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State Senator **LINDSEY M. WILLIAMS** Your District 38 Update



Upcoming Events

COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall



**Senator Lindsey M.
Williams**

**Thursday, December 17
6:00 PM**

Register at
[www.SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/
COVID19](http://www.SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/COVID19)



**Dr. Arvind Venkat
Immediate Past President
PA College of Emergency Physicians**

Join Senator Williams and Arvind Venkat, MD, FACEP on Thursday, December 17 at 6:00 PM for a COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall. Dr. Venkat is a practicing emergency physician at Allegheny Health Network, the Immediate Past President of the Pennsylvania College of Emergency Physicians, and a Board Member of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Dr. Venkat will provide an update on COVID-19 in our region, including information about the impacts on our hospital systems, what steps you can take to keep you and your family safe, and an update on the vaccine. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions to both Dr. Venkat and Senator Williams.

To register for this Zoom Town Hall or submit an advance question, please visit SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/COVID19.

As we start planning 2021, we need to know more about what kinds of events you want to attend! Please take a minute to fill out a brief survey to tell us what event formats and topics you want to see the most next year!

Senator Williams Event Survey



Legislative Update



PennDOT Bonding Legislation

Last week, Senator Katie Muth and I circulated a [co-sponsorship memo](#) for legislation that will give PennDOT the authority to borrow necessary funding that will enable them to continue ongoing transportation and infrastructure projects across the Commonwealth. Late last month, the General Assembly jeopardized these construction projects, and the livelihoods of over 240,000 of our hardworking neighbors, when the Republicans removed this critical language from the fiscal code during budget negotiations. While the Administration found a short-term solution to ensure these projects didn't come grinding to a halt on December 1st, this solution is not permanent. And unless the General Assembly acts now, countless Pennsylvanians could lose their jobs come February. Pennsylvanians have suffered enough

economic and social anxiety from the ongoing pandemic plaguing our Commonwealth. As public servants, members of the General Assembly shouldn't be adding to Pennsylvanians' stress by playing fast and loose with their livelihoods when we could just as easily protect their jobs with the stroke of a pen. [PennDOT Avoids Major Shutdown But Needs Long-Term Funding Fix – CBS Pittsburgh \(cbslocal.com\)](https://www.cbslocal.com/story/penn-dot-avoids-major-shutdown-but-needs-long-term-funding-fix/2020/12/09/penn-dot-avoids-major-shutdown-but-needs-long-term-funding-fix/5611111002/)



Senate Rules Reform



As a first term Senator, I have often likened my first legislative session to drinking from a firing hose: all of the new names and faces, committee meetings, long session days, legislation, and countless co-sponsorship memos demanding my attention all at once. And while at times I sometimes feel like that is still the case, I've certainly learned a lot in the last two years about how I can best represent my constituents of D38. That is why I will be seeking to amend the Senate Rules to make legislative actions more transparent and to ensure constituents' voices are heard in this upcoming legislative session. Too many times I've watched bills die in Committee because the Majority Chair never calls the bill up for a vote and watched procedural maneuvers silence me and my colleagues as we try to offer amendments on the Senate floor. There is frequently very little notice of Committee meetings and sometimes less

than an hour notice of large substantive amendments. Not only does this mean that I don't have adequate time to read and understand what I am voting on, it gives the public no time to engage with their elected officials on important issues. By amending the Senate Rules to ensure that every bill and amendment gets a vote and requiring adequate notice to ensure meaningful participation at committee meetings, my colleagues and I on both sides of the aisle will be better positioned to represent the constituents we serve. [Is Pa.'s full-time Legislature producing part-time results? Some want more bills considered | Pennsylvania | heraldmailmedia.com](#)

Operation Warm 2020

OPERATION WARM

2020



Coats will be distributed by ELRC Family Centers located throughout Allegheny County. Individuals can call the centers ahead of time for coat sizes/availability & to arrange for pickup.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of Allegheny County Assistance Offices to the public, “Operation Warm 2020” coats will be distributed by ELRC Family Centers located throughout Allegheny County. Individuals can call the centers ahead of time for coat sizes/availability and to arrange for pickup.

Family Size	Location	Phone
Braddock-Rankin Family Center	849 Braddock Avenue, Braddock	412-273-4611

