



Serving the 7th Senatorial District

Winter 2016

State Senator  
**VINCENT HUGHES**  
*Reports to the People*

**OVERSIZED**  
**Classrooms** <sup>with</sup> **40 KIDS** Per Class

**EXPLODING** School Boilers

**NO** Nurses & Counselors

**NO** School **SUPPLIES**

**Our Kids Deserve Better!**

That's Why I Am  
**FIGHTING**

For a *State Budget* with  
**MORE FUNDS** FOR OUR SCHOOLS

# STATE BUDGET UPDATE:

***The education of our children is the priority and we can't let them down, in spite of what the far right wants***

Join the fight to improve our schools  
by calling our office at 215-879-7777



## **Republican-supported Proposal**

- False budget negotiations cause an entire school year to go without new education dollars
- Republican education budget continues to underfund kids

## **Bi-Partisan-supported Proposal**

- Passed the Senate 43-7
- Increases education funding by \$375M
- Increases Head Start Funding by \$10M
- Increases Pre-Kindergarten Funding by \$50M



When Tom Wolf was elected governor in 2014, the number one issue was education.

Voters said they wanted increased funding for Pennsylvania's K-12 public schools because the four years of education cuts by the Republican-led House and Senate caused major damage to the academic success of our children.

Gov. Wolf introduced his first state budget in March 2015. It included over \$400 million in new education spending. It would have been the largest increase in education funding in the history of Pennsylvania. The School District of Philadelphia would have received over \$100 million in new support.

Our schools need this new investment and commitment to our kids because, as suburban school districts spend over

\$23,000 per child, the Philadelphia School District only has about \$12,500 to spend per child. This is an unfair discrepancy.

Since Gov. Wolf's budget proposal, the leadership of the Republican-controlled House and Senate have participated in false negotiations that have caused an entire school year to

miss new education funding.

Republican leaders have never compromised, and have walked away from agreements that they authored and previously signed on to. Needless to say, with the far right taking over the Republican-controlled legislature, the frustration in Harrisburg is extremely high.

However, any frustration pales to the lack of resources and academic support for our school children. With a growing teacher shortage, a lack of nurses and counselors, school buildings that are crumbling, and so many more problems, we CANNOT COMPROMISE on the education of our children and provide them less than what they deserve.





# IN SPITE OF THE BUDGET CRISIS IN HARRISBURG

## We are still Getting the Job Done In the 7th District

State Government has a role to play in the revitalization of distressed neighborhoods, responding to emergencies, and being a force for people in need. Here are examples of how it works and why we can't let the far right stop the work we've been doing, in spite of their efforts.

### Wynne Ballroom

In December, I stood with Councilman Curtis Jones Jr. at 54th and Arlington, to break ground on a \$16 million renovation of the Wynne Ballroom, which will become Wynne Senior Residences.

Working with the Wynnefield Overbrook Revitalization Corporation, the Wynne, which has been closed for more than 20 years, will be transformed into 30 units of affordable housing for individuals 62 years and older. The state support of this project is part of the plan to continue the revitalization of 54th Street.



### 52nd and Parkside



In December, I stood with former Mayor Michael Nutter, Parkside Association leader Lucinda Hudson and other community, city and state officials to break ground on a \$19 million revitalization project at 52nd and Parkside Ave. This project, called Centennial Village, will build 50 affordable, environmentally sustainable housing units.

### Stamping Out Hunger While We Party With a Purpose

In December, Sheryl and I held our annual "Holiday Party with a Purpose" celebrations. On the 20th, we celebrated in Conshohocken at the Great American Pub and collected 75 pounds of food and \$300 in donations for the Community Action Development Commission's food cupboard. The next day, we celebrated with more than 500 people at the First District Plaza and collected 2,000 pounds of food and \$1,500 in donations to the SHARE Food Program. This annual event continues to grow, and because of great friends, we are able to support food programs which are on the front line addressing the hunger needs of a growing population.

