

**Capitol Office:**

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 RepInnamorato.com



State Representative | 21st Legislative District

# SARA INNAMORATO



"The passage of the Whole-Home Repair Act as part of the Pennsylvania budget will help ensure that every Pennsylvanian has a safe and healthy home. We still have a lot of work ahead to address the affordable housing crisis in our commonwealth, but this is a victory for the people of Pennsylvania." – Rep. Sara Innamorato

## HELLO NEIGHBORS,

I am thrilled to report that, thanks to a bipartisan effort and your support, my legislation to create a Whole-Home Repair program for Pennsylvanians has been signed into law. This makes Pennsylvania the first state in the nation to enact this sort of program which creates a one-stop shop for home repairs and weatherization, helping address one of the chief issues I have been working on – access to and preservation of safe, healthy, and affordable housing.

The first-in-the-nation program will provide:

- Up to \$50,000 as a grant or loan to repair,

update, and adapt homes throughout Pennsylvania.

- Staff to help people access the assistance they need in the order they need it.
- Financial support for workforce development programs in related fields.

Now that this bill has passed, we are waiting for the Department of Community and Economic Development to design the program. I will be sure to keep the community updated as these vital funds become available.

Be well,







# STATE BUDGET MAKES MAJOR INVESTMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

I've always said that state budgets are moral documents, in that our funding decisions show what we value. This year, I am pleased to report that the legislature achieved several 'wins' when it comes to moving the needle on Pennsylvania's moral compass – using federal and surplus funds, we secured a historic increase in mental healthcare, long-term and senior care, and affordable housing.

This budget also includes a one-time 70% benefit increase for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program which helps seniors and people with disabilities. Our office has helped hundreds of our neighbors access this benefit, and we will be sure to reach out with details once we know more about the timeline and distribution mechanisms.

Also, in addition to the Whole-Home Repair Act, this budget sets aside an additional \$100 million for affordable housing construction and preservation for working families, seniors, and people with disabilities.

State budgets are, by nature, the creation of compromise. While there were several highlights in this budget, I voted against the portion of the budget that slashes taxes on large corporations while doing nothing to help reduce average Pennsylvanians' tax burden, as well as a provision that increases funding for an unaccountable voucher program that diverts money from public schools.

I'll keep fighting in Harrisburg for the things that matter – and keep nudging that moral compass needle toward compassion and hope.

## 2022 General Election Important Dates



**Register to vote**  
or update your registration

Deadline: **October 24**



**Request mail-in or absentee ballot**

Sign up by: **November 1**



**Deadline for mail-in or absentee ballots**

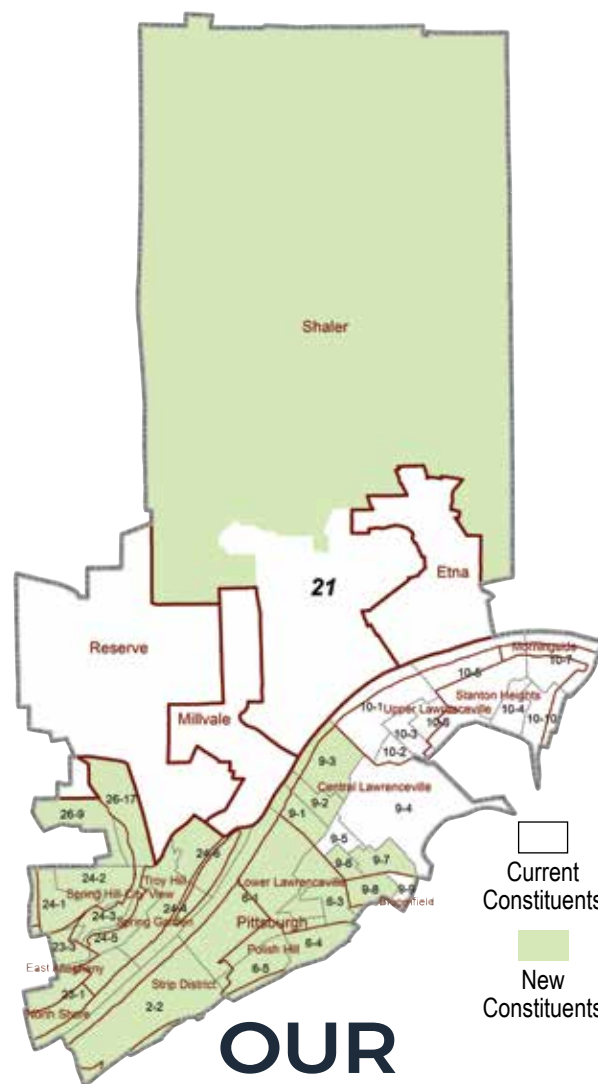
Due: **November 8**  
(must be received by 8 p.m.)



