NOT raise taxes on Pennsylvanians, preserve our Rainy Day fund, and invests in priorities.

I helped advance numerous bills aimed at lowering costs and putting affordability first for you.

I voted to:

Cut the Gross Receipts Tax on electricity, establish a sales tax holiday on school supplies, expand educational opportunities for families, and eliminate a tax exemption for data centers (HB 1667).

Expand access to affordable and attainable housing (SB 1236, SB 1279, and SB 1281).

Reduce college costs by expanding Dual Enrollment opportunities (SB 974).

Eliminate unnecessary vehicle emissions testing requirements (SB 1298).

Promote energy development to help lower utility costs for consumers (SB 704).

Streamline state government and reduce unnecessary costs to taxpayers (SB 755).

Strengthen oversight of taxpayer-funded programs and protect public dollars from fraud and abuse (SB 362 and SB 1372).

It's important that you know these initiatives have been passed by the Senate and are currently awaiting action in the House of Representatives. I encourage you to contact your state representative and ask for a vote.

PennDOT Invites Students to Participate in Paint the Plow Program

By Sean Brown

Allentown, PA— The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is inviting high school students in the District 5 region (Berk, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, and Schuylkill counties) to participate in the annual Paint the Plow program. The program challenges youth to paint an original mural on a PennDOT snowplow blade, while incorporating a designated statewide safety theme, to promote winter driving safety and foster appreciation for school art programs and student creativity.

The designated 2026 theme, "Snow Means Slow" was chosen to remind drivers to reduce their speeds and exercise caution when traveling in wintry conditions.

The Paint the Plow program first started in Pennsylvania in 2015 and has expanded to most counties across the state. In the District 5 region last year, high school students from five counties participated.

Students in public and private high schools are welcome to participate and must have their school officials complete and return an application to the regional PennDOT coordinator Sean Brown at sebrown@pa.gov. Plow delivery and pick-up dates vary by county.

Additional information on the program, including the guidelines for participation and photos of past plows, can be found online at www.pa.gov/PaintThePlow or obtained from Sean Brown.

Find PennDOT news on X, Facebook, and Instagram.



STATE REP. TARAH PROBST

Senior Fair



Friday, Sept. 25 | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Bushkill Outreach Center

Rep. Probst is hosting this along with Christa L. Caceres, Pike County Commissioner.

Representatives from state, county and local agencies, as well as other vendors, will be available to offer information on health care, volunteer opportunities, prescription drug plans, preventing identity theft and more!

Rep. Probst and her staff will be on-hand to answer questions and provide direction on a host of state government-related programs and services.



This FREE event includes:

- ▶ Health screenings
- ▶ Information for seniors and caregivers
- ▶ Light refreshments
- ▶ And much more!

State Rep. Tarah Probst

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It's Free