

Rep. RABB

PROUDLY
SERVING THE



Legislative District

Dear Neighbor,

Another budget season has come to pass. As was the case last year, getting this budget across the finish line was a heavy lift, requiring long hours and strenuous debate. Significant gains were made on education funding, where we attempted to meet our constitutional and moral obligation to adequately fund public schools, ensuring every student has a genuine opportunity to succeed.

However, I am pained by what was left on the table. In a deeply divided legislature, legislative wins are hard fought, negotiations are fraught, and compromise is the only path toward doing what is right for hard working Pennsylvanians.

We go to Harrisburg in order to pass legislation that benefits both our local communities and the state at large, something that some of our colleagues across the aisle and in the Senate lose sight of when they seek to score political points and engage in performative politics.

But there is good news. So far, during the 2023-24 legislative session, the House has passed **well over 300 bills**, most with bipartisan support.

Here in the district and across the four neighborhoods I represent, families continue to do their best with what they have. And my team back home does its best to assist whomever is in need by lending a hand, attending events, and celebrating everything that makes Mt. Airy, Chestnut Hill, West Oak Lane and Bluebell Hill so special.

As summer comes to an end, I want to thank you for your trust and support. There is much to look forward to and my office will be hosting a bevy of events, which you will learn more about throughout this newsletter.

Together, we've made real progress, but there's still so much to do! I will continue to fight for our shared values, a brighter future for our families, and a Pennsylvania that works for everyone irrespective of ZIP code.

In Service,
Rep. Rabb



THE BUDGET

In the second week of July, we passed the state budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25. It was a Herculean effort getting this nearly \$48 billion budget across the finish line in our divided state legislature, the only such divided legislature in the nation.

Key Highlights include:

- **Education Investment:** We secured over **\$1.9 billion**, a 13.5% increase, in funding for the School District of Philadelphia. Statewide the budget earmarks a historic **\$1.3 billion** increase in funding for schools, ensuring every child receives a quality education and addressing long-standing funding gaps.
- **Affordable Housing and Senior Support:** We're addressing the housing crisis through historic investments in PHARE for the creation of affordable housing and ensuring our senior citizens can remain in their homes comfortably.
- **Transit and Infrastructure:** Investments will enhance transit systems statewide, while also improving roads and bridges with a focus on local job creation.
- **Healthcare and Childcare:** This budget prioritizes accessible healthcare services for individuals with disabilities and mental health challenges. It also supports affordable childcare and increases wages for childcare workers.



- **Cyber Charter Reform:** \$60 million is allocated for cyber charter school reform, ensuring taxpayer funds are spent wisely and transparently.

LEGISLATION

In the eight months since the start of the new year, we've passed over **110 bills**. House Democrats passed bills that would close the "ghost gun" loophole and require background checks, allow schools to meet their energy needs and environmental suitability goals through the Solar for Schools program, save patients time and money by requiring telemedicine services to be covered by insurance, help to eliminate medical debt, allow for earlier mail-in ballot counting, establish a statewide Right to Counsel for low-income tenants and more.

My bill, H.B. 1172, that would allow Pennsylvania-based funeral homes to provide water-based cremation, passed the House by a strong bipartisan vote in May.

My resolution, H.R. 113, which directs the Joint State Government Commission to study how body-worn camera footage is currently used, stored, secured, indexed and accessed, was also adopted by the House in May.

I introduced **seven bills and resolutions** in the first eight months of 2024, and authored more than 100 overall. These pieces of legislation include measures that...

- **Protect Pennsylvania's Pollinators and Plants.**
- **Address Wealth Disparities in PA.**
- **Ensure Greater Transparency for PIM Votes.**
- **Designate April 9 as Paul Robeson Day.**
- **Provide Protection Against Predatory Rent-to-Own Companies.**
- **Establish Consumer Protections for Automatic Contract Renewals.**
- **Prohibit Corporations from Deceitful and Manipulative Practices Known as "Greenwashing."**



A little levity after a big win for passage of the CROWN Act prohibiting race-based hair discrimination.

EVENTS

The first half of 2024 has been a whirlwind of events, workshops, school visits, rallies and constituent services in and around the district. Here are just a few highlights!



Visit in my District Office from Clover Montessori School.



Agrivoltaics site visit at Temple Ambler Campus.



