



State Representative

REGINA G. YOUNG

185th Legislative District

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Summer 2024

Dear Neighbor,

I hope your summer has been going well and, like me, you're looking forward to the autumn months and holidays ahead. As this summer began in Harrisburg, we completed a historic budget for Pennsylvania that finally provided equitable funding for all school districts, continued investments in workforce development, jobs, and local businesses, protecting healthcare, public safety and so much more.

This newsletter will outline how those investments will help us Thrive in the 185! We also held several events across South and Southwest Philadelphia, Tincum Township and Colwyn Borough, while my team and I knocked on many doors across the district on our Neighborhood Tour to talk directly to you about the services and resources that are available through my office.

As always, please reach out to me and my team in our Southwest Philly or Essington offices for help with city and state services and to find out how we can best serve you. Information is power, and we love to connect our neighbors with all the info you need!

Regina Young



Historic Education Funding in the PA Budget



We celebrated this historic achievement at G.W. Childs Elementary in the Point Breeze neighborhood of South Philadelphia with the House Majority Appropriations Chairman Rep. Jordan Harris, PA Secretary of Education Dr. Khalid N. Mumin, and



many more officials and advocates. Scan the QR code to watch my comments from after that event!

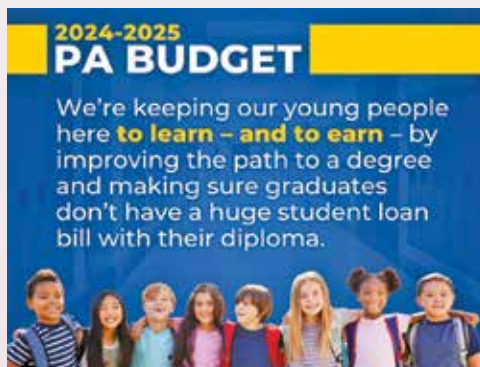


All budgets are a statement of priorities, and it's clear in this budget that our priority is educating our young people equitably and fairly with **historic funding increases to our public schools**. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I was thrilled that our state budget for 2024-25 is informed by the work of the Basic Education Funding Commission and the House Education Committee, of which I am also a member, and gives an equitable footing to all K-12 students no matter what ZIP code they live in.

Locally, the School District of Philadelphia is seeing a 13.5% increase in funding while in Delco, the Interboro School District gets a 10.6% increase, and the William Penn School District will see a 16.5% increase! Education is Power, and we are now giving our young people in South and Southwest Philly, Tinicum and Colwyn a level playing field with our neighboring suburban districts in Delco.



Continuing our efforts to improve the education experience for students, this budget allocated \$100 million for the Public School Facility Improvement Grant Program, which will aid in cleaning up our toxic school facilities across Pennsylvania – particularly in our area where our school buildings are so old and in disrepair. Students, teachers and staff shouldn't have to worry about the air they breathe and the water they drink while they're busy learning and growing.



To support our institutions of higher education, the **Grow Pennsylvania Scholarship Program** is our innovative way to fight brain drain and keep Pennsylvania's best and brightest right here in our commonwealth. Grants are awarded to students who are PA residents, attend a college or university in-state, and commit to working in Pennsylvania for a number of years equal to their scholarships received.

There are so many victories for our communities in the 185th in this budget. You can see a summary of everything included by scanning the QR code.



Team 185 Goes to Harrisburg!

I brought my district staff and interns to spend the day with me at the Capitol! Everyone enjoyed seeing our beautiful Capitol building, the gorgeous House Chamber, and learned more about the legislative process by attending committee meetings with me.



Environmental Incident at Bartram's Garden

In July, my office was notified of potential environmental contamination discovered along the Bartram's Mile Trail near Bartram's Garden and the Schuylkill River. We eventually learned that the discharge from the Alliance 51st Street facility was first reported and discovered in April 2024 when the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) began soil sampling. Between the April discovery and the July notification there was a serious breakdown of communication between agencies, which is not acceptable. On July 31, 2024, I convened a virtual Town Hall Meeting, bringing together city and state agencies to explain the situation, deliver accurate communication and try to ease the concerns of our community. The Philadelphia Water Dept. assured us that our public water was not affected or under risk of contamination from this site, nor were any neighboring communities. The DEP outlined their processes and what they've discovered so far and their plans for moving forward. Disappointingly, several agencies did not accept our invitation so there are still unanswered questions. However, my office, along with state Sen. Anthony H. Williams, Councilmember Jamie Gauthier and others will continue to follow up until we have a clear picture of why there was a communication breakdown and how to avoid it in the future, along with a complete picture of the remediation necessary at the Alliance 51st Street facility.

