



State Representative | 20th Legislative District

ADAM RAVENSTAHL

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WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER PA

Hello,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family in good health. It has become a cliché to note how unprecedented this year has been, but these have indeed been trying times.

When we look back on this year, I believe it will be seen as a year in which our society – our community, our state, and our nation – passed through a great and terrible crucible. Like steel though, I believe that we can emerge from the forge stronger than when we entered, tempered by the trials we have endured. I have seen that strength throughout this year, in neighbors helping neighbors; in essential workers keeping our community moving; in families taking on the responsibility and stress of educating their children, even as they confront their own new work realities; in our frontline healthcare workers and first responders, who answered the call again, and again, putting themselves at risk; and in the seniors who graduated this year, whose academic year was cut short as they were cut adrift with no promises of what the next year will bring, yet faced this uncertain future with the irrepressible optimism of youth.

I and my office have played a small role in the state's response to this crisis, but it is one that I am proud of. Even as things went awry, my staff and I continued to find ways to help people during their most desperate hours. In Harrisburg, before bipartisanship turned to political rancor, the legislature passed a series of laws to quickly respond to the crisis, funding hospitals, extending unemployment, waiving red tape for healthcare workers and first responders, and giving our schools the flexibility they needed to keep our children safe.

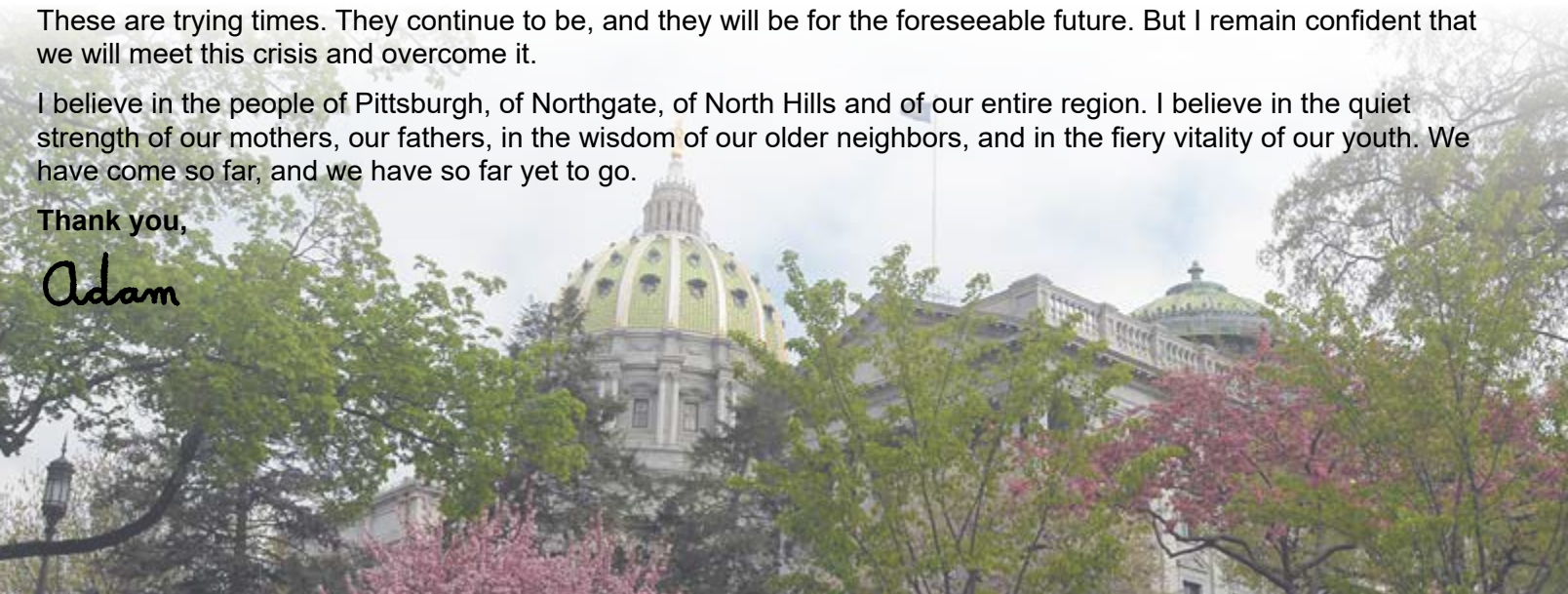
It has been an honor to serve you.

These are trying times. They continue to be, and they will be for the foreseeable future. But I remain confident that we will meet this crisis and overcome it.

