

SUMMER LEE



HELLO,

I hope this summer newsletter finds you and your family healthy and well. There is no shortage of things to talk about, and I've also included what I hope is a lot of helpful information for folks trying to navigate the 'new normal' that this global pandemic has pushed upon us.

This year has been a difficult one for all of us. Many of us have lost loved ones to this deadly virus. Others have lost their incomes, their security, their peace. There are no easy answers, and all of us have been asked to make sacrifices for the good of our community. And even though a haphazard federal response has made our jobs more difficult, I firmly believe that we can – and will – beat this thing. But it will require all of us to keep working together -- to stay socially distanced, together; to wear masks, together.

I have also drawn strength this summer from the actions of the people who have taken to the streets – in towns big and small – to demand justice, accountability, and a better way forward. Your actions inspired my fellow legislators and me to stage a non-violent protest in the state House when we redirected a voting

session to demand that our voices and those of our communities be heard.

As I have said several times, our agenda should not be what legislation is easy to vote for, or what bills will make for good headlines or social media, but our agenda is and needs to be driven by the people – the people who we were elected to represent and who – this very day – continue to march and rally in the streets demanding change.

The march toward justice, toward equality is long, and it will be difficult. But until we – as a legislative body – are willing to have those difficult conversations, to cast those difficult votes, then that march must continue.

And finally, should you or anyone you know need help, information about a state program or any other matter, please contact my office at 412-273-3400. We are here for you.

Be well. Stay strong. And stay safe.

Sincerely,



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Bills sponsored: 163

Resolutions sponsored: 36

HIGHLIGHTS:

Police accountability legislation – As you'll read inside, this summer we scored our first victory in improving policing in Pa. Finally, the General Assembly overwhelmingly voted to establish a database of prior misconduct in law enforcement, expand mental health screening, and expand bias and cultural training. However, we still have far to go. I've introduced legislation to change the use-of-force laws; supported bills creating oversight boards; and called for special investigators when the use-of-force occurs. These latter bills have not been voted on yet, and we need to put pressure on majority leadership to give them a hearing.

Eviction Moratorium – Before the state Supreme Court stepped in, my colleagues and I had taken swift action to introduce legislation to freeze the eviction process during major emergencies like the coronavirus crisis. At this time, evictions and foreclosures are suspended at least until August 31.

I'm also supporting legislation to freeze student and small business loan payments; and increase labor law protections so that workers don't have to fight for workers' compensation during these types of events, along with other legislation.

No Cash Bail – Pretrial bail costs taxpayers billions of dollars and infringes on the liberty and rights of millions of Americans each year. I'm working to introduce legislation that would end this system and return to non-financial release using standardized, validated risk assessments.

As the legislative year has progressed, I have proposed several bills and added my name as a co-sponsor on over a hundred more bills I believe would improve the lives of many people in District 34 and across the commonwealth. The full list of bills on which I am a co-sponsor is available on the Pennsylvania General Assembly website: www.legis.state.pa.us.

Need help with filing your annual rent or property tax rebate?

Due to the ongoing coronavirus crisis, our office will not be able to help people fill out their forms in person. We are working on installing a mail slot so that you can securely drop off documentation without in-person contact. Blank 2019 booklets are available on the stand outside of our office. If we are running low or missing something, please give us a call.

If you need help with rent or property tax rebates:

1. Please mail your booklet and information to our office at 501 Braddock Avenue #105 • Braddock, PA 15104.
2. Provide all necessary documentation as described below.

RENTERS

- Proof of ALL your income for 2019. That includes the form you received in January from Social Security stating how much you received in 2019. Do not bring the form you received that says how much you are receiving from Social Security in 2020.
- Proof of the income you received from your pension, interest, wages, unemployment, etc.
- The Rent Certificate completed and signed by your landlord.
- A copy of your current driver's license/photo ID if this is the first time you are filing for the rebate.

**If your landlord is unavailable to complete the Rent Certificate, the form must be notarized and you should speak directly with our staff.

