

State Representative | 34th Legislative District

# SUMMER LEE



## DEAR NEIGHBOR,

These last few months have been a whirlwind. We have experienced a historic election that seemed to last forever. The largest number of voters in American history participated in the General Election, a sign that people care deeply about the future of our nation. Simply put, this year we experienced changes and challenges with election administration, but overall, our bipartisan efforts to expand mail-in and early voting boosted turnout and provided us more choices in how to vote. As we transition to the new legislative session, we will continue to fight for legislation that builds a more just society.

At the same time as the election, we have seen COVID-19 cases reach their highest levels since the pandemic began early this year. While we had to adapt to tough restrictions throughout the spring and summer, the public health advice on this pandemic has remained firm: mask up, wash your hands and sanitize surfaces frequently, practice social distancing, and consider the health of everyone you meet.

Finally, we know that this is normally a time when we gather with friends and family without worry. This year will undoubtedly be a bit different, but we can still celebrate safely. It is vital to check in on your loved ones who are vulnerable to contracting the virus and may be isolated for safety reasons. We must be sure that they have everything they need and do not feel lonely in this challenging time.

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,



Braddock Office:

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

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

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Bills sponsored: 211

Resolutions sponsored: 50

### HIGHLIGHTS:

**Decriminalization of Sex Work** – *All people deserve basic protections in their line of work. As the law stands, thousands of our neighbors lack access to legal resources, face harassment by law enforcement and are denied health services because of their occupation. It is time for this commonwealth to recognize that sex work is work.*

**Hairstyle Discrimination (CROWN Act)** – *This legislation would ban discrimination based on hairstyles and protect people so they do not lose educational or career opportunities because of the way they naturally exist. House Bill 2725 and Senate Bill 964 would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and clarify the term “race” to include traits such as hair texture and protective hairstyles.*

**No Cash Bail** – *Pretrial bail costs taxpayers billions of dollars and infringes on the liberty and rights of millions of Americans each year. I am working to introduce legislation in the new session that would end this system and return to non-financial release using standardized, validated risk assessments.*

**Alternative Fuel Vehicles** – *We must take calculated steps to reduce our footprint and improve our air quality. In 2019, emissions from fossil fuel vehicles contributed 18% of greenhouse gases produced in the City of Pittsburgh. We are working on legislation to expand the PA Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate program to include rebates for smaller electric vehicles, such as e-bikes and scooters, that many use in place of a car.*

*As the legislative year has progressed, I have proposed several bills and added my name as a co-sponsor on bills I believe would improve lives in District 34 and across the commonwealth. In the new year, many bills that I have supported will be re-introduced. The full list of bills on which I am a co-sponsor is available on the Pennsylvania General Assembly website: [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us).*

*Within the House Democratic Caucus, I was elected by my peers to serve as vice chairwoman of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus for the 2021-22 legislative session – the premier legislative body of the Black community in Pennsylvania. I am thrilled to have this vote of confidence from my fellow legislators and will continue to advocate for public policies to promote Black social, cultural and economic progress statewide.*

*At the same time, House Democrats elected state Rep. Joanna McClinton as the first woman – and first Black woman -- to serve as a minority leader in the House or Senate. It is truly wonderful to see the diversity of our commonwealth reflected in our caucus and in the representation of the people of Pennsylvania.*

# GRANTS INTO THE DISTRICT

In these past few months, we have been thrilled to announce that more than \$2.1 million in state funding has been awarded to organizations in our communities.



## Churchill Valley project receives \$1 million

Allegheny Land Trust received \$1 million from DCNR to help purchase the former Churchill Valley Country Club in Churchill and Penn Hills, in addition to \$500,000 that was awarded last year. The nonprofit plans to acquire and protect the area for recreational use and stormwater management.



## Braddock Carnegie Library awarded \$750k for renovations

The Braddock Carnegie Library Association has awarded \$750,000 from the Department of Education for a comprehensive building renovation. The funding will go a long way to create better access, sustainability, and community programming. Specifically, the funds will be used to install a new HVAC system and rehabilitate all windows, doors, stairwells and shafts.



