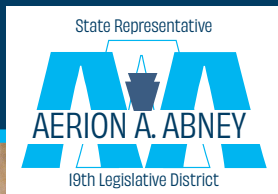




Winter 2025-2026



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Aerion A. Abney

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE 19TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



HELLO NEIGHBORS,

It's been a busy year in the state Capitol, and I'm happy to be working for you and eager to give you a preview of what you'll find in these pages.

We recently approved a new state budget that supports every child in every school and preserves vital human services with no tax increases. It also provides a new tax credit for a million working Pennsylvanians. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I take my responsibilities seriously as we shape the spending plan that funds so many critical programs. This is my fourth budget as a state legislator, and I look forward to continuing that work on behalf of my district and my fellow Pennsylvanians.

I've also sponsored or co-sponsored multiple pieces of important legislation, and my first bill was signed into law this year. I've been working on legislation to help seniors get prescriptions, encourage more healthy births, improve access to mental health services, prevent price gouging during emergencies, and provide a dedicated funding source to PRT, among others.

Additionally, I must mention how much I've enjoyed meeting and talking with my 19th Legislative District neighbors and our fellow citizens statewide. The issues and concerns that I have heard about are a driving force for me, and I'm committed to working toward positive and meaningful change as your state representative.

In service,

AAA



2025-2026

PA BUDGET WINS

- No new taxes or reductions in the Rainy Day Fund
- **Over \$100M increase** for Basic Education Funding and a **\$40M increase** to Special Education funding
- **\$125M** for public school facility improvement grants, with at least **\$25M** set aside for Solar for Schools
- **Nearly \$600M** investment to further address adequacy and help kids in our public schools
- **\$25M** for child care worker retention and recruitment
- Putting money back in the pockets of Pennsylvanians with the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit (WPTC)
- **\$750M** for the MA Managed Care Program, supporting those compassionate care workers
- **\$150M increase** to help Pennsylvanians with intellectual disabilities
- **\$40M** to feed hungry Pennsylvanians and support family farms
- **Nearly \$300M increase** to fund DCNR and DEP, supporting environmental projects
- Funding to fix and improve roads and bridges across the commonwealth
- **More than \$100M** in job creation, innovation, and entrepreneurial support

STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Our new state budget allocates just over \$50 billion to ensure the continued delivery of essential services that people rely on and to meet our constitutional obligation to give students in every school district the resources they need to succeed. It includes \$800 million in K-12 education investments, including \$125 million for school facilities and an additional \$40 million for special education. The Pittsburgh School District receives a total increase of \$9.48 million, or 4.2%.

The budget raises no taxes and makes no reductions in the Rainy Day Fund. Yet we also managed to help working families who are struggling to make ends meet with the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit. Anyone who qualifies for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit will automatically qualify for a state-level tax credit worth 10% of the federal credit when filing local taxes—that's anywhere from \$200 to \$800 back in the pockets of eligible working people.



MY ROLE IN THE BUDGET PROCESS

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I play a key role in shaping the state spending plan. I provide input and ask pointed questions about the state budget and how our state agencies operate when they come before us for budget hearings. This year I asked about topics such as:

- The unemployment compensation appeals process and the impact of federal layoffs on the system.
- How college administrators can help make college more affordable.
- How to ensure mental health services are covered for those who need them.
- The health care needs of unhoused people.
- Eviction-related legal services.
- The increase in students needing special education in our schools.
- Progress on interstate compacts to lure more health professionals to PA.
- A hotline for people to submit concerns to the state Attorney General's office.

LOCAL BUDGET BRIEFING

As chair of the Allegheny County House Democratic Delegation, I was happy that we hosted a community budget briefing in April with Appropriations Committee Chairman Jordan Harris. The briefing at the Penn Hills Library allowed Allegheny County residents and legislators to learn more about the budgeting process and the issues important to local residents.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SIGNED INTO LAW

I was honored when my first piece of legislation was ceremoniously signed into law by Gov. Josh Shapiro in March—a significant bill to help seniors attain prescriptions. The law keeps more seniors eligible for PACE or PACENET by excluding savings bond assets from their income when they apply.



