

# Dear Neighbor,

I am so honored to serve the 188th Legislative District as your state representative.

Since being elected to serve as your state representative, my staff and I have been working hard to serve you. We feel so fortunate to have been able to help more than 2,400 constituents since December 2020, and we are excited to continue to do all that we can to help our neighbors in the future.

You are welcome to stop by my district office at 4712 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143, give us a call at 215-724-2227 or email me at RepKrajewski@pahouse.net with your questions or concerns and we'll help however we can or connect you with someone else who can help.

I take my role as a public servant very seriously, and I consider it a tremendous honor to help you.

This newsletter is intended to give you an update about some of the work I've been doing in Harrisburg and here at home to make life better for you and our neighbors. Thank you for reading, and please reach out if you have questions about anything you read.

Sincerely,



State Rep. Rick Krajewski



## STATE REP. RICK KRAJEWSKI

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## ADVOCATING FOR MORE FUNDING FOR OUR COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

During this year's budget season, I am advocating for more funding for our school facilities, home repairs, and parks & recreation centers. I joined my colleagues in sending a letter to the governor in support of these essential community resources.

Dear Governor Wolf,

The pandemic has laid bare the crucial role that schools, homes, and parks and recreation centers have played in ensuring residents' mental, emotional, and physical well-being. Investing in these facilities and spaces is an investment into the survival and long-term health of the people in this Commonwealth as we fight through a third year of a global pandemic and a rapidly changing climate.

As members of the House and Senate Democratic Caucuses, we urge you to make bold investments in the built environment – schools, homes, and parks and recreational centers – as part of your FY2022-2023 budget proposal. These investments will enhance the health and resiliency of the people of the Commonwealth as we continue to live through the challenges wrought by a global pandemic, economic inequality, and climate change.

With the knowledge that our state revenues have exceeded expectations over the past year, we specifically ask

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# INVESTMENTS in Our Community

\$3,102,213

PHMC Public Health Campus - \$2,000,000

University of the Sciences - \$667,713

The Woodlands - \$349,500

Kingsessing Library - \$60,000

Kingsessing Recreation Center - \$25,000



## INVESTING STATE RESOURCES BACK INTO THE DISTRICT

In my role as State Representative, I consider it my responsibility to help direct state resources in the form of grants back into community institutions. I'm proud to have been able to support these community institutions.



## STANDING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

From stopping the University City Townhomes evictions and gun violence, to ending death by incarceration, I continue to stand with our communities to call for the things that I believe in - stable housing, safe communities, and freedom for all.

## WORKING ON LEGISLATION TO MAKE YOUR LIFE BETTER

Researching, authoring, and working to enact legislation that will improve your life is one of my key responsibilities. So far this legislative session, I have cosponsored more than 130 pieces of legislation and authored more than 16 pieces of legislation.

Four bills I've been working on in recent months I want to share with you:

- ▶ **The Working Families Tax Credit for Pennsylvania:** I introduced this legislation with Reps. Chris Rabb, Elizabeth Fiedler, Sara Innamorato, and Summer Lee because Pennsylvania's current tax system places an unfair burden on our most vulnerable neighbors while corporations and the wealthy take in profits. This bill would ease the tax burden for the most financially vulnerable of Pennsylvania.
- ▶ **Investing American Rescue Plan dollars in rental assistance:** I introduced this legislation with Reps. Fiedler and Innamorato because rental assistance dollars are running out, but Pennsylvania still has billions in reserve funding from the American Rescue Plan money available to spend on housing.
- ▶ **Tenants' Rights to Mediation:** I introduced this legislation because roommate conflicts should not put a person's housing security at risk. This legislation would require landlords to include a roommate mediation plan in shared-housing leases.
- ▶ **Preventing Evictions and Foreclosures and Promoting Equitable Housing Recovery:** I believe that housing is a human right. I introduced this legislation with Reps. Fiedler and Innamorato because no family should worry about being evicted or foreclosed upon because of a global pandemic.