### COVID-19 CRISIS FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMS GRANTS

Organization Name	Award Amount
Braddock Volunteer Fire Department #2	\$23,562
Chalfant Volunteer Fire Company	\$23,288
Churchill Volunteer Fire Company	\$22,877
Eastmont VFD/Wilkins #4	\$23,151
Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department	\$25,342
Forest Hills Volunteer Fire Company	\$25,342
North Braddock Vol Fire Dept Inc	\$23,973
Rankin Volunteer Fire Department	\$22,603
Swissvale Fire Department	\$25,342
Swissvale Volunteer Fire Department	\$24,931
Turtle Creek Fire Department #1	\$24,110
Wilkins Township VFC #1	\$24,657
Wilkins Township Volunteer Fire Company No 3	\$23,836
Woodland Hills Emergency Medical Service	\$15,048
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$328,063</b>

## \$100k for Turtle Creek flood control

The Allegheny County Conservation District received \$100,000 from the PA H20 grant program to remove roughly 11,000 cubic yards of sediment from Dirty Camp Run and Turtle Creek. Grants like this help with flood control, as Turtle Creek has been hit especially hard by flooding in recent years.

## Major Projects Underway

### Kenmawr Bridge Replacement

Construction began in March to replace the strained and aging Kenmawr Bridge between Rankin and Swissvale. A temporary bridge has been constructed, while the work on the permanent bridge will continue until its expected completion around September 2021.

More information about the project can be found by visiting [www.penndot.gov](http://www.penndot.gov), and searching 'Kenmawr Bridge Replacement.'

### Hazelwood Green

The former site of a J&L Co. steel mill, an environmental and public health hazard, has undergone a massive transformation,

showcasing futuristic and comprehensive features. Though it lies just outside of District 34, residents of all nearby neighborhoods will be impacted by its development. Public meetings were held in late October for residents of Hazelwood and surrounding areas to shape future preservation and the repurposing of industrial remains and desired features of the site. Over the summer and into October, drive-in and limited capacity in-person events took place, including concerts, theater productions, and more. The shell of the former mill remains and has been fitted with 4,784 solar panels on the roof, making it the largest solar installation on a sloped

surface in the entire United States. Planning and construction continue, with intent to run an electric shuttle between the Hazelwood business district and Oakland via Boundary Street.

More information about this development can be found at [www.hazelwoodgreen.com](http://www.hazelwoodgreen.com).

### Carrie Furnaces

While COVID-19 has disrupted planning for the Carrie Furnaces redevelopment, activities continued this summer with tours of the site, drive-in movies, and arts exhibitions. Managed by the Rivers of Steel, developers are encouraged to reach out to participate in this exciting project.

# COVID RESOURCES

In the spring Pennsylvania took quick, decisive action to successfully slow the spread of the coronavirus in our communities. However, many of us were negatively impacted by the virus. Families lost jobs, businesses were forced to temporarily close, community resources were shut down and many limitations remain in effect today.

Our commonwealth also marshalled resources to help those affected by the pandemic, many of which are listed below. If you need help with these or any other issues, **please contact my office at 412-273-3400.**

## **IT'S OK TO REACH OUT FOR HELP**

This health crisis has created additional stress for many. Please know that it's OK to ask for help.

- Crisis Text Line: Text 'PA' to 741741 for help 24/7.
- PA's new support helpline run by the Department of Human Services – 1-855-284-2494.
- Disaster Distress Helpline: Experiencing emotional distress due to COVID-19? Call 1-800-985-5990 or text 'TalkWithUs' to 66746 to connect with a trained crisis counselor.
- Get Help Now for substance use disorder: Reach out for support from the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs by calling 1-800-662-4357.

## **SNAP – Feeding families**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps Pennsylvanians buy food. You can apply online at [www.compass.state.pa.us/](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/).

