

SENATOR NIKIL ★ SAVAL

1ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT

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

Spring 2023

Senator Saval celebrates historic housing investment by PA legislature.

The work continues this year to prioritize investment in PA homes and communities in the upcoming state budget.



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@SenatorSaval



PASenatorSaval.com

**We Are Here
For You**

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Call: 267-668-3550

Walk-in Hours:

Monday – Friday, 9am to 5pm!

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Walk-in Hours:

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

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A Note From Nikil

Dear Neighbor,

As Senator, it is my responsibility, my honor, and my joy to champion our communities. There is so much to celebrate: across our region workers in every sector – in our coffee shops, in museums, in our hospitals and universities, and in our nursing homes – are standing up for their collective rights. After decades of mistreatment, workers are fighting for, and winning, just compensation, good working conditions, and benefits to care for themselves and their families so that they can continue to provide the labor that fuels our city.

Pennsylvania's Commonwealth Court has ruled on what all of us in Philadelphia know to be true: our current school funding structure is broken, our system unjust and unconstitutional. Our demands for more for our school communities are fortified as we push onward.

Calls for housing to be recognized as a foundational right have become so loud that they can no longer be ignored. Last year we fought for, and won, the first-in-the nation Whole-Home Repairs Program to help households across our state repair, weatherize, and adapt their homes to be healthy and safe. This year, our work continues – we're not finished until all Pennsylvanians, in every county, have what we need to make our homes whole.

This is a moment that has more than its share of hardships – persistently low wages in the face of skyrocketing inflation, communities grieving from gun violence, and a state legislature reluctant to take the big actions we need against our climate crisis. As always, it is up to us. We keep showing up. We keep fighting alongside each other so that our communities have the resources, the safety, and the support we all need. It is an honor to be in this work with you.

In solidarity,

Nikil Saval – State Senator

Pennsylvania's First Senatorial District

WHOLE HOME REPAIRS

UPDATE

**COMING
SUMMER 2023!**

Whole-Home Repairs is sweeping the state! Nearly every county in the state applied to administer this program to residents, meaning that 99% of Pennsylvania residents live in counties where Whole-Home Repairs funds will be available. Right now, these funds are making their way to county administrators. Whole-Home Repairs funding will start supporting home repairs and training programs this coming summer.

THE WHOLE-HOME REPAIRS PROGRAM:

- Provides up to \$50,000 to repair and weatherize homes throughout Pennsylvania.
- Allocates support staff to help people access the assistance they need in the order they need it.
- Funds training and pre-apprenticeship programs to build up the local workforce needed to meet the demand.

Learn more at pasenatorsaval.com/wholehomerepairs

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Important Right Now

Public Money for Public Good - Investment in Our Communities

Since taking office in December 2020, I've secured more than \$100 million in grants for local projects throughout our District. Our city and all of us who make our homes here deserve the resources we need so that everyone can thrive. These are some of the recent grants we've won for the district:

- **\$247,000** to the **Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia** to reduce violence and support survivors and impacted communities.
- **\$131,469** to **Murphy Recreation Center** to update the outdoor basketball courts for this community anchor.
- **\$3,027,015** to **New Kensington Community Development Corporation** for new housing and to renovate existing buildings to increase the number of homes.
- **\$2,500,000** to **William Way LGBT Community Center** for accessibility renovations, expanded services, and additional space for community, connection, and joy.



- **\$200,000** to **Sunrise of Philadelphia** to expand their invaluable out-of-school time programming that helps transform our local schools into neighborhood hubs. *(photo above)*

State grants are investments from the people of Pennsylvania. I'm committed to safeguarding these investments for the public good and supporting the brilliant work of our neighbors in providing for their communities.

PRIMARY 2023 ELECTION

Your Freedom
Your Right
Your Voice
YOUR VOTE!

In the upcoming **May 16 Primary Election**, Philadelphians will choose their next Mayor, City Councilmembers, Judges, City Controller, City Commissioners, Sheriff, and Register of Wills.

Our freedom to choose our elected leaders is one of our most foundational rights. Your vote is your voice. Vote by mail or in person at your polling location.



MAY 1
Last day to register to vote or update your registration.



MAY 9
Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot.



MAY 16 - ELECTION DAY!
Vote in person at the polls from 7am - 8pm. Mail-in and absentee ballots must be returned by 8pm.

