



Summer 2020

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Ed Gainey

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE 24TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

INSIDE:

The fight against the coronavirus

BLACK LIVES MATTER – From the streets to the Capitol

Plus:

Rocking the vote in 2020

The budget battle ahead

Masks save lives!

Get counted – CENSUS 2020



CommUnity:
Together WE CAN

Wilksburg, Homewood, East Liberty, East Hills, Lincoln-Lemington, Larimer, North Point Breeze, Highland Park, Garfield and parts of Point Breeze and Stanton Heights, Shadyside and Friendship.

BUDGET UPDATE - Unfinished business

Normally, the state legislature would spend June engaging in a month-long budget debate to finalize our annual spending plan by the end of the month. However, these are not normal times.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 health crisis restricted the revenue necessary to put a sound, realistic budget together for the full year. Instead, we passed a spending plan to last only five months.

That means that come November, I'll be fighting for a fair, balanced and timely budget that protects seniors and invests in our children. It's not going to be easy – the crisis has wrecked our fiscal outlook, making it hard if not impossible to predict what next year will bring.

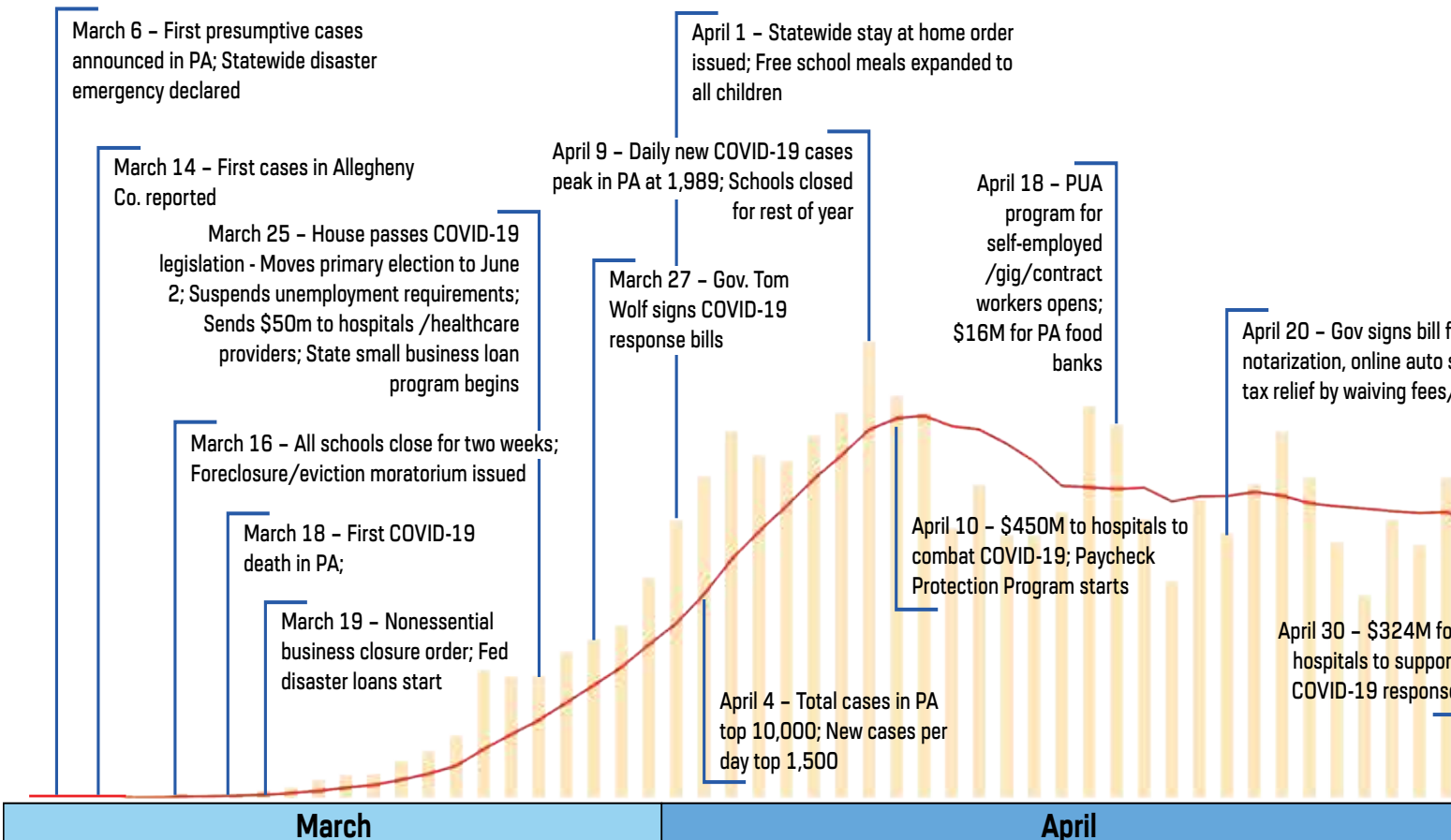
However, as more funds become available, I will be doing my part to make sure that every dollar and tax credit provided make the largest positive impact on our communities and that we also hold these programs accountable in their spending.

