

STATE REPRESENTATIVE EMILY KINKEAD

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Dear Neighbor,

As your state representative, I have the honor of working every day to make our communities stronger, our government fairer, and our future brighter. Whether it's connecting neighbors to resources that ease financial strain, securing investments for local projects, or advancing legislation to improve the lives of everyday Pennsylvanians, I'm proud of everything that my team and I accomplished for the people of the 20th Legislative District in 2025.

Inside this newsletter, you'll find details on the new Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit, expansions to anti-hunger programs, progress on my bills, and highlights from the many events, grants, and community projects my staff and I have supported.

Thank you for trusting me to be your voice in Harrisburg. I look forward to continuing this work together in the year ahead.

Warmly,

Emily Kinkead

The State Budget Helps Your Wallet!

The 2025-26 state budget delivered one of the most significant wins for Pennsylvania families in recent years: the creation of the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit. It will put money directly into the pockets of workers across our Commonwealth – if you qualify for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit, you will now automatically qualify for this new state-level credit, equal to 10% of your federal credit. It's estimated that 75,000 people in Allegheny County will qualify.

With every state budget, we're building on the idea that when families have stability, our entire economy grows stronger. In the 2024-25 budget, we expanded the state-level Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit so that parents now get triple the money.

I'll keep fighting in Harrisburg to make life more affordable for all Pennsylvanians.



A Note From the Dogs of District 20

Hi friends! It's us, Una and Jasper, the unofficial greeters, nap supervisors, and snack-crumb inspectors at Rep. Kinkead's Bellevue office. When we're not busy being extremely good dogs, we help Rep. Kinkead with the important work she does as a state representative.

Our favorite project of 2025 was helping spread the word about and expand resources that keep humans and their pets safe. We were so proud to support Rep. Kinkead's work with Crisis Center North to secure \$155,000 in state funding to expand their services, including a program that helps survivors of domestic violence find housing that includes their pets. We may not understand all the human words, but we definitely understand that everyone deserves a safe place, and no one should have to leave their best friend behind in a crisis.

So if you ever stop by the district office, you might see us hard at work and accepting gentle ear scratches as part of our rigorous constituent services. We love being part of the team and can't wait to welcome you!



Una (Left) and Jasper (Right)



Legislative Updates

Creating the Landslide and Sinkhole Insurance Program

Too many Pennsylvania homeowners, especially here in Allegheny County, are financially ruined every year because of landslides and sinkholes. There are essentially zero options to purchase insurance for these events on the private market. Since my first day in office, I've been working to create a state program for homeowners to purchase landslide

insurance. In 2025, my bipartisan bill (H.B. 589) with Rep. Valerie Gaydos passed the House with overwhelming support. Now, this long-overdue solution is in the hands of the state Senate, and I'm working hard every day to see that they get it across the finish line.

Legalizing Adult-Use Cannabis

By failing to legalize recreational cannabis, Pennsylvania is missing out on hundreds of millions of dollars in annual tax revenue and missing opportunities to strengthen public safety and our criminal justice system. Our medical program has operated safely for nearly a decade, yet we still lack a legal framework for adult-use – even as 24 other states, including almost all of our neighbors, have moved ahead. The result? We criminalize something most Pennsylvanians support, fuel an illicit market with no safety standards, and send millions in tax revenue across state lines.

That's why Rep. Abby Major and I introduced H.B. 20, a bipartisan, comprehensive cannabis legalization bill. Our proposal creates a well-regulated market that prioritizes public health, consumer safety, and social equity; supports small, local, and minority-owned businesses; and includes clean-slate provisions to repair decades of disproportionate harm from criminalization. It also invests in enforcement, youth prevention, and Pennsylvania's farmers while creating tens of thousands of jobs and generating hundreds of millions in revenue.

It's time for Pennsylvania to enter the recreational cannabis market with this responsible, just, and economically smart proposal.

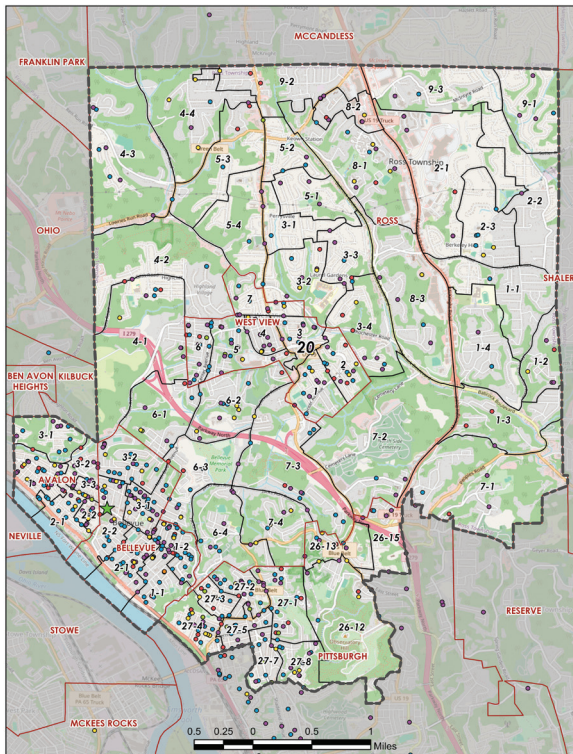


NEED ENERGY ASSISTANCE?