PROPERTY OWNERS

- Proof of ALL your income for 2019. That includes the form you received in January from Social Security stating how much you received in 2019. Do not bring the form you received that says how much you are receiving from Social Security in 2020.
- Proof of the income you received from your pension, interest, wages, unemployment, etc.
- Proof of property tax payment. Your 2019 annual mortgage statement is acceptable, or all 3 property tax receipts for 2019 – city/borough, school and county.
- A copy of your current driver's license/photo ID if this is the first time you are filing for the rebate.

3. All claimants must do the following:

Fill out Section (I), providing your name, address, DoB, SSN and a daytime telephone number.

Complete Section (IV), your signature, and the date.

4. Our staff will complete your forms and mail the original to Harrisburg and mail you a copy for your records. We will call you at the telephone number you provide to let you know when we have completed your forms and when we are mailing them to Harrisburg.

PA-1000
Property Tax or Rent
Rebate Claim (2-13-21)
PA Department of Revenue
PO Box 10000
Harrisburg PA 17105-0001

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2019

1. Check your eligibility for accuracy. If incorrect, do not use the label. Complete Section I.

2. Fill in only one oval in each section.

3. I am filing for a rebate on:

A. Property Owner - See instructions

B. Renter - See instructions

C. Owner/Partner - See instructions

4. Confirm that as of Dec. 31, 2019, I am:

A. Current age 65 or older

B. Current under age 65 with a spouse age 65 or older who resided in the same household

C. Widow or widower age 65 to 69

D. Permanently disabled and age 18 to 64

5. Filing on behalf of a decedent

6. TOTAL INCOME received by you and your spouse during 2019

	Dollars	Cents
4. Social Security, SSI and SSP income (Total benefits \$ _____ divided by 2)	4.	
5. Railroad Retirement Tier 1 Benefits (Total benefits \$ _____ divided by 2)	5.	
6. Total Benefits from Pension, Annuity, IRA Distributions and Railroad Retirement Tier 2 (Do not include federal veterans' disability payments or state veterans' payments)	6.	
7. Interest and Dividend Income	7.	
8. Gain or Loss on the Sale or Exchange of Property _____ if a loss, fill in this oval.	8.	
9. Net Rental Income or Loss _____ if a loss, fill in this oval.	9.	
10. Net Business Income or Loss _____ if a loss, fill in this oval.	10.	
11a. Salaries, wages, bonuses, commissions, and estate and trust income	11a.	
11b. Gambling and Lottery winnings, including PA Lottery winnings, gross winnings and the value of other prizes	11b.	
11c. Value of inheritances, alimony and spousal support	11c.	
11d. Cash public assistance/benefit, Unemployment compensation and workers' compensation, except Section 506(a) benefits	11d.	
11e. Gross amount of tax-free insurance benefits and disability insurance benefits, and life insurance benefits, except the first \$5,000 of total death benefit payments	11e.	
11f. Gifts of cash or property totaling more than \$200, except gifts between members of a household	11f.	
11g. Miscellaneous income and annualized income amount	11g.	
12. Claimants with Federal Civil Service Retirement System Benefits enter \$0.00 or \$16,000. See the instructions.	12.	
13. TOTAL INCOME. Add only the positive income amounts from Lines 4 through 11g and subtract the amount on Line 12. See Page 2 for income limitations. Enter this amount on Line 23.	13.	

IMPORTANT: You must submit proof of the income you reported - See the instructions on Pages 7 to 9.

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COVID RESOURCES



Pennsylvania took quick, decisive action to successfully slow the spread of the coronavirus in our communities. However, many of us have been, and continue to be negatively impacted by the virus. Families lost jobs, businesses were forced to temporarily close, community resources were shut down and many limitations remain in effect today.

Our commonwealth also marshalled resources to help those affected by the pandemic, many of which are listed below. If you need help with these or any other issues, please contact my office at 412-273-3400.