Don't sleep on the Census!

Make sure you get counted! An accurate count is vital for federal funding for schools, roads, and community improvements. Everyone who isn't counted costs their neighborhood roughly \$2,000. So, go to www.census.gov and make sure you're counted!



PA RESPONDS TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND TAKES



WE'RE IN THIS

Together

While we have managed to flatten the curve of the spread of the coronavirus in Pennsylvania, we must remain vigilant! Studies have shown that wearing simple medical masks or improvised facial coverings reduces exposure from asymptomatic, but infectious, people.

Rock the vote- by mail!

CommUnity – As the coronavirus spread across our city and state, we took action to expand voting by mail. I'm proud to report that more people voted by mail in Allegheny County than in person. However, I know that many of you still encountered long waits at the polls. I'm worried about the fall – we don't know what this virus is going to do. That's why I'm encouraging everyone to vote by mail! It is a safe and easy option, and the sooner you apply, the sooner you know your vote will be counted.

Registered voters in Allegheny County can now complete Mail-in or absentee ballot applications for the November 3 general election. These applications must be by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

Visit www.votespa.com or call my office at (412) 665-5502 for more info!



DECISIVE ACTION TO SAVE LIVES AND FLATTEN THE CURVE

May 1 – Construction restarted; Outdoor activities reopen including golfing, camping

May 8 – First counties go to yellow; Emergency Assistance Program for low-income families starts; Telemedicine expansion bill signed

May 15 – Allegheny County goes yellow

May 17 – Additional 13 weeks of unemployment offered

May 29 – State budget signed; includes \$2.6B in federal relief funding; targets \$420M to assist PA nursing homes

June 4 – Statewide stay-at-home order ends

June 5 – Allegheny County goes green

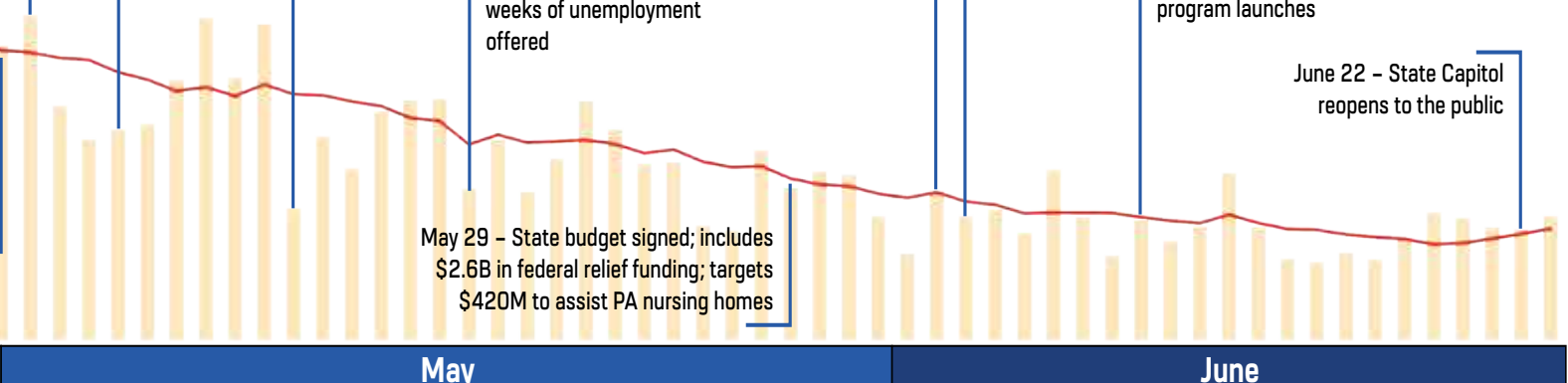
June 11 – \$625M offered to counties to aid recovery; \$225M small business grant program launches

June 22 – State Capitol reopens to the public

— Seven Day New Case Average
— New Cases Per Day

March 1st to June 23rd

online
es, provides
enalties



BLACK LIVES MATTER

From the streets to the Capitol

Inspired by the people who have taken to the streets, I and other Black legislators held a nonviolent protest during a scheduled voting session in the House. Our action caused action – and the House later voted to pass two police reform bills. I look forward to further votes on this matter.



