

State Representative

# Anthony A. Bellmon

Capitol Office: 26B East Wing | P.O. Box 202203 | Harrisburg, PA 17120-2203  
(717) 783-4111 | Fax: (717) 772-9996

District Office: 7215B Rising Sun Ave. | Philadelphia, PA 19111  
(215) 560-1315 | Fax: (215) 549-8965

 RepBellmon.com |   @RepBellmon



## Updates from the State Capitol

### 2025-26 State Budget Proposals

Governor Josh Shapiro laid out his budget proposal for 2025-26 on February 4 at the State Capitol. The governor's proposed budget aims to make necessary investments in crucial areas such as public education, violence prevention, housing and so much more. Now, my colleagues and I will vote to pass a budget that reflects the values and needs of Pennsylvania and benefits our community in meaningful ways.

Read below for an in-depth explanation of specific policy areas:

### Education

The proposed budget would build on the progress of the last two budgets by investing an additional **\$75 million increase in basic education funding**. On top of that, this budget proposes an additional \$526 million through the bipartisan adequacy formula, driving more dollars to the schools that need them most. **It also increases special education funding by \$40 million**, bringing the total funding allocation to over \$1.5 billion to ensure school districts have the resources needed to provide high-quality special education services to students with disabilities and special needs.

Not only would this budget invest in students, but in teachers too. This budget aims to address Pennsylvania's teacher shortage and strengthen the educator pipeline by doubling funding for student teacher stipends, increasing the amount available for stipends by \$20 million this year for a total of \$40 million to support aspiring educators who wish to enter into this noble profession.

### Public Safety

As Co-Chair of the PA Safe Caucus, ensuring our communities are safe from violent crime and gun violence is of the utmost importance to me. This budget would provide a **\$10 million increase for PCCD's Violence Intervention and Prevention program**. This program supports a wide range of models focused on reducing gun violence and relies on community groups that are most in tune with local needs in our community.

This budget also would provide a \$10 million increase for the Building Opportunity through Out of School Time (BOOST) Grant Program, nearly doubling the amount of available funds. **BOOST was created in the bipartisan 2024-25 budget and provides funding for after-school programs that offer enrichment opportunities for our kids, address the root causes of violence, and make our communities safer.**

## Hello neighbor,

In January, I was sworn-in to begin my second term (2025-26) as state representative for the 203rd Legislative District, which encompasses Castor Gardens, East Oak Lane, Lawncrest, Lawndale, Olney and Oxford Circle. Serving as your state representative is truly an honor, and I look forward to continuing the work that we started during our first term (2023-24). In Harrisburg, I will push for legislation that keeps our communities safe, ensures workers fair wages and benefits, and provides funding for schools where all children can receive a quality education. In the district, my office is here to serve as a community resource hub. If you ever need assistance with state government-related services or quality of life issues, please do not hesitate to give us a call, send us an email, or stop by in person.

In this newsletter, you will see some of our accomplishments from my first term in office, the important issues that we tackle in Harrisburg, and ways that we can improve our community. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to serve as your state representative, and I am committed to working on your behalf in Harrisburg and here at home.

*Anthony Bellmon*

## Housing

To help Pennsylvanians purchase their first home, the proposed budget would invest \$10 million to help first-time home buyers cover closing costs. The budget also proposes \$50 million to create a new statewide housing repair fund to help homeowners struggling to make needed repairs to their aging homes.

## Minimum Wage

As our neighboring states have increased their minimum wage, now is the time for us to do the same in Pennsylvania and ensure our workers are fairly compensated for their hard work. This proposed budget calls to raise Pennsylvania's minimum wage to \$15 per hour which will generate economic activity, increase the purchasing power of Pennsylvania residents, and add roughly \$100 million annually in increased revenue for the Commonwealth once fully implemented.

## Helping Older & Aging Pennsylvanians

To ensure that our older adults are properly taken care of, this proposed budget aims to give those caring for our older adults more help in their professions.

With more than 3 million Pennsylvanians over the age of 60, the best way to ensure their needs are met is to work closely with Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's) like the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, which provide community centers that connect older Pennsylvanians to critical resources and serve on the front lines to protect them from abuse and neglect. That's why this proposed budget makes a significant new investment of \$20 million to enable our AAA's to better meet the needs of older adults. In addition, this proposed budget would invest \$2 million to fund an initiative to improve oversight and accountability of the AAA's.

