

DEAR NEIGHBOR,

Happy New Year! I hope the holiday season was full of rest, quality time with loved ones and light. I know the past year has not been easy, in politics or in our neighborhoods.

In the last year, we've seen our dictatorial President declare war on working people – cutting taxes for the rich, gutting lifesaving social services and assaulting the most basic rights of immigrants, the LGBT+ community and Black and Brown America.

We've seen not one, but two budget crises. State and federal budget shutdowns delayed the provision of lifesaving programs like SNAP and LIHEAP. And every day, we continue to see what chronic underfunding means for our community's mass transit: limited service, capital disrepair and issues getting where we need to go.

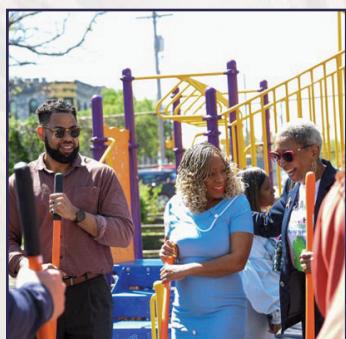
Yet, the past year also gives me real reason for hope.



We resisted the Trump administration's overt white supremacy and authoritarianism, whether that meant participating in mass nonviolent civil disobedience with our union siblings, or training our neighbors to keep each other safe on the ground.



Our community mobilized to save SEPTA at a scale I have never before seen in my career. My office received hundreds of calls and thousands of emails. We shut down business as usual in Harrisburg for months on end and our movement will only continue to grow.



Securing millions in state grants for our district's public and green spaces, including Clark Park, the Calvary Center for Culture and Community, the Walnut Hill Playground and Christy Rec.

Some of my boldest legislation took leaps and bounds forward. We're closer than ever before to taxing billionaires, legalizing cannabis, freeing elders languishing in our state prisons and getting struggling young people the care they deserve, instead of endless punishment.

I was able to partner with Motivated CDC to set up a new Free Produce Market, which supplies fresh, healthy produce in Southwest Philly. When the federal shutdown created a hunger crisis, our produce market was ready to help keep families fed.

As a progressive lawmaker, as a Democratic Socialist, as a neighbor in West Philly who relies on our transit and hopes to send my children one day to good public schools, I am working every day to keep the momentum going.

Now more than ever, we must keep organizing to build a safe and affordable West and Southwest Philly, where working people can thrive.

I hope you'll join me.

In solidarity,

Rick Krajewski



LEGISLATIVE WINS

This was my busiest year yet passing legislation in Harrisburg. I'm proud to say that I got 5 of my bills passed in the House or out of a House committee!

1 WE PASSED HISTORIC SECOND CHANCES LEGISLATION WITH BIPARTISAN SUPPORT!

Just before the end of the year, my compassionate release legislation, H.B. 150, finally passed the House.

I've worked on compassionate release laws — freeing some of the most desperate incarcerated Pennsylvanians — throughout my life as an organizer, a lawmaker and a child of an incarcerated parent.

Too many elderly Pennsylvanians are dying behind bars. Too many are trapped in prison hospital beds battling cancer, receiving limited care which costs our state more than \$15 million every year.

We won support from both sides of the aisle, **including 12 Republicans who chose to follow their conscience and join us in support.**

I'm grateful for our movement family who fought for compassionate release for decades and finally brought us to this huge step forward.



3 LANDMARK JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE

Every day, juvenile diversion programs work, by connecting young people caught up in the criminal justice system with the resources they need to succeed, instead of endless punishment.

Research shows diversion **reduces community violence, saves state money and gives kids second chances that set them on a path for success.**

My bill would expand the use of diversion programs in Philly and across the Commonwealth!



2 MY CANNABIS LEGALIZATION BILL WAS THE FIRST, EVER TO PASS THE HOUSE!

Last Spring, for the first time in Pennsylvania history, the State House voted to legalize and regulate adult-use recreational cannabis.

