



State Senator **Andy Dinniman**

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Summer 2016

ANDREW E. DINNIMAN
STATE SENATOR
19TH DISTRICT

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Senate of Pennsylvania

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Dear Friend,

Believe in possibilities and work together to make them realities.

That is what government should be and that has been my guiding principle first as a Chester County Commissioner and now as your state Senator. Whether we're investing in our communities, reforming government, promoting economic development, building a strong transportation infrastructure, protecting our environment, supporting emergency services, or preparing the next generation for the future, we always succeed when we work together to get it done.

In order to do so, we need to end the strident partisanship and gridlock that impedes our ability to build consensus and solve problems. It is time for real reform – that means a smaller legislature, an end to gerrymandered districts, and real consequences for both lawmakers and the governor when budgets aren't done on time. That's why I have sponsored and co-sponsored bills to achieve these much-needed changes.

Inside this newsletter, you will find a detailed overview of many of the projects I am currently working on in Chester County and Harrisburg, as well as the latest news about recent legislation. As always, I invite you to join me in these endeavors, and I welcome your input as we work together for our communities and our Commonwealth. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact my district office.

I hope you find this newsletter informative. Please know that I will continue to put people before politics and always put you, my constituents, first in everything I do.

Sincerely,

Andrew E. Dinniman

ANDREW E. DINNIMAN
State Senator – 19th District

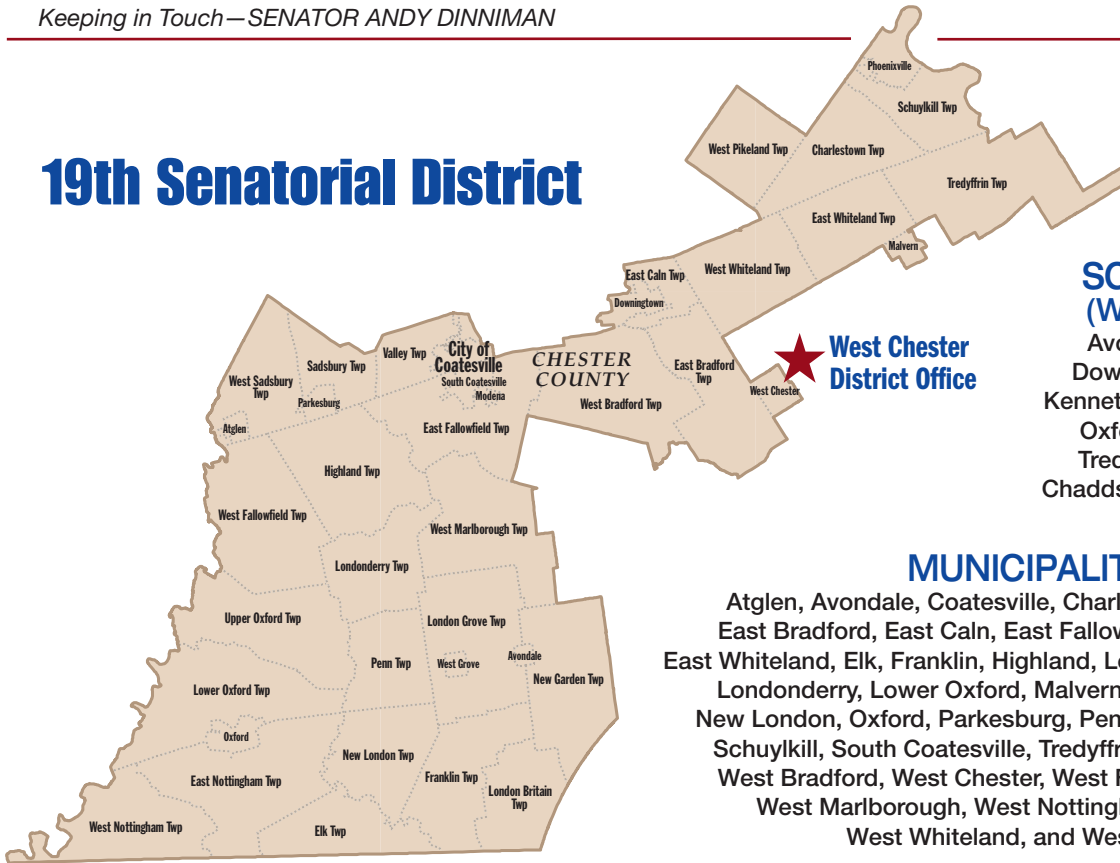
INSIDE:

