



SUPPORTING
SMALL BUSINESSES

PROTECTING
PENNSYLVANIA PATIENTS

BASIC EDUCATION
FUNDING COMMISSION



STATE SENATOR LINDSEY WILLIAMS

Summer 2024

CONNECTING SENIORS - SENIOR SOCIAL ON MAY 23, 2024

Come join us on Thursday, May 23, 2024 from 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. at Pittsburgh Mills Mall for an afternoon of music, dancing, sweet and savory snacks from A.W. Beattie, and activities aimed at keeping seniors happy, healthy, and learning!

Vintage, Inc. will be providing Digital Navigation Services to help you with your smart phone, laptop, or tablet. The PA Department of Banking and Securities will be hosting Fraud Bingo to keep you informed on the latest ways to keep yourself and your money safe from scammers. We'll also have music, games, and more!

Don't worry – we'll be hosting our annual fall Senior Fair with Rep. Kinkead at the Ross Township Community Center on October 17.

Senator **LINDSEY WILLIAMS**
IS HOSTING A

SENIOR SOCIAL

THURSDAY, MAY 23
NOON – 3PM

Pittsburgh Mills Mall
590 Pittsburgh Mills Circle
Tarentum, PA

Music!
Dancing!
Light refreshments from AW Beattie!

Digital Navigation Services
vintage.
a service of familylink

Department of Banking and Securities Fraud Bingo
FRAUD BINGO

Veterans Service Officer
pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Senator Lindsey Williams is hosting a FREE Senior Social as an opportunity for our neighbors 55+ to socialize with one another and learn new skills and information.

Call or visit my website for more info!
Pittsburgh Office • 412-364-0469
Natrona Heights Office • 724-224-2131
SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/events

f @ @SenWilliamsPA





BASIC EDUCATION FUNDING COMMISSION



Last year, I was a member of the Basic Education Funding Commission (BEFC), a bipartisan, bicameral commission tasked with recommending changes to the way that we fund our public schools here in Pennsylvania. This work was especially important because, in February, the Commonwealth Court handed down a landmark decision finding that Pennsylvania has been unconstitutionally underfunding and inequitably funding our system of public education for years. The Court further ordered the General Assembly to fix this system of funding so that every Pennsylvania public school student has access to a comprehensive, effective, and contemporary education.

After several months of hearings, hours of testimony, and hundreds of pages of documents, the BEFC released its final report. A full copy of that report, as well as recordings of the hearings, and all testimony and materials can be found on my website at SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/BEFC.

I ultimately voted against this final report because of a moral conviction that the future of Pennsylvania depends on getting our system of public education to not only pass constitutional muster, but to exceed it – from Pre-K to higher ed.

We have spent decades defining the problems in education. And while legislators have talked in circles, generations of kids continue to suffer under an unconstitutional system. I wanted this Commission to define

the solutions and fight for those solutions to happen now. The majority report did not go far enough in doing that.

I could not in good faith vote for a compromise report that ultimately serves as the starting point for the 2024-25 budget negotiations. I do not want the public to look at a unanimous Democratic-only report and believe that it represents our shared goals. It does not. A unanimous Democratic-only report risks setting the ceiling for negotiations, and the adopted report is closer to my floor. ■





CELEBRATING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

February is Career and Technical Education (CTE) month, but we celebrate this amazing educational programming all year long! CTE gives students the opportunity to get career training and certification, often at reduced or zero cost to them, while still in high school. These students are getting a head start on their next steps, whether that's finding a job, entering an apprenticeship, or going to a two- or four-year college.

CTE comes in all shapes and sizes, from early childhood development, culinary arts, network engineering, and cyber security to veterinary sciences, cosmetology, emergency response technology, and building construction.

This past year, I have been especially focused on securing stable, predictable funding for our CTE programs so that every student who wants to can take advantage of these incredible programs. In February, I met with administrators and staff from A.W. Beattie Career Center along with other local legislators and legislative staffers to hear more about the needs of career and tech centers ahead of budget season.