# PRIORITIZING SAFE, DRY, STABLE, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR OUR DISTRICT

One of my priorities as a State Representative is to ensure that the residents of my district have safe, dry, stable, and affordable housing both now and long term. I am introducing, supporting, and voting on bills in Harrisburg to advance long-term changes that improve our housing system. Our constituent service advisers are also working hard here in the district to provide housing relief.

## TRANSFORMING OUR HOUSING SYSTEM THROUGH LEGISLATION

**Eviction sealing:** I introduced this bill with Rep. Fiedler because so many of our constituents and other renters across Pennsylvania have faced eviction through no fault of their own.

**Prioritizing loan modification over liens bills:** I introduced this legislation with Reps. Jared Solomon and Morgan Cephas to make it easier for financially struggling homeowners to modify their mortgage to help them get back on their feet.

**Whole Home Repair:** I'm supporting this legislation introduced by Senator Nikil Saval because every resident of the Commonwealth deserves housing that is warm, safe, and dry.



## NEW ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR HOMEOWNERS WILL OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS FEB. 1



The Pennsylvania Homeowner Assistance Fund, or PAHAF, is a housing-related program funded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury to assist Pennsylvania homeowners facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic that began after January 21, 2020, (including a hardship that began before January 21, 2020, and continued after that date).

The program will open for applications on February 1 and will provide financial assistance to homeowners for qualified mortgage and housing-related expenses to avoid delinquency, default, foreclosure, or displacement.

Learn more about the program, including who's eligible and what's covered at <https://pahaf.org>.

If you or anyone you know is experiencing issues with housing – including renters and people who are experiencing homelessness – contact my office and we can connect you with resources to help.



For homeowners hurt by COVID-19



Applications opens February 1



[pahaf.org](https://pahaf.org) (24/7)  
888-987-2423  
(M-F 8am-8pm)

for the following to be included in your FY2022-2023 budget proposal:

## **Healthy Schools Funding**

### **Direct \$1 billion in Emergency Capital Grants to Public School Districts across the Commonwealth.**

Every child across the Commonwealth has the right to a quality public education in a school that is safe, healthy, and clean. Across our state students are surrounded by lead, asbestos, mold, and rodents in their schools. The unsafe conditions of public schools impact our children's physical health, mental wellbeing, and academic achievement. Most Pennsylvania public school buildings were built between 1950 and 1959; there are more than 200 Pennsylvania public school buildings built before 1950. The systems within those buildings – heating, cooling, lighting, electrical, etc. – are broken, inefficient, and in desperate need of replacement. The onset of the COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated many of the existing needs within buildings, specifically around air quality and ventilation.

As part of your FY2022-2023, we ask that you direct \$1 billion in Emergency Grants to Public School Districts with exigent health problems across the Commonwealth. School districts could use the grant funding solely for emergency repairs, such as lead and asbestos abatement or remediation, HVAC repair or replacement, electrical system repair or replacement, plumbing repair or replacement, roof and window repair or replacement, and other repairs or replacements that present a health or safety issue. Districts could use the grants to install proper COVID-19 air ventilation systems.

You have been a champion for fair education funding during your administration and securing this historic investment in our school facilities would add to that legacy.

## **Whole-Home Repairs**

### **Direct \$1 billion to a Whole-Home Repair fund to fill gaps in existing home repair programs to achieve comprehensive home repairs and weatherization.**

Pennsylvanians deserve housing that is warm, safe, and dry. During the COVID-19 pandemic a home means the difference between life and death. But for thousands of Pennsylvanians, the very place they call home is unsafe. More than 280,000 occupied

units in Pennsylvania have moderate to severe physical inadequacies: leaky windows, collapsing roofs, blown fuses or exposed wiring, unreliable or no heating, no working toilet, or failed plumbing.

As part of your FY2022-2023 budget, we ask that you direct \$1 billion in funding to fill critical gaps in existing programs: basic system repair funding to address deferred maintenance, support staff to help homeowners and landlords access and sequence home repair and weatherization programs, and funding to grow the necessary workforce. By building off existing federal, state, and local grant program infrastructure, we can create a comprehensive home repair program for low-income households that will keep thousands in safe housing they can afford, reduce utility bills, stabilize communities by slowing displacement and reducing crime, and create new family sustaining jobs in the process.

