



Summer 2024

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Abigail Salisbury

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE 34TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



DEAR NEIGHBOR,

As we head into the new season, I want to update you on all the ways I'm working for you here at home and in Harrisburg to improve life in our district.

The year has been an exciting one so far, filled with progress and new funding coming home to bolster resources for our community. I'm happy to report that we were able to secure more than \$20 million in new funding for housing, economic development, transportation, environmental restoration and other community needs.

In Harrisburg, we passed a budget that will dramatically change the way we fund our public schools and strengthen real-world programs and services for residents. (You can read more about that in the pages to follow.)

Please know that I consider it an honor and a joy to serve you, and I encourage you to call us or stop in to see how my talented staff and I can help with a wide range of state-related matters. Read on to learn about new projects taking shape, helpful programs and services, and much more!

In friendship,

Community changemakers – don't miss our next nonprofit symposium!

Some people ask why I'm so driven to strengthen our community's nonprofit organizations. It's because the work they do – from fighting hunger and promoting mental health to easing homelessness and engaging our youth – can make a huge difference.

To help these critical groups thrive, I'm excited to announce that I will be hosting our second annual Nonprofit Symposium this fall. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 30 at the Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 9 PA, located at 100 Kingston Drive in Pittsburgh.

We will be building on last year's progress with new discussions on how groups can tap into grant funding and acquire real estate to further their mission. To learn more, please email me at repsalisbury@pahouse.net.



In June, I joined Gwen's Girls and fellow officials at a groundbreaking for the group's new facility. I was thrilled to help secure more than \$500,000 for the project, which will allow this amazing nonprofit to expand its programs that empower girls and young women.

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A BUDGET WITH THE RIGHT PRIORITIES

The new state budget we passed this summer has the right priorities, especially when it comes to fixing our broken public education funding system.

For decades, Pennsylvania's failure to adequately fund our public schools has left students in less-affluent ZIP codes with fewer resources – and residents carrying an unfair property tax burden. By investing \$1.3 billion in our public schools through a new formula that targets chronically underfunded districts, the new plan will begin to start leveling the playing field for kids in all districts.

The new plan increases funding to our own school districts by **\$13.4 million** and will ensure

across-the-board increases to our schools.

The budget also provides reimbursements to each school district for cyber charter tuition payments, and it adds more funding for student safety and mental health resources.

Housing and other essential needs are priorities of the new budget, which increases funding for public transportation, affordable housing, subsidized childcare services, county mental health initiatives, homelessness assistance, domestic violence prevention, nonprofit security, and other critical programs. Thanks to a new investment that will establish a statewide right-to-counsel program, eligible residents



facing eviction will have legal representation against deep-pocket corporate landlords.

The new plan may not be perfect – no budget ever is – but it makes smart investments to address real-world issues – all without adding any new taxes. To me, that's a win for our community.

BRINGING YOUR TAX DOLLARS BACK HOME

I'm excited to report that since the start of this year, I have helped secure more than **\$20 million** to boost resources and programs in our district. Highlights include:

- **More than \$6 million to expand affordable housing**, including funding and tax credits to support construction of new developments in Homewood and Wilkinsburg and additional funding to expand low-income housing opportunities across our region.
- **Nearly \$6 million for economic development and community improvements**, including funding for continued development of the old Westinghouse building and the Carrie Blast Furnaces site, and funding for multiple park and recreation improvements.
- **Nearly \$3.3 million for environmental projects**, including funding to improve stormwater management

and remedy the environmental impacts to Chalfant Run caused by acid mine drainage.

- **Nearly \$2.6 million for transportation improvements**, including funding for projects in Wilkinsburg, Swissvale, and along the Braddock Avenue corridor in Edgewood.
- **Nearly \$1.4 million to boost safety for area schools.**
- **\$560,000 to expand community services and outreach**, including funding to allow Gwen's Girls in Wilkinsburg to expand and additional funding to support youth anti-violence and area food programs.
- **More than \$261,000 to bolster resources for first responders**, including funding for district fire and EMS companies and for the Eastern Regional Mon Valley Police Department – our new, regionalized force serving East Pittsburgh, Rankin, and North Braddock.

ACCESSING A LIFESAVING TOOL – WITH NO QUESTIONS ASKED

Peggy, a district resident, recently shared with me the heartbreaking news that her son had died after unknowingly taking drugs laced with fentanyl. She asked me to help find a way to keep other people from dying like her son had.

Although there are no easy solutions to issues like addiction or adulterated drugs, there is something I can do to help – by making sure everyone is aware that lifesaving fentanyl test strips are available for free from my 501 Braddock Ave. district office or from public libraries throughout our district – with no questions asked.

Recovery is possible, but we have to keep people alive so they can find their way out of addiction. This tiny piece of paper can help reduce their risk of overdose until that happens.



WORKING TO END A VICIOUS HOUSING CYCLE

Earlier this year, my colleagues and I hosted a joint House and Senate Policy Committee hearing in Wilkes-Barre to garner support for our bill to seal eviction records. We heard testimony about how an eviction can remain on a person's record for years and ruin their chances of finding housing – even if the eviction was caused by domestic violence or other circumstances beyond their control.

It's a vicious cycle with devastating consequences, and it needs to end. I'll be working in the months ahead to advance our legislation to a vote.



