

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE RICK KRAJEWSKI

## Dear Neighbor,

I hope this finds you well and healthy. As the summer heat refuses to relent and we await the cooler days of fall, I wanted to keep you up to date on what I've been doing in our community and in Harrisburg, as well as update you on available state programs. As your state representative for the 188th Legislative District in West Philly, it is my honor to serve you.

If you ever need assistance with state programs or services, feel free to stop by my office or give us a call.

Sincerely,



State Rep. Rick Krajewski



## UPDATES FROM HARRISBURG

### PASSING THE BUDGET

In early July, after months of deliberation and negotiation, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senate finally came to an agreement on the annual state budget for the Fiscal Year 24-25. It was a grueling process, but my colleagues and I did not back down an inch when it came to securing significant gains for students and working-class families.



We won historic funding for public schools and education, totaling over \$230 million in new funding for the School District of Philadelphia. We also passed the Solar for Schools Program, which will save millions of dollars on energy costs, while decarbonizing and creating high-paying union jobs and apprenticeship programs.

Finally, we were able to secure a one-shot injection of over \$50 million in transit funding for SEPTA, which will stave offline cuts and help to avoid the most drastic fare-increase scenarios. **When we return in the fall, securing long-term, sustainable and recurring funding for SEPTA will be a top priority of mine and for the Philadelphia House Delegation.**

Governing in a divided legislature is hard, and we didn't get everything that we wanted. But I know my colleagues and I will do the hard work to ensure that Pennsylvania is a state that supports and invests in working people and families.



2024-2025  
**PA BUDGET**  
EDUCATION FUNDING

**\$1.93 Billion**  
invested in  
education funding  
for the Philadelphia  
School District



# UPDATES FROM HARRISBURG

## STATEWIDE RIGHT TO COUNSEL

Another highlight of this year's budget, which I am especially proud to share, is \$2.5 million in funding to launch the historic **Pennsylvania Right to Counsel Program**, which will provide free legal aid to low-income tenants facing evictions and give our neighbors the tools they need to defend against displacement.

After Governor Shapiro proposed expanding Philly's Right to Counsel Program statewide in his budget address, I immediately jumped to introduce corresponding legislation and advocated hard for it to stay in the final budget. This \$2.5 million down payment is a historic win for the housing movement, but it's still only a first step. To win a true statewide Right to Counsel for all working families, we need to spend 10 times more. **I continue to fight to expand funding to serve every eligible tenant!**



## AROUND THE DISTRICT

### BELIEVE IN SECOND CHANCES

Over the summer, my office hosted a Second Chance Fair at Christy Recreational Center. It was a joy to see everyone who stopped by, and we had a great time connecting our neighbors to community resources, union employers and legal assistance for those seeking a pardon or expungement of a harmful criminal record.

Having a criminal record should not be a life sentence. Everyone deserves a second chance and the opportunity to thrive!



### BREAKING FREE FROM EVICTION RECORDS

It was powerful to see everyone who came out to our May Town Hall on eviction records and how they impact our community.

Evictions and housing instability have serious negative impacts on families and disproportionately affect Black women with young children. Too often, tenants with records of eviction proceedings are turned away by future landlords and face perpetual housing instability.

I'm working with Reps. Ismail Smith-Wade-EI, Elizabeth Fiedler and Jordan Harris to **pass H.B. 1769 and make eviction records private**. This simple, basic step would open the door to safe and affordable homes for renters across Pennsylvania.

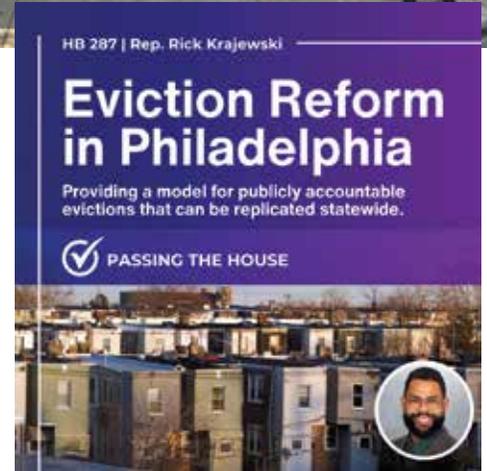


# EVICITION REFORM IN PHILADELPHIA

After eviction agents shot Angel Davis and Latese Bethea last summer, I got to work creating legislation to overhaul Philly's reckless eviction process. This Spring, my bill, H.B. 287, finally passed the House!