My bill, H.B. 1200, **puts working Pennsylvanians first** and prevents a corporate takeover of the cannabis market. It provides some of the boldest **criminal record clearing** processes to date. And, it brings **hundreds of millions to the neighborhoods and populations most impacted by criminalization.**

My bill now sits in the Senate, where, despite theatrical opposition from backwards anti-cannabis Republicans, we are closer than ever to passing adult-use recreational cannabis once and for all.



4 UNEMPLOYMENT FOR STRIKING WORKERS PASSED THE HOUSE

Earlier in the Fall, my friend and fellow Democratic Socialist Rep. Fiedler and I worked together to pass legislation that gives striking workers access to unemployment benefits.

Going on strike is a fundamental, powerful and federally protected right of workers fighting for a fair contract, but it can create serious financial hardship. While bosses hire temporary scab workers, workers struggle to make ends meet.

When workers choose to strike for better pay and benefits, our Commonwealth should have their back!



5 SUPPORT FOR WORKER CO-OPS PASSES THE HOUSE

Worker cooperatives are democratically managed businesses owned and run by their own workers. They're safer, happier and build vibrant strong communities!

Current PA law requires five employees to form a co-op, but I heard from constituents in the Philadelphia Area Cooperative alliance that this can be a burden. Many would-be co-ops have just a few founders when they're starting out.

By decreasing the number of workers required to file for a cooperative under Pennsylvania statute, H.B. 135 makes it easier to get cooperatives off the ground.



AND MORE LEGISLATION IS ON THE WAY.

From **banning AI rental algorithms** to **taxing PA billionaires** and **saving programs like SNAP and Medicaid**, I'm excited to pass more legislation in the new year.



AROUND THE DISTRICT



VALENTINE'S DAY BRUNCH

We had a wonderful Valentine's Day Brunch at Star Harbor Senior Center, sharing delicious food and community resources with more than 50 West and Southwest Philly elders!



TURKEY GIVEAWAYS

We held two large turkey giveaways for Thanksgiving, distributing to over 500 families between both giveaways!



COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

My office (special thanks to Ms. Marthea!) organized a moving Community Justice conversation in Southwest. It's inspiring how many West Philly neighbors are fighting for a transformative justice system.

ICE OUT TRAINING

We participated in an ICE OUT training at Kol Tzedek with more than 100 neighbors. For more information about your rights, visit New Sanctuary Movement at sanctuaryphiladelphia.org or Juntos at vamosjuntos.org



STANDING WITH STARBUCKS WORKERS

Three Starbucks shops in the 188th are striking for a fair contract. I was proud to join them, both on the picket line and at their Strike Kitchen with my friend Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler.





STATE REPRESENTATIVE RICK KRAJEWSKI

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HOW CAN MY OFFICE HELP YOU?

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications
- PennDOT services, such as car registrations, handicap placards or titles
- Unemployment Compensation issues
- Voter registration and absentee/mail-in ballot applications
- Birth and death certificates
- Pennsylvania income tax questions
- Consumer complaints
- Notary services for state documents
- PACE prescription cards for senior citizens
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications

[Any other questions about state government!](#)

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES, DISTRICT NEWS, AND MORE FIGHTING FOR OUR MASS TRANSIT

We're blessed with busses, trolleys and trains here in West and Southwest. **Over the last year, I've been fighting to protect these critical services.**

Going into the budget, mass transit funding was my #1 priority. I worked with other lawmakers in Philly to **put together a legislative hearing** on the impending transit funding in the early Spring. Hardly a day went by without marching, rallying, and organizing my colleagues to support transit. **I proudly sponsored every single bill that would expand mass transit funding in the legislature.**

When our trolley tunnel shut down, I felt the pain alongside so many of my neighbors. I'll admit I was late to my share of meetings too, as I sat in a slowed down trolley on 40th street or waited for the L. **I worked closely with SEPTA to speed up the diversion**, advocating for faster trolley times on 40th street. And I was completely elated to celebrate with you when we heard the great news: **the trolley is back!**

We wouldn't have gotten here without the overwhelming support of our community, mobilizing with organizations like Transit Forward Philly and more. **This work has been extraordinary to witness, and I know it will only continue to grow as we keep fighting for transit funding in next year's state budget.**

