

State Representative | 181st Legislative District

# MALCOLM KENYATTA

**District Office:**

1501 N. Broad St. | Suite 17 | Philadelphia, PA 19122 | (215) 978-0311

**Capitol Office:**

300 Irvis Office Building | P.O. Box 202181 | Harrisburg, PA 17120-2181  
(717) 787-9471 | Fax: (717) 787-7297

 @RepKenyatta |  /RepKenyatta |  RepKenyatta.com



Fall  
2023

## HELLO NEIGHBOR,

I hope that you have had a wonderful summer and that all is well. This year has been a very busy and eventful one in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Democrats became the majority party and since taking the majority, we've moved countless pieces of legislation to address critical issues such as gun violence, mental health, workers' rights, LGBTQ+ rights, education, and much more!

I was proud to nominate my dear friend Rep. Joanna McClinton as Speaker of the House of Representative – a historic achievement, as she became the first woman and the second African American to be Speaker.

I retained my positions on the House Commerce, Finance, Liquor Control, and State Government committees and additionally, was appointed to the powerful House Judiciary Committee.

I have been active in our district as well. I've hosted events, rallied with workers, and helped to provide you with state services at my district office. As a native north Philadelphian, serving as your state representative for the 181st Legislative District is the honor of my lifetime!

I look forward to my continued service and to making our community a better place for all of us! If you ever need assistance with a state-related program or service, feel free to contact my office or visit us in-person. I invite you to read this newsletter and see what I've been up to in the district and Harrisburg so far this year.




400,000 seniors qualify for a Property Tax/Rent Rebate. That's good.

Our plan lets **575,000** seniors qualify. That's better.

The top rebate is \$650. That's good.

Our plan makes the top rebate **\$1,000**. That's better.

 We need to do better to keep **more seniors** in their homes.

## PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM EXTENSION

A BIG WIN FOR SENIORS! H.B. 1100, which I helped introduce, expands the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program to allow more seniors across Pennsylvania to qualify. This bill, which has been signed into law, increases the income-eligibility limit to \$45,000 for both homeowners and renters and increases the top rebate amount from \$650 to \$1,000.

This vital program will help keep more Pennsylvanians in their homes and pay for necessities. I was proud to vote for this new law that will benefit 175,000 additional seniors. These increased income-eligibility limits and rebate amounts will begin in 2024.



# BUDGET RECAP

**The 2023/24 Budget Invests In:**

- Educational Equity & Equality
- Post K-12 Educational and Training Opportunities
- Community Safety
- Reducing Food Insecurity
- Keeping Low Income Residents and Seniors in Their Homes
- Better Access to Healthcare

**The 2023/24 Budget**  
**Increases Funding for Schools in our Community**

**Philadelphia School District**  
**\$1.69 Billion (7.6% ↑)**

This year's state budget has been signed into law, and I voted in favor of it. This is Gov. Josh Shapiro's first budget, and it includes funding to address many crucial areas such as education, community safety, and our workforce. It provides historic levels of education funding, especially for the School District of Philadelphia, which will receive roughly \$1.7 billion. This is a \$119 million increase from last year's budget. The budget also funds universal free breakfast for students at all public schools in Pennsylvania.

While I voted for the budget because it takes positive steps forward, much more remains to be done. I look forward to continuing the work with my colleagues in Harrisburg to ensure a better Pennsylvania for all of us!

# GUN VIOLENCE REFORM

**PA HOUSE DEMOCRATS**  
**Building Safer Communities by Preventing Gun Violence**  
Passed the House with *bipartisan support*

- HB 714**  
Expanded background checks help keep guns away from people who should not have access.
- HB 1018**  
Extreme Risk Protection Orders (Red Flag Laws) to empower loved ones and law enforcement to temporarily take away gun access from people in crisis—upon approval from a judge.