## Adult-Use Cannabis

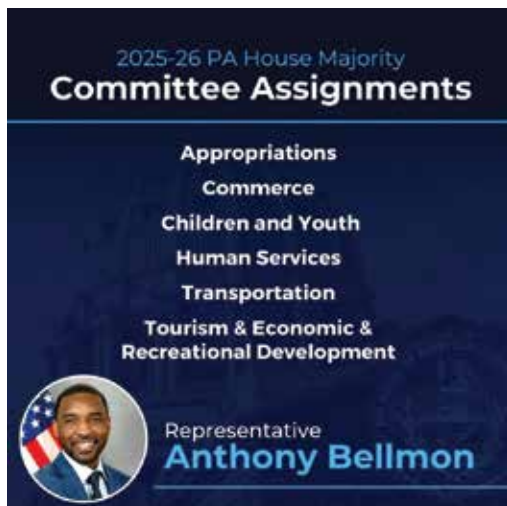
This budget proposes the legalization of adult-use cannabis in Pennsylvania and invests \$10 million in restorative justice initiatives from adult-use cannabis proceeds, in addition to the immediate expungement of the records of those incarcerated for possession related offenses attributed to cannabis.

## Workforce & Economic Development

This year's budget proposal includes a major reorganization within DCED, consolidating agency resources to form the BusinessPA Team. BusinessPA focuses on and strategically promotes business success, expansion, and attraction in Pennsylvania.

A key to increasing our workforce is to ensure young Pennsylvanians have many paths to success. This budget proposal would dedicate a \$12.5 million investment from the Workforce and Economic Development Network appropriation. This investment would leverage \$10 million in existing funds and \$2.5 million in new state funds to train additional workers. This budget also includes \$2 million for the creation of the Career Connect program, a statewide program to build internships at Pennsylvania companies.

## Committee Assignments, Caucuses & Delegations



I'm excited to serve on these **six House committees**, and to push for legislation that will improve your quality of life and move Pennsylvania forward.



**It's an honor to be elected by my colleagues as Secretary of the Philadelphia House Delegation.** The Philadelphia House Delegation is made up of state representatives whose districts are within our city limits. I look forward to working alongside my colleagues of the delegation to address important issues in our city.





The safety of our communities is of the utmost importance. I look forward to continuing to serve as Co-Chair of the **PA Safe Caucus**, which comprises a group of legislators who believe in reducing all types of violence in our society through adequate funding for mental health services; stronger tools for law enforcement; resources to curb the effects of addiction and illegal drugs; and solutions that reduce gun violence and promote public safety.

Additionally, I'm proud to serve on the **Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus** and **Pennsylvania Legislative Latino Caucus** fighting to address issues that have disproportionately affected Black and Latino communities for too long.

# Accomplishments at Home

## 2023-24

Session Review By the Numbers

**\$21.8 Million**  
in State Grant Money  
Brought Back to the District

Over **7,241**  
Constituent  
Services Provided

**302**  
Property Tax/ Rent  
Rebates Completed  
by our Office

**128**  
Events Hosted  
and Attended

**ANTHONY BELLMON**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

During my first term in office, we were able to accomplish much for the residents of Northeast Philadelphia, Olney and East Oak Lane. Whether it be assisting neighbors at our district office, hosting events across the district, or bringing home state funding, we were able to provide in a substantial way. I look forward to working with you to build on these accomplishments.

## *See What Neighbors Are Saying About Our Office*

"Within just a few short weeks I got to see and tour the Capitol for the very first time and I can't thank Rep. Bellmon's office enough for making it happen and for being so accessible." - Pamela D.

"I reached out to Rep. Bellmon's office after PennDOT incorrectly suspended my license. Within a few weeks, I had a new driver's license and was back on the road. Rep. Bellmon's office is a great resource in this community and is always eager to help." - Antonia S.

"Rep. Bellmon's office always pulls through. When a new PGW account was opened at my mother's address without her knowing, Alexis quickly reached out to the company and was able to recoup her payment plan and senior discount that she was grandfathered into as well as over \$300 in bill credits. Her bill is correct again, and we can't thank Alexis enough." - John H.

## **Delivering State Funding for the Community**

- **\$4.5 million** for improvements and significant upgrades to the Lawncrest Recreation Center's pool and clubhouse.
- **\$219,000** for a new basketball court at Sturgis Recreation Center.
- **\$20,000** for Feliz Filadelfia's Youth Baseball and Softball Programs.
- **\$10,000** for the Olney Eagles Youth Athletic Association.
- **\$10,000** for the Sturgis Advisory Council.
- **\$30,000** for the Lawncrest Civic Association.
- **\$10,000** for the Lawncrest Lions Youth Athletic Association.

