



STATE REPRESENTATIVE ELIZABETH FIEDLER

Read on for updates from the district and Harrisburg

A NOTE FROM ELIZABETH

Friend, it's an honor to serve you. I know that for many of us, it is a stressful time. Every day, our neighbors face rising cost of living, unemployment, and housing insecurity. But help is within reach! My office is here to help you navigate difficult times. There are many state services we can help you access: medical assistance, SNAP, the property tax/rent rebate program, unemployment benefits, and more.

When I'm in Harrisburg, I'm fighting to bring state funding home to benefit South Philadelphia. The picture above is the presentation of a \$90,000 grant for the East Passyunk Community Rec Center to fix their leaky roof.

In this year's budget, which you can read more about in this

newsletter, I fought hard to bring home money for our schools: the budget delivers an additional \$361 million for the School District of Philadelphia. And I'm proud to share we were able to pass my Solar for Schools program, which will help fund our schools while benefitting the environment and creating good jobs. I know these wins wouldn't be possible without your support and trust.

In this newsletter, you'll find more information on my work in Harrisburg, news from around the district, and ways my office can connect you with state services. If we can ever be of assistance, please reach out or stop by my office any time.

Elizabeth Fiedler



Inside: accessing state services!



INSIDE: HOW WE WON SOLAR FOR SCHOOLS!

The bill I introduced to bring solar panels to Pennsylvania schools is now law! Learn more about our bipartisan victory inside this newsletter.

WORKING FOR YOU

AT THE OFFICE

Each day, our team answers phone calls and helps our neighbors who walk in. We can help you access medical care, SEPTA senior passes, disability parking placards, birth certificates, unemployment, and much more. We've helped thousands of neighbors access state services, completing over 3,400 cases this year alone!



PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE

Have you applied for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate yet? The deadline has been extended until the end of the year, and you can complete your application at my office. I advocated with my colleagues successfully to raise this year's income limit to \$45,000 per household. If you have questions about what you need to bring to apply, give us a call at 215-271-9190.



Property Tax / Rent Rebate Program 2024 Expansion

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

Homeowner Income	Rebate	Renter Income	Rebate
Up to \$8K	\$1,000	Up to \$8K	\$1,000
Up to \$15K	\$770	Up to \$15K	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$460	Up to \$18K	\$460
Up to \$35K	\$360	Up to \$45K	\$360
Up to \$45K	\$300		

CITY SERVICES

Need help with city property taxes, licenses and inspection, or sanitation issues? We can help connect you with city services through our partnership with Councilmember Mark Squilla's office. Just give us a call to set up an appointment with a city staff member on Tuesdays.

SHREDDING

We held our annual shredding event with State Senator Nikil Saval's office this May. We were joined by hundreds of neighbors who could safely dispose of unneeded tax, medical and other personal documents. We'll see you again next year!

 Visit our district office at 2400 S 9th St and let us help you!



AMPLIFYING YOUR VOICES IN HARRISBURG AND AT HOME

Representing you means making your voices heard in the halls of power. Over the past few months, Harrisburg has had many visitors from our district! I am so proud that we've been joined in the Capitol building by the Coppin School HOME Band, PhillyBOLT students, and UNITE HERE workers in Locals 634 and 274. These groups visited to advocate for issues including public school funding and fair contracts. YOU are a big reason we have so much to celebrate in the budget!



UNITE HERE Local 274 stadium workers meeting with legislators



Members of the Wilma Theater in Harrisburg after winning a Tony Award



PhillyBOLT student speaking in support of education funding

Elementary and middle school musicians from the Fanny Jackson Coppin School HOME Band visited the Capitol building to perform for lawmakers and advocates in Harrisburg this spring! They were joined by Mr. Chris Argerakis, the director of the Coppin School music program.

The HOME band is just one example of the amazing things that are possible at our neighborhood public schools.



HOW WE WON SOLAR for SCHOOLS!

Solar for Schools is a bill I introduced that creates a grant program to help schools across Pennsylvania install solar panels. It was signed into law in July 2024.



