



State Representative | 192nd Legislative District

MORGAN CEPHAS



Winter
2024

District Office:

7538 Haverford Ave. | Philadelphia, PA 19151 | (215) 879-6625

Capitol Office:

324 Main Capitol Building | P.O. Box 202192 | Harrisburg, PA 17120-2192 | (717) 783-2192

📡 RepCephas.com | 🌐 /RepCephas | 📧 @RepCephas | ✉ RepCephas@pahouse.net

Dear Neighbor,

The past year has been a fantastic journey, closing out with two of my bills being signed into law by Gov. Josh Shapiro. Dignity for Incarcerated Women and School Dental Screenings are issues that I've been championing for years, so I am honored to finally have these bills signed and enacted.

This year is shaping up to be just as productive for the 192nd Legislative District, across Philadelphia and the entire commonwealth as our Democratic majority continues to lead on issues for working Pennsylvanians.

This newsletter has all the details on the progress we've been making for Philadelphians, students, birthing folks and the underserved in our community.

My office has been as busy as ever, completing nearly 4,000 services for our neighbors in 2023, including hosting a series of events across the district and helping almost 300 neighbors receive a Property Tax/Rent Rebate.

Please reach out to my office for any assistance that my staff and I can provide with state and local services. There are many resources we can connect you with, so please give us a call, visit RepCephas.com or stop by the office on Haverford Avenue to see how we can help you.



State Rep Morgan Cephas

2023
Year in Review

<p>3,905 Constituent services provided</p> <p>781 Senior Services 354 Housing Assistance Services</p>	<p>\$900,000+ in funding awarded to the district</p>
<p>46 Bills introduced</p>	<p>2 Bills signed into law</p> <p>HB900 Dignity For Incarcerated Women HB1478 School Dental Screenings</p>

📧 @RepCephas 🌐 RepCephas.com

POLICY WINS



**SOUND INVESTMENTS
FOR A BETTER
PENNSYLVANIA**

House Democrats continue to deliver better schools, better jobs and better communities:

- ✓ Whole Home Repair Funding
- ✓ Medical Debt Relief Program
- ✓ Resources for Legal Defense
- ✓ School Environmental Repairs
- ✓ School Mental Health Grants
- ✓ Childcare Funding



**SOUND INVESTMENTS
For Philadelphians**

- ✓ Supporting Philadelphians by expanding earned income, child care and other tax credits
- ✓ More money for SEPTA to improve service and keep fares reasonable
- ✓ Emergency Repair Funding to fix toxic school buildings

Dignity for Incarcerated Women

Act 47 of 2023 was signed into law in mid-December. This endeavor lifts my soul because it is an act of compassion and common decency, helping us to improve the quality of life for some of our most vulnerable neighbors and their families. No one should be deprived of respect or be forced to risk their health or the health of their child. For years, my peers and I have been fighting to get prenatal, pregnancy and post-natal protections and support for the incarcerated in the commonwealth. I am delighted to see this become a reality for Pennsylvania and appreciate the bipartisan collaboration that brought us to this day.



Dental Screenings by Dental Hygienists

Aside from when they first enter school, and in third and seventh grades, many students' dental hygiene goes unchecked for years. Act 55 of 2023 relaxes current law and will allow school districts flexibility to get more students checked and catch potential dental problems while also preventing future issues down the road. Children with poor oral health status were nearly three times more likely than their counterparts to miss school because of dental pain, which further creates an urgency to fill the gaps in our overall dental system. I'm grateful my colleagues understood the importance of this bill and the urgency to get this passed and signed into law.



Better Understanding Maternal Morbidity

Since I've been in the legislature, addressing issues of maternal mortality and morbidity has been a mission of mine. In 2023, we were finally able to get some changes across the finish line which will help us to better understand the unique challenges of pregnant and birthing people, particularly Black women. Act 5 of 2023 categorizes maternal deaths and severe maternal morbidity complications as reportable events for the Maternal Mortality Review Committee to study in their research. This collected data will facilitate a better understanding of risk factors and key patterns linked to the issue. This was a collective effort with my colleague Sen. Judy Schwank of Berks County, and I am still beyond excited about seeing Act 5 signed into law.



Stop-N-Go Task Force

Ensuring our communities are safe and thriving places for all is at the forefront of my work. That means cleaning our streets and addressing nuisance businesses like Stop-N-Gos. That's why I was beyond excited to advocate for Gov. Shapiro to sign Act 49 of 2023 into law in mid-December, which makes amends the Liquor code by establishing a Stop-N-Go task force. The task force, made up of members appointed by the governor, Senate and House leadership, and one ex officio member, will hold public hearings, review the law and best practices and issue a report on how to curb this nuisance to the community. I look forward to reading the report and working with our city and state officials to implement recommendations from the report.



Black Maternal Health Caucus Launch

I am thrilled to be a co-Chair of the newly formed Pennsylvania Black Maternal Health Caucus, as this subject is close to my heart and a cause I have been championing for years. This group will bring visibility to Black maternal health as a critical issue and cause of action. By working with our colleagues in both the House and Senate, we want to advance legislation and solutions that will address the disturbing trends of Black maternal mortality and morbidity. Act 5 of 2023 was just the start, as we look to change the trajectory of maternal health outcomes in Pennsylvania.



Banning "Ghost Gun" Parts

On Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, the House Judiciary Committee convened for a voting meeting, where it approved my legislation that would ban "ghost gun" parts by banning the purchase, sale, and production of untraceable gun parts. It's important that we get "ghost guns," which are so often used to commit violent crimes, off our streets and out of our communities.



