



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# Aerion A. Abney

Summer 2022

## REPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE 19TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

State Representative



# A VOICE FOR THE PEOPLE



**Inside: State budget a win for the people of Pennsylvania**

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# STATE BUDGET MAKES MAJOR INVESTMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Having been sworn in this spring, this was my first state budget – and it was an eye opener! But I am pleased to report that this state budget takes steps to address many of the issues important to our community.

This budget is not perfect – no state budget ever is – but it makes important investments in our communities and more importantly, in our families.

The top line information is simple – this budget delivers a historic increase in state funding for education – money that will fund school programs, pay teachers, and provides record funding to schools that have been underfunded for decades.

This is a major investment not just for today, but for our state's future, one which will pay dividends down the road. This budget also includes a one-time benefit increase for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, which helps seniors; provides additional funding for childcare, and includes the Whole Home



Repair program, which will provide grants to homeowners for needed home repairs.

It also sets aside \$100 million for affordable housing construction and makes major investments in the outdoors.

I truly believe that my experiences this year – an on-the-job training, so to speak – only enables me to be an even stronger advocate for our communities!

## KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN HARRISBURG



Each week I send out an e-newsletter with the latest information from our communities and Harrisburg, plus helpful news about state programs and services.

It's a great way to keep up with what's going on, or find out ways that my office can help you, your family, or friends. For example, right now we're helping our older neighbors with their annual Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program applications, and we're always available to help with things like unemployment compensation, veterans' resources, or CHIP insurance for kids.

You can find all this and more at [www.RepAbney.com](http://www.RepAbney.com); find me on social media, or scan the QR code to sign-up for my weekly e-newsletter!



# IN THE COMMUNITY



*Supporting University Preparatory School, Millions 6-12 Take a Father to School Day event!*



*I joined with the teachers at Urban Pathways K-5 in their rally to be certified to join the AFT-PA union and keep their teachers at the school.*



*Northside Leadership Conference annual dinner event.*



*Above: Ribbon-cutting at Northside Park.*

*Left: Touring the Allegheny YMCA to discuss ways my office can assist in their capital fundraising project to renovate their building.*



*Stop The Violence block party in the Hill District.*



*Opening the new Target in Downtown!*



*Checking out Peace and Friendship Farm in the Hill District with PA Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding.*

## BUILDING A TEAM FOR YOU!



Since taking office this spring I haven't just been working in Harrisburg, but here at home helping our neighbors. But I can't do it alone, which is why I am thrilled to introduce Jamaal Craig as my district Office Director. Jamaal knows our neighborhoods, and he's working with me to build out our team to help solve your problems.

**So please stop by the office any time at 2015 1st Floor, Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, or call us at 412-471-7760!**



*Juneteenth celebration in Pittsburgh.*

## MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Port Authority Senior ConnectCard applications
- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Health and Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

# REP. ABNEY'S MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE



**Hello!**

It has been an exciting several months since I was sworn in as a new state Representative – an eye-opening experience.

I've been keeping busy both here at home and in Harrisburg, where I'm advocating and agitating for the things that matter to our communities! With my fellow Democrats, I've taken a stand and called for gun violence reform; better education funding so all our kids, regardless of ZIP code, have a chance to succeed; business investment and policies to create business opportunities, especially for MWDBAs; and other issues that impact all of us.

But there's more to my office than representation! My staff and I are here and ready to serve you by helping you navigate the state bureaucracy, solve state-related problems, and help you and your family access state programs or benefits.

For more information, stop on by, or contact us any time at 412-471-7760.

Be well!

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## MY OFFICE CAN HELP: RENT REBATES!



The state is now 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 qualify if their household income is \$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.

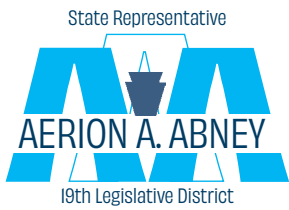
If you received a rebate last year, you should have received a 2021 application form in the mail. If not, applications are available online at [www.revenue.state.pa.us](http://www.revenue.state.pa.us) or by calling 1-888-222-9190. Residents can also call or visit **my office** to obtain the form. My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

We help hundreds of folks each year with this process, so please, reach out if you have questions. **The application period closes at the end of the year, so please do not delay!**

## 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!



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## INSIDE:

- **FIGHTING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES**
- **STATE BUDGET PASSES**
- **NEWS TO USE**
- **IMPORTANT STATE PROGRAMS FOR YOU!**

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