211: For help with specific needs or issues, or access to community resources, you can dial 211 or visit <http://pa211sw.org/>

Unemployment update

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a historic surge in the number of people seeking unemployment compensation in Pennsylvania.

Since mid-March, more than 2 million people have filed for unemployment benefits.

We understand and feel your frustrations with the Unemployment Compensation and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance programs. Over the last several months, we have been able to assist many people as best we can. However, we are experiencing inconsistent and delayed response times from the Department of Labor and Industry on individual claim inquiries.

If you do have questions about regular Unemployment Compensation, please call our office, email us, or complete this form so we can collect the information we need to help: www.pahouse.com/Lee/Form/?id=1267.

If you have general questions about PUA, please email us or call our office. We will do our best to address them, as the Department of Labor & Industry has added new staff to handle individual claim inquiries. We can still submit an inquiry to them on your behalf, but it may take a while to be resolved.

For help with individual PUA claims, please provide:

- Claim Number
- Last 4 of SSN
- Effective Date
- Detailed Claim Issues
- First Name
- Last Name
- Email
- Phone

If you or someone you know lost their job during the pandemic, there are two unemployment programs available.

Traditional Unemployment Compensation → www.uc.pa.gov → File an Initial Claim

Unemployment for self-employed, gig or contract workers (PUA) → www.uc.pa.gov → File for PUA

My office has helped over a thousand community members navigate the UC process since the pandemic started, and we

continue to offer assistance in any way we can. If you have any questions, please reach out to my office.

If your UC benefit year expires, you must apply for the Pandemic Expanded Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) Program.

PEUC → www.uc.pa.gov → File for PEUC

If you exhausted your claims benefits, and are still unemployed, you will be automatically enrolled in PEUC.

In either scenario a new financial determination will be made and mailed to you. You will use your existing PIN number.

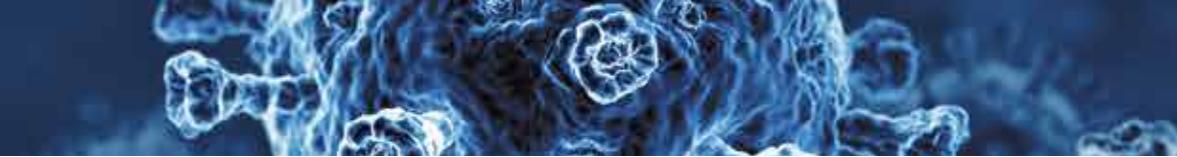
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

**NEED HELP WITH YOUR UC CLAIM?
MY OFFICE CAN HELP.**

What we'll need from you to inquire on your behalf:

- 1 Full name
- 2 Mailing address
- 3 Phone number
- 4 Date claim opened
- 5 Last 4 digits SSN
- 6 Description of the issue

*please allow a few weeks for my office to investigate.



For Families

It's OK to reach out for help

This health crisis has created additional stress for many. Please know that it's OK to ask for help.

Crisis Text Line: Text 'PA' to 741741 for help 24/7. PA's new support helpline: Run by the Department of Human Services - 855-284-2494.

Disaster Distress Helpline: Experiencing emotional distress due to COVID-19? Call 1-800-985-5990 or text 'TalkWithUs' to 66746 to connect with a trained crisis counselor.

Get Help Now for substance use disorder: Reach out for support from the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs by calling 1-800-662-4357.

Seniors' farm market vouchers available

The annual Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program is available to eligible residents of Allegheny County. Eligible individuals may receive one set of checks worth \$24 to be spent at participating farmers markets.

The distribution of checks will not occur at senior centers. Instead, checks will be distributed by mail to eligible Allegheny County residents who complete an application. Applications may be downloaded from the website: <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Programs-Services/Basic-Needs/Senior-Farmers-Market-Nutrition-Program.aspx>. Applications may also be requested by emailing AAA-SFMNP@alleghenycounty.us or by calling (412) 350-4219. Only completed applications received by Sept. 24, 2020 will be processed.