Visit the SHARE Food Program at [www.sharefoodprogram.org](http://www.sharefoodprogram.org)



### Plymouth Road Bridge

On Aug. 27, I stood with PennDOT Secretary Leslie Richards to help open the new Plymouth Road Bridge entering Plymouth Township from Whitmarsh Township. The span was crippled by a sinkhole earlier in the year and PennDOT and its contractors helped to open the new \$2.2 million structure to motorists in about four months.



### Gordon Apartments

In September, Congressman Chaka Fattah, State Rep. Donna Bullock, City Council President Darrell Clarke and I, along with PHA President Kelvin Jeremiah, cut the ribbon on the Gordon Apartments in Strawberry Mansion. This project which is a combination of federal, state and city funds, has created 21 units of affordable housing for this deserving community.





# Health Care for All!

*After years of struggle with the previous governor, we worked with Gov. Wolf to fully implement all aspects of Obamacare.*

**T**his past fall, I stood with Gov. Wolf to announce that Pennsylvania had enrolled 500,000 low-income working people into HealthChoices, Pennsylvania's Medicaid expansion program. We also removed all obstacles and made sure that anyone who wants to sign up for Obamacare can do so.

To enroll in any of the health insurance programs, you can call my office at **215-879-7777** or go to **www.healthcare.gov** or **www.healthchoicespa.com**.

Additionally, we have arranged for a certified Health



Care Navigator to work from our office to provide direct assistance to constituents who want help in choosing their health insurance.

To arrange an appointment with the Health Care Navigator just call my office at **215-879-7777**.

## Resources for College



**I**n January of this year, we worked with PHEAA to secure the necessary funds to fulfill the financial commitment made to all students in the summer of last year. All students will get the award that they were promised for the 2015-16 academic year.

For students who are seeking financial aid for the 2016-17 academic year, they should make sure that they have filed their FAFSA form, which is the document that most grant and loan programs use to determine your eligibility.

*Here are the websites to check to see what additional financial support is available:*

- [www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org)
- [www.pasfaa.org](http://www.pasfaa.org)
- [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

## Summer Jobs

**I** joined the Wolf administration in June to announce a \$7.5 million summer jobs program for our youth.

The new investment delivered 3,700 summer jobs to youth and teenagers across the commonwealth. Some 1,400 new summer positions were created in Philadelphia.



- [studentaid.ed.gov](http://studentaid.ed.gov)
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- [scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com)



**STATE SENATOR**  
**VINCENT HUGHES**

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
*to Serve You*

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One of my biggest jobs as your state senator is to be open and responsive to you. To improve communication, I believe we have moved closer to that goal this summer by opening satellite offices in **Fort Washington, Lafayette Hill, and Conshohocken.**

You'll find my satellite office in Conshohocken on Wednesdays, Lafayette Hill on Thursdays, and Fort Washington on Fridays. Operating hours are Noon to 4 p.m. for all locations.

Visit us for help with state services and issues.

*Thank you!*

Don't forget to sign up for our online **On The Issues** updates, by visiting our website: **[SenatorHughes.com](http://SenatorHughes.com)**



State Senator  
**VINCENT HUGHES'**

★ *NEW*  
**SATELLITE OFFICES**



**UPPER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP**

801 Loch Alsh Avenue  
Fort Washington, PA 19034

**HOURS OF OPERATION**  
Friday • Noon – 4:00 P.M.

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP**

616 Germantown Pike  
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

**HOURS OF OPERATION**  
Thursday • Noon – 4:00 P.M.

**CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH HALL**

400 Fayette Street  
Conshohocken, PA 19428

**HOURS OF OPERATION**  
Wednesday • Noon – 4:00 P.M.

**How May We Help You?**

*Services We Provide*

- State Applications
- Driver's License
- Special tags
- Registration Renewal
- Car plates & placards for the physically challenged
- Senior Discount on Registration Renewal
- Free Senior SEPTA Passes
- Birth Certificates
- Public Utility Issues
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate
- Unemployment or Public Assistance Issues

For more information on my satellite offices, please contact 215-879-7777

TWITTER: @SenatorHughes • FACEBOOK: Senator Vincent Hughes

WEBSITE: [www.senatorhughes.com](http://www.senatorhughes.com)