



Winter
2020

State Representative | 181st Legislative District

MALCOLM KENYATTA

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Keeping Up with Kenyatta!

Dear Friends,

I hope your new year is off to a joyous and a prosperous start. A new year means new beginnings and new ideas on striving for a better, more equitable community and commonwealth. I want to keep you informed about what's happening with your state government, my work on your behalf, and what's in store for 2020.

My first term is almost one for the books and it's been an honor to serve as your state representative. I am proud of the progress we've made for our community and the commonwealth. I fought relentlessly to ensure our most vulnerable neighbors maintain access to life saving assistance, called out the state Supreme Court for upholding the elimination of the General Assistance program and made combatting poverty a priority.

I am entering the new year with the same momentum to fiercely defend and protect the rights of all Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,



The Fight Against Poverty!

Poverty is the social and moral issue of our time. I've been a staunch advocate for ensuring all communities have access to a decent quality of life and are not deprived of human dignity because of their socio-economic status. In our crusade for an equitable commonwealth, we must be mindful that our policies and legislation truly uphold the welfare of the public and provides general good and advantage - the meaning of a commonwealth. To do my part, I introduced a series of bills tackling poverty:

H.B. 1623 – would task the Department of Human Services with maintaining a system to track intergenerational poverty. The data collected would be analyzed by a commission made up of cabinet members who would use this data to implement policies and programs addressing poverty, public assistance, education, and other issues, as needed, to reduce the rate of childhood and adult poverty. A second piece of legislation would require the Independent Fiscal Office to complete a poverty impact analysis on the governor's proposed budget, the enacted budget, and any bill, amendment, or joint resolution upon written request of a member of the General Assembly.

H.B. 1709 – with state Rep. Melissa Shusterman, D-Chester, that would connect the 11,000 people who were kicked off general assistance with emergency relief. Our bill has languished in the House Health Committee since being introduced.

Since it's elimination last August, I've been fiercely trying to get the General Assistance program re-instated, and in the meantime, connect the 11,000 Pennsylvanians who have been left without this vital program to comparable alternatives.

I was deeply dismayed by the state Supreme Court's recent ruling to uphold GA's cancellation, just days before Christmas – a season built on the idea of good will toward others. The Supreme Court's spineless decision denied thousands of our most vulnerable Pennsylvania neighbors their dignity and, essentially, the right to exist.

I won't back down from fighting until this program is restored!

ENDING CAMPUS HUNGER

Last month, I hosted a House Democratic Policy Committee public hearing to discuss legislation (H.B. 2005) I introduced with Rep. Jennifer O'Mara, D-Delaware, that would create a state grant program to combat widespread food insecurities among college and university students across Pennsylvania.

I listened to testimony from Department of State officials, educators and students, including those from my alma mater Temple University.

It's a silent struggle that up to 30% of all students endure and a reason why many drop out. I, too, was a hungry college student and now, as a public servant, it's my duty ensure that residents across our commonwealth have access to healthy foods. Too many futures are at stake.



It's Been a Great First Year!



Upcoming Event:

Women's Resource Fair
Co-hosted with

state Rep. Mary Isaacson

Thursday, March 19

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Lutheran Settlement House
1340 Frankford Ave.,
Philadelphia, 19125



TOXIC SCHOOLS

Last year, six Philadelphia schools abruptly closed as a result of toxic conditions and among those six schools was Pratt Early Childhood Center, located in our community.

The closures displaced thousands of students and left parents, teachers and staff wondering about the severity of the effects of daily exposure to hazardous materials such as lead, asbestos, and mold.

I've been working diligently to demand more funding from the state for toxic hazard remediation because no student in our

commonwealth should have to endure learning in classrooms riddled with harmful materials.

Just hours prior to learning about the abrupt closure of Pratt, I met with Gov. Wolf to discuss allocating more funds for our schools, in addition to the \$4.3 million the governor provided in July.

Throughout the year, I also joined my Philadelphia House Delegation and state Senate colleagues in uplifting the voices of our students, parents and educators.