**GETTING
IT DONE**

*in the
19th District*

- **Update on current projects throughout Chester County**

19th Senatorial District



SCHOOL DISTRICTS (WHOLE OR PART OF):

Avon Grove, Coatesville Area, Downingtown Area, Great Valley, Kennett Consolidated, Octorara Area, Oxford Area, Phoenixville Area, Tredyffrin-Easttown, Unionville-Chadds Ford, and West Chester Area.

MUNICIPALITIES:

Atglen, Avondale, Coatesville, Charlestown, Downingtown, East Bradford, East Caln, East Fallowfield, East Nottingham, East Whiteland, Elk, Franklin, Highland, London Britain, London Grove, Londonderry, Lower Oxford, Malvern, Modena, New Garden, New London, Oxford, Parkesburg, Penn, Phoenixville, Sadsbury, Schuylkill, South Coatesville, Tredyffrin, Upper Oxford, Valley, West Bradford, West Chester, West Fallowfield, West Grove, West Marlborough, West Nottingham, West Pikeland, West Whiteland, and West Sadsbury.



If you are interested in getting involved in a citizens' workgroup on any of the issues or projects highlighted in this newsletter please contact Sen. Dinniman at:

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E-MAIL UPDATES

Senator Dinniman issues regular legislative e-mail updates on a variety of issues. To sign up for electronic updates, visit www.senatordinniman.com/e-news

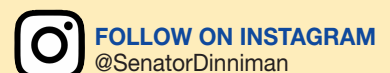


QR CODE

Scan this QR code with your phone to visit Senator Dinniman's website, where you will find more information on the budget and preventing future budget impasses.



Senator Dinniman is the first member of the Pennsylvania legislature to launch a free mobile app to stay in touch with constituents. You can download it for Apple and Android devices at www.senatordinniman.com/app



GETTING IT DONE . . .

■ **Economic Development** – Senator Dinniman continues to champion economic policies that spur entrepreneurship and innovation in Chester County. Recently, he visited the new Great Valley headquarters of National Equipment Parts, a startup company that is poised to become the Amazon of the HVAC industry. Prior to that, Dinniman helped bring the North American Headquarters of Saint-Gobain and CertainTeed, world-class leaders in the construction materials industry, to East Whiteland. In the legislature, Dinniman has introduced Senate Bill 679, legislation that encourages entrepreneurship by removing disincentives for unemployed individuals to start their own businesses. For his leadership, Dinniman has been recognized by various business and industry groups including the National Federation of Independent Business and Pennsylvania Bio.

■ **Government Reform** – Senator Dinniman is leading the way in calling for real consequences on the legislature and the governor when budgets run late. Under his Senate Bill 1124, the legislature must remain in continuous session, meeting every day without leave, without pay, without reimbursements, and without per diems, if a complete budget is not passed and signed by July 1. The same goes for the governor, his senior staff, and cabinet members. But balancing the budget while holding the line on taxes is only half the equation. That is why Senator Dinniman voted for important measures to reduce the costs of government like cutting the size of the legislature, liquor privatization, and pension reform for new employees.

