



SENATOR
NIKIL ★ SAVAL
1ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT

Fighting for the First Senatorial District in Philadelphia and for all of Pennsylvania

Summer 2021

Senator Saval is sworn into office



Welcome! • ¡Bienvenidos! • Benvenuto! • 欢迎!

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A Note from Nikil

Dear Neighbor,

It is a great honor to be writing you as your State Senator. My office opened on December 1, and since that time, my team and I have hit the ground running.

You know as well as we do how hard this past year has been. Against the backdrop of the pandemic, our communities have struggled with food insecurity, high rates of unemployment, housing insecurity, and high utility bills.

You also know as well as we do that these problems did not begin with the pandemic. Pennsylvania has been experiencing a housing crisis for years, caused

by stagnant wages and a shortage of affordable housing stock. Neighborhoods throughout our district have been fighting for clean air and water. Parents, children, teachers, and school administrators have called for safer school buildings so that their communities can thrive.

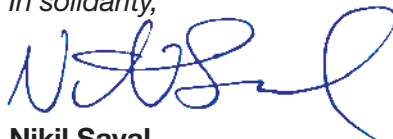
My team and I have our work cut out for us. We made thousands of calls to help neighbors throughout the First District with their unemployment claims. We made hundreds of calls to seniors in South Philadelphia to schedule them for appointments for COVID vaccines in their neighborhood. We held a rental assistance event that streamed simultaneously in three languages (English, Spanish, and Mandarin) to be sure that renters who have experienced financial hardship over the past year can stay in their homes.

My priorities for the coming year include continuing the fight for our state to recognize housing as a right for all its residents, keeping money in the hands of working people and invested in our communities, and ensuring that legislation out of our state capitol is pro worker and pro union.

Our district, the First Senatorial District, is one of the most racially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse districts throughout Pennsylvania. Throughout the streets, you'll hear neighbors speaking to each other in Spanish, Italian, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Greek, Mandarin, Cantonese, Polish, Russian, Arabic, and English. Our district includes some of Philadelphia's most iconic neighborhoods, some of its greatest arts institutions and museums, and some of its most beautiful and widely used parks—Rittenhouse Square, Penn Treaty Park, Fairmount Park, the John Heinz Wildlife Preserve, and FDR Park, to name just a few. Our architecture includes some of Philly's newest architecture and some of its oldest houses. The First Senatorial District is home to people whose families have lived here for generations, and those who are newly arrived, brought by the same hopes and dreams that have inspired people to put down their roots here for centuries.

Our senate district is a precious gem, and it is an honor to care for it with you.

In solidarity,



Nikil Saval

State Senator – Pennsylvania's First Senatorial District

We speak English! • ¡Hablamos Español! • Parliamo Italiano! • 我们说普通话!

Important Right Now

Rental Assistance

Right now, Pennsylvanians are struggling to stay housed. Fortunately, the state has received millions of dollars from the federal government for rental assistance. This important program is designed for:

- Renters who lost income due to COVID or COVID-related financial hardship
- Renters who are behind on rent
- Renters who are afraid their landlords won't participate
- Renters who won't be able to afford a rent repayment plan

And

- Landlords who intend to evict for nonpayment of rent
- Landlords with tenants who are unable to complete the application process

To be eligible for rental assistance, applicants must meet 3 criteria:

1. Housing instability
2. Earnings less than 80% of the Area Median Income
3. Financial hardship

"Financial hardship" includes grocery delivery fees, childcare expenses, support for family members who have lost income, and transportation expenses. If your expenses have gone up or your income has gone down, you may be eligible!

Apply for rental assistance online at phlrentassist.org or by calling 215-320-7880. Language services are available.

And remember to contact my office if you need any support along the way:

Phone: 215-952-3119

Email: saval@pasenate.com

COVID Vaccination

Each and every Philadelphian has a right to get the COVID vaccine. It doesn't matter whether you have insurance, this vaccine is freely accessible to you.

You can schedule an appointment or walk up for your vaccine at clinics around the city. All you need to bring with you is your ID or a piece of mail with your current address as proof of identity.

For the most up-to-date vaccine information, to schedule your appointment, or to find a vaccination clinic accepting walk ups, you can scan the QR code or go to www.phila.gov/services/mental-physical-health/get-vaccinated/sign-up-to-get-a-covid-19-vaccine/.

You can also call 3-1-1 for assistance in scheduling your vaccine appointment, or call my office at **215-952-3119**.



SCAN ME

Grants

When I ran for office, I made a commitment to bring money back to the district for projects that would benefit people, not corporations. Public money for public goods. Here are a few of the grants I'm proud to have supported in my first six months in office.

- **\$3 million** to FDR Park for the Welcome Center project, the first phase of implementation of the FDR Park Master Plan.
- **\$1.2 million** to fund the Palmer Street extension in Fishtown, to create first-time direct access to the Delaware River waterfront at the Delaware Station Power Plant site.
- **\$600,000** to the Philadelphia Clef Club of Jazz & Performing Arts for structural and utility system upgrades.
- **\$575,000** to the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation for the Washington Avenue Connector Project, to improve travel and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists,

and drivers along the Washington Avenue corridor between 4th St. and Columbus Blvd.

