



State Representative **JORDAN HARRIS**



House Democratic Whip
Representing the 186th Legislative District

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FIGHTING FOR OUR VALUES IN HARRISBURG

Every week that I'm in Harrisburg I'm doing everything I can to fight for the values that matter to us. I want to make sure you know where I stand on some key issues that are going to impact our state moving forward. Please don't hesitate to contact my office to discuss any of these issues or any other issue that is important to you.

- Pushing for more criminal justice reform: Since we launched Clean Slate in 2019, we've sealed over 1.2 million Pennsylvanians' records. This helps them get the second chance they deserve. I'm hopeful we'll expand Clean Slate this year to seal even more records. I'm also continuing to work on probation reform and equitable treatment for formally incarcerated individuals.
- Protecting your right to vote: It's unfortunate, but over the past several years we've seen unprecedented efforts to make it harder to vote. This is wholly undemocratic and I'm working to ensure that these attempts to silence your voice don't succeed in Pennsylvania. I'm cosponsoring legislation from our Democratic House Leader Joanna McClinton that would make it easier to vote and protect your rights at the ballot box.
- Supporting women's health: As more and more states push women's health backward, I'll continue to stand up and fight for increased access to the health care options women need. We've come a long way in just my lifetime, but we need to ensure the rights we've fought for continue to be available.

CLEAN SLATE PENNSYLVANIA

Since Clean Slate went into effect in 2019:

- 1.2 MILLION Pennsylvanians' records sealed so far
- 40 MILLION cases sealed
- 60 MILLION charges sealed

GET YOUR SECOND CHANCE: mycleanslatepa.com

- Recovery from COVID-19: Thanks to President Joe Biden, the American Rescue Plan sent billions of dollars to Pennsylvania to help us recover from COVID-19. We need to use this federal money to invest in our communities, our schools, our businesses, and our state.

Gov. Wolf's Budget Proposal A Progressive Investment For Pa.



In February, Gov. Tom Wolf unveiled his final budget proposal for Pennsylvania. When the governor took office in 2015, Pennsylvania was faced with a severe budget shortfall. Now, with Pennsylvania having a record surplus, Gov. Wolf is proposing a historic investment in our state that will help strengthen our schools, improve our communities and lead to a growing economy.

This budget looks to invest in all levels of education, from pre-K through K-12 and into postsecondary education, to ensure that Pennsylvania's students have all the resources they need to be successful. It would make Pennsylvania more attractive to workers and businesses by raising our embarrassingly low

minimum wage and investing in job training to put more high-skilled workers into the job market. It would support criminal justice reform by expanding our Clean Slate law, which I authored with Rep. Sheryl DeLozier several years ago, to give more Pennsylvanians their second chance.

It does all those things and so much more. The bottom line is this: we're faced with a unique opportunity to invest in our state and our people. We have a budget surplus the state hasn't seen in over a decade. To simply hide your tax dollars away in a rainy-day fund is unacceptable when it's already been raining for too many Pennsylvanians. I look forward to supporting this budget proposal and look forward to delivering for Pennsylvania.

Key Budget Investments and policies

- \$1.55 billion increase in basic education funding
- This includes a \$411 million increase for Philadelphia schools
- \$200 million increase in special education funding
- \$60 million increase for Pre-K Counts
- \$75 million increase for PA State System of Higher Education (PASSHE)
- \$200 million for a needs-based scholarship program for PASSHE universities
- \$14 million increase for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Increased minimum wage to \$12 per hour climbing to \$15 per hour
- Expand Clean Slate program to give more Pennsylvanians their second chance

PROVIDING HELP FOR NURSES AND HOSPITALS

Earlier this year, the legislature passed, and Gov. Tom Wolf signed, a bill that delivers \$225 million in federal funding to help nurses and hospitals across the state. Our hospitals continue to be strained and staffed by nurses and doctors who have sacrificed so much throughout this pandemic. The past two years have been hard on all of us, but they've given more of themselves than could ever be repaid. This is just a start toward ensuring that hospitals have the staff they need, and that staff has adequate support to do their job as best they can.

