



STATE REPRESENTATIVE Donna Bullock

195th Legislative District

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Winter 2018

2017-2018 Budget Passes

After months of negotiations, the long-awaited 2017-2018 state budget finally passed. Although we passed a spending plan in June, Republicans did not allow us to pass a full state budget until late October. This means that for five months, Pennsylvania had a more than \$2 billion budget deficit. Through it all, I worked with my colleagues to get the job done and secure the services Pennsylvanians depend on. The budget contains much to applaud, but it also came up short in some important areas. Here are some key takeaways:

Funding for Education: Philadelphia schools received an additional \$30 million in basic education and an additional \$4 million in special education.

Pennsylvania's Credit Rating Drop: Due to constant Republican-driven delays, Pennsylvania's credit rating was downgraded by S&P Global. This means that the next time our commonwealth has to borrow money to repair roads or balance a future budget, it will be more expensive. This also means that more taxpayer dollars will go towards interests and fees rather than paying for the services you rely on.

Increased Gaming: The gaming industry saw a major expansion in online gambling, access to interactive games and the availability of gambling at Pennsylvania airports and truck stops. While these investments rely on working families betting large amounts of money, the proceeds do go toward vital programs for our seniors, including grants to senior centers, shared rides, and long-term care.

No Broad-based Tax Increases: The budget does not include any broad-based tax increases on Pennsylvania families.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I will continue to speak up during the budget process so that Philadelphia families receive the resources they deserve.

Major investments in the 195th District

Philadelphia Schools

- Additional \$30,223,014 in state basic education funding to bring the total amount to \$1,067,174,076
- Additional \$4,004,692 in special education to bring the total to \$142,461,691
- Ready To Learn block grant of \$40,368,660

Philadelphia Art Museum

- Awarded a \$3 million grant to perform roadway and multimodal improvements to Anne d'Harnoncourt Drive

Philadelphia Zoo

- Awarded a \$500,000 state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant to construct a new Guest Food Service Hub

Philadelphia Metropolitan Opera House

- Awarded a \$1 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant to complete the theater's exterior restoration

Smith Memorial Playground/Playhouse

- Awarded a \$1 million state grant to turn the playground into a safe haven for children in the 195th District

Philadelphia Girls' Rowing Club

- Awarded an \$80,000 Keystone grant to restore the exterior of the PGRC's boathouse – a National Historic Landmark along Boathouse Row

Improving pedestrian safety

- A \$436,340 state grant to conduct a second phase of pedestrian safety improvements on Pennsylvania Avenue near the Philadelphia Museum of Art

Community First

An Office Without Walls BY THE NUMBERS



5,336
Constituents
Helped

34

Legislation
authored



81

Events attended/
provided
services

379

Legislation
co-sponsored



562

Property Tax/
Rent Rebate
Applications



40
Events
Hosted

Data is from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.



At 30th Street Station discussing how we can better commemorate African American contributions to Philadelphia and Pennsylvania.

Safeguarding a Legacy

I'm a strong believer in building upon the legacy and contributions of those who came before us. Congressman William H. Gray III is one of those people. In September, I participated in a news conference urging Amtrak to fulfill its promise to rename 30th Street Station after the late congressman. Congressman Gray fought to ensure that Amtrak had its funding restored as well as provided 30th Street Station with its largest investment in infrastructure restoration. In 2014, the U.S. Congress unanimously passed H.R. 419, which President Obama signed, to rename the station in Congressman Gray's memory. As vice chairwoman of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, I'm glad that Amtrak will finally uphold its promise and honor the work of Congressman Gray.

Golden Life Senior Fair



I enjoyed spending time with our seniors at my Golden Life Senior Fair 2017, which provided our seniors with direct access to resources and specialized service providers.

In addition to advocating for legislation, my staff and I work tirelessly to bring resources right to the community. Through pop-up offices, workshops, neighborhood walk-throughs, policy mixers, senior fairs, and the Girard Avenue Street Festival, the 195th District is an "office without walls."

These events have several benefits. First, community events allow my office to connect with residents right where they are, whether that's in school, a community center or a place of worship.