- **\$500,000** to the City of Philadelphia Division of Aviation, to make structural and systems improvements to the tug tunnels at the airport for the safety of the workers and the smooth operation of Philadelphia's hub of connection.
- **\$68,751** to the Southeast Youth Athletic Association, to update the 60-year-old lighting system around the ballfields at the 7th and Bigler Sts. athletic fields.
- **\$64,557** to the Spring Garden Community Development Corporation, to replace the asphalt school yard with new play surfaces, outdoor educational areas, and garden spaces to grow fresh fruits, vegetables, and flowers.
- **\$50,000** to the Schuylkill River Development Corporation, to repair bulkheads, mend sinkholes, and restore the landscape along the Schuylkill River Trail.

Keeping Up to Date!

Do you follow my office on social media? This is a fast way to stay connected with our legislative work, community events, and program updates. Follow me on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook at @SenatorSaval.

To receive our email updates, sign up at pasenatorsaval.com.

Around the District and in the Community



▲ At FDR park to announce a \$4.5 million grant for the transformation of its historic stable and guardhouse into a Welcome Center with resources for visitors and space for educational programming and events.



◀ With Teamsters Local 623 at a rally after one of their members was injured on the job. The health and lives of our essential workers are more important than the work they are doing, and an injury to one of us is an injury to all of us.



▲ My constituent services representative, Renee Wilson, speaking at a rally with the Philadelphia Unemployment Project. We know how hard this year has been and how people have struggled to get the support they deserve.



▲ At the Taggart Elementary Book Drive to distribute backpacks, food boxes, hygiene supplies, and information to South Philly Families.



◀ With colleagues in the Senate and the House, and advocates and organizers, calling for the expanded use of reprieve to keep incarcerated people who are elderly and medically vulnerable safe amidst skyrocketing COVID cases in state prisons.



▲ With Representative Donna Bullock, hosting a walk-up/drive-through paper shredding event for neighbors and community members.



▲ At the Northern Living Center with Senator Sharif Street to fight food insecurity through the program Driving Away Hunger During Ramadan.



▲ With the Brewerytown-Sharswood Neighborhood Advisory Committee, honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. through community work with Philabundance.

➤ With SEIU HCPA to call for updates to state nursing home regulations so that caregivers are supported in providing the highest quality care to those they care for.



▲ At the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of the new Bridget Foy's, an institution on South Street.



▲ With Senator Vincent Hughes, presenting a \$600,000 grant to the Philadelphia Clef Club of Jazz and Performing Arts. This funding will help ensure its continued success and prosperity as a jewel of local music performance and education.



◀ With District Attorney Larry Krasner at a press conference about the DAO's Worker Protection Unit. Every day, workers across Philadelphia deal with harassment, wage theft, unsafe work conditions. These workers deserve protection.



▲ At the groundbreaking ceremony for the PhilaPort Distribution Center. PhilaPort is the fastest-growing container port in the United States, bringing good, union, family-sustaining jobs to our district and our city.

What My Office Can Do for You

My team and I are committed to building a world that works for all of us, without exception. We work hard to ensure our neighbors are connected with the services they need and the support they deserve. Your involvement with my office does not end with your vote!

We are in the process of opening up our district offices so that we can serve our neighbors in person.

Our North Philadelphia office at 1434 Germantown Avenue is open as of Tuesday, June 1. Check out our website at pasenatorsaval.com or call us at 215-952-3119 for our hours of operation as the city updates its reopening guidelines. And stay tuned for the announcement of our South Philly office!

And we're here for your questions by phone and email:

Phone: 215-952-3119 • **Email:** saval@pasenate.com

Housing and Utility Assistance

- Low Income Home Energy

Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- Utility Shut Offs
- Rental Assistance

Labor and Unemployment Assistance

- Unemployment Compensation (UC)
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
- Pandemic Emergency

Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)

- Worker's Compensation

Documents, IDs and Registration

- Disability Placard
- Disability Plate
- Registration Renewal
- Senior/Retired Status Registration
- Driver's License Restoration
- REAL ID
- Birth Certificate Application
- Death Certificate Application

Transportation

- State Road Issues/Complaints
- E-Z Pass Inquiries

Finance and Tax Assistance

- Student Loans
- Loan Forgiveness
- State Grants
- Property Tax Rebate
- Rent Rebate
- State Taxes
- Unclaimed Property

Health and Human Services Assistance

- Special Supplemental Nutrition

Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Medicaid
- Nursing Homes
- Consumer Complaints
- Prison Inquiries

Legislative Services

- Citations and Commendations
- Capitol Tours

Whether you need assistance navigating state agencies, figuring out which resources you are eligible for, or obtaining your REAL ID, contact my office so that we can work together. If we are not able to answer your question, we will connect you with the city and federal-level representatives and agencies who can. We rely on our interactions with you to stay aware of the needs in our community. ***We work for you, and your voice matters.***

“ Last summer, the Department of Labor & Industry indicated that they had mailed me nearly \$5,000 in checks for unemployment compensation, but unfortunately, these checks never arrived. I reached out to L&I by phone and through the chat bot for months, but I received no response and spoke with no one. I was first connected with Senator Saval's office in December, when it opened. This was my first experience reaching out to an elected official for support. I was so grateful to talk with a real person. His Constituent Services Representative advocated for me with L&I until they resent the payments. Now, I push all the people I know, even if they don't live in Pennsylvania, to reach out to their local representatives. I'm so grateful to have had an ally and a friend in navigating this hard process.