This law delivers:

- \$100 million to hospitals to develop and employ staff recruitment efforts.
- \$110 million to support staff recruitment at hospitals who work closely with behavioral health patients.
- \$15 million to a dedicated Student Loan Relief for Nurses Program.

\$225 MILLION

to help battle COVID-19



Better pay for nurses

MEANS



More nurses on the job

MEANS



Better outcomes for patients today + long term



AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 led to some tough choices. Out of concern for the safety of our community, my staff and I had to cancel many public events because we didn't want to bring together large crowds of people. Our Senior Sweetheart Dance, Bike 186 event, Summer Street Fest, and smaller, more common events like our Wills Clinic and Town Hall meetings all were pushed back, or when possible, held virtually.

However, thanks to the COVID-19 vaccine, last year we were able to resume a bit of normalcy and bring back some of our favorite events. I'm hopeful that vaccine rates continue to go up as we look to bring our community together again. Below are some photos from our community over the past few months.

BOO ON THE BREEZE



On Halloween weekend we brought back candy, costumes and resources outside our district office.

VISITING AUDENRIED HIGH SCHOOL



In November, I joined Audenried High School's AP Government class to talk about civics and my role as a state representative.

BIKE 186



We had a great time bringing back our Bike 186 giveaway right before Christmas.

SCHUYLKILL RIVER TRAIL



I've been fortunate enough to be able to help bring several different grants to the Schuylkill River Trail in our community to help grow our green spaces. In October, I took a trip down there to look at the progress.

100TH TREE WITH PHS TREE TENDERS



MULTIPLE STATE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU

Are you at risk of having your water shut off?

Help is available. Learn if you qualify at: www.dhs.pa.gov/WaterHelp

If you're at risk of having your water shut off, please know that the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is now accepting applications. LIHWAP is a temporary emergency program to help low-income families pay overdue water bills and avoid having their water service shut off. LIHWAP crisis grants may be available to you if you have an emergency situation and are in danger of losing water service. Visit www.dhs.pa.gov/WaterHelp for more information or contact my office.



Need Energy Assistance?

LIHEAP

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Application deadline extended until **May 6, 2022**

Pennsylvania's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is still accepting applications to help individuals at risk of losing their heat stay warm. LIHEAP provides a cash grant to low-income individuals who are in danger of being without heat or who have experienced a heating crisis such as a broken furnace. Assistance is available for both renters and homeowners. You can apply for LIHEAP online at www.compass.state.pa.us or contact my office for help.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

for residents who are permanently disabled, 50+ and widowed, or 65+



What we need from you:

EVERYONE

✓ All earned income tax forms (1099 SSI, W2s, etc.)

HOMEOWNERS

✓ Copies of all paid tax bills

RENTERS

✓ Signed form from the landlord



\$35,000
maximum household income*

* for homeowners
\$15,000 maximum for renters

ON SOCIAL SECURITY?
Half of SSI/SSD income is excluded for eligibility.

Older and disabled Pennsylvanians can now apply for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. Remember, you can now use an online filing option via www.mypath.pa.gov to electronically submit your application. You can also contact my office to get your Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program instruction booklet to learn which information you'll need.

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded. Spouses, personal representatives, or estates may also file rebate claims on behalf of claimants who lived at least one day in 2021 and meet all other eligibility criteria.

If you still wish to file a paper application, it's available by calling 1-888-222-9190. If you need additional assistance with completing or submitting your form, please contact my office and set up an appointment by calling (215) 952-3378.



If you need assistance with these or any other state government-related issue, please contact my office at (215) 952-3378 to set up an appointment. You can stay up to date on state programs, policy issues and local events by signing up for my email updates. Go to RepJordanHarris.com/emailsSignup or scan this code.



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DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY



In February, I had the honor of joining our Democratic Leader Rep. Joanna McClinton in presenting a state grant for more than \$2.6 million to Bartram's Garden that we helped secure for our communities. This funding will go toward building a new ecosystems education center and the world's first freshwater mussel hatchery to help improve water quality in local waterways. I'll always work to support local partners that make our community so special, and Bartram's Garden is a beautiful greenspace that provides education and a chance to get outdoors right in our own backyard. Stay tuned for more announcements of grant awards in our district in the near future!