



State Senator **JOHN KANE**

Summer 2021

Proudly Serving Delaware and Chester Counties



WORKING FOR YOU



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State Senator
JOHN I. KANE

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SERVICES WE PROVIDE

Unemployment Application Assistance – Property Tax and Rent Rebates – SEPTA Senior ID Card Registration – PennDOT Application Assistance – Voter Registration – REAL ID Assistance – Birth and Death Certificate Applications – Information about local services – and much more!

Stay up-to-date on the latest news by signing up for my weekly e-blast at www.PASenatorKane.com



Dear Neighbor,

It's an honor to be serving as your new state Senator in the 9th District. Since taking office in January, I've had the opportunity to speak with many of you in Zoom meetings, at community events, and at our offices in Chester City and West Chester. I've received thousands of calls, emails, and letters about your legislative priorities, and my staff has helped hundreds of folks access unemployment benefits, apply for rental assistance, and even take photos for SEPTA cards. And we've been hard at work serving the 9th District: we've hosted virtual town halls on the COVID-19 vaccination effort, how to apply for unemployment, mental health resources, college financial planning, and more, held virtual film screenings, and coordinated donation drives for local food pantries.

For those of you who I haven't had the opportunity to meet yet, I'm looking forward to connecting with you and learning how my office can best serve you. I'm not a typical elected official – before running for state Senate, I spent almost four decades as a union plumber, and eventually as a union leader and organizer. I'm the only member of the state Senate without a college degree (and the only member who's a certified master plumber!). I know what you're going through – I've stood in line for hours to collect unemployment checks, I've worked odd jobs to make ends meet, I've wondered how I was going to put food on the table for my wife and my kids.

And I've also had my share of personal struggles. At the age of 22, I sought treatment for alcohol addiction, and I'm now proudly 37 years sober. In 2015, I was diagnosed with stage three cancer. I say this because I know my story isn't unique – I've heard from so many of you about similar experiences and struggles. I'm here because of public services, because of the health benefits provided by my union job, and because of the support I had. I'm proud to be in Harrisburg fighting for these issues, and more.

In this newsletter, you'll find information about the work I've been doing in Harrisburg and right here in the 9th, tips for preventing some of those summer pests, an update on the redistricting process, and more. As always, please feel free to contact me via email at kane@pasenate.com, by phone at 717-756-1548, or stop by one of our district offices.

John I. Kane
9th Senatorial District

ON THE COVER

(Top Right) I stood with activists and advocates calling for the passage of a statutory Window to Justice for childhood survivors of sexual abuse. I shared my own story on the Senate floor – you can view those and all my remarks at pasenatorkane.com/video.

(Top Left) My April shredding and drug takeback event in Delaware County, co-hosted with Rep. Leanne Krueger, was a huge success! It was great to meet over 500 constituents throughout the morning.

(Bottom Left) I spoke at a rally in front of SCI Chester, calling for reforms in Pennsylvania's prisons. I have introduced legislation to eliminate the use of solitary confinement and supported efforts to reduce medical costs and increase support systems for incarcerated people.

(Bottom Middle) Eaten any melons this summer? They might have come through Penn Terminals! I had a great time learning how this port in Delaware County keeps the whole mid-Atlantic fed.

(Bottom Right) I had a great time cleaning up the Deshong Park in Chester with CRC Streams. I even threw out a toilet and no, the irony of a plumber finding a toilet was not lost on any of us.



From the Senate Floor

The legislative process isn't always transparent, and it can be difficult to understand (I know it was for me!). I'll be breaking down some of the work I've been doing to create real change for Pennsylvanians across the Commonwealth.

Fighting for working families

I was a proud union member for my entire career before joining the Senate. Unions built this country – unions are the reason we have protections in the workplace, paid leave, and a middle class in this country. I'm here today because my union gave me a good-paying job straight out of high school, and access to quality healthcare and benefits. And I want to make sure all Pennsylvanians have the same benefits I had.

One piece of legislation I'm working on addresses an issue that's close to my heart: protecting construction workers from misclassification by contractors. In an attempt to avoid paying workers a livable wage, contractors will sometimes intentionally misclassify their employees as "independent contractors" instead of hired workers. The Attorney General has been very clear – this is stealing, plain and simple. My legislation would strengthen Act 72, the Construction Workers Misclassification Act, to increase penalties on contractors and increase the purview of the Attorney General to investigate misclassification. I want to make sure our working folks get paid what they deserve.

