

# DARISHA K. PARKER

*Proudly serving the* 198TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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Dear neighbor,

Every day I wake, thinking about how I can make a difference in the lives of residents in the 198th District. I then bring those thoughts to Harrisburg to work hard for you and to turn those possibilities into a reality.

We all know we are in a bit of a fight. A Fight for safe streets, reproductive rights and equitable schools. A Fight for an increase in the minimum wage, help for small businesses and relief from the ravages of COVID in our communities.

Some of our work has paid off. We are seeing a substantial increase in education money, something that is desperately needed in Philadelphia. But we also saw the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States throw our country into a tailspin. That decision could potentially roll back 50 years of reproductive rights – rights that women have had in order to make decisions on their own. Now we are expected to allow state and local authorities to make decisions about our own well-being. It is mindboggling. But we will continue to work to keep safe abortion access legal in Pennsylvania and ensure that reproductive and other health decisions are left where they should be...with a woman and birthing people.

I also want to see neighbors out on their front porches with a morning cup of coffee, chatting about what is good in their community, in their neighborhood. Until we get ahead of gun violence, I don't expect to see that. We were able to get money back into the budget to help boots-on-the-ground organizations that deal with gun violence issues daily. But more needs done. I have two bills in the House to aid that:

1. Legislation to improve the Pennsylvania Instant Check System to purchase guns. In Pennsylvania, every firearm sale that is carried out by a licensed seller must involve a request for a criminal history, juvenile delinquency history and mental health record check of the potential purchaser or transferee. The state police PICS searches numerous databases to determine whether the potential buyer is legally allowed to own a firearm.

However, currently a licensed seller can transfer a firearm to someone without first conducting a proper background check if there is an electronic failure, scheduled computer downtime, or similar event beyond the control of the state police that lasts for longer than 48 hours.

In addition, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee has determined that the current fee and surcharge structure that funds PICS is insufficient and inadequate. In order to cover operational costs, these fees and surcharges would need to increase from \$5 – the lowest firearm background check fee in the country – to \$16.

2. The second bill addresses the age at which individuals can purchase and possess weapons, raising it from 18 to 21. The responsibility of owning a gun should be taken as seriously as other minimum age requirements we set for things like like driving, purchasing alcohol and purchasing cigarettes.

There is evidence that laws raising the minimum legal age to purchase firearms to 21 are associated with decreases in firearm deaths and suicides among young people, especially among those 18 to 20.



## The difference 245 years makes

Seven words in Pennsylvania in July – a huge difference in the impact on your rights.

**July 4th, 1776:**

created equal; that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights,

**July 8, 2022:**

15 SECTION. ABORTION.  
16 WITH APPROPRIATE FUNDING MEANS FOR ABILITY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.  
17 ABORTION OF ANY OTHER RIGHT RELATING TO ABORTION.

Don't let your rights be taken away –  
**call your PA lawmakers today.**

# VOTING RIGHTS ANNIVERSARY



This Aug. 6 was the anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, enforcing the 15th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States – signed Aug. 6, 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Voting Rights Act prohibited discriminatory voting practices adopted in many southern states after the Civil War, including literacy tests as a prerequisite to voting.

Vice President Kamala Harris tells us that “over the past decade, the Voting Rights Act has been gutted by Supreme Court decisions. As a result, states have passed anti-voter legislation. Just this year (2021),

18 states have passed 30 laws that make it more difficult for Americans to vote, including by limiting vote-by-mail, early voting, and other restrictive measures.”

All of this is a reminder to get out and vote because it is your right. So much is at stake as we stare down the fall 2022 election. Here are some important dates to keep in mind moving forward. If you are voting by mail, be sure to mail in your ballot as early as possible so it gets to the county board of elections on time. Go to [www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/Pages/default.aspx).

**VOTING MAKES  
DEMOCRACY WORK.**



**VOTING KEEPS US FREE.**

**WE SHOULD MAKE VOTING  
EASIER, NOT HARDER.**

**YOU CAN HELP — CALL YOUR LAWMAKER NOW.**

**OCTOBER 24, 2022**

Last day to REGISTER before the November election

**NOVEMBER 1, 2022**

Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot

**NOVEMBER 8, 2022**

Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots (must be received by 8:00 P.M.)

**NOVEMBER 8, 2022**

GENERAL ELECTION

**NOVEMBER 9, 2022**

First day to REGISTER after November election

**NOVEMBER 15, 2022**

Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted military and overseas absentee ballots (submitted for delivery no later than 11:59 P.M. on November 7)



# OUT & ABOUT





State Representative

# DARISHA K. PARKER

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# RAPPING WITH THE REP

I'm very excited to introduce you to this new initiative in the district. Rapping with the Rep is our opportunity to meet and discuss issues that are important to you and do it in the space where you are... your neighborhood, your community center, your place of business – wherever it works for you.

Call my office at (215) 849-6426 to select a date and we will make it happen. There are so many issues to discuss, and it is important to bring them to light and provide help with state government resources, city resources, neighborhood resources and everything in between. We will be bringing in all the help and access to folks that we can. I look forward to meeting one and all in the coming days, weeks and months.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# DARISHA K. PARKER

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## My Office Can Help You With:

- Unemployment or the PUA system
- Property Tax/Rent Rebates for seniors
- Voter registration and vote by mail
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Obtaining and completing state forms
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Problems or questions about the state lottery

Welcome to the  
**198th Legislative District**



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