I also hosted a Basic Education Funding Commission Hearing in the CTE department of Westinghouse High School for a hearing focused on CTE and other educational supports,

such as early childhood education, special education, and mental health resources. When we talk about fully funding public education, we have to include all of the resources that students need. Only then will we begin to improve student outcomes and equity for all students. ■

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES

In August, we held our 2nd Annual Small Business fair at the Union Project in Highland Park. Attendees had productive conversations about everything from starting a new business to finding financing to expand an existing one. We're beginning to plan this year's Small Business Fair in August and we need your help to make it a success!



If you have a small business, please let us know what resources would be most helpful for you at this kind of event and check out our new Small Business Resource webpage at:

www.SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/SmallBusiness.



INVESTING IN WOMEN

In September, Representative La'Tasha D. Mayes and I hosted an Investing in Women event in Larimer. This PA Department of Banking and Securities program was designed to help everyone, but women in particular, feel comfortable with the basics of banking, credit cards, investing, and protecting themselves from fraud. We all learned something from our excellent presenter, and you can too by checking out the video at <https://senatorlindseywilliams.com/investinginwomen/>.



We're looking forward to having more events like this in the future!

PROTECTING PENNSYLVANIA PATIENTS FROM CORPORATE GREED

I am a co-sponsor of **SB 1000**, legislation from Senator Judy Ward and Senator Tina Tartaglione that would regulate Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs).

Increasingly, pharmacies are reporting that reimbursements no longer cover the costs of purchasing drugs, let alone the costs of dispensing prescriptions to customers. These cost challenges mean that pharmacies run the risk of not being able to stay open – and the risks are even higher for small, local pharmacies.

This legislation would create more oversight for PBMs on a state level by developing a process for hearing and resolving complaints against



PBMs by pharmacies. It will also require PBMs to report the amounts of rebates and payments received from drug manufacturers and how those rebates and payments are distributed to the Insurance Department. The

legislation will also limit or ban several practices by PBMs, including patient steering, spread pricing and retroactive recoupment of money paid by the PBM to the pharmacy.

Corporate greed should not stand between Pennsylvanians and their prescriptions. PBMs currently act as an unchecked, unregulated middleman in the pharmaceutical industry. We need to act now before more pharmacies go out of business. These pharmacists know their regular patients extremely well and are a key member of their health care team. Supporting these small businesses and protecting these health care relationships is a priority for me. ■

EXPANDING PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR SENIORS

WHAT IS THE PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE?

It is a Pennsylvania program providing rebates on property tax or rent paid the previous year by income-eligible seniors and people with disabilities. **The program is for income-eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older, widows and widowers age 50 and older, and people with disabilities age 18 and older.** When calculating total income, the PTRR program counts half of your Social Security Income.

WHAT'S NEW TO THE PTRR PROGRAM?

Thanks to the first expansion of this program in almost 20 years, nearly 175,000 more Pennsylvanians qualify for a property tax or rent rebate. Additionally, many of the 430,000 Pennsylvanians who previously qualified under the program's prior guidelines will see their rebates increase. The key changes are as follows:

- The income cap for homeowners has increased from \$35,000 to \$45,000,
- The income cap for renters has increased from \$15,000 to \$45,000,
- The maximum standard rebate has increased from \$650 to \$1,000,
- The income cap will automatically increase along with inflation in years to come.

TO APPLY FOR A PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE, YOU WILL NEED:

- Proof of identity (first time filers only);
- Documentation showing all income received in 2023, including Social Security Income, retirement funds, or other interest bearing accounts;
- A completed PA rent certificate (for renters only);
- Bank account and routing information if you would like direct deposit.

For homeowners only:

- Proof of payment/receipt for Allegheny County taxes
- Proof of payment/receipt for local municipality taxes
- Proof of payment/receipt for school district taxes

IMPORTANT DATES

The application deadline is June 30, 2024, and rebates are set to begin rolling out early July 2024. Again, the Department of Revenue is encouraging eligible Pennsylvanians to apply early, especially first-time applicants.

For the first time in almost 20 years, Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program for seniors has been expanded! Nearly 175,000 more Pennsylvanians now qualify for a rebate and maximum rebates available have nearly doubled.

