

State Representative | 34th Legislative District

SUMMER LEE

Representing
Pittsburgh (parts
of Homewood
South, Point Breeze,
Point Breeze
North & Regent
Square), Braddock,
Braddock Hills,
Chalfant, Churchill,
East Pittsburgh,
Edgewood,
Forest Hills,
North Braddock,
Rankin, Swissvale,
Wilksburg, and
Wilks Township.

District Office:

Braddock Office
501 Braddock Ave.
Suite 105
Braddock, PA 15104
(412) 273-3400

Harrisburg Office

123B East Wing
P.O. Box 202034
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2034

Email:

RepLee@pahouse.net



@RepSummerLee

Website:

www.RepSummerLee.com



Dear Friends,

In November, we witnessed a historic election that called on each of us to consider incredibly important issues. As we enter the holiday season, a time of gratitude and reflection, I want to convey my sincere feelings of appreciation and fulfillment for having the opportunity to serve as your State Representative.

It has been the ultimate responsibility and honor to help lead the community that raised me. No one expects more than the people who know you best. Your unmet needs and high expectations for public service were my calls to action when I first sought to represent you in the General Assembly. Moving forward, improving our communities and meeting those needs remain my top priority. Fortunately, I will still represent many of you as your U.S. Representative in Congress. Moreover, my district office staff will still be available as your resource for any state-related services.

Separately, in Harrisburg and throughout our district, the waning months of autumn were full of moments I could not wait to share with you. First, I am thrilled to announce that the Pennsylvania House of Representatives unanimously passed House Bill 1419, or the "Dignity for Incarcerated Women" bill! This proposal, which I co-authored, would accomplish a variety of goals. Importantly, it would improve the training of correctional staff, who would be required to receive trauma-informed care training to better work with people in their custody. Check out my Legislative Update inside to learn more.

In October, we hosted our annual Pathways to Pardons event. Pathways to Pardons helps explain the clemency process available through the Board of Pardons and allows us to connect with our neighbors who are ready to move forward in their lives by earning a commutation or a pardon. Many thanks to the organizations that volunteered their time and resources at the event!

I wish you and your families the very best as we head toward the winter and holiday seasons.

As always, my staff and I will continue to do our best to represent and serve you in the months and years ahead.

Thank you,

Rep. Summer Lee



At the beginning of my term, our team consisted of Daniel Nemanic, Joshua Orange, Mary Carey, and Office Director Twanda Carlisle.

Now, our staff has transitioned to include Robert Helwig, Jessica Chau, and our Fall Intern Jace Peterkin. Thank you to my past and current staff members for their exceptional service to the 34th Legislative District.



OVER \$11 MILLION SECURED IN THE 34TH DISTRICT

Commonwealth Financing Authority Awards Wilkins Township

\$93,000 to Wilkins Township, Eastmont Park Court Rehabilitation Project Phase II – Eastmont Park construction plans to replace the Dek Hockey Court. This project also includes tree removal and pruning, resurfacing the court areas, painting the dek hockey court with lines, installing safety lighting, and installing 350 linear feet of new fencing with five gates.

\$2.1 Million Awarded to Fund 95 Demolitions Throughout Allegheny County

District 34 boroughs will receive Act 152 funds to fund demolitions on blighted properties. Act 152 (2016) permits counties to collect a \$15 fee on each recorded deed and mortgage. Municipalities, public authorities, councils of governments, land banks, and private developers may apply for funds to demolish structures. In total, the district received \$357,900 to remove 19 structures.

**Braddock: 4 structures;
\$77,000**

**Homestead: 5 structures;
\$89,000**

**North Braddock: 2
structures; \$45,000**

**Rankin: 2 structures;
\$24,500**

**Swissvale: 2 structures;
\$60,000**

**Turtle Creek: 2 structures;
\$34,000**

**Wilkins: 2 structures;
\$28,400**

Allegheny County Gaming Economic Development Tourism Fund

\$50,000 to North Braddock Borough – Grant dollars will fund training courses on horticulture and landscaping and the purchase of landscaping equipment and safety supplies.

\$75,000 to Steel Rivers Council of Governments – The project includes the demolition of the existing playground area, the removal of an outdated concession stand, and the installation of a new enclosed playground area, which will include safer and more accessible playground equipment.

\$50,000 to Woodland Hills School District – The project includes the renovation of the library building, including the addition of an elevator to make the library more accessible, installing a new roof and new windows, constructing a new classroom and multipurpose room, and adding new public restrooms.

\$10 Million in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grants Awarded to Mon Valley Projects

\$2 million to Braddock Carnegie Library Association (BCLA) Renovation — The BCLA renovation will create universal accessibility and year-round access to all 3 floors of the building. Additionally, these funds will help renovate and modernize the BCLA's historic Music Hall.