I encourage you to review our meeting and check out the resources for follow-up by scanning the QR code.



Make Your Plan to Vote

Your vote is your voice, and your voice deserves to be heard loud and clear when it comes to your government.

Now is the time to make you plan to vote in the Nov. 5 general election, when we'll be electing our president, one of two U.S. Senators, our Congressional delegation and state offices.

In Pennsylvania, you can vote by mail, place your completed mail ballot in secure drop boxes throughout Philadelphia and Delaware County or vote in person. Please save these important deadlines so your voice can be heard.





Summer 2024 Neighborhood Tour

This summer, my staff and I have been knocking on doors across nearly every neighborhood in the 185th Legislative District to let folks know about the services and resources available through our office. I hope we were able to see you but if we missed you, please contact one of my offices to find out how we can serve you!



Progress on My Legislation

HB 491 - Expanding the Use of Mechanical Insulation in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs – the bill would make sure energy efficiency plans in the state are not being denied or delayed due to the use of this material.

Passed the House, awaiting Senate committee action

HB 1354 - Increase Penalties for Child Labor Act Violations – the bill would ensure that employers are properly held accountable for exploiting Pennsylvania's children.

Passed the House, awaiting Senate committee action.

Awaiting House Action

HB 2455 – Human Trafficking Awareness Training – the bill would require that hotel and motel associates be trained to understand what human trafficking is, how to identify it, and what steps to take if suspected trafficking is taking place.

HB 1076 – Procedures for Closing Public Schools – the bill would provide a clear process for administrators to follow when closing a school building due to financial, enrollment or other reasons, or due to charter revocation. Parents and students will take precedence!

HB 1470 – Compensation for the Wrongfully Convicted – the bill would authorize just restitution for those who are wrongfully convicted. It's long overdue for PA to right these wrongs.

HB 1469 – Dignity for Incarcerated Women: Healthy Inmate Re-entry – the bill would make sure citizens being released from incarceration have access to and information on the social services programs for which they may be eligible.

HB 489 – Pre-Canvassing Mail-in and Absentee Ballots – the bill would ease the burdens placed on county boards of elections by providing more time before the polls close to open, sort, and count the votes from all mail-in and absentee ballots.

HB 488 – Allow Earlier Pre-Canvassing – the bill would permit the pre-canvassing of absentee and mail-in ballots up to 21 days before election day.

HB 143 – Pennsylvania Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program – the bill would forgive up to \$40,000 in student loans for teachers who serve a Pennsylvania school for at minimum four years, so that we can fill in the rampant staffing gaps in our schools.

HB 490 – Let Voters Fix Their Signatures – the bill would require county boards of elections to notify voters if their mail-in or absentee ballot signature does not match their signature on file, so that voters have time to fix it. This will help avoid disenfranchising voters.



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**

Rebates for Seniors

More people than ever are eligible for the Pennsylvania Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. If you haven't applied yet, don't worry! The deadline to apply has been extended to December 31. The program is open to people 65 and older, widows and widowers 50 and older, and those over age 18 with a disability who meet income guidelines. To find out if you are eligible or to get help applying, please contact my office.



Working to Keep Students Safe

I am proud to announce my appointment to the School Safety and Security Committee! This committee works as part of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to create standards and grants to make schools safer for all PA students. It's an honor to work for the improved safety of our kids!



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lpo.ks.0824

Do you need help with **PENNDOT?**

My office can help you with

 Disability placards & plates	 Change of name or address	 Registration renewals
 Duplicate car registrations & titles	 Antique or classic license plates	 Personalized plates
 License plate surrender	 License restoration	 Reduced registration fees <small>*For those who qualify</small>

Questions? Contact my office to learn more about the PennDOT services we offer!






i DID YOU KNOW?

My office is available to process SEPTA Senior Key Card requests.

Seniors **65 + older** are eligible to travel for **FREE** on all PA SEPTA service lines with a **SEPTA Key Card**.



Contact my office:

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