REAL ID REMINDER

We're less than a year away from needing a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card to board a domestic flight or enter secure federal facilities. If you don't have a U.S. Passport or active Military ID, you'll need a REAL ID for this purpose by Oct. 1, 2020.

To obtain one, take all of the following to a Driver's License Center:

- ➔ Original birth certificate with a raised seal or a valid U.S. Passport
- ➔ Social Security Card
- ➔ Proof of all legal name changes (marriage license or court order)
- ➔ Two proofs of current items that show your physical address

More information for REAL ID can be found at www.dmv.gov/REALID/.



Around the 181st District

I was proud to bring all faiths together for a community-wide breakfast!



I presented a \$60K state grant to Dobbins High School that will allow the renovations of two gyms.



I welcomed over 100 people from our community seeking to get involved in ensuring our neighbors are counted in the 2020 Census!



CENSUS DAY IS APRIL 1, 2020, BUT ONLINE RESPONSES WILL BE ACCEPTED BEGINNING IN MARCH 2020.

Any and all information that you provide is protected and, by law, the Census Bureau cannot share your answers with anyone, including any government agency.

In the meantime, if you're looking for work or to earn some extra income, you can apply to become part of the 2020 Census Team. For more information on the 2020 Census and job opportunities, visit www.2020census.gov.

New and Improved Voting in PA!

We have BIG elections coming up this year and I am proud to inform you that Pennsylvania has revamped our voting system to make sure everyone's vote can be counted in 2020 and beyond.

The comprehensive changes in Act 77 of 2019 to the way we cast our ballots will be here just in time for the upcoming Primary Election in April. As your state representative, I want to do everything I can to make sure you understand how things have changed and how much easier it will be for your voice to be heard.

View the flyer below to learn about these modernized voting provisions or visit votespa.com for more information. As always, my office is here to help!



More ways to vote



No-excuse mail-in voting
New option to vote by mail
Without providing an excuse



Permanent mail-in ballot list
Receive applications for
mail-in or absentee ballots
for all elections

More accessible elections



More time to register
Deadline to register to vote is
now 15 days before
an election



Extended voting period
Request a mail-in or absentee
ballot up to 50 days before
an election

Extended deadline
Submit mail-in or absentee ballot
by 8 p.m. on Election Day

SEPTA Key Senior ID Extension

SEPTA is providing a one-year extension of all SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards expiring in 2020. Card holders with a card expiring in 2020 will be able to continue to ride SEPTA using their current card for 12 months beyond the printed date of expiration. For example, cards with a May 2020 expiration date will continue to be valid for travel through May 2021.

While no SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards will expire during 2020, card holders with a Senior ID Card expiring in 2020 who wish to renew their card in the coming year can obtain same day card renewal at one of the below locations:

- ➔ SEPTA Headquarters
1234 Market St., 19107, or
- ➔ SEPTA Accessible Travel Center
Room #109, Suburban Station
15 N. 16th St., 19107

The changes noted above apply only to cards expiring in calendar year 2020 and do not affect new applications in any way. Seniors can continue to apply for new SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards at SEPTA Headquarters and the Accessible Travel Center, and my staff will also continue to take photographs and process applications for new Senior ID Cards at my district office. In the coming year, I will be working with SEPTA as they develop a process that will allow my office to handle card renewals in the future.

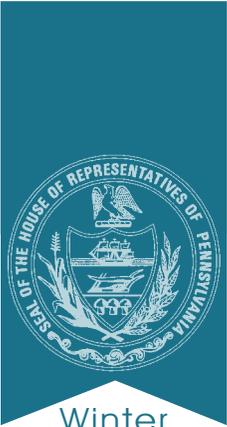




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My staff and I can help you with:

- ➔ Birth Certificates
- ➔ Unclaimed Property Search
- ➔ Home Heating Assistance
- ➔ SEPTA Key Senior ID Card
- ➔ PACE Cards and prescription drug assistance for Seniors
- ➔ Consumer Complaints
- ➔ Any State Government Program and Issue

Stop by or call to let us know how we can assist you!

