

State Representative | 34th Legislative District

# SUMMER LEE

Representing  
Pittsburgh (parts  
of Greenfield  
& Hazelwood,  
Squirrel Hill South,  
Hays & Lincoln  
Place), Braddock,  
Braddock Hills,  
Chalfant, Churchill,  
Edgewood, Forest  
Hills, Homestead,  
North Braddock,  
Rankin, Swissvale,  
Turtle Creek, West  
Homestead and  
Wilkins Township.

**District Office:**

Braddock Office  
501 Braddock Ave.  
Suite 105  
Braddock, PA 15104  
(412) 273-3400

**Harrisburg Office**

123B East Wing  
P.O. Box 202034  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2034

**Email:**

RepLee@pahouse.net



@RepSummerLee

**Website:**

www.RepSummerLee.com



## Hello Neighbor,

Happy summer! I hope everyone has been able to enjoy the warm weather with their family, friends, and neighbors. My staff and I are extremely proud to serve and represent the people and communities of the 34th Legislative District. With the effectiveness of the vaccines and appropriate safety precautions, like wearing masks, we are thrilled to interact with our constituents on a personal level again. My office is open by appointment to assist with any state-related matters, and we look forward to connecting with you again soon.

In the district, my office held an abundance of memorable community events, including our annual Senior Spring Fling. We enjoyed a light lunch, music, and sharing resources, all while celebrating the contributions of our elder neighbors and friends! Dance and Fitness Instructor Roland Ford educated our seniors with an afternoon filled with motivation and exercise. We thank everyone who attended, whether you shared information with our elders or just spent your afternoon with us. It was a pleasure hosting you all and we look forward to the next event!

On the legislative side, I continue to work with my colleagues in Harrisburg to help working people, protect our communities and environment, and improve education. During the recent months, I have attended Education, Health, and Judiciary committee meetings, voted on legislation, addressed issues facing the Unemployment Compensation system with my colleagues from the Allegheny County Delegation, and introduced bills to improve our justice system. I always appreciate it when constituents share their suggestions for overcoming the challenges we face. The best ideas for improving our communities come from the people.

Following the recent census, Pennsylvania redrew its legislative maps. The new districts will be in effect beginning in January 2023. Please join me in welcoming our new friends and neighbors! To the new constituents of East Pittsburgh, Homewood, Point Breeze, and Wilkinsburg, I am truly honored to serve as State Representative.

As always, my team and I are ready to provide you with the highest level of service. For assistance with state-related services or access to resources, please contact us at 412-273-3400. It is our absolute pleasure to assist with your needs.

Thank you,

Rep. Summer Lee



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**Bills Sponsored: 270 • Resolutions Sponsored: 29**

## **Gun Violence**

Since the beginning of this year, there have been more than 40 fatal shootings in the Pittsburgh area alone. It is clear to see that gun violence is an issue that needs to be addressed. I have been in contact with different advocacy groups, legislators and constituents to attack this problem that has been affecting our communities.

During this legislative session, I have teamed up with my fellow legislators to co-sponsor several bills to address gun violence in our commonwealth. They include HB 696 (grant funding for gun violence prevention), HB 698 (establishing a 72-hour waiting period to purchase semi-automatic rifles), HB 699 (requiring safe storage of firearms when not in use), HB 770 (prohibiting certain “assault” style weapons), HB 1538 (allowing local governments to regulate firearms and ammunition), HB 1751 (requiring photo ID to purchase ammunition), and HB 1903 (creating Extreme Risk Protection Orders, which require a temporary relinquishment of firearms from someone who is showing violent behavior). As long as the crisis continues, I will fight for common-sense policies that will save lives and protect our communities.

## **Dignity for Incarcerated Women**

We must continue to encourage and propose new ideas that provide the necessary resources for rehabilitation and support for all individuals incarcerated in our Commonwealth. It is my duty as a legislator to ensure that our incarcerated individuals receive the support they need to successfully reintegrate into our communities. That’s why I introduced HB 2445, which would improve the environment in our state correctional institutions by properly assisting and rehabilitating incarcerated individuals who have experienced trauma. Individuals who have experienced trauma of any type need support and understanding from trained staff. They should feel safe and empowered as they move towards rehabilitation and re-entry into society. Unfortunately, some trauma survivors can be re-traumatized by well-meaning correctional staff who may not be trauma informed. By requiring all state correctional institutions to (1) provide trauma-informed care to incarcerated individuals and (2) train staff on how to properly assist trauma survivors, we will be able to continue to reduce recidivism rates and prepare individuals for successful re-entry.