■ **Farming** – Senator Dinniman, who grew up on a dairy farm, is known throughout Chester County as a friend of farming and a strong and consistent supporter of agri-business. As a member of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, he recently met with members of the dairy farm community and the Chester-Delaware Farm Bureau, including former state Rep. Arthur Hershey, to discuss agricultural issues. In addition, Dinniman has introduced Senate Bill 1125, legislation that calls for expanding and encouraging the use of environmentally friendly pasteurized mushroom compost in pipeline and natural gas drilling reclamation projects. The bill has been endorsed by the American Mushroom Institute.



Senator Dinniman discusses farming issues with former state Rep. Arthur Hershey during a recent visit to Ar-Joy Farms in Cochranville.

■ **Equine Agriculture** – Horses continue to be an essential and defining aspect of Chester County. When we think of horses and Chester County, we think of champion racehorses like Smarty Jones, Olympic-caliber athletes, premier equestrian events for riding, jumping, showing and dressage, and equine therapy programs for those with disabilities. But the horse industry also serves as both a driving force for open space preservation and an economic engine that generates tens of millions of dollars in revenue in areas that represent some of the last bastions of rural open space in the region. This



Senator Dinniman and Lt. Governor Mike Stack at the opening of the North American Headquarters of Saint-Gobain and CertainTeed Corporation in East Whiteland.

summer, Senator Dinniman is working on a thorough study of the economic impact of the horse industry in Chester County to help ensure that our region remains the center for equine agriculture.

■ **Protecting Our Land and Water** – Senator Dinniman is defending individual property rights and residents' access to well water from potential threats from large commercial companies and natural gas drillers. Dinniman, who serves on the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, has introduced several bills to help ensure that natural gas pipelines are placed in a safe and environmentally responsible manner that respects local land use decisions. Most recently, he introduced Senate Bill 991, legislation that calls for setting ethical and legal standards to regulate land agents, who often harass residents with eminent domain notices.

Earlier this year, Dinniman led the opposition to an out-of-state water company's plans to install a high-volume commercial well in southern Chester County – a project that could impact the well water levels of hundreds of residents, businesses, and farms in the area. As a result, Dinniman has also introduced a legislative package that would better protect local water resources by entrusting monitoring to local authorities and holding commercial entities responsible when wells are depleted due to their actions.

... in the 19th District

■ **Strong Emergency Services** – Senator Dinniman, who was recently appointed to the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, is already building on his long record of support for veterans and emergency first responders. Dinniman has introduced several bills to assist with the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters by bringing college students into the fold and providing length of service incentives. In addition, his Senate Bill 1096, which establishes a statewide system to allow anyone with a special, complex medical or cognitive diagnosis to share pertinent information with local law enforcement and the 911 system, was recently unanimously approved by the committee. Dinniman also continues to work to expand the availability of the life-saving, anti-opioid overdose drug Naloxone (Narcan), as well as the necessary recovery services for those suffering from drug abuse. In recognition of his contributions to the emergency response community, Dinniman recently received the 2016 Robert Thompson Memorial Award from the Chester County EMS Council.

■ **Honoring Our Veterans – Mark your Calendars:** Senator Dinniman is working with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (of which he is a member), the Freedoms Foundation and the Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove organization to recognize the bravery and sacrifice of our nation's greatest heroes on **Saturday, September 24 at 10 a.m.** at the Medal of Honor Grove, located at the Freedoms Foundation's headquarters. The event will mark the 100th Anniversary of World War I, the 75th Anniversary of World War II, and the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War and will feature special guest speakers and Medal of Honor recipients. Dinniman, who led successful efforts to save the Grove from development, continues to support efforts to permanently preserve the 52-acre Grove, the nation's oldest memorial site dedicated to Medal of Honor recipients. In addition, he continues to support charitable veterans service organizations like David's Drive 831, which recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to help improve the lives of hospitalized and homeless veterans.

■ **Henry's Helping Paws Fund –**

Earlier this year, Senator Dinniman launched a new nonprofit that provides deliveries of pet food and veterinary medical care free of charge to senior citizens who lack the financial resources to care for their beloved animal companions. A partnership between the Pennsylvania Veterinary Foundation and Meals on Wheels of Chester County, Henry's Helping Paws Fund is named for the Dinniman family's 9-year-old standard poodle that died in December 2014 and was well-known throughout Chester County. The goal of the organization is to keep people and their pets together in their homes. The group is already delivering food to numerous senior citizens and their pets.