I believe in the people of Pittsburgh, of Northgate, of North Hills and of our entire region. I believe in the quiet strength of our mothers, our fathers, in the wisdom of our older neighbors, and in the fiery vitality of our youth. We have come so far, and we have so far yet to go.

Thank you,

Adam



BUDGET UPDATE - UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Normally, the state legislature would spend June engaging in a month-long budget debate to finalize our annual spending plan by the end of the month. However, these are not normal times.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 health crisis restricted the revenue necessary to put a sound, realistic budget together for the full year. Instead, we passed a spending plan to last only six months.

That means that come November, I'll be fighting for a fair, balanced and timely budget that protects seniors, and invests in our children. It's not going to be easy – the crisis has wrecked our fiscal outlook, making it hard, if not impossible, to predict what next year will bring.

However, as more funds become available, I will be doing my part to make sure that every dollar and tax credit provided make the largest positive impact on our communities and that we also hold these programs accountable in their spending.

ALMOST \$1.1M AWARDED TO LOCAL WATER, SEWER PROJECTS

Several local water and sewer projects – including one to replace cast iron water lines more than 100 years old – were recently selected to receive nearly \$1.1 million in state funding.

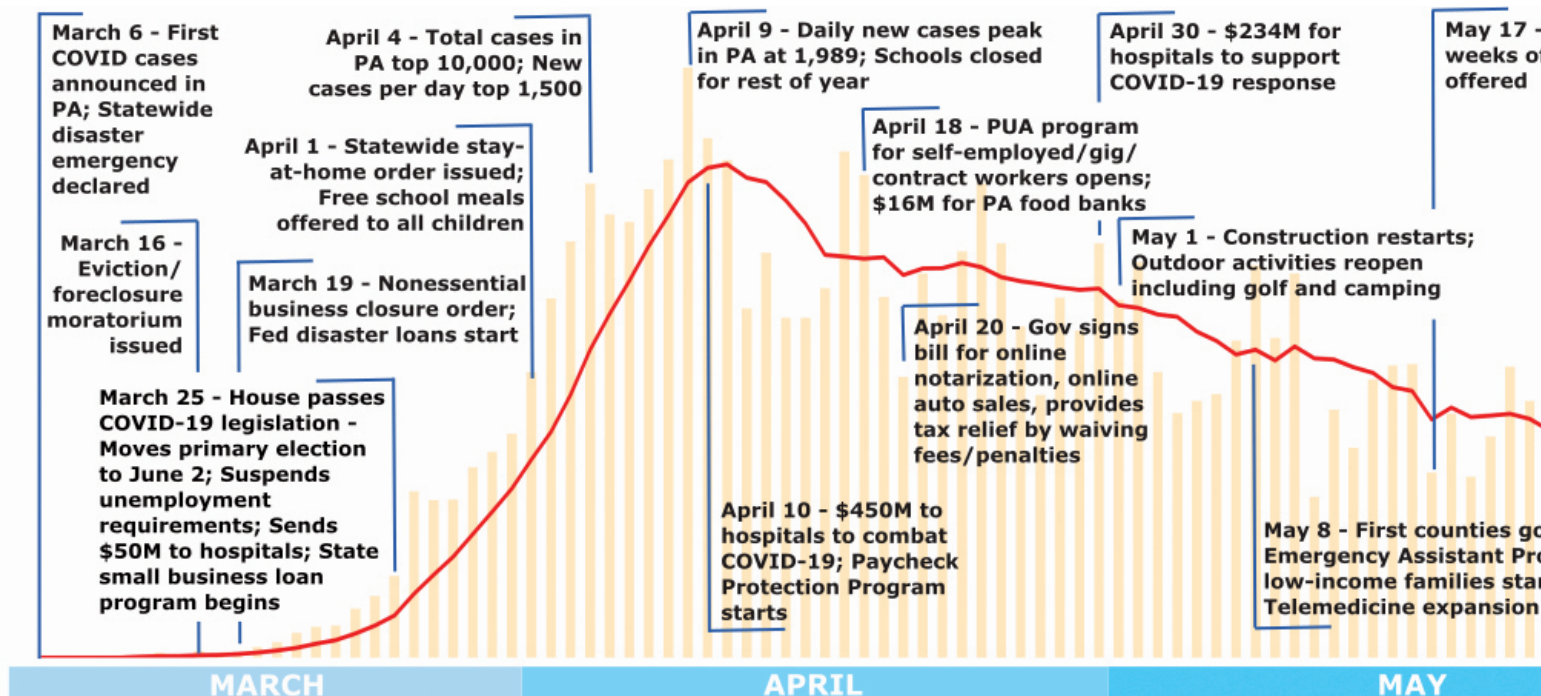
This funding will help ensure that these critical water and sewer projects will be able to go forward, making sure families have clean drinking water and helping save local rate payers some of the costs of these projects.

