



# Valerie Longhurst

State Representative

15th District

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Dear Lauren,

I hope this message finds you well!

I am proud to share with you all that SB 213, or "Erin's Law," which I sponsored, has been signed into law by Governor Markell. This law will require public schools to educate their employees and parents of young students about child sexual abuse awareness and prevention. I also had the pleasure of recently meeting 20 young women from Sub-Saharan Africa, to teach them about Delaware government and focusing on their leadership skills to bring back to their local communities, which you can continue to learn about below.

I would also like to share with you two DeIDOT notifications that will be relevant for the upcoming months, including bridge inspections beginning on August 14<sup>th</sup> over I-95 and State Route 1, and the closure of Howell School Road beginning August 22<sup>nd</sup> for the relocation of utilities and box culvert installations.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have about issues in the 15<sup>th</sup> District or the state.

Sincerely,

Valerie Longhurst

**"Erin's Law" Signed by Governor Markell**



*[Rep. Valerie Longhurst attending "Erin's Law" bill signing.](#)*

Rep. Valerie Longhurst is excited to share that Governor Jack Markell signed Senate Bill 213 into law, which requires Delaware public schools to educate public school employees and parents of children in grades pre-kindergarten through 6 about personal body safety and child sexual abuse.



*[Rep. Valerie Longhurst attending "Erin's Law" bill signing.](#)*

Known as "Erin's Law," Rep. Longhurst joined Sen. Margaret Rose Henry to work on SB 213 that will provide age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education to help empower children to use their voice instead of allowing sex offenders to silence them.

Although bill namesake Erin Merryn wasn't able to be at the signing, she watched via Facetime and chatted afterward with Rep. Longhurst.

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## Welcoming Young African Leaders

*[Rep. Longhurst with young women leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa at Legislative Hall.](#)*

In late June, Rep. Valerie Longhurst had the great privilege of meeting with an amazing group of young women leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa in the House Chamber. During their visit, I gave them an overview of Delaware State government and spoke with them about their priorities for change and progress in their home countries.

The U.S. State Department's Study of the U.S. Institutes, in collaboration with the University of Delaware, brought 20 young women to the United States to sharpen their leadership skill-set so that they can better create change in their local communities. Specifically, many of them are working on women's rights issues, and we talked at length about the reform efforts we've undertaken for Delaware women, such as equal pay and employment protection.

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## Bridge Inspections Over I-95 and Route 1

Rep. Valerie Longhurst would like to share the below notice from DeIDOT regarding upcoming road work in our area.

### Inspections of Bridges over I-95 & State Route 1 over Red Lion Creek

**Newark/Delaware City:** DeIDOT's contractor, Pennoni Associates Inc., will be performing bridge inspections during the week of August 14<sup>th</sup>, pending weather. Motorists should be aware that bridge personnel and equipment will be operating in close proximity to the travel lanes and anticipate lane shifts.

The following nighttime lane closures will take place from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. or midnight until 5 a.m.:

- Otts Chapel Road (Bridge over I-95), southwest of Newark
- Welsh Tract Road (Bridge over I-95) south of Newark

**Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>:** I-95 southbound alternating left and right lane closures on I-95 Newark Toll Plaza access lanes. The ramp from SR-896 and access to the toll booth will remain open at all times. Due to higher volumes of traffic on Sunday evenings, this closure will begin after midnight.

**Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>:** Single right lane closed on I-95 northbound immediately after toll booths ending prior to Exit 1/SR-896. Access to I-95 from I-95 Newark Toll Plaza and access to Exit 1 will

remain open at all times. After this closure is complete after midnight, there will be a double left lane closure on I-95 northbound between Exit 109 and Exit 1. During this time, the E-ZPass Highway Speed Lanes will also be closed.

**Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>:** Single right lane closed on I-95 northbound between Exit 109 and the I-95 Newark Toll Plaza. Access to the toll plaza and on-ramp from Elkton Road will remain open at all times. After this inspection is complete after midnight, there will be a double left closure on I-95 southbound between the I-95 Newark Toll Plaza and Exit 109. During this time, the E-ZPass Highway Speed Lanes will also be closed. Access from the I-95 Newark Toll Plaza will remain open at all times.

Daytime lane closures from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.:

**I-95 (Bridge over Norfolk Southern Railroad), south of Newark**

**Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>:** Alternating right shoulder closures on I-95 northbound and southbound between Exit 1 and the I-95 Newark Toll Plaza.

**State Route 1 (Bridge over Red Lion Creek), northwest of Delaware City**

**Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>:** Right lane closed on SR 1 southbound between Exit 156 and Exit 152. After this inspection is complete; a right lane will be closed on SR1 northbound between Exit 152 and Exit 156.

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## Howell School Road Closures Near Lums Pond

Rep. Valerie Longhurst has included the latest notice from DeIDOT below regarding the upcoming closures on Howell School Road.

**Road Closure Notification: Howell School Road, State Route 896 to State Route 71**

**Bear:** The Delaware Department of Transportation (DeIDOT) announces that their contractor, Mumford & Miller Concrete Inc. is scheduled to begin work on Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> until early December for the installation of a box culvert and relocation of gas, water, and sewer lines.

Howell School Road will be closed at 9 a.m. on Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, between State Route 896/Summit Bridge Road and Lums Pond State Park main entrance. The main entrance to Lums Pond State Park will remain open to the public.

State Route 896 traffic will use Porter Road eastbound to Wrangle Hill Road southbound to Red Lion Road southbound and return to Howell School Road westbound.

There will be a turn-around provided for school buses at the entrance to Lums Pond State Park.

Detour signage will be posted for motorists.

