

State Representative

JOHANNY CEPEDA-FREYTIZ

129th Legislative District

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Dear Neighbor,

I am excited to update you about my first year in the PA House of Representatives. In this newsletter, I will highlight some of the most remarkable moments.

I have been fighting for issues that matter to you and your family, and I'm proud to say that I have been relentlessly championing quality of education, fair wages, public safety, and women's access to health care in Pennsylvania.

I will continue advancing legislation to boost financial security and unlock new opportunities for prosperity.

Happy 2024! I wish you and your family a year filled with love, joy, and good health.

I am honored to represent you

At the beginning of 2023, I took the oath of office in the state Capitol to begin my first term representing the 129th Legislative District. I am honored that the hardworking people of the 129th District have given me the opportunity to become their voice in Harrisburg. I'm working with my colleagues in the PA House to make sure that your priorities are addressed.



Please scan the QR code to visit my website and to read the full Spanish-language version of this newsletter.



Escanee el código QR para visitar mi sitio web y leer la versión completa en español de este boletín.

Dominican Independence Day!

The 179th anniversary of the Dominican Independence Day was a celebration to remember in the state Capitol. Thanks to all colleagues and friends who joined us in honoring our roots.



First Annual Women's Resource Fair

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Women's Resource Fair during Women's History Month. This was an opportunity for women to be acknowledged and to be reminded that self-care is important. Join us for our 2024 Women's Resource Fair on Saturday, March 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Romanian Community Center, 51 West Lawn Avenue in West Lawn.



Small business tour with Lt. Governor Austin Davis

Underserved small-business owners are important to us and relevant to our cities and their economies. In April, I teamed up with Lt. Gov. Austin Davis to address community investments and revitalization in the city of Reading.



Combating teacher shortage and promoting diversity in the classrooms

Among all the bills that I have sponsored, I'd like to highlight House Bill 1067. This is a bill that I have been advocating for arduously that would make it easier for non-citizens who are qualified to become teachers. It was passed by the PA House and is now in the state Senate for consideration. House Bill 1067 would increase teacher diversity and help close the achievement gap. It would address PA's teacher shortage AND get more teachers of color on the job! It's crucial for students to feel represented in the classroom.



Teachers & Students in Need

Teacher diversity helps close the achievement gap.

Nationwide nearly **26% of students** come from a Latino background, while just **9% of teachers** come from a Latino background.

HB 1067

PA HOUSE DEMOCRATS

The Grand Opening of My District Office

One of the most memorable moments of this year was the grand opening of my district office. Stop by or give us a call to find out what we can do for you! My staff and I are looking forward to helping you with state programs and services in our district office. Additionally, I want to emphasize that language is not a barrier in my office. We are proud to offer bilingual English-Spanish services.



State Rep **Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz**

2023
Year in Review

3300+ Constituent Services Provided	370+ Community events attended
350+ Property Tax/Rent Rebates for seniors	650+ Event Attendees

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Youth Resource Fair

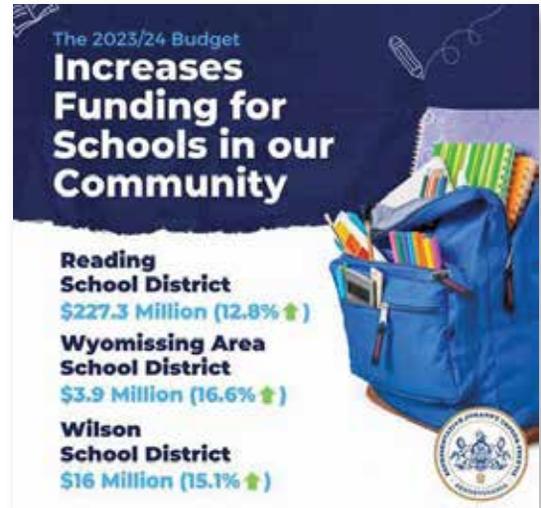
As a parent, I know firsthand how important it is to provide guidance to young people. I want them to take advantage of all the great programs available in our community. In May, I hosted the first of many youth resource fairs that will be targeted to parents and youth in the 129th Legislative District.



PA House Democrats 'Save Our Schools' Tour

In August, I joined members of the PA House leadership team and the House Majority Policy Committee at a rally to Save Our Schools.

The Policy Committee tour started at Wyomissing Junior-Senior High School and continued at Reading Senior High School, followed by a rally. House Democrats understand that every student needs the opportunity to thrive. We must make sure we are doing everything we can to ensure every child in the commonwealth is receiving a quality education.



Economic Development Efforts

Rick Siger, Pennsylvania's new Secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development, visited us in Reading. His presence was significant for the local community and its economic development efforts. We discussed important matters related to economic development and community welfare.

Thank you Governor Shapiro!

Thank you to Gov. Josh Shapiro for hosting members of the Latino caucus at the 2023 Hispanic Heritage Month reception. PLLC stands ready to work with his administration to move our communities towards progress!





United Against Abuse: A Domestic Violence Panel Discussion

I joined forces with state Sen. Judy Schwank to host United Against Abuse: A Domestic Violence Panel Discussion in conjunction with SAFE Berks.

The panel was an opportunity to provide support for people affected and raise awareness about the impact of domestic violence on individuals. This was the fourth time I teamed up with Sen. Schwank for the benefit of our community. We hosted a town hall at the beginning of the year in Wyomissing, a second one in Spring Township, in March, and the two most recent ones in Reading. Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Creating opportunities for professional growth

I'm beyond grateful for the continuous support of our community at my job fair! The job fair featured employers who offered fantastic benefits, family-sustaining wages, and opportunities for growth.



Your health is my priority

Our most recent Health and Wellness Fair promoted not only physical but also mental and emotional well-being. The fair, aimed at encouraging residents to take care of themselves and their loved ones, featured a variety of activities, resources, and information for our community. See you at our next fair!



West Reading Business Tour

In November, I connected with business owners in West Reading. I led this tour to hear directly from business owners about their hopes and concerns. Small businesses are the core of our community, and I am committed to strengthening and supporting our local economy.

The tour included stops at Allison Clothing Company, LiliBea's, West Reading Motor Club, Tinas Salon and Day Spa, and Zerbe Photography.



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Thank you to our amazing staff members and interns!

In 2023, we welcomed an amazing group of interns that contributed to our mission. I want to highlight their hard work, fresh perspectives, and eagerness to learn. Their work leaves wonderful memories and a positive impact in my office.



State Rep Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz

2023
Year in Review

59 Bills
34 Resolutions

Sponsored or co-sponsored passed the House

9 Sponsored Bills Enacted

More than \$5 Million in funding awarded to the district

@RepJohanny

Brought back to the district more than \$5M in grants for 17 local projects

One of the greatest satisfactions of 2023 is the fact that I was able to bring back to our community more than \$5 million in grant funding! The funds have been distributed among 21 projects in all five municipalities within my legislative district.

The funds have been used for multiple purposes including the construction of new facilities, expansion of programs, purchase of necessary equipment, and safety upgrades in areas such as health, infrastructure, and arts.

These investments are an excellent benefit to residents of our community. I am proud to help support a solid local economy.