## *Legislative Updates*

So far this year, we have passed multiple bills in the Pennsylvania House that are now in the Pennsylvania Senate awaiting consideration. I am proud to support legislation addressing important issues that affect our community. These bills would:

- Protect voting rights in Pennsylvania by requiring at least two ballot drop boxes in each county, in-person voting available up to 11 days before an election, and all county election boards to transition to electronic poll books by 2027. **(HB 1396)**
- Provide state protections for affordable health care by protecting individuals with pre-existing conditions, ending lifetime limits on insurance, keeping young adults covered, and keeping families healthy through preventive care. **(HB 404, HB 535, HB 618 and HB 755)**
- Extend federal Occupational Safety Health and Administration (OSHA) protections to public sector workers in Pennsylvania. **(HB 308)**
- Increase the revenue cap for the PA Housing and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) Fund, enabling more people to have safe, affordable housing. **(HB 643)**
- Update the Workers' Compensation Act to ensure that workers who are seriously or permanently disfigured are eligible for workers' compensation. **(HB 183)**
- Authorize the Keystone Saves Program, which would give workers in Pennsylvania the power to make their own future by establishing a voluntary retirement savings program. **(HB 1263)**
- Cut costs for working Pennsylvanians by creating the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit, a 30% refundable state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). **(HB 820)**
- Provide a cost-of-living increase to longtime state employees and public school employees. **(HB 411)**
- ...and more!



## Stop and Go Legislative Task Force



I was honored to be appointed to the Stop and Go Legislative Task Force by Pennsylvania House Speaker Joanna McClinton. We were charged with suggesting remedies to quality-of-life issues in communities surrounding nuisance establishments such as stop and go's. Our group studied existing laws, toured impacted neighborhoods and establishments, and held public hearings to receive testimony to inform our work. As an appointee from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, I have introduced a bipartisan bill to implement recommendations from the task force's report to remedy issues pertaining to stop and go's.



I was grateful for the opportunity to present \$84,350 in state funding to the Philadelphia Protestant Home for a new disability transport vehicle.

## Fighting for Public Transportation



*Rep. Bellmon with advocates to fund mass transit for SEPTA.*

SEPTA keeps Philadelphia and the surrounding areas in Southeast Pennsylvania moving. Nearly 800,000 people per day use SEPTA transportation services to get where they need to go. In recent months, we have seen threats of funding cuts for SEPTA, which would greatly impact the hundreds of thousands of people in the Philadelphia region who rely on SEPTA's public transportation. As a member of the House Transportation Committee, I stand firm with my colleagues in our support of providing SEPTA adequate funding to ensure Philadelphians have a reliable public transit system for families, workers and older adults.

## In the District

### Supporting Local Initiatives

- **Lawncrest Recreation Center:** I was proud to join Mayor Parker, Councilman Phillips and neighbors from the Lawncrest Community to break ground for a \$23.4 million investment for renovations to the Lawncrest Recreation Center. This project will not only provide much-needed renovations to the facility and outside play area but will also allow families the opportunity to enjoy valuable time at the center and provide a place where young people can grow and interact with their peers in a safe environment.
- **Lawncrest Library:** I was honored and enthusiastic to officially cut the ribbon at the ceremonial reopening of the revitalized Lawncrest Library. This library upgrade was made possible by \$4.5 million in city grant funding. This revitalized library will give the Lawncrest community a safe space to read, enrich minds, complete work and interact with neighbors for years to come.
- **Olney Recreation Center:** My office has worked with community stakeholders to support renovations to the Olney Recreation



center. My office attends quarterly meetings and receives updates from the project managers. I'm very pleased to say that the project is well underway. I look forward to seeing a revitalized Olney Recreation Center that will provide a safe space for children to learn, stay active and socialize with one another.



State Representative

**Anthony A. Bellmon**

7215B Rising Sun Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19111  
(215) 560-1315

lpo.aa.0525

*My Office is Here to Help you!*

## How can my office help you?

- ➔ Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications
  - ➔ PennDOT services, such as car registrations, handicap placards or titles
  - ➔ Unemployment Compensation issues
  - ➔ Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
  - ➔ Birth and death certificates
  - ➔ Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
  - ➔ Pennsylvania income tax questions
  - ➔ Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
  - ➔ Consumer complaints
  - ➔ Notary services for state documents
  - ➔ PACE cards for senior citizens
  - ➔ Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Any other question about state government!

## Upcoming Senior Fair

**FREE LUNCH**

**PATRIOT HOME CARE**  
Sponsored by  
Patriot Home Care • Caring Health

**2025 Senior Fair**  
HOSTED BY  
STATE REP. ANTHONY A. BELLMON

**MAY 30**  
**11 A.M. – 1 P.M.**  
SAINT THOMAS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
1009 UNRUH AVE., PHILADELPHIA, PA 19111