The **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** provides cash grants to help Pennsylvania families pay their heating bills. **APPLY NOW!**

Each dot on this map represents one of the thousands of people who my district office staff helped last year! In 2025 alone, we brought more than **\$265,000 back to local residents** through the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. And PTRR is just one of the state resources that we can connect you with. Call my office at (412) 321-5523 or email RepKinhead@pahouse.net to learn about how my staff and I can help you, your friends, and your family.

During the winter months, we help local households receive financial assistance of up to \$1,000 to help pay their heating bills through LIHEAP – the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Contact us today to see if you're eligible.



Ending Juvenile Fines & Fees (H.B. 1385)

This bill ends most fines and fees that trap young people in cycles of debt, punishment, and recidivism. It refocuses the juvenile system on rehabilitation – where it always should have been.

Limiting Solitary Confinement for Juveniles (H.B. 1384)

I've also introduced legislation to protect youth from the harms of solitary confinement, a practice proven to cause long-term trauma for children. My bill would ban solitary confinement as punishment or retaliation, require facilities to use less harmful interventions first, and strictly limit any emergency isolation. It also mandates clear communication with the young person, timely notification of their attorney, and accountability measures to ensure safe, humane treatment.

ID Upon Reentry (H.B. 728)

People returning home from incarceration often lack basic documents such as IDs, Social Security cards, or birth certificates – barriers that make it harder to work, rent, or pursue education. My bill ensures that these documents are ready for individuals upon release, improving safety and reducing recidivism.

Reforming Pennsylvania's Criminal Justice System

As a lawyer and an unwavering advocate for criminal justice reform, I've continued leading efforts to build a justice system grounded in fairness, rehabilitation, and community safety.



Fighting Hunger in Pennsylvania



As House Chair of the Legislative Hunger Caucus, combating food insecurity remains one of my top priorities. It's estimated that one in eight Pennsylvanians is food insecure, and federal cuts to SNAP will only make it worse. In 2025, I gathered with advocates, farmers, and state and community leaders across the Commonwealth to sound the alarm on the hunger crisis.



I even made an appearance at PNC Park, teaming up with the Pittsburgh Pirates to call for greater investments in hunger solutions!

"Hunger is solvable – when all levels of government work together, we can make sure that everyone has access to healthy, nutritious food."



At my third annual Seeds in the City luncheon, local leaders, urban farmers, and state officials including Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding came together to discuss how community-driven agriculture can expand food access and strengthen our regional food system. We enjoyed delicious, farm-to-table food made by Manchester Bidwell culinary students!



While the Capitol Hunger Garden's record harvest of 1,192 pounds of fresh produce this season is worth celebrating, the historic investments in our state-level anti-hunger programs that my colleagues and I on the Hunger Caucus fought for in the state budget are victories that will help every Pennsylvanian facing food insecurity. There is now **more than \$40 million** in budget funding dedicated to helping food banks, strengthening the State Food Purchase Program, expanding resources like farmer's market coupons, and, ultimately, ensuring that no one in Pennsylvania goes hungry. At a time when the federal government is failing to feed hungry Pennsylvanians, our Commonwealth is stepping up.



I was honored with a Legislator of the Year Award from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for my ongoing work to create a universal meals program for Pennsylvania public schools.

Supporting Our Community



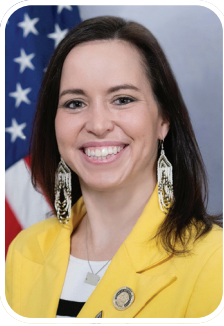
Working with state and local partners, I helped secure more than **\$4.5 million in state grant** funding for projects across our district in 2025. This money is helping fund things such as lead water line replacement, equipment for first responders, ADA upgrades to local parks, and more! If you want to learn more about state grants, please contact my office.



We had a wonderful time connecting with all of you at Trunk-or-Treat events across the 20th Legislative District!



Thanks to the more than 200 attendees who came out to my annual senior fair in the fall! I hope to see you at this year's fair.



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Legislative Year In Review

- ✓ **\$4.5 MILLION** in State Grant Money Brought Back to the District
- ✓ **\$265,857** Property Tax/Rent Rebate Money Returned
- ✓ **2,002** Total Casework Solved
- ✓ **186** Bills Sponsored or Co-Sponsored
- ✓ **Landslide Insurance Bill Passed by the House**

DISTRICT OFFICE SERVICES

My team and I can help you with:

- ✓ Property Tax/Rent Rebate
- ✓ PennDOT Services
- ✓ Help with Unemployment
- ✓ LIHEAP
- ✓ PRT Senior ConnectCards

lpo.aa.0126

LOOK INSIDE FOR MORE DETAILS!

Proudly serving Avalon, Bellevue, Ross Township, West View, and parts of Pittsburgh.



2025-26 PA BUDGET WINS



Creating the **Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit** – recipients of the federal EITC automatically qualify for a new state-level credit equivalent to 10% of their federal credit.



Nearly 75,000 people in Allegheny County are expected to qualify.

Visit houseappropriations.com for more budget details.



- State budget delivers tax relief • Cannabis legalization efforts
- New funding to fight hunger • And more!

STATE REP. EMILY KINKEAD'S

VETERANS ASSISTANCE

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION AND VFW ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU WITH:

- COMPENSATION AND PENSION CLAIMS
- EDUCATION BENEFITS
- ENROLLMENT IN THE VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
- BURIAL AND SURVIVORS BENEFITS
- STATE BENEFITS
- MILITARY PERSONNEL AND MEDICAL RECORDS



10 A.M. – 2 P.M.

LOCATION & STATUS KEY
AMERICAN LEGION
VFW
OFFICE CLOSED

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
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