

SUMMER LEE

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

BILLS SPONSORED:

71

VOTES CAST IN THE HOUSE:

800+

COMMITTEES SERVING:

Children & Youth; Judiciary; Local Government; Treasurer of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus; member of the Climate Caucus, PA SAFE Caucus, Women's Health Caucus

AUTHORED LEGISLATION:

H.B. 1009

Requiring alternative sentencing for pregnant women

H.B. 1014

Requiring trauma-informed care for the incarcerated

H.B. 1664

Changing the rules surrounding the use of deadly force by law enforcement

H.B. 1382

Requiring a special prosecutor to investigate fatal police shootings

The Pa. Crown Act bill

Prohibiting discrimination based on a person's hair texture or style

As the legislative year has progressed, I have proposed several bills and added my name as a co-sponsor on more than 100 bills and memos I believe would improve the lives of many people in the 34th District and across the commonwealth. The full list of bills on which I am a co-sponsor is available on the Pennsylvania General Assembly website.



HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING

Hello Neighbor,

It has been a busy and productive first year of service to you, our 34th District, and our commonwealth. We have faced many challenges and shared a bounty of success. No matter the season or the situation, my staff and I have been working hard to empower residents with the resources they need to thrive! As we step into the new year, we would like to reflect on everything we have accomplished so far this term – and look forward to what will come!

We are proud of how our office has progressed. As we have grown and gained more experience, so too has our capacity to serve you in both traditional and new, innovative ways. While the first year is conventionally a time to gain one's "sea legs," I am proud of how our office has hit the ground running! Together, we have advocated, proposed and supported legislation around many issues important to our district, such as environmental protections, workers' rights, economic justice, educational equity and criminal justice reform. Our office has also hosted policy hearings and forums to provide opportunities for our neighbors to receive and share information on important community and legislative issues. We have connected with our neighbors through events, door-to-door services and outreach to seniors throughout the district.

We have gotten a lot done – but we could not have done anything without you! A lot of the problems we solved and issues we are tackling this year were brought to our attention by you, our neighbors. We're grateful for your support and overjoyed to act as a resource for the community. We look forward to the many opportunities we will have in the coming year to connect, co-govern and grow our district together.

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you in the new year!

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

THIS YEAR, I WAS THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE MORE THAN \$2 MILLION IN STATE INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITIES!

The former Churchill Valley Country Club will be preserved as a beautiful public green space and recreation area, a project made possible in part by a **\$500,000** state grant. Allegheny Land Trust has championed this urban wilderness preservation that residents of our area and region will thoroughly enjoy for generations. Our office enthusiastically supported this grant application from the beginning, and we are excited by its tremendous progress.

City of Pittsburgh: \$100,000 for the 650-acre Hays Woods area.

Rankin: \$1,000,000 for the redevelopment of the historic Carrie Furnace brownfield site.

Edgewood: \$62,000 to study traffic safety at two intersections.

Homestead: \$60,000 shared with West Homestead and Munhall to improve infrastructure.

Swissvale: \$125,000 for improved traffic lights at Noble and Dickson streets.

North Braddock: \$163,000 for the improvements at the heavily traveled intersection of 4th Street and Hawkins Avenue.

West Homestead: \$43,500 for renovations at Calhoun Park.

HAVE AN IDEA? WE CAN HELP.

In our office, we have copies of the annual PA Grant Resource Directory available upon request. We also have an electronic copy that can be found on our website. If you have an idea for a project in the community and would like to apply for funds, please reach out to us! We can help you find appropriate grant programs and communicate between you and the corresponding state agency.



Raising the wage has been among the more pressing movements we have discussed in the legislature this year. It has been a decade since the minimum wage has increased in Pennsylvania.

While the Senate has passed a bill to increase the minimum wage to \$9.50 per hour by 2022, it is still not enough to keep pace with the rising cost of living. We still have much work ahead to advance a bill that will substantively improve the lives of our most vulnerable workers and offer Pennsylvanians the wages they need and deserve.

WORKING FOR YOU IN THE MO

In August, we hosted a public forum focused on our legal and moral responsibility to protect our natural environment. A panel of experts addressed the climate crisis and engaged attendees in the policy-making process at the local and state level. Topics included fracking, local and general polluters, and the next steps in the fight for a sustainable and equitable future for the Mon Valley and our planet. The event was held at the new Forest Hills Borough Building, a net-zero energy facility that uses solar panels, geothermal heating, natural light, water reclamation gardens and high-efficiency insulation to achieve a surplus in utility bills every month!

In addition to hosting the forum, I am also supporting a number of bills that would improve our environment, including a single-use plastic straw ban (H.B. 1176), tax exemptions and subscription programs for residential solar power (H.B. 1970), expansion of the use of renewable energy in PA (H.B. 1195), expansion of electric vehicle charging stations (H.B. 1908), and the adoption of a carbon trading market in PA (not yet introduced).



UPDATING PA LAW ENFORCEMENT'S USE-OF-FORCE POLICIES



In August, our office, along with Rep. Ed Gainey, hosted a public policy hearing in Rankin to discuss our House Bill 1664, which would update our law enforcement use-of-force statute to maximize the safety of our communities.