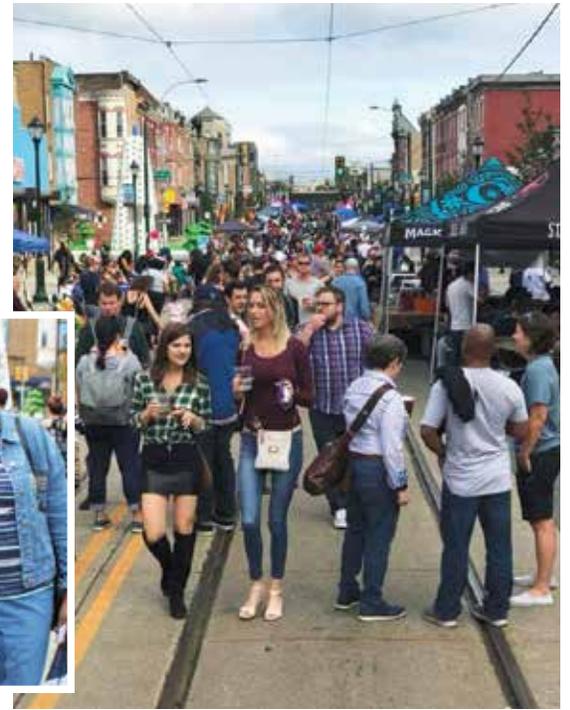
Second, community events encourage neighbors, both long-term residents and newcomers, to become more engaged, to volunteer for the common good, or to support local businesses.

Lastly, community events foster community pride. As our neighborhoods experience growth, events like these are critical to the improvement of our communities, as well as for the preservation of their unique histories and cultures. They remind us why neighborhoods like Brewerytown, Mantua, Strawberry Mansion, Fairmount, Powelton Village, Francisville, Sharswood and Spring Garden are so special. **When we love where we live, work and play, our communities thrive.**

Girard Avenue Street Festival

In October, the Girard Avenue Street Festival welcomed local vendors, community resources, and hundreds of residents to Girard Avenue.

I was honored to present the West Girard Community Council with a citation for their 13 years of dedication to the well-being of our community.



Ground Breakings and Ribbon Cuttings



In September, I joined the community to celebrate the grand opening of the Strawberry Mansion Police Athletic League Center at the former L.P. Hill School.

I looked for birds at the ground breaking for the Discovery Center located in the East Park section of Fairmount Park.



Students helped out with the groundbreaking of the Community Partnership School on Glenwood Avenue. The school is currently located at the Honickman Center in North Philadelphia.



In September, I spoke at the Industrious Light mural dedication event at 31st and Master streets. This mural is a nod to Brewerytown's role in the brewing industry.



Legislative Corner

This legislative session, I introduced and supported various bills to improve the quality of life for residents in the 195th District. Below you will find just a few examples:

✓ **“Stop and Go” Reform (Act 44 of 2017):** In November, Governor Wolf signed a bill (H.B. 674, now Act 44 of 2017) that would finally crack down on nuisance bars and establishments in our communities. This bill included language from legislation I previously introduced and allows the Liquor Control Board to immediately shut down a “stop and go” for violations of the Liquor Code.



In November, I joined Governor Tom Wolf for the signing of the “stop and go” bill to hold businesses accountable.

Fair Chance Housing (H.B. 514): Similar to Ban the Box legislation for employment, this legislation would prohibit landlords from asking certain questions about a tenant’s criminal background, unless those questions are in regards to felony or misdemeanor convictions.

Parental Involvement Leave (H.B. 515): I know the challenge of balancing both work and parenting. This legislation would make it easier by providing eligible parents with unpaid leave to attend school-related activities.

✓ **Keeping Seniors in PACE and PACENET (H.B. 516):** I introduced legislation that would prevent recipients of PACE and PACENET prescription-drug coverage from being removed from the programs if their income increases due to a Social Security cost-of-living adjustment. Act 62 passed with similar language extending eligibility for the program until 2019.

Freedom To Work (H.B. 1590): Some employers are requiring low-wage workers (such as janitors and home health care workers) to sign non-compete clauses preventing them from seeking work after termination. I introduced this legislation to prohibit the practice for low-wage jobs in Pennsylvania.

Prohibition of Straight Pipes (H.B. 1299): In response to complaints of motorcycle noise in our neighborhoods, I introduced legislation that would prohibit the operation of a motorcycle with a straight-through exhaust system that does not contain baffles or does not meet current muffler requirements.

