



Summer
2019

SUMMER LEE

District Office:

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Dear Neighbor,

On Jan. 1, I was sworn in as state representative in the 34th Legislative District. I am honored to have been elected as your representative and humbled to be able to serve you.

As your state representative, I am in Harrisburg advocating for issues that are important to all of us and our families. I hope that you will all get to know me and the services our offices can provide.

As a lifelong resident of the Mon Valley, I have strived to improve my community from a very young age. After graduating from Woodland Hills High School, I attended Penn State, where I obtained my degree in journalism. Upon graduating, I earned my law degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C.

While at Howard, I was an intern with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and a student attorney in the Howard University School of Law Civil Rights Clinic, representing and assisting indigent clients with civil rights complaints.

Since returning home, many of you have connected with me as a community organizer. Together we addressed pressing needs in Woodland Hills School District. This experience revealed that organizing our community, recognizing our issues, and crafting solutions requires co-governance; and that's what I do as your elected state representative.

My pledge is to represent you well in Harrisburg and to assist you with your state-related needs, and concurrently fight for a government and economy that works for all of us. When our community is engaged with leaders in government, we can create a cleaner environment, a healthier future, and deliver justice to people who have been systematically harmed.

Legislative Update



Currently, I serve on the Judiciary, Local Government and Children and Youth committees. I am also serving as Treasurer for the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus. During my time in the General Assembly, my primary goal will be to focus on issues that are important to our community – jobs, livable wages, quality education, efficient transportation, equal distribution of resources, economic development, and justice for our communities harmed by decades of unhealthy air quality.

Since the beginning of the legislative year, my colleagues and I have introduced a number of bills for debate, and hopefully, eventually enactment if they are voted through the House and Senate.

They include:

- **HR 1382** – Would require the attorney general to appoint a special prosecutor when an on-duty police officer uses deadly force to resolve an incident; and a companion bill that would modernize Pennsylvania’s use-of-force laws which govern police procedures, mandating that de-escalation and non-lethal force options be exhausted prior to lethal force being deployed;
- **HR 1009** – Would protect pregnant women who were not convicted of a violent crime by allowing them to receive alternative sentences in a supervised and structured manner;
- **HR 1014** – Would require correctional institutions to provide trauma-informed care to incarcerated people and train staff on how to properly assist trauma survivors, reducing recidivism rates and preparing people to re-enter society;
- **HR 190** – Urging the U.S. Congress to raise the national minimum wage to \$15 an hour;
- **HR 158** – Honors Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., the oldest Greek-letter service organization established by African-American college-educated women;
- **HR 91** – Recognizes February as “Black History Month” honoring the triumphs, struggles, accomplishments, artistic and political achievements of African Americans throughout the United States.

In addition to these bills and resolutions, I am also proud to stand with, and cast votes to protect vital public institutions and policies. That includes fighting to ensure that money isn’t drained from public schools to support private ones, voting to protect women’s reproductive rights, raising the state’s minimum hourly wage to \$15, and supporting commonsense gun safety legislation.

We must never sacrifice the health of our community to favor an industry or to save the Commonwealth a few dollars. Therefore, I have voted against regulatory rollbacks which would undo nearly a century of progress toward protecting our air and water. Additionally, I opposed a bill which would strip temporary benefits from our wounded veterans and most vulnerable citizens.

Working for you in the Mon Valley and in Harrisburg

In January I hosted a meeting of the Democratic Policy Committee in Braddock to discuss wage growth and the reclamation of a living wage for all Pennsylvanians. We must move aggressively to stimulate wage growth with every means at our disposal. Pennsylvanians work hard and deserve to afford to live comfortably without the burden of multiple jobs.



I want to thank everyone who came out to my office's grand opening on Braddock Avenue! It's always wonderful to connect with people in the community. And remember, my staff and I are here to help you!

In a meeting in Harrisburg, students from the Mon-Valley voiced the issues they are facing and described how they can work together to effect change in their community.



I also recently was invited by Fox Chapel students Suparna Agrawal and Abby Rickin-Marks to speak to youth about discrimination at an event entitled: 'Be the Change: Fighting Discrimination in the Education System.'



Rep. Innamorato and I proudly affirmed our support for union workers this spring when they went on strike to protest changes to their contract with Wabtec. Together, they made their voices heard and were able to bring Wabtec to the negotiating table.



Thank you to the hundreds of people who turned out in April to attend a rally at the Pennsylvania Capitol to call for reforms to Pennsylvania’s law enforcement system. Solidarity with the youth of Pittsburgh prevailed as we demanded an end to violence between the police and the communities they serve. To reduce repeated harm to our community, my fellow legislators and I will introduce legislation to change Pennsylvania’s laws on when and how lethal force can be used by officers when effectuating an arrest.



Part of being an elected official is finding a consensus among different groups of people, all of whom have different viewpoints and life experiences. As my colleagues and I were developing our legislation, I was happy to hear from faith leaders in our communities about their concerns and how we can work together to effect change.



And meeting with advocates for the unionization of graduate students at the University of Pittsburgh.



Earlier this spring, I had the opportunity to speak at a Violence Prevention Panel hosted by Chatham College Democrats.



Touring the construction site of Dickson Elementary School in Woodland Hills School District to see the progression. It is anticipated to be complete in October.



Penn State Greater Allegheny hosted Rep. Austin Davis, Sen. Jim Brewster, Sen. Jay Costa, and me to meet with students, faculty, and administration and talk about issues affecting higher education in Pennsylvania.



State Representative
SUMMER LEE

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On May 29, my office coordinated with Sens. Jim Brewster and Jay Costa to host a Real ID informational session held at the historic Braddock Carnegie Library. Representatives from PennDOT, the Allegheny County Court of Records, and the Office of Vital Records thoroughly detailed the steps Pennsylvanians can take to secure a Real ID, compliant with federal security standards, by the deadline of Oct. 1, 2020.

Happy birthday to the Braddock Carnegie Library!

Braddock Carnegie Library is celebrating a happy 130th anniversary. Dedicated in 1889, the library was the first Carnegie library in the US and is a National Historic Landmark.

More importantly, it has served as a cornerstone of our community for generations, serving the young and the old. Public libraries are dynamic, socially responsive institutions, a nexus of diversity, and a lifeline for the most vulnerable among us, and the Braddock library embodies this mission.

Like many, its staff are often ad hoc social workers and

navigators. They help local people figure out the complexities of life, from navigating the health system to helping those with housing needs. Specifically, they provide assistance with job applications and resumes, food and housing referrals, legal aid, and library music and arts programs.

Without our library – and public libraries in general – our community and Pennsylvania would be a worse place. Libraries are community buildings, and community builders.

We must continue to support the Braddock Carnegie Library and wish for its continued success for another 130 years!

Stay Connected

My staff and I are organizing community events to take place in July, including a criminal justice event and an environmental forum.

Please watch for communications from my office in the coming months to learn about these events. The district office is open Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm. Feel free to stop by and meet my staff!

The district office is located in Braddock and is at your service:

**501 Braddock Ave.,
Suite #105
Braddock, PA 15104-9998
(412)-273-3400**

My office can help you with:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- 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
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- 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
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

If you need help with any state or government-related services, please feel free to contact my office at 412-273-3400 for assistance.