Raising the minimum wage

The minimum wage in Pennsylvania has been \$7.25 an hour for over a decade, despite the cost of living increasing by 13%. In that time, every single state that borders Pennsylvania – Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, and New York – have increased its minimum wage. An adult making minimum wage with two children is living below the poverty line.

That's unacceptable. I've co-sponsored legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$12/hour, with a pathway to \$15/hour by

2027. This bill would have huge benefits for Pennsylvanians: 1.9 million of our neighbors would see a wage increase. 41.1% of all women in the Pennsylvania workforce would get a raise. As we learned at the policy hearing I co-hosted on this issue earlier in the year, 80% of business owners, including small business owners, support a minimum wage increase, because it means more money in people's pockets and more money going back into our economy. I'm in Harrisburg fighting to support all of Pennsylvania's workers.

Protecting access to clean air and water

The issue I've heard about the most from all of you is protecting the Chester Water Authority. I strongly oppose the sale of the CWA to Aqua – public resources belong in the hands of the public, and the ratepayers deserve to have a voice in the conversation, since they'll be the ones faced with a higher bill at the end of the day. I have introduced legislation, SB 452, to create a Water Ratepayers Bill of Rights, which will ensure that ratepayers have a vote before the privatization of any public water utility. That means that before your water is privatized, you'll have a voice in the

process. I'm fighting to make sure that the legislation we're passing in Harrisburg benefits the people, not private corporations seeking to turn a profit for their shareholders.



Expanding access to broadband

As the Democratic Chair of the Communications and Technology Committee, I've been working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to expand access to broadband, 5G, and other essential technological resources. This pandemic has laid bare the inequities in our technologies, and we've seen how tremendously important internet and technology access is for our day-to-day lives. As the Chair, I want to make sure that as we deploy new technological solutions and advancements, we're prioritizing equity and equality, we're giving good-paying jobs to the workers doing the installation, and we're making sure the folks who need it have resources and training to use technology affectively. I've also supported legislation to, among other things, legalize adult-use recreational marijuana, expand access to affordable healthcare, increase access to mental health resources and addiction treatment, protect our air and water, and prevent animal cruelty. I came to Harrisburg with some ideas about how our government should work, but my job is ultimately to work for you. If you have legislation you would like to see introduced, or want to share your perspective on any legislation pending in the Senate, please don't hesitate to reach out.

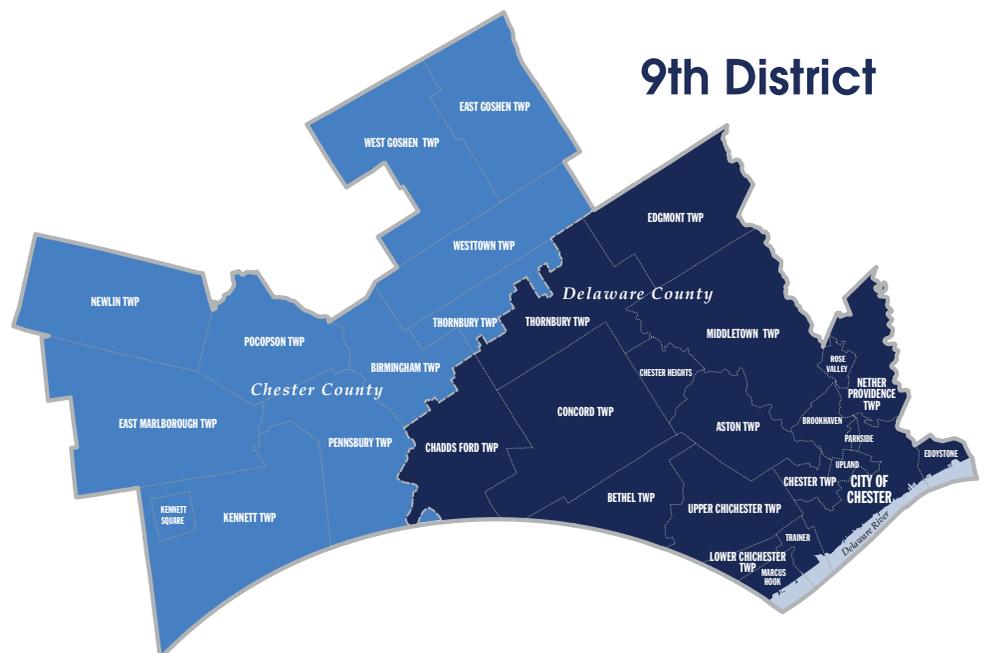
Redistricting 101

After this year, the U.S. Census Bureau will deliver population data needed to begin redrawing Pennsylvania's state House and Senate districts. This happens every 10 years, following the census we all completed last year, to ensure all our legislative districts reflect any changes in Pennsylvania's population. A legislative reapportionment committee, comprising my colleagues Sen. Jay Costa, Sen. Kim Ward, Rep. Joanna McClinton, and Rep. Kerry Benninghof, and chair Mark Nordenberg, will begin the process of adjusting state legislative districts based on the new population data.

