



Hello Friends,

I hope everyone in the 36th Legislative District had a wonderful summer – my team and I certainly did! My summer began working alongside my colleagues in Harrisburg to pass the state budget, which has been hailed on both sides of the aisle as a victory for working families in Pennsylvania.

After our budget work was done at the Capitol, I was happy to return home and spend time in our community at events like National Night Out (see next page for photos). It is a tremendous honor and brings my staff and I great joy to serve the people of the 36th District – we're eager to continue working for you! If you ever need assistance with a state-related issue or want to learn more about how my office can help you, please do not hesitate to reach out.

State Budget Highlights

I am pleased to relay that the 2022-23 state budget makes historic investments that will positively impact our community and commonwealth. This budget invests in all Pennsylvanians, but especially working families and students. Most notably, this budget invests a record \$1.1 billion in K-12 schools, including \$850 million for basic and special education – from that, school districts in Allegheny County will collectively receive an additional \$54.7 million. Additionally, \$200 million for school safety, school-based counseling, and other mental health services has been allocated for Pennsylvania schools.

Recognizing the importance of being proactive in our schools and communities at large when it comes to safety, this budget invests \$105 million in grants to local organizations that focus on community violence prevention and allocates \$200 million for an expansion of mental health services across the commonwealth.

This budget also helps working families offset the remarkably high cost of child care through a new state-level child and dependent care tax credit. Under this credit, families will be eligible to receive about 30 percent of the amount they receive from the federal child care tax credit. On average, families will receive up to \$315 for one child and up to \$630 for two or more children. While I advocated for a more generous tax credit for families, this initiative represents an important first step for our commonwealth in acknowledging the importance of prioritizing affordable child care.

Housing, rent, and the costs associated with homeownership continue to rise. This budget takes action to help Pennsylvanians struggling to stay in their homes amid these rising costs and for those who cannot find affordable housing in the first place.



My Office Can Help With

- PACE (pharmaceutical assistance for qualified senior citizens)
- Voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms (for qualified seniors and others)
- Information regarding PHEAA (PA Higher Education Assistance Agency)
- Information on PA's 529 College Savings Plans
- Requests for state informational materials
- CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)
- Obtaining birth or death certificates
- PennDOT problems or questions — including disability license plates and placards
- Questions or problems with any state agency
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Citations from the PA House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and important family milestones

COMMITTEE and CAUCUS ASSIGNMENTS

Aging & Older Adult Services

Health and Human Services

Allegheny County Delegation

Autism and Intellectual Disabilities Caucus

Blue-Green Caucus

Climate Caucus

LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus

Mental Health Caucus

Women's Caucus

Women's Health Caucus



National Night Out in the 36th District

August 2nd was a busy and exciting day for us – we attended National Night Out events across the district in Mt. Oliver City / St. Clair, Arlington, Beechview, the South Side Flats, Bon Air, and Carrick. Check out some action shots from the events below!



I made some new friends at the National Night Out Parties in the Beechview (left) and the South Side Flats (right).



The sun was setting, casting a beautiful glow over the neighborhood as we made our way to Carrick's National Night Out Party. It was great to see many familiar faces and meet new ones as well!

First responders are some of the hardest working people in our community – and their input is crucial to learning how we can better support their efforts. I'm happy I got the chance to chat with Pittsburgh Firefighters at the Bon Air National Night Out Party.



I love meeting the members of our community – especially ones with fur! It was a pleasure to greet this pup at the Mt. Oliver City / St. Clair National Night Out Party.

At the Arlington National Night Out Party, my Chief of Staff, Dan Gladis, and I had a blast talking with constituents and enjoyed a hot dog courtesy of the Arlington Civic Council.

One-in-ten Pennsylvanians have unclaimed cash or property waiting for them – do YOU?



The PA Treasury receives hundreds of millions of dollars in unclaimed property every year, often because of something as simple as a misspelled name or an out-of-date address.

The Treasury has an easy-to-use online search engine to find any unclaimed property under a resident's name and address – it only takes a few seconds! Go to patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property or contact my office. We are happy to help you reclaim what's yours.



How does a bill pass through the PA House of Representatives?

The process of a bill becoming law in Pennsylvania involves many steps. It can be a long and quite complicated process – but constituents' ideas and feedback often have a significant impact on new laws, so it's very important that members of the public understand the process. If you have questions about how it works or want to share your ideas on any bills, please call my office at 412-881-4208 or email me at RepBenham@pahouse.net.

Go to www.pahouse.com/Benham, hover over the 'News' tab, and click on 'Bills I've Introduced' to see the legislation I've been working on lately.

SAVE THE DATE Upcoming Events in Our Community

Interested in learning new ways to keep your mind and body in tip-top shape?

I invite and encourage all to join us on Saturday, September 24th at Brashear CARES Center for a Hilltop Health Check! We will host a variety of health-related vendors and state resources for folks to check out – at no cost. There will also be a flu vaccination clinic just up the street at the Mt. Oliver Borough Firehall (120 Brownsville Road). We hope to see you there!

When?

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Saturday, September 24

Where?

Brashear CARES Center

320 Brownsville Rd.

Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Want to safeguard your identity and reduce paper clutter around the house?

Come on down to the Concord Presbyterian Church in Carrick on Saturday, October 8! My team and I are hosting a free document shredding event – we'll also have information on state programs and additional steps you can take to protect yourself from identity theft. If you have any spare pet-related items, we will gladly take and donate them to local animal shelters.

When?

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Saturday, October 8

Where?

Concord Presbyterian Church

1907 Brownsville Rd.

Pittsburgh, PA 15210





Representative Jessica Benham

1810 Brownsville Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15210
(412) 881-4208
Email: RepBenham@pahouse.net

lpo.ad.0822

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

Have you heard about the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program? You may be eligible to receive a rebate on rent or property taxes paid in 2021. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but thanks to provisions in this state budget, claimants will automatically receive a one-time bonus rebate this year, equaling 70% of the amount they received for 2021. For example, someone who received the maximum refund of \$650 will get a bonus payment of \$455 this year. If you already received a rebate this year, you will automatically receive the bonus payment – you do not need to reapply or do anything else to receive the bonus.

If you're unfamiliar with the program, contact my office today to see if you're eligible.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE

One-time
70%



**Bonus Rebate
Coming in
September.**



revenue.pa.gov/ptrr



NEW

The Whole-Home Repairs Program

A new program established in this year's budget, the Whole-Home Repairs Program, will provide \$125 million in grants of up to \$50,000 for eligible homeowners and small landlords to make necessary repairs and renovations to ensure homes are habitable, energy efficient, and accessible for their residents. The program is not currently active, but we'll have more information to share in the coming months.

Awards funds to governmental and nonprofit entities to distribute to qualifying homeowners and landlords

Eligibility for Homeowners:

- ✓ Earning up to 80% of the area median income.
- ✓ Eligible for grant up to \$50K

Eligibility for Landlords:

- ✓ Own 5 properties or less.
- ✓ Eligible for loan up to \$50K with rent charging restrictions

Funds Must Address:

- 🏠 Habitability concerns
- 🏠 Energy or water efficiency improvements
- 🏠 Accessibility for persons with disabilities



Follow me   @RepBenham to stay updated on this and other news from the state or go to my website www.RepJess.com and sign up for my email list.