## **Addressing Police Violence**

On June 19, 2018, 17-year-old Antwon Rose II was shot in the back and killed by East Pittsburgh police officer Michael Rosfeld. Antwon was unarmed, afraid, and fleeing. Despite the clear facts of the case, the officer was acquitted of the homicide charge, thereby exposing a major flaw in the Commonwealth’s police use of force law. My legislation, HB 2556, would eliminate effectuating an arrest as justification for the use of deadly force. Instead, this proposal would mandate that lethal force only be used to prevent serious bodily injury, kidnapping, sexual intercourse compelled by force or threat, or an imminent threat to life. The General Assembly has made police work more difficult and our communities less safe by failing to establish clear use-of-force boundaries understood by citizens and law enforcement alike. Enacting morally sound legislation to emphasize life preservation and threat de-escalation will elevate the professional conduct of officers, decrease the amount of injury and loss of life, and

provide a mechanism for justice in the event of unnecessary use of force. Please join me in supporting this vital legislation as we improve professional standards while protecting our communities, and upholding equity and justice for all.

## **Helping Pennsylvania Homeowners**

Every Pennsylvanian deserves to live in a safe, healthy, and stable home. The pandemic and dramatic increase in the cost of construction materials have made it difficult for people to afford even basic home repairs. That’s why I co-sponsored HB 2617, the Pennsylvania Whole Home Repair Fund, which I’m excited to report received funds in this year’s budget (see next page for more details). This bill would use funds from the federal American Rescue Plan to award grants for home resiliency projects. Under the program, homeowners earning 80 percent of the county’s area median income and landlords meeting specific criteria could apply. I thank Representatives Innamorato and Krajewski for their leadership and recognition of the hazards posed by our region’s aging housing stock and the increasing severity of weather events due to climate change.

## **Protecting Consumers’ Data**

Do you know which companies have access to your data? With the prevalence of Internet-capable devices, you should have the right to know who collects your personal data, how a company uses your data, and “how to” delete your data, if you choose. HB 2257, the Pennsylvania Consumer Data Protection Act, would ensure proper management of a consumer’s data and that you can access yours. Among other things, this bill would ensure that Pennsylvanians have the right to access data collected from them by a company, correct inaccuracies, delete personal data, and receive a copy of collected data. It would also require companies to establish security practices to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and accessibility of your personal data. I thank Representatives Kenyatta and Shusterman for their leadership and understanding that consumers have the right to control their personal information.

# STATE BUDGET MAKES BIG INVESTMENTS IN PA

This year's state budget is not perfect – no state budget ever is – but it makes important investments in our communities and more importantly, in our families.

What I like about this budget is that it delivers a historic increase in state funding for education—money that will fund school programs, pay teachers, and provides record funding to schools that have been underfunded for decades, if not longer.

This investment, which will pay dividends down the road, is critical for families and children who are just starting their education journey. We have already seen this investment locally. In early August, the state announced \$7.8 million in new funding for Allegheny County's early childhood education.

This budget also includes a one-time bonus payment for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate program, which helps seniors; and includes the Whole-Home Repair program, which will provide grants to homeowners for needed home repairs. It also sets aside \$100 million for affordable housing construction and makes major investments in the outdoors and the environment – issues that I have been advocating about for years.



I make no secret about the parts of Harrisburg that I dislike and want to change. That said, it's important to recognize the parts of the budget that will help our children, families, and neighbors. By continuing to invest in the people and our communities, we can work toward a better future for all of us.

## CHANGES COMING TO THE 34TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Following reapportionment, our district will include East Pittsburgh, Wilkinsburg, and Pittsburgh Ward 13 (Homewood South, Point Breeze North, and Point Breeze). District 34 will no longer include Turtle Creek, Homestead, Pittsburgh Ward 31, or West Homestead. For more information on legislative reapportionment, please call our office at 412-273-3400 or visit [www.redistricting.state.pa.us](http://www.redistricting.state.pa.us).



Old/Current Map



New Map

*Welcome to the*  
**34th Legislative District**

Current Constituents  
New Constituents

**State Representative Summer Lee**  
✉ [RepLee@PAHouse.net](mailto:RepLee@PAHouse.net) 📍 501 Braddock Ave.  
📞 412-273-3400 Braddock, PA 15104  
🌐 [RepSummerLee.com](http://RepSummerLee.com) 📺 RepSummerLee

**New Map of the 34<sup>th</sup> Legislative District**  
*Effective December 1, 2022*





# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



## Intern Spotlight

Our office hosted Arjun Ramachandran from Carnegie Mellon University as our spring intern. He graduated this past semester with a Bachelor of Science degree in International Relations and Politics. Arjun was a great asset to our office, aiding in numerous tasks such as compiling informational databases, correspondence with constituents, and the planning of our 2022 Senior Spring Fling. With immense gratitude, thank you Arjun for all your hard work! We wish you the greatest success in all future endeavors. Congratulations and best of luck to you!



