



State Representative **JORDAN HARRIS**

Representing the 186th Legislative District

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REP. JORDAN HARRIS CONTINUING TO FIGHT FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Inside:

- MULTIPLE STATE GRANTS AWARDED TO 186TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
- SUMMER SOUL SCHOOL FESTIVAL BRINGS THOUSANDS TOGETHER
- MOMENTUM BUILDS FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM



7th Annual Soul School Festival!

The 2019 Soul School Festival was a tremendous success. We had beautiful weather, fantastic musical performances, food, vendors, and tons of fun for children and adults alike. This community event brings everyone together, and I'm already looking forward to this year's Soul School!



BRINGING SUPPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

As your state representative, I take my role in the community very seriously. That's why I will continually fight to bring state resources back from Harrisburg to improve the spaces we all get to enjoy. This year, I've been able to secure multiple state grants for the 186th District, including:

- **\$2.28 million to the Schuylkill River Trail**, from two separate grants, to help complete the Christian to Crescent portion and complete the last major gap of the trail.
- **\$1.5 million to Pennovation Works** to complete upgrades at this unique blend of offices, labs and production space developed by the University of Pennsylvania to help bring intellectual and entrepreneurial initiatives together and generate economic development.
- **\$540,000 to the Dorothy Allen Community Center** to renovate and construct property that will feature apartments, a community center, meeting rooms, classrooms and social service providers.
- **\$42,208 to the Neighborhood Gardens Trust** to renovate its Concert Garden and include additional plantings, fencing, a concert stage and play area for children.

I've helped bring in multiple grants for the Schuylkill River Trail over the past few years to help complete this massive project. Much of this funding will go toward the last unfinished section in our area, the Christian to Crescent segment. This particular segment is especially difficult to finish due to still-active industry in the area and a narrow riverbank.

Once finished, it will feature a signature cable-supported bridge to fully connect a multi-use trail between Center City and Grays Ferry. Increased mobility between neighborhoods will allow Philadelphians to access parts of the city for both work and enjoyment that normally they might struggle to access. I'm looking forward to the completion of this last segment of the Schuylkill River Trail, which is expected to be completed in 2022.

GROUNDBREAKING WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD GARDEN TRUST

A few months ago, I had the honor of announcing another Commonwealth Financing Authority grant for over \$40,000 for the Neighborhood Garden Trust to renovate a Concert Garden at the corner of 21st and Ellsworth. Recently, we broke ground on the renovations with members of the community present to take part and learn more about what's coming.



Planned work includes upgrading the community flower beds, creating a play space for children and shaded space for adults, creating a concert stage and a sustainable stormwater management system, and adding plantings, fencing, pavement and seating. Good things are happening in our community and I can't wait to see them come to completion!

PRIZE FOR CIVILITY IN PUBLIC LIFE

In September, I was honored to receive the Prize for Civility in Public Life in Pennsylvania. This award, presented by Allegheny College, is given annually to public officials from both sides of the aisle who conduct themselves with noteworthy civility. I shared this award with my fellow co-chairs of the bipartisan Criminal Justice Reform Caucus, state Rep. Sheryl Delozier and state Sens. Art Haywood and Camera Bartolotta.

It's tremendously humbling to receive an award that's been given at the national level to the likes of Vice President Joe Biden, Sen. John McCain, Congressmen Beto O'Rourke and Will Hurd, the Women of the United States Senate, and Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Antonin Scalia. I've frequently said that it's possible to disagree without being disagreeable, and I continue to believe that. At a time when politics is becoming more and more polarized, we simply can't retreat to our separate corners and expect to accomplish anything for the people we represent.

Compromise and working across the aisle are not only good for politics, it's a necessity. Civil discourse is at the heart of our democracy. Being able to disagree without being disagreeable is patriotism. We are stronger because of our diversity in race, color, geography and ideals. Consensus is not a bad



word, but complacency is. We need to focus more on where we agree and move forward together from there. I'm incredibly appreciative to receive this award, and I look forward to continuing to deliver results regardless of who I'm working with.