\$500,000 to Braddock School Lofts LLC — This project will focus on the adaptive reuse of the Braddock Junior High School. It will revive the historic features and deteriorated elements of the building; introduce community-based amenities and a quality living space; and overhaul essential systems, like electrical, HVAC, and plumbing.

\$2 million to Hawkins Village Redevelopment, Phase II — Renamed Heritage Highlands, the public housing redevelopment will replace 198 barracks-style housing units with townhouses, totaling 105 units with 1-to-4 bedrooms. Phase I, which is currently under construction, will include 54 units, while Phase II will build 51 units.

\$3 million to Hi-Power, LLC — Hi-Power, an aqueous battery manufacturer, will receive funding for two sites. At one site, funds will go towards facility fit-out of offices, a cafeteria, conference rooms, and manufacturing areas, as well as upgrades to electrical, HVAC, mechanical systems, and IT infrastructure. At the other site, the grant will fund a new facility fit-out for product manufacturing; improved rail and barge access; an electrolyte mixing and reclaim facility; and an employee training center.

\$1.5 million to POWER — The project involves the second phase of renovations to the Pennsylvania Organization for Women in Early Recovery campus, a three-story building that was once an elementary school. The improvements will include the installation of all new major mechanical systems, including electrical, plumbing, and HVAC, and new finishing, like ceilings, drywall, and flooring.

\$1 million to Rankin Community Development Film Furnace, Phase III — The Carrie Film Furnace is a joint project of the Pittsburgh Film Office (PFO) and the Regional Industrial Development Corporation (RIDC). Phase III will construct a purpose-built “tech flex” production complex which will be a single-story structure on the Carrie Furnace site.

\$1 million to Rivers of Steel (ROS) Carrie Blast Furnaces National Historic Landmark — This project supports a comprehensive restoration plan, including the historic Blowing Engine House, which will be transformed into the Visitor Center; the historic AC Power House, the setting for ROS events and programs; and construction of an Operations Building to store the heavy equipment, tools, and materials needed to maintain the site.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

“Dignity for Incarcerated Women” omnibus passes House

After years of work from prison reform advocates, the House last session unanimously passed House Bill 1419, legislation providing “Dignity for Incarcerated Women.” This bill would accomplish several objectives, notably, requiring trauma-informed care training for corrections staff across the commonwealth. “Trauma-informed care” is an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves recognizing, understanding, and responding to the effects of trauma.

H.B. 1419 used language from a bill that I introduced in 2019 in collaboration with Madusa Carter, president and founder of Mary’s Daughter for the Formerly Incarcerated (MDFI) and the Dignity Act Now Collective, an MDFI project. In addition to requiring trauma-informed training for correctional staff, H.B. 1419 will restrict the use of shackles or restraints for pregnant or postpartum incarcerated individuals and detainees. Furthermore, if signed into law, the bill will guarantee the no-cost supply of feminine hygiene products to incarcerated individuals and detainees who are menstruating in a correctional institution.

This bill would not have existed without Madusa’s labor and leadership and that of other advocates. It was born from the struggle and pain that they witnessed or experienced firsthand. As we celebrate the passage of “Dignity for Incarcerated Women” and “Trauma-Informed Care,” we should reflect on the injustices that compelled us to improve the laws of our commonwealth.

The Environmental Justice Policy Center

The climate crisis is accelerating and intensifying, manifesting as rising global temperatures that threaten our health and more powerful and destructive storms that affect our homes and infrastructure. It’s my job to find solutions to mitigate these disastrous consequences in our everyday lives. So, I joined my colleague Rep. Chris Rabb, last session, in co-sponsoring House Bill 2866. This bill would establish and fund the Environmental Justice Policy Center (EJPC).

“Environmental justice” is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all individuals regarding the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, policies, and practices that achieve climate, environmental, health, and economic justice for all Pennsylvanians. The EJPC would research, develop, and propose recommendations regarding environmental justice and work collaboratively with our communities, organizations, and governmental entities across the commonwealth.

Because climate change affects each of us, it can sometimes feel discouraging when we acknowledge the crisis that we face. As dire as our situation is, it is not hopeless. That’s why we need to rely on one another more than ever and look to one another for support and solidarity. Through unity, collective action, and shared responsibility, we can achieve a safer future together. As your state representative, I will continue to use my position to advocate for policies that will counteract the climate crisis.



Intergovernmental Health Care Hearing

Earlier this autumn, I joined elected leaders from local and state governments to hear the testimonies of UPMC workers from Allegheny County. These hospital workers have suffered from inadequate staffing levels, low pay, and burnout. Many of our UPMC worker neighbors cannot afford UPMC insurance. I admire the bravery that these workers demonstrated in speaking truth to power. Their expertise will help us solve the hospital workforce crisis and improve patient care in Allegheny County.