ALLEGHENY GO DISCOUNTED FARE PROGRAM IS NOW PERMANENT

Allegheny GO – the pilot program providing a discount on Pittsburgh Regional Transit fares for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients – has become permanent.

To learn more, please visit <https://discountedfares.alleghenycounty.us/>

2023-2024 Committee Assignments

- Appropriations
- Commerce
- Committee on Committees
- Environmental Resources & Energy
- Liquor Control
- Local Government



PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE DEVELOPS CARD FOR PEOPLE ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

To help improve interactions between law enforcement and people on the autism spectrum, the Pennsylvania State Police has created an information card that folks can print out and carry in their wallet (or save on their phone) to present to police officers. The card provides tips on how to facilitate effective communications. Visit www.pa.gov/en/agencies/psp.html and enter "autism card" in the search bar.



PAYMENTS GOING OUT UNDER PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM!

Last year, I was proud to help expand the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program so that it now serves more people and provides larger rebates. The state Department of Revenue is currently processing rebates and will continue to accept applications through Dec. 31.

The program is available to residents 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and permanently disabled residents 18 or older. The annual income limit for homeowners and renters is \$45,000, and half of Social Security income is excluded for eligibility purposes.

To learn more about the program, visit www.patreasury.gov and scroll down to the Property Tax/Rent Rebate link or call 888-222-9190. Please remember that my office can help you apply.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

for residents who are permanently disabled, 50+ and widowed, or 65+

Applications now being accepted!



What we need from you:

EVERYONE

✓ All earned income tax forms (1099 SSI, W2s, etc.)

HOMEOWNERS

✓ Copies of all paid tax bills

RENTERS

✓ Signed form from the landlord



\$45,000
household income
for homeowners
& renters

For those on Social Security:
half of SSI/SSD
income is excluded
for eligibility

Be sure to bring all earned income tax forms (1099, SSI, W2s, etc.), copies of all paid tax bills (for homeowners), and copies of a signed certificate from the landlord (for renters).

IS YOUR HOME LEAD SAFE?

Lead exposure is particularly dangerous to young children and can cause brain damage. The Allegheny Lead-Safe Homes Program offers qualifying homeowners and renters free lead-paint testing and the services of a certified lead-abatement contractor to stabilize or eliminate lead paint. To learn more and find out whether you qualify, visit www.alleghenycounty.us/leadsafeprogram.

DO YOU HAVE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY WITH THE STATE TREASURY?

Earlier this year, we helped several residents recover more than \$600,000 in unclaimed property! While we can't guarantee that kind of result for everyone, we can encourage folks to search – and we can help! The state Treasury reports that it's holding billions in unclaimed property and that one in 10 Pennsylvanians has property waiting for them. Stop by my district office so we can help you search the unclaimed property database and recover any property waiting for you!

— AROUND THE DISTRICT —



Community Forge, in Wilkinsburg, is one of our district's many terrific nonprofit groups that help open doors for residents. Earlier this year, they updated me on their youth programs and their business center for local entrepreneurs.



Earlier this year, I held a series of meetings with residents in Braddock, Forest Hills, and Rankin to discuss folks' priorities and the direction in which they want to see our communities move. We had some terrific, productive conversations.



It's wonderful to see a local employer expand! Earlier this year, I toured precision manufacturer Conturo Prototyping, which has grown from a small business to a large facility serving tech companies throughout the state and region!



It was great to visit the Rankin Croatian Home earlier this year. I got to tour the building and talk with the wonderful folks there, who didn't allow me to leave without taking some excellent perogies and nut bread with me!



It was an honor to join District 34 Mayors Joelisa McDonald and Delia Lennon in March as they represented their communities at the National Council of Negro Women's awards luncheon awards.



I was proud to present a legislative citation in May recognizing the efforts of Swissvale's officials and Humane Action Pittsburgh on their receipt of a Governor's Award on Environmental Excellence. The award was for the creation of our award-winning Pollinator Parklet!



It was great to touch base with the talented changemakers who were selected for grant-writing scholarships at CCAC's Homewood-Brushton campus through a program my office co-sponsored with Pittsburgh Foundation and the Health and Education Alliance.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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See how my office can help!

Please remember that my talented staff can assist with a wide range of state-related matters, from resolving PennDOT-related issues and obtaining a Senior ConnectCard to filing for a Property Tax/Rent Rebate. Stop by my 501 Braddock Ave. office or call us at (412) 273-3400 to schedule an appointment!

State Representative Abigail Salisbury

District Office Services

I'm ready to work for you!

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate
- PRT (Port Authority) Senior Bus Passes
- Various PennDOT Services including Drivers License Renewal, Vehicle Registrations, Disability Placards & more
- Free Notary



My District Office is Open!

✉ RepSalisbury@PAHouse.net
☎ (412) 273-3400
🌐 RepSalisbury.com

📍 501 Braddock Ave.
Braddock, PA 15104
📱 @RepSalisbury

VETERANS SERVICES

FIRST MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM 10 AM TO 2 PM

📍 501 BRADDOCK AVE., BRADDOCK PA, 15104
📞 CALL (412) 273-3400 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

A Veteran Service Officer will be on hand to help with:

- ★ Compensation + Pension Claims
- ★ Education Benefits
- ★ Enrollment in the VA Health Care System
- ★ Burial + Survivor Benefits
- ★ State Benefits
- ★ Obtaining Military Personnel and Medical Records
- ★ Other Questions