Several of my Democratic colleagues from across the state gathered to hear testimony about the need to strengthen relationships between law enforcement and the community. In an impassioned testimony, we heard from Ms. Michelle Kenney, community advocate and mother of Antwon Rose II.

She proclaimed the simple truth, that her son did not have to die so violently last June, echoing a pattern throughout the United States that is worsened by a legal system that routinely acquits law enforcement officers in situations that resulted in death.

Chief Tim Komoroski of the Millvale Police Department also shared his department's efforts to maintain exemplary standards for officers and to build trust in the community.

We need your support to increase accountability and advance protections for our officers, our children and our whole community. Together with H.B. 1382, which requires a special prosecutor to investigate fatal shootings by police, we can reduce the number of deaths in the course of an arrest or investigation, making our neighborhoods safer.

N VALLEY AND IN HARRISBURG



This year marks a very special 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in Edgewood. I was thrilled to host students from WPSD in Harrisburg to be recognized in the House Chamber. We are proud to celebrate the school's history of academic excellence, inclusivity and advocacy for members of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. Here's to another 150 years!



Our office received opioid overdose training by Stacie Brown, the opioid response outreach coordinator at the Allegheny County Health Department. We now carry Narcan, a lifesaving medicine to halt opioid overdoses, at our office on Braddock Avenue. If you or someone you know would like to request Narcan or other overdose prevention tools, please visit the Allegheny County Health Department website, or call our office.



This fall we celebrated the seventh anniversary of the Braddock Free Store at 420 Braddock Ave. This project, which began in 2012, has grown into a sanctuary for our region. Its mission to revive our community redistribution of surplus and donated items has had a tremendous impact on the people of our district.



I was inspired by the youth who attended the Culture Jam in early November at the Ellis School in Point Breeze. It is critical for today's youth to voice their opinions and stand up for what they believe in as they work to make the world a more equitable and safer place.

Our first Senior Health Fair was a great success. We were excited to partner with UPMC Health Plan to connect dozens of seniors to important resources. Thank you to everyone who volunteered. We had a great time meeting seniors and enjoying the scavenger hunt, chair yoga, caricatures and live music from The Marcells with everyone in attendance. In addition, we would like to thank our gracious hosts, the staff at the Turtle Creek Senior Center, for a venue that proved to be spacious and welcoming.

OUR BRADDOCK OFFICE IS AT YOUR SERVICE!

Our office is ready to help you! On the back of this newsletter you can find a full list of things my staff and I can help you with.

Our most popular services are PA Property Tax/Rent Rebates, Port Authority Senior ConnectCards and Unclaimed Property forms.

If you do not know, the state receives millions of dollars annually in unclaimed funds belonging to the public. Many people have unclaimed property just waiting to be reclaimed! Our office can help you contact the treasury and complete your personalized form.

During the winter months, we can also help people with home heating issues through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

And a reminder that the Port Authority is transitioning senior bus passes from paper to electronic ConnectCards! Beginning Jan. 1, the Port Authority will ask for the new cards in order to ride the bus. If you missed the opportunity to sign up for your card at one of our events, there are still plenty of opportunities to apply. To apply for a ConnectCard, please bring a photo ID to our office in Braddock on weekdays and speak with one of our staff.

We're open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition, we are open for a few hours on Saturday. Please call us at 412-273-3400 for more information or feel free to stop by and meet our staff!



UPCOMING EVENTS

We are organizing community events to take place in the coming months, including two informational sessions on the Pathways 2 Pardons campaign. Join us in Hazelwood or Braddock to learn about the Clean Slate law and the process for pardons and expungement. Please watch for information from our office in the coming months to learn about these events.

PATHWAYS 2 PARDONS

Pathways 2 Pardons is a new campaign I support, along with Rep. Jake Wheatley, to streamline the process of pardons and assist those who are eligible for pardons in an efficient way. Learn about the pardon process. State agencies will also be on hand to provide information and assistance.

Thursday, January 9

5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Center of Life

161 Hazelwood Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA 15207

MEDICARE FOR ALL TOWN HALL

Join my staff and me, physicians and health care experts to learn about Medicare for All, and how we can work together to effect change to make quality, affordable health care available to EVERYONE.

Thursday, January 23

6 to 8 p.m.

Pittsburgh Mennonite Church

2018 S. Braddock Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA 15218

For more information, please call our office at 412-273-3400



State Representative

SUMMER LEE

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STAY CONNECTED



@RepSummerLee

We are very active on Facebook, Twitter and email. Please visit our website, follow our social media and subscribe to our email lists for updates on the district!

OUR OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
 - Information on financial assistance for higher education
 - Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
 - Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
 - Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
 - Birth and death certificates
 - Problems with the departments of Health and Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
 - Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
 - Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
 - Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
 - Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
 - Complaints and problems with insurance companies
 - Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
 - Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
 - Problems or questions about the state lottery
 - PACE cards for senior citizens
 - Consumer complaints
 - Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
 - Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
 - Information about federal, state and local government agencies
- If you need help with any state or government-related services, please feel free to contact my office at 412-273-3400 for assistance.