Clairton Family Center	734 Miller Avenue, Clairton	412-233-8325
Duquesne Family Center	One Library Place, Duquesne	412-469-9870 ext 111
East Allegheny Family Center	200 Westinghouse Avenue, Wilmerding	412-829-6171
East Hills Family Center	2320 East Hills Drive Rear, Pittsburgh	412-323-1020
Family and Immigrant Connection Program	339 5th Avenue, McKeesport	412-325-8111
Greater Hazelwood Family Center	5006 Second Avenue, Pittsburgh	412-904-2005
Hill District Family Center	1835 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh	412-363-1702 x1423
Hilltop Family Care Center	1630 Arlington Avenue, Pittsburgh	412-432-1635
Homewood-Brushton Family Center	7810 Tioga Street, Pittsburgh	412-727-6649
Latino Family Center	212 9th Street, Pittsburgh	412-335-7446
Lawrenceville Family Center	5235 Butler Street, Lawrenceville	412-784-8683
Lincoln Park Family Center	7300 Ridgeview Avenue, Penn Hills	412-394-5962
McKeesport Family Center	339 5th Avenue McKeesport	412-672-6970
Northside Family Center	3113 Brighon Road Pittsburgh	412-766-6730
Sto-Rox Family Center	618 Russellwood Avenue McKees Rocks	412-771-7166
Turtle Creek Family Center	208 Penn Plaza Shopping Center, Turtle Creek	412-829-8982
Wilkinsburg Family Center	400 Kelly Street, Wilkinsburg	412-371-5934
Wilkinsburg Family Support Center	807 Wallace Street, Wilkinsburg, PA	412-871-7948

Unemployment Compensation Update

PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE



NEW Additional Security check PUA Dashboard Login



**Enter your Username & Password,
THEN select the “I’m not a robot”
reCAPTCHA to enter the site.**

INFORMATION AND UPDATES
www.uc.pa.gov

PUA Claimants: Dashboard Login Change

Due to an influx of failed hacking attempts to log in to our PUA system, L&I has added an additional security measure.

Now when logging on to your PUA dashboard, you will need to:

1. Enter your Username and Password,
2. THEN select the “I’m not a robot” reCAPTCHA to enter the site.
3. Select “Sign In”

The captcha will appear:

If you are hard of hearing or visual impaired, click on the “headphones” icon and you will get:

4. Press the play button to hear wording and then type that in the box under play.

Click Verify.

Users only have five (5) login attempts before being locked out of their accounts. If you are locked out, you will have to wait 15 minutes before attempting to login again.

Select the “Forgot Username and Password” button if you need to retrieve either or both before attempting to login, so that you are not locked out of your account.

Tips For Avoiding Holiday Scams



While many of us are getting into the holiday spirit, scammers are getting into their holiday schemes. The PA Department of Banking and Securities and State Police shared six strategies that can help keep you safe, whether you're shopping online or in store:

1. **Monitor your accounts.** Frequently check your financial accounts for any debits or withdrawals you do not recognize.

2. **Never follow links in unsolicited emails.** Check that any emails you receive are from a correct email address.
3. **Type the website directly into your browser.** Don't follow links or cut and paste. Pay attention to your spelling and double check that it is a U.S. domain – like dot-com, rather than an international domain – before entering any sensitive information.
4. **Be wary of any transaction involving checks or gift cards.** Never send anything via Western Union or prepaid cards to someone previously unknown to you. When possible, use a credit card, single-use debit card, or prepaid reloadable card for online purchases.
5. **When in doubt, hang up.** Never provide credit card info as part of an unsolicited phone call and think twice if you're being pressured to donate "right now."
6. **Be skeptical!** If it sounds too good to be true, it likely is.

Common Scams

- **Phishing E-mail Scams**

Phishing emails are a common tactic used by scammers to get sensitive information. Techniques include replicating merchant email templates with harmful links designed to obtain usernames, passwords, & potentially sensitive financial info.

- **Skimming and E-skimming Device Scams.**

Skimming devices capture the info from the black magnetic strip on debit or credit cards at the point of sale device or ATM machine.

- **Gift Card Fraud**

Scammers use a computer program or "bot" to test millions of random combinations of numbers and pins at retailer websites. Once they find a combination that works, they use all the funds available to make purchases, or sell the info on the dark web. When the real owner of the card tries to use it to make the legitimate purchase, they find there are no funds available on the card.



Beware of Red Flags

- **Has someone contacted you unexpectedly?**

If you weren't expecting a phone call or didn't initiate the contact, it should be a red flag.

- **Have they promised you something?**

If they're offering you something that seems too good to be true, it's a red flag.

- **Have they asked you to do something?**

Are they asking you for money or account info? If you didn't initiate the conversation, do not provide it.

Pennsylvanians who have fallen victim to a scam to contact their financial institution & local police department. Anyone can contact the DoBS at 1-800-PA-BANKS or 1-800-722-2657 to ask questions or file complaints about financial transactions, companies, or products.



Good News

Etna approves non-discrimination ordinance to protect from bias in housing, jobs



TAWNYA PANIZZI | Friday, December 4, 2020 1:08 p.m.



Etna council approved a non-discrimination ordinance that prohibits bias based on race, sexual orientation, family status, age and other identifiers.

Congratulations to Etna and Councilwoman Jessica Semler (one of my amazing Constituent Relations staff) for passing their Non-Discrimination Ordinance to protect from bias in housing and jobs! [Etna approves non-discrimination ordinance to protect from bias in housing, jobs | TribLIVE.com](#)

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have by phone at 412-364-0469 (Ross Office), 724-224-2131 (Harrison Office) or by email at SenatorLindseyWilliams@pasenate.com. My staff will return your call/email within 24 hours (Monday-Friday).



Senator Lindsey Williams

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