

Winter 2024

State Representative

Anthony A. Bellmon

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In Harrisburg State Budget Wins

I was proud to vote in favor of the state budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year. The budget includes many of the priorities that I've advocated for in Harrisburg that will greatly benefit our community. This budget includes sound investments in crucial areas such as education, public safety, and financial support for older Pennsylvanians. Pennsylvanians from every area of the commonwealth will benefit from what was included in this year's budget. Read below for an in-depth explanation of each area:

Education

The budget made historic investments in public education, especially here in Philadelphia. **The School District of Philadelphia received more than 1.4 billion in state funding, an \$85 million increase from last year's budget.** In addition, the budget includes \$175 million for school facility and environmental improvements/repairs across the state. We also worked to make sure students are nourished at the beginning of the school day, as we included funding for universal free breakfast to every public school across Pennsylvania.

This funding was needed as our city's public schools, and public schools statewide, have been woefully underfunded for far too long, and our children have not had access to resources that can provide them the best educational experience possible. With the funding provided in this budget, we can take those further steps to ensuring a quality education for every child across Pennsylvania.

Public Safety

The state budget included a \$40 million increase for Violence Intervention and Prevention grants. Municipalities and nonprofits are able to secure funding through these expanded grants to provide resources to combat gun violence in our communities.

I serve as co-chair on the Pennsylvania Safe Caucus, where we work to help combat gun violence through legislation. I voted for legislation that passed the House and is currently in the Senate to help address gun violence:

- ▶ House Bill 714 to enact universal background checks.
- ▶ House Bill 1018 to create Extreme Risk Protection Orders.

Hello neighbor,

Once again, I want to welcome you to the new 203rd Legislative District, which encompasses Burholme, Lawncrest, Lawndale, Oxford Circle, Olney and Castor Gardens. This has been an incredible introductory year as your state representative. As we begin 2024, I want to let you know of my many legislative accomplishments in Harrisburg, as well as my robust district outreach plan to provide resources across our community. Between local events, introducing legislation, passing the state budget and advocating for more resources in our community, it was an eventful year for me as your state representative.

It has been my honor to serve and represent each and everyone of you in Harrisburg. I look forward to continuing this work in 2024 and building a stronger community. If you are ever in need of assistance with any state-related issue or need help applying for a state program, you can contact my office by giving us a call at (215) 560-1315, email us at RepBellmon@pahouse.net, or visit us in person at 7215-B Rising Sun Ave. To stay updated on the latest from our district and Harrisburg, you can also follow me on social media @RepBellmon or visit my website at RepBellmon.com.

Anthony Bellmon

2024 State Budget

Helping Aging and Older Pennsylvanians

An increase to the income limit and rebate amount for recipients of the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, making more Pennsylvanians eligible to qualify, is coming this year.

Before this year, the income cap for homeowners was \$35,000 and for renters was \$15,000. Now, the cap is at \$45,000 for both. Additionally, the maximum rebate is increased from \$650 to \$1,000 for both homeowners and renters.

This program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 or older; widows and widowers age 50 or older; and people with disabilities age 18 or older.

If eligible, you can now submit applications for rebates on property taxes and rent paid in 2023. Contact my office if you need assistance applying.



Property Tax / Rent Rebate 2024 Program Expansion

MORE people eligible, **MORE** money back!

Homeowner Income	Rebate	Renter Income	Rebate
Up to \$8K	\$1,000	Up to \$8K	\$1,000
Up to \$15K	\$770	Up to \$15K	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$460	Up to \$18K	\$460
Up to \$35K	\$380	Up to \$45K	\$380
Up to \$45K	\$380		

Questions? Contact my office for help receiving your refund!

Helping PA Families

The state Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit has more than tripled for those who need it. This expansion will help working families pay for quality care.

NEW IN 2024

CHILD & DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT

	Income Under \$43,000		Earning Above \$43,000	
	Prior to Change	Expanded Tax Credit	Prior to Change	Expanded Tax Credit
Max Credit for One Eligible Dependent	\$315	\$1,050	\$180	\$600
Max Credit for Two+ Eligible Dependents	\$630	\$2,100	\$360	\$1,200

Reducing Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is a severe issue that many Pennsylvanians face, and I was proud to advocate for funds in this budget to ensure families have more access to healthy food options. Included is a \$2 million increase for the Fresh Food Financing Initiative, which provides grants and low-interest loans for the construction, rehabilitation or expansion of grocery stores, farmers' markets and other healthy food retail establishments in low- to moderate-income areas in need and other underserved communities.

Legislation Updates from Harrisburg

This session, three pieces of legislation that I introduced passed the House and are awaiting Senate consideration. Read about each piece of legislation below:

- ▶ House Bill 1448, which I introduced with House Speaker Joanna McClinton, would require public schools in Pennsylvania to provide instruction on conflict resolution to all students.
- ▶ House Resolution 279 would further extend the emergency disaster proclamation for I-95 until May

29, 2024, and allow continued work to rebuild the overpass that collapsed due to fire in June 2023.

- ▶ House Bill 1700, which I introduced with State Rep. Mary Isaacson, would prohibit disclosing the personally identifiable information of federal judges, judicial officers and their families when there is intent to cause harm or interrupt the person from carrying out their duties.



In addition, I support many pieces of legislation that address crucial issues in Pennsylvania and our community. Here are a few:

Minimum Wage

- ▶ House Bill 1500 would increase Pennsylvania's minimum wage to \$15 an hour. This bill passed the House and is awaiting action in the Senate.
- ▶ House Bill 1253 would allow individual municipalities to adjust their minimum wage based on factors that affect workers in their community.