Hannah B.
South Philadelphia



State Senator **NIKIL SAVAL**

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NORTH PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT OFFICE

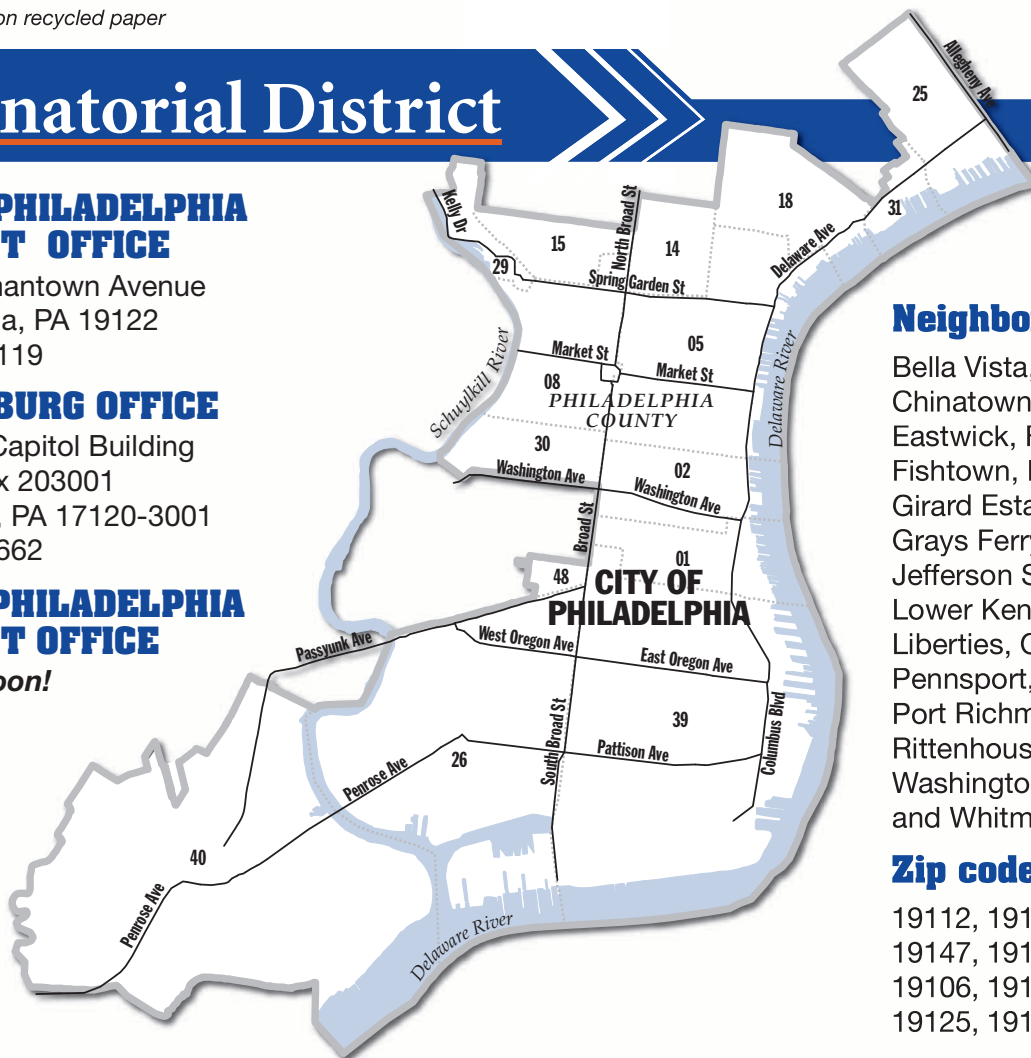
1434 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19122
215-952-3119

HARRISBURG OFFICE

184 Main Capitol Building
Senate Box 203001
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3001
717-787-5662

SOUTH PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT OFFICE

Coming soon!



Neighborhoods:

Bella Vista, Brewertown, Chinatown, East Passyunk, Eastwick, Fairmount, Fishtown, Francisville, Girard Estate, Graduate Hospital, Grays Ferry, Hawthorne, Jefferson Square, Logan Circle, Lower Kensington, Northern Liberties, Old City, Packer Park, Pennsport, Point Breeze, Port Richmond, Queen Village, Rittenhouse Square, Society Hill, Washington Square West, and Whitman.

Zip codes:

19112, 19145, 19153, 19146, 19147, 19148, 19103, 19107, 19106, 19102, 19130, 19123, 19125, 19134, 19121, 19122