My office helps hundreds of individuals file for their rebates every year, and we constantly hear how much our neighbors rely on this program to help make ends meet. I was proud to vote for

HB 1100 and support this expansion as an important first step towards providing property tax relief to the most vulnerable among us. The Property Tax/Rent Rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians aged 65 and older, widows and widowers aged 50 and older, and people with disabilities aged 18 and older. The new income eligibility threshold is **\$45,000 for both homeowners and renters.**

HOW TO APPLY

You can apply for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate program online, by mail, or in-person. The Department of Revenue advises that submitting your application online through myPATH is the fastest and most secure process.

You can access MyPATH here:

<https://mypath.pa.gov/>

Or come to our office for assistance!

To calculate income, only half of Social Security income is included.

If you meet the current eligibility criteria and need help filing your PTRR or have questions about whether you qualify, please contact my office. We are happy to help you with filing your PTRR!

You can also file your rebate online at [www.mypath.pa.gov/](https://mypath.pa.gov/). The deadline to file for your 2023 rebate is June 30, 2024.

EVENTS AROUND THE 38TH DISTRICT



COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

We held our 4th annual Community Baby Shower in September in beautiful Liberty Green Park. This unique event is a chance to “shower” families with resources. We love holding this event in neighborhood parks so that families and kids can easily stop by on their way home from work or school to pick up information from organizations that they might not know about. A special thank you to the

Pittsburgh Fire Fighters and Coats for Kids for coming to distribute winter coats! We had an unexpected rain shower this year, but we still managed to have a great time! Look for our 2024 Community Baby Shower to return to Natrona Heights in September 2024!



WHOLE HOME REPAIR PROGRAM SUCCESS

In February, I joined Congresswoman Summer Lee, Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato, and my Senate and House Democratic colleagues from across the state to celebrate the successes and talk about the lessons we’ve learned from the first year of the Whole Home Repairs Program, which provides grants and forgivable loans to low-income families and seniors to complete repairs on their homes. These repairs focus on habitability and safety for residents.

I’m incredibly proud of this Program, which was championed by then-Representative Innamorato, and the work it has done in keeping families and neighborhoods safe all while creating jobs for local residents. I was pleased to hear Governor Shapiro include additional state funding for Whole Home Repairs in his 2024-25 Budget Proposal. I look forward to working to get that money into this year’s budget and to advocating for more funding in the coming years!

REPLACING YOUR HARD-TO-READ LICENSE PLATES

Is your license plate peeling, blistering, or discolored? You can be pulled over and fined if any of the letters or numbers on your plate cannot be read from 50 feet away. But you can have your hard-to-read license plate replaced for FREE! Last year, we held a hard-to-read license plate replacement event at our Natrona Heights office. The Harrison Township Police Department was on hand to complete forms and we were able to help over 100 drivers replace their peeling plates.

If you couldn’t make it to the event but still need a replacement, we can help! Stop by or call either of our district offices to get a form that you can fill out at your convenience and have your local police department complete. You can then return the form to our office for processing and a new plate will be mailed to your address free of charge.



Need a notary?

FREE IN-OFFICE NOTARY SERVICES

My office provides free notary services for most documents at both our McKnight Road and Natrona Heights locations! We’re open from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday – Friday (Natrona Office is closed on Fridays). Please call ahead for Notary services so that we can ensure a notary is on staff that day and that we have everything we need to process your documents properly.



STATE SENATOR • 38TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
LINDSEY WILLIAMS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday • May 23, 2024

Senior Social

Noon – 3 p.m. • Pittsburgh Mills Mall

Coming in August!

Demystifying Harrisburg: Elections Edition

Small Business Fair

Saturday • September 7, 2024

Free Shredding Event

9 a.m. – 11 a.m. • Natrona Heights Office

Thursday • October 17, 2024

Senior Fair

with Representative Emily Kinkead

10 a.m. – Noon • Ross Community Center

First Friday of Every month

Community Office Hours – Kingsley Center

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

6435 Frankstown Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Register for Events and get more Details at

SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/Events

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