



State Representative
TINA PICKETT
110TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Summer 2024

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It remains an honor to be your voice in Harrisburg and a privilege to serve you here at home.

You are reminded that I maintain three full-time district offices, in Sayre, Towanda and Tunkhannock, with an experienced staff that can help with a variety of state-related matters. Just stop by or contact us by phone or email!

I hope you find this mailing to be informative and interesting. We

send them every few months to keep you up to date on news from the state Capitol and here in the 110th Legislative District, including details about my upcoming senior expos. Another great way for us to stay in touch is to register for my weekly email updates at www.RepPickett.com, under the "Resources" tab.

Sincerely,

IN THE DISTRICT



Getting a firsthand look at a major expansion at Deer Park Lumber in Tunkhannock.



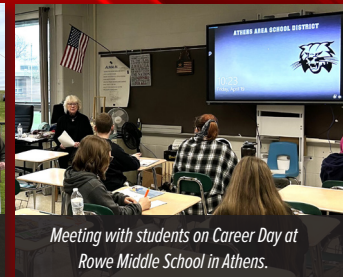
Dedicating the new police officer memorial in Tunkhannock.



Recognizing BSST Area Agency on Aging volunteers at a coffee clatch in Wysox.



Cheering on the Towanda Lions Club team at opening day for the Towanda Little League.



Meeting with students on Career Day at Rowe Middle School in Athens.

CRACKING DOWN ON SQUATTERS

Squatting is the unlawful practice of occupying or possessing a residence or other real estate property without the lawful owner's consent. Several squatting incidents made headlines earlier this year, including one in Philadelphia where a homeowner ended up paying squatters \$1,200 to leave his house after police refused to remove them.

These news stories have led a number of you to contact me regarding your concerns about squatting incidents potentially occurring in our Northern Tier communities. Also frustrating for me is the lack of support for homeowners against these criminals.

That's why I am co-sponsoring House Bill 2237, otherwise known as the Homeowner Protection and Squatter Eviction Act, which would strengthen the rights of property owners and homeowner protections against squatters.

I believe this legislation would go a long way in protecting the rights of lawful property owners, rather than protecting criminals who would break the law and cause chaos in our communities. I will be sure to keep you updated about the status of our bill.

Our proposal would:

- ✓ Allow police to immediately remove a squatter from the property if the homeowner signs an affidavit stating that he or she is the lawful owner of the residence.
- ✓ Increase the penalty for any squatter who causes \$1,000 or more in property damage while unlawfully occupying a residence to a felony of the first degree.
- ✓ Allow homeowners and landowners to seek punitive damages and attorneys' fees via a civil action against the squatter.
- ✓ Require police to notify U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) if the squatter is an illegal immigrant and to comply with any ICE detainer lodged against the illegal immigrant.

FRONTIER COMMONWEALTH SETTLEMENT APPROVED BY PUC

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) has given final approval to a settlement aimed at addressing long-standing service issues with Frontier Commonwealth. This settlement is the result of a more than 18-month effort launched by many Frontier customers across the Northern Tier who were rightly fed up with the company.

While it never should have gotten to this point, I applaud the consumers who spoke up to share their experiences and thank the Consumer Advocate and Office of Small Business Advocate for taking their complaints seriously and pursuing this case on their behalf.

Under the terms of the settlement, customers may be eligible for credits, refunds and other remedies based on certain past or future issues with their telephone or internet services. Frontier will be required to invest in excess of \$100 million in capital expenditures in its service territory, address staffing concerns in the Northern Tier region, identify and invest in the most troublesome wire centers, and establish a consumer hotline.

These are the sorts of steps needed to help ensure customers of Frontier Commonwealth get the kind of service they need and deserve well into the future.

APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR REBATE PROGRAM

The deadline for senior citizens and residents with disabilities to apply for rebates on rent and property taxes paid in 2023 has been extended to Dec. 31.

Income limits for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program increased this year to \$45,000 for both homeowners and renters. If you were earning too much to qualify before, you may be eligible now. Remember to exclude 50% of Social Security when determining your income. The law I supported to expand the program also increased the maximum rebate to \$1,000.

Remember – you do not need to pay anyone for assistance to apply for the rebates. Apply online at mynpath.pa.gov, or contact one of my offices for help.

Rebates will be distributed beginning July 1, as required by law.



State Representative

**TINA
PICKETT**

110th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

VISIT ME ONLINE!



RepPickett



/RepPickett



@RepPickett



@RepPickett

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FOR THESE UPCOMING
DISTRICT EVENTS!



BRADFORD COUNTY SENIOR EXPO
FRIDAY, JULY 26 | 10 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

Athens Lynch-Bustin Elementary School
253 Pennsylvania Ave., Athens

WYOMING COUNTY SENIOR EXPO
FRIDAY, SEPT. 13 | 10 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

Triton Hose Company
116 W. Tioga St., Tunkhannock



My office teamed up with Pennsylvania Department of Banking and Securities, the B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging and PA Link to host senior scam seminars in Sayre and Wysox to raise awareness about financial fraud.

DISTRICT OFFICES:

TOWANDA: 320 Main St., Towanda, PA 18848 | **570-265-3124**

SAYRE: 106 W. Packer Ave., Sayre, PA 18840 | **570-888-9011**

TUNKHANNOCK: 133 W. Tioga St., Suite 4, Tunkhannock, PA 18657 | **570-836-4777**

CAPITOL OFFICE: 315A Main Capitol Building, P.O. Box 202110, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2110 | **717-783-8238**