Rent/Mortgage Assistance available

The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency recently announced that help is available for renters and homeowners financially impacted by COVID-19.

Full details on eligibility and more are available at www.phfa.org.

For questions on the program, call 1-855-U-Are-Home (827-3466).

Renters in Allegheny County can apply online at: <https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us/>.

Homeowners must download and submit their completed applications directly to PFHA at the following address: PHFA/PMAP, PO Box 15530, Harrisburg, PA 17105-5530.

SNAP - Feeding families

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps Pennsylvanians buy food. You can apply online at <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/>.

CHIP - health insurance for kids and teens

The Children's Health Insurance Program is designed to provide health insurance to uninsured children and teens who are not eligible for or enrolled in Medical Assistance. You can apply online at <https://www.chipcoverspakids.com>.

Need childcare?

For the latest updates on what is happening with Pennsylvania's schools, visit education.pa.gov.

Childcare centers have reopened, while adhering to certain restrictions and CDC guidelines. The Department of Human Services has compiled answers to frequently asked questions for parents and caregivers, which you can find at dhs.pa.gov.

If you are looking for child care, visit www.findchildcare.pa.gov.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Recovery Crisis

The LIHEAP Recovery Crisis Program runs through August 31 or until all budgeted funding is expended. More information about the LIHEAP Recovery Crisis Program, including income limits, can be found at <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/LIHEAP-Recovery-Crisis-Program.aspx>.

Call 1-877-395-8930 for more information.

For Businesses

COVID-19 Relief Small Business Assistance grant program

A website has been set up to help small businesses with a new state-run grant program. Businesses must apply through a Community Development Financial Institution. Visit <https://pabusinessgrants.com/> for resources, including an application preparation checklist, eligibility details, and a full list of participating CDFIs.

Department of Community and Economic Development - dced.pa.gov

Find resources including detailed guidance for businesses, information on funding and state and federal programs, and more.

U.S. Small Business Administration - sba.gov

Find information on federal funding and resources.

Voting by mail works and could save lives

When the coronavirus began spreading across our county and state, the legislature took action to expand voting by mail. We are thrilled that a majority of voters voted by mail in Allegheny County. However, we know that many of you who did vote in person still encountered long waits at the polls.

As we've seen in recent months, the coronavirus can flare up at any time, putting you, your loved ones, and your neighbors at risk. That's why we encourage everyone to vote by mail! It is easy, and the sooner you apply, the sooner you know your vote will be counted. Apply now to avoid unnecessary stress!

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

For more information, visit <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov> or call my office at 412-273-3400. You can also speak to someone at the County Elections office directly at 412-350-4500.

If you voted by mail in the primary, you will not automatically receive a mail-in ballot for the general election unless you checked a box on your original application. If you are not sure if you requested one, you can check your status on the above website by clicking on 'Election Ballot Status.'



Voters wait to vote at a Pittsburgh-area polling station in June.

MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Unemployment or the PUA system
- Property Tax/Rent Rebates
- Voter registration and vote by mail
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- 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
- Birth and death certificates
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Port Authority ConnectCards –when the office is open again

If you need help with any state or government-related services, please contact my office at 412-273-3400 for assistance.

HERE FOR YOU

The coronavirus crisis has disrupted our lives, including your state government. Since the start of the pandemic, my office has helped hundreds of our neighbors access state programs, fix their unemployment problems, and get them the help they need. Although we remain closed to walk-in visitors, my office is available by email or by phone.



State Representative

SUMMER LEE

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Braddock, PA 15104-9998

lpo.km.0820

State Representative | 34th Legislative District

SUMMER LEE

SUMMER UPDATE

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INSIDE:

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Representing the boroughs of Braddock, Braddock Hills, Chalfant, Churchill, Edgewood, Forest Hills, Homestead, North Braddock, Rankin, Swissvale, Turtle Creek, West Homestead, the township of Wilkins, and the City of Pittsburgh