



Summer  
2022

State Representative | 181st Legislative District

# MALCOLM KENYATTA

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## Dear neighbor,

Being your State Representative is the honor of my life. It has been a busy couple of months in Harrisburg and the district as I worked to pass the state’s budget, authored legislation, and fought against injustices such as the decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. We are living in tough times, and I

want you to know that I am doing everything in my power to fight for you, your rights and the rights of Pennsylvanians all across the commonwealth. Read this newsletter to see what I’m doing to improve our district and the commonwealth!

## Important Legislation Introduced This Session

### Increasing Financial Assistance to Families and Households in Need

In order to provide critical financial assistance to qualified households in need, I have introduced legislation with state Sen. Katie Muth to modernize the TANF program. Going forward, to ensure that TANF benefits continue to be effective at providing financial stability, this legislation would require an annual cost of living increase to keep pace with inflation. This legislation would increase the monthly benefit amount to bring families up to 50% of the federal poverty level and out of deep poverty, a serious life improving measure for these families and their children’s futures.



### PA Women’s Health Protection Act

In light of the Dobbs decision overturning Roe v. Wade, I introduced legislation with state Rep. Morgan Cephas to ban Pennsylvania from imposing undue regulations on women’s reproductive healthcare. Onerous restrictions, such as requiring women to undergo state mandated counseling prior to receiving healthcare they have already decided

they want, would no longer be allowed in our state. We cannot be a state where all Pennsylvanians can thrive until all Pennsylvanians have access to their constitutional rights and bodily autonomy.

The right to choose what one does with their body cannot be negotiable in Pennsylvania.

### Sedition-Free Pennsylvania

Our democracy is constantly being threatened by elected officials who continuously share misinformation and create distrust, fear and ignorance within our communities. This sedition should have no place in Pennsylvania’s governing

bodies. For this reason, I joined my colleague state Rep. Chris Rabb in introducing legislation to eliminate sedition in our great state and ensure that our elected officials are held accountable for actions they take against our democracy.

# Budget

We passed the state budget for 2022-2023 in early July. While there are elements of this budget that I'm deeply concerned about, such as Earned Income Tax Credit expansion and huge corporate tax cuts, it overall does a lot of good. It includes the biggest investment in public education in Pennsylvania history, an expansion of the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, millions of dollars for a Whole Home Repairs program to give grants to low-income families, and \$1 million for Hunger Free Campuses, legislation that I co-sponsored. These are all top priorities for the 181st District, and I am pleased to see funding invested in addressing these issues.

# Combating Gun Violence

The rates of gun violence that we are witnessing in our city, state and country are absolutely sickening! In 2021, Philadelphia had over 500 homicides and is on track to pass that number by the end of 2022. We have witnessed countless mass shootings across the country in places like Uvalde, Buffalo, Highland Park and South Philadelphia.

My Democratic colleagues and I have introduced several pieces of legislation to combat gun violence, such as background checks, assault weapons bans and raising the minimum age to purchase a firearm.

As we are attempting to protect Pennsylvanians from gun violence, our colleagues in the Republican Party are doing everything in their power to ignore gun violence. They have even attempted to make it easier to access a firearm. More people across Pennsylvania will continue to die from gun violence as a consequence of the majority party's inaction.

I have attended events throughout our community to speak with those who have had to live through the horror of gun violence. This includes a visit to our local YMCA to speak with parents, children and advocates about finding further ways to combat gun violence and keep our community safe.

In December of 2021, I held a press conference to call on Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney and Governor Tom Wolf to declare a state of emergency on gun violence. Along with this, I proposed a three-point plan that I believe can help prevent gun violence. The three steps include:

- 1) Declaring a state of emergency.
- 2) Passing stalled gun safety legislation.
- 3) Addressing root causes of violence and investing in our youth.

Even though Republicans refuse to address gun violence, you can count on me to continue fighting for gun safety legislation and to keep our communities safe for everybody! We will get through this, there are too many good people fighting this good fight!



# Secretary For Department of Agriculture Visits the District

Agriculture is very much alive and well in North Philly! It was a privilege to have Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding in the 181st District for Urban Ag Week! We visited the incredible Urban Creators Farm and Perrystead Dairy to see all that they're doing and how the department can better support them.

In the midst of the climate crisis, and many families in Philadelphia experiencing food insecurity, having agriculture that is produced and grown right here in North Philly is very beneficial!



# 2022 Job Fair at Temple University



I was proud to join my colleague and friend, state Rep. Donna Bullock, Chair of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, and other PLBC colleagues for a job fair at Temple University. This event was a huge success as hundreds of people showed up to discover all the great job opportunities that were presented.

PLBC is always committed to our mission to provide fair opportunity for our most marginalized Pennsylvanians! People are in dire need of work and employers are in dire need of workers. This job fair provided excellent opportunities for all that attended!

# Community Day

On June 25, I was proud to host a Community Day event. These incredible women, led by Denise Ripley, organized this event honoring local Black leaders and giving back to our community. It was my pleasure to be there to support this worthy cause!

Black history is 24/7, 365, and I will continue work in Harrisburg and within our community to ensure equality and equity for Black Pennsylvanians!



# Check Presentation to Salvation Army Shelter



The Salvation Army shelter is a lifeline for families throughout the region and I'm so grateful they are in my district. The \$1 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant they were awarded will help them make critical upgrades to their facility to better serve those in need!





State Representative  
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## New District Map

Every 10 years, the state updates its legislative districts to match the current demographic trends of the state. The 181st District now includes new neighborhoods, which you can see on the map at right. My office is always ready to provide any resident with access to any state services or assistance they need!



## My staff and I can help you with:

- ▶ Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- ▶ Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- ▶ Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- ▶ Information on financial assistance for higher education
- ▶ Birth and death certificates
- ▶ Problems with the Department of Health and Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- ▶ Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- ▶ Problems or questions about the state lottery
- ▶ Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- ▶ Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- ▶ Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- ▶ Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- ▶ Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- ▶ PACE cards for senior citizens
- ▶ Consumer complaints
- ▶ Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- ▶ Information about federal, state and local government agencies