Cannabis Rally in June.



Wadsworth Day.



Being interviewed by a student at Jubilee School.



Making a Difference:
While a helpful snapshot, numbers don't tell the whole story. In June alone, we successfully assisted a constituent in recovering over **\$50,000** owed by SERS and UC following their layoff from a state agency.



Keeping You Informed:
A Look Back at Your Concerns
I'm committed to providing strong constituent services and keeping you informed about the work we're doing. This year, our office has assisted over **2,194** constituents with a total of **4,544** issues.

POP-UPS AT WEST OAK LANE SENIOR CENTER



As we have in many years past, my team and I have partnered with our friends at the West Oak Lane Senior Center to host state service pop-ups every fourth Thursday from February to June. We set up for two hours, helping seniors from across the district to renew their SEPTA senior fare card, apply for a Property Tax/Rent Rebate or receive consultation about other state services. Perhaps most importantly, offering services in West Oak Lane makes us more accessible to constituents who live furthest from my district office in Mount Airy. We always enjoy meeting seniors at these events and look forward to continuing this series of pop-ups next year!

PHENOMENAL WOMAN LUNCHEON

2024 marked the 6th annual Phenomenal Woman Celebration, where constituents nominate their friends and peers as "phenomenal women" and we celebrate the work they are doing in the community and their achievements. This year we had the most diverse group of honorees to date, including our youngest nominee – a high school senior who spearheaded the Senior-to-Senior Program at her high school, a transgender woman who has been at the forefront of LGBTQ+ advocacy in Philadelphia and a 94-year-old "neighborhood mother." It was a privilege to pay tribute to these women, along with the other honorees, for the indelible mark they are leaving on their communities.



SENIOR TO SENIOR SPRING

In February, we launched the fifth cohort of the Senior-to-Senior program, a collaborative initiative aimed at bridging the generation gap through technology education. The



program consisted of a five-week course that paired senior citizens with high school students from Hill-Freedman and Parkway Northwest High Schools, in partnership with Chestnut Hill College. In this cohort, we successfully brought together 34 seniors who were eager to enhance their technological skills with the guidance of 37 enthusiastic students. The sessions focused on practical skills such as using smartphones, navigating social media and accessing online resources, fostering meaningful intergenerational connections while empowering seniors to confidently engage with modern technology. This program exemplifies our commitment to community engagement and lifelong learning, enriching the lives of both seniors and students alike. If you or someone you know might be interested in signing up for our sixth cohort of Senior-to-Senior this upcoming fall, please give my office a call at (215) 242-7300!

WILLS WORKSHOP

At the end of January, we hosted a wills workshop, drawing over 75 people. The event featured an informative presentation from Community Legal Services, which provided attendees with valuable insights into the significance of having a will. The presentation highlighted how wills are crucial for seniors, ensuring that their assets are distributed according to their wishes, avoiding potential legal disputes and providing peace of mind. The workshop emphasized the importance of having a legally sound will, especially for seniors, to protect their legacy and ensure their final wishes are respected. The high turnout and engagement underscored the community's recognition of the importance of estate planning. Due to the high demand for such important information, I will be hosting additional estate planning workshops in the fall.



RECYCLING WORKSHOP

I hosted an engaging Recycling Workshop in May aimed at educating our community on sustainable waste management practices. The highlight of the event was an informative presentation by representatives from the Philadelphia Streets Department, who provided valuable insights into the city's recycling processes and the critical importance of proper recycling. Attendees learned how to identify recyclable materials, the impact of contamination in recycling streams and practical tips for reducing waste. 2-1-5 are the magic numbers; if an item has one of these numbers on the bottom, then you can recycle it! To encourage active participation and support ongoing recycling efforts, we ensured that people had the option to leave with their very own recycling bin. The workshop underscored the vital role of recycling correctly, emphasizing that proper recycling not only conserves resources and reduces landfill waste but also supports the overall health of our environment.



SUPPER SESSIONS

Supper Sessions is one of my favorite events of the summer! Local restaurants and businesses, food trucks from across Philadelphia, and residents from the farthest reaches of Mount Airy flock to Germantown Avenue for a summer kickoff event of epic proportions. This year, my team set up right outside the office and passed out information about state services and our upcoming events, answered legislative questions, played corn hole, connect four and had a fantastic time eating delicious food and chatting with our fantastic neighbors. While I was disappointed to miss this first night of Supper Sessions, I look forward to the next one and hope to see you all there.