## **Repairing and improving Parks and Recreation Centers**

### **Direct \$1 billion in funding to parks, recreation centers, and open spaces repairs and improvements.**

Our public parks and recreation centers are vital for the well-being of our constituents. Studies have shown that people located within 3 miles of a recreation center or open space are physically and emotionally healthier, are less likely to experience crime, experience increased property value, and a reduction in the impacts of climate change. Recreation centers create out-of-school time activities and learning opportunities for children and youth. During the COVID-19 pandemic access to parks and open spaces created opportunities to socialize and recreate – both things that were crucial to maintaining mental well-being. Deferred maintenance and disinvestment from parks, recreation centers, and open spaces have left many of these spaces unusable or in disrepair.

As part of your FY2022-2023 budget, we ask that you direct \$1 billion in funding to fund recreation center repairs and improvements to parks and open spaces throughout the Commonwealth. This can be administered through grants to municipalities and counties over several years.

In the final year of your administration, and with a budget surplus from excess revenues, now is the time for bold, generational investments in our built environment. We ask that you include these demands in your budget address and that you fight alongside of us over the next few months to deliver these victories for the people of Pennsylvania.

# THE 188TH MEETS HARRISBURG

This Fall, we hosted constituents from our District in the halls of the state Capitol. It is important to me that my colleagues in Harrisburg meet and hear from the people impacted by the legislation they pass.



## BOYS LATIN CHARTER SCHOOL

Boys Latin Charter School is a College Preparatory School with a High School Campus located in the 188th District. On November 16, Minority Leader Representative Joanna McClinton hosted civics students for a tour of the Capitol. I had the chance to interact with them and share my own journey of becoming a state legislator.



Participants and staff of the organization YEAH Philly visited Harrisburg in mid-December. YEAH Philly, or Youth Empowerment for Advancement Hangout, is a Black-led, community-based nonprofit that works with teens and young adults in West and Southwest Philadelphia ages 15 to 24 who have been impacted by violence. With a special focus on those labeled

as having violent histories, YEAH acknowledges teens and young adults as the experts of their own lives and prioritizes pushing back against oppressive systems and addressing structural barriers that often lead to violence.

Earlier this year, YEAH Philly approached us about an issue impacting their populations' ability to access their vital documents, which in turn impacts their ability to apply for jobs, enroll in school,

## DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF

Our district office staff works hard every day to provide important services to our constituents and to advance legislation in Harrisburg. On November 17, they joined me in Harrisburg to experience first-hand the halls of the Capitol.



Pictured left to right, Chinasa Grant (Constituent Services Advisor), Lena Smith (Director of Policy and Legislation) State Representative Rick Krajewski, Farah Muhammad (District Office Director).



open a bank account, and much more. I introduced a bill – Allowing Minors to Access their Birth Certificates – based on this issue.

YEAH Philly joined me in Harrisburg on December 15 to experience the political process first hand and advocate for legislation. The youth met with legislators and shared how my bill would positively impact their lives. It's important to me that Black and brown people, who are so often excluded from politics, have opportunities to have their voices heard by the decision makers who impact their lives.



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SHRED, BABY, SHRED

Due to popular demand, we've brought it back! Our two previous shredding events were a success, and many individuals have contacted our office asking for more. We've listened to your feedback and have scheduled another Shredding Event for mid-March. Keep an eye out for more information on the date, time, and location.

## BRINGING THE OFFICE TO YOU!

In efforts to ensure all of our constituents can access the resources available at our office, we've decided to bring the office to you! In February we will be teaming with local organizations including a local senior center and the YMCA to provide Mobile Office Hours for constituents who may find it difficult to come to us. This is an initiative that we hope to continue throughout the year. If you know of a host location that would be beneficial to you and your neighbors, feel free to give our offices a call and leave suggestions.

