



State Representative **JORDAN HARRIS**

House Majority Appropriations Chairman
Representing the 186th Legislative District



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**HEARD
IT FROM HARRIS**

- USHERING IN HISTORIC FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS
- MILLIONS IN GRANTS COME BACK TO THE DISTRICT
- CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT EXPANDED
- GREAT NEWS FOR PHILLY SENIORS

A Message from the Chair

As majority chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and your state representative, I take seriously my responsibility to make sure tax dollars and state policies are working for you and your fellow Pennsylvanians.

Democrats in the Pennsylvania House have led the charge to level the playing field on taxes and income, put more resources in schools, enhance state programs that serve our elderly, the poor, and the disabled, improve the economy through Clean Slate policies, and make communities safer.

We're reaching across the aisle and putting people ahead of politics – because better jobs, better schools and better communities benefit everyone. You can learn more about how House Democrats are delivering for Pennsylvanians by visiting www.pahouse.com/deliveringforpa.

On Feb. 6 Governor Josh Shapiro delivered his 2024-25 budget address before a joint session of the General Assembly. As Appropriations chairman for the Democratic Caucus, I look forward to working with the governor and legislators from across the state to build on the successes of the 2023-24 budget and continue to move Pennsylvania forward.

House Appropriations Committee budget hearings begin on Tuesday, Feb. 20. You can see the full list of public hearings on the Appropriations website – www.HouseAppropriations.com – and watch them live at www.pahouse.com/live.

Scan the code to learn more about my work in Harrisburg and at home.



DEMOCRATS DELIVER

WHAT WE ACHIEVED:

- ✔ **Record basic education funding increase**
 - **\$175 million** for school facility improvements
 - **\$10 million** for student-teacher stipends
 - EITC Transparency and Administrative Fee Reforms
- ✔ **Increased Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit** – move from 30% to 100% of federal credit – more than tripling the state level credit
- ✔ Increased **violence intervention by \$10 million**
- ✔ **\$7.5 million for indigent defense**

IMPORTANT PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE WIN FOR PHILLY SENIORS

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program provides income-eligible senior citizens and people with permanent disabilities a rebate on the property taxes or rent they paid in the previous year.

I'm pleased to report that the program expanded in 2024 to include more people in our community, thanks to legislation I helped to negotiate as part of the state budget in June. The new law raises the income eligibility limit for both homeowners and renters to \$45,000 and raises the maximum rebate to \$1,000, allowing more seniors to stay in their homes and afford their basic necessities.



Property Tax / Rent Rebate 2024 Program Expansion

MORE people eligible, **MORE** money back!

Homeowner Income	Rebate	Renter Income	Rebate
Up to \$8K	\$1,000	Up to \$8K	\$1,000
Up to \$15K	\$770	Up to \$15K	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$460	Up to \$18K	\$460
Up to \$35K	\$380	Up to \$45K	\$380
Up to \$45K	\$380		

Questions? Contact my office for help receiving your refund!

If you would like me and my staff to visit your senior group or senior living community to explain the new guidelines, please call the office to schedule a visit.



CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT EXPANDED

Families across our neighborhoods are balancing jobs, bills and providing care for their kids or elderly loved ones. They deserve a break. I am happy to tell you about Pennsylvania’s newly expanded Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. As part of the state budget I helped to negotiate, we more than tripled the state’s Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit to put money back in your pocket. Check the graphic below to see if your family qualifies. If you do, you’ll receive the credit on your 2023 tax return.

NEW IN 2024
CHILD & DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT

	Income Under \$43,000		Earning Above \$43,000	
	Prior to Change	Expanded Tax Credit	Prior to Change	Expanded Tax Credit
Max Credit for One Eligible Dependent	\$315	\$1,050	\$180	\$600
Max Credit for Two+ Eligible Dependents	\$630	\$2,100	\$360	\$1,200

PUBLIC EDUCATION A PRIORITY

Pennsylvania’s historically flawed and inequitable school funding formula has resulted in a decades-long underfunding of many schools across the state – with some of the most underfunded schools right here in Philadelphia.

The Commonwealth Court, in its February 2023 ruling, verified this longtime inequity and ordered the legislature to fix it. Since taking office and as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee I have fought in the legislature and worked alongside our local officials because I believe neither your ZIP code nor your socioeconomic status should determine the quality of your education.

In June I helped to negotiate in the state budget the largest basic education funding increase (\$717 million new dollars) in Pennsylvania history as a down payment on righting the wrong. The budget also includes funding to provide universal free breakfast for all students.

This past fall as the House Appropriations Chairman I coordinated school tours throughout the state, alongside the House Education Committee, to further address the issue.

