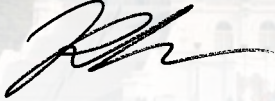


# Dear Neighbor,

I hope this finds you well and healthy. As winter gets into full swing and we await the warmer days of spring, I wanted to keep you up to date on what I've been doing in our community and in Harrisburg, as well as update you on available state programs. As your State Representative for the 188th Legislative District in West Philly, it is my honor to serve you. If you ever need assistance with state programs or services, feel free to stop by my office or give us a call.

Sincerely,



State Rep. Rick Krajewski



## STATE REPRESENTATIVE **RICK KRAJEWSKI**

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# UPDATES FROM HARRISBURG

## Passing the Budget

This December, Pennsylvania lawmakers finally finished our annual budget process! In negotiations with Republicans, who hold the majority in the state Senate, we didn't get everything we hoped for, but we made significant progress. **We won historic funding for child care, public defenders, and school facility repairs, all while stopping Republican lawmakers from giving our tax dollars to private schools.**

Governing in a divided legislature isn't easy, but I'm proud to stand with both other Democrats and the newly formed Progressive Caucus, which I'm a leader of, to make sure that our state government supports working people and families.



## Fighting for Vulnerable Children — H.B. 1058 Becomes Law!

This fall my kinship care legislation, H.B. 1058, unanimously passed the House and Senate and was signed into law by Governor Shapiro!

Too often when children are in custody proceedings, potential kinship care providers (like grandparents) are excluded from the process and young people end up with foster parents they've never met. This bill guarantees that kinship care providers are considered in child custody hearings in order to help kids stay with loved ones and in their communities.

I'm grateful for the countless advocates, activists, and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who came together to support some of PA's most vulnerable youth.



# UPDATES FROM HARRISBURG

## Overhauling Philly's Dangerous Eviction Process

When two Philadelphians were shot during botched evictions over the summer, I got straight to work fighting to reform Philadelphia's corrupt and dangerous for-profit eviction system.

Working with housing advocates across the city and state, I drafted a bill, H.B. 287, which would overhaul Philadelphia's eviction process by requiring that evictions be carried out by a public entity, receive oversight from a review board and involve accompanying behavioral health professionals. After organizing a hearing in August, I'm proud to say that my bill was approved by the PA House Housing and Community Development Committee!

It is time to halt the unaccountable for-profit behavior of the LTO, the only private entity performing evictions in Pennsylvania, and provide a model for publicly accountable evictions that can be replicated statewide. Evictions can be the worst day in someone's life, and we need to do everything we can to make sure they're carried out safely and with compassion.



## Protecting Tenants by Sealing Eviction Records Statewide

Beyond Philadelphia, I'm also fighting for housing justice across the Commonwealth. Under current law, any Pennsylvanian that faces an eviction hearing will have a record. This is seriously wrong. Facing an eviction hearing is terrifying and there's no reason it should haunt someone for the rest of their life, even when no eviction ever takes place.

I teamed up with my colleagues Reps. Ismail Smith-Wade-EI, Elizabeth Fiedler and Jordan Harris and our Senate friends Sens. Jay Costa, Nikil Saval and Judy Schwank to hold a press conference highlighting our upcoming legislation, which would seal records in cases when no eviction occurs, as well as in no-fault evictions. We need to get this bill passed and do so much more to ensure housing for all.

As housing costs skyrocket, the Pennsylvanians who are dealing with evictions are overwhelmingly working class, Black and brown. They are victims of domestic abuse, laid-off workers and our neighbors struggling to make ends meet in an unfair economy. They should be supported in their housing search, not punished.



## Rep. Krajewski Elected Chair of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing

I'm excited to share that I was elected to serve as Chair of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing. The commission is responsible for creating and maintaining sentencing guidelines, leading new research and consulting the legislature on policy. As a longtime advocate for mass liberation, and even more so, as someone with family who has been directly involved in the criminal legal system, these issues are deeply personal and important to me. I look forward to getting to work in 2024!





# EVENTS IN THE DISTRICT

## Supporting Unions

This was an exciting and successful season for the labor movement! In September, when unions in Philadelphia and around the country were on strike, I was proud to stand with many of them on the picket line.