The projects that were awarded funding locally include:

- Avalon Borough: \$75,000 to build new storm sewers along Gardner Avenue;
- Bellevue Borough: \$160,000 to address stormwater erosion issues;
- West View Water Authority: \$156,784 to replace cast iron water lines more than 100 years old;
- Ross Township: \$300,000 to address flooding and mudslides in the Girty's Run area, as well as other projects;
- And an additional \$400,000 to the West View Water Authority to replace failing waterlines under Siebert Road.

I have always made the health of our communities a priority, whether that's helping PWSA eliminate lead in its system, or helping West View Water replace a 100-plus-year-old water main.

PA RESPONDS TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND TAKES DR



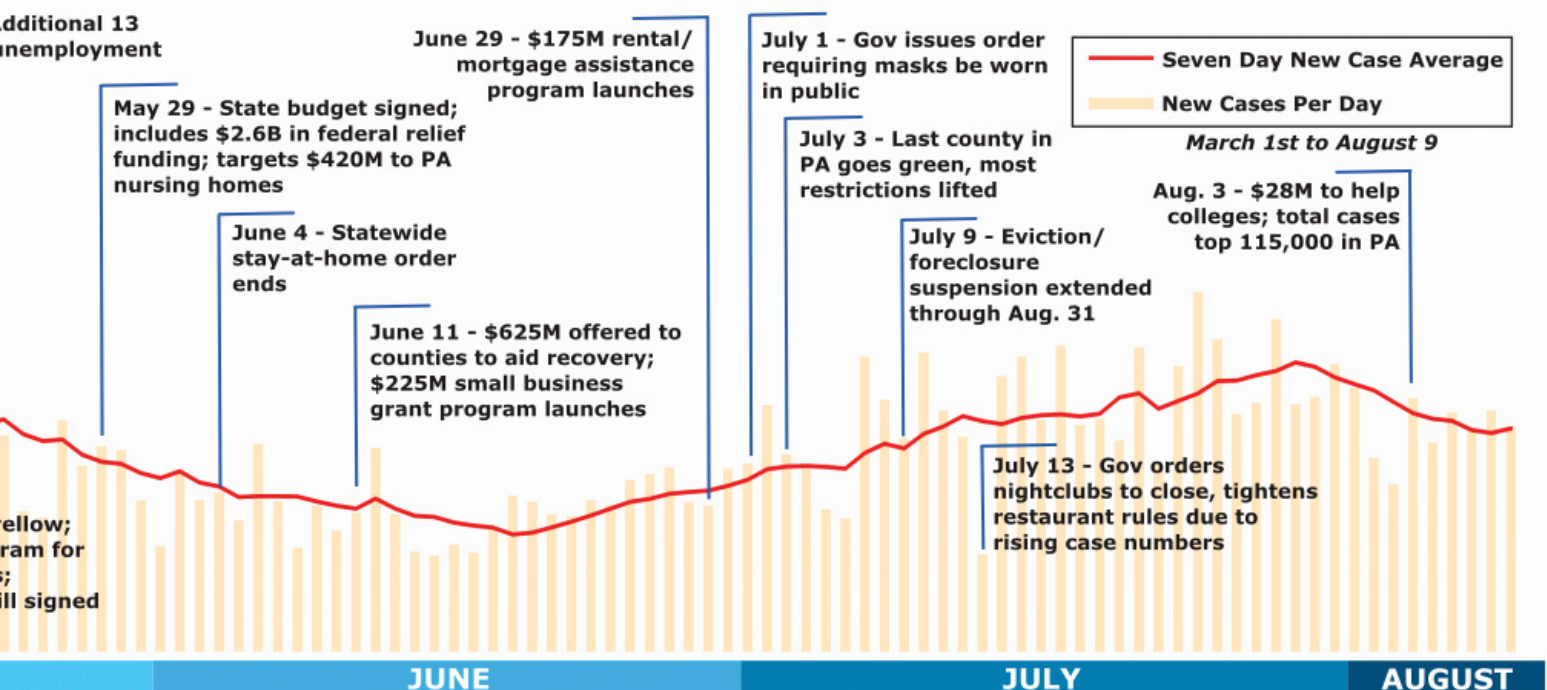
A LOOK AT CARES ACT FUNDING

In addition to voting on a budget in late May, my colleagues and I passed a spending package allocating \$2.6 billion of Pennsylvania's \$3.9 billion in federal funding under the CARES Act. Some highlights include:

