



Summer 2022

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# Martell Covington

## REPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE 24TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

### **INSIDE:**

State Budget a  
Major Win for  
Our Communities

# YOUR VOICE IN HARRISBURG

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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.

### \$2 MILLION STATE GRANT AWARDED TO VETERANS PLACE PROJECT

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 proclamation for School Girls' Basketball Coach Phyllis Jones. Coach Jones has won 10 consecutive City League Championship appearances and is the winningest basketball coach in Pennsylvania.*



*My team attended the Wilksburg 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. Lindsey Graham with residents in the district who had over 15 years of seniority.*



# S WCASE!



*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!*



*ation ceremony for Westinghouse High  
ach Jones coached the Lady Bulldogs to 27  
nces, never had a losing season and is the  
nsylvania high school sports.*



*ey Williams with presenting citations to  
vice as foster grandparents! Thank you!*

## CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

### IN PITTSBURGH!



### 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](http://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](http://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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# REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

## ***INSIDE:***

FIGHTING FOR OUR  
COMMUNITIES

STATE BUDGET PASSES

NEWS YOU CAN USE

IMPORTANT STATE  
PROGRAMS FOR YOU!