## Thank you, Josh Conley!

My office and I want to thank Josh Conley from the American Legion, who on the third Friday of every month visits our office to provide free veteran services to people in our community! If you are a veteran and need help accessing services or benefits, please contact our office or stop by!

## Senior Spring Fling

This spring, my team and I held our annual senior event called the Senior Spring Fling! A special thank you to the many local individuals and organizations who partnered with us to make this event a tremendous success. Our day consisted of providing information on state resources, line dancing, and a delicious lunch. We thank everyone who joined us for this special day.



## Senior Spotlight

For our Senior Spotlight, we recognized Mrs. Evelyn Benzo for all the amazing work she has done for our community! Born and raised in the Mon Valley, she has been instrumental in improving the Braddock area for decades. Mrs. Benzo has served on the Braddock council and numerous committees and boards including the Braddock Library. Thank you, Mrs. Benzo!

# EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES THROUGH PA CAREERLINK

PA CareerLink is a helpful resource for those who need employment services. It includes recruiting and placement, as well as training development workshops. Visit [www.careerlinkpittsburgh.com](http://www.careerlinkpittsburgh.com) for more information.

As of this spring, PA CareerLink is taking appointments on Mondays and Tuesdays to meet with an Unemployment Compensation representative. To utilize these services, email [info.allegheny@careerlinkpittsburgh.org](mailto:info.allegheny@careerlinkpittsburgh.org) or call 412-436-2225 for the Forest Hills office or 412-552-7100 for the Downtown office.



**Forest Hills: 2040 Ardmore Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15221**

**Downtown: 304 Wood St., Pittsburgh, PA 15221**

## PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM EXTENSION



The filing deadline for the 2021 Property Tax Rent Rebate Program has been extended until December 31, 2022. Funded by the Pennsylvania lottery, this program is for older and disabled residents who paid rent or property taxes in the year of 2021. For assistance completing the application please call our office at 412-273-3400.

One-time bonus payments will soon be on the way for people who have been approved for a rebate on taxes or rent paid in 2021, thanks to a \$140 million increase in supplemental payments included in the 2022-23 state budget.

If you have already applied and received your rebate, **you do not need to do anything**. The state Department of Revenue will send the additional funds in the coming weeks in the same manner as the initial rebate, either by check or direct deposit.

For more information visit [revenue.pa.gov/IncentivesCreditsPrograms/PropertyTaxRentRebateProgram/](https://revenue.pa.gov/IncentivesCreditsPrograms/PropertyTaxRentRebateProgram/).

## MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

With the ongoing effects of COVID-19 and recent tragedies, you should not ignore your mental health. Please take the time out to take care of yourself and to check on your friends and family. Remember that it is okay to not be okay.

In case of a mental health emergency, call the Resolve Crisis network at 1-888-796-8226 (**1-888-7-YOU-CAN**). Walk-in services are available at **333 N. Braddock Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15208**.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24/7 for free and confidential services at 1-800-273-8255 (**1-800-273-TALK**) or simply call 988, the new three-digit dialing code that will automatically route callers to the lifeline.



### For non-emergency assistance, please visit one of the following local organizations:

Milestone Centers, Inc.  
777 Penn Center Blvd.  
Building 7, Suite 200  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235  
412-243-3400

Pittsburgh Mercy  
1200 Reedsdale St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233-2109  
1-877-637-2924

TVC Community Services  
723 Braddock Ave.  
Braddock, PA 15104  
412-351-0222

UPMC Western Psychiatric  
Hospital (formerly WPIC)  
3811 O'Hara St.  
Pittsburgh, PA, 15213  
1-877-624-4100

Wesley Family  
Services (Wilkinsburg Location)  
221 Penn Ave.  
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221  
412-342-2300





State Representative

**SUMMER LEE**

501 Braddock Ave., Suite #105  
Braddock, PA 15104-9998

lpo.kd.0822

**If you need help  
with any state or  
government-related  
services, please  
contact our office  
for assistance.**

**Braddock Office:**

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

**Harrisburg Office:**

*Our Capitol office in  
Harrisburg has moved.*

123B East Wing  
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**Website:**

[www.RepSummerLee.com](http://www.RepSummerLee.com)

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## SUMMER UPDATE

### MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Unemployment or the PUA system.
- Property tax/rent rebates for seniors and people with disabilities.
- Voter registration and vote by mail.
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance).
- Car registrations, special tags, disability parking placards, titles, and driver's license applications.
- Information on financial assistance for higher education.
- Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds.
- Birth and death certificates.
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems.
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission.
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies.
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications.
- Problems or questions about the state lottery.
- PACE cards for senior citizens.
- Consumer complaints.
- Pittsburgh Regional Transit (formerly Port Authority) ConnectCards.