I continued this fight throughout the fall and am happy to report that in December the House and Senate voted to provide \$175 million in funding for school facility improvements, a major priority of mine that represents a significant investment and critical step toward ensuring that every Pennsylvania school is a safe learning environment for our children and educators.

We also created a Student Teacher Stipend Program to help address our teacher shortage by providing up to \$15,000 for aspiring teachers during their student teaching semesters as well as a \$2,500 stipend for cooperating teachers who agree to mentor student teachers. I fought for this program to be signed into law and I am very pleased to see it finally cross the finish line.

Earlier this year House Democrats introduced a groundbreaking plan that would finally level the playing field by fully funding our schools with \$9.5 billion in new investment for basic education costs, cleaning up toxic buildings and providing relief to the many overburdened taxpayers who have been shouldering a significant and unfair burden due to lack of state support for their schools.



Helping our kids,
Helping our schools

- ✓ **\$1.4 billion** in new funding for all schools
- ✓ **\$5 billion** to close the gap to make sure all students can succeed
- ✓ **\$1 billion** cut in property taxes for hardest-hit areas
- ✓ **\$2.1 billion** to fix and repair our schools

Please visit www.HouseAppropriations.com to learn more about school funding in the 2023 budget, our school tours and plans for moving forward.

SECOND CHANCES WITH CLEAN SLATE

One issue I am particularly proud to have taken the lead on over the past several years is Pennsylvania's Clean Slate law, which unlocks housing, financial, and employment opportunities through automated record-clearing. In December, Governor Josh Shapiro signed into law my Clean Slate 3.0 legislation (H.B. 689). Expanding Clean Slate will allow even more folks to join the over 1 million Pennsylvanians who have had their record sealed and accessed their second chance. It's not just the smart thing to do, it's the right thing to do.

Please keep an eye on my social media or sign up for my email alerts – www.pahouse.com/Harris/emailsSignup -- to get information about pardon workshops I hold throughout the year, other upcoming events, and my work in Harrisburg and around the district.



“Expanding Clean Slate will allow even more folks to join the over 1 million Pennsylvanians who have had their record sealed and accessed their second chance. It's not just the smart thing to do, it's the right thing to do!”

Rep. Jordan Harris



RECOVERING A CITY ICON

\$775,000 in state funds secured for Vare reconstruction

When the Vare Recreation Center closed in 2017 due to structural danger, I immediately got to work to help secure state funding to help the city rebuild this recreational pillar of our South Philadelphia Community.

In 2021 I secured \$775,000 in state funding to help with Vare rebuilding efforts.

Vare is a vital community asset that allows residents of all ages to come together in open green spaces and have constructive options for recreation that help people grow. I look forward to the grand reopening of this iconic space after the final improvements are made this spring.



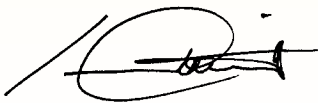
SENIOR WILLS CLINICS

My office has connected hundreds of seniors with legal professionals to draft legal wills during Will's Clinics I hold throughout the year. Sign up for my weekly emails at www.pahouse.com/Harris/emailsSignup or follow me on social media to get information on my upcoming events.

DEAR NEIGHBOR,

Serving as your state representative is an immense privilege, and I work hard every day for you, your family and our community. We have accomplished a lot together, and I look forward to another year of working on the issues that lead us to better schools, better jobs and better communities.

In service,




HARRIS: DELIVERING FUNDS FOR OUR COMMUNITY



\$600,000 for the Urban Youth Racing School's STEM classroom

\$500,000 for ACANA's Africa Center

\$500,000 for Holy Family Home's independent living apartments

In coordination with the Philadelphia Delegation, helped secure **Nearly \$23 Million** for city-wide water and sewer infrastructure improvements!



2023
Year in Review



2023
Legislation Passed



5,980
Neighbors our office helped



\$2.3 Million
in funding brought back to the district




12
Appropriations Bills




Act 36
(Formerly HB 689 - Signed into Law)
Expanded Clean Slate




10,794
Constituent services provided



8,214
Total Caseworks




HB 1772
(Passed the House)
Increases the Nonprofit Security Grant Fund Program





State Representative Jordan A. Harris
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Look inside this newsletter for more information on expanded state programs for 2024, how your tax dollars are working for you, and the issues and budget funding I'm fighting for as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

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State Representative Jordan Harris'
District Office Services

My team and I can help you with:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Tax/Rent Rebate • Employment, housing, and utility assistance information • PACE cards for senior citizens • Notary Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards • PennDOT questions or processing of: car registrations, special tags, titles, and license plate applications
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2023 186th District Bike Safety Event