Learn more at vote.pa.gov!

SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICES

We're here to help! On the last page of this newsletter is a list of services my office offers to our neighbors. Below are some of those most in demand:

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE

For Pennsylvanians ages 65+, widows and widowers ages 50+, and people with disabilities ages 18+ with limited incomes. This program provides grants for property tax and rent payments. **Applications due June 30!**

SEPTA SENIOR PASSES

Pennsylvanians ages 65+ can ride all of SEPTA for free! This includes the Market-Frankford line, the Broad Street line, and all buses, trolleys, and regional rail lines in PA. All you need is your free SEPTA Key Senior ID Card. My team can help with applications and process renewals in our district offices.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

If you are having trouble navigating the unemployment system or if you've run into a road block, contact us for help.

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.

2023 - 2024 Budget Priorities

Pennsylvania's budget must be passed each year by the end of June. I'm fighting for our government to prioritize the resources our communities need to stay safe and to be healthy:

- Recurring and expanded **funding for the Whole-Home Repairs Program!** Our work isn't finished until Pennsylvanians in every county have what they need to make their homes whole.
- Increased **funding for schools throughout our Commonwealth.** We know that the way our schools are funded is unjust; now we fight for the investment that our children deserve.
- **Support for our burgeoning green economy.** There are decades of work ahead for these industries of the future, and now is the time to invest so that we can provide long-term, family-sustaining jobs across our state.



Resolution to Recognize William Still Week



William Still is known as the Father of the Underground Railroad. With my colleague Senator Art Haywood, I've introduced a resolution to recognize the second week of February as William Still Week.

Born the youngest of 18 children and raised in the Jersey pinelands by parents who had been enslaved, Still moved to Philadelphia as a young man with nothing. He taught himself to read and write and shortly became clerk of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society.

Still helped expand the vital system of transportation routes and safe houses that made up the Underground Railroad. At a time when the Fugitive Slave Law threatened anyone who didn't participate in the capture of Black Americans who escaped, Still's work was an act of resistance.

We owe much of our knowledge of the Underground Railroad to Still's careful records, which show the creativity and genius that conductors like Still, and the people they assisted, used to build pathways to freedom.

Diwali as a State Holiday

Known as the "festival of lights," Diwali is a time of renewal for more than six million Americans. The five-day festival marks a time of celebration and deep cultural significance for those who take part. I am proud to join my colleague, Senator Greg Rothman, in introducing bipartisan legislation to make Diwali an official state holiday in Pennsylvania.

Our Commonwealth is home to nearly 200,000 South Asian residents – approximately 158,000 of whom are Indian American. Every year, thousands of Pennsylvanians join in Diwali's celebration of light, reflection, and gathering at temples, houses of worship, and community centers across the Commonwealth. The festival deserves official recognition.

LGBTQ Policy Win

No matter who we are or who we love, all of us deserve the freedom to move through the world and live our lives safely and without fear of harm. Last December, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission issued a decision to allow the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission to recognize "sex" as inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity – a major victory that extends crucial protections to jobs, housing, and public accommodations to LGBTQ Pennsylvanians.

This decision is unprecedented. It is lifesaving. And in our current political climate, it is fragile. With Senator Steve Santarsiero, I've introduced legislation to enshrine these protections into law to prevent future misinterpretation – and future harm. The passage of this legislation is an essential next step for a safer, more equitable world.

To find out the co-sponsorship memos for all the legislation I'm working on, please visit: bit.ly/saval-senate-bills.

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Around the District and in the Community

When we're not in Harrisburg, my team and I travel throughout the district to support the work done by the amazing residents, communities, organizations, and small businesses of the First Senatorial District!

1 With a new cohort at the EAS Carpenters Apprenticeship Training Center. We made planter boxes for neighborhoods throughout the city for their MLK Day of Service.

2 Touring Veterans Multi-services Center. The dedicated staff connect our veterans with the good-quality jobs, housing, and resources they deserve.

3 Attending the first-ever raising of the Bangladeshi flag by City Hall. To stand in solidarity with my Desi community here in Philly, our beloved city, was pure joy.

4 Hosting SEPTA Senior Day at our South District Office! In one morning, my office helped connect nearly 100 of our senior neighbors with their passes.

5 Visiting the Mazzone Center, a truly unique space that provides unparalleled healthcare and comprehensive wellness services to LGBTQ+ Philadelphians.