**Election Day**  
Polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Date: **November 8**

[vote.pa.gov](https://vote.pa.gov)



## OUR DISTRICT:

Due to changes in population recorded by the 2020 Census, your residence falls within the lines of the 21st Legislative District. Check out the map to see how the district has changed.



1. Celebrating  
Open Streets  
Lawrenceville!



2. Celebrating  
Millvale  
Pride!



3. We hold  
weekly office  
hours at  
the Lawrenceville  
Farmers Market!  
Please stop on by and  
say 'hi'!



4. Talking urban  
agriculture  
with Mayor Gainey  
and Agriculture  
Secretary Russell  
Redding.



5. We love  
our local  
librarians!



6. Sen. Lindsey  
Williams  
and I at our  
summer shredding  
event!



7. Celebrating  
opening  
night for the  
Pittsburgh Ballet  
Theatre's Open Air in  
Sharpsburg!

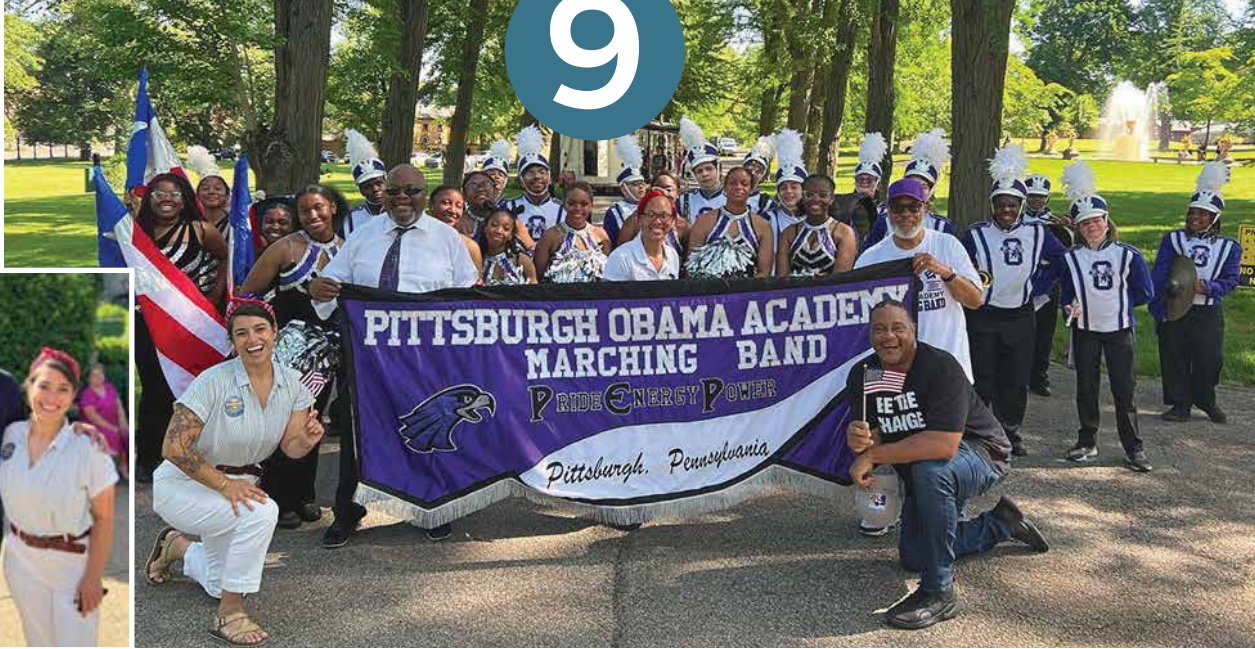


8. We recently  
toured the  
Allegheny  
YMCA to learn about  
their renovation  
project.



9. Lawrenceville  
Memorial Day  
Parade





## MAJOR STATE GRANTS AWARDED LOCALLY

It was wonderful to be able to present our friends at the Etna Community Organization with a \$100,000 state grant to help with the buildout of a community space and library. The Etna Community Organization is a great asset to our area, and I couldn't be more supportive of their goal to help our community members thrive and live healthy, fulfilling lives.