Recently, I learned that Philadelphia's Landlord-Tenant Officer will cease carrying out evictions for the foreseeable future. This represents a **historic victory and crucial first step toward overhauling our corrupt, violent for-profit eviction process.** I'm grateful to have been a part of this campaign, alongside my colleagues at City Hall and grassroots housing advocates.

No matter who carries out Philly's evictions in the future, I will continue to advocate for our city to put tenant safety before landlord profits. By providing tenants more resources and taking basic measures toward transparency and accountability, we can help prevent the shootings we saw last summer from ever occurring again.



# ADVOCATING FOR PARKS AND PUBLIC PLACES

Parks and public spaces are one of our greatest resources in the 188th. They foster a sense of community, allow young children to play and grow and boost public health and well-being. I am dedicated to assisting our district's parks and recreation centers – from Christy Rec to Clark Park – secure the state funds they need to thrive.

I was especially proud to help **secure \$100,000 for Malcolm X Park**, upon learning of the fire at the park which damaged the bathroom and electrical system. This builds on the **\$76,351 state grant** we won in January to repair the gazebo, bathrooms and lighting.

I walk through this space nearly every day and it has been beautiful to see our community come back strong.



# ADVOCATING FOR ADULT USE CANNABIS

Throughout the Spring, I chaired a House Health Subcommittee on Health Care hearing on the legalization of adult-use cannabis. Governor Shapiro stated his support for legalization in Pennsylvania during his budget address and while it did not happen in this year's budget, the wheels are in motion and momentum is on our side.

As we move toward legalization, I'm focused on ensuring that any legalization bill provides for both the expungement and resentencing of marijuana charges, so that our community can experience real freedom and heal. We must also ensure that tax revenue from the cannabis industry is spent on public resources that serve our community and desperately need support – like our schools, housing, public spaces and mass transit.

The failed War on Drugs has terrorized and traumatized Black and Brown communities for far too long. Legalizing adult-use cannabis would be a major step forward in the struggle for mass liberation. **Thousands of Pennsylvanians are still serving time for unnecessary and racist marijuana laws.** We can't wait any longer.



## STATE OF THE UNIONS

As an ardent supporter of unions and the labor movement, I have been so proud of all the union organizing in our city. Graduate and medical workers at Penn, the food-service workers of UNITE HERE Philly, Philly Cultural Workers United, workers with Jefferson's Standardized Patients, Aramark workers and so many more have led the way, building large and historic unions, calling for fair contracts and pushing back against union busting.



This past spring, I was especially involved in organizing at Penn – our city's largest private employer, located right in the heart of the 188th. In early April, I led a rally with the Coalition of Workers at Penn where we presented a letter, signed by nearly 30 elected officials across the city, demanding that Penn stop their union busting. **With an endowment of over \$20 billion, Penn must stop nickel and diming their workers and treat the West and Southwest community with respect!**



# AROUND THE DISTRICT

## SUPPORTING PROTESTERS FOR PEACE

The violence of the past 10 months in Gaza has broken my heart, and I have sought to do everything in my power to advocate for peace. That is why I have been so heartened by the groundswell of grassroots support for a ceasefire we've seen at protests on college campuses around the country, around the state and here in our neighborhood.

Since the beginning of the encampment at the University of Pennsylvania, I was a vocal supporter of the protesters, uplifted

their demands and negotiated for a nonviolent resolution. I was dismayed at Penn's heavy-handed tactics, like banning students from campus, denying them the ability to walk at graduation, and having them arrested and subjected to violence by militarized police.

I also strongly support advocates across the state calling for Pennsylvania's State Treasurer to divest from Israeli bonds. Our public funds should go toward schools, housing and mass



transit — not war and devastation abroad. I will always stand with peaceful protesters calling for a lasting ceasefire and an end to the genocide in Gaza.



# PROGRAMS

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is better than ever – cutting costs for more seniors and people with disabilities, putting more money back in their pockets to spend however they'd like, and helping more seniors stay in the homes they've spent a lifetime building.

Last year, we passed a law that made nearly 175,000 more people eligible, along with increasing the top refund for both homeowners and renters to \$1,000.

Over the summer, Governor Shapiro extended the deadline to file for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program to Dec. 31.

If you haven't applied yet, or are unsure if you're eligible, contact my office and we'll help you through the process!



## Property Tax / Rent Rebate 2024 Program Expansion

**MORE** people eligible, **MORE** money back!

Homeowner & Renter Income	Max Rebate
Up to \$8K	\$1,000
Up to \$15K	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$460
Up to \$45K	\$380

Deadline extended to December 31, 2024



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Summer  
2024

State Representative | 188th Legislative District

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## 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/mail-in 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!**