1. IDEA AND INTRODUCTION

This bill was created hand in hand with labor, education, and environmental advocates to advance our shared goals of creating a healthier planet and good jobs for the next generation. By installing solar panels, schools can save money on unpredictable energy bills, create good jobs in their areas, and reduce their reliance on fossil fuels, all at once. It was introduced in June 2023 as HB1032.

2. SOLAR TOUR

To learn more about solar energy, our coalition toured nearly a dozen schools across the state. We visited districts that are already reaping tremendous financial benefits from their solar panels, and schools that don't have them but are interested in installing them. The stops helped us connect with school leaders, better understand solar installation, and communicate the benefits of the bill. We were generously hosted by many of my colleagues in their home districts.



3. BIPARTISAN COLLABORATION

Our bill had broad bipartisan support every step of the way. We achieved this by including Republicans and Democrats in the drafting process, listening to feedback, and amending the bill as needed to come to an agreement. We even had support from local elected officials; Philadelphia City Council unanimously supported the bill.

4. PASSAGE IN LEGISLATURE

The bill went through the long and complicated legislative process in Harrisburg, which included: passing in a House committee, being amended in the House, passing the full House, passing in a Senate committee, being amended in the Senate, passing the full Senate, passing the House again, and passing in the budget with an appropriation. The process took over a year!



5. SIGNING INTO LAW

Governor Shapiro signed Solar for Schools into law on July 17th as Act 68. Now, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development has 90 days to set up guidelines for the grant applications. Soon, school districts will be able to apply and take advantage of all the bill has to offer!

Learn more at www.pahouse.com/Fiedler/Solar4Schools



STATE BUDGET



UNDERSTANDING WINS AND WORK LEFT TO DO



Students rallying for public education funding in Harrisburg



Celebrating BOOST funding with Lt. Governor Austin Davis

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET

Each year, the legislature has until June 30th to pass a state budget. Here are some of this year's wins and some missed opportunities.

There is a lot to celebrate in this budget. We won a major, **\$1 billion+ investment in education funding**. It will bring \$361 million to Philly schools alone! This is a significant step in addressing our unconstitutional school funding system, and I look forward to delivering more until we achieve true equity in education funding. We also won **\$11 million for afterschool and summer learning programs**, which will help keep kids safe and active outside of school.

\$2.5 million was allocated to establish a Right to Counsel program, which will provide free legal assistance for some low-income tenants facing eviction. This brand-new program has the potential to keep thousands of Pennsylvanians in their homes. There are also significant investments in environmental protection in the budget this year, including for clean water and to cap abandoned oil and gas wells.

On the other hand, I'm disappointed that we did not win a larger investment for mass transit. \$80.5 million (\$53 million for SEPTA) is a start, but we have a long way to go to address SEPTA's funding crisis. Public transportation is crucial for people to get to work, school, and the store, and it's vital for decreasing our reliance on fossil fuels. We need a sustainable transportation system for the long run—so I consider this year's investment a downpayment.

I'm also disappointed the successful Whole Home Repairs program didn't receive new funding in the budget. I'm hopeful that this program will be funded again in the future.

BILLS I'VE INTRODUCED

HB2127 would create a public awareness campaign around postpartum and perinatal depression, help connect new mothers to treatment, and reduce the stigma. It passed the House.

HB2338 would modernize our state's energy authority, PEDA, to ensure we can seize federal funds to invest in clean energy projects. It passed the House.

HB2435 would establish a School Facilities Office, to assess the needs of school buildings and make sure we can distribute education funding fairly. It was introduced but has not yet been voted on.

HB1032, the Solar for Schools program, passed with \$25 million in this year's budget! Keep reading this newsletter for details.



Jummy Kirby, psychotherapist, at a press conference supporting HB2127



Find me on social media at @repfiedler or at repfiedler.com

STATE REP. ELIZABETH FIEDLER

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE ELIZABETH FIEDLER I'm here to help!

My team and I can help with:

- Property tax/rent rebate applications
- Birth and death certificates
- CHIP and SNAP
- Disability plates and placards
- Driver's license questions
- Legislative inquiries
- SEPTA senior fare cards
- Unemployment compensation
- Utilities assistance
- And much more!



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