As redistricting begins, I encourage you to follow along at www.redistricting.state.pa.us and stay involved. This process is extremely important to the integrity of our democracy, and to ensuring that all

Pennsylvania residents have equal representation. I also know that historically, the redistricting process has not always been fair. That's why I've co-sponsored legislation (SB 222, the Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Act), designed to increase transparency and public engagement and provide clear, measurable map-drawing criteria.

If you'd like to learn more about drawing voting districts or have a go at drawing your own map, I recommend checking out DrawtheLinesPA.org, a non-partisan website that encourages Pennsylvanians of all ages to create a map of Pennsylvania dividing the state into 17 Congressional districts, 50 state Senate districts, and 203 state House districts. Put your civics hat on and try it out!



9th District



In the Community

Brought back over \$25 million to Delaware and Chester Counties



Great to see new businesses opening in Chester — in May, I cut the ribbon for the grand opening of a medical marijuana dispensary. Marijuana legalization is a health issue, and a social justice one. I've supported legislation to legalize adult-use marijuana in Pennsylvania.



In April, I spoke at a vigil commemorating the lives of women we have lost to domestic abuse and domestic violence. In my remarks, I called on all of us, especially men, to be allies and advocates for everyone and to stand up against injustice, inequity, and violence.



This year was challenging for all of us, and marked by a tremendous amount of loss. I joined colleagues from Chester County for a memorial ceremony to those lives lost to COVID-19.

Thank you, volunteers! We handed out bagged lunches to celebrate the volunteers who have been supporting seniors at the Chester Senior Center.



The plumbers tour of Longwood Gardens! It's been great seeing so many of the places that make this district special, and meeting with the folks that make it all happen.



Taking office during a global pandemic is a unique challenge, and I spent my first several months fighting to ensure equity in distribution of vaccines in our health system. I was proud to speak at the grand opening of the Keystone Wellness Center in Chester, and to highlight the work they're doing to serve the city.



I've co-hosted several drive-thru food drives in our community over the past six months — it's been so inspiring to see folks come together and support each other, during a year that has been difficult for all of us.

Support for students entering the trades is near and dear to my heart, and the programs at Delaware County Community College are top-notch. I had a great time touring some of their facilities and learning about the certification programs they offer students.



The Kennett Library is getting an upgrade! The new location will be a center for community activity and events — I checked out the old building and took a virtual tour of the new one.



State Senator John I. Kane

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Don't Bug Out This Summer!

This summer has seen the return of the spotted lanternfly. The spotted lanternfly is an invasive pest found in 34 counties in Pennsylvania, first discovered in Berks County in 2014. Spotted lanternflies destroy valuable crops – if left unchecked, they could cost over \$300 million per year. The only way to prevent the spread of the lanternfly is to kill them. If you see spotted lanternflies where they haven't been reported previously, call **1-888-4BADFLY** to report it to the Penn State Extension.

Unfortunately, it's also that time of year again – tick season. Ticks are small in size but can be dangerous to the health of humans and our pets. They can transmit several harmful diseases, including Lyme Disease. Common signs of tick-borne disease include fever, headache, chills, and muscle aches. Lyme disease can sometimes be identified with a bullseye-shaped rash, but the rash does not always form. If you think you've been bitten by a tick and experience symptoms, reach out to a doctor as soon as possible. To prevent tick bites, walk in the center of trails and avoid areas with high grass, cover exposed skin with lightweight clothing, conduct a full-body tick check after spending time outdoors, and take a shower within two hours of coming in from outside.



Tick Removal Tips

If you find a tick, use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick and pull upwards with steady, even pressure. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with soap and water.

- Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
- Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouthparts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouthparts with tweezers.
- After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
- Never crush a tick with your fingers. Dispose of a live tick by putting it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet.

