



## Republican Congressional Candidates Debate at the American Lobster

By Karen Frey

WIND GAP - On Thursday March 14, Republican Congressional candidates Maria Montero and Kevin Dellicker debated at the American Lobster restaurant in Wind Gap to a capacity, standing room only audience of nearly 100 people.

The debate was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Innovation Leadership Fund and the Slate Belt Republican Association and was graciously hosted by Shawn Berger of American Lobster. The ninety minute debate covered questions on Being a Member of Congress, You as a Candidate, Economy, Foreign Affairs, Environment, Abortion/Birth Rights, Immigration, and Social Agenda.

Each candidate responded in detail on each question presented and offered comments after each candidate's response. It was followed by a reception to meet and greet the candidates. Overall, from the candidate's perspective and the audience, the debate was well received for its in depth and focused questions.

## Energy Association Reminds Pa Residents Of Available Utility Assistance

By Nicole W. Luciano

PA - As we begin to thaw out from the cold winter months, Pennsylvania homeowners and renters who are having trouble paying their energy bills can still seek financial assistance and help with weatherizing their homes and apartments. There are programs available year-round for all income levels with additional assistance targeted at low-income households.

One notable and tremendously successful program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), is made possible through a partnership between utilities and the state Department of Human Services. This year's program is slated to be open through April 5 and provides cash assistance to low-income households who may need help with their energy bills. Payment is sent directly to the utility company or fuel provider to be credited on the customer's bill. These grants range from \$300 to \$1,000 and are based on household size, income and fuel type.

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services LIHEAP webpage provides a LIHEAP application and tips for staying warm, as well as valuable information on other state-funded assistance programs that can be found here: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/LIHEAP.aspx>.

While LIHEAP is the best-known program, there are other very effective ones Pennsylvania utilities offer. In fact, Pennsylvania is one of the most consumer-friendly states in the nation. The Commonwealth stands second only to California in its utility-administered energy assistance programs, which provide over \$560 million in assistance to their customers every year through their individual companies.

This assistance is targeted toward individuals and families with low incomes who need help catching up on past-due bills, experience a one-time financial hardship, or qualify for free weatherization work to their homes to improve energy efficiency and comfort. For all income levels, utilities offer interest-free payment arrangements to catch up on past-due amounts. If needed, customers can qualify for the state-administered LIHEAP and the other utility-funded assistance programs.



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