



# STATE REPRESENTATIVE JILL COOPER 55<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Spring 2026



## Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we move through the first quarter of the year, I want to take a moment to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your state representative. I work for you, the people of our district, and my top priority is making sure your voice is heard in Harrisburg. Accordingly, I want to provide these updates on legislative efforts, community initiatives and upcoming events. Please don't hesitate to reach out to my office if we can assist you in any way, because your feedback, questions and ideas guide everything I do.

Sincerely,

## EDUCATION REFORMS SOUGHT

Serving on the House Education Committee, I have been working on worthwhile reforms to **help students learn and help administrations manage school buildings**.

Because research indicates that teens learn more effectively after 8:30 a.m., I authored House Bill 2152, which would **allow districts that choose to change their schedules** to use funds from an **existing grant program** to cover the administrative costs of such a change. The bill was **recently passed** by the House Education Committee and may soon be considered by the entire House.

In the classroom, an important measure to require students to learn how to **read and write in cursive** was signed into law. I co-sponsored Act 2 of 2026 to preserve an important tradition of connecting students to the rich history written by generations before them.

I have also co-sponsored two bills to make Pennsylvania one of the more than 30 states that have a **limitation on student cell phone usage**. House Bill 1814 would require schools to prohibit the use of phones during the school day, from the first bell in the morning to the last in the afternoon. House Bill 1238 would require school districts to establish a policy that prohibits cell phone usage during instruction time, which may not apply to time in hallways, during recess and in cafeterias.

## PA'S INHERITANCE TAX SHOULD BE LAID TO REST

Losing a loved one can be devastating, and it's inexcusable for Harrisburg to send a grieving family a tax bill, especially when it is for assets that have already been taxed. This is why I co-sponsored **House Bill 1394**, which **proposes to eliminate Pennsylvania's inheritance tax**, which applies to the transfer of assets from a deceased person to their heirs.

Being applied to items such as real estate, vehicles, and savings and investments, the tax rate used is based on the relationship of the deceased to the beneficiary and can be as high as 15%. However, these are items that were taxed when they were first acquired by the deceased and are likely to be taxed again when sold by the heirs. **Harrisburg has no business applying a tax when these items are remaining within a decedent's family**. Ours is one of only five states to have an inheritance tax.



Frigid January temperatures didn't seem to bother those who attended my Export/Washington Township Open House, where open and meaningful conversations took place on a variety of topics.



Celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. involved a call to action in New Kensington. Dr. King's legacy of service and community were on full display as organizers collected food donations and hosted interactive displays.



The Kiski Area High School Gold Star girls and boys wrestling meet was a thoughtful and inspiring way to showcase the region's talented athletes as well as honor our local Gold Star families.



I toured Dura-Bond Industries in Steelton with other lawmakers. With facilities across Pennsylvania, including being headquartered right here in the 55th District, I appreciate Dura-Bond's important role in the natural gas industry!



Hands-on learning takes on a whole new meaning at Greensburg Salem High School's annual Critter Cruise. Students truly benefit from seeing their textbook learning come alive!



Newly retired Murrysville Mayor Regis Synan has a 25-year public service resume, which includes firefighting and serving on various community boards. It was a privilege to honor him with a House of Representatives citation to celebrate his retirement.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**JILL COOPER**  
55<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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**New Kensington**

**Parnassus Professional Building**  
356 Freeport St., Suite 100  
New Kensington, PA 15068  
P: 724-472-4102

**Export**

**Donal Plaza**  
105 Pfeffer Road, Suite 5  
Export, PA 15632  
P: 724-387-9113

**Murrysville**

3091 Carson Ave.  
Murrysville, PA 15668  
P: 724-387-1281

**First Monday and third  
Thursday of each month  
and by appointment only.**

**CAPITOL OFFICE:**

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## SAVE THE DATE

Below are some of my upcoming events. For additional information, including how to register to attend, be sure to visit [RepJillCooper.com](http://RepJillCooper.com) or follow me on Facebook or Instagram.

- **Monday, March 30, 7-8:30 p.m. | “Junior Jumpstart” Financial Aid Seminar with PHEAA**  
• Northern Westmoreland CTC, 705 Stevenson Blvd., New Kensington. **Registration by March 25 by calling 724-387-9113 is suggested but not required.**
- **Wednesday, April 8, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. | Grants 101**  
• Delmont Volunteer Fire Department, 2360 PA-66, Delmont. **Register by April 1 by calling 724-387-9113.**
- **Thursday, April 30, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Seniors for Safe Driving**  
• Murrysville Community Center, 3091 Carson Ave., Murrysville. **Register by calling 1-800-559-4880 or at [seniorsforsafedriving.com](http://seniorsforsafedriving.com).**
- **Friday, May 8, 10 a.m. to noon | Mobile Shredding Event with Rep. Abby Major**  
• Lower Burrell VFW, 1601 Wildlife Lodge Road, New Kensington.
- **Wednesday, May 13, 2-4 p.m. | Women’s Legislative Tea**  
• The Lamplighter, 6566 Route 22, Delmont. **Register by May 8 by calling 724-387-9113.**
- **Friday, July 24, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Community Health, Wellness and Career Fair**  
• The Lamplighter, 6566 Route 22, Delmont.
- **Tuesday, Aug. 18, 10 a.m. to noon | Scam Jam**  
• New Kensington Senior Center, 1039 Third Ave., New Kensington. **Register by Aug. 13 by calling 724-387-9113 or 724-472-4102.**
- **Thursday, Sept. 17, 9 a.m. to noon | Senior Expo with Rep. Abby Major**  
• Lower Burrell VFW 92, 1601 Wildlife Lodge Road, New Kensington.
- **Thursday, Oct. 1, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Seniors for Safe Driving**  
• New Kensington Senior Center, 1039 Third Ave., New Kensington. **Register by calling 1-800-559-4880 or at [seniorsforsafedriving.com](http://seniorsforsafedriving.com).**
- **Saturday, Oct. 31, 8:30-11 a.m. | Veterans Appreciation Breakfast**  
• Rizzo’s Malabar Inn, 126 Rizzo Road, Crabtree. **Register by Oct. 26 by calling 724-387-9113 or 724-472-4102.**