In these difficult times, I have been inspired by the spirit of our CommUnity, which has been displayed time and again at events like our June drive-up food distribution in Wilkinsburg. I want to thank the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and other local organizations who partnered with my office to make this happen.

Since the start of the pandemic my office has helped thousands of our neighbors navigate unemployment, vote-by-mail, SSI, and other programs. **If you need help, call us at 412-665-5502.**

THE LONG MARCH TOWARD EQUALITY FOR ALL

CommUnity,

I want to thank you for letting me serve you. It doesn't matter if you're black or brown or white, who you love or what you believe, or if you lay your head in Wilkinsburg, the heights, or Shadyside.

Because at the end of the day we are all the same – we are all just people. People trying to make their way through this crazy year, trying their best to make something happen, to find a little peace, a little love.

A lot of us are hurting. We've lost jobs. We've lost loved ones. We've lost family, neighbors and friends. We've been sick and we've known the fear the rises in your stomach when you hear that news that someone you love is sick.

We've been through the crucible. And while we may have bent, we have not broken. In our most desperate moments during this endless year, I have seen neighbors helping neighbors, regardless of race, color, creed, or any of the ways they try to divide us, working hand-in-hand to lift each other up. That is the power of CommUnity. That is our strength.

And so, when I hear that another black or brown man has been murdered, has been taken from his CommUnity, I get angry. I feel the pressure of the system that is pushing us down. I feel the fear start to rise in my stomach. I look into the eyes of my son – my child – and I struggle. But I do not despair.

Because this summer, amid the uncertainty and fear of the coronavirus, I saw a bonfire of hope, one that spread through the streets not just of our city, but across this commonwealth and nation, burning fiercely for justice, for equality. I see that fire, that great passion reflected in the faces of the people in the streets, I hear it in the roar of their voices, I feel it's heat on my skin, and I do more than hope – I believe.

This year we celebrated the first official Juneteenth in Pennsylvania's history, making the day when, in 1865, Blacks in Texas were finally freed from slavery, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. We've come a long way in the last 155 years, but the struggle – that long march toward freedom, equality and justice -- continues. And as the torch of freedom has been handed from our grandparents to our parents to us, so we prepare to hand it to our kids.

Juneteenth also marked another anniversary – the anniversary of the murder of Antwon Rose. In the wake of his death, I and other lawmakers introduced 19 pieces of legislation to start to address some of the issues we face in our communities, to address the violence our own society inflicts on our neighborhoods. Things like changing the rules around the use of force by police officers, enhancing their training to encourage de-escalation when things get tense. By no means are these ideas anti-police. I know there are many fine officers who I would gladly leave my kids with. We ask a lot of our officers – too much.

We have since passed a couple of bills to start to address these issues. But that is what it is – a start.

They say that every 50 or 60 years America goes through a great upheaval, an inflection point where we call into question what it means to be an American, to be free. In every crisis there is an opportunity – an opportunity to do better. To not just rebuild, but to build better. To not return to what was before, but to create something new. I believe we are living through one of those moments today.

Now is the time. Now is our chance. But it's up to all of us to keep that fire burning, to carry that torch that we have been handed, and to keep marching forward, arm in arm, hand in hand – together. One CommUnity.

God bless,



Ed





STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Edward C. Gainey

103 Irvis Office Building
P.O. Box 202024
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2024

Website: www.RepGainey.com
Facebook: [/RepEdGainey](https://www.facebook.com/RepEdGainey)
Twitter: [@RepGainey](https://twitter.com/RepGainey)

lpo.ad.0720

My 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 Department 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 412-665-5502 for assistance.



CAPITOL OFFICE:
103 Irvis Office Building
P.O. Box 202024
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2024
(717) 783-1017

DISTRICT OFFICE:
100 Sheridan Square, 3rd Floor
(across from CVS)
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
(412) 665-5502

**Sign Up for Email Updates at
RepGainey.com
Click on Stay Connected**

www.RepGainey.com