AROUND OUR COMMUNITY



PennEnvironment joined me in our district for a town hall to discuss all things environment and what more we can do to protect the land, air and water that make Pennsylvania so beautiful.



Gov. Tom Wolf and Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding came to Bartram's Garden this fall to discuss urban agriculture and the vast benefits it can provide.



In November, I joined Zeta Phi Beta to honor their founder, Arizona Leedonia Cleaver Stemons, as the 1900 block of Federal Street was named after her in recognition of the community service that the Beta Delta Zeta chapter has done over 75 years in Philadelphia.

In November, I welcomed the newest members of Philadelphia City Council to Harrisburg to discuss how the state and city can interact in a way that benefits all Philadelphians.



GIVING PENNSYLVANIANS A SECOND CHANCE

Recently, I'm proud to say that legislation I co-sponsored with Rep. Sheryl Delozier of Cumberland County passed the House of Representatives and moved onto the Senate for consideration. House Bill 1477 aims to reform Pennsylvania's occupational licensure system by loosening restrictions on how formally incarcerated and convicted people are approved for state licenses.

There are over 30 occupational fields in Pennsylvania that require a license from the state. These jobs include things like cosmetologists, barbers, nurses, engineers and multiple different medical fields. Under current law, many of these occupational fields contain provisions that make it difficult for formally incarcerated and convicted people to successfully get a state license. This makes reentry even harder than it already is.

As an example, imagine someone is incarcerated and tries to better themselves by learning to be a barber. Once they're released, they want to start their own barber shop. They attempt to get a license from the state only to find out that they can't practice the trade they learned while incarcerated due to outdated laws. It just doesn't make sense. Loosening these restrictions for people with minor, nonviolent crimes will help them be successful and provide for their family.

Not only that, but it will help grow Pennsylvania's economy



by putting people to work and reduce the flow of people heading back to jail, therefore saving taxpayer dollars. But the most important aspect is that it helps people looking to get their second chance. I'm thankful to Rep. Delozier, who I call my partner in reform, for her continued support in fixing Pennsylvania's broken criminal justice system. I hope the Senate passes this bill early this year at which point it will go to Governor Tom Wolf to be signed into law.

HELPING STUDENTS LEARN TO DEAL WITH CONFLICT

Students today are faced with situations that students in the past didn't have to deal with. From cyber bullying to dealing with mental illness to violence in their communities, we need to stand together and show support for our young people and let them know there is help available when they need it and show them how to feel empowered to take control of these situations.

Recently, I joined fellow state Representative Morgan Cephas at Gompers Elementary to take part in a youth summit on gun violence. We had a great discussion on conflict resolution, how to keep firearms out of children's hands, how to cope with mental health issues and how students can make a difference in their communities. I'm thankful for the opportunity to speak with these students and even more thankful to have fellow representatives from Philadelphia who feel as strongly as I do about giving back to our community and helping our youth.





State Representative Jordan A. Harris
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How can my office help you?

My district offices provide help so you can navigate your state government needs. Please don't hesitate to reach out for help with:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Applications or help with your Property Tax/ Rent Rebate
- Unemployment compensation, disability or workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives
- PACE prescription drug cards for senior citizens
- Food stamps, medical assistance or other Department of Human Services issues
- Any state government-related issue

You can stop by or call either of my district offices, located at 1310 Point Breeze Avenue, (215) 952-3378, or 2103 Snyder Avenue, (215) 755-9185.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

CLEAN SLATE CLINIC

Monday, Jan. 20
12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Yesha Fellowship Hall
2301 Snyder Ave., Philadelphia

Join my staff, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia and the Barristers' Association of Philadelphia to find out if you're eligible to have your record sealed.



SENIOR SWEETHEART DANCE



Wednesday, Feb. 12
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Yesha Fellowship Hall
2301 Snyder Ave., Philadelphia

Join seniors from our community for an evening of dinner, dancing, and information on physical and mental health. Multiple vendors will be on hand with information vital to seniors living an active and healthy lifestyle.

Call (215) 952-3378 for more information on either of these events.