In recent years, we've heard too many stories of folks losing their lives to gun violence nationwide, statewide, and citywide. PA House Democrats have been fighting for years to keep our communities safe from gun violence, yet we hadn't been able to get votes on our bills scheduled in the PA House. Now that we are the majority party in the House, we've been able to finally push gun safety legislation through, including these two bills to expand background checks and provide Extreme Risk Protection Orders (Red Flag Laws).

Too many people are needlessly losing their lives and families are being ripped apart due to gun violence. These tragedies are preventable, and we must continue to move bills that can keep our communities safe. I know that my House Democratic colleagues and I are committed to ensuring just that!

# FIGHTING FOR LABOR

In the winter, Temple University Graduate Students' Association (TUGSA) was on strike for several weeks, fighting for a living wage and much more. In March, TUGSA came to a ratified agreement with Temple University that provides dignified pay and benefits. I was very proud to host a rally on Temple's campus with TUGSA employees and some of my legislative colleagues, calling on Temple to do right by TUGSA employees. As a Temple alum, I can say that TUGSA employees are the backbone of our university, and I was glad to support them during their hard-fought victory!

This summer, I joined a rally with some of my legislative colleagues and Teamsters 623 Union members in support of UPS workers who were on strike for a fair contract. For too long, huge corporations like UPS have taken working people, who keep their businesses afloat, for granted. These brave folks fought hard and came to an agreement. I was proud to stand with and see them receive a contract that's fair and deserved!

I also stood shoulder to shoulder with members of SEIU 32BJ for higher wages and benefits on the job!



# CLAWBACK ACT AND CYBERSECURITY COORDINATION BOARD BILLS



Legislation I introduced (H.B. 1139) to create a Cyber Security Coordination Board to strengthen Pennsylvania's digital infrastructure and is before the Senate for consideration. Identifying and implementing a unified model cybersecurity policy will help to ensure our data systems can bear up under the threat of compromise. This would keep your most sensitive data protected.

I also saw my bill (H.B. 842), known as the Clawback Act, get approved in the House Commerce Committee. It would strengthen oversight of PA tax dollars.

# FAIRNESS ACT



Pennsylvania is better when it's fairer. For the first time since the bill was introduced 21 years ago, H.B. 300 (The Fairness Act), which would prevent anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination in our commonwealth, passed the PA House this spring and is currently in the Senate awaiting a vote. I call on my Senate colleagues to do what's right and make Pennsylvania fairer for all residents.

## GOOD GOVERNMENT/ ELECTION REFORM BILLS

I joined my colleague, state Rep. Jared Solomon, to introduce legislation that would create a more transparent government and electoral process in Pennsylvania. Our legislation aims to reform redistricting, campaigns, and elections, as well as accountability once a candidate is elected. As elected officials, it's our responsibility to represent and do right by you -- the people!



REP. MALCOM KENYATTA  
**Announces**

## Grants Awarded in the Community

**\$500,000**

Caring People Alliance

**\$100,000**

Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard

**\$52,857**

North Broad Renaissance

## GRANTS

So far this year, we've seen more than \$600,000 in state funding awarded in our district to invest in local infrastructure for three local projects. Caring People Alliance was awarded \$500,000 to rehabilitate the community pool and the supporting infrastructure at the R.W. Brown Boys & Girls Club; Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard was awarded \$100,000 to purchase a recreational vehicle and transform it into a mobile assessment unit to diagnose and treat opioid use disorder; and North Broad Renaissance was awarded \$52,857 to purchase two sidewalk sweepers. The sidewalk sweepers will allow for the expansion of NBR's Clean and Safe program.

# KEEPING UP WITH KENYATTA

Photos from around the district!





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Philadelphia, PA 19122

lpo.tb.1023

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## **DISTRICT OFFICE:**

1501 N. Broad St., Suite 17 | Philadelphia, PA 19122  
(215) 978-0311 | Toll-Free: (833) 787-4176  
Fax: (215) 978-0316

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300 Irvis Office Building | P.O. Box 202181  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2181 | (717) 787-9471  
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