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Heard It From Harris

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Virtual Town Hall on the Pardons Process and PA’s Clean Slate Law

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Bringing our priorities to the Capitol
Delivering grants to our community
Help with unemployment compensation
Home heating assistance available

State Representative Jordan A. Harris
P.O. Box 202186
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2186
lpo.kaf.0221

• • •
In early February, the legislature sent Gov. Tom Wolf legislation that will deliver aid to our state’s neediest families and individuals. More specifically, State G.O.P. leaders want to distribute the remaining $101 billion in CARES Act relief funds to the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Labor and Industry. This grant will provide rent assistance, including help for those who owe back rent, utility and home energy costs and other necessities. It should be signed into law as quickly as possible and I’m proud to have helped high-light this issue. The funding for this grant may be awarded through a formal request for proposals and I’m sure there will be more information on this coming up soon.

Some have suggested that we should use these funds to help those who are suffering from the coronavirus. I have heard your concerns and I support your suggestion. I think that the coronavirus will continue to be a problem in Pennsylvania for a long time to come and we need to continue giving our constituents the support they need. I am working closely with my colleagues to ensure that we have the resources we need to respond to this crisis.

We also need to consider how we can best use these funds to help our state’s most vulnerable populations. I believe that we should focus on providing funds to organizations that are working to protect those who are most at risk—such as the elderly, the homeless, families in need, and those with disabilities. I am committed to ensuring that these funds are used in a way that will make a real difference in the lives of our state’s most vulnerable populations.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with my colleagues to ensure that we have the resources we need to respond to this crisis. I am committed to doing everything I can to help our state’s most vulnerable populations, and I look forward to working with you to ensure that these funds are used in a way that will make a real difference in the lives of our state’s most vulnerable populations.

I thank you for your ongoing support and I will continue to fight for the people of Pennsylvania. I will keep you updated on the latest developments and I encourage you to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
**What I’m fighting for in Harrisburg**, which has been stagnant for over a decade.

- Creation of a statewide office to offer legal representation to defendants who are often overburdened and overworked. This leads to people losing their freedom, which tears apart families and can cause job or housing loss.

**Eliminate cash bail** – always pulling you back in no matter how hard you try to move forward.

**Fix our probation system** – always pulling you back in no matter how hard you try to move forward.

- Allow people who have served their time to get the health care they need without going bankrupt.

On January 5th, I was sworn in to begin my fifth term representing the district of Philadelphia and Montgomery counties in the Pennsylvania Senate. I’m fighting for the issues I’m fighting for the hardest: poverty, and for too many students that elevator is broken.

- The value of the tax rebate is $300 million for low-income Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 65 and older; and Pennsylvanians with disabilities aged 18 and older. The income ceiling is $30,000 for households, and $15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income for elderly or disabled recipients or representatives or relatives may also use the rebate claims process. Pennsylvanians can file their rebate claims online by January 31, 2020, and no later than February 28, 2020.

If you still wish to file a paper application, it is available by calling 1-800-PA-4222. You will need additional assistance with completing or submitting paper applications, please contact our automatic answering system to set up an appointment by calling (215) 953-3738.

**Help for renters** – it’s essential that we ensure Pennsylvanians can stay in their home during this pandemic and after this pandemic. Housing assistance is essential for people who have been hit hard during this pandemic, and after this pandemic. If you need additional assistance with completing or submitting your form, please contact my office at (215) 953-3738.

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**Pennsylvania’s Clean Slate Law** - which I helped pass several years ago, has already sealed more than 35 million criminal records from public view.

**Create educational equity** – Education is the elevator out of poverty. That’s why we’ve made our education system more equitable and more accessible, particularly for students who have to work quickly – always pulling you back in no matter how hard you try to move forward.

**Philadelphia’s Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** is now accepting applications to help families living on low incomes pay their heating bills. LIHEAP provides cash grants paid directly to your provider to help cover the cost of keeping your family warm. You can apply for this assistance, grants to those in danger of being without heat.

- To be eligible, you must meet income guidelines. You don’t have to be on public assistance, you don’t have to have an unpaid heating bill, and you don’t have to be located in an LIHEAP-eligible community.

**Apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us.**
DELIVERING HELP TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Pennsylvania’s Clean State Law - which I helped pass in 2021 – will soon give all Pennsylvanians a $1,200 annual tax credit toward rent costs from public view. It’s time we go further to address the housing crisis and ensure Pennsylvanians have a home of their own.

To make our public education more equitable and accessible to all Pennsylvanians, I’ve introduced legislation to make public education’s equal access elevator an option for all children, regardless of their background or economic status.

In early February, the legislature enacted Gov. Tom Wolf’s legislation which will divert some of our neediest friends and family members. Most importantly, Senate Bill 109 will provide nearly $570 million in COVID-19 relief funds to the Department of Human Services and Utility Assistance Grant Program. This help will provide rent assistance, including help for those who owe back rent, utility and home energy costs and who have been evicted or faced an impending eviction. The legislation was signed into law. Though this funding will help, there’s still other options available for you if you need immediate assistance. Below is a list of organizations that may be helpful to you if you’re in need of help.

In my role representing our district in Philadelphia and my second term on the Philadelphia City Council, I’ve seen firsthand how systemic racism affects our communities. These are big issues facing our state and we must address them to help our neediest families. That being said, we must get to work now on the issues I’m fighting for the hardest:

- It’s long past time to raise the minimum wage.
- Funding and supervision for public defenders.
- Creation of a statewide office to offer legal advice to those who can’t afford a lawyer.
- Eliminating the cash bail system.
- Low-level criminal records to public view.
- Increase funding and supervision for the Probation System. It’s time we go forward with comprehensive reforms and keep our communities safe.
- We must address the economic issues from the fallout of COVID-19 on our local businesses, unemployment compensation problems as the state continues to be overwhelmed, and issues that we were facing prior to the pandemic, such as raising the minimum wage.
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African Cultural Alliance of North America
Africa Center
Schuylkill River Development Corp
Schuylkill River Trail
Bartram’s Garden Community
Breadhouse and Workshop
Woodland Academy Child Development Center/Greater Philadelphia Health Action NESTT Project
Philadelphia Civic Charities Building Support
City Year Operation Support
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Independence Job Training
Bethesda Project Facilty Upgrades

Universal Institute Charter School
Continuity of Education Grant
Beilune Charitable Foundation
Headpop Dance Theater
Universal Akron Charter School
Continuity of Education Grant
JNA Institute of Culinary Arts
Bartram’s Gardens and Archives
Philadelphia Civic Charities Building Support
Universal Vare Charter School
Continuity of Education Grant
Chester A. Arthur School Milk Cooler

African Cultural Alliance of North America Census Outreach
Prep Charter School of Math and Science Continuity of Education Grant
Ballard Brandywine Workshops and Archives
Philadelphia Civic Charities Jazz and Performing Arts
The Mustard Seed Home Care LLC
Hazard Pay
Universal Audition Charter School Continuity of Education Grant
Little Sister of the Poor Hazard Pay
Ultimate Home Care Agency LLC

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Bartam’s Garden Community Boathouse and Workshop
Woodland Academy CHS Development Center/Greater Philadelphia Health Action NESTT Project
Philadelphia Civic Center of Performing Arts building upgrades
City Year Operation Support
Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Job Training
Bethesda Project Facility Upgrades

Universal Institute Charter School Continuity of Education Grant
Bealeau Charitable Foundation Headshop Dance Theater
Universal A&OM Charter School Continuity of Education Grant
JNA Institute of Culinary Arts
Brandywine Workshops and Archives Operational Support
Philadelphia Civic Center of Jazz & Performing Arts Operation Support
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DELIVERING GRANTS TO OUR COMMUNITY

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HEARD IT FROM HARRIS

Beginning a new term fighting for you in Harrisburg

State Representative Jordan A. Harris
P.O. Box 202186
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2186

www.RepJordanHarris.com • RepJordanHarris • @RepHarris • @RepHarris

GTDVIRUTAL TOWN HALL

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BRINGING OUR PRIORITIES TO THE CAPITOL

• HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

• HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

• • •