6 At our 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway with Al-Aqsa Mosque! In partnership with Philadelphia Arab American CDC, South Kensington Community Partners, and Penn Treaty SSD, we had the pleasure of serving more than 125 families.

7 Visiting Philatinos Radio to talk about legislation, voting, and community advocacy. Philatinos unites the Latino community here and abroad with good music and important journalism.

8 Standing with members of the Temple University Graduate Students' Association during their heroic 6-week strike that resulted in a historic win. They stood up for themselves, and in doing so, they stood up for the rights of all workers.





1st Senatorial District

★ NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE

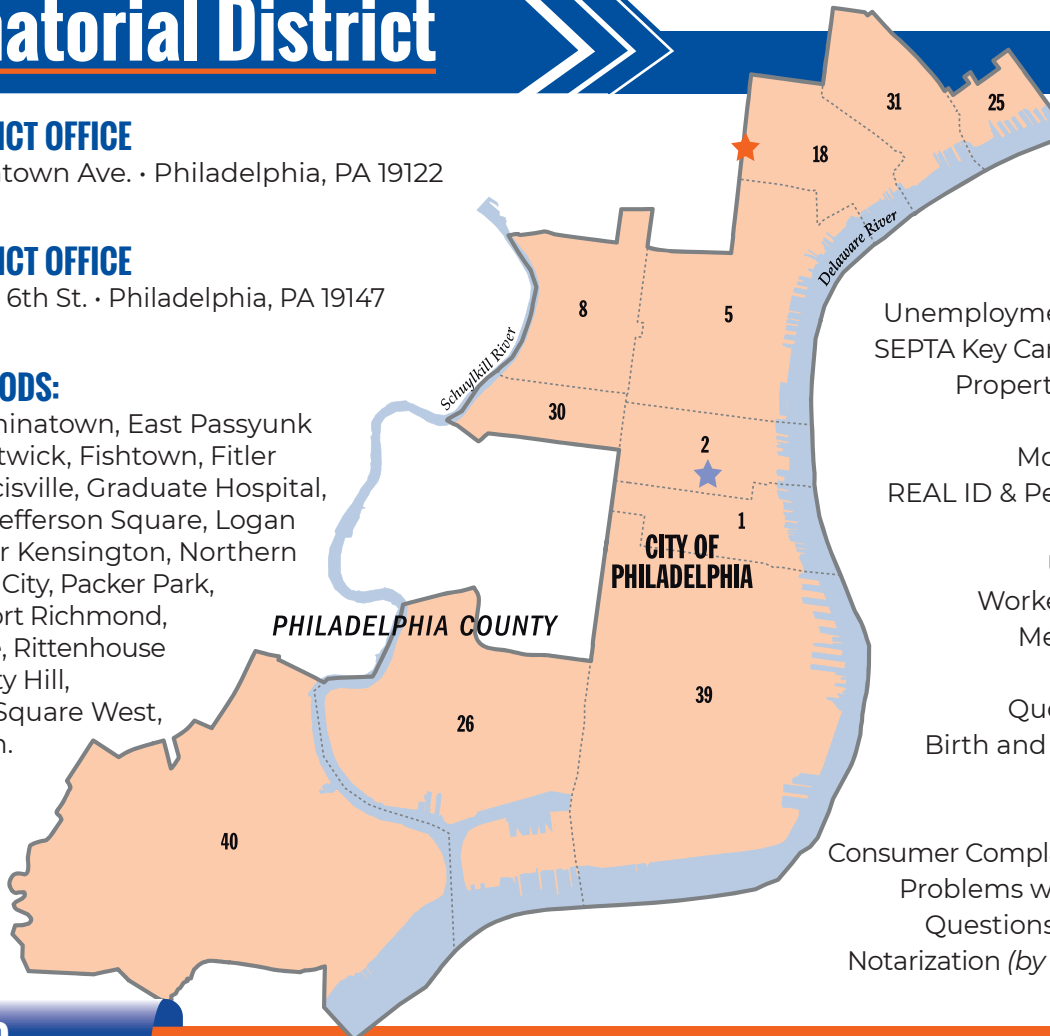
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NEIGHBORHOODS:

Bella Vista, Chinatown, East Passyunk Crossing, Eastwick, Fishtown, Fitler 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.



LET US HELP YOU!

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

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.