

# SENATOR NIKIL ★ SAVAL

## 1ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT

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

### Demanding Permanent Funding for Whole-Home Repairs

Senator Saval with advocates, community groups, and legislators on the Capitol Steps in Harrisburg to call for permanent investment in Whole-Home Repairs.



## In This Issue

A Note From Nikil • From the Senate Floor • Resources and Services • Around the Community • Whole-Home Repairs Program Update!



@SenatorSaval



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**We Are Here  
For You**

### **SOUTH DISTRICT OFFICE**

1107-09 South 6th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147  
Call: 267-668-3550

Walk-in Hours:

Monday – Friday, 9am to 5pm!

### **NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE**

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

Walk-in Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday,  
9am to 5pm!

### **HARRISBURG OFFICE**

543 Main Capitol Building  
Senate Box 203001  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3001  
Call: 717-787-5662

**E-MAIL:** [saval@pasenate.com](mailto:saval@pasenate.com)

**TEXT:** 215-647-0598

## **STAY UP-TO-DATE**

Learn about my ongoing work in Harrisburg and throughout the First Senatorial District by following me on social media

   **@SenatorSaval**



Sign up for my e-newsletter at

**PASenatorSaval.com**



## **A Note From Nikil**

**Dear Neighbor,**

My office opened just under three years ago, and since then, **more than 22,000 First Senatorial District residents** have reached out to us. We've helped with unemployment compensation, SEPTA passes, utility bills, and housing. We've heard about the policy and legislation you want us to support and where you hope we'll hold the line. We've been invited to join in celebrations for major milestones. We've stood alongside neighbors in struggle and in protest. And we could not be more grateful.

My team and I have always known that we would be working as hard as we could **for** you. What we didn't realize was how much we would also be working **alongside** you. When we introduced a bill to end Philly's for-profit eviction system, you were making calls to the municipal courts. When we introduced legislation for AAPI curriculum in public schools, you were writing op-eds about representation and inclusion as part of community safety. When we fought for Whole-Home Repairs to become a permanent line item in this year's budget—and won!—it was because more than 300 people rallied on the steps of our Capitol, and countless more made calls, sent emails, and made lobbying visits. My office is stronger, better, and more powerful because of you.

You know as well as we do that the work continues. We're working with residents and community groups to bring back the state resources we need to make a real and permanent change in gun violence. We're standing with the health care workers, school climate staff, educators, cultural workers, and so many others who are demanding just compensation for their labor and dignity on the job. We're fighting for our Commonwealth to make good on its promise of a high-quality education for all children.

And we are with you, because we know these efforts are your fights, too. It is an honor to be in this work with you. My office is here for you always.

In solidarity,

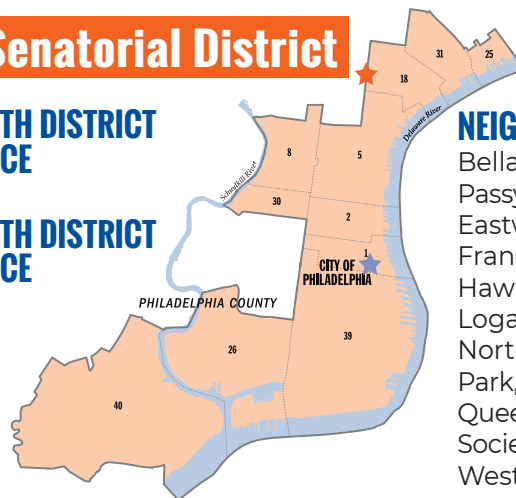
**Nikil Saval** – State Senator

Pennsylvania's First Senatorial District

### **1st Senatorial District**

★ **NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE**

★ **SOUTH DISTRICT OFFICE**



#### **NEIGHBORHOODS:**

Bella Vista, Chinatown, East Passyunk Crossing/Passyunk Square, Eastwick, Fishtown, Fidler Square, Francisville, Graduate Hospital, Hawthorne, Jefferson Square, Logan Square, Lower Kensington, Northern Liberties, Old City, Packer Park, Pennsport, Port Richmond, Queen Village, Rittenhouse Square, Society Hill, Washington Square West, and Whitman.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT** The First Senatorial District is located on the unceded territory of the Lenni Lenape people, who have been and continue to be active stewards of this land today.

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Visit me at  **PASenatorSaval.com**

# From the Senate Floor

*I'm committed to legislation that recognizes, supports, and provides for the people of Pennsylvania, with a focus on civil rights, cultural recognition, and meeting real material needs. Here are some of my legislative initiatives this year.*

## Prohibiting For-Profit Evictions (Senate Bill 732)



In most counties in Pennsylvania, evictions are handled by public officials, such as sheriffs and constables, who are democratically elected and accountable to the people they serve.