## **CHIP – health insurance for kids and teens**

The Children's Health Insurance Program is designed to provide health insurance to uninsured children and teens who are not eligible for or enrolled in Medical Assistance. You can apply online at [www.chipcoverspakids.com](http://www.chipcoverspakids.com).

## **Medicare Open Enrollment**

The open enrollment period for Medicare runs until December 7. Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

To help Medicare beneficiaries determine which coverage is best for them, the Department of Aging offers free, confidential, easy-to-understand counseling through the APPRISE Program.

Because of the pandemic, counseling sessions will be held over the phone, by computer, or (at the discretion of the Area Agencies on Aging) face-to-face with proper health and safety precautions in place.

To learn more about the APPRISE Program and find an open enrollment event in the area, call the APPRISE Helpline at 1-800-783-7067.

## **COVID-19 Tracking and Testing**

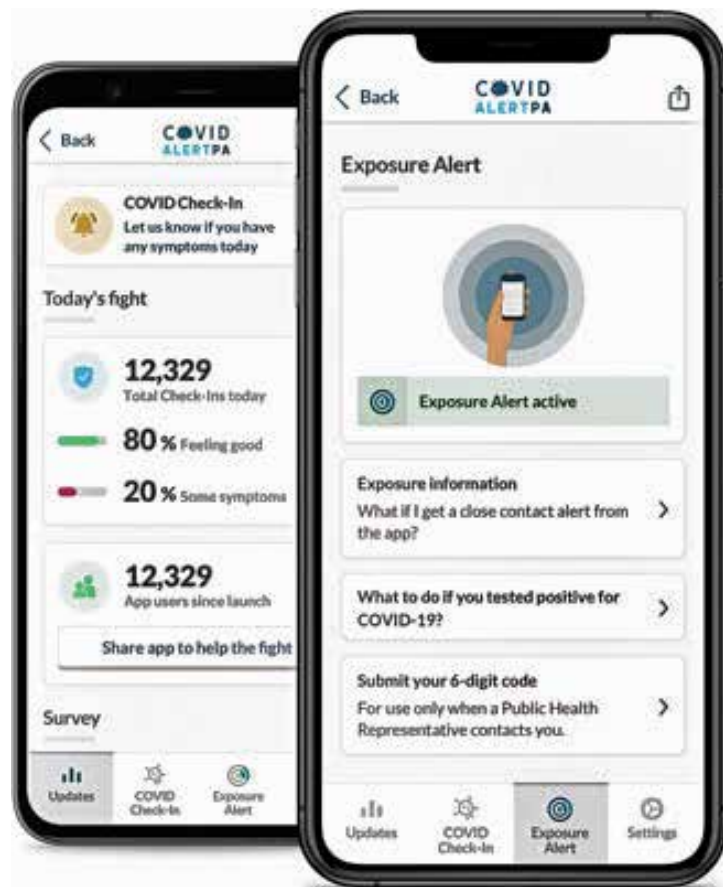
If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, it is imperative that you get tested.

Testing is available in Swissvale, Braddock, Homestead, and Pittsburgh.

For locations, visit:

[www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov) -> COVID-19 -> Symptoms & Testing

**Download PA Dept. of Health COVID-19 app:**





# Need help with filing your annual rent or property tax rebate?

Due to the ongoing coronavirus crisis, our office will not be able to help people fill out their forms in person. We are working on installing a mail slot so that you can securely drop off documentation without in-person contact. Blank 2019 booklets are available on the stand outside of our office. If we are running low or missing something, please give us a call.

## If you need help with rent or property tax rebates:

1. Please mail your booklet and information to our office at 501 Braddock Avenue, Suite 105 • Braddock, PA 15104.
2. Provide all necessary documentation as described below.

### RENTERS

- Proof of ALL your income for 2019. That includes the form you received in January from Social Security stating how much you received in 2019. Do not bring the form you received that says how much you are receiving from Social Security in 2020.
- Proof of the income you received from your pension, interest, wages, unemployment, etc.
- The Rent Certificate completed and signed by your landlord.
- A copy of your current driver's license/photo ID if this is the first time you are filing for the rebate.