- **\$692 million to long-term living programs.** The funding will allow the state's nursing homes and long-term care facilities – hit especially hard by the pandemic – to increase their testing capabilities, improve infection control practices and acquire other important resources for fighting COVID-19.
- **\$625 million** to counties to help cover the costs associated with coronavirus prevention, protection and treatment.
- **\$260 million** to protect people with intellectual disabilities and autism.
- **\$225 million** in grant funding to help small businesses get back on their feet.
- **\$175 million** for rent and mortgage assistance to low- and middle-income families impacted by the pandemic.
- **\$150 million** for schools to fund equipment, building modifications, staff training, safety programs and other resources needed to create and maintain a safe, sanitary environment. (Schools will see an additional \$50 million from the Elementary and Secondary School Relief Fund.)
- **\$116 million** to help childcare facilities reopen safely.
- Additional funding for higher education, childcare services, emergency responders, food and agricultural assistance, and other important programs.

While there are no quick fixes, the federal funding will help restore strength to our small businesses, ensure protections for students and vulnerable residents and mitigate some of the pandemic's harshest effects on working families.

CISIVE ACTION TO SAVE LIVES AND FLATTEN THE CURVE



FLATTENING THE CURVE – AND KEEPING IT THAT WAY

This spring, I joined colleagues in supporting legislation to help Pennsylvanians stand strong against the pandemic. We passed measures to require the state to develop a comprehensive statewide testing plan, expand testing in nursing homes, keep stimulus checks tax free, replenish funding for our first responders, and more.

But the true credit for helping our community get through all of this belongs to all of you. Allegheny County residents have met the challenge of COVID-19 with strength, resilience and a sense of responsibility.

As we have seen recently, this virus is not done with

Pennsylvania or with our communities. As cases have increased, it has become more important than ever that we take this virus seriously and all do what we can to keep each other safe and slow its spread. And the simplest thing we can do is to wear a mask when in public.

Believe me when I say that I am as eager as anyone for the day COVID-19 is eliminated as a threat, and we can put the masks away. But until we have succeeded in keeping the curve flat, continuing to make these small sacrifices is the best path for keeping our businesses open, our economy going, and our community in the green.



MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Unemployment or the PUA system
- Property tax/rent rebates for seniors
- Voter registration and vote by mail
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- 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
- Birth and death certificates
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Port Authority ConnectCards

If you need help with any state or government-related services, please contact my office at (412) 321-5523 for assistance.



State Representative

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ADAM RAVENSTAHL'S

SUMMER UPDATE

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INSIDE:

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- ✓ Voting by mail works
- ✓ The fight against COVID-19
- ✓ Grant updates

**Representing the boroughs of Avalon, Bellevue, West View
and parts of Ross Township and the city of Pittsburgh.**

RENT AND MORTGAGE RELIEF AVAILABLE

If you or someone you know lost their job due to COVID-19, applications for rent or mortgage relief are now available online.

Renters and landlords of renters who became unemployed after March 1, may be eligible for up to \$750/month for up to 6 months. Homeowners who became unemployed after March 1 also could be eligible for up to \$1,000/month for up to 6 months.

Renter and landlord applications and guidelines are being managed by **Allegheny County** and are

available at <https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us/>.

Homeowner applications will be administered by the **Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA)**; guidelines and applications for that program are available here: <https://pmap.phfa.org/>.

PHFA is now reviewing applications for both renters and homeowners, so if you think you qualify, please apply today. You can always contact my office for assistance if you need it.



Voters wait to vote at a Pittsburgh-area polling station in June.

VOTING BY MAIL WORKS – AND COULD SAVE LIVES

As the coronavirus spread across our city and state, the legislature took action to expand voting by mail. I'm proud to report that more people voted by mail in Allegheny County than in person. However, I know that many of you who did vote in person still encountered long waits at the polls.

I'm worried about the fall – as we've seen in recent months, the coronavirus could come back at any time, putting you, your loved ones, and your neighbors at risk. That's why I'm encouraging everyone to vote by mail! It is easy, and the sooner you apply, the sooner you know your vote will be counted.

Registered voters in Allegheny County can now complete mail-in or absentee ballot applications for the November 3 general election. These applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

For more information, visit <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov> or call my office at (412) 321-5523.