This is not true in Philadelphia, where evictions are a for-profit industry. Right now, our city outsources most of its evictions to a private law firm, which—in turn—outsources lockouts to armed private contractors. Paid per eviction, these contractors are incentivized to evict as many households as possible, as quickly as possible, to make a profit.

This can lead to dangerous and potentially deadly results: this past year, in two separate instances, private subcontractors shot tenants who they had been tasked to evict, injuring them and traumatizing their families.

An eviction is one of the most difficult, destabilizing, and violent events that a household may face. When our city permits evictions to be conducted by private contractors who enter a home with no oversight and no accountability, this violence is compounding.

This spring I introduced a bill to end this practice. Evictions are a matter of public health and public safety and must be handled by public officials with proper training and public oversight to safeguard the wellbeing of everyone involved. My legislation mandates this. It is time to bring evictions in Philadelphia under democratic control.

## Public Database of Affordable Housing (Senate Bill 616)

Our Commonwealth's decades-long housing crisis is about to reach an urgent milestone: many federal tax credits for low-income housing are set to expire in the next few years. In Philadelphia, we have upwards of 34,000 federally assisted units, and more than a third of these could go offline in the next decade.

We can weather this shift and meet the needs of our communities, but first, policymakers, advocates, and the public must have better visibility into our Commonwealth's existing affordable housing.

I have introduced legislation to require the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) to collaborate with local housing agencies and create an accessible database of all publicly financed properties in Pennsylvania. In addition, PHFA will be required to deliver annual reports to the Governor and to the General Assembly on the number of properties expiring in the next two years.

Pennsylvania has many tools to help preserve and expand affordable housing. Accurate knowledge of the status of our homes will help make sure we use these tools to their full capacity.

## Asian American and Pacific Islander Inclusive Curriculum (Senate Bill 839)

To expand education and confront the rise in hate crimes against people of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) descent, I've joined my colleague, Senator Maria Collett, in introducing legislation to require the PA Department of Education to create an integrated AAPI curriculum for schools, including people, history, and contributions to American society.

According to the most recent Stop AAPI Hate National Report, Pennsylvania ranked 7th for hate incident reports filed between March 2020 and December 2021. Florida, ranked 8th, became the latest state to pass AAPI-inclusive curriculum legislation into law in May 2023.

Every student in our Commonwealth deserves to see their heritage honored as part of the broad fabric of our nation's history.

When we are granted occasion to learn about each other's lives, families, and experiences, we begin to see how much we share, and how deep our stake is in a world that supports all of us. This bill creates a path for a more inclusive and equitable education system, and a stronger and more united Pennsylvania.



The co-sponsorship memos for all the legislation I'm working on are at [bit.ly/saval-senate-bills](https://bit.ly/saval-senate-bills)

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# Resources and Services

## NEW! PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE EXPANSION

Recently **Governor Shapiro** signed a historic expansion of the Property Tax/ Rent Rebate program. This was a commitment that the Governor campaigned on and an investment in Pennsylvanians that I was proud to support.

This is the first time the program has been expanded since 2006. This expansion means that nearly 175,000 more Pennsylvanians will qualify, and many of the 400,000 seniors who already qualify will see their rebates nearly double, with future rebate amounts and income limits tied with inflation so that no one becomes ineligible just because their Social Security payment increased.

### IMPORTANT CHANGES

- Increases the maximum rebate from \$650 to \$1,000
- Increases the income cap to \$45,000 for both homeowners and renters
- Increases the income cap to grow with inflation

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Pennsylvanians ages 65+
- Widows and widowers ages 50+
- People with disabilities ages 18+ living on limited incomes

Apply by visiting [mypath.pa.gov](http://mypath.pa.gov) or calling 1-888-222-9190. And you can contact my office to set up a time for help!