Carnegie Library of Homestead

This July, my staff hosted a resource event at the Carnegie Library of Homestead, bringing our services to the community. We were able to share information on resources that are available to Pennsylvanians, like Unemployment Compensation assistance and help with PennDOT services.



Pathways to Pardons

Having a criminal record can affect your ability to earn a living wage or find secure housing. That's why we hosted our annual "Pathways to Pardons" event in October. This event demystified the clemency process, providing information on how to obtain a pardon or commutation from the commonwealth. Special thanks to Celeste Trusty from the Board of Pardons; Barbara Griffin and Olivia Hilborn with the Allegheny County Bar Association Foundation's Pro Bono Center; and Timothy Collins, Gary Gaal, and Gary Nicotera from Allegheny County Department of Court Records. Thank you for dedicating your evenings to serving our district!

To the attendees: you should feel incredibly proud for taking the first step in this difficult process. Sometimes the hardest part of a journey is just getting started. My staff and I truly admire your decision to make a change and move forward in your lives. If you could not join us, do not worry! The Board of Pardons accepts clemency applications on a rolling basis. When you are ready, please contact my office for information on how to begin the clemency process.



Braddock Community Day

August offered an abundance of memorable community events across the district. My office and I had a blast connecting with our neighbors and friends throughout each community. Together, we were able to enjoy the final days of summer filled with music, fun, and the spirit of camaraderie. A special thank you to all the community leaders who invited us to participate.



Fire Operations 101

In September, the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire invited my legislative colleagues and me to their FireOps101 event, where we were able to experience our first responders' training regimen. We learned about fire behavior, search & rescue, aerial ladder operations, and more! A special thank you to our Pittsburgh Fire Fighters for their service to our communities.



2022 NAACP McKeesport Unit Dinner

I was honored to be the keynote speaker for the NAACP McKeesport unit's Human Rights Freedom Dinner. Together, we celebrated their 60th anniversary and honored the contributions of those advancing civil rights in Pittsburgh and the Mon Valley.

This year's theme was "No Justice, No Peace," a timely reminder that truth requires us to confront the structural violence that impedes the ability of people to live fulfilling, dignified lives.



Highland II Reservoir Upgrades with the PWSA

This summer, the Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority (PWSA) invited me and my legislative colleagues to survey Highland Reservoir II. As part of its Water Reliability Plan, the PWSA upgraded the reservoir by installing a new liner, floating cover, and equipment. These modifications will enable the Authority to meet water safety and regulatory requirements.



Braddock Youth Project

The Braddock Youth Project (BYP) is an organization based in Braddock. BYP fosters skills for teenagers that will help them develop as individuals and advance the community at large. The gardening team gifted our office flowers that BYP grew this summer. Thank you to BYP for their efforts in making our home a beautiful place!

Our Community





State Representative

SUMMER LEE

501 Braddock Ave., Suite #105
Braddock, PA 15104-9998

lpo.ad.1222

Department of Human Services: LIHEAP

Each year, the Department of Human Services offers the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to aid low-income families or individuals with a cash grant. This seasonal payment, ranging from \$500 to \$1,500, will be paid directly to your heating utility provider. Check out the link below or call my office to learn more.

www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/LIHEAP.aspx | 1-866-857-7095

Department of Revenue: Property Tax Rent Rebate

The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue is accepting Property Tax Rent Rebate applications until December 31, 2022. Persons aged 65 and older; widows and widowers aged 50 and older; and persons with disabilities aged 18 and older may qualify. To learn about the program's requirements or how to apply, check out the web address below or call my office.

www.revenue.pa.gov/IncentivesCreditsPrograms/PropertyTaxRentRebateProgram/Pages/default.aspx | 1-888-222-9190

Department of Aging: PACE & PACENET

The Department of Aging offers prescription assistance programs for Pennsylvanians aged 65-years and older. With PACE or PACENET, prescriptions and medication may be available at a lower cost for participants. The program's income guidelines recently increased by \$6,000, so check out the web address below or call my office to learn if you qualify.

www.aging.pa.gov/aging-services/prescriptions/Pages/default.aspx | 1-800-225-7223

If you need help with any state or government-related services, please contact our office for assistance.

Braddock Office:

501 Braddock Ave.
Suite #105,
Braddock, PA 15104-9998
Phone: (412) 273-3400

Harrisburg Office:

123B East Wing
P.O. Box 202034
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2034
Phone: (717) 783-1914

Email: RepLee@pahouse.net | **Website:** www.RepSummerLee.com