Senator Dinniman with Harvey Phillips, who received the first delivery of complimentary pet food from Henry's Helping Paws Fund for his dog, Inky. Phillips, a veteran and widower residing in Valley Township, has difficulty leaving his home due to a disability and was grateful to receive the delivery.



Senator Dinniman speaks about public safety alongside state and local police officials in Harrisburg.

■ **Taking Action on Property Taxes** –

Senator Dinniman is committed to fighting for the elimination or, at the very least, the reduction of school property taxes. Last winter, Dinniman voted with a bipartisan group of senators in support of Senate Bill 76, the Property Tax Independence Act, legislation that would completely eliminate the school property tax for homes and businesses. The bill was defeated by one vote. Dinniman, a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 76, remains a steadfast supporter of property tax elimination or reduction. In addition, he has introduced legislation to relieve school districts of costly, outdated and unnecessary mandates that take valuable resources and taxpayer dollars away from classroom learning.

■ **More Teaching, Less Testing –**

Earlier this year, Senator Dinniman succeeded in blocking the further implementation of the graduation test requirement tied to the high school Common Core standards. Through his leadership, Senate Bill 880 was signed into law as Act 1 of 2016, delaying the exams as graduation requirements for two years. Dinniman, who remains a vocal critic of excessive testing in schools, continues to pressure the Pennsylvania Department of Education to implement the law, which calls for precluding schools from using the exams as the sole determinants of graduation. It also calls for the department to explore and evaluate alternative and more effective methods of assessment. Let's keep government bureaucrats out of schools and return education to teachers and parents.

◆ Transportation News

Pennsylvania's Comprehensive Transportation Funding Plan, Act 89, continues to pay dividends to Chester County in the form of road improvements, new bridges and intersections, and other significant transportation upgrades.

In total, PennDOT has allocated \$935 million in Act 89 funding for major transportation projects in Chester County over the next 12 years. Senator Dinniman is committed to ensuring that all transportation projects are completed on time, on budget, and with a minimal impact on residents.

Currently underway (\$17.6 million in total):

- The rehabilitation and repair of the Speakman Covered Bridge in West Marlborough.
- The resurfacing of Route 10 between Route 41 and Route 30 in West Fallowfield, Highland, Sadsbury, and Parkesburg.
- The reconstruction of Route 113 between Route 23 and the Montgomery County line in Phoenixville and Schuylkill.
- Traffic signal and safety upgrades in six municipalities.

Slated to begin in the next few years (\$214.6 million in total):

- The replacement of the West Bridge in Parkesburg over the Amtrak line.
- A significant number of safety improvements to Route 100.
- The realignment and expansion of Darby Road in Tredyffrin in conjunction with the new Paoli Train Station and Transportation Center.
- Many additional bridge and road paving projects.

Already completed (\$18.6 million in total):

- The reconstruction of Route 30 from Route 252 to the Delaware County line in Tredyffrin and Easttown.
- The repaving of Route 30 from West Sadsbury to Coatesville.
- The resurfacing of Route 1 in East Nottingham, Lower Oxford, Upper Oxford, and Oxford.

Rail Improvements – PennDOT is currently utilizing \$66.8 million in federal funds for major rail and safety upgrades to the Keystone Corridor line that will greatly improve train speeds as ridership increases. These extensive improvements come in preparation for the new or significantly upgraded train stations slated for Paoli, Exton, Downingtown, Coatesville, and Parkesburg.

In addition, a major rail freight improvement project in southern Chester County recently received \$665,000 in state funding for significant upgrades that will create new jobs and retain existing ones. Under the project, the East Penn Railroad will rehabilitate and strengthen the Octorara Line, an integral portion of the infrastructure of the Route 1 Business Corridor.

