



## Hello Neighbors,

It's continued to be a great honor to represent the people of the 36th Legislative District this past year! These continue to be challenging times for our communities, but I'm steadfast in my commitment to advocating for your needs, creating legislation that's rooted in viable and responsible solutions for our families, and bringing opportunity for everyone.

This past year, more than \$3.5 million in grant money was returned to our district (see page 3 for a breakdown), and my office continues to work with local leaders and organizations to find ways to bring even more of your tax dollars back to the 36th!

### Working for You

In addition to serving as your voice in Harrisburg, I've made it a priority to be actively engaged in events and issues important to you and your families. We've hosted or participated in such events as:

- **Informational panel with city council members of Pittsburgh's paid sick leave bill;**
- **Panel about gun violence prevention;**
- **Three events about environmental policy;**
- **Hosted, sponsored, or attended community clean-ups in many neighborhoods throughout the district;**
- **Held an open house at the district office;**
- **Hosted a blood drive;**
- **Provided state resources at more than 30 community events throughout the district;**
- **Held ice cream social events at senior high rises to provide older adult services onsite;**
- **Participated in and helped to sponsor an Emergency Preparedness Day Fair;**
- **Judged several Halloween contests at community events;**
- **Worked with Brookline Teen Outreach and other community partners to increase the resources they have to serve kids and teens in South Pittsburgh;**
- **Worked with South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace to ensure they received funding for gun violence intervention services;**
- **Attended personally, or sent staff to, almost every community meeting that happened in the district;**
- **Brought Liquor Control Enforcement and the PA Liquor Control Board to the district for a conversation about liquor issues and what we can do to address problem establishments; and**
- **Participated in an event that recognized Carrick veterans.**

In the coming months, my office will be conducting two shredding events, more informational panels and presentations on issues important to the 36th, and continue to bring access to and information about state-related programs and services directly to where you live, in addition to my commitment to provide assistance in my district office regarding state-related issues.



### COMMITTEE and CAUCUS ASSIGNMENTS

- Aging & Older Adult Services
- Health and Human Services
- Allegheny County Delegation
- Autism and Intellectual Disabilities Caucus
- Blue-Green Caucus
- Climate Caucus
- LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus
- Mental Health Caucus
- Women's Caucus
- Women's Health Caucus

### By the Numbers

- More than \$3.5 million brought back to the district
- 1,367 constituents aided in the district office
- Conducted two free shredding events benefiting some 600 residents
- Introduced more than 20 pieces of legislation
- Hosted a Drive-through Senior Fair

The importance of balancing our representation in Harrisburg with the challenges faced by those living in our communities continues to be a great responsibility. Although, it's the second year representing the 36th District, the gilded halls of the Capitol still feel uncomfortable to me, because they don't reflect the reality of those I'm entrusted to represent. This discomfort fuels my fight for those who are facing a continuing struggle in Allegheny County and communities across the commonwealth.

A reminder that my district office is located at 1810 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh, and I encourage you to feel free to reach out to me directly by email or by phone at 412-881-4208.

Know that as your elected representative, I look forward to hearing directly from you with regard to the issues you'd like to see addressed – both here at home and in Harrisburg. Together we can make a difference!

In addition to occasional mailings like this, information regarding state-related programs, services and legislation can also be found on my social media pages, via Facebook at [facebook.com/RepBenham](https://facebook.com/RepBenham) and Twitter at [twitter.com/RepBenham](https://twitter.com/RepBenham).

## SNAPSHOTS

*from the booth*



*There are so many wonderful things happening throughout our community, and I am always honored when I'm invited to them, just like the Bhutanese Community Association's November 2021 event at the Shree Krishna Temple.*



*The weather couldn't have been better at Brentwood's November 2021 holiday celebration.*



*I'm always honored to participate or attend events like the Carrick Light Up Night 2021.*

## Property Tax/Rent Rebates

Older and disabled Pennsylvanians can now apply for rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2021. This assistance is available through the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, which has delivered more than \$7.1 billion to eligible Pennsylvanians since the program's inception in 1971.

Eligible applicants are encouraged to visit [www.mypath.pa.gov](http://www.mypath.pa.gov) to electronically submit applications. The Department of Revenue launched this online option last year to make it easier for the nearly 500K Pennsylvanians who annually benefit from the program to submit their applications.

**Rebates will be distributed beginning July 1. If you need further assistance, you can also reach out to my office at (412) 881-4208, or by completing this form and returning it to make an in-office appointment for assistance.**

### PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATES ARE BACK!

Assistance available from State Representative Jessica Benham

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

At Rep. Benham's office:

**1810 Brownsville Rd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15210**

Once you have your documents ready, use this card to call and schedule your appointment.

#### Required for Appointment:

- Proof of all 2021 income
- Rent certificates completed by all 2021 landlords, if you rent
- Property tax receipts OR 1098 Mortgage Interest Statement, if you own
- Direct deposit information, if desired
- Photo ID (requested)

Please call: 412-881-4208 to schedule.