Also this year, 51 Bridge Street was awarded \$750,000 in state funding for the second phase of its project to redevelop a former steel pipe manufacturing building into a hub to house technology and robotics manufacturers. Other grants I brought back are \$245,000 for upgrades to the building at 216 North Ave. in Millvale; \$1 million to Riverfront 47 for the rehabilitation and development of the brownfield site in Sharpsburg and Aspinwall; \$3 million to help create a comprehensive Women's Health Facility at West Penn Hospital; \$367,000 for the purchase of 2 acres in Aspinwall to expand the Riverfront Park; and \$150,000 to Action Housing Inc. for the county's COVID-19 Homeowners Assistance Program. Each



of these grants represents a major investment in our communities' futures.

If you are a business, nonprofit, or community group and are interested in applying for state grants, please visit my website – [Replnnamorato.com](http://Replnnamorato.com) – "Help & Services" to fill out an interest form.



# DELIVERING RESULTS FOR WORKING FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITIES

I've heard from a lot of our neighbors about how price increases are making family or personal budgets tight – and I know it because I feel it too. This isn't just because of "inflation" – corporate concentration has resulted in historically high gas prices across the country, and has opened the door to price gouging at the grocery store and every industry where only a handful of corporations control supply and demand, or both.

The rise of corporate consolidation has produced devastating effects not only on our economy but also on our societal structures and democracy – the middle class is shrinking, and inequality is rising. No longer is hard work the guarantee to unlocking stability and upward mobility.

Today, the federal government is once again waking up to the dangers of an anti-competitive economy. The Federal Trade Commission and Congress must act to protect fair competition, but the states can also legislate stronger consumer protections.

Here at home, I've partnered with state Rep. Nick Piscitotano to introduce the Pennsylvania Open Markets Act to update Pennsylvania's unfair trade

practices law. This bill would reinvigorate our commonwealth's antitrust enforcement mechanisms to be a check against unlawful, anti-competitive corporate power. In doing so, we would ensure businesses and entrepreneurs can succeed on the merit of their ideas and hard work, bolster job and wage growth, and spur innovation.

Taking on the entrenched and concentrated corporate power is not simple, but we, as state legislators, are offering real solutions that would alleviate this historic financial suffering. The Pennsylvania Open Markets Act is a crucial first step toward systemically fixing the root of these problems and creating a more fair and open economy for all.



## MY OFFICE CAN HELP: RENT REBATES!

Every year my office helps hundreds of our neighbors file for the state Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. The state is currently accepting applications for eligible senior citizens and others to apply for a rebate on their 2021 property taxes or rent.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is open to residents 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with a disability 18 or older. To qualify, homeowners

must have a household income of \$35,000 or less; renters must have a household income of \$15,000 or less. Applicants only have to count half of their Social Security, Supplemental Security, or federal Railroad Retirement Tier I benefits toward the income limit.

The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975. The supplemental

rebate is automatically calculated by the state.

If you received a rebate last year, you should have received a 2021 application form in the mail. If not, applications are available online at [www.revenue.state.pa.us](http://www.revenue.state.pa.us) or by calling 1-888-222-9190. Residents can also call or visit my office to obtain the form. My staff is available to process your application and answer any questions.



## PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE UPDATE

As part of the state budget passed in July, folks who receive a 2021 Property Tax/Rent Rebate will receive a one-time bonus payment! My colleagues and I fought hard to include this funding in the state budget, because we know how hard things are for older folks on a fixed income.

These bonus Property Tax/Rent Rebate payments should begin in August. If you're not sure if you qualify, please contact my office!



State Representative  
**SARA INNAMORATO**

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SUMMER 2022  
**UPDATE**

## INSIDE:

**Whole-Home Repair bill becomes law!**

**A state budget that invests in our community!**

**Major grants awarded locally!**

**Fighting inflation with the Open Markets Act!**

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## **REP. INNAMORATO: FIGHTING FOR OUR COMMUNITY IN HARRISBURG!**