## SERVICES WE PROVIDE

Whether you need assistance navigating state agencies, figuring out which resources you are eligible for, getting a grant for your community group, or obtaining your REAL ID, contact my office so that we can work together! Come see us for:

- Birth and Death Certificates
  - CHIP and SNAP
  - Consumer Complaints and Protections
  - Driver's License
  - Handicap Placards
  - Medicaid
  - Notarization (*by appointment only!*)
  - Nursing Homes
  - Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)
  - Prison Inquiries
  - Problems with State Agencies
  - Property Tax/Rent Rebate
  - Questions about DHS
  - Questions about Legislation
  - REAL ID and PennDOT Questions
  - SEPTA Key Cards and Senior Photos
  - Unclaimed Property
  - Unemployment Compensation
  - Utilities Assistance
  - Workers' Compensation
- ...And Much More!**



## Attention Seniors! SEPTA SENIOR KEY CARD

Pennsylvanians ages 65+ ride all of SEPTA for free with their SEPTA Senior Key Cards! My team can help with applications and process renewals in our district offices. The process is simple and takes less than 15 minutes!

### What are the benefits of a SEPTA Senior Key Card?

For all travel to/from stations located in Pennsylvania, SEPTA Senior Key Card holders ride all transit routes — including bus, trolley, and regional rail — for **FREE!**

For travel to/from New Jersey and Delaware, weekday fare is at 50%.

For new Senior Key Cards, proof of age is required. For renewals, please bring your old or expired card.

*Always Here  
For You!*

To set up a time for assistance with any of these services, contact us:

- **Call:** (267) 668-3550
- **Text:** (215) 647-0598
- **Email:** [saval@pasenate.com](mailto:saval@pasenate.com)

We rely on our connection with you to stay aware of the needs in our community. We work for you, and your voice matters.

## UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Did you know? 1 in 10 Pennsylvania residents has unclaimed property waiting for them!

My office can help you see if you have any unclaimed property.

This can include:

- Closed bank accounts
- Uncashed checks (including paychecks)
- Lost stocks and bonds
- Contents of safe deposit boxes
- Life insurance policies
- Expired gift cards/gift certificates



Reach out to my office for help or visit [patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property](http://patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property)

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# Around the District and in the Community

*My team and I love traveling throughout the First District to support the amazing work of the residents, communities, organizations, and small businesses who make their home here!*

**1** Celebrating Bike to Work or Wherever Day with the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia! When cyclists can travel safely, we're simultaneously protecting the wellbeing of pedestrians and creating calmer conditions for drivers—fostering safe, joyful freedom of movement for everyone.



**2** At our 2nd Annual Senior Celebration! Partners throughout the district brought resources, food, and programming to the South Philadelphia Older Adult Center for nearly 100 of our neighbors.



**3** Breaking ground on the Penn's Landing CAP! This project will reconnect Philly with the Delaware River with a CAP over I-95 and Columbus Boulevard that will be the foundation of a vibrant 11.5-acre park for all to enjoy.



**4** Welcoming diplomats from Cuba, including Ambassador Lianys Torres Rivera and Second Chief of Mission Alejandro García del Toro. We discussed literature, business, medicine, education, and our mutual stake in deepening the rich relationship between Cuba and our Commonwealth.



**5** Celebrating Pride with Philly family of all kinds! Pride Day in our City is always a day of solidarity and joy.



**6** Standing with nurses at Einstein Medical Center fighting for safe staffing, stable workplaces, and good wages. We honor our essential workers by acknowledging their experiences, hearing their struggles, and taking action.



**7** Attending Career Day at Francis Scott Key Elementary School. The students asked meaningful questions about state funding, real action on the climate crisis, and quality of life issues here in our city.



**8** Launching PHDC's Rental Improvement Fund! Through the RIF, small landlords can make updates to their properties, tenants can live in homes that are safe and healthy, and our affordable housing is preserved and protected. This was part of the vision for Whole-Home Repairs, and in Philly, we're seeing this vision realized.





# WHOLE HOME REPAIRS

## UPDATE

Learn more about all PHDC programs and find out your eligibility by filling out the **HOUSING BENEFITS TOOL** at [phdcphila.org](http://phdcphila.org)



*In Philadelphia, Whole-Home Repairs funds are administered by the Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation, through programs like **Basic Systems Repair** and **Adaptive Modifications** for homeowners, and the brand-new **Rental Improvement Fund** for landlords.*

### Eligibility for **HOMEOWNERS**

- ✘ Household income of up to 60% of the area median income.
- ✘ Own and live in their home as a primary residence.
- ✘ Have a critical repair or adaptive modification need.

### Eligibility for **LANDLORDS**

- ✘ Own no more than 15 rental units across no more than 5 rental properties.
- ✘ Current rent in units is affordable to households earning up to 60% AMI.
- ✘ Agree to 3-year Good Cause Eviction protections for current tenant(s).

### Funds will be used to address

- ✘ Health, safety, and habitability concerns
- ✘ Energy or water efficiency improvements
- ✘ Accessibility needs for households with disabilities