



Winter 2019

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Ed Gainey

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE *OF THE 24TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT*



Community:
**Working to build a better
tomorrow – together**

Wilksburg, Homewood, East Liberty, East Hills, Lincoln-Lemington, Larimer,
North Point Breeze, Highland Park, Garfield and parts of Point Breeze
and Stanton Heights, Shadyside and Friendship.

Wilkinsburg-Homewood-East Liberty

Investing \$9 million in our community

Through a combination of state grants, tax credits and federal programs, I'm working hard to help expand local businesses, fund the redevelopment of vacant properties and help save and rehabilitate local cultural institutions.

\$1.2 million for the North Negley Avenue affordable housing project

\$200,000 for the Garfield Affordable Homeownership Project

\$1 million to support the Hunt Armory revitalization project

\$500,000 to repair the Homewood Coliseum

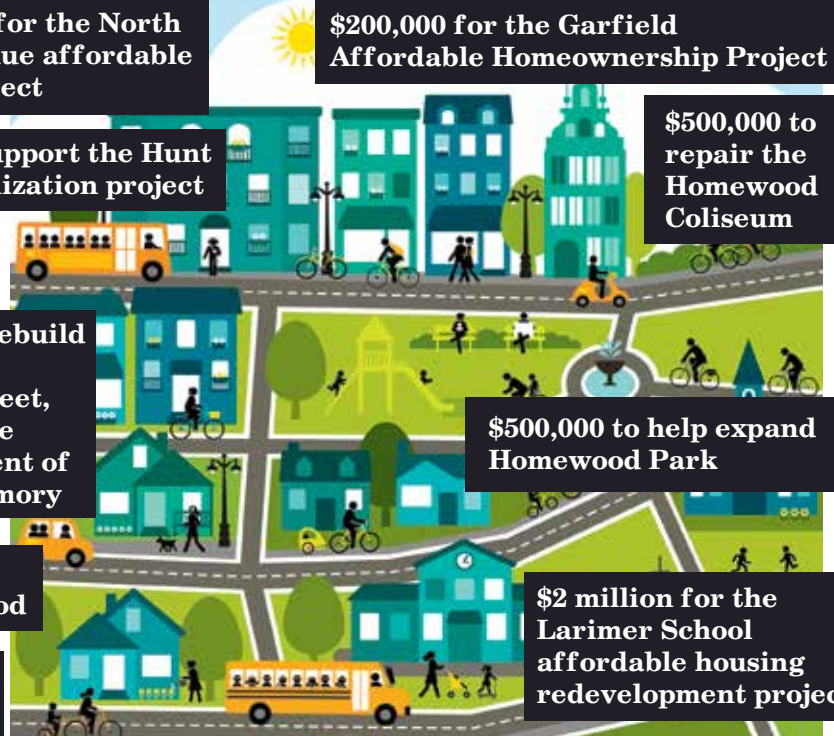
\$500,000 to rebuild a portion of Emerson Street, related to the redevelopment of the Hunt Armory

\$500,000 to help expand Homewood Park

\$200,000 to improve connections in Homewood

\$75,000 to rehabilitate the historic Highland Park Tunnel

\$2 million for the Larimer School affordable housing redevelopment project



**Thank you,
community, for
making my senior
fair a success!**



Legislative update

As your voice in Harrisburg, I'm working hard to push for the change we need to have safe, healthy communities for all, and to give the folks in our neighborhoods the tools and chances they need to build a better tomorrow.

My priorities include:

- **Banning assault weapons** – We must ban assault weapons, which have no place on our streets. Too many times, we've seen the wholesale damage and death these weapons can cause, and it's time to stop the violence.
- **Raising the minimum wage** – It's been 10 years since the minimum wage was raised in PA. There's a plan in the works to raise the wage to \$9.50, which is a good start, but it's not enough. Hardworking families need to be able to eat and to afford to live. We need a livable wage.
- **Ensuring athletes get a fair cut** – This fall I co-wrote legislation to allow college athletes to be paid. Universities and corporations make billions of dollars using the names and images of athletes, and at the end of the day, these athletes have nothing.
- **Hate crime legislation** – I've joined with state Rep. Dan Frankel and state Sen. Jay Costa to introduce legislation that would expand and update Pennsylvania's outdated hate crime laws. There are things that we shouldn't have to legislate – decency, tolerance, civility – and yet here we are, having to confront the ugly echoes of our past.



No one should be left out in the cold!

I want to let you know that the state's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is now accepting applications. LIHEAP helps low-income families pay their heating bills and deal with heating emergencies such as a broken furnace, fuel shortage or utility service shutoff.

Renters and homeowners who qualify can have a cash grant – which does not need to be repaid – sent directly

to their utility company or fuel provider. Grants range from \$200 to \$1,000 based on household size, income and fuel type. Crisis grants are also available.

Paper applications are available through local county assistance offices or my district office, and my staff can help you apply.

Opening Pathways 2 Pardons

This year, I hosted a Pathways 2 Pardons event to let folks know about the pardons process and connect them with organizations that can help them. Too often, a conviction for a mistake can be a life sentence, making it hard to find work or even a place to live.



The pardons process used to take about three years, but Lt. Gov. John Fetterman is working to cut that in half and has waived fees associated with the application. I want to make sure folks who have paid their debt to society have a second chance to get their lives back.



Don't miss out: Rent or property tax rebates are available

The deadline to file a state Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program application is December 31 and my office can see if you are eligible to apply.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates can boost it to \$975.

The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, but please don't assume you are not eligible. Half of Social Security income is discounted,

and people are not disqualified from rebates solely because of Social Security cost-of-living adjustments.

Questions?
Please contact my district staff for help and share this information with anyone you think may benefit.



Giving thanks for what we have and helping others this holiday season

As we head into the holiday season, we give thanks for what we have, but we also recognize there are a lot of families in our community that are struggling.

Before Thanksgiving, I was blessed to host my 4th annual Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway at the House of Manna in Homewood. Because while the holiday season is about being thankful for what we have, it's also about helping and serving our fellow people.

I want to thank everyone who helped us make sure folks in our community had a happy Thanksgiving. And I want to extend my best wishes to you and yours as well this holiday season.

*May you find peace
and love.*

Happy Holidays!

Ed.





STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Edward C. Gainey

103 Irvis Office Building
P.O. Box 202024
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2024

Website: www.pahouse.com/Gainey
Facebook: /RepEdGainey
Twitter: @RepGainey

lpo.kaf.1219

My office can help you with:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
 - Information on financial assistance for higher education
 - Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
 - Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
 - Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
 - Birth and death certificates
 - Problems with the Department of Health and Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
 - Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
 - Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
 - Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
 - Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
 - Complaints and problems with insurance companies
 - Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
 - Property Tax/Rent rebate problems or questions
 - Problems or questions about the state lottery
 - PACE cards for senior citizens
 - Consumer complaints
 - Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
 - Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
 - Information about federal, state and local government agencies
- If you need help with any state or government-related services, please feel free to contact my office at 412-665-5502 for assistance.



CAPITOL OFFICE:

103 Irvis Office Building
P.O. Box 202024
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2024
(717) 783-1017

DISTRICT OFFICE:

100 Sheridan Square, 3rd Floor
(across from CVS)
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
(412) 665-5502

Sign Up for Email Updates at
pahouse.com/Gainey
Click on Stay Connected

www.pahouse.com/Gainey