Right here in the 188th, my friends in the House and Senate and I joined together to make it loud and clear that cafeteria workers and climate staff in the School District of Philadelphia needed a fair contract. On the eastern side of our district, I organized with Philly AFL-CIO to help form the Coalition of Workers at Penn. And when UAW workers went on a nationwide strike, my friend Sen. Nikil Saval and I were right there with them.

Supporting union drives, strikes and contract campaigns is crucial to my agenda. Every fight with the labor movement brings us closer to winning power for the entire working class!



## Shred Event Recap

In October, my office held our fall shred event and I'm happy to report that it was a huge success, with over 110 of our neighbors served. Councilmember Jamie Gauthier stopped by, and we had great conversations with the community.



## Hug the Block

In early November, I teamed up with Philly Truce for one of their "Operation Hug the Block" peace patrols. We walked around the community at 52nd and Woodland Avenue calling attention to gun violence and asking our neighbors to take part in disrupting the cycle. I'm so impressed by this initiative which is showing the city that when we come together and let our neighbors lead, we can stop the violence block by block.



## Community Resource Fair

In late November, my office joined First Corinthian Baptist Church for a community resource fair. We had a blast letting folks from the district know about the multitude of state services we offer.



## Winter Coat Drive

In December, my office, along with the 48th and Woodland Recreation Center, hosted a holiday coat giveaway. As temperatures drop, we have to make sure our families and neighbors have everything necessary to brave the winter months.



# PROGRAMS

## Whole Home Repairs Program

Whole Home Repair funds are open for applications to Homeowners and Landlords. In Philadelphia, they're being administered through programs at the Philadelphia Housing Development Corp.

### Eligibility for homeowners:

- Earning up to 60% of the area median income.
- Additional funding may be leveraged to make homes healthy, safe, and energy efficient.

### Eligibility for landlords:

- Own 5 properties or less.
- Funds are distributed through the Rental Improvement Fund (RIF) Program.

These funds must address habitability concerns, energy or water efficiency improvements, or accessibility for persons with disabilities.

For more information, to see if you qualify and to apply, visit <https://dpdhousingbenefits.phdcphila.org/#/>.

**WHOLE HOME REPAIRS**

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- ★ Habitability concerns
- ★ Energy or water efficiency improvements
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Find out your eligibility for all PHDC programs. Fill out the Housing Benefits Tool at [phdcphila.org](https://phdcphila.org)

WHOLE HOME REPAIRS

## Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is accepting applications for the winter season.

LIHEAP helps families with low incomes pay their utility bills with a cash grant paid directly to the energy provider.

There are two ways to apply for LIHEAP:

- Online: Apply for benefits online using COMPASS, the online tool for Pennsylvanians to apply for health and human service programs and manage benefit information.
- On paper: You can download a paper application, print it, fill it out, and return it to your local county assistance office.

My office can assist you in filing out the application. **Please contact my office for assistance.**

**Need Energy Assistance?**  
2023-2024 LIHEAP Applications are **Now Open!**

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Need Energy Assistance?**  
2023-2024 LIHEAP Applications are Now Open!

| 2023-2024 Income Guidelines |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Household Size              | Maximum Annual Income |
| 1                           | \$21,870              |
| 2                           | \$29,580              |
| 3                           | \$37,290              |
| 4                           | \$45,000              |
| 5                           | \$52,710              |
| 6                           | \$60,420              |
| 7                           | \$68,130              |
| 8                           | \$75,840              |
| 9                           | \$83,550              |
| 10                          | \$91,260              |

Each additional person \$7,710

## Property Tax/ Rent Rebate Program

The state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, which benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with disabilities 18 or older, has gotten better.

As part of the budget, we increased the income limit to \$45,000, which means almost 175,000 more Pennsylvanians now qualify for a property tax or rent rebate.

**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!





State Representative  
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Winter  
 2024

State Representative | 188th Legislative District  
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## How can my office help you?

- ➔ Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications
- ➔ PennDOT services, such as car registrations, handicap placards or titles
- ➔ Unemployment Compensation issues
- ➔ Voter registration and absentee/mail-in ballot applications
- ➔ Birth and death certificates
- ➔ Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, 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

**Any other question about state government!**