

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# Martell Covington

## REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

OF THE 24TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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# STATE BUDGET A MAJOR WIN FOR OUR COMMUNITIES



This has been my first state budget as a state representative, and while I have come to learn that no budget is perfect, I am pleased to be able to report that this budget has a lot to like.

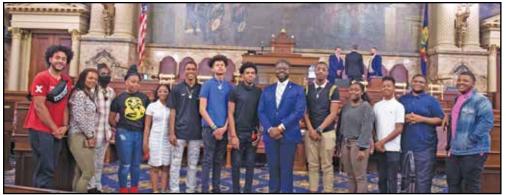
Using federal and surplus funds, we were able to secure a historic increase in state education funding – money that will help our underfunded schools while also helping families out with childcare and Pre-K programs.

This budget also includes a one-time benefit increase for the Property Tax/ Rent Rebate Program, which helps seniors and people with disabilities, and includes funding for the Whole-Home Repair program, which will provide grants to homeowners to make needed home repairs.

It also sets aside \$100 million for affordable housing construction and makes major investments in the outdoors and our environment.

While there are many other things that I would have liked included, I think this budget is a good one for the people of Pennsylvania and our community, which is why I voted to support it.

## **KEEPING BUSY IN HARRISBURG!**



#### **WORLD CHANGERS**

I was thrilled to host World Changers

– a youth-driven interpersonal and
social anti-violence campaign at the
state Capitol. World Changers is a
youth group under the Community
Empowerment Association. The youth
use social media to advocate on issues
affecting young people, including gun
violence and mental health.



Part of my job as a state representative is supporting local projects applying for state funds, which is why it was great to announce earlier this year that the Veterans Place project had been selected for funding.

My family includes many veterans, so I understand the challenges they face when they return from a deployment or when their service ends. This project includes upgrading current infrastructure and townhomes, and constructing a stand-alone, multi-purpose building that will include vital behavioral health services, recreational and activity spaces, and eight new townhomes.



# REP. MARTELL COVINGTON'S COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT AND SHOW



Celebrating Pride in Pittsburgh with folks from the community and other state legislators!







I joined other local elected officials for a meeting with Planned Parenthood to talk about ways we can protect women and their right to choose despite the ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade.



It was a privilege to be present for the proclan School Girls' Basketball Coach Phyllis Jones. Coconsecutive City League Championship appeara winningest basketball coach in Pen



My team attended the Wilkinsburg Farmers Market! They were there helping our neighbors with information about state programs and how my office can help you!



My District Office director assisted state Sen. Lindse residents in the district who had over 15 years of ser

# VCASE:



My team was able to be a part of an academic celebration for a student in the district who will be attending Stanford University in the Fall! Congratulations!



nation ceremony for Westi<mark>nghouse High</mark> ach Jones coached the La<mark>dy Bulldogs to 27</mark> nces, never had a losing season and is the nsylvania high school sports.



y Williams with pre<mark>senting citations to vivide as foster grandparents! Thank you!</mark>

# CELEBRATING











### **BRINGING JUNETEENTH TO HARRISBURG!**



## MY OFFICE CAN HELP: PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATES!









The state is now accepting applications for eligible senior citizens and others to apply for a rebate on their 2021 property taxes or rent.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is open to residents 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with a disability 18 or older. To qualify, homeowners must have a household income of \$35,000 or less; renters qualify if their household income is \$15,000 or less. **Applicants only have to count half of their Social Security, Supplemental Security, or federal Railroad Retirement Tier I benefits toward the income limit.** 

The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975. The supplemental rebate is automatically calculated by the state.

If you received a rebate last year, you should have received a 2021 application form in the mail. If not, applications are available online at www.revenue.pa.gov or by calling 1-888-222-9190. Residents can also call or visit my office to obtain the form. My staff is available to assist with your application and answer any questions.

## PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE UPDATE

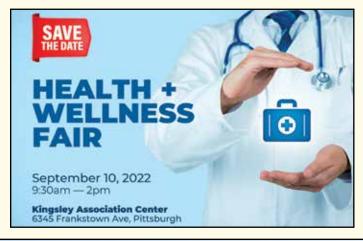
As part of the state budget passed in July, folks who receive a 2021 Property Tax/Rent Rebate will receive a one-time bonus payment! My colleagues and I fought hard to include this funding in the state budget because we know how hard things are for older folks on a fixed income.

These bonus Property Tax/Rent Rebate payments should begin in August. If you're not sure if you qualify, please contact my office!

100 Sheridan Square, 3rd Floor 412-665-5502

We help hundreds of folks each year with this process, so please, reach out if you have questions. The application period closes at the end of the year, so please do not delay!

### **DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:**



### **Real ID Information Session**

Tuesday, Sept. 27 • 5pm-7pm Community Empowerment Association 7120 Kelly St., Pittsburgh, PA 15208

### **Senior Fair**

Tuesday, Oct. 18 • Noon-3pm Community Empowerment Association 7120 Kelly St., Pittsburgh, PA 15208



Each week I send out a weekly e-newsletter with the latest information from our communities and Harrisburg, plus helpful state programs and services.

It's a great way to keep up with what's going on or find out ways that my office can help you, your family, or friends. For example, right now we're helping our older neighbors with their annual Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program applications, and we're always available to help with things like unemployment compensation, veterans resources, or CHIP insurance for kids.

You can find all this and more at www.RepCovington.com. Find me on social media or

scan the QR code to the right to sign up for my weekly e-newsletter!





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