\*\*If your landlord is unavailable to complete the Rent Certificate, the form must be notarized and you should speak directly with our staff.

### PROPERTY OWNERS

- Proof of ALL your income for 2019. That includes the form you received in January from Social Security stating how much you received in 2019. Do not bring the form you received that says how much you are receiving from Social Security in 2020.
- Proof of the income you received from your pension, interest, wages, unemployment, etc.
- Proof of property tax payment. Your 2019 annual mortgage statement is acceptable, or all three property tax receipts for 2019 – city/borough, school and county.
- A copy of your current driver's license/photo ID if this is the first time you are filing for the rebate.

3. All claimants must do the following:

Fill out Section (I), providing your name, address, DoB, SSN and a daytime telephone number.

Complete Section (IV), your signature, and the date.

4. Our staff will complete your forms and mail the original to Harrisburg and mail you a copy for your records. We will call you at the telephone number you provide to let you know when we have completed your forms and when we are mailing them to Harrisburg.



**PA-1000**  
Property Tax or Rent  
Rebate Claim - 2019  
PA Department of Revenue  
PO Box 28000  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-0002

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**2019**

**SECTION I** Check your label for accuracy. If incorrect, do not use the label. Complete Section I. If Spouse is Deceased, fill in the oval.

**IRIT** Your Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**IF** Fill in only one oval in each section.

1. I am filing for a rebate as a:

A. Claimant - See instructions

B. Spouse - See instructions

C. Qualifying relative - See instructions

D. Property Owner - See instructions

2. I certify that as of Dec. 31, 2019, I am (a):

A. Claimant age 65 or older

B. Claimant under age 65, with a spouse age 65 or older who resided in the same household

C. Widow or widower age 65 to 69

D. Permanently disabled and age 18 to 64

3.  Filing on behalf of a decedent

**SECTION II** TOTAL INCOME received by you and your spouse during 2019

	Dollars	Cents
4. Social Security, SSI and SSP income (Total benefits \$ _____ divided by 2)	4.	
5. Railroad Retirement Tier 1 benefits (Total benefits \$ _____ divided by 2)	5.	
6. Total benefits from Pension, Annuity, IRA Distributions and Railroad Retirement Tier 2 (Do not include federal veterans' disability payments or state veterans' payments)	6.	
7. Interest and Dividend Income	7.	
8. Gain or Loss on the Sale or Exchange of Property _____ If a loss, fill in this oval.	8.	
9. Net Rental Income or Loss _____ If a loss, fill in this oval.	9.	
10. Net Business Income or Loss _____ If a loss, fill in this oval.	10.	
Other Income:		
11a. Salaries, wages, bonuses, commissions, and estate and trust income	11a.	
11b. Gambling and Lottery winnings, including PA Lottery winnings, prize winnings and the value of other prizes	11b.	
11c. Value of inheritances, annuity and spousal support	11c.	
11d. Cash public assistance/welfare, unemployment compensation and workers' compensation, except Section 309(c) benefits	11d.	
11e. Gross amount of loss of time insurance benefits and disability insurance benefits, and life insurance benefits, except the first \$5,000 of total death benefit payments	11e.	
11f. Gifts of cash or property totaling more than \$100, except gifts between members of a household	11f.	
11g. Miscellaneous income and unrealized income amount	11g.	
12. Claimants with Federal Civil Service Retirement System Benefits enter \$0,014 or \$19,000. See the instructions.	12.	
13. TOTAL INCOME. Add only the positive income amounts from Lines 4 through 11g and subtract the amount on Line 12. See Page 2 for income limitations. Enter this amount on Line 23.	13.	

**IMPORTANT!** You must submit proof of the income you reported - See the instructions on Pages 7 to 9.

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# UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a historic surge in the number of people seeking unemployment compensation in Pennsylvania. Since mid-March, more than 2 million people filed for unemployment benefits.

If you or someone you know lost their job during the pandemic, there are two unemployment programs available.