Carbon Monoxide in Cars – Due to Senator Dinniman's leadership, PennDOT recently revised the Pennsylvania Driver's Manual to include important information about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning. PennDOT Secretary Leslie Richards said the department is also adding information to its website, www.justdrivepa.org, on the dangers carbon monoxide poses in a running vehicle. Dinniman is committed to educating motorists, especially teens and student drivers, about the threat of carbon monoxide poisoning, which claimed the lives of young people in our area in recent years.



Senator Dinniman at the Exton Train Station where construction is currently underway to make significant improvements including more parking.

SEPTA Key – Senior citizens interested in enrolling in the new SEPTA Key fare program can now do so at Senator Dinniman's West Chester District Office. In the coming months, SEPTA will roll out its new electronic fare program, SEPTA Key, on all of its service lines – bus, trolley, trackless trolley, high speed, regional rail, and paratransit. All Pennsylvania residents age 65 and older and those who already participate in the SEPTA Seniors Ride Free Program should contact Senator Dinniman's office at (610) 692-2112 to set up an appointment.

Digital Billboard Guidelines –

Senator Dinniman has introduced Senate Bill 1301 to establish guidelines for the placement of the large electronic and digital billboards that are appearing alongside rural roadways and near residential neighborhoods throughout Chester County. In recent years, these signs have been proposed for everywhere from Phoenixville to Lower Oxford. Each time, residents have expressed serious concerns regarding light pollution, traffic safety, declining property values, and related quality-of-life issues. Most recently, residents of North Lake Drive in Downingtown say their lives and their sleep are being disturbed by a massive, two-sided digital billboard on the Route 30 Bypass. Currently, there are seven digital billboards in Chester County, but more are being planned. In response to residents' concerns, Dinniman's bill would give local municipalities more tools in reviewing such proposals and stronger involvement in the PennDOT application process.



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◆ Bills Supported by Senator Dinniman Recently Signed into Law

■ **School Funding Formula** – Pennsylvania has joined the vast majority of states that have a student-based formula for distributing state education dollars. The formula is the result of the extensive work, findings, and recommendations of Senator Dinniman and fellow members of the Basic Education Funding Commission. Specifically, Dinniman led the effort to ensure that the formula is not only more responsible, predictable, and equitable, but also – for the first time – acknowledges and begins to address socio-economic factors, like poverty, as they relate to the impact of trauma in the learning environment.

■ **Medical Marijuana** – Pennsylvania is the 24th state to allow those with serious illnesses to benefit from medical marijuana. Senator Dinniman, a co-sponsor of the bill, supports medical marijuana as an option for doctors to treat patients suffering from severe pain and other serious and grave medical issues. The law is now in effect, meaning that individuals suffering from cancer, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson’s Disease, HIV/AIDS and other specified serious medical issues, can qualify through a registered physician. The Pennsylvania Department of Health expects to roll out a regulatory system for growing and dispensing medical marijuana in the coming months.

■ **Anti-Hazing Law** – Senator Dinniman led the passage of this bill, which expands Pennsylvania’s anti-hazing law to protect student athletes and young people in public and private high schools. Previously, the anti-hazing law only applied to colleges and universities. The law establishes the crime of hazing as a third-degree misdemeanor and requires high schools to establish anti-hazing policies, rules, and penalties for violations.



Senator Dinniman hears testimony on education funding at a meeting of the Senate Education Committee.

In addition, the law includes an amendment introduced by Dinniman that requires schools to provide athletic coaches with information on the dangers of hazing.

■ **New DUI Law** – This law, co-sponsored by Senator Dinniman, establishes tougher standards for those convicted of DUIs by making the ignition interlock program mandatory for first-time DUI offenders with high blood alcohol levels. Dinniman is also a strong supporter of legislation to implement stiffer penalties for repeat offenders and other programs to prevent individuals from drinking and driving in the first place.