SCAMS WORKSHOP

In May, we hosted a Scams Workshop that featured an informative presentation from a representative of the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office. The session covered common scam practices and provided practical advice on how to identify and avoid falling victim to these schemes. As scams (scammers) become more sophisticated, it is of the utmost importance that we protect ourselves. By equipping people with the knowledge and tools to recognize and respond to fraudulent activities, we aim to foster a safer and more vigilant community. This proactive approach is essential in mitigating the risks posed by scammers and ensuring the well-being of our community members.

WALK PROGRAM

Those who know me know I am a self-proclaimed map geek through and through! Early this spring, as my team and I were inspecting the various maps of our district that hang in the office, we noticed that two census tracts of District 200 have median income levels that are considerably lower than their neighboring tracts. In digging further, we found that both tracts have comparatively low levels of correspondence with me and my team. We did not have contact information for many residents of these tracts, which greatly hampers our efforts to share information about the valuable state resources that my office can provide. So, we figured that the most effective way to connect with this area of District 200 was to lace up our sneakers and walk the streets knocking on doors and talking to residents face-to-face. This was a new form of outreach for my team and me, so we spent months planning and coordinating. Finally, at the end of May, we hit the streets of the district for a test run of "Rep Rabb's Doorstep Dialogue Tour." In two days, we knocked more than 250 doors! We spoke to a plethora of constituents, some were well versed in the services provided by my office, while others had never heard the name Rep Rabb. Speaking to constituents at their doorstep, hearing about their passions, and their needs, was both informational and inspiring, and my team and I cannot wait for Round 2 this coming fall.



SHREDDING EVENT

June 1 was our first shredding event of 2024, and this year, for the first time, I partnered with my colleague and neighbor, State Senator Art Haywood. In addition to disposing of sensitive documents, we also collected expired and unneeded medication and old and unused electronics. By our count, more than 500 cars drove through the line – I would say it was an enormous success! I'd like to give a huge thank you to Senator Haywood and his entire team for their part in planning and executing this great event. I'd also like to thank the Mu Omega Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Par Electronics Recycling, and to the Office of the District Attorney for their help. After the success of our Spring shredding event, I am looking forward to the next shredding event on Sept. 21 – so mark your calendar.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Rep. RABB'S
ANNUAL GROWN FOLKS FALL FESTIVAL
 to enhance the mind, body, and soul of seniors
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH
 12pm-3pm
 Woodcrest United Church of Christ
 8100 Block of Thouron Ave
 Rain date: October 12th

Rep. RABB
REP RABB'S DROP, ROLL, OR STROLL FALL PAPER SHREDDING & MEDICATION DISPOSAL DAY
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST
 11AM-1PM
NEW COVENANT CAMPUS
 7500 GERMANTOWN AVE., 19119

Rep. RABB
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP
SAVE THE DATE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH
 Join Rep Rabb for a conversation about tracing our ancestry through time!





Rep. RABB

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MY OFFICE CAN HELP WITH...

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications
- PennDOT services, such as car registrations, handicap placards or titles
- Unemployment Compensation issues
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Consumer complaints
- Notary services for state documents
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Birth and death certificates

And any other questions about state government!

STATE PROGRAMS

Last year, we expanded the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, making more than 175,000 more Pennsylvanians eligible, on top of increasing the top refund for both homeowners and renters to \$1,000.

And in even better news, the deadline to file for the expanded Property Tax/Rent Rebate was recently extended to Dec. 31.

If you haven't applied yet, or are unsure if you're eligible, contact my office and we'll help you through the process!

Property Tax / Rent Rebate 2024 Program Expansion
 MORE people eligible, MORE money back!

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

Deadline extended to **December 31, 2024**

Expansión del Programa de Reembolso del Impuesto sobre la Propiedad/Alquiler 2024
 MÁS personas elegibles, ¡MÁS dinero devuelto!

Ingresos de Propietarios e Inquilinos	Reembolso Máximo
Hasta \$8,000	\$1,000
Hasta \$15,000	\$770
Hasta \$18,000	\$460
Hasta \$45,000	\$380

Extendido hasta el **31 de diciembre de 2024**