**Traditional Unemployment Compensation → [www.uc.pa.gov](http://www.uc.pa.gov) → File an Initial Claim**

**Unemployment for self-employed, gig or contract workers (PUA) → [www.uc.pa.gov](http://www.uc.pa.gov) → File for PUA**

We understand and feel your frustrations with the Unemployment Compensation and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance programs. Over the past several months, we have been able to assist many people as best we can. However, we are experiencing inconsistent and delayed response times from the Department of Labor and Industry on individual claim inquiries. If you do have questions about traditional Unemployment Compensation or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, please call our office, email us, or complete the appropriate form so we can collect the information we need to help.

For help with a claim for traditional Unemployment Compensation, use this form:

<https://www.pahouse.com/Lee/Form/?id=1267>

For help with your Pandemic Unemployment Assistance claim, use this form:

<https://www.pahouse.com/Lee/Form/?id=1278>

If you have questions about benefit extensions, PEUC or EB, please complete one of the forms above for your primary unemployment benefit program and indicate in the comments that you need help with the extension programs. Of course, you can call or email us as well.

My office has helped over a thousand community members navigate the UC process since the pandemic started, and we continue to assist in any way we can. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to my office.

## WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

## VIRTUAL TOWNHALL

*Early in October, we hosted a virtual townhall discussion that was broadcast live to our website, social media, and YouTube. Thank you to everyone who tuned in to hear about what was going on in Harrisburg and our legislative priorities moving forward. Of course, we miss having events with all of you physically present, but virtual events are much safer for now. You can still watch the townhall at your leisure on our website. I answered questions from people in the district, and some of them are included below.*

Our staff recorded the townhall and a presentation on unemployment issues and the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.

They are both available at [www.RepSummerLee.com](http://www.RepSummerLee.com) -> News Releases & Publications

### Q&A WITH REP LEE

#### **1. Paul, Forest Hills - How are you fighting to make a livable wage available to every worker?**

*Rep. Lee: In Pennsylvania, we have not raised our minimum wage since 2007. The Democratic Caucus has been fighting for one fair wage. We have legislation that could be moved on today, we just need to get it to a vote, but we also need paid sick and paid family time -- that is all part of what it means to have a 'living wage.' We have tried each budget cycle to move legislation to change the minimum wage, but Republican leadership controls which bills are brought to a vote and, so far, have prevented a vote on this issue.*

#### **2. Janet, Pittsburgh - Where are we with passing meaningful gun safety legislation?**

*Rep. Lee: Unfortunately, I think we are as far away as we have ever been. We have commonsense legislation that in another time would not be controversial -- background checks, lost and stolen legislation, basic provisions to protect*

*people that right now, we cannot get brought up for a vote in committee, the first step of the process. The reality is that right now gun lobbyists have a stranglehold on some of our legislators and they are not willing to move. But we are still fighting for this and working to solve community gun violence as well as mass shootings.*

#### **3. David, Edgewood - Where does the police reform legislation stand?**

*Rep. Lee: We have been working on that for almost two years now, but thanks to the protests earlier this summer we have been able to move some pieces of legislation. In June, we were able to pass three pieces of legislation to track police misconduct, provide training and PTSD support for law enforcement, and a 'no consent in custody' law. What we still have on the table are some of our bigger ticket items, including a use-of-force bill addressing when and how police officers can use their weapons and modernize our rules around that. We have made some progress, but we are still working on that.*



State Representative

**SUMMER LEE**

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Braddock, PA 15104-9998

lpo.ad.1120

State Representative | 34th Legislative District

# SUMMER LEE

## FALL UPDATE

### INSIDE:

- ✓ Ready to help you!
- ✓ \$1 million for local parks
- ✓ Major library grant announced
- ✓ Resources for families/businesses
- ✓ The fight against COVID-19
- ✓ Plus: Legislation update

**District Office:**

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

**Harrisburg Office**

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

**Email:**

RepLee@pahouse.net



@RepSummerLee



@RepSummerLee

**Web:**

www.RepSummerLee.com



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.