

# Liz Terwilliger for Congress

Because we need Representatives, not Politicians.



July 12, 2020

## The Week in Review

This week found us in Lewisburg, Athens & Sayre, PA.

Wednesday we spent the day at the Lewisburg Farmers Market.



Thursday Liz attended a Meet and Greet at the Mad Hatters Café and Co-Op in Athens, PA.

Friday we were at the Sayre Farmers Market.

## The Week Ahead

**Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>**, we will be at Valley Playland in Athens, PA from 3:30-5:30pm.

**Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>**, we will be at River Park on the Merrill Parkway in Towanda, PA from 5pm-6pm.

**Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>**, we will be at the Mansfield Growers Market on Wellsboro Street in Mansfield, PA from 4:30pm-6pm.

**Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>**, we will be at the Williamsport Growers Market, 249 Little League Blvd, from 9am-12:30pm.

**Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>**, Liz will be joining Noyes Lawton, candidate for PA State Representative from the 68<sup>th</sup> District for a Meet and Greet event at Woodland Park in Wellsboro, PA hosted by the Libertarian Party of Tioga County PA. The event is scheduled from 4-6pm.

## Fall is Fast Approaching

As I travelled around the district this week, the coming school year was a frequent topic of conversation. Everyone I spoke with shared a common desire. A desire to get things back to normal; back to a pre-COVID19 normal. On June 29<sup>th</sup> the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended “a goal of having students physically present in school.” On July 7<sup>th</sup>, in remarks on school reopening, President Trump said, “It’s time to do it.”

It seems straight forward to say, let’s do it, but as COVID19 case numbers rise in Western PA, most of the people I spoke with this week also expressed concerns with student and staff safety and the potential for broader community spread. While COVID19 case numbers remain relatively flat in our region, this serves as a reminder that school reopening is complicated and considerations are largely local.

My school district, Northeast Bradford, for example, is geographically large (approximately 169 square miles) but small in enrollment (approximately 380 students in 7-12<sup>th</sup> grades.) Lots of students are bussed and many homes don’t have cell service, let alone internet access. The considerations that need to be taken into account in returning to school at Northeast Bradford are different than those of other school districts, such as the Lewisburg Area School District. The Lewisburg Area School District is smaller geographically but has larger enrollment (approximately 44.5 square miles and 630 students in grades 9-12.) In addition to geography and enrollment, there are vast differences in funding and resources in schools districts across the state.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided comprehensive guidance for school districts. One look at the website and the vast logistical, staffing and funding considerations that districts face become obvious. Things as simple as having staff and students stay home when they are sick or have potentially been exposed to the virus are exponentially more complicated than they appear at face value.

On Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup> the American Academy of Pediatrics issued a new statement, saying that “science and community circumstances must guide decision making” around reopening. With so much at stake and such a complex set of circumstances, planning for reopening takes time.

At this late date many districts have not yet announced plans for the fall. At this late date many teachers, bus drivers, school staff, parents and students are still waiting.

-Liz Terwilliger



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