BILLS MOVING THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE



My H.B. 1212 would direct the Department of Health to conduct a public awareness campaign to encourage more fathers to be involved in prenatal care and the birthing process, which would lead to more healthy births. This bill passed the House in September and is pending in the Senate.



My H.B. 554 would improve access to mental health services by authorizing PA to join the Social Workers Licensure Compact, a multi-state agreement that allows licensed social workers to practice across state lines. As the only social worker in the House, I was particularly satisfied when this bill cleared the House in June and moved to the Senate.

SECURING FUNDING FOR LOCAL PROJECTS



NEW FUNDING

These are grants to support affordable housing development, rehabilitation, and preservation for low- and very low-income residents.

\$200,000
Hill Community Development Corporation – Cultivation Corner

\$250,000
YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh – Allegheny YMCA Renovation

\$100,000
Hilltop Alliance – Rehab for Resale Program

\$200,000
Charles Street Area Corporation – N. Charles St Affordable Homeownership Project

\$125,000
Beltzhoover Consensus Group – Chalfont Street Development

\$200,000
Hazelwood Initiative – Affordable Housing Phase VI

\$300,000
Black River Real Estate Development, LLC – Horace Mann Village

\$100,000
Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh – Safe & Healthy Homes in the Hill District IV

I regularly help secure state funding for worthwhile local projects, so I was very pleased when over \$1.4 million in state funding was secured for eight housing projects in Allegheny County. This funding will directly support affordable housing, homeownership, and renovations for seniors, veterans, and working families.



NEW FUNDING

These grants will support housing, community services, recreation, and the arts

\$100,000
to the Pittsburgh Opera

\$200,000
to the Humane Animal Rescue

\$40,000
to Northside Partnership Project

\$30,000
to Community of Change Center

\$75,000
to Citrone Foundation Inc.

\$100,000
to Charles Street Area Corp.

\$50,000
to LEVEL: Equity Building

\$100,000
to BPOE Elks Lodge #33

\$50,000
to City of Pittsburgh

\$75,000
Pittsburgh Trust for Cultural Resources

\$100,000
to Beltzhoover Consensus Group

Established in 2004, the Gaming Economic Development Tourism Fund invests funds from gaming revenue into economic development, and recently more than \$1 million was awarded to Allegheny County, including \$920,000 in the 19th Legislative District. These are worthwhile projects that will benefit Allegheny County in many ways—including our infrastructure, housing opportunities, community services, recreation, and the arts.

Additionally, in February, these local projects received state funding:

- \$914,300 to restaurant Café Momentum Pittsburgh to extend workforce development internships to 75 at-risk youths.
- \$647,000 to modernize the traffic signal at East General Robinson and Sandusky streets.
- \$500,000 to Bidwell Training Center, a career training institute on the North Side, to create an urban agriculture farm and market.

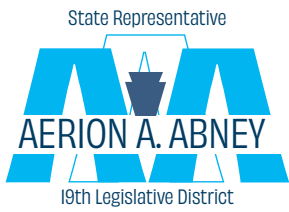
APPOINTED TO PRT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I was honored to be appointed this year to PRT’s Board of Directors by House Speaker Joanna McClinton. I’m grateful to Speaker McClinton for entrusting me with the responsibility of addressing and overseeing vital transportation needs in our city.

Helping Pittsburgh Seniors

As you might have seen on WPXI, I’ve been working to improve the living conditions for the seniors at Ebenezer Towers in the Hill District, who endured stretches with broken AC and other problems this summer. I’m committed to making sure our seniors can live the life they deserve.





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MOVING PITTSBURGH FORWARD



Breaking ground for the renovation of Riverfront Park in March. The project will expand open areas, replace aging pavers, add new light posts, and create new sight lines in some spots and more shading in others.

Breaking ground for the Dr. Louis A. Venson Senior Lofts in Beltzhoover. It's at the site of the former Beltzhoover Elementary School, which is being renovated into 39 affordable housing units for seniors 55 and older.