Immigration

- ▶ House Resolution 162, which I introduced, recognizes June 2023 as "National Immigrant Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania - recognizing all the contributions immigrants have made to our country.

More from Harrisburg

Funding for Public Defenders

This budget made a historic investment by providing \$7.5 million to ensure public defenders have the resources they need to provide legal representation to defendants who cannot pay for it on their own. Our state has never funded public defenders to this level, and I was proud to vote for this funding to ensure everyone has access to adequate legal representation. Additionally, I voted for Act 36 of 2023, which has been signed into law. Clean Slate 3.0 expands Pennsylvania's Clean Slate law making those convicted for less serious drug and property-related felonies eligible to have them sealed from their record after a certain period of time.

Events at the Capitol

Hispanic Heritage Month

I honored Jose Rivera, executive director of Feliz Filadelfia, for all of his contributions to the 203rd Legislative District. Feliz Filadelfia is an



organization committed to building a stronger and more engaged community through sports-based youth development programs, community advocacy and partnerships with the public and private sectors.

Lincoln University Funding March

I met Lincoln University students to march roughly 70 miles from the school's campus all the way to the state Capitol to demand full funding for their university. As one of only two Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Pennsylvania, Lincoln University has long been underfunded, and I was proud to cast my vote for crucial funding for Lincoln University. I applaud these young people for bringing their issues directly to Harrisburg and getting results.



Safe Staffing

I stood with nurses at a rally pushing for safe staffing in our hospitals. Having an adequate number of nurses on the job benefits patients and eases the burden on nurses and hospital staff.



Representative

Anthony Bellmon

203rd Legislative District

Committee Assignments

Transportation
Children & Youth
Commerce

Housing & Community Development

Tourism & Economic & Recreational
Development

2023-24

Serving on these committees provides me the opportunity to help advance important legislation and address top issues affecting Pennsylvania. I look forward to continuing my work on each committee to help move our community and state forward.

In the District

Supporting Local Initiatives

► **Lawncrest Library:** I was proud to join former Mayor Jim Kenney and City Councilman Anthony Phillips at the groundbreaking ceremony for renovations to the library. It was a special moment, and I want to thank Rebuild Philadelphia and the Lawncrest community for feedback to help start this project. I look forward to seeing the finished renovations/additions of this \$4.5 million city project and for members of our community to enjoy all the books and amenities the library offers.

► **The Customized Community Transportation (CCT) program** is administered through SEPTA and regulated by state and federal agencies, providing a paratransit service for individuals with disabilities and senior citizens. Currently, CCT registration can only be completed at the SEPTA headquarters in Center City. After speaking with our most vulnerable constituents, I joined other members of the Philadelphia House Delegation to send a letter calling on SEPTA to make registration for CCT more accessible across the city for our neighbors who need it the most. This is an ongoing effort.



► **Olney Recreation Center:** My office has worked with Rebuild Philadelphia, City Councilman Anthony Phillips and community members to support renovations to the center so we can provide a safe place for children in Olney to play, stay active and socialize with one another. I am glad to report that construction on the Olney Recreation Center has begun.



Carnell Elementary Playground Ribbon-Cutting

I joined my colleagues, State Rep. Jared Solomon and State Sen. Tina Tartaglione, to secure more than \$250,000 in state funding for Carnell Elementary School's newly constructed playground. Councilman Anthony Phillips also joined in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Since taking office, my staff and I have worked in close partnership with Oxford Circle Christian Community Development Association (OCCDDA) and the School District of Philadelphia to bring this project to fruition. Today, the students of Carnell Elementary are able to enjoy new basketball courts, soccer nets and a beautiful play space because of the collaboration between state and local elected officials, nonprofits and community members.



Meeting with Neighbors in the District



Events

Senior Fair

My first senior fair was a huge success! In Lawndale, almost 200 senior citizens from across the 203rd Legislative District were in attendance and walked away with valuable information about state government-related programs and services and enjoyed a free lunch! This event would not have been possible without my office staff and the more than 40 vendors from state and local agencies, departments, and nonprofit organizations that attended.



National Night Out

In the summer, I joined my colleague Darisha Parker to host National Night Out at Aspira Bilingual School, which is also the old Cardinal Dougherty High School campus. It was a great event where community members got to interact with elected officials, law enforcement, first responders, and many more groups/individuals from our community. We look forward to hosting this event again this coming August.

Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway

This Thanksgiving, my office partnered with Feliz Filadelfia and Congressman Brendan Boyle to provide over 250 Thanksgiving meals for our neighbors in the lower northeast and Olney. It was great to help make Thanksgiving a little easier for so many families in our community.





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How can my office help you?

- ➔ Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications
- ➔ PennDOT services, such as car registrations, handicap placards or titles
- ➔ Unemployment Compensation issues
- ➔ Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- ➔ Birth and death certificates
- ➔ Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- ➔ Pennsylvania income tax questions
- ➔ Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- ➔ Consumer complaints
- ➔ Notary services for state documents
- ➔ PACE cards for senior citizens
- ➔ Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications

Any other question about state government!



Need Energy Assistance?
2023-2024 LIHEAP Applications are Now Open!

Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
1	\$21,870
2	\$29,580
3	\$37,290
4	\$45,000
5	\$52,710
6	\$60,420
7	\$68,130
8	\$75,840
9	\$83,550
10	\$91,260

Each additional person \$7,710

It's important to stay warm in your homes during the coldest time of the year. You can apply for assistance with your heating bills through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Contact my office for more information, to see if you qualify, and to apply.