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State Senator
LINDSEY M.
WILLIAMS
Your District 38 Update

Upcoming Events

Please Join
DR. LEVINE AND MEMBERS
OF THE PA SENATE & HOUSE
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUSES *For a*

COVID VACCINE VIRTUAL
TOWN HALL *for the* SOUTHWEST PA AREA

Learn more and register @
PASenate.com/Vaccine

LIVESTREAMED VIA ZOOM | JANUARY 21 • NOON

Join Senator Williams, Senator Jay Costa, PA Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine, and other health officials on January 21 at 12:00 PM for a COVID Vaccine Virtual Town Hall. This is an excellent opportunity to hear Secretary Levine's latest update on Pennsylvania's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan. There will be a question and answer session with Dr. Levine and your legislators following the presentation.

Register for this Zoom Town Hall or submit an advance question

We want to hear from you!

As we plan 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

Lindsey Williams Named Minority Chair of Senate Education Committee

I proudly announced today that I have been named the Democratic Minority Chair of the Senate Education Committee for the 2021-2022 Session after serving on the Committee for the 2019-2020 Session. I am excited to get to work for families struggling with educational issues, from pre-k affordability to managing higher education costs. Read my detailed education priorities here.

News from Lindsey Williams about PA Senate Activity

Many people don't realize that current Senate rules allow the Majority Party to completely control which bills receive a vote at all, as well as the timetable for those votes. These rules prevent even common sense, bipartisan legislation from ever receiving a vote in Committee or on the floor. For example, last session I co-sponsored Victoria's Law, legislation that would ban the sale of pets from puppy mills. Despite this legislation having co-sponsors on both sides of the aisle, it was never even voted on in committee.

And on the other hand, if the Majority Party supports legislation, it can force a floor vote on short notice, giving legislators little time to review the full language of the bill or to seek input from constituents and stakeholders. This should not be the way we legislate. That's why I do not vote in favor of any legislation I haven't been given proper notice or time to read thoroughly.
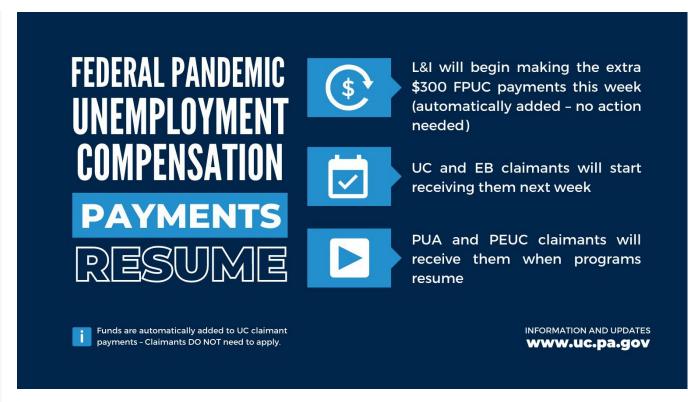
I proposed these rules because I am tired of telling my constituents that I can't do anything to move legislation that matters so much to you. A healthy democracy should give both parties a voice.

On another front, also during the first day of session, the Majority Party, led by President Pro Tempore Jake Corman, refused to seat Senator Jim Brewster, who won his election and was certified by the Secretary of State, citing a petition filed in the Senate by Senator Brewster's opponent. The precedent set by Senator Corman last week is worrisome-- the majority can refuse to seat a duly elected Senator simply because their opponent objects to it. While I am relieved to report that Senator Brewster was sworn in on Wednesday, January 13, this unnecessarily left the constituents of the 45th Senatorial District without representation for over a week.

As many of you know, the Senate Republicans threatened not to seat me after I won my election. But I came to Harrisburg to represent the voices of all of my constituents. And I will fight suppression of your voices, whether that suppression comes at the ballot box or in the Senate chamber.

Unemployment Compensation Update

January 2021

Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry resumes the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program. Extra $300 payments started January 12, 2021.

Regular unemployment recipients now automatically receive an extra $300 FPUC payment per week in addition to their unemployment payments for claim weeks ending January 2, 2021 through March 13, 2021. The FPUC program was reinstated as part of the federal stimulus that Congress passed last month.

PUA and PEUC Programs temporarily suspended as of December 26, 2020. L&I awaits federal Cares Act extension guidelines.

Pennsylvania Labor and Industry will restart Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) programs soon. L&I requires federal CARES Act extension guidance from the US Department of Labor to ensure it follows the law. When payments resume, the department will backdate eligible claims to the week of Jan. 2 and add on the FPUC payments to ensure claimants do not miss any eligible

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New: File your Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program Applications Online!

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE ALERT!

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program claimants now have the option to submit applications online!

Filing online leads to fast processing, easy direct deposit options and automatic calculators that will help you apply for your rebate.

Visit mypath.pa.gov to file your application!

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program claimants now have the option to submit program applications online with the Department of Revenue's myPATH system. Filing online leads to fast processing, easy direct deposit options and automatic calculators that will help you apply for your rebate. Visit Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program (pa.gov) to complete your myPATH application or to check the status of your rebate.

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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