



State Representative
TINA PICKETT
110TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

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

You are reminded that I maintain three full-time offices, in Sayre, Towanda and Tunkhannock, with a veteran staff that can provide assistance on a variety of state-related matters. Simply stop by or give us a call.

I hope you find this mailing to be informative. 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. Another great way to stay in touch is to register for my weekly email updates at www.RepPickett.com, under the "Resources" tab.

Sincerely,

Tina Pickett

I've been busy working for you!



Bradford County senior expo



PUC hearing on Frontier complaints



Honoring local veterans



Telephone town hall meeting



Senior scam event

FRONTIER CUSTOMERS MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD

Frustrated by years of poor service, hundreds of Frontier Commonwealth customers turned out in early June for four public input hearings held by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) in Bradford, Tioga and Wyoming counties. We are grateful so many customers took part.

The hearings were scheduled in response to a formal complaint filed by the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) and the Office of Small Business Advocate (OSBA). That complaint came about because hundreds of people across the Northern Tier submitted written complaints sharing their experiences with Frontier to my office and the office of Rep. Clint Owlett (R-Tioga/Bradford).

Based on the testimony presented, we are now looking at some potential legislation that could help hold utilities like Frontier accountable for their service failures.

Following the PUC hearings, the involved parties (Frontier, OCA and OSBA) submitted their own testimony. The next step is for evidentiary hearings to be held in Harrisburg in October. Ultimately, the administrative law judges will render a "recommended decision" for the PUC, after which commission members will vote to decide the case.

It is a lengthy process, but one I hope will lead to better phone and internet service for all of us in the Northern Tier.

ANOTHER STEP FORWARD IN PA BROADBAND EXPANSION

A multi-year plan key to securing more than \$1 billion in federal resources to expand broadband access across the Commonwealth was unanimously approved by the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority in August.

The five-year plan, known as "Connecting the Commonwealth," helps pave the way to bringing affordable broadband access to unserved and underserved areas of Pennsylvania. These nearly 300,000 locations are homes, businesses or any address that currently cannot access modern high-speed broadband services.

The authority was established by the Legislature through Act 96 of 2021. Its mission is to coordinate and facilitate funding for broadband buildout across Pennsylvania.

MUCH WORK REMAINS ON STATE BUDGET

After a month-long impasse, the 2023-24 General Appropriations bill was signed into law by Gov. Josh Shapiro in early August after he cut \$100 million that would have funded a scholarship program to help students trapped in Pennsylvania's lowest-performing schools. The program was a casualty of the budget process and that's unfortunate. In the end, House Democrats chose special interests over students and forced the governor's hand.

However, the budget is far from finished, as it actually consists of a series of bills. Still pending are the so-called "code" bills, which direct how the money in the budget is going to be spent. Funding for state-related universities is also awaiting a final decision.

When the House passed the \$45.5 billion General Appropriations bill in early July, I was a "no" vote because it spends 6% more than last year and will likely force the state to dip into its reserves to meet expenses.

I believe we should be working to fix the structural deficit, not make it worse. Additionally, when we spend beyond our means, it will eventually lead to higher taxes. We can and must do better.



State Representative

**TINA
PICKETT**

110th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

VISIT ME ONLINE!



RepPickett



/RepPickett



@RepPickett



@RepPickett



UPCOMING **EVENT**

I frequently host events in the district that may be of interest to you. These events are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact one of my district offices.

WYOMING COUNTY SENIOR EXPO

Friday, Sept. 15, 10 a.m. to noon

Triton Hose Company

116 W. Tioga St., Tunkhannock

Area seniors, along with their families and/or caregivers, are invited to my first-ever senior expo in Wyoming County. Dozens of exhibitors will be there to offer information on health care, insurance, nutrition and exercise, financial planning, fraud protection, government services, veterans' benefits and more. My staff and I look forward to seeing everyone! For more information, please call my district office in Tunkhannock at 570-836-4777.



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., Tunkhannock, PA 18657 | **570-836-4777**

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