✓ **Prohibition of Lunch Shaming (H.B. 1403):** After learning that children were being branded with wristbands and stickers for not having lunch money, I introduced a bill that would end the practice of school-lunch shaming throughout Pennsylvania. In October, Gov. Tom Wolf signed a bill that included my school-lunch shaming legislation.

PA Solar for All (H.B. 1799): For many households, solar energy is still unaffordable. This bill would make solar energy more accessible to low-income communities.



I spoke at a news conference in September to discuss my PA Solar for All bill and a \$100,000 grant that would train people to become solar installers and energy auditors.

Anti-bullying Curriculum (H.B. 2009): Kids who bully become adults who harass. I introduced legislation requiring anti-bullying education in our schools.



I was excited to host members of the GESU School’s Justice League at my House Democratic Policy Hearing to discuss effective ways to end bullying in our schools.

Environmental Justice

Healthy Homes Workshop

In November, I hosted the “Is My Home Making Me Sick?” Healthy Home Workshop to provide residents with information on domestic toxins that can place them in grave danger. I was able to answer questions related to lead exposure, pest problems, as well as how to reduce potential health risks in our homes.

Environmental Justice Mixer

It was a packed house at my November Environmental Justice Mixer that took place in Mantua. We came together as a community to discuss the best ways to achieve a clean economy and how to ensure equitable access to clean jobs and training opportunities.



Down 20 by 2030

As a member of the Pennsylvania Joint Legislative Conservation Committee, I was honored to host a briefing to discuss the City of Philadelphia’s Municipal Energy Plan. This plan calls for a 20 percent reduction in energy consumption by 2030. After the briefing, we toured energy efficient upgrades at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Philadelphian condominium complex.



After energy upgrades, residents of The Philadelphian are using less energy and saving money.

Bullock tackles pollution’s effects on African American families

December 1, 2017



I joined Moms Clean Air Force and Defend Our Future to discuss a report created by the NAACP and Clean Air Task Force, which found that African Americans are exposed to 38 percent more polluted air than their white counterparts. The report also found that nearly 80,000 African Americans in Pennsylvania live within a half-mile radius of oil and gas facilities, placing our families at higher risk for asthma, cancer and other adverse health consequences.

According to a poll conducted by the National Resources Defense Council, 83 percent of African Americans supported the Clean Power Plan’s proposed limits on carbon production from coal and gas fired power plants. The poll also found that most African Americans think that the reduction of carbon pollution will create more and healthier jobs in renewable wind and solar energy.

On Jan. 11, I spoke at the Philadelphia Citizens Hearing on the Trump administration’s proposed Repeal of President Obama’s Clean Power Plan and its impact on communities of color.

Supporting Career Technical Education



In November, I toured the Philadelphia Technical Training Institute at Berean with state Department of Education Secretary Pedro Rivera to highlight the importance of investing in science technology engineering and math education.



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INSIDE:

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- District 195 Internship Program



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District 195 Internship Program

I am committed to making sure that volunteer and internship opportunities are available for young people in my office.

Interns are provided with on-the-job training and mentorship. They develop research, administrative, and community outreach skills, while learning how government works.

Interns from our office have gone on to other internship and fellowship opportunities, full-time employment in government, and two even ran for office. If you know of a hard-working, young resident living in the 195th District, please have them contact my office to learn more about our internship program.

Congratulations to our summer 2017 intern, Madison Gharghoury, (to my right) on being selected for an internship at the state Department of Education. Our interns rock!



Staff Spotlight: Meet Thomas Young

Thomas, my chief of staff, has been a strong force in my office since I was elected in 2015. Thomas is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations at our district office and often goes beyond the call of duty. He also serves as a positive role model to countless young people in the district and throughout Philadelphia.

Thomas teaching young men how to tie a tie at a male engagement event at the William D. Kelley School.

Save the Date!

2018 Senior Spring Fling Luncheon

**Friday, March 9, 2017
 Noon to 2 p.m.**

Honickman Learning Center

1936 Judson St.
 Philadelphia, PA 19121

Join Rep. Bullock for her 2018 Senior Spring Fling Luncheon. In addition to a free, healthy lunch, Rep. Bullock will provide information on resources available to older adults.

To attend, you must RSVP by calling 215-684-3738 by Friday, March 2, 2018.