EDUCATION UPDATE:

As part of last year's budget, my colleagues and I allocated a historic \$1.48 billion — a 6.1% increase in funding — for the School District of Philadelphia. We also secured \$175 million in school facility and environmental repair funds for schools across the commonwealth so our students and parents can feel secure in knowing they're learning in a safe and non-toxic environment. Additionally, we were able to allocate funding for universal school breakfast to ensure that every student in every school across Pennsylvania has access to the nutrients they need to start their day because we recognize that no one can learn on an empty stomach.



UNIVERSAL FREE BREAKFAST

2023/2024 STATE BUDGET FUNDING

PHILADELPHIA

184,562

STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR FREE BREAKFAST!

The 2023/24 Budget

Increases Funding for Schools in our Community

Philadelphia School District

\$1.48 Billion (6.1% ↑)

Property Tax/Rent Rebate 2024 Expansion:

The state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, which benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with disabilities 18 or older, got even better.

As part of last year's budget, we increased the income limit to \$45,000 for both homeowners and renters which means almost 175,000 more Pennsylvanians now qualify for a property tax or rent rebate.

The application to apply for a rebate on rent or property taxes paid in 2023 is now open.



Property Tax / Rent Rebate 2024 Program Expansion

MORE people eligible, **MORE** money back!

Homeowner Income	Rebate	Renter Income	Rebate
Up to \$8K	\$1,000	Up to \$8K	\$1,000
Up to \$15K	\$770	Up to \$15K	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$460	Up to \$18K	\$460
Up to \$35K	\$380	Up to \$45K	\$380
Up to \$45K	\$380		

Questions? Contact my office for help receiving your refund!

DAYS IN THE DISTRICT:



It was so great to see everyone who helped to beautify the 192nd during our Philly fall clean up.



I want to thank everyone who came out to our fall Senior Seminar. My team and I met with over 40 constituents to share information about staying healthy and other valuable resources in the community.



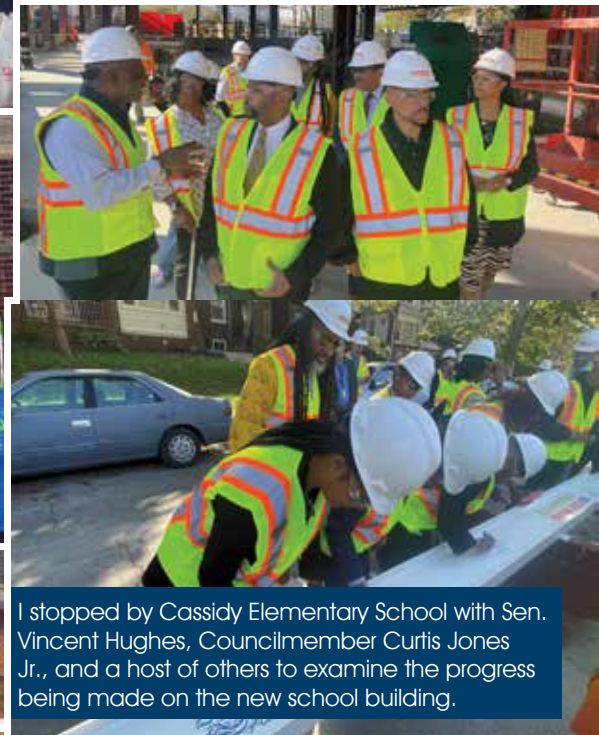
I hosted a fall town hall meeting at ECS St. Barnabas Community Resource Center, where we discussed community concerns and launched my QLIP192 initiative — my team's Quality of Life Improvement Program strategy.



We celebrated Halloween with a resource table at the annual trick-or-treat at Carroll Park, where we met over 300 children and families and provided information on state and local programs and connected seniors to our annual Thanksgiving giveaway.



I joined ACHIEVEability and Rebuilding Together, along with Councilmember Curtis Jones Jr., to showcase home improvements made for some of our neighbors in the Haddington community.



I stopped by Cassidy Elementary School with Sen. Vincent Hughes, Councilmember Curtis Jones Jr., and a host of others to examine the progress being made on the new school building.



I toured vacant lots and litter hot spots across the district along with teams from the Overbrook Environmental Education Center, PGA Corp, and American Rivers. It's important that we work together to find a way to transform these spaces to beautify and restore our neighborhood and improve the health and safety of our communities.



My team and I were excited to give away Thanksgiving meals to over 200 of our neighbors as part of our annual Thanksgiving Giveaway.



State Representative
MORGAN CEPHAS

7538 Haverford Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19151

lpo.kg.0124

UPCOMING EVENTS

Quality of Life Improvement Program Town Hall Kick-off | Monday, February 19th, 6pm | 19th Police District, 6059 Haverford Ave.

Annual Spring Shredding | Saturday, March 16th, 9am-12pm | Pinn Memorial Baptist Church, 2251 N 54th Street

Youth Employment Workshop Series | April 2024 | More details to come





The Overbrook Night Market 2024 | Thursday, June 20th, 6pm | 63rd Street & Lancaster

District Office:

7538 Haverford Ave. | Philadelphia, PA 19151 | (215) 879-6625

Capitol Office:

324 Main Capitol Building | P.O. Box 202192 | Harrisburg, PA 17120-2192 | (717) 783-2192

 RepCephas.com |  /RepCephas |  @RepCephas |  RepCephas@pahouse.net