# Assistance with Water Utility

The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), is available to help Pennsylvanians maintain access to drinking and wastewater service.

Assistance is available for families who have past due water bills, had their service terminated, or received a notice indicating that their service will be terminated in the next 60 days.

**Are you at risk of having your water shut off?**

Help is available. Learn if you qualify at:  
[dhs.pa.gov/WaterHelp](https://dhs.pa.gov/WaterHelp)



Households can receive LIHWAP grants for both drinking water service and wastewater service. Grants are issued directly to water service providers, and families must meet income requirements. As you prepare to apply, have the following information ready to submit with your application:

- 1) Names, Social Security numbers, and dates of birth for all people in your household;
- 2) Proof of income for the applicant and all household members; and,
- 3) A recent water bill.

More information is available for LIHWAP online at <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Waterhelp>. Please note, my staff is also available to assist you with applying for this program.

## Come Learn About State Programs and Services!



Meet and visit with other vendors at my Drive-Through Senior Fair.

Wednesday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In the Brentwood Civic Center Parking Lot,  
18 Park Drive, Brentwood.

## More than \$3.5 million in Tax Dollars Reinvested Throughout the District

I'm proud to continue advocating on your behalf in Harrisburg, ensuring the 36th District continues to get state resources for investments in projects that benefit our neighborhoods. I'm proud you've entrusted me to do my part in ensuring they find their way back to Allegheny County. I encourage community leaders and others to please contact my office for more information about state grants, funding and programs that are available. The following is a breakdown of the \$3,530,548.12 in funding distributed throughout our communities since March 2021:

- **\$129,392** to South Side Community Council for the Esser's Plaza Renovation;
- **\$100,149** to Gregg Developmental Services LP for the 2400 E. Carson St. Transportation Improvement Project;
- **\$15K** to Hilltop Urban Farm for a collaboration grant involving a hoop house and planting tables;
- **\$125K** to PHMC Historic Preservation for the rehabilitation of significant terra cotta clad commercial building in the East Carson Street Historic District. \$125,000 tax credit allocation, \$2.5 million in estimated construction expenditures;
- **\$125K** to PHMC Historic Preservation for rehabilitation of significant commercial building with distinctive chamfered corner in the East Carson Street Historic District. \$125K tax credit allocation, \$3.2 million in estimated construction expenditures;
- **\$50K** to Mt. Oliver Borough for a façade improvement program;
- **\$13,520** to Pittsburgh School District for the PDE Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program at Grandview Elementary School;
- **\$10,660** to Pittsburgh School District for the PDE Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program at Roosevelt Elementary School;
- **\$225K** to the Center for Victims for support for its Family & Community Support Team;
- **\$220K** to the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace for enhancement of its Peacemakers street outreach intervention initiative;
- **\$50K** to Friends of the Riverfront Inc. for "Eagle Lake" repair at the Three Rivers Heritage Trail;
- **\$50K** to Baldwin Borough for the renovation of the borough's swimming facility;
- **\$200K** to the Allegheny Land Trust for a partnership land project with Hilltop Urban Farm;
- **\$400K** to the Urban Redevelopment Authority for a storefront renovation project and homeowner accessibility program for independence;
- **\$59,499.12** to fire and emergency medical services throughout the district for equipment, training, retention and supplemental operating expenses;
- **\$43,750** to the Hilltop Urban Farm for enhancement and growth of four active programs;
- **\$750K** to the Brentwood Municipal Public Safety Center for the Brentwood Municipal Public Safety Center; and
- **\$963,578** to the City of Pittsburgh for the S. 21st St. Complete Green Street Project.



## Representative Jessica Benham

1810 Brownsville Rd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15210  
(412) 881-4208  
Email: RepBenham@pahouse.net

**More than \$3.5 million  
back to the district!**

**See inside on  
Page 3**

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### Protection from Surprise Medical Bills



A reminder to all Pennsylvanians that a new law protects against surprise medical bills – those patients receive when they unknowingly or unintentionally obtain health care from out-of-network providers. To learn more, **visit <https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Insurance-Details.aspx?newsid=469>**.

### Mortgage Assistance

A new program can help homeowners who are suffering financial hardship because of the pandemic. The Pennsylvania Homeowner Assistance Fund can help eligible homeowners avoid delinquency, default or foreclosure by assisting with mortgage and housing-related expenses. To learn more, **visit <https://pahaf.org/>**.



## My Office Can Help With

- PACE (pharmaceutical assistance for qualified senior citizens)
- Voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms (for qualified seniors and others)
- Information regarding PHEAA (PA Higher Education Assistance Agency)
- Information on PA's 529 College Savings Plans
- Requests for state informational materials
- CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)
- Obtaining birth or death certificates
- PennDOT problems or questions — including disability license plates and placards
- Questions or problems with any state agency
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Citations from the PA House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and important family milestones

**The office  
is open.  
If you need help  
with any state or